

**The Best Chance Yet, for**  
**CALIFORNIA!**

**Passage \$125....To Sail Feb. 1st.**



**The Superior, Fast Sailing, Newly Coppered**

**SHIP DUXBURY,**

**Wm. C. VARINA, Master,**

**Will sail as above, from the North side of Union Wharf.**  
This Ship will take out a House and Store for the use of the Passengers there, free of charge for one month after arrival. Those wishing to take their families with them will improve this opportunity, as she will have a

**Cabin fitted up expressly for Ladies!**

A Regular Physician goes out in the Ship.  
Six or eight Passengers can be taken forward at \$100.  
For Freight or Passage apply to

**CHAS. H. COFFIN,**

**13 Dock Square, corner of Elm Street, Boston.**

**The fine Barque "CARTHAGE" will succeed the DUXBURY, to Sail on the 20th of February. For Freight or Passage apply as above.**

**Propeller Power Presses, 142 Washington St., Boston.**

## Ship Duxbury for California, 1849

Propeller Power Presses  
Boston  
Woodblock Print  
Gift of the Bostonian Society  
M9577



### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

After gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill in January 1848, Newspaper accounts drew international excitement, and soon, droves of prospectors. Despite popular images of people heading west in Conestoga wagons, the majority of people reached California by sea. Following established trade routes, people from the Atlantic states sailed around Cape Horn, or to Panama, where they crossed overland and then boarded another ship bound for San Francisco. A great many men did not plan to settle there, but rather hoped to make their fortune and then return east in a few years' time.

Some women voyaged west, too, with husbands, to find a husband, or to engage in economic opportunities open to them in the expanding cities of California.

### ART HISTORICAL CONTEXT

This woodblock print is an advertisement for a particular voyage of the Duxbury from Boston to San Francisco. Knowing that other ships going to California would offer competition, Charles Coffin of Boston promoted the special features of this ship in order to attract passengers. The special feature of specially-fitted space for women may not have been effective, however. The New York Herald newspaper listed voyages heading to San Francisco, including the Duxbury. Though some passengers are only named by first initial and last name, the only woman specifically listed was Mrs. Kinney of Roxbury, who accompanied her husband. Although this particular advertisement did not attract many women, it did attract 98 passengers.

As passage to California increased, so did maritime advertising. Small posters like this were replaced by colorful, graphic "Clipper Cards," which promoted fast-sailing clipper ships and their voyages to California (and to other cities). These represent some of the earliest color advertising in America.

### SAMPLE GUIDING QUESTIONS

- Describe this building. Of what does it appear to be made? Does it seem to have more than one room? Using the scale of the door and windows to help you get a sense of the size of the building, about how big do you think it is?
- How many people do you think could comfortably work in this building at one time?
- What does this suggest to you about how big this shoemaking operation was?
- Do you think this suggests a pre-industrial system of shoe production, or a factory system of shoe production?

### SUGGESTED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Create a "10-footer" in your classroom. Measure out a 10' square with masking tape (or use card board for walls, etc.). Ask students what else would be needed for three people to make shoes (tools, shoe forms, a table, chairs, leather, etc.) You might also use tape to mark out areas where these essentials would be placed, or you might use actual furniture, baskets, and other props. Discuss what it would be like to work with another person or two in this space. Consider, for example, that it would be very hot in the summer and very cold in the winter, and that the men would need to get along very well in order to work so closely.

2003 Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Frameworks: 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3, USI.27, USI.28

<sup>1</sup> "The Emigration to California." *New York Herald* February 13, 1849. Online at: <http://www.pt5dome.com/NYHSips02131849.htm> [viewed 1 November 2006].