



STUDY GUIDE
CONCLAVE OF THE 49ERS

LMCMUN'24

**Navigating the impact of the Gold
Rush in California**

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A Letter of Invitation

From the desk of Governor Bennet C. Riley,

To whom it may concern,

Should you find yourself in reception of this letter, it means you are one of a select few individuals whom I have handpicked to partake in a congregation of paramount purpose.

California lies in a precarious situation. On the one hand, it has unveiled itself to be a treasure chest of untold riches - drawing flocks of people from across the continent and overseas to pocket their share of gold; but treasure chests must be guarded well. Riches without order breeds chaos, and though the time I have spent in these lands is brief, it is my belief that California is headed in that very direction.

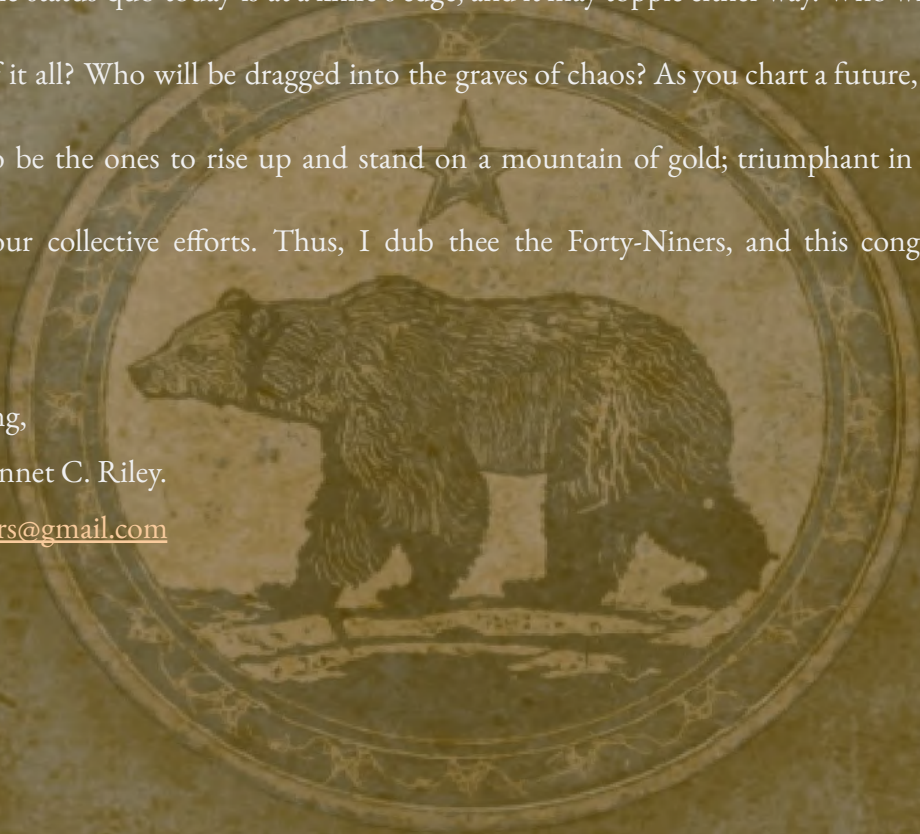
I have been instilled in my office with the purpose of guiding California in a time of turmoil - and I take this responsibility into consideration as I draft this letter to make my decision known. At this hour, it is clear that Washington is not moving with the required urgency. I wonder whether they are unaware of the state of matters this far in the west, or they do not feel the necessity to assign the same importance to our issues as they do to matters nearer to the capital. Either way, the time has come for the people of California to address their own future; to tame the chaos and return to an equilibrium.

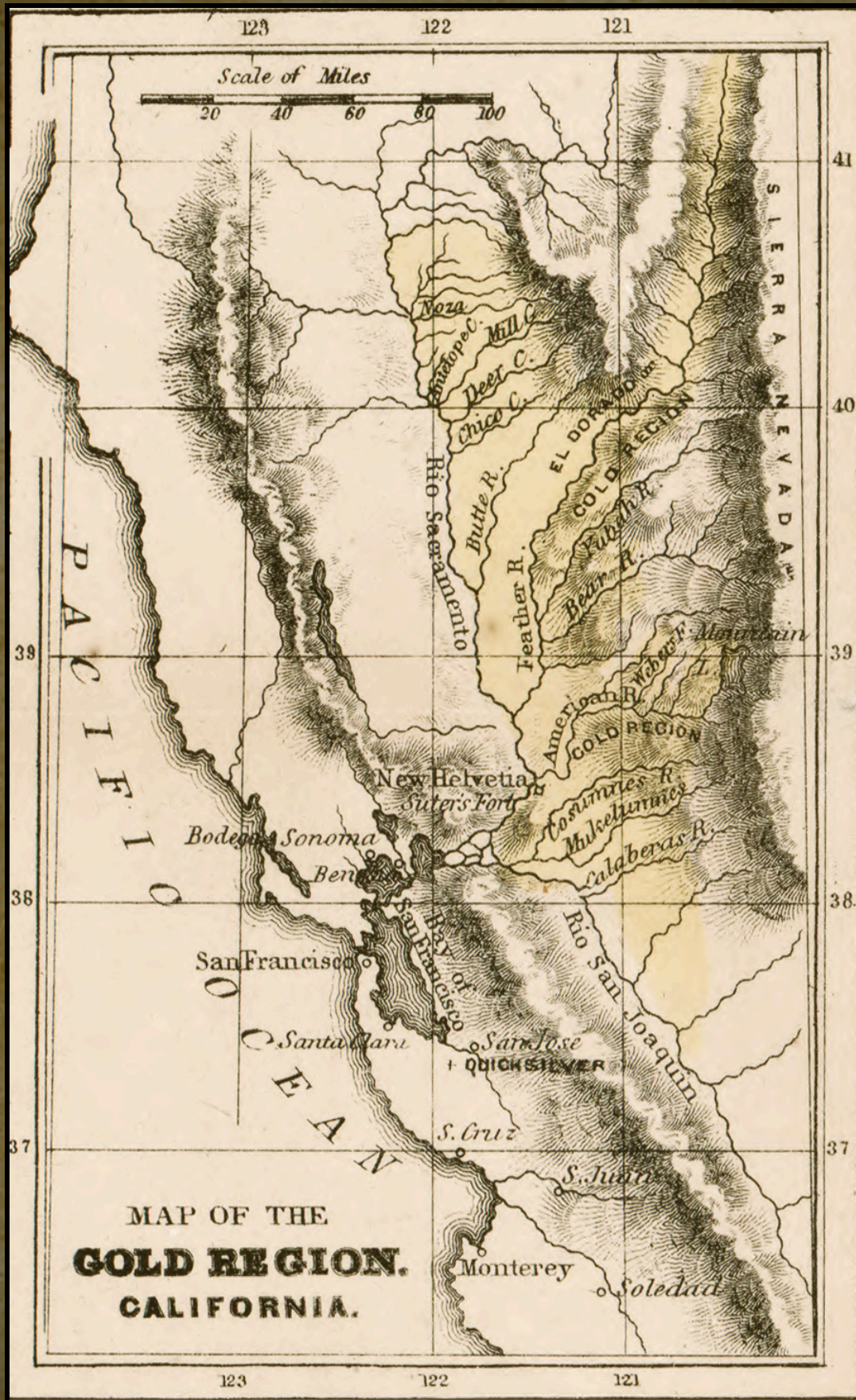
Of course, when I refer to the 'people of California' you must understand that it is hyperbolic. The people are not fit to determine their fate; you are. Some of you are well established figures of the region, some of you are nothing more than faces in a crowd; some of you are merchants yearning for a blast into success, some of you are politicians with ideas for the governance of your people; some of you agree with each other's ways and beliefs, some of you do not. But what puts all of you on the recipient list of this letter is a shared spark - a potential I see in each of you.

Enclosed with this letter is information you may find useful in your preparation for the meeting, including the details of your visit as well. Should you wish to clarify any further queries, do not hesitate to address them to the provided e-mail (which, as we all know, stands for 'enhanced mail').

At Monterey, we possess the opportunity to write history. What you all must understand before you make your journey here is that our world is changing rapidly. The natural order of things that we perceive as the status quo today is at a knife's edge, and it may topple either way. Who will be in power at the end of it all? Who will be dragged into the graves of chaos? As you chart a future, you may only endeavour to be the ones to rise up and stand on a mountain of gold; triumphant in your personal offices by your collective efforts. Thus, I dub thee the Forty-Niners, and this congregation your conclave.

Ever glistening,
Governor Bennet C. Riley.
conclave.49ers@gmail.com





MAP OF THE
GOLD REGION.
 CALIFORNIA.

Timeline of Events

January 24, 1848

Discovery of gold near Sutter's Fort by James W. Marshall.

February 2, 1848

Brig "Eagle" brings the first shipload of Chinese workers to San Francisco.

February 2, 1848

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo is signed in Mexico, without the knowledge of President Polk.

March 15, 1848

"The Californian" reports the discovery of the gold. The news receives scepticism.

March 10, 1848

The US Senate votes to approve the treaty, with amendments.

May 12, 1848

Sam Brannan waves a bottle of gold dust and sets off gold fever in the streets of San Francisco.

July 11, 1848

Governor of California, Gen. Richard Barnes Mason, visits gold fields to gather information for a report to the U.S. Government.

August 7, 1848

Proclamation announces the ratification of a peace treaty with the Republic of Mexico. Gov. Mason issues it at the capital in Monterey.

December 5, 1848

In a message to Congress, President Polk confirms the discovery of gold in California.

April 12, 1849

Brevet Brigadier General Bennet Riley, arrives with his brigade aboard the "U.S.S. Iowa" at Monterey.

April 13, 1849

Brevet Gen. Riley replaces Brevet Gen. Mason as Governor of California.

June 3, 1849

Governor Riley issues private invitations to select individuals for a meeting in Monterey two months later.

July 5, 1849

Invitees assemble at Monterey for the Conclave of the Forty-Niners.

Note to delegates:

The provided timeline deviates from the timeline in the real world from June 3rd onwards. The announcement of a California Constitutional Convention is replaced by the issuance of the invitation letters. In extension, all other events linked to the convention that took place between June 3rd and July 5th are also excluded. Should delegates wish to clarify the occurrence of certain events in this period, they may do so via the provided email.

History of California

Pre-16th Century

For around 1500 years before the Spanish first discovered the Sea of Cortez, or the island of California was imagined by Spanish authors, California was one of the most diverse places in the Americas - both in terms of languages and culture. It had an assortment of more than a hundred tribes, the Karok, Mojave, and Pomo tribes being a few examples.

They had multiple ways of life, the above tribes chiefly consisting of fisherman tribes, hunter-gatherers, nomads, and shifting cultivators. The soil of California was highly arable due to massive, relatively frequent megafloods, creating deep deposits of alluvium and silt, which led to highly arable land pockets within the dense, rough, topography. They consisted of 6 chief culture areas. Namely, The Coloradans, Southerners, Northwesterners, Northeasterners, Centrals, and those living in the great basin. Their religious beliefs were all centred around nature, and gods were nature-oriented. Trade was common, but the rough terrain inhibited relations and isolated tribes.

16th Century

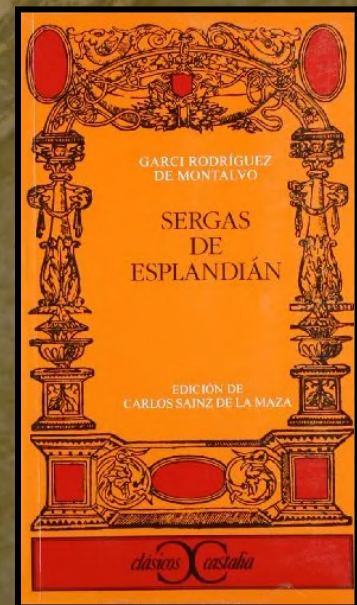
In 1510, *Las Sergas de Esplandián* (authored by Garcí Rodríguez de Montalvo), a Spanish novel was published in the Iberian state. It described an Island, “East of the Indies”, populated only by women. The island had no metal other than gold and was ruled by “Queen Calafia” hence the name, California.

It was obvious that this was fictional, but it motivated Spanish sailors to go in search of such a place.

This book, fuelled by the mass production capabilities of the printing press that had been invented close to 50 years prior, sparked the imagination of the Spanish sailors. Because they knew of the earth’s geoid shape, they crossed the Americas and began searching for this place, “to the right of the Indies”, or to the east of modern-day India, close to Japan.

This period consisted mostly of exploration and changes in mapping

In 1533 in an expedition led by Fortun Ximenez, in search of a land that was called “Otro Mejico ” or “Other Mexico”, stumbled upon the



peninsula, landing at La Paz, marking the first European contact with California. This had been funded by the Spanish crown, in hopes that they may find new civilisations that they may incorporate into their Empire. Baja California, as such was added to Spanish maps, however a large portion of upper America remained unmapped. However, fortune was killed in the mutiny and the mutineers settled in California. This company, before mutiny, had reported findings of pearls off the coast of Baja California.



Intrigued by the findings and inspired by the novel, in 1535, Hernan Cortez also ventured into the bay, in a self-funded exploration. The place, named after him as the Sea of Cortez, was found to be rich in pearls, an example of such a pearl that Hernan had acquired was worth 5000 ducats according to him. He mapped the region and established greater Spanish control over the region. However, he had to leave prematurely owing to the hostile

native population.

In 1539, an expedition led by Francisco de Ulloa found, funded by the Spanish crown sea of Cortez to be a bay, and California as a peninsula, this brought major changes in Spanish maps, but the maps of most countries still depicted California as an island.

In 1540 the viceroy of Spain sent another mission under Hernando de Alarcon that landed near the mouth of the river, becoming the first to stand on Californian soil



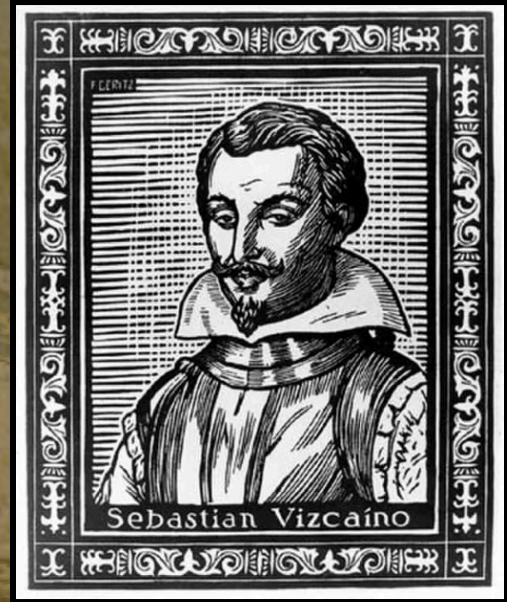
Another expedition in 1542, led by Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo and funded by the Spanish crown aimed to find a mythical strait that ran across the Americas and led to Spain's failure. However, it laid the foundation for colonialism in that region. It charted the Sea of Cortez better than earlier and more popular maps, popularising the Francisco de Ulloa model of the Americas.

In 1545, a typhus outbreak affected a few colonists, costing the lives of thousands of natives, whose immune systems were not used to such foreign diseases.

The first English colonial footprint was set in 1579, when Sir Francis Drake landed near the Gulf of the Farallones, which came to be known as San Francisco, named after saint Francis de Asissisi.

17th Century

Sebastián Vizcaíno, a Spanish soldier, entrepreneur, explorer, and diplomat, embarked on a significant expedition to map the California coastline. Appointed by the Spanish viceroy in Mexico City, Vizcaíno's mission was twofold: to locate safe harbours in Alta California for Spanish galleons returning from Manila to Acapulco and to meticulously map the previously explored coastline. In 1602, Vizcaíno set sail from Acapulco with three ships: the flagship San Diego, San Tomás, and Tres Reyes. His journey led to several remarkable discoveries. By 1603, he entered and named San Diego Bay, the Santa Barbara Channel Islands, Point Conception, Santa Lucia Mountains, Point Lobos, Carmel River, and Monterey Bay.



This marks the end of mapping and cartographical expeditions and the start of the colonisation of the area.

1605 reiterated the instability of California's geography, in the California flood. Such an event had occurred in the third, fifth, seventh, eleventh, fourteenth and fifteenth century CE. This would go on to reoccur in 1750, and then later on in 1810. This is evident from the thick deposits of silt in the Santa Barbara Basin that made it highly fertile, and arable land. By this time, there were close to 300,000 natives in the region.

In 1665, Jose de Galvez came to Mexico, as a visitor general of New Spain. He launched the mission of trying to colonise the provinces of Alta California, with his emissary Padre Junipero Serra.

18th Century

In 1769, Sergeant Jose Ortega discovered La Boca Del Puerto. In the same year, San Diego De Alcalá, the first of 21 missions established by Franciscan padres under the leadership of Father Junipero Serra, was founded. This aimed to convert the natives to Christianity and focused on the Kumeyaay tribe, which backfired when the natives revolted in 1775, killing Father Luis Jayme, and burning most of their real estate in the region, forcing them to retreat the presidio by 6 miles, after which it was rebuilt to be more of a fort than a temporary encampment.

Gaspar de Portola led a mission under the Spanish crown, to build settlements in Alta California

In 1776, the initial colonising group arrived to establish the Presidio of San Francisco and Mission Dolores. Known as La Mision de San Francisco de Asis, Mission Dolores is recognized as Registered Landmark Number One by the City and County of San Francisco. The Mission Church, the oldest surviving building in San Francisco and one of the most ancient Mission Churches in California, was established. The inaugural mass at the Mission was held on June 29, 1776, a mere five days before the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Mission Dolores, the sixth out of a total of 21 missions, was founded by the Franciscans, under the power of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco, it made the Mission Dolores chapel in 1776, however, in 1795, more than 200 Costanoan natives mass escaped from this mission, and the next year, around 200 more followed suit, both organised by local chieftains and influential druids.



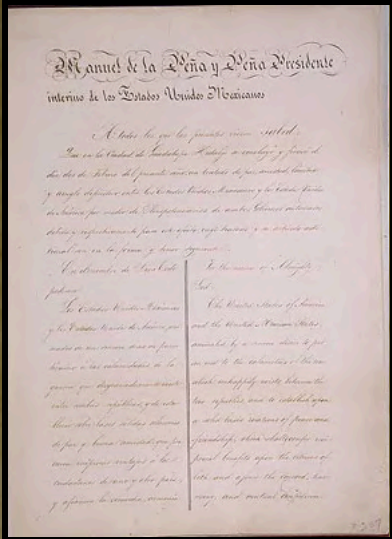
19th Century (Until January 1848)

In 1812, the Russians began the construction of Fort Ross, on the northern outskirts of San Francisco.

In 1820, ships from Boston, began arriving at the colony, bringing American citizens with them, in a number so large, that the Spanish were forced to welcome them, however, they still required passports, and came under the name of trade, bartering for otter and beaver pelts, tallow, hides, and other materials used by the natives.

Around the same time, American hunters began moving into the state. They would later begin forming marital alliances with high-class and wealthy Spaniards and taking up massive land grants.

Just a year later, Mexico gained independence from the Spanish, and Fort Ross was completed near Bodega Bay.



Father Jose Altamira, an evangelist from Mission San Francisco Solano caused revolt amongst the natives, by unnecessarily flogging them to “civilise” them and was forced to flee to Mission San Rafael in 1826. In the same year, a multitude of American trappers would come to the region over land, starting with Jedediah Strong Smith.

Twenty years hence, the USA would invade Mexico, and reach San Diego in early July, under the lead of JB Montgomery.

Finally, in early January 1848, James Marshall discovered gold, in Sutter’s sawmill, in Coloma, bringing us back to 1510, with the writing of Las Sergas de Esplandián, describing the island whose only resource was gold.

Less than a month afterwards, California became a holding of the United States of America, under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.



Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

Following the fall of Vera Cruz in the war, the U.S. Government believed that Mexico could be ushered into an attempt at negotiating a peace treaty. At this time, President Polk made an unexpected decision. He did not appoint an agent confirmed by the Senate to wield powers of negotiation, but rather delegated a 'Nicholas P. Trist' with the task. His reasoning was that the involvement of a U.S. public servant may only lead to indignity in the face of Mexican refusal. Thus, Trist was sent as "a confidential agent, fully acquainted with the views of this (the U.S.) government, and clothed with full powers to conclude a treaty of peace with the Mexican government, should it be so inclined".

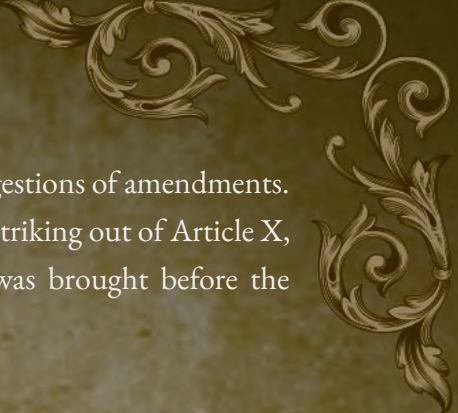
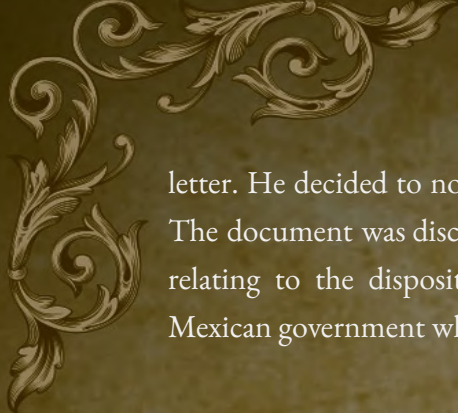
The official letter received by Trist gave him few discretionary powers and outlined a framework of requirements for the treaty to be successful on their part. Even before negotiations began, there were a number of internal quarrels among American officials in New Mexico, who felt their authority undermined by powers allocated to Trist. Eventually, a meeting for negotiations with commissioners of Santa Anna was scheduled. However, Trist's performances in the meeting were notably abysmal - wherein he ceded virtually all bargaining power he had and was proved extremely gullible. The results of the meetings prompted the President to write:

"Mr. Trist is recalled, because his remaining longer with the army could not probably accomplish the objects of his mission, and because his remaining longer might and probably would impress the Mexican government with the belief that the United States are so anxious for peace, that they would ultimate[ly] conclude one upon Mexican terms. Mexico must now sue for peace and when she does, we will hear her proposition."

Occupation of the City of Mexico on September 14th changed Mexico's outlook on affairs. Trist's letter of recall reached him on November 16th. However, when circumstances allowed for another meeting with the Mexicans, he proceeded to attend it and follow his original instructions.

"Knowing it to be the very last chance and impressed with the dreadful consequences to our country which cannot fail to attend the loss of that chance, I decided today at noon to attempt to make a treaty; the decision is altogether my own."

Eventually, a treaty was formed as a product of a few conferences. Trist and his Mexican counterparts signed the treaty, and it was then sent to Polk, whose last instructions had been for Trist to be recalled. Upon examination, the treaty covered all the 'sine qua non terms' that the President had set forth in his

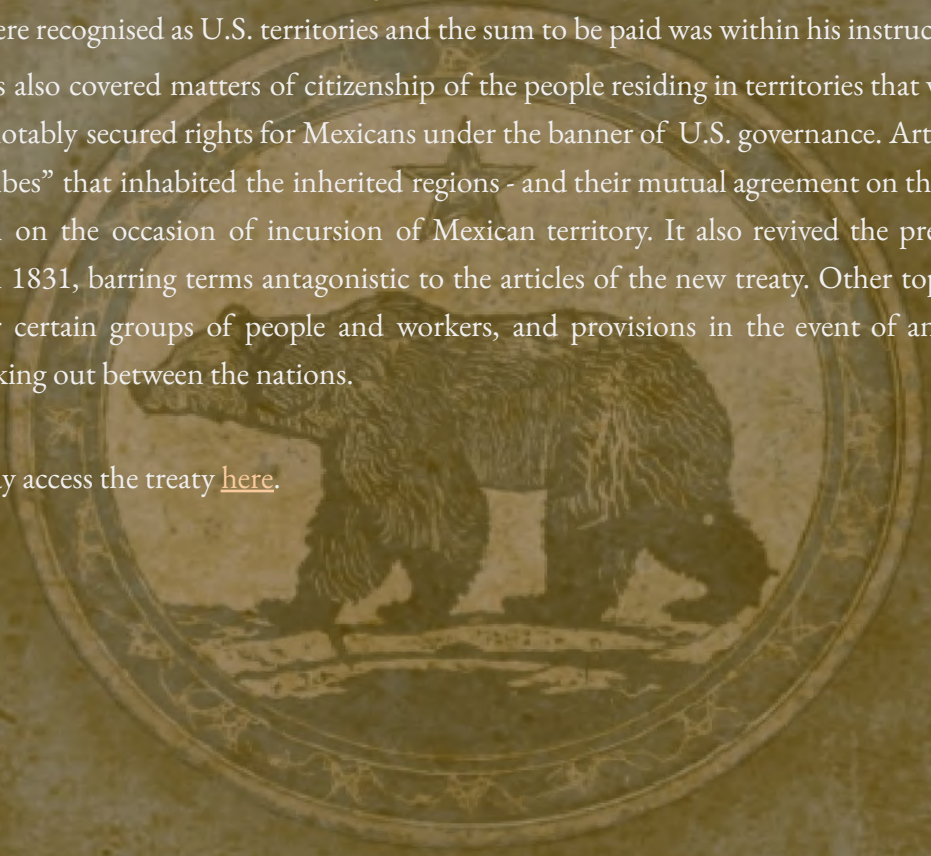


letter. He decided to not reject it entirely, but present it to the Senate for suggestions of amendments. The document was discussed and of the amendments, the most notable is the striking out of Article X, relating to the disposition of public lands in Texas. The amended treaty was brought before the Mexican government who ratified it by a practically unanimous vote.

The contents of the treaty covered various aspects of the dispute between the countries. It established the grounds for ratification of the treaty by both the governments, and simultaneous efforts by the parties to initiate the process of withdrawal from a state of war. Polk's non-negotiables were accounted for, wherein Rio Grande was acknowledged as the boundary of Texas, New Mexico and Upper California were recognised as U.S. territories and the sum to be paid was within his instructions.

The contents also covered matters of citizenship of the people residing in territories that would switch hands, and notably secured rights for Mexicans under the banner of U.S. governance. Article XI spoke of "savage tribes" that inhabited the inherited regions - and their mutual agreement on the use of force against them on the occasion of incursion of Mexican territory. It also revived the previous treaty, concluded in 1831, barring terms antagonistic to the articles of the new treaty. Other topics included securities for certain groups of people and workers, and provisions in the event of another armed conflict breaking out between the nations.

Delegates may access the treaty [here](#).

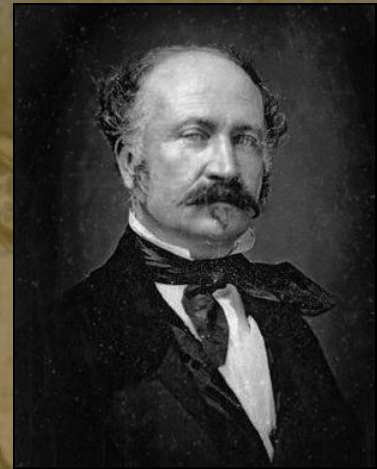


The Rush

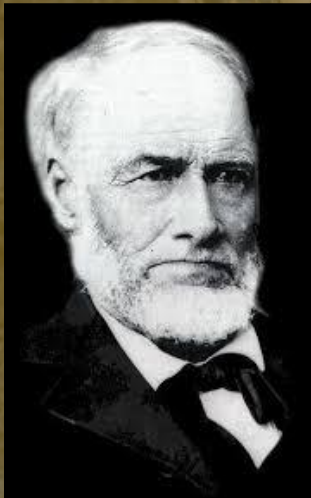
The Discovery

In 1847, in anticipation of peace post the war with Mexico, Johann Sutter (a Swiss immigrant) laid down plans to build 'Sutterville' - a town for American settlers to reside in. For this purpose, his partner - James Marshall - found a site for the establishment of a sawmill, to meet the requirement of lumber. The mill was built 45 miles away from Sutter's Fort, in a place called Coloma, on the south fork of the American river. Following its completion, the next step was to deepen the stream to provide sufficient power to the mill.

On January 24th, 1848, Marshall visited the site in the interest of inspecting the progress on the project, when his eyes caught a glimpse of a shiny substance within the river - caught in the tailrace of the mill. On conducting tests on the substance to follow up on his preliminary suspicions, he was able to yield positive results - they had indeed struck, or rather chanced upon, gold. It was at this moment that it was realised that the land of California and flowing water bodies around it had a good chance of having gold deposits. This event catalysed the phenomenon that is the California

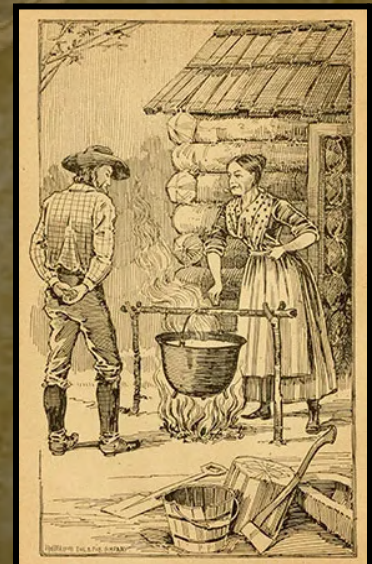


Gold Rush.



However, this instance was just the better propagated discovery. In reality, gold was discovered in California as early as 1842 by Californian native Francisco Lopez. He found a gold nugget while digging up onions in the Placerita Canyon. But for reasons, this discovery did not spark the same frenzy that occurred six years later.

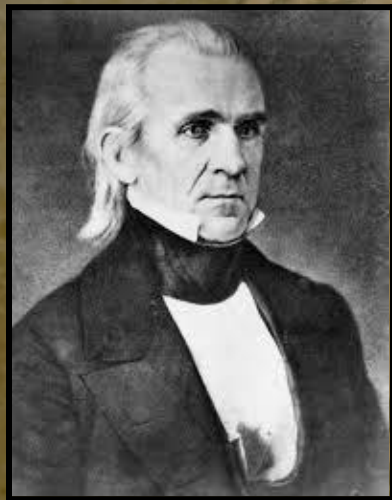
Once Marshall discovered the nugget, his crew tested its malleability to rule out the possibility of it being 'fool's gold'. His assistant's wife boiled it with lye soap to see if it would be tarnished by it. The combined results laid the truth of their fortune bare before them.



Its Propagation

James W. Marshall and John Sutter originally meant to keep news of the discovery of the gold silent. They intended to utilise the deposits to maximise their own profits. Sutter tasked a Charles Bennet to secure mineral rights for the land. However, he unintentionally became responsible for leaking the news. From thereon, the speed of propagation accelerated. Prospectors in and around the region went and struck it rich; this incited Oregonians from the Siskiyou trail and soon, the news started spreading like wildfire.

The news originally started spreading by word of mouth. Miners who discovered gold in California would tell their fellow miners, their friends and family members who would further pass it on. This network of communication was the base of the spread of news locally. Then, news agencies got ahold of this news. Soon, it started making headlines across local papers. Still, people were very sceptical about the truth and accuracy of the news. It became truly widespread when Samuel Brannan ran through San Francisco displaying a vial of gold he had collected from Sutter's Creek.

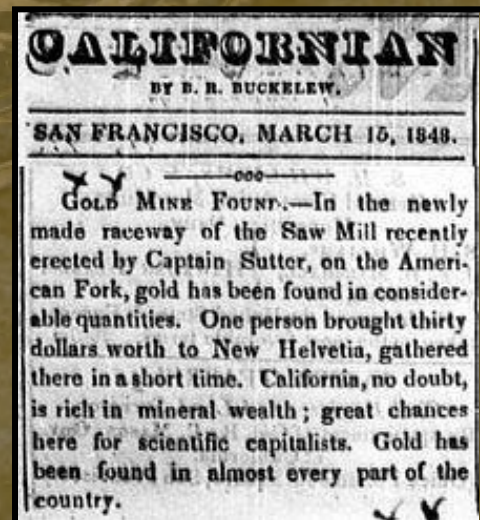


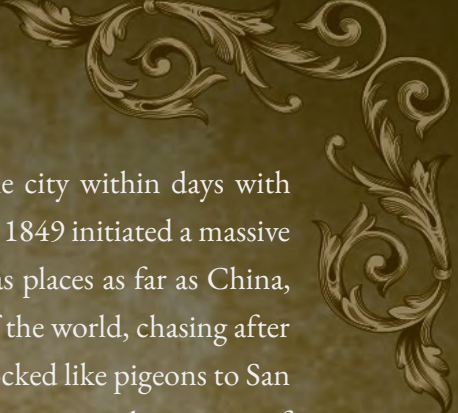

On December 5th, 1848, U.S.A President James Polk confirmed in his State of the Union Congress address the existence of gold in the California region. This served as the ultimate trigger of a mass exodus to California that led to what is known as “The Gold Rush”

The news spread throughout America via the papers of New York City, Washington D.C and many American cities and counties. Gradually, the rush started achieving unprecedented heights of foreign attraction too.

The Impact


Shortly after, the news of the Gold rush in California spread throughout America and subsequently across transboundary lines. With John Sutter failing to maintain secrecy among his employees, gold seekers from across the region swarmed Sutter's Fort, and just as Sutter had feared, most of his employees left his service to look for gold with the aim to amass wealth. Through multiple accounts,





the news of the extraordinary discovery reached San Francisco, emptying the city within days with workers deserting their workplaces, stores and ships to look for gold. The year 1849 initiated a massive migration to the state of California from many parts of the country as well as places as far as China, Chile, France and many more, with miners belonging to the furthest corners of the world, chasing after the glamorous lifestyle in California and its glimmering resources. Migrants flocked like pigeons to San Francisco and smaller towns that experienced immense growth and development not only in terms of its population but changing landscape and composition.

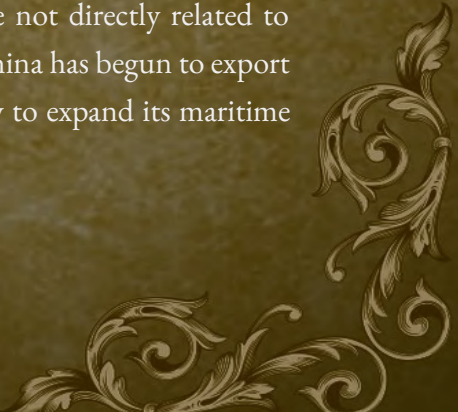

Impact on Industry, Agriculture and International Trade



With the massive inflow of migrants from all sections of the country and beyond its boundaries, California underwent a rapid transformation in a short span of time. It changed from a sparsely populated state which mainly focused on agriculture for its sustenance to a territory with a large enough population with multiple industries in order to constitute as a state. During this time, the population of California was still predominantly Mexican and Native Red Indians; however, the arrival of many American migrants flipped the local demographics in an instance.

Prior to the Gold Rush, when new and more urgent demands were emerging, there had been a boom in production of mining machinery and equipment for hydraulic operations which were commonly used for extraction; previously the East had supplied these machines. Increased production of timber and the creation of new flour mills were also brought about by the Gold Rush. The demand for clothing required for mining increased dramatically with the leather industry also experiencing vast growth.

The destruction of the environment was widespread during the Gold Rush. Rivers were choked with sediment due to hydraulic mining, forests were decimated for timber, and toxic chemicals like mercury polluted soil and waterways. Habitat loss, biodiversity loss, and long lasting damage to ecosystems have been caused by this irresponsible exploitation. The importance of sustainable practices and the management of resources sustainably has been highlighted by the environment's legacy.



The Gold Rush created new markets for their goods from abroad, even though the domestic industry in California was dealing with a lack of workers to carry out jobs that were not directly related to mining. Chile's farmers have suddenly found new customers for their fruit, China has begun to export large quantities of sugar, and Norway looked at California as an opportunity to expand its maritime shipping industry.

Arrival of Foreigners

The discovery of gold in California in 1849 led to a mass emigration from both regional and global origins. The news of gold spread like wildfire, and attracted men from all over the United States as well as around the globe. The miners of nearby states, such as Oregon and the eastern seaboard, were among the most prominent migrants drawn by a promise of wealth and opportunity. In addition, the influx of immigrants from countries such as China, Mexico and other European states to California in search of gold contributed to a diverse and multicultural atmosphere during the Gold Rush period. During this critical period, these migrants brought with them a mix of skills, cultures and languages that shaped California's social and economic environment.

The most prominent group of migrants include:

- The Chinese: A number of Chinese miners arrived in California by ship from southern China's Guangdong province, landing in San Francisco or other ports along the coast. Chinese miners went inland to various gold fields, including those in the Sierra Nevada mountains, after they arrived in San Francisco. Some of them travelled by road from the ports, while others took advantage of newly developed transport infrastructures.

Though most Chinese miners would suffer backlash from their white American counterparts, many Chinese women would be able to establish themselves as successful with the most notable one being Ah Toya, a Chinese prostitute and businesswoman who lived in San Francisco and fended for herself and other Chinese widows who had lost their husbands either en route to California or during mining operations.

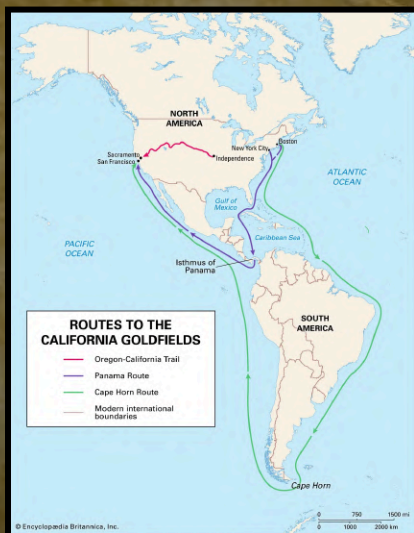
- The Mexicans: Mexicans came to California by land and sea, with some going north from Mexico as well as others arriving at the ports of California on ships. In order to reach California, mining workers from Mexico often crossed into the desert regions of the American Southwest or around the coast. Some took part in expeditions led by US businessmen, or they rode on their own.

One of the most prominent Mexican figures during the Gold Rush was Joaquin Murrieta Carrillo, a miner turned outlaw, who had migrated to California to seek its golden opportunities but due to prejudice and racial chauvinism by white miners, ultimately turned to banditry.

- The Chilean: Chilean miners usually came to California by ship from ports in Chile, crossing into San Francisco or elsewhere on the coast. Chile's miners moved up to the gold mining areas of Sierra Nevada foothills and Northern California rivers as soon as they arrived in California.
- The French: Most of the French gold seekers had to embark on a monthslong sea voyage around Cape Horn, which would be shortened by the passage through the Isthmus of Panama. The caravan of French travellers that had travelled across the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains were joined by others. This new El Dorado was swarmed by 25 to 40 thousand French nationals, from all corners of France. The gold seekers had been on their way to the hills, where the mines were, upon reaching California. They would live together, clustered in the French quarters.
- Others: During the gold rush, California was also visited by a number of small groups of miners, including African Americans, Filipinos, Basques and Turks. From the south - the Caribbean and Brazil - came a small number of miners of African descent, probably less than 4,000. Other major foreign immigrants include the Peruvians, Britons, Irish and Australians.

Major Routes

The people who travelled to California faced a lot of risks, whether they came from the US or abroad. There's a number of ways to get to California. For up to two months, Chinese miners sailed across the Pacific Ocean in small ships. The three main routes used by American gold seekers were the Oregon-California Trail, the Cape Horn route, and the Panama shortcut / the Isthmus of Panama.



- Cape Horn Route

A voyage across the Cape Horn, South America's outermost tip, was the longest way of getting to California. In New York City or Boston, Massachusetts, the gold seekers had boarded ships on the eastern seaboard of the United States. The ship travelled south around Cape Horn and north to California, where the passengers were dropped at San Francisco. It took about six months to make the journey. The Cape Horn route took 18,000 nautical miles, or 33,000 kilometres.

- Panama Route

This route involved both sea and overland travel. The first step of the journey was to board a ship departing from the East Coast of the United States and sailing to the Atlantic coast of Panama, in Central America. Then passengers crossed the Isthmus of Panama, the strip of land that connects North America and South America after the miners canoed up the Chagres River, in central Panama. Then they would have to ride a mule through the jungle to reach Panama City on the Pacific coast. There they boarded a ship to San Francisco.

- Oregon-California Trail

The Oregon-California Trail stretched more than 2,000 miles (3,200 kilometres) from Missouri to Oregon and California. The journey could take more than six months on a wagon. Independence, Missouri was the starting point for this journey. In terms of security on the journey, grouping together as a team provided an advantage. Bandits who might want to attack the lone wagon could be intimidated by a great train of wagons.



- Transnational Routes

Atlantic Route: Europeans favoured the Atlantic route. They sailed from ports such as those in the United Kingdom, Germany and France to arrive at eastern U.S. seaports like New York. In order to reach California's gold fields, immigrants went overland by means of routes such as the Oregon trail. This route offered a relatively direct way to California, despite the difficulties of rough terrain and weather.

Pacific Route: The main sources of Asian immigrants, particularly from China, were the Pacific Way. Ships departed from ports in southern China and crossed the Pacific Ocean, often for long journeys with dangerous conditions.



Demographic Changes

In 1849, California's foreign population increased to nearly 100,000 people with Americans who came down the Siskiyou Trail accounting for almost two thirds of the population.

Each district of California had to establish a set of rules by the time mining camps began to form to house the influx of migrant miners. However, the property claims in such areas were not very safe in the absence of a government or any other authority to enforce these rules. Only if people were willing to obey would the miners' code be working. Only the threat of violence kept many property rights in place with many disputes over claims having been often settled by arms rather than diplomacy. The mining districts of California were characterised by anarchy, violence and amorality mainly due to racially driven aggression by white American miners.

The principal beneficiaries of the Gold Rush were three settlements. San Francisco, a sleepy village called "Yerba Buena" until 1847 which became California's major seaport, far eclipsing San Diego, San Pedro, and Monterey to the south. Most of the immigrants that had come by sea, and almost all goods imported out of the world, were passing through this city. Tired, dirty miners came to spend their hard earned money in the lively city, crowded with hotels, casinos, and saloons. The profits of the boom were also reaped by two smaller and newer cities inland. Johann Sutter had dreamed of a town called "Sutterville" that would make him rich. Instead, his property on the Sacramento River was overrun by squatters and businessmen, and the city of Sacramento was born. It became a trading centre for the northern mines, and subsequently the capital of the state.

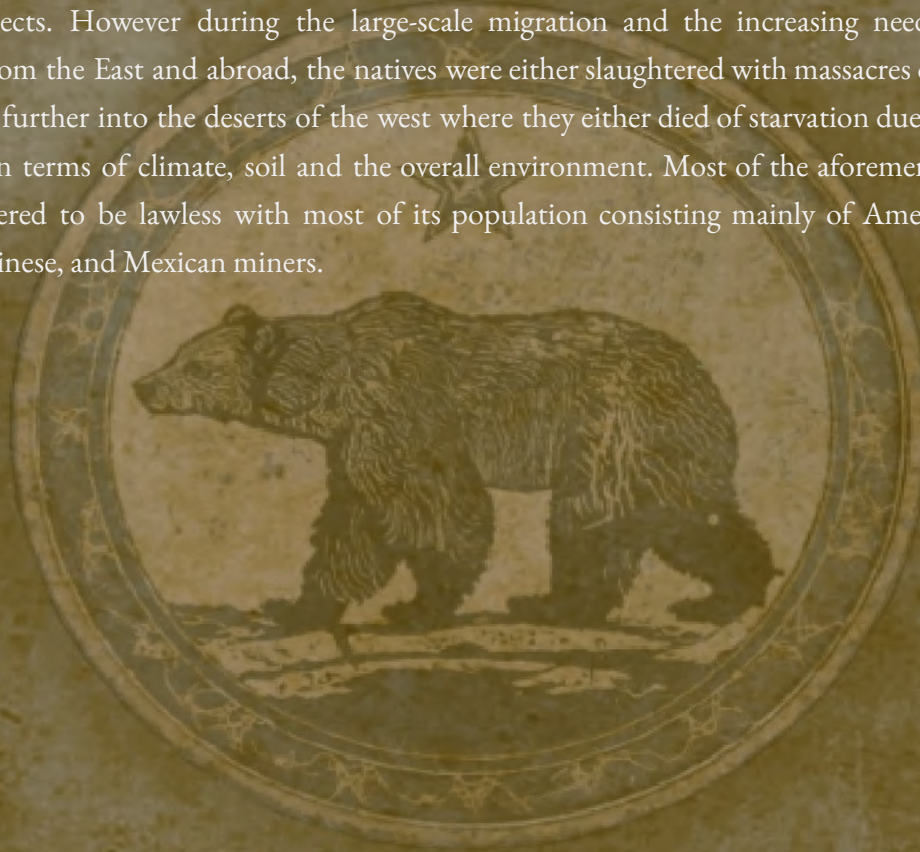
As the southern mines below the Mokelumne became a force, a ranch at the junction of the San Joaquin and Calaveras Rivers gave birth to a settlement first called Tuleberg and then rechristened to Stockton which had grown rapidly and served as a gateway into the mines of Calaveras, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Merced and Mariposa rivers.

One of the first people to set up permanent residence in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains came from immigrants belonging to villages just north of Genova, Italy who had brought with them old agricultural skills which would help them to survive in the winter.

In the northern part of the gold mining region, which is sometimes referred to as the Northern Mining Region consisted mainly three counties, namely El Dorado, Sutter, and Yuba, which we shall refer to as the Northern Mining Region which mainly consisted of gold miners with majority of the population belonging to different ethnicities including Anglo-American, African-American, Hispanic, Native, European, Chinese, and Jewish.

Other major mining towns and cities include Hangtown, which was founded in 1848, became a major mining town. In the vicinity of these rivers and streams, miners from various foreign countries came looking for gold. Other include Coloma became a significant centre for gold mining activity, attracting many foreigners who sought their fortune after the discovery of gold in 1848 at Sutter's Mill which led to the Gold Rush as well as Auburn, which was also founded in 1848 and became one of the most important mining towns after the gold rush.

All three mining towns and other aforementioned towns, cities, counties, etc., were originally inhabited by a diverse population of native tribes which include the Karok, Maidu, Cahuilleno, Mojave, Yokuts, Pomo, Paiute, and Modoc tribes who were separated by language into as many as 135 distinct dialects. However during the large-scale migration and the increasing need for housing foreigners from the East and abroad, the natives were either slaughtered with massacres of entire tribes or displaced further into the deserts of the west where they either died of starvation due to the adverse conditions in terms of climate, soil and the overall environment. Most of the aforementioned towns were considered to be lawless with most of its population consisting mainly of American, French, Chilean, Chinese, and Mexican miners.



About the Gold

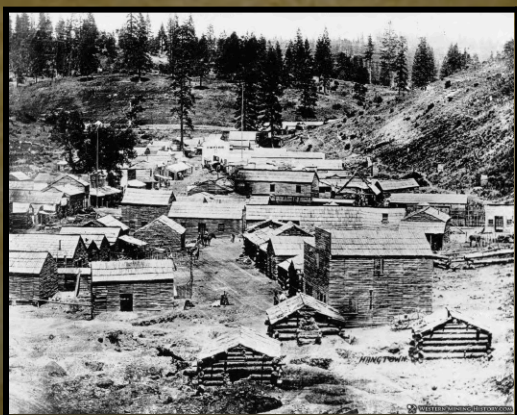
Major Gold Reserves

- Sonora

‘The Queen of the Southern Mines’, Sonora is one of , if not the most, prominent mining town in California. Sonora is not only the largest, but also the coarsest and most violent mining towns south of the Sierra Nevada. The town was found by Mexican miners in 1848 and by this year, the news of Sonora has spread all throughout California. The current population of the town can be estimated to be about seven thousand Mexicans and two thousand American and European miners.



Sonora is one of the fastest growing centres of trade and commerce in California and along with the rapid urbanisation, there is also major growth in the number of criminals, gamblers, drunkards and prostitutes in the city, making the city increasingly notorious for newcomers. Furthermore, the presence of such a large number of Mexicans is heavily looked down upon by the American citizens, resulting in the breakout of frequent conflicts between the two communities.



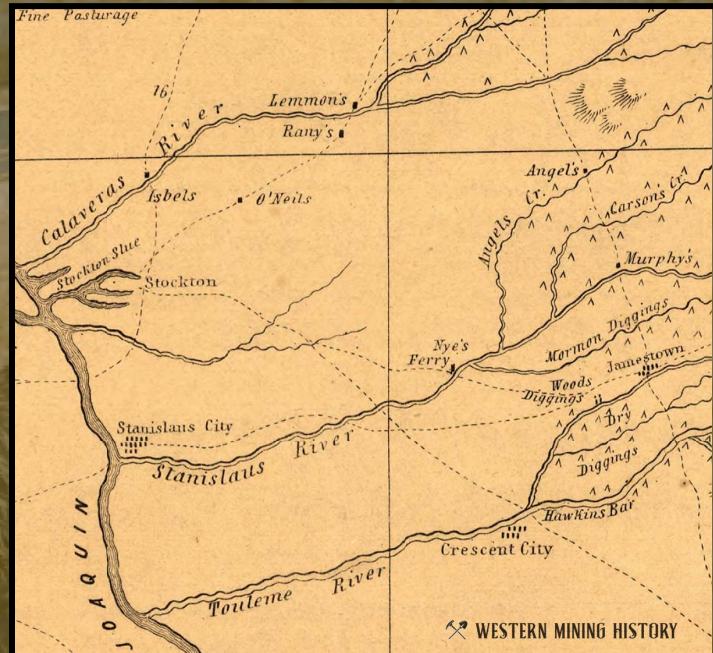
- Old Dry Diggins

Established in 1848, Old Dry Diggins is a prominent mining site in the state, situated only about 10 miles from where James Marshall first discovered gold in 1848. The town is located in Sierra Nevada at the pivot of the Mother Lode, a site where thousands of people migrated following the discovery of gold resulting in a massive population explosion in that area.

The town's geography and the easy accessibility of creeks and trails made the spot all the more suitable for miners and thus by the end of 1848, about 2000 miners had comfortably settled in the area. The absence of a proper judicial system in the town makes it a haven for various sorts of crimes and as days progresses, the crime rates just keep increasing. Although mostly inhabited by Americans, the town isn't devoid of the presence of Mexicans, Frenchmen and Chileans.

- Angels Camp

It all began with brothers Henry and George Angel, who arrived in California as soldiers serving under John Fremont during the war. Allured by the tales of the lustrous gold which concealed itself in different locations throughout California, the brothers set out with the hopes of prospecting a reasonable amount of profit from mining gold. The brothers joined hands with the Carson-Robinson party and eventually reached the place which is today known as Angels Creek, before parting ways.



The brothers set up a mine along the creek and began mining, striking little to no luck during their first endeavours. A few weeks of hard labour would be enough pain for Henry Angel to give up his methods and think of a better way of making money which gave rise to the brainchild of setting up a trading post. The Angels Trading Post, which operated its business from a small building, was an instant success and within a few months, Angels Creek became a hotspot for mining with over a hundred tents scattered all across the creek.

Some miners operating in the Angels Camp made huge profits and in fact the grounds are so rich that it is assumed that over two ounces of gold is produced from the mines on a daily basis. With such exorbitant profits looming around the horizon, Angels Camp is the perfect destination for miners to settle. If you want to strike your luck, then Angels Camp is the best destination for you.

However, as much of a dreamland as the Camp might seem, the camp isn't entirely free of its own share of problems. Lice, ticks, gnats, lizards, scorpions, rattlesnakes, hornets, tarantulas and mosquitoes

inhabit the area in large numbers, making it difficult for the miners to carry on hours of hard labour. Furthermore, it is speculated that a number of notorious bandits, notably one Joaquin Murrieta, roam freely throughout the camp, thus giving no assurance of safety.

- Auburn

Gold was first discovered in Auburn by Claude Chana on the 16th of May, 1848 and since the discovery, the settlement kept growing. Originally known as North Fork, the town was recently renamed to Auburn. The location of Auburn is what makes it so popular among miners. Located at the junction between Sacramento and several other gold fields in California, the town serves as a pivotal territory for placers to set camp.



Auburn is an important junction, also known for its luxurious hotels and inns, serving as the major supply point for the gold mines and camps of the Sierra foothills. Central to several rich gold mining areas, Auburn is a rapidly developing city with more and more buildings and factories being built every single

day. Miners continuously mine gold dust and the average income of a regular miner is well about five thousand dollars in dust every week. The town has the potential to survive even after the gold runs out, mostly due to its dynamic town, Auburn is the perfect location to set up administration for the supply and trade of gold and related equipment.

- Sutter's Mill

One can't possibly talk about the Gold Rush without making mention of Sutter's Mill, the very site gold was first discovered by James Marshall. Owned by John Sutter, a German-Swiss settler in California. Following the discovery of gold, news spread faster than a wildfire, attracting citizens from all over the nation in pursuit of gold and there couldn't possibly be a better spot to start mining than the very location where it was first discovered.

The yield of the town is so rich that miners can pick up gold nuggets by hand and any average prospector can easily make a profit ranging from hundred to five hundred dollars on a daily basis.

As of now, there are seventeen hotels, eleven shops, three bakeries, a couple of saloons, a theatre, and even a community library. Volcano is thus one of the best destinations for someone looking for gold as well as a peaceful cultured life.

- Rough and Ready

A tiny town, only five miles west of the Grass Valley in Nevada, Rough and Ready is another popular mining spot. The town's notorious name is attributed to General Zachary Taylor, who later went on to become President. The first major settlement in the town was made recently by the Wisconsin based mining company, led by captain A.A. Townsend.

There isn't much known about the town but from the looks of it, Rough and Ready is ready to become one of the most prosperous mining towns, if utilised to the fullest extent. The town has a minimal population and a pleasant ambience, thus serving as a perfect destination for upcoming mining enthusiasts.

- Chinese Camp

Situated in Tuolumne County, the Chinese Camp also known as Camp Washington is the mining hub of Chinese immigrants. After being driven away from Camp Salvado, the Chinese immigrants have settled in this small locality, making it their safe home. There isn't much prospect in this territory if you aren't a Chinese immigrant.

- Baudelaireville [Note: This town did not exist in California, 1849. It has been created for this committee.]

Baudelaireville sprung as a mining town when Tyler Baudelaire, a French immigrant to California found gold in the winter of 1848. Situated in Shasta County, Baudelaireville is mostly a French settlement with some presence of Americans and other Europeans. The town is an important terminal point, serving as a suitable supply zone.

With an initially miniscule population, Baudelaireville is a small but productive town that has begun growing in recent times with the influx of immigrants. The presence of so many Europeans makes it a haven for forthcoming Europeans while a notorious destination for Americans. Gold is transacted in the town at a rate of twenty dollars per ounce and miners easily make up to five hundred dollars a week. The town houses a news post, a bank, a school and several supply posts. Settlers in Baudelaireville rely more on hydraulic mining, thus making the town more sustainable in the long run.

The Miners and Workers

Despite the allure of gold, the California Gold Rush was a time of hardship for many - with unusually high risk often accompanied by a lacklustre reward. After Marshall's discovery, people from all over the world came to California looking for the precious metal. This created a cauldron of different ethnicities and nationalities working in the same environment.

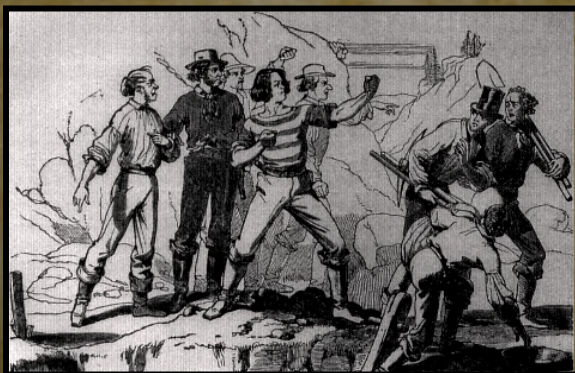
Some lucky prospectors found roots to success, but for the majority, the reality was quite harsh. Gold panning rarely turned up anything of value, and panning itself was a cruel and miserable working method that required a lot of hard work.

Camps for gold mining had been set up in nearby areas, but the lack of sanitation, proper housing facilities and a proper judicial and legal system caused chaos in the camps. As expected, crime rates in the goldfields were extremely high. Without a set police force, vigilantes quickly took up the empty posts, and began administering justice, as they pleased. The prospect of gold attracted even more people, and soon enough, San Francisco's population skyrocketed.

Labour Exploitation

The ability to employ slaves, peons or indentured labour gave some of the entrepreneurial miners a large advantage. The sheer hard labour entailed in most forms of early mining also contributed to weakening class identities.

Mining at the time was a very physically and mentally demanding job. Work would begin at the crack of dawn, with few to no breaks in the afternoon to escape the heat, and would continue until the fall of dusk. Even on a good day, prospectors had to sift through a minimum of ten buckets, before they made even a dollar. Plus, with the constant immigration in the state, the risk of diseases was at an all-time high. Cures for such diseases were rare and were signs of almost certain death.



They worked long hours, commonly 10 or 12 hours, sometimes, with no weekend holiday. No laws protected the rights of these workers or their working conditions, and at the time, the link between the workspace and health had not been fully understood. Beyond that, they were often left with no roof over their head, when their houses were burnt. Chinese



miners, who began arriving in considerable numbers in 1849, were met with severe discrimination and exploitation.

During the Gold Rush, African Americans arrived in California as free or enslaved people. Racial prejudice and discrimination were pervasive. Southerners imported African Americans into the state as slaves, being forced to work for no pay. Although they could engage in the gold mining industry, free African Americans encountered social and legal obstacles that hindered their progress.

In the goldfields, children worked as labourers too, completing household chores, transporting water, and panning for gold. Child labour was frequently inexpensive and widely available, which attracted employers looking to cut labour expenses.

Women

Though few, women took part in the Gold Rush in a variety of ways. Many men who came west paid women to do housework and cooking because they were used to having their wives take care of these duties. Running boarding houses, where they provided housing and food for miners, was a source of

income for some women. Women in California were in great demand for their skills and company because there were so few of them living there.



Men made up about 95% of the migrants; most of them being men from the eastern states. Typically, married men would leave their families behind in the East with the hope of coming back rich. Women accounted for less than 10% of California's population in 1849.

Social division and categorization of Gold Rush Women as "good" or "evil" unfolded. Compared to males, they were subjected to a different moral standard. Women with

unconventional careers or lifestyles were viewed as immoral and named "bad."

Native Americans

John Sutter, the owner of the mill that discovered gold, owed all of his power to the natives he had exploited to gain the same. The shrewd businessman had also unknowingly set the stage for the massacre of the natives. Additionally, witnesses in the goldfields said



that the just-arrived miners readily abused Native Americans. Miners and businesses invaded the Native American areas in California as the search for gold grew, and they frequently employed violence or scorched-earth methods to drive the indigenous people out.

The Gold Rush led to a complete change in the sociological and economic landscape of the state of California. The rapid increase in the population of the state was accompanied by a similar trend in the number of settlements. This influx of settlers led to a rise in the demand for land, followed by Native Americans not only losing their lands but also resulting in poverty and marginalisation. Moreover, the sudden influx of foreign arrivals exposed large percentages of the native population to European diseases like smallpox, measles, and influenza; which they had not developed immunity systems for. This proved fatal to many, causing sharp falls in their numbers.

Extreme brutality against Native American communities was prevalent at this time. Indigenous peoples were frequently viewed by miners and settlers as barriers to their pursuit of gold, and they acted accordingly.

The Chinese

Chinese immigrants encountered severe discrimination and violence from American settlers in the West. These immigrants persisted in coming to the United States in search of a better life despite the hardships they faced. Some immigrants, particularly Chinese labourers, were subjected to indentured servitude or contract labour arrangements. They were often promised passage to California in exchange for working off the cost of their travel. However, these contracts were frequently exploitative, with labourers enduring harsh conditions and receiving minimal compensation. Chinese immigrants were often excluded from mainstream society and faced social ostracism. .



Mexicans

At the brink of the year 1849, close to 6000 Mexicans wandered into the area, in search of gold. However, even though this land had belonged to them just the previous year, they were met with great animosity from their neighbours, which was only fuelled by the fact that the Mexicans were much more experienced and found greater success in finding gold.

Way of Life in California

The discovery of gold in California had a seismic impact on the region that reverberated globally, reshaping not just the local way of life but also influencing broader economic, social, and environmental dynamics.

A Miner's Life: Six days a week, the gold miners awoke early in the morning. Long Sleeve shirts, sometimes called trapper shirts, were also worn by miners, probably because they were first worn by fur trappers. Only one or two sets of clothes belonged to the majority of miners. Every day they wore the same clothes, waiting for the old ones to fall apart before they bought the new ones.



The miners would get ready to work after they drank their coffee and ate a good hard biscuit. There wasn't much food for the miners to maintain a balanced diet with most of them diagnosed with Scurvy due to their carnivore diet. The "home" they left behind for the day was not much to speak of. It was just a tent for some of them. Others were living in temporary shacks set up hurriedly. Whatever shelter they had, most miners slept on a pile of old blankets or furs on the floor. Full of hope, a miner shouldered his pick and shovel in the morning and headed out to dig. Each miner had his own section of land in which to dig for gold, called his claim. Gold diggers spent 12 to 16 hours a day digging, scraping, hauling, and washing dirt and gravel. The work was repetitive and backbreaking. Miners worked six days a week, but on the seventh, they often headed for town.

Town was teeming with miners, shops, saloons, laundries, and plenty of people to meet. While in town miners first went to the bank, where they exchanged their gold for money. A miner had to be careful with how he spent his money on journeys into the city when there was a need for supplies. Retailers often increased their prices as a result of the boom in business.

The Rancho Life: Despite the transformative effects of the Gold Rush, many ranchos continue to operate as centres of agricultural production and livestock husbandry. Rancheros continue to oversee vast estates, employing labourers, cowboys, and indigenous peoples to work the land and tend to livestock. Before the Gold Rush, the Rancho system was firmly established in California. Large land grants were given to prominent individuals, military leaders, and settlers, resulting in vast estates known as ranchos. These land grants were typically used for agriculture, livestock grazing, and other

purposes. The primary economic activity on ranchos was agriculture. Rancheros cultivated a variety of crops such as wheat, corn, grapes, and olives. They also raised livestock, including cattle, horses, and sheep, which provided meat, dairy products, and other resources. The Rancho system was characterised by a hierarchical social structure, with the rancho (landowner) at the top. Beneath the rancho were various classes of labourers and workers, reflecting the hierarchical nature of colonial society.

The Gold Rush led to a significant decrease in the available labour force on ranchos as people from diverse backgrounds, including ranch workers, left their jobs to seek fortunes in the goldfields. This labour shortage affected agricultural production and ranch operations. The discovery of gold brought about a shift in economic focus in California. Many individuals who had previously worked on ranchos or in agriculture were being drawn to the goldfields in search of wealth, leading to a decline in agricultural production on some ranchos. The Gold Rush that brought a wave of immigration to California, resulting in a more diverse population. This influx of people from different backgrounds led to changes in social dynamics and cultural exchanges within Rancho communities.



Economic Revolution: The Gold Rush became a catalyst for a rapid economic boom. Beyond the direct mining activities, new businesses sprung up to support the burgeoning population. Services such as transportation, lodging, food provision, and entertainment which were non-existent before the discovery started to flourish as entrepreneurs capitalised on the sudden surge in demand. This economic ecosystem not only sustained the influx of migrants but also contributed significantly to California's short-term economic growth. Individuals from diverse backgrounds found entrepreneurial opportunities, contributing to the development of a dynamic economy.

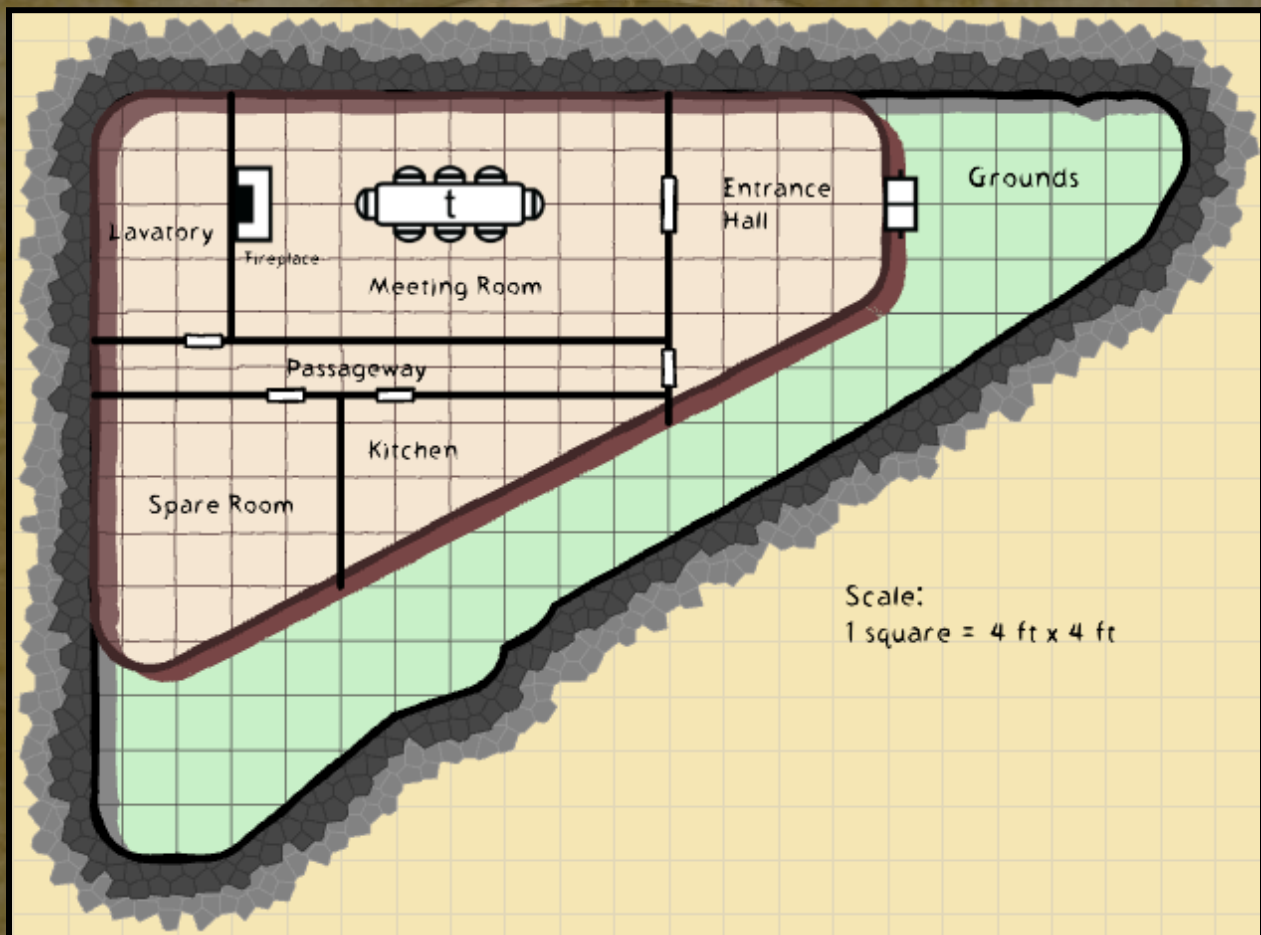
Cultural Fusion: California experienced a significant transformation in its cultural landscape. Various forms of entertainment and leisure activities emerged as part of the social fabric. Gambling establishments, saloons, theatres, and dance halls started being proliferated in boomtowns and cities like San Francisco. Gambling, in particular, became a popular pastime among miners and settlers seeking excitement and diversion from the challenges of mining life. Games such as poker and faro were commonly being played in saloons and gambling houses, often accompanied by drinking and revelry. Moreover, the cultural fusion stemming from the people from different backgrounds slowly contributed to the emergence of unique culinary traditions, artistic expressions, and social norms.

Details on the Conclave

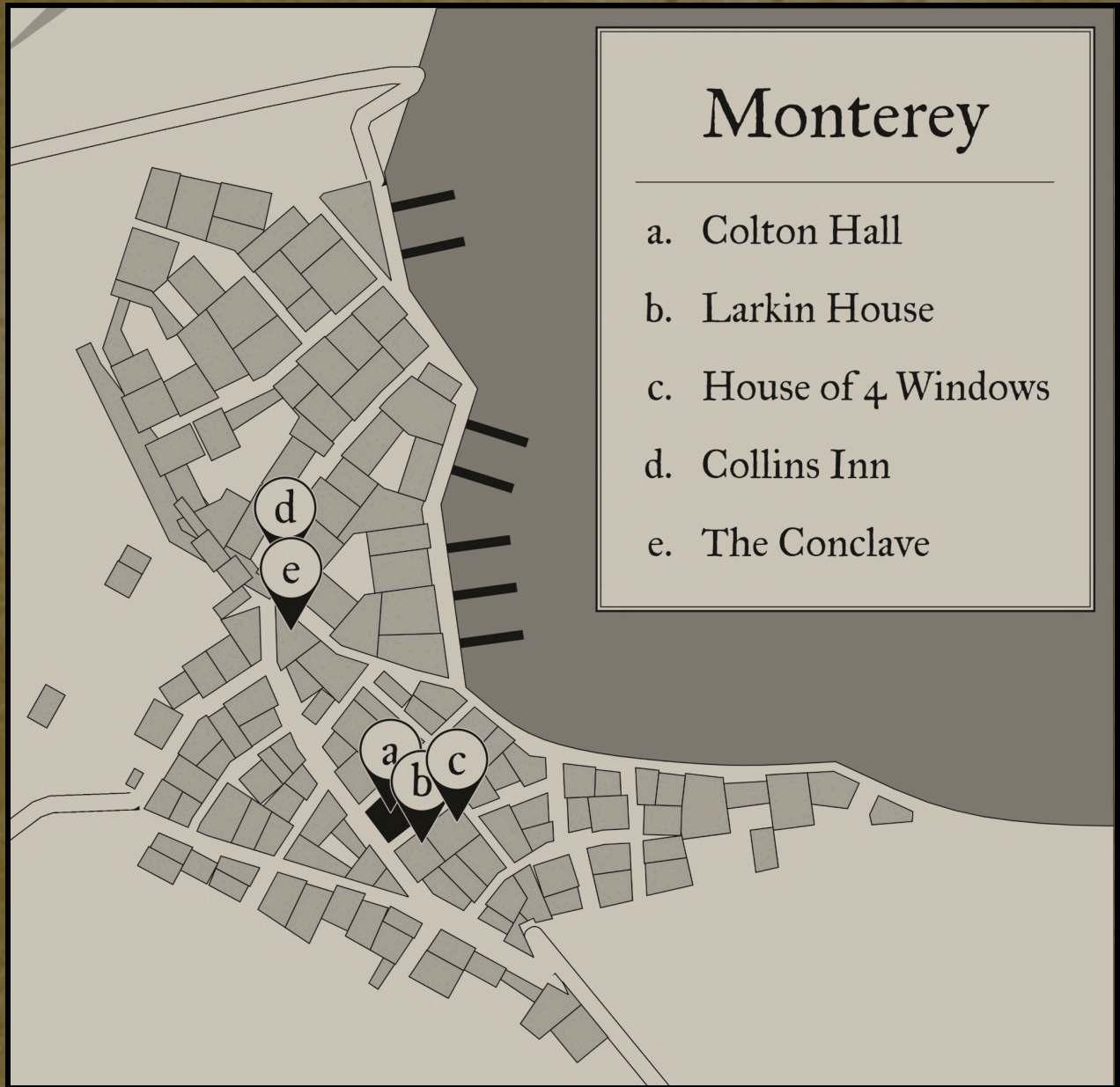
Date: July 5th, 1849

Location: Monterey, California

The meeting itself will take place at a recently constructed building owned by Governor Riley. The building is one storeyed and is not used daily for any purpose. It has been refurbished for the purpose of the Conclave and is suitably located at the heart of Monterey. The floorplan is attached below.



Lodging: Members of the conclave may make their personal arrangements for lodging in the town. Should they know any individuals who reside nearby, they are free to arrange for lodging by their own means. For members who do not have this privilege, Governor Riley recommends Collins Inn as a suitable establishment to meet their needs during this time.



Monterey

- a. Colton Hall
- b. Larkin House
- c. House of 4 Windows
- d. Collins Inn
- e. The Conclave

The Future

Now that you have a well-rounded idea of the historical context of the issue at hand, along with the ongoing events of the present day, it is time to think about the most important of the three phases of time - the future.

While taking actions in this regard, it is important to not think unilaterally. It is necessary to consider multiple approaches before deciding on an apt route. The future is both near and far. The short term future asks questions of California's ability to maintain order. With disorderliness in the mines and a disregard for verbal agreements amongst prospectors becoming increasingly common, the need for efficiently enforced laws is more than ever. However, this should be executed keeping in mind the long-term requirements of California as a state and as a region. This meeting may potentially determine the identity of California in perpetuity. While such a task is undoubtedly daunting, it is one that should be met with sound reasoning and informed minds. Will California blend into the surroundings like any other region, or will it pave the way as a beacon of the morals of this age?

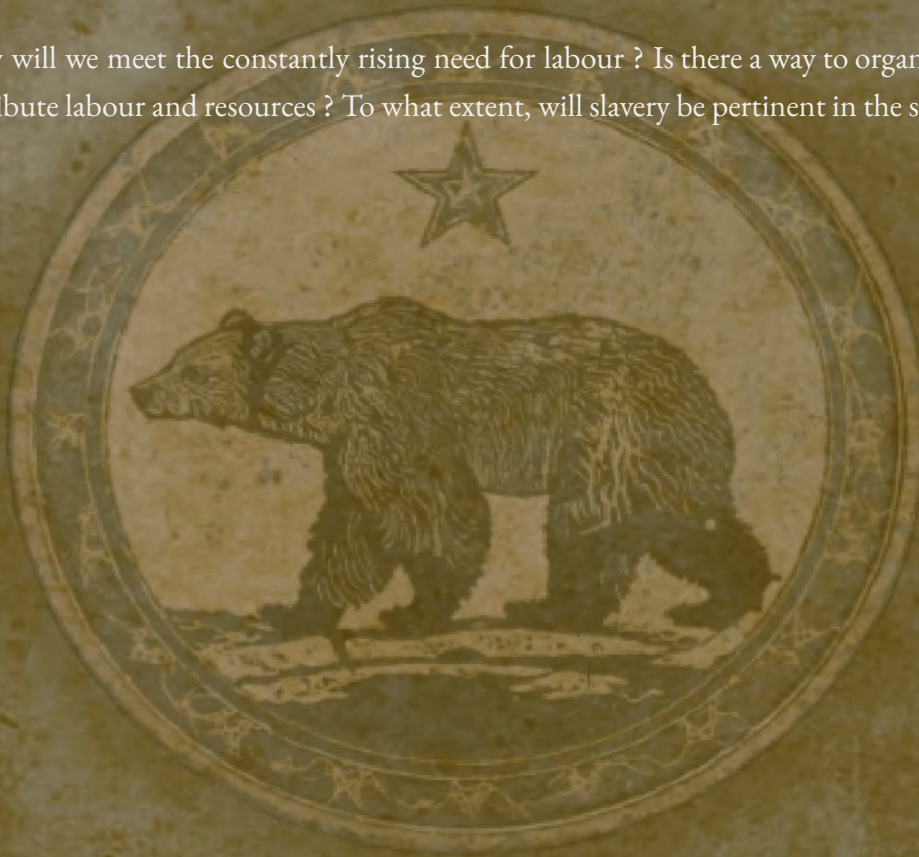
Moreover, the future is not restricted to your collective fate. Each one of you will, without question, keep in mind your personal exploits - material or not. However noble your post may be, there are few who do not value themselves above all else. You must tread your way through these times with caution and ambition. What are the opportunities that have presented themselves to you? How can you capitalise on them? What amount of risk today will reap the desired reward tomorrow? What expense is too much? These questions can help shape your mind as to what it is you seek as you arrive in Monterey.

Questions to Contemplate

We must not forget that there lies a very pertinent motive behind the organisation of a conclave of this significance. Invitees to the conclave thus must ensure that they are prepared to take part in the deliberations of the conclave with a clarity of the conclave's main objectives. Thus, for the benefit of the conclave as a whole, the following are some questions which all the invitees will be expected to contemplate during their stay in Monterey.

- Where do you want to see California in the future? Will California be better off as an American governed state or should California enjoy special legislative and executive powers over other states or should California break off from the government as a whole and establish itself as an anarchist state ?
- What economic system should the state follow in order to combat the growing rate of inflation due to the introduction of large quantities of gold in the market ? Should the government of California adopt a capitalist system of economy to capitalise on the resources or will a socialist and free market be a better alternative ?
- What are some unique measures that you can adopt to separate a substantial amount of profit for yourself and gain a prominent position in the market ?
- How do you expect the state to deal with the Native Americans and other local tribes during this period of rapid population growth and industrial advancements ? What are ways in which we can prevent hostilities with these tribes ?
- Having just recovered from a war with hostile neighbours Mexico, what are the measures that can be taken to avoid another such hostile outbreak between the two nations, especially given the precarious position in which California currently lies ?
- How should we respond to the large-scale emigration of foreign tribes like the Chinese, South Americans and Europeans. How can we safeguard our prominence and position in society from the grasp of the forthcoming immigrants?

- How should we define the ownership and operation of mines and establish a more formal framework for both independent miners and large-scale mining organisations. Furthermore, how will the safety of workers and miners be ensured ?
- What should be the preferred judicial system to ensure the eradication of the widespread criminal activities that currently plague our state, namely- gambling, prostitution, robbery, land theft.
- How will we meet the constantly rising need for labour ? Is there a way to organise and evenly distribute labour and resources ? To what extent, will slavery be pertinent in the state ?



Guide to Committee Paperwork

Paperwork will play a crucial role in committee as it would not only give delegates an edge over others but also provide scope to the delegates to carry out their plans for committee. The following are the forms of paperwork that will be accepted in the Conclave of the Forty-Niners.

1. Position Papers

Position Papers are documents which are used to communicate the general overview of a portfolio to the Executive Board. A position paper requires a brief statement of the problem, the policy/stance of the given portfolio on the problem, and the solutions put forth by the portfolio to bring an end to the problem. Additionally, the position paper must be provided with appropriate citations. [\[Sample\]](#)

Position Papers must be submitted to the committee email id (conclave.49ers@gmail.com) by **11th May, 2024**.

2. Communiqué

As the name suggests, a communiqué is used as a means of communication to other people, within or outside the committee. Communiqués are of two types - Public and Private, and may be individually written or jointly written by 2 or more parties. Private communiqués are sent to individual people, and are for their eyes only. They are used for secret negotiations or the elaboration of a covert plan of action. Public communiqués, on the other hand, are used to make announcements to the entire committee, and anything written in a public communiqué is meant for perusal of the entire cabinet. When it comes to communiqués, creativity and originality are key. [\[Sample\]](#)

Pre-committee communiqués will be accepted. These must be submitted to the committee email id provided.

3. Directives

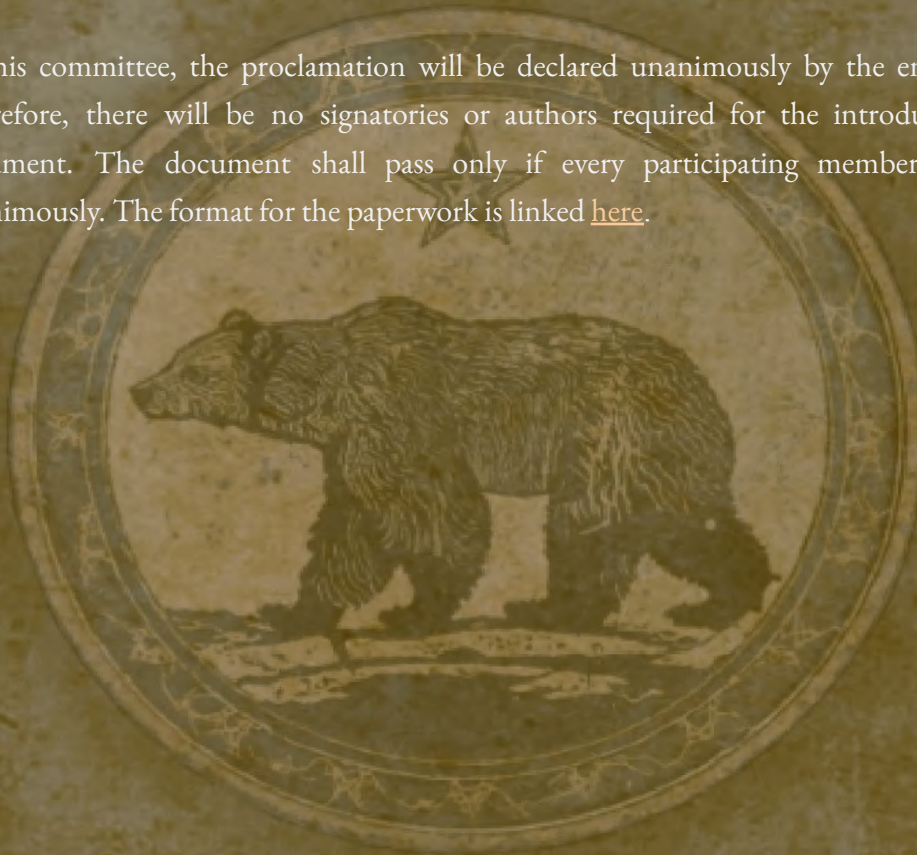
These are going to be working like action orders – a plan of action. Delegates must use this to put into force any and all missions they undertake that come under their jurisdiction either in

their individual capacity or in their joint capacity. These can be of private and public accessibility and contain both Joint and Lone Directives. [\[Sample\]](#)

4. Proclamation

This will be the final and concluding document of the Conclave of the Forty-Niners. A proclamation is an official announcement dealing with an issue of great relevance. It will include a summary of all the discussions throughout committee and provide a detailed outline of the decisions undertaken in committee.

In this committee, the proclamation will be declared unanimously by the entire conclave. Therefore, there will be no signatories or authors required for the introduction of this document. The document shall pass only if every participating member agrees to it unanimously. The format for the paperwork is linked [here](#).



Concluding Notes

It is high time that you as citizens of California - responsible or not - take action before it gets too late. With the advent of the gold rush and the subsequent boom in population and economics, it is in your best interest to proceed with pace and ambition.

The main elements which we will be looking forward to in this committee are - cooperation and planning. The future of an entire state rests in your hands and thus it is imperative that you, as a committee, come up with a plan of action which is both - satisfactory to all delegates and sustainable in the long run. Every single deliberation in committee will be important and every decision you take will unfold a new pathway for California's future. Paperwork will be equally, if not more, important in committee and can be introduced in the forms of directives or communiques. All communiques written should be rational and have a direct correlation to the issue at hand or with the agendas you bring to the table. Although the committee is based on a logical framework with a world-building approach, delegates must not restrict their research only to the study guide as research does play a vital role in this committee as well. We have attached some links for delegates to read about the matter in further detail.

There is no end to the number of possibilities that can arise throughout committee, but all of you must be prepared for the challenges that come in your way. Once you enter the halls of the Conclave, you are in the position to shape the history of California and to an extent, the history of the world as well. The resources are in your hand and it all depends on how you utilise these resources. The future is uncertain but with the cooperation of the entire committee, we can only hope for the establishment of a glorified California. We eagerly look forward to the fast-paced discussions, eccentric communiques and of course- the final verdict.

Here's to creating a memorable three days,
The Executive Board,
The Conclave of the Forty-Niners.

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