



ELIHU ANTHONY

A brief biography
Compiled by
Stanley D. Stevens



1865 Dec 30

Source: Santa Cruz Sentinel 1865 Dec 30 4:1

AN ACT to Authorize Elihu Anthony and F. A. Hihn and Others, to Lay down and Maintain Water Pipes in the Streets of the Town of Santa Cruz.

*The People of the State of California, represented in Senate and
Assembly, de enact as follows:*

Section 1st. That Elihu Anthony and F. A. Hihn and their associates and assigns, are hereby authorized to lay down and maintain Water Pipes in any of the streets, ways for alleys of the town of Santa Cruz, for the purpose of furnishing fresh water for the supply of the inhabitants of said town of Santa Cruz.

Sec. 2nd. Said streets or ways in which pipes may be laid, to be placed in the same good order and condition, by said Anthony and Hihn and their associates or assigns, as the same were before said pipes were laid down, at the cost of said Anthony, Hihn and others, and under the supervision of the Roadmaster of said county road district.

Sec 3d. Nothing in this Act shall be construed so as to interfere with the laying down and maintaining of Water Pipes and supplying water to inhabitants of said town by other persons.

Sec. 4th. This bill shall take effect on and after passage.
[Passed both Houses and to be signed by the Governor.]

1867 Oct 19

Source: Santa Cruz Sentinel 1867 Oct 19 2:1 LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

PILE DRIVING. — **Elihu Anthony**'s pile driver is busy at work, north of the gas works, enclosing a plot of land — some six or eight acres — extending from the bluff, east and south, to a line on River street, about half way between the bulkhead and the present river channel. Some fifty piles to be planked on the upper side are already driven, and as many more will complete the angle, where a space will be left for the water to enter, in time of overflow, so that the sediment settling will form *ballure* and fill up the space. All along the lower Mississippi valley, crevices are filled up by this process, and in New Orleans, directly in front of the city, the entire crescent has been made nearly straight by reclaiming, from the river, in the manner proposed. This is among the most valuable land in the United States and is estimated as worth three million of dollars, by the State Levee Commissioners. In Santa Cruz, there is a large body of land from Mr. H. Imus' place to the bluff near the residence of Mr. Thurber, which might be reclaimed by the same process, and we learn that capitalists are about to make the effort. **Mr. F. A. Hihn** has already commenced work and will this fall drive 150 piles, six feet apart on a line from the bluff, and to the lower end of the bulkhead, where the river seems to be forming a new channel by cutting through the island toward the town. Some of the piles are on the ground, and we think the work will be of great benefit to property-owners on Front street. We shall again notice this new improvement, as the work progresses.

Source: Santa Cruz *Surf* 1889-10-25 3:4

THE STORM NOT UNPRECEDENTED.

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**Elihu Anthony Tells of the Winter of
'49 to a "Surf" Reporter.**
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The rainfall for the past two weeks and especially for the past week has been such a dreadful downpour that it was stated by many an "oldest inhabitant" to be the most wonderful October downfall of rain ever known in California. To ascertain the facts of the matter a SURF reporter called on Mr. Elihu Anthony, the oldest American resident and most prominent pioneer of Santa Cruz. Mr. Anthony, in his usual pleasant and accommodating manner, related the story of the winter of '47 and of his coming to Santa Cruz. He told how he crossed the plains with a large party of early settlers, some with their wives and families, intending to settle in Oregon. Benjamin A. Case, father of

Rollin Case of this city, was in the party, and desired Mr. and Mrs. Anthony to come to California, and as Mrs. Anthony was in delicate health, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony and Mr. Case and family and two other families came to Sutter's Fort. Leaving Sutter's Fort Mr. Case and Mr. Anthony came on to San Jose, hunting security for the winter.

They had heard of the sufferings of the Donner party and wished to avoid any similar danger. They reached Mission San Jose, October 13th, and that evening Mr. Anthony's oldest son, Bascom Anthony, was born.

At Mission San Jose, Mr. Anthony found the father of Judge Breen, now of Hollister, both of whom were survivors of the Donner party. Messrs. Anthony and Case and their families remained at Mission San Jose for several months. A few days after the 13th of October rain commenced to fall and there was a furious storm for several days. The country was flooded and Mr. Anthony clearly remembers how some of his cattle, which he had brought across the plains, got on the opposite bank of the Los Gatos creek before the storm, and when he went out to gather them in he found the creek a roaring torrent, too wild for him to ford. Mr. Anthony is of the firm impression that the rainfall equalled if not exceeded the rainfall of the past storms. All the old Indians and Spaniards could remember of no such weather so early in the year, nor has it ever been approached since. The rest of the winter, Mr. Anthony said, was a most pleasant one, an open season in fact, most of the days being of glorious sunshine.

In December, however, the Santa Clara valley was visited by heavy frosts, and grass and feed was badly injured. In this month Mr. Anthony received word from a friend in Santa Cruz, named Dunleavy, telling him that the U. S. Government was getting our timber to the northwest of this city, hauling it by Spanish oxen to make the fort at Monterey, and advising him that there was plenty of work for a blacksmith, Mr. Anthony's occupation at that time. On December 24th Mr. Anthony crossed the mountains. As he struck the ridge he was astonished at the beautiful country and at the wonderful growth of everything, especially grass, which had not been affected by frost as that in the Santa Clara Valley had, and saw that it was, like hay, ready to be mowed. He lost his way after he crossed the ridge and descended from the Santa Cruz mountains towards the present location of this city. Reaching about the present site of Felton, Mr. Anthony made his way to Capt. Graham's ranch near by, and was entertained for the night by a man named Green. The next morning (Christmas) Mr. Anthony pushed on to Santa Cruz and met his friend, Dunleavy, who had just finished a little board house. This house was the first one erected in Santa Cruz by white men, and is standing to this day in the rear of Goodwin's livery stable, and is used as a chicken house. After a social greeting Dunleavy told Mr. Anthony that he had intended to shoot a wild goose for his Christmas and that they would go out and get one. Then Mr. Anthony's thorough description of the goose killing showed a remarkable memory of things that happened 42 years ago. Of course Santa Cruz was but a grassy valley then with but a house or two.

Source: *Santa Cruz Daily Sentinel* 1895-11-12 2:3

1895-11-13 3:2 "The first flour mill" built in 1796.
[interview of Elihu Anthony]



ELIHU ANTHONY.



MRS. SARAH A. ANTHONY.

Elihu Anthony came to California in 1847, from Indiana. He stopped first in San Jose, but moved with his family to Santa Cruz in January, 1848.

He was soon in business, a man of affairs, making things stir around him. He held the position of local preacher in Indiana, in the Methodist Episcopal Church. Very naturally, on arriving here he took a leading part in continuing services of public worship which had been already commenced.

FIRST WHARF IN SANTA CRUZ.

He engaged in trade and in real estate transactions, and built the first wharf here to facilitate the loading and unloading of freight from vessels. This wharf was built in 1849. It was constructed on an incline and so arranged that loaded cars would go down on one track while others came up on the other. It was afterward sold to Davis & Jordan, the lime manufacturers, and remodeled by them.

FIRST FOUNDRY.

This was one of the early enterprises in which Mr. Anthony engaged. The building is the old one, now standing under the bluff, and occupied by Thomas Amner. It was built in 1848. At that time there were but two or three foundries on the coast. All the patterns and fixtures were bought in the East. The original plan was to manufacture mill irons and similar articles used in the lumber business.

FIRST CAST PLOW.

Mr. Anthony's foundry made the first cast iron plows ever constructed in California. Patterns were obtained from the East, in 1848, and the castings made and attached to the proper wood work. Previous to this they had been imported and sold at high figures. The modern plow was at this time supplanting the old Mexican affair, illustrated and described elsewhere.

FIRST MINING PICK.

At this same foundry was made, in the spring of 1848, the first picks for mining purposes. As soon as the report of gold discovery was known in Santa Cruz, Anthony went to manufacturing picks for miners' use. He made seven and a half dozen. They were light and weighed only about three pounds each. Thos. Fallon, now of San Jose, took them with his family in an ox team across the mountains to the Sutter mines, or mill, to dispose of them. He sold nearly all of them at three ounces of gold each; but the last of the lot brought only two ounces each, as by this time other parties had packed in a lot from Oregon.

Mr. Anthony was in Monterey when the messenger sent by General Sutter arrived with the specimens of supposed gold sent to Governor Mason. These were subjected to chemical tests and pronounced the "clear stuff." In company with others, Mr. Anthony visited the Sutter millrace where gold had been found. This ditch, or escape for water, had been dug by the Indians who used a piece of wood, or a sort of knot for a pick. A view of this noted mill, as well as Sutter's interesting narrative, is given elsewhere.

In 1845, at Fort Wayne, Indiana, Mr. Anthony married Sarah A. Van Anda, who was a resident of that locality. She came across the plains with her husband. In this new country she found a large field for works of charity. She was for many years active in Sunday-School and other religious work, and aided in helping mold and develop [sic] society.

Mr. Anthony was a member of the first Board of Supervisors elected in 1852, and served with Messrs. Daubinbiss, Hames, Moore, and Meder.

The following extract in regard to Mr. Anthony is taken from Bishop Simpson's History of Methodism lately published:

" Elihu Anthony was born in the State of New York, but removed with his parents, when a child, to Indiana. He was converted, and united with the M. E. Church in 1841. He was afterwards licensed to preach, and traveled two or three years on trial. In 1847 he joined an emigrant train consisting of about 150, and started for Oregon. Having reached the Humboldt Sink, Mr. Anthony, with his family and a few others, took the trail for California, reached San Jose in September 1847, halted a short time, held religious services, and organized a class. He moved to Santa Cruz in October of that year, and determined to make his home there. He at once engaged in the work of the Lord, held services, and organized a class. He visited other settlements and did the work of an evangelist. After prayerful examination, he ceased preaching as soon as regular pastors were appointed in the churches. He surrendered his parchments as a local deacon, and took his place in the ranks of the laymen, where he has remained, but not a whit less useful or influential as a laborer in the Lord's vineyard. He has ever been the true friend and wise counselor of the itinerant ministry. He educated a younger brother for the ministry."

Source: Harrison, E. S. *History of Santa Cruz County, California*.
San Francisco: Printed for the Author by Pacific Press
Publishing Company, 1892.

pp. 227 ff
biography written in 1891

ELIHU ANTHONY.

No man is more prominently and closely identified with the history of Santa Cruz than is Elihu Anthony. Mr. Anthony came to California in 1847, and to Santa Cruz in 1848, since which time he has taken a leading part in the affairs of this community. He is notable as a member of the first Board of Supervisors of Santa Cruz, also as a builder of the first wharf in Santa Cruz harbor. This wharf stood where Davis & Cowell's wharf now is, and was built upon a similar plan.

Mr. Anthony owned the first iron foundry in the county, the third on the Pacific Coast, the other two being in San Francisco. This foundry made the first cast-iron plows manufactured in California. Patterns were obtained from the East in 1848, and the castings made and attached to the proper woodwork. A few iron plows had previously been imported and sold at high figures. The modern plow was then supplanting the old Mexican plow, described on another page of this work.

Mr. Anthony was in Monterey when gold was discovered in California. Specimens of the ore were sent to Monterey and subjected to chemical tests, which proved them to be the precious metal. Mr. Anthony visited the scene of the discovery at Sutter's Mill race. The miners were using picks made of wood. Elihu was a blacksmith. So he returned to his shop in Santa Cruz and began making light iron picks. The first eight dozen of these were hauled over the mountains to Sutter's Fork [*sic*] by Thomas Fallon, and sold for three ounces of gold apiece—\$60 for each pick. These were the first iron picks manufactured in California.

Another enterprise in which Mr. Anthony was a pioneer was the establishment of a water system in Santa Cruz. F. A. Hihn was his partner in this undertaking. By the year 1856 the village of Santa Cruz had grown large enough to require a better water supply than [*sic*] wells could afford. So Hihn and Anthony brought the water from the river in pipes made of redwood logs, bored out and joined together, and stored the water in reservoirs constructed by them on the piece of land where Mr. Anthony now lives [Mission Hill]. The old reservoirs are now (1891) being filled up.

But the history of a man's life should begin with his birth. Mr. Anthony was born in New York State in the month of November, 1818 [*or*, according to the Santa Cruz Pioneer Book, November 30, 1819]. His father was a mechanic, and owned a scythe factory. In early youth Elihu was taught the blacksmith's trade, and attended school three months each year from the time he was five years old until he reached the age of thirteen. Before he was twenty-one years old he went to Michigan, where he lived two years, and when his father's family moved from New York to Indiana, Elihu followed them to that Territory. In 1838 he was married to Miss Frances Clarke, and settled down in Indiana, working at the trade he had learned when a boy. His wife died after five years. She had borne him three children, all of whom have since died.

In 1841 Mr. Anthony was converted, and united himself with the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was afterwards ordained by that church as a minister of the gospel, and for five years was a circuit preacher in Indiana and a member of North Indiana Conference.

In 1845 he was the second time married. His second wife was Miss Sarah A. Van Anda. She is of a Maryland family, that moved to Ohio in 1831, and from there to Indiana. In 1846 Mr. Anthony gave up the circuit and went to Iowa to join a company that was preparing to start the next spring across the plains to Oregon. The caravan was a large one, comprising more than one hundred ox teams. The journey was attended with the customary hardships, scarcity of water and food for stock. The only serious accident was a stampede of the cattle when the train reached North Platte. A number of the wagons were broken to pieces, and several of the emigrants injured.

After a six months' journey the emigrants reached Fort Hall, California, just south of the Oregon line. There the train divided, the greater portion going north, while Mr. Anthony and his family, with a few others, joined a party of emigrants who came along just then on their way from Oregon to the central part of California.

Mr. Anthony first went to the Santa Clara Valley, where, on the night after their arrival, his wife's second child was born. This is their son Bascom, a present resident of Santa Cruz. Mr. Anthony remained in Santa Clara but three months, and then removed to Santa Cruz. He found but five American families within the present limits of the county. He at first engaged in his trade of blacksmithing, then went into the foundry business, before mentioned, and in 1849 opened a general merchandise store, in partnership with A[dna] A[ndress] Hecox.

Mr. Anthony is a member of the local Methodist Church, and has taken an active part in church work during his residence in Santa Cruz. He has not yet entirely retired from business life, but gives a portion of his time to his extensive property in and about the city. The Anthony Block, at the head of Pacific Avenue [Lower Plaza], was erected for him in 1848. The first building was torn down in 1875, and the present Anthony Block erected upon its site.

In 1856 Mr. Anthony, with his family, revisited the East, and his father and mother came out to California the next year. There are now a large number of Anthonys in California, relatives of the subject of this sketch, who is the pioneer of the family in this State.

In 1880 Mr. Anthony was elected to the State Legislature, and assisted in the revision of the State codes consequent upon the adoption of the new constitution.

Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Anthony, one daughter and four sons, all of whom are now living. ###



HON. ELIHU ANTHONY
[caption below portrait:]

ELIHU ANTHONY.

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|-----------------------------|---------|---|
| Anthony, Almon | 668 | son of Sarah Van Anda & Elihu Anthony |
| Anthony, Asa Anthony | 667 | husband of Sarah Odell Anthony; father of Elihu |
| Anthony, Bascom Anthony | 668 | deceased son of Sarah Van Anda & Elihu |
| Anthony, Elihu | 667-668 | port. facing 667; Santa Cruz pioneer; est. foundry; postmaster of Santa Cruz |
| Anthony, Frances Clark | 667 | deceased 1st wf. of Elihu Anthony |
| Anthony, Frank | 668 | son of Sarah Van Anda & Elihu Anthony |
| Anthony, Gilbert Anthony | 668 | deceased son of Sarah Van Anda & Elihu |

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|---|-----|--|
| Anthony, Louisa Wilbur Huntington | 668 | dau. of Sarah Van Anda & Elihu Anthony; wf. of |
| Anthony, Sarah Odell | 667 | wf. of Asa Anthony; mother of Elihu Anthony |
| Anthony, Sarah Van Anda | 668 | deceased 2d wf. of Elihu Anthony |
| Clark, Frances | 667 | deceased 1st wf. of Elihu Anthony |
| Cutler, James | 667 | partner of Elihu Anthony in merchandise store |
| Fallon, Thomas (Fulton) Gold Mines | 667 | took picks manufactured by Elihu Anthony to |
| Fulton, Thomas <i>see</i> Fallon, Thomas | 667 | (error in identification of Thomas Fallon) |
| Hecox, Adna Andress | 667 | partner of Elihu Anthony in merchandise store |
| Huntington, Louisa Anthony Wilbur Huntington | 668 | dau. of Sarah Van Anda & Elihu Anthony; wf. of |
| McClellan, J. T. (Dr.) merchandise store | 667 | acquired an interest from Elihu Anthony in |
| Miller (Mr.) Anthony | 667 | Santa Cruz blacksmith met in 1848 by Elihu |
| Odell, Sarah | 667 | wf. of Asa Anthony; mother of Elihu Anthony |
| Van Anda, Sarah | 668 | deceased 2d wf. of Elihu Anthony |

Source: Guinn, James Miller *History of the State of California and Biographical Record of Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties. An Historical Story of the State's Marvelous Growth from its Earliest Settlement to the Present Time — by Prof. J. M. Guinn, A. M., Author of A History of Los Angeles and Vicinity, History of Southern California, Secretary and Curator of the Historical Society of Southern California, Member of the American Historical Association, Washington, D. C. Also Containing Biographies of Well-Known Citizens of the Past and Present.* The Chapman Publishing Co., Chicago, 1903. Copyright 1902 by the Chapman Publishing Co.

p. 667-668, with portrait facing p. 667

HON. ELIHU ANTHONY.

To the distinction of being the oldest surviving settler of Santa Cruz, Mr. Anthony adds that of being an influential factor in all movements tending toward the progress of his city and county. When he came to Santa Cruz there were only five American families within the county limits. Gold had not yet been discovered in California, which was to prove the talisman to draw thousands of emigrants across the country. Few people had as yet been attracted to the boundless west and few also realized its matchless possibilities of climate and of production. Since the time of his arrival in January of 1848, Mr. Anthony has been associated with enterprises for the growth of the town and no one takes greater pride than he in the attractions of this city of flowers by the sunset sea.

In Saratoga county, N. Y., Mr. Anthony was born November 30, 1818, being a son of Asa and Sarah (Odell) Anthony. In childhood he accompanied his parents to Allegany county, N. Y., and from there went to Ridgeway, Mich., where he learned the blacksmith's trade. Returning to Allegany county, he accompanied his father in removing to Fort Wayne, Ind., and there worked at his trade. During a revival in that city he was converted and shortly afterward, in 1841, was licensed to preach in the Methodist Episcopal denomination, becoming a circuit rider and a

member of the Northern Indiana conference. In 1845 he married Frances Clark, but she died while still a young woman, and the children born of the union also died young.

Giving up his connection with the circuit in 1846, Mr. Anthony went to Iowa and from there started to cross the plains to Oregon. After a tedious journey of six months, filled with many hardships and constant inconvenience, he reached Fort Hall, and there meeting a gentlemen from Oregon was persuaded to go to California. The trail led him through Marysville and along the Humboldt river to the Sacramento valley. In this trip he accompanied a large expedition composed of sixty-three wagons. On his arrival in California he was so pleased with the country that he permanently abandoned all thought of settling in Oregon, and in October, 1847, reached San Jose and three months later came to Santa Cruz, which has since been his home. Here he found Mr. Miller in charge of a small blacksmith shop, engaged principally in making bridles, bits and spurs, as there was little else to do in his line. The two men formed a partnership and were plying their trade when, in January of 1849, news came of the discovery of gold. Mr. Anthony made a trip to the mining district and found men working there with sharpened sticks, as few had picks or other tools. Returning home, he hired a sailor to take charge of his forge and he bought all the bolts and iron from old abandoned vessels. With the material thus secured he made picks of all sizes and kinds. These, while lacking beauty, were substantial and practicable. On being completed they were taken to the mines by Thomas Fulton [Fallon], where they were readily sold for three ounces of gold dust. The seven dozen were quickly disposed of and the venture proved financially profitable for the shrewd projector. Wishing to continue the business on a larger scale he went to San Francisco to buy iron, but found none on sale.

Returning to Santa Cruz, Mr. Anthony established a small foundry and made the first ploughs in the state. Prior to this he had manufactured points for the wooden ploughs then in use. About 1850 he opened a mercantile establishment with A. A. Hecox and the following year he was appointed the first postmaster of Santa Cruz, a position that he held for fourteen years. In his mercantile interests he had James Cutler for a partner some years, after which Dr. J. T. McClean and brother acquired interests, and eventually he disposed of his connection with the store. Meantime, in 1855, he made a trip east and visited his parents, who the next year joined him at Santa Cruz, remaining here during the balance of their lives. The father was seventy-six at the time of his death and the mother was about seventy.

During the early days Mr. Anthony bought a lot on the corner of Mission and Water streets and built a small shop. In 1875 he erected the Anthony block, a substantial structure. At different times he built cottages, a few of which he still owns, and he also erected a spacious dwelling overlooking the city, the valley and the ocean. In connection with Frederick A. Hihn he established the first waterworks in Santa Cruz, a movement of inestimable value to the progress of the place. While serving as a member of the board of supervisors he was interested in the building of the first wharf built at Santa Cruz. Other beneficial movements received his encouragement and co-operation while he served as supervisor and town trustee, also during his service in 1859-60 as a member of the state legislature. In 1846 he married Sarah Van Anda, who was born in 1819 and died in 1898. Their children are named as follows: Louisa, who married Wilbur Huntington, of Santa Cruz; Bascom, deceased; Almon, of Fresno; Gilbert, deceased; and Frank, who makes his home in Fresno.

With the removal of Mr. Anthony from Indiana his interest in religious activities did not cease. On the other hand, it has been a conspicuous feature of his mature years. Due to his efforts was the organization of the first Methodist Episcopal class in San Jose, also that in Santa Cruz, and the latter has been a source of gratification to him since in its uninterrupted and extensive benevolences. Besides his warm interest in religion, he is concerned in other movements tending toward the uplifting of humanity. The rounding out of his life toward its twilight does not bring a cessation of activities, nor any lessening of his interest in whatever makes for the benefit of his fellow men. His daily paper is still a source of enjoyment to him, and he keeps thoroughly posted upon matters relating to the welfare of our commonwealth and our nation. During the summer of 1902 he visited Honolulu, where he studied the customs of

the people and the commercial possibilities of the group of islands whose recent association with the United States brings them into close touch with Americans, and especially with the residents of the Pacific coast region."

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Source: *Santa Cruz Surf* 1898-10-05 4:4

Death of Mrs. Anthony.

Mrs. Sarah A. Anthony, wife of Elihu Anthony, died this morning at the family home on School street. From the History of Santa Cruz County we learn: In 1845 at Fort Wayne, Indiana, Mr. Anthony married Sarah A. Van Anda who was of a Maryland family that moved to Ohio in 1831 and from there to Indiana. She came across the plains with her husband the trip taking six months when they reached Fort Hall just south of the Oregon line. They then joined a party of emigrants and first settled in the Santa Clara Valley where they remained three months. In 1848 she arrived in Santa Cruz where she has since resided. She was a charter member of the Methodist church which was the first Protestant church organized in California.