

## **People of the North / Pioneers**

### **Emery Valentine, Juneau Pioneer**

**By Tricia Brown**

Emery Valentine was one of Juneau's leading citizens when the community was just taking shape, landing in Alaska in May 1886, just six years after Chief Kowee of the Auk Tribe directed miners Richard Harris and Joe Juneau to the riches of Gold Creek.

A jeweler, city councilman, and later mayor, Valentine also is credited with organizing the Juneau Volunteer Fire Department and later donating a special wagon to make the fledgling department more effective. Proud to be among the first in Juneau, Valentine already was a member of the Alaska Pioneers' Association in 1887. His portrait is among 170 images in a photomontage of the '87 Alaska Pioneers' Association created by photographer W. H. Case in 1908.

Born in Dowagiac, Michigan, in December 1859, Valentine was the son of a French man and an Ohio-born woman. The family headed west and settled in mining towns, where young Valentine thrived on retail opportunities of the frontier. In 1880, Valentine was 21 years old and living in Central City, Colorado, with his divorced mother, Feebe, 54, and brother, Ettie, 19. After operating stores in Colorado and Butte City, Montana, Valentine arrived in Alaska in Spring 1886.

Valentine married four times, divorcing three wives and losing one to death. One of his ex-wives, Katie, arrived from Butte City, Montana, in October 1886, six months after her husband. By March 1900, they had divorced and Valentine was living at 573 Seward Street, next door to photographer Lloyd Valentine Winter of the Winter & Pond Studio. That fall, on October 19, 1900, Valentine remarried, this time to a Maude A. Gough. When that marriage soured is unknown, but he apparently divorced and remarried within a few years. His next wife, Jennie Valentine, died on October 8, 1905, and was buried at Juneau's Evergreen Cemetery.

The business of “E. Valentine Jeweler” was formalized when Valentine purchased a lot from city co-founder Joe Juneau. Eager to enter politics, the jeweler served on the city council in 1902 for one term. Juneau was designated Alaska’s capital city in 1906 and two years later, Valentine was elected mayor, running as a Republican. He served in that office from 1908-12 and again from 1917-19, during which he was instrumental in establishing Juneau’s first water system. On behalf of the city, he also obtained the People’s Dock at the south end of town. Also during his tenure as mayor, he had a hand in developing tourism and dealt with catastrophic events such as the sinking of the SS *Sophia* along the Inside Passage, and the arrival of the USS *Vicksburg*, sent to aid victims of the Spanish Influenza pandemic of 1918-19. Meanwhile, his buildings, the Valentine Building at 112 Seward Street, and the Seward Building at 145 S. Franklin Street, which now houses Dockside Jewelers, are reminders of the entrepreneur who helped shape what would become the capital of Alaska.

Later in his life, Valentine received the prestigious Order of the Rising Sun for his work as the Japanese vice-consul, promoting foreign relations. The award, initiated on April 10, 1875, by Emperor Meiji, recognizes services to Japan, both military and civilian, by Japanese citizens and foreigners alike.

At his death in September 1930, Valentine was buried in Juneau’s Evergreen Cemetery, next to his wife Jennie Valentine.

## **LINKS:**

### **Juneau History:**

[http://www.juneaualaska.com/visit/stories/44jun\\_history.shtml](http://www.juneaualaska.com/visit/stories/44jun_history.shtml)

### **“The Founding of Juneau,” by Nancy Warren Ferrell:**

<http://www.juneau.lib.ak.us/community/history/junohist.htm>

### **City / Borough of Juneau:**

<http://www.juneau.org/history-old/juneauhist.php>

### **Gold Rush Stories, Alaska Department of Education and Early Development:**

<http://library.state.ak.us/goldrush/stories/joejunea.htm>

## **VISIT THE LIBRARY FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Alaska's libraries include plenty of audio, visual, and written material about the early days of Juneau and the people who shaped it. Visit your local library or go online to see what's available in holdings all over the state. Take these simple steps:

1. Access **SLED** (State Library Electronic Doorway) at <http://sled.alaska.edu/library.html>.
2. Click on the listing for **ALNCat** (the Alaska Library Network Catalog) to view the Basic Search window.

Go to the Keyword field, and type in **JUNEAU PIONEERS**.

### **MORE READING:**

Gastineau Pioneers Book Committee. *Gastineau Channel Memories. Volume II, 1880-1967*. Juneau, Alaska: Pioneer Book Committee, 2004.

Jefferson, Mary. *Alaska Gold Rush Pioneers of Juneau-Douglas Area, 1880-1921: Index to Pioneer Mining Families*. Juneau, Alaska: Juneau Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo & Auxiliary No. 6, 2004.

Pioneers of Alaska. *Alaska Gold Rush Pioneers of Juneau-Douglas Area, 1880-1921*. Juneau, Alaska: Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo & Auxiliary No. 6, 1998.

Rennick, Penny. *Juneau: Yesterday and Today*. Anchorage, Alaska: Alaska Geographic Society, 2003.

### **ARCHIVAL MATERIALS:**

**Alaska Pioneers' Association Photograph Collection, W. H. Case, 1887-1907.** Alaska State Library. Includes 170 black-and-white portraits in collage form. In 1908, W.H. Case, a Juneau photographer, prepared a 45 ft. x 5 ft. photomontage with portraits of 170 Alaskan pioneers, members of the (18)'87 Alaska Pioneers' Association. The original photographs were probably taken by several photographers including Case. It is not known how many photo displays were created. The photographs in this collection were copied from a display at the New York Tavern, a Juneau bar. Other copies of the original display may be found at the Juneau Pioneers' Home, Alaska State Museum and the Masonic Temple in Juneau, Alaska. Subjects include Joe Juneau, Richard Harris, Edward deGroff, G. W. Garside, Charles Goldstein, Isadore Goldstein, Belle Goldstein, Solomin Ripinsky, Crystal Snow, Joseph Snow, Monte Snow, Mrs. George Snow, West Waydelich, Ed Cashen, China Joe, Geo. L. Kostrometinoff, Agnes Shattuck, Tibbits, Uren, Emery Valentine, Dan Kennedy, J. P. Jorgenson, George Kyrage "George the Greek," Antone Marks, Mrs. W. H. McBlaine, Richard McCormick, Peter Peterson, Mrs. John Prior (nee Elizabeth Sellers), and James Winn.

**Robert N. DeArmond Research Files, 1881-1980.** Alaska State Library. Collection includes 5 boxes of archival material, one scrapbook, and three cassette tapes. Includes primarily magazine and newspaper clippings but also manuscripts, notes, and file card

indexes. The collection also includes a taped interview conducted by India Spartz in 1995. Subjects include: aviation, earthquakes, railroads, pelagic sealing, miners' meetings, Sitka Pioneers Home, Cook Inlet Gold Rush, and sealing captains.

**James Simpson MacKinnon Photograph Collection, 1895-1910.** Alaska State Library. Includes 603 black-and-white photographs. These unidentified portraits, primarily from the Winter & Pond Studios in Juneau include Tlingit men, women and families and other Juneau-area individuals, families, couples and groups. The prints were made from glass plates donated by J. S. MacKinnon.

**Stanley Nowicka Photograph Collection, 1904-1918.** Alaska State Library. Includes 296 black-and-white photoprints in one album. Subjects include the Juneau, Ketchikan and Hoonah areas, Governor's Mansion, Fourth of July speeches, the Nowicka brothers, and other snapshots. Bio/History: Stanley Nowicka was born in Detroit and came to Alaska in 1904 where he was a prospector, miner, and painter. He owned and operated the Juneau Hardware and Paint Store (or Juneau Paint Store) from 1918-1956 and was a member of the Alaska Pioneers Association. Two brothers, Joseph (Nowicka) Brown and John Nowicka, also lived in Alaska. Stanley Nowicka died in Seattle January 13, 1968, at age 85. He never married.

**Winter and Pond Photograph Collection, Lloyd V. Winter, E. Percy Pond, 1893-1943.** Alaska State Library. Collection includes 234 black-and-white photographs, including views of views of Southeast Alaskan towns and villages, mining in the Juneau goldbelt region, social life, groups, portraits of local and prominent Alaskans, native Alaskans from the Tlingit, Chilkat, Athabascan, Nulato, and Auk tribes in portraits, ceremonial and traditional activities. There are views of the wreck of the *Princess Sophia*, *Princess May*, and *Al-Ki*.