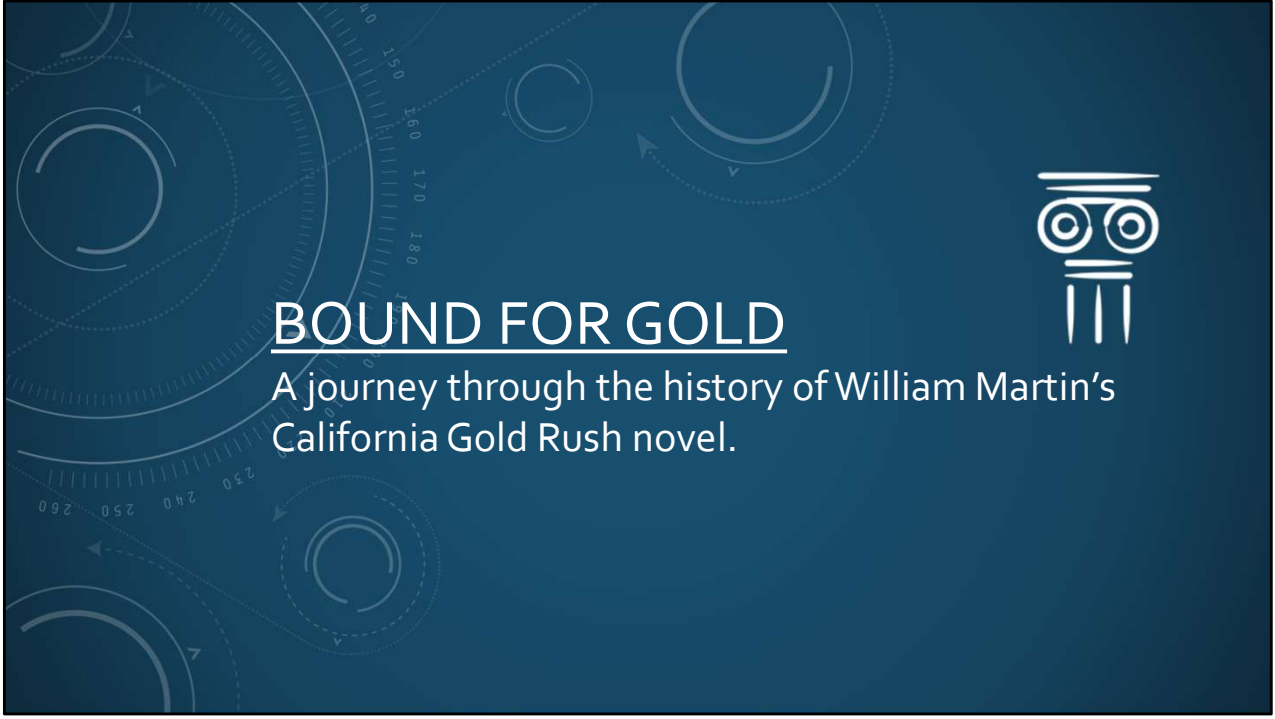
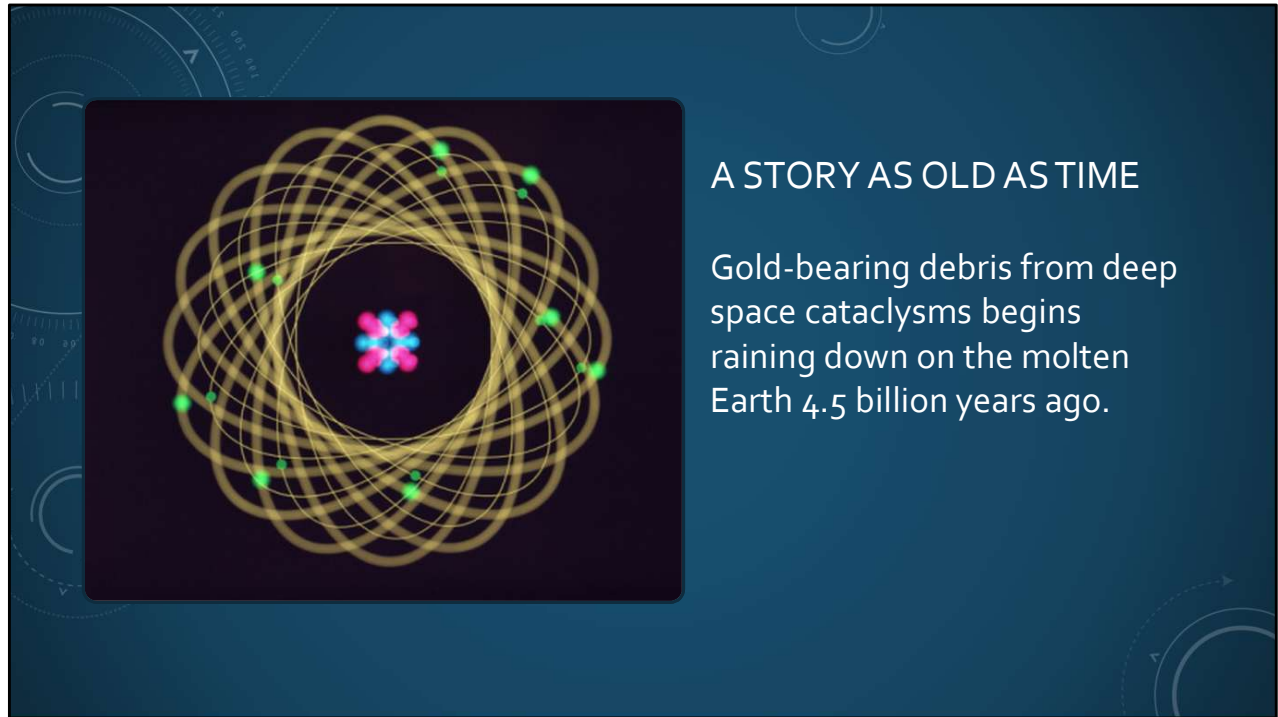


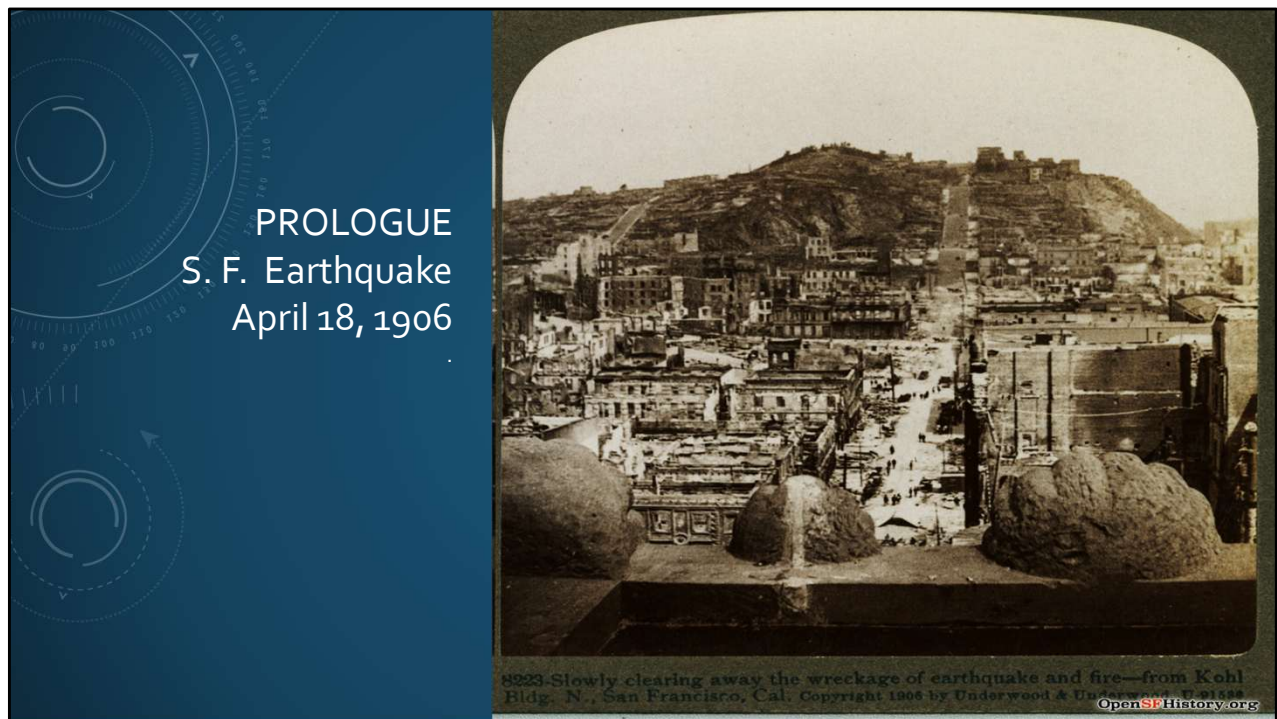
The background of the slide is a dark blue rectangle. It features several faint, light blue circular patterns. Some are solid circles, while others are dashed circles with arrows indicating a clockwise direction. Numbers are scattered around these circles, including 150, 160, 170, 180, 230, 240, 250, and 260. In the upper right corner, there is a white icon of a classical column capital.

BOUND FOR GOLD

A journey through the history of William Martin's
California Gold Rush novel.



- Au (gold), #79 in the Periodic Table (79 electrons circling 79 protons).
- Gold is created in deep space cosmic cataclysms (e.g. super novae).
- About 4.5 billion years ago, the molten Earth begins being pelted by gold-bearing cosmic debris.
- The early gold sinks to the Earth's core, but as the Earth cools, later strikes and magma movements leave traces of gold in the Earth's crust.
- Hot, mineral-rich water flowing through crust fractures cools and leaves behind quartz veins containing gold.
- Weathering and erosion break down rocks, allowing dense gold particles to wash down into riverbeds and streams.



Bound for Gold opens with a bang and gives an accurate, first-person account of the quake as told through the fictional characters.

This view during the quake cleanup efforts looks west along California Street to Nob Hill from the Kohl Building, which still stands in downtown San Francisco.

Present day Mark Hopkins Hotel is at the high point of the crest of Nob Hill

“Arbella House” (fictional home of James Spenser) would have been about equidistant on the far side of Nob Hill along California Street.

After the quake, the Bound for Gold story diverges into a gold rush timeline and a present-day timeline that are interweaved as a mystery unfolds.

Tonight, we’ll be visiting the gold rush and doing our best to avoid plot spoilers for those that have not read the book.

The background of the slide is a dark blue rectangle. On the left side, there are several faint, light blue circular patterns resembling orbits or paths, some with arrows indicating direction. On the right side, there is a white stylized icon of a face with large, circular eyes and a simple, blocky structure. In the center, the text "Prelude to the Gold Rush" is written in a white serif font, underlined. Below it, the text "11,000 BCE to 1848" is written in a white sans-serif font.

Prelude to the Gold Rush

11,000 BCE to 1848

To understand the Gold Rush, we need to understand how a Spanish colony on the opposite side of the continent became the 31st state of the US.

And before that, we need to understand the indigenous people who predated them.



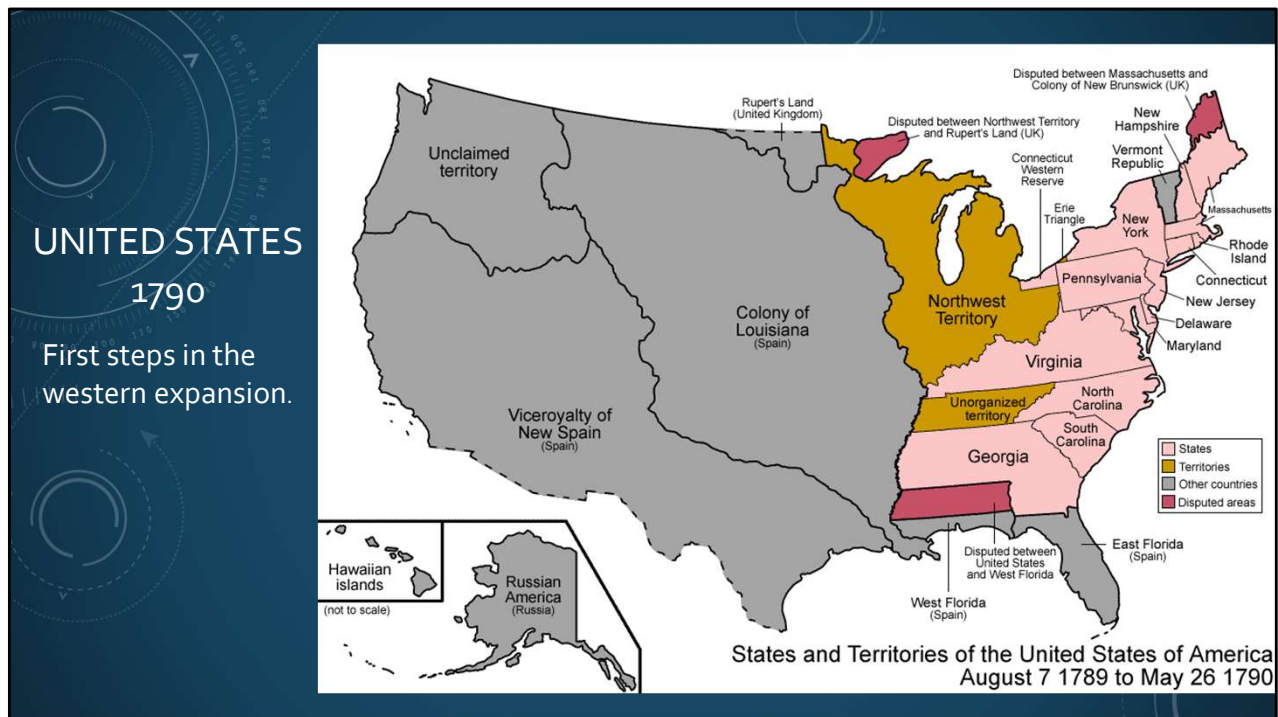
Native Americans begin settling in California around 11,000 BCE.

Prior to 1500's, their estimated population reaches 300,000.

Due to exposure to European diseases, coercive labor practices and violence, native population declines by almost half during Spanish rule.

By 1850, when California became a US state, native population was down to 100,000 - 150,000 and facing the same hardships as before.

So how did California evolve from Spanish colony to US state?



- Spain rules Mexico, California, the Southwest, the Gulf Coast and most of Central and South America from late 1500's to 1821.
- France cedes Louisiana to Spain in 1762 to keep it out of British hands near the end of the French & Indian/Seven Years War.
- After the French & Indian War, George III's Royal Proclamation of 1763 prohibits colonial settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains. The area between the Appalachians and the Mississippi River is reserved for Native Americans. The intent is to expand colonization along the Atlantic Coast to increase trade with England and avoid the cost of stationing a large military force west of the Appalachians to subdue the Native Americans.
- The Treaty of Paris in 1783 ending the American Revolution cedes British land east of the Mississippi River to the US. No provision is made for reserving the lands for Native Americans.
- Various boundary disputes exist for the new US.

SOURCE OF US MAPS: WIKIMEDIA Territorial evolution maps of the US

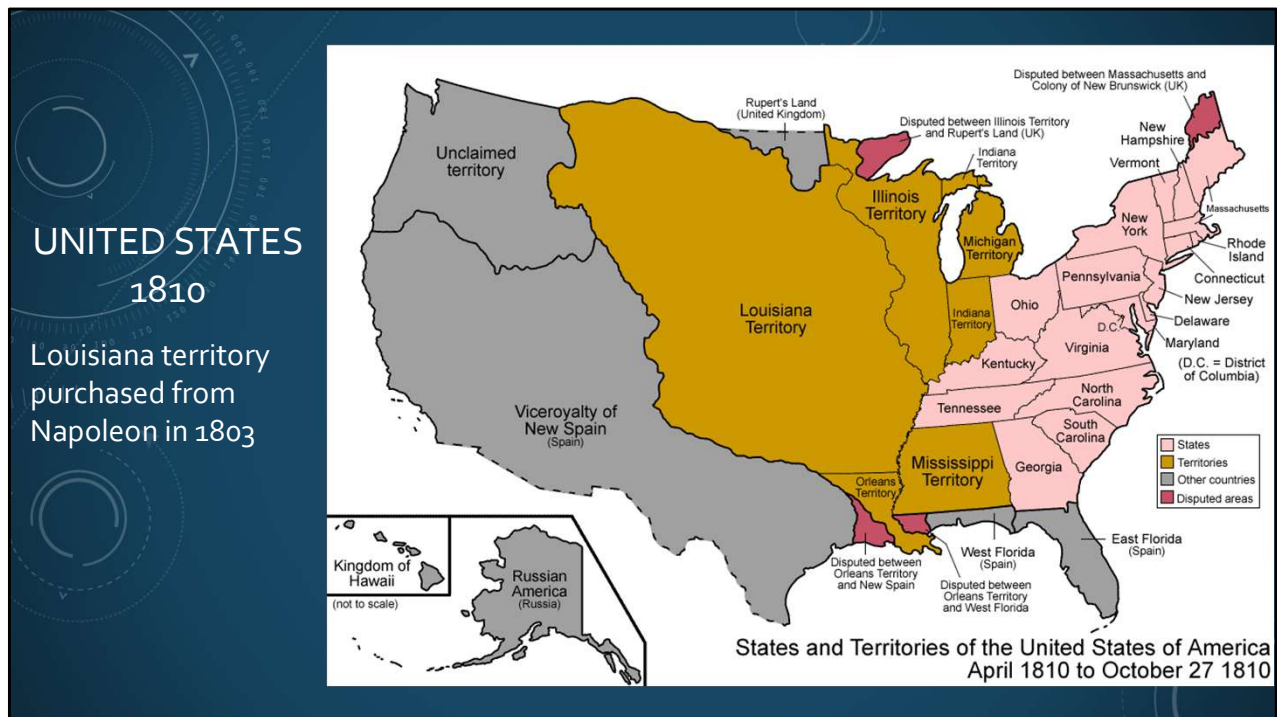
COINAGE ACT OF 1792

Half Disme silver 5¢
piece minted at
Philadelphia



Coinage Act of 1792

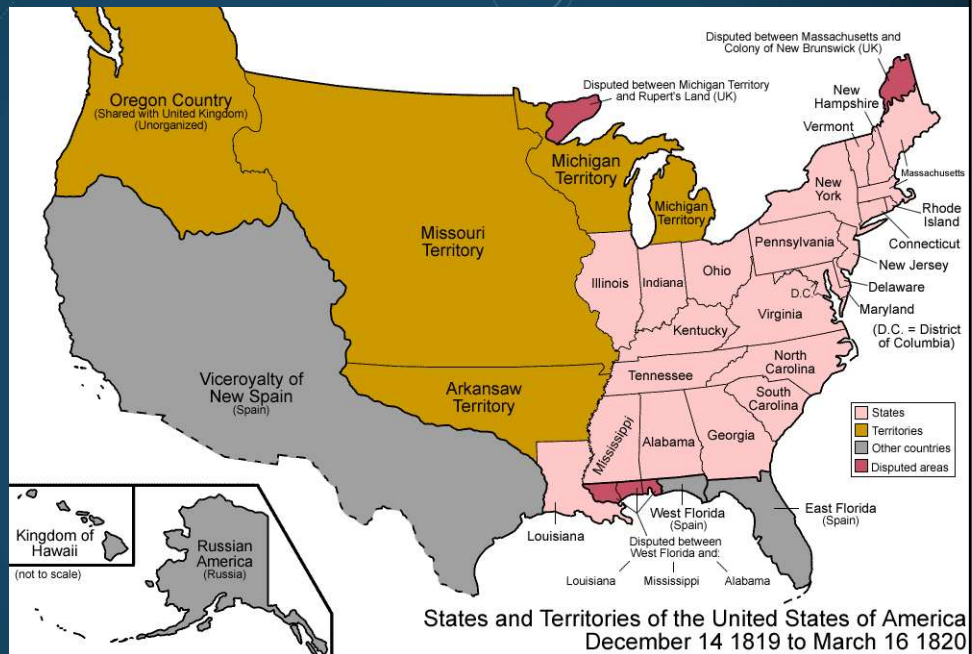
- Establishes the first US coins.
- Adopts a bimetallic standard (using both silver and gold).
- Sets US official exchange rate for gold at \$19.39 per troy ounce. This rate remains in place until 1834.
- Sets silver to gold ratio at 16 to 1. This ratio remains in place until 1834.
- Established the United States Mint in Philadelphia (then the nation's capital)
- President Washington dismissed having his image on coins as "monarchical" as the images of living people on coins of the time portrayed kings and queens.



- France regains Louisiana from Spain in 1800 under pressure from Napoleon.
- Napoleon envisions French colonies in Louisiana and the Caribbean.
- Napoleon gives up his North American ambitions in 1803 and sells French Louisiana (828,000 square miles) to the US for \$15 million to finance his ongoing wars.

UNITED STATES 1820

Panic of 1819 and the 1820 Missouri Compromise

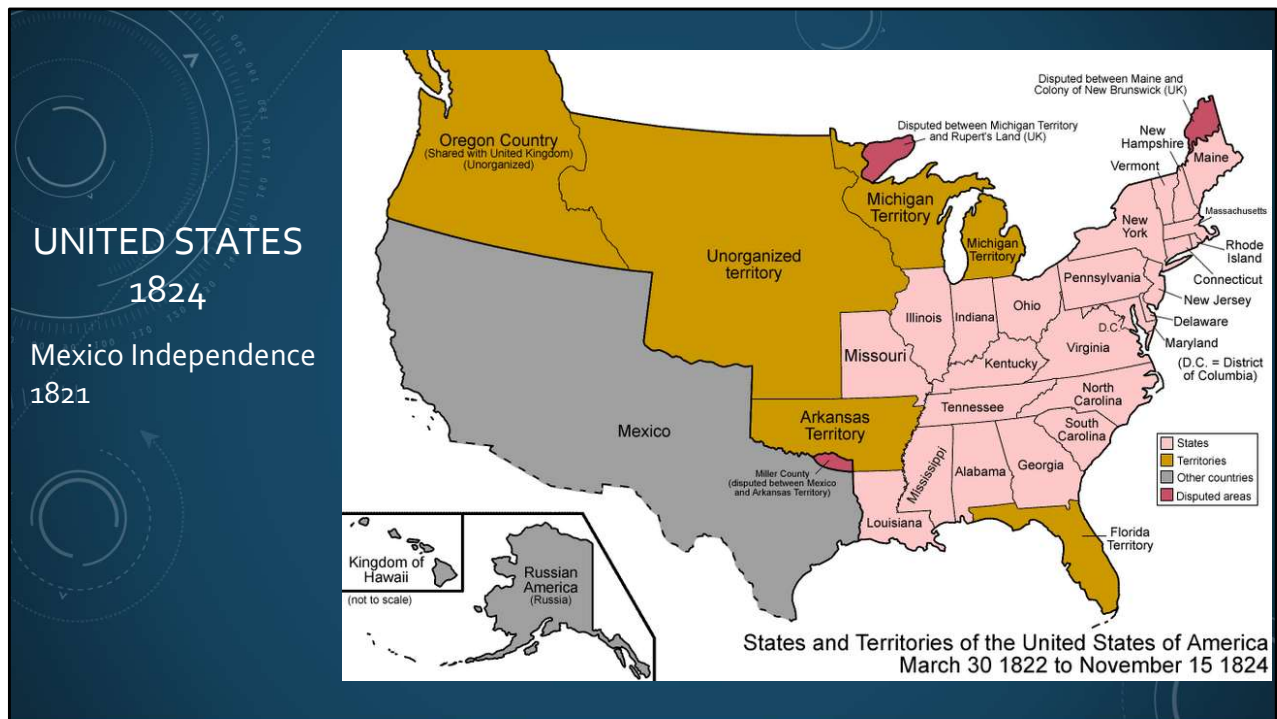


Panic of 1819

- First wide-spread US economic depression lasts to 1823.
- End of Napoleonic wars in 1815 leads to a drop in demand for US goods, especially cotton and wheat.
- Lax credit controls and Western land speculation create a financial bubble.
- The Second Bank of the United States sharply cuts credit and demands hard currency (gold or silver) to pay off debts.
- The depression results in migration of US debtors to the Spanish province of Texas to escape financial ruin ("G.T.T.")

Missouri Compromise 1820

- The Compromise attempts to resolve the first major national crisis over the expansion of slavery by balancing the admission of free and slave states.
- In 1819, the US had 11 free states and 11 slave states.
- Missouri is admitted as a slave state and Maine as a free state to keep the balance.
- Slavery is legally banned in all remaining Louisiana Purchase territories north of the 36°30' parallel (Missouri's southern border), with the sole exception of Missouri itself.



- Mexico gains independence from Spain after series of regional revolts, guerrilla campaigns, and political shifts that ended 300 years of colonial rule and established Mexico as a sovereign nation.

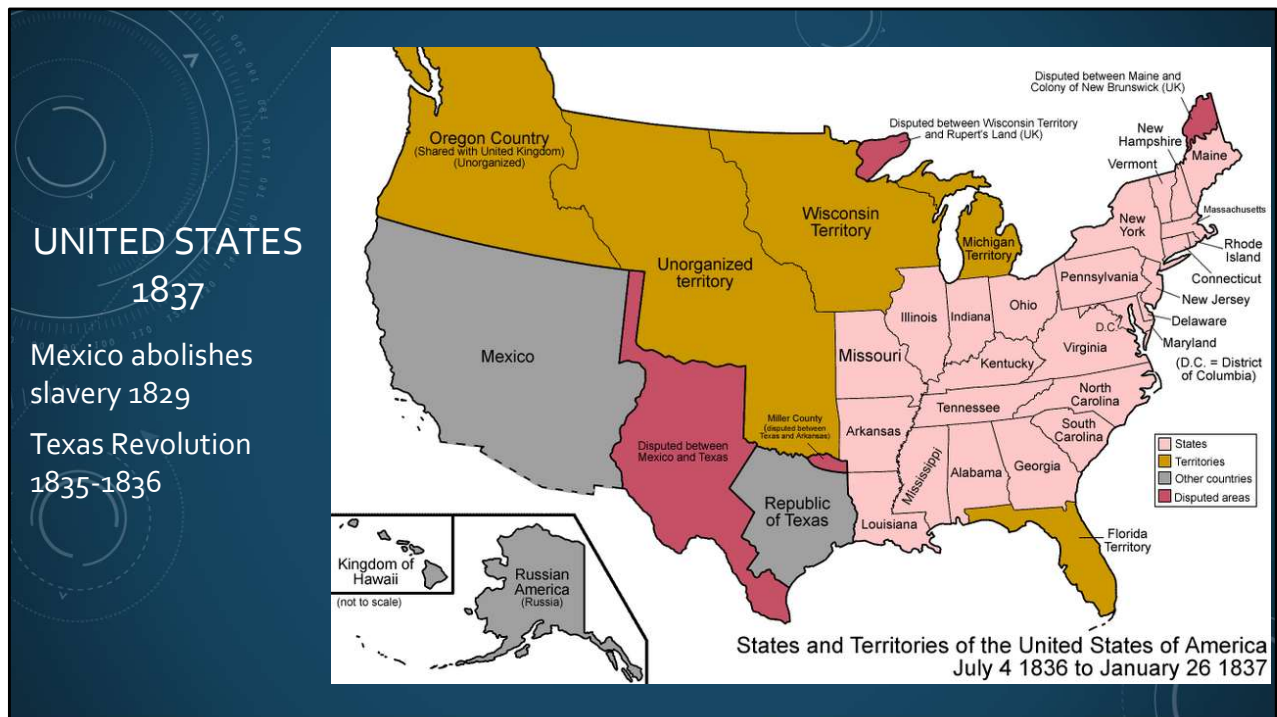
COINAGE ACT OF 1834

\$5 Gold Classic Head
Half Eagle



Coinage Act of 1834

- Reduces gold content in US coins, resetting the US official gold exchange rate from \$19.39 to \$20.67 per troy ounce.
- Results in gold export arbitrage of older US gold coin coinage, which are melted down for the gold content and disappear from circulation.
- Changes US silver to gold ratio from 15-1 to 16-1.
- Setting the silver ratio below the international silver market price results in silver export arbitrage and disappearance of US silver coinage.
- The US official gold exchange rate remains \$20.67 per troy ounce until 1934.



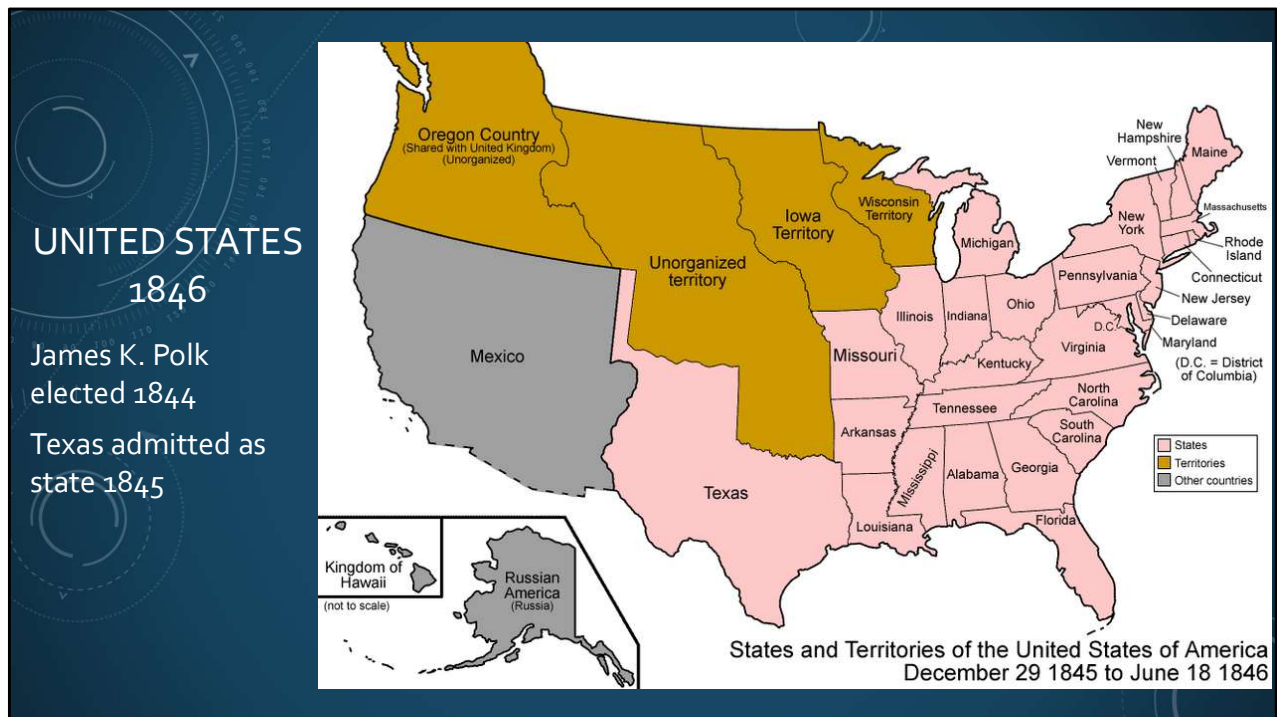
Mexico abolishes slavery 1829

- The Anglo Loophole: Thousands of white American immigrants ("Gone to Texas" settlers) had migrated to Texas, bringing enslaved workers with them. To circumvent early restrictions, they forced enslaved individuals to sign lifelong 99-year indentured servant contracts.
- The Texas Exemption: Fearing a full-scale rebellion, local Mexican officials in Texas withhold publishing the 1829 decree and successfully petition the Mexican government for a temporary, fragile exemption to protect Texas cotton farming interests.

Texas Revolution 1835-1836

- Anglo-Texans become convinced that their property interests are not safe under Mexican rule. This tension serves as a primary catalyst for the Texas Revolution in 1835.
- Texas gains independence following a decisive victory at San Jacinto April 21, 1836. The Republic of Texas is not recognized by Mexico.
- Texas claims the Rio Grande as its southern border. Mexico claims the Nueces River as

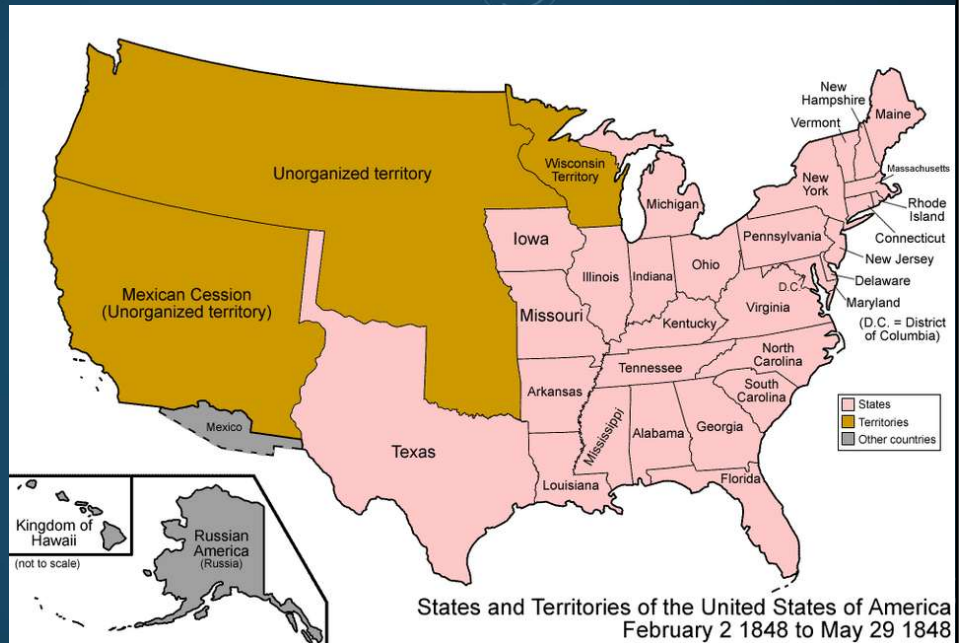
its northern border.



- Democrat James K. Polk runs for president in 1844 on a manifest destiny expansionist platform and support for Texas' admission. He narrowly wins, defeating Whig candidate Henry Clay. (Massachusetts votes for Clay.)
- In December 1845, Polk secretly sends an emissary to offer Mexico \$30 million to \$40 million for land encompassing all or parts of present-day California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Wyoming and the disputed Texas border areas. Mexico refuses to meet with the emissary.
- On December 29, 1845, the Republic of Texas and all its claimed lands are admitted as the state of Texas, including Miller County.
- Mexico does not accept US annexation of Texas and the disputed border areas. Mexico ends diplomatic ties with US.

UNITED STATES 1848

US declares war on
Mexico May 1846
War ends Feb. 1848

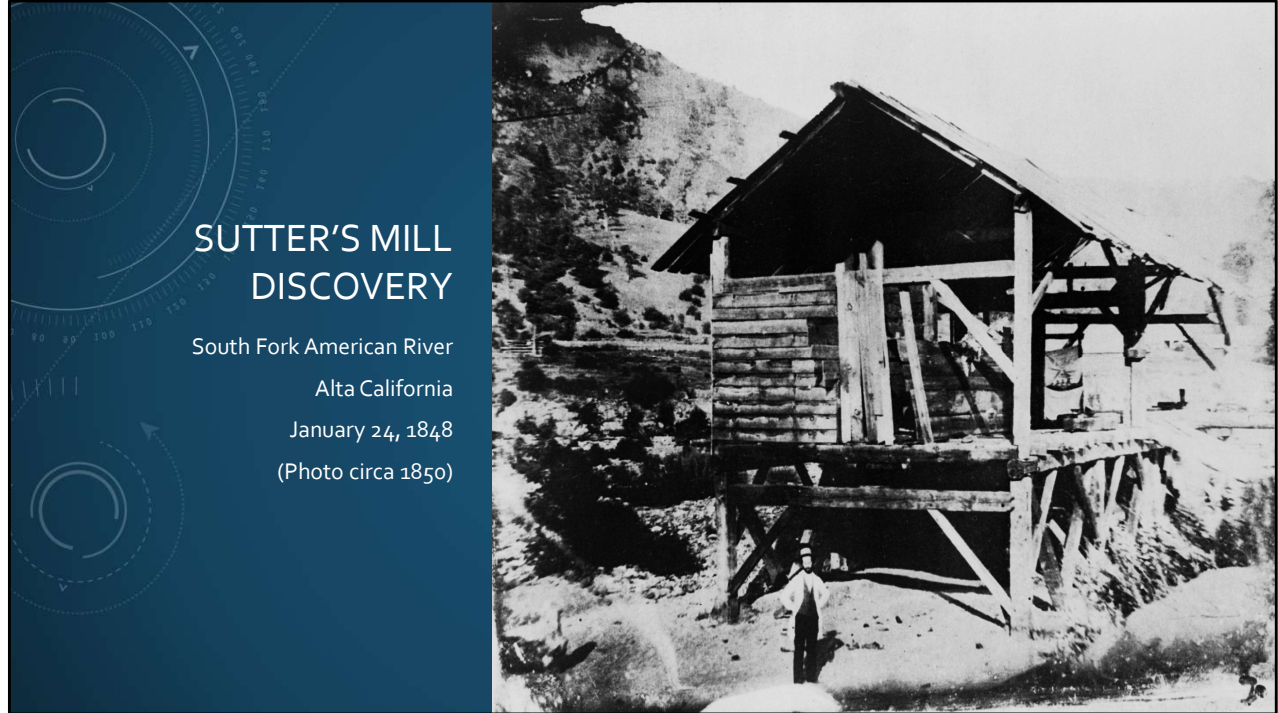


- Polk sends General Zachary Taylor to the disputed border area near the Rio Grande. In April 1846, Mexican cavalry cross the river and attack U.S. soldiers, leaving 16 Americans dead or wounded.
- May 13, 1846, the United States declares war on Mexico after President James K. Polk claims Mexican forces invaded U.S. territory and shed American blood.
- Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ending the war is signed on Feb 2, 1848, before news of a gold discovery in California. Mexico cedes 55% of its land to the US in exchange for \$15 million.
- Alta California becomes a territory of the US. Existing local government structures are largely left in place, but the military presence remained and the military governors retained absolute authority to overrule local decisions.

The background of the slide is a dark blue rectangle. On the left side, there are several faint, light blue circular patterns. Some of these circles have dashed lines and arrows indicating a clockwise direction. Numbers are scattered around these circles, including 150, 160, 170, 180, 220, 230, 240, 250, and 260. In the center of the slide, the text "The Gold Rush" is written in a white serif font, with a thin white underline beneath it. Below this, the years "1848 to 1859" are written in the same white serif font.

The Gold Rush 1848 to 1859





- January 24, 1848, Carpenter James W. Marshall discovers gold while constructing a sluice for the sawmill.
- He and John Sutter form partnership and agree to keep discovery secret to protect Sutter's land claims. His lands were granted to him by Mexico and have no firm legal standing now that the area is under US control.
- Word of the gold find quickly gets out.

SAMUEL BRANNON

Gold! Gold! Gold!
Gold from the
American River!



- By mid-March 1848, the San Francisco press begin reporting on large gold finds at Sutter's Mill.
- Sam Brannon, a merchant, prints 2,000 copies of his newspaper "The California Star" April 1 edition reporting the gold find and pays Nathaniel Hawk to travel east handing out newspapers to everyone he meets. Papers in the east begin pick up the story.
- In late May 1848, Brannon walks through the streets of San Francisco holding a glass vial of gold dust and shouting about the discovery at Sutter's Mill. His store near the mines is stocked with every pick, shovel, and pan he could find. He is looking to drive up demand for his goods.
- Brannon's store makes enormous profits, selling as much as \$5,000 (more than \$200,000 in 2026 dollars) in goods per day to miners.
- News first reaches those in Pacific coastal areas and the islands on ship trade routes from California.
- Thousands of people from the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii), Oregon, Mexico, Chile, Peru and China head for California in the summer and fall of 1848, before Americans on the East Coast and Europeans were fully aware of the gold strike.
- By mid-June 1848, three-quarters of San Francisco's male population has left for the gold fields.
- By July 1848, Eastern US newspapers begin publishing accounts of gold discoveries, but editors and readers remain skeptical. There is a general belief that the Mormons are spreading the story as an act of proselytism.
- By August, roughly 4,000 miners are working the American River and its tributaries. Some are finding \$300 to \$400 of gold a day at a time skilled workers make about \$1 a day.

POLK'S ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS, DECEMBER 5, 1848

- US military confirms the discovery of gold
- *...explorations warrant the belief that the supply is very large....*
- *Nearly the whole of the male population ... have gone to the gold districts.*
- *Ships arriving on the coast are deserted by their crews and their voyages suspended for want of sailors.*
- *This abundance of gold and the all-engrossing pursuit of it have already caused in California an unprecedented rise in the price of all the necessities of life.*
- *The only government which remained was that established by the military authority during the war.*

After being persuaded his aide, Lieutenant William Tecumseh Sherman, to investigate rumors of gold that were causing mass desertions from the US Army garrison, Military Governor Colonel Richard B. Mason tours the gold region along the American River in July 1848 with Sherman and a small detachment.

Mason dispatches his report to President James K. Polk on August 17, 1848.

- ✓ He confirms that the rumors were not an exaggeration, and states that there is "more gold than would pay the cost of the present war with Mexico a hundred times over."
- ✓ He details how everyday labor has been upended., noting that laborers are making between \$10 and \$50 a day (an astronomical sum at the time), causing soldiers, sailors, and mechanics to abandon their posts and go to the gold fields.
- ✓ He describes the vast territory where gold is being found, noting that the placer gold finds along the American River and its tributaries seemed nearly inexhaustible.
- ✓ To accompany the report, Mason encloses a tea caddy filled with about 230 ounces of pure California gold. (Gold from the sample is now displayed in the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.)

His report reaches Polk less than a week before Polk's annual report to Congress.

Polk's speech eliminates remaining skepticism and stokes the worldwide gold rush.

GOLD RUSH UNLEASHED

Alta California population in early 1848 is less than 165,000

- indigenous peoples: 150,000
- Californios: 6,500-14,000
- US citizens: 700
- Europeans: 200
- Others (Australians, Asians, Africans, Islanders, etc.): 100

300,000 migrants are about to descend, nearly tripling the population.

Chaos ensues.

- Collapse of government
- Lawlessness
- Vigilante justice
- Land grabs
- Rampant inflation (1,000% in gold fields, other regions 30 to 50%. Coffee as high as \$40/pound: about \$1,740 in today's money.)
- San Francisco Bay fills with abandoned, derelict ships.
- Fires destroy San Francisco seven times from 1849 to 1851.

MOTIVATIONS FOR JOINING THE GOLD RUSH

- Fortune seeking and adventure, a.k.a. “Gold Fever”
- Looking for jobs in a world-wide economic recession.
- Fleeing from revolutions and civil unrest.
- Seeking refuge from a cholera pandemic.

The economic crisis of 1847–1848 is a severe global and European downturn—often called the “hungry years”

- Agricultural Failures: The European potato blight starts in 1845 (causing mass famine in places like Ireland), followed by poor wheat and rye harvests in 1846, which triple bread prices.
- Industrial Slump: industrialization results in massive overproduction, falling prices, factory closures, and mass layoffs in textile, clothing, and machine-building sectors.
- Financial Panic: The Panic of 1847 in Great Britain results in widespread bank failures (829 bankruptcies in France alone between 1846 and 1848) triggered a major credit contraction.
- Sharp business contractions in US: the Cleveland Trust Company Index drops by 19.7% through late 1847 and 1848.
- Economic woes trigger revolutions in 1848 across more than 50 countries.
- The 1846–1860 cholera pandemic begins a devastating two-year outbreak in England and Wales in 1848 that claim over 52,000 lives.
- The cholera pandemic reaches the US in late 1848, with a devastating wave of Asiatic cholera that peaks in 1849. The epidemic claimed over 150,000 American lives, striking major ports, spreading through interior river systems, and sweeping across western migration trails.

ROUTES FROM EASTERN US TO CALIFORNIA

- By ship round Cape Horn (13,000 to 18,000 nautical miles, 8 months)
- By ship via Mexico (various land/sea routes)
- By ship via Panama (7,000 miles, 1 to 3 months)
- By land from Missouri via the California Trail or Oregon Trail (1,600 to 2,000 miles, 4 to 6 months)
- By land via Santa Fe Trail and Gila River Trail (2,000 to 2,500 miles, 5 to 7 months)

ABANDONED SHIPS

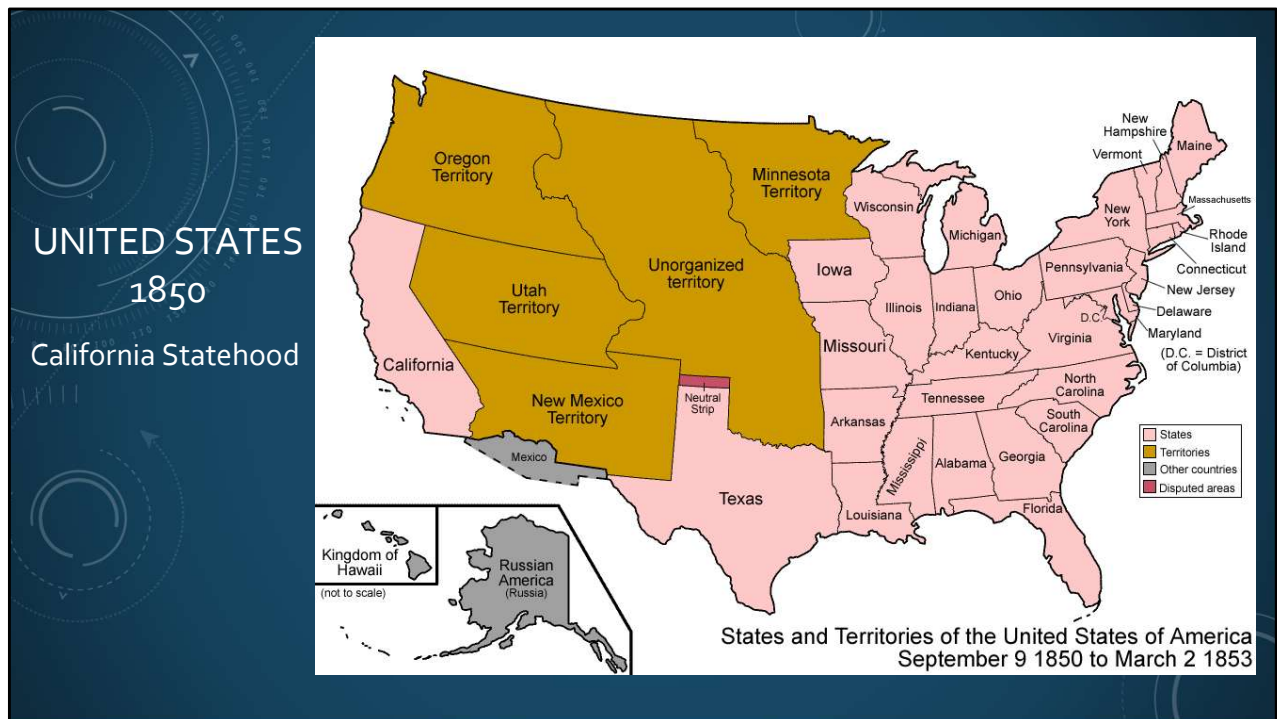
Yerba Buena Cove,
San Francisco
1851



During the Gold Rush, more than 1,000 ships were deserted by their crews in San Francisco Bay.



- **Repurposing:** Many ships are transformed into floating infrastructure for the rapidly growing city, serving as warehouses, hotels, saloons, and jails (such as the brig *Euphemia*).
- **Water Lots:** Scuttled to claim water lots.
- **Buried Landfill:** To expand real estate, the city fills in the shallow Yerba Buena Cove with sand, dirt, and debris, permanently entombing 40 to 70+ ships directly beneath downtown San Francisco's Financial District and the Embarcadero.



- The 1849 California Constitution is California's first governing framework, drafted and adopted in advance of statehood.
- Compromise of 1850
 - Pro-North:
 - California admitted as free state (balance becomes 16 free states, 15 slave states)
 - Slave buying and selling banned in Washington DC
 - Texas gives up claim to New Mexico lands for \$10 million
 - Pro-South:
 - Fugitive Slave Act of 1850
 - Popular Sovereignty in Utah and New Mexico territories to decide slave vs free
 - Slavery remained legal in Washington DC
- California officially becomes the 31st U.S. state on September 9, 1850, through the California Statehood Act signed by President Millard Fillmore.



In 1852, the height of the gold rush, about \$80 million (\$3.5 billion in 2026 dollars) is pulled from the California gold fields.

1. **Sutter's Mill/Coloma | January 24, 1848:** James Marshall kicks off the California gold rush when he spots some pea-sized bits of gold in a mill raceway. The news brings thousands of prospectors to the area, but neither Marshall nor his employer John Sutter prosper from the find.
2. **Mormon Island | February 1848:** Mormons working for John Sutter make their own gold find a few miles up the American River.
3. **Bidwell's Bar | July 4, 1848:** Another employee of Sutter, John Bidwell, make his own strike further north in an area that became known as Bidwell's Bar. The land is so rich with gold that one miner later builds a three-story mansion with his profits and still had enough gold left to bury \$100,000 (\$4.2 million in 2026 dollars) of it for safekeeping.
4. **Weber's Creek | Summer 1848:** One claim in this area results in \$17,000 worth of gold in a single week (\$721k in 2026 dollars).
5. **Murphy's | 1848:** The Murphy brothers strike gold just a few days after arriving in the Sierras; by the end of the year, they have mined \$1.5 million worth (\$63.3 million in 2026 dollars).
6. **Mariposa | 1849:** John Fremont's property, at the southern edge of the gold fields, is immensely lucrative; his Mexican workers regularly send him buckskin bags filled with 100 pounds of gold.
7. **Rich Bar | 1850:** Three German miners make an immense find in the extreme northern section of the gold fields. Rich Bar will produce some \$23 million of gold (\$1 billion in 2026 dollars).
8. **Comstock Lode | 1859:** The discovery of silver on the other side of the Sierras in Nevada brings an end to the California gold rush.

- By 1859, the annual production of gold from the California fields has fallen almost 50%.
- Placer mining plays out for the most part in the California fields by 1852. About that time, hard rock mining begins.
- Hydraulic mining is invented in 1853 by Edward Matteson near Nevada City, California. High-pressure water jets through canvas hoses wash gold-bearing gravel into mercury lined sluices. It does severe harm to the ecology.

SOURCE: <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/goldrush-major-strikes-california-gold-rush/>

MEDFORD BOOMS IN 1850s

- Economic zenith of the town's golden era, transforming it from a country village to a fast-paced, industrial hub.
- Peak of the shipbuilding era:
 - Predominant industry and employer in Medford.
 - Ten active Medford shipyards employ roughly a quarter of all shipbuilders in Massachusetts.
 - Flooded the Medford economy with capital
 - Provided high-paying jobs for hundreds of local shipwrights, joiners, caulkers, and laborers.
 - Gold Rush drives intense demand for fast passenger and freight transport to San Francisco.

Few Medford residents join the rush, probably because of good opportunities in the local economy.

MEDFORD-BUILT CLIPPER SHIPS

Name	Year	Length	Fate
<i>Antelope of Boston</i>	1851	140 ft	Abandoned in 1858
<i>Shooting Star</i>	1851	171 ft	Wrecked in 1867
<i>Syren</i>	1851	189 ft	Unknown
<i>National Eagle</i>	1852	179 ft	Gone by 1884
<i>Onward</i>	1852	175 ft	Unknown
<i>Herald of the Morning</i>	1853	203 ft	Unlisted 1891
<i>Kingfisher</i>	1853	217 ft	Broken up 1890
<i>Wild Ranger</i>	1853	Unknown	Sank 1872
<i>Ocean Telegraph</i>	1854	227 ft	Last reported 1891
<i>Robin Hood</i>	1854	Unknown	Unknown
<i>Thatcher Magoun</i>	1855	200 ft	Lost 1884

During the height of the California Gold Rush and the tea trade boom in the 1850s. A typical American-built, wooden clipper ship cost between \$70,000 and \$130,000 to construct (roughly \$2.5 million to \$5 million in today's money).

From 1802 to 1873, Medford shipbuilders across 10 different yards construct a total of 568 ships.

Clippers were express carriers for passengers and freight between the East and West coasts and across Pacific trade routes.

Thatcher Magoun carried locomotives CP 88, 89, and 95 for the Central Pacific Railroad company from New York to San Francisco. This voyage began July 10, 1868, and lasted 117 days. Last spike at Promontory, Utah, May 10, 1869, linking the Central Pacific and Union Pacific completed the first US transcontinental railroad.



SHOOTING STAR

Extreme clipper

171' x 35' x 18'6". 903 tons.

Launched Feb. 8, 1851

Built by James O. Curtis,
Medford

First true clipper ship built in Medford.

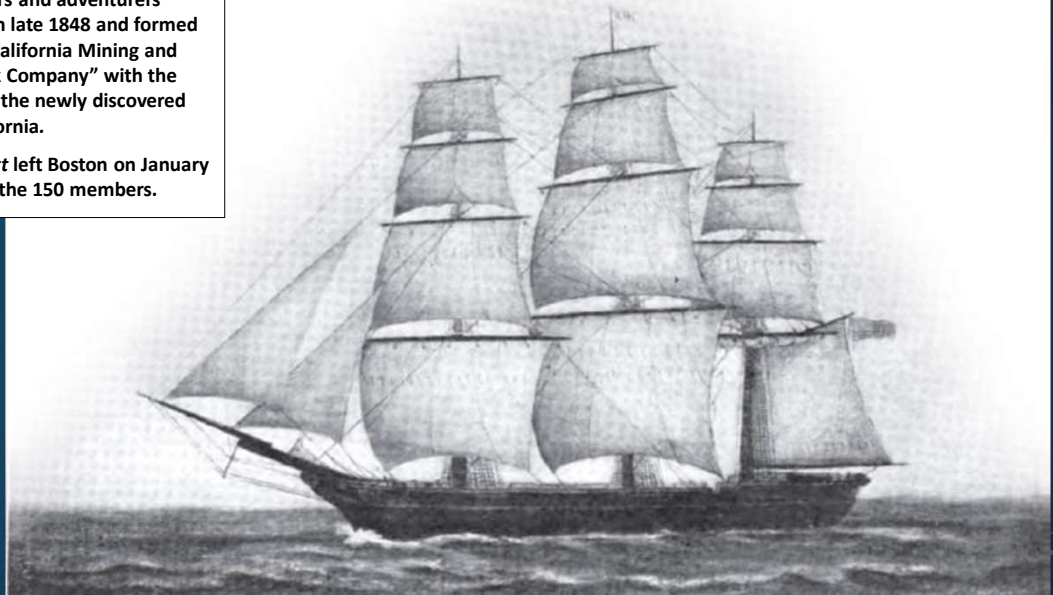
- Partially dismasted on its maiden voyage was from Boston to San Francisco. Put in at Rio for repairs, completing its voyage in 124 days.
- Second voyage from Boston to San Francisco was completed in 105 days.
- Voyages in 1853 and 1855 from New York to San Francisco were completed in 123 and 116 days.
- Shooting Star's most notable run was a homeward passage from Whampoa, China, in which she made a passage from Macao to Boston in 86 days.
- After 1856, Shooting Star sailed in the Asia and China trade.
- Wrecked off the coast of Formosa, 1867.

Fact or Fiction?



A group of investors and adventurers banded together in late 1848 and formed "The Boston and California Mining and Trading Joint Stock Company" with the goal of heading to the newly discovered gold fields of California.

The *Edward Everett* left Boston on January 11, 1849, carrying the 150 members.



Edward Everett

622 tons

Launched 1843

Built by Paul Curtis, Medford

Wrecked about December 1861.

Carried the Boston and California Mining and Trading Joint Stock Company to California in 1849.

The company and this ship are the primary source for the fictional Sagamore Mining Company and their voyage to the gold fields in the fictional ship *William Winter*. The company and *Edward Everett* are mentioned on page 147 of the Bound for Gold paperback edition.

PAUL CURTIS HOUSE
“Grandfather’s House”

114 South Street, Medford



About 1839, Paul Curtis (who built the *Edward Everett* in 1843) greatly enlarged the house at 114 South Street in Medford and gave it its two-story Ionic portico.

The rear portion of the house was built as a small farmhouse in the early 19th century. Lydia Child may have recalled the farmhouse when she wrote of her childhood visits to her grandfather's house in her poem, published in 1844. The house is located near the Mystic River, which is believed to be the river referred to in the poem. The referenced woods have long since been replaced by residential housing.

BOSTON AND CALIFORNIA MINING AND TRADING JOINT STOCK COMPANY

Established in Boston on Dec. 12, 1848, for the purposes of buying a ship, sailing to California, and engaging in trading and mining operations there. The company consisted of 150 members who sailed from Boston on Jan. 11, 1849, on the ship *Edward Everett* with Henry Smith as master. Sailing around Cape Horn, the ship arrived in California on July 6, 1849. The company dissolved in August 1849, shortly after reaching the gold mines.

- A share in the cooperative company cost \$300, and membership was limited to 150.
- Henry Smith was chosen to be captain of the *Edward Everett* and president of the company.
- MHSM Newsletter Fall, 2021: Henry Smith and the *Edward Everett* Part 1: Outbound – Medford to San Francisco, by Will Tenney
- MHSM Newsletter Fall, 2022: Henry Smith and the *Edward Everett* Part 2: Homeward Bound from San Francisco to Medford, by Will Tenney

HENRY SMITH HOME
1871-1873

41 Warren Street, Medford



Built in 1857 by a housewright (carpenter) named George A. Caldwell.

Bought by Henry Smith's wife, Harriet, August 5, 1870. Henry Smith resided at the house until his death July 17, 1873, from stomach cancer at age 67.

ANDREW L. PERKINS

- Member of Boston and California Trading and Mining Association Joint-stock Cooperative.
- Born 1827 at Medford, MA. Carriage Maker.
- Educated in the common schools of Medford.
- In 1849 he left home for California on the *Edward Everett*.
- Remained in California for three years, then was eight months in the Sandwich [Hawaiian] Islands.
- Travelled on to South America, and at the end of twenty-one months went back to Massachusetts.
- Married Mary W. Rindge of Cambridge, MA in 1855 soon after his return to Massachusetts.
- Was on the sea as captain for five years.
- Was a steward with the Medford Fire Department Hook & Ladder Company in 1863-1864.
- In 1864 moved to St. Paul, MN, and was engaged in the carriage business.

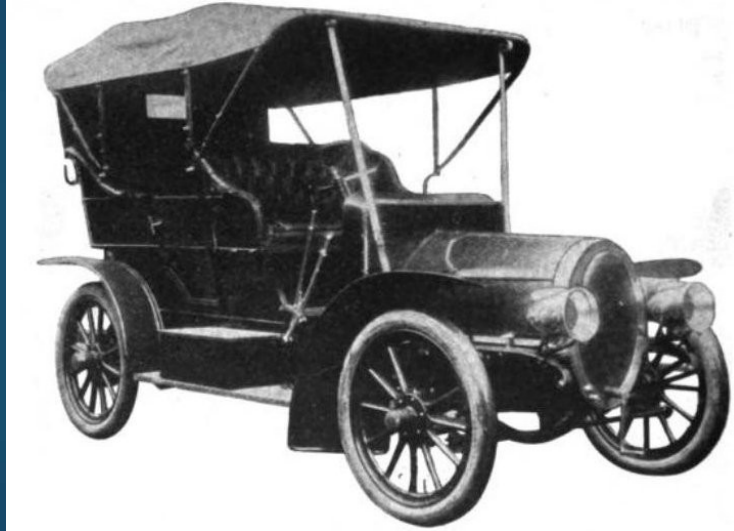
Perkins is the only Medford resident listed in the company membership roll.

SOURCES:

1. University of Maine Fogler Library, Orono, Maine
2. *History of Ramsey County and the city of St. Paul*, by George E. Warner (1826?-1917).
3. *TOWN, COUNTY, AND STATE TAXES, AS ASSESSED FOR THE YEAR 1863. STATEMENT OF THE TOWN OF MEDFORD EXPENSES, From February 1, 1863, to February 1, 1864. Annual Reports.* From Medford Historical Society and Museum Collection.

JAMES SPENSER'S ARIEL

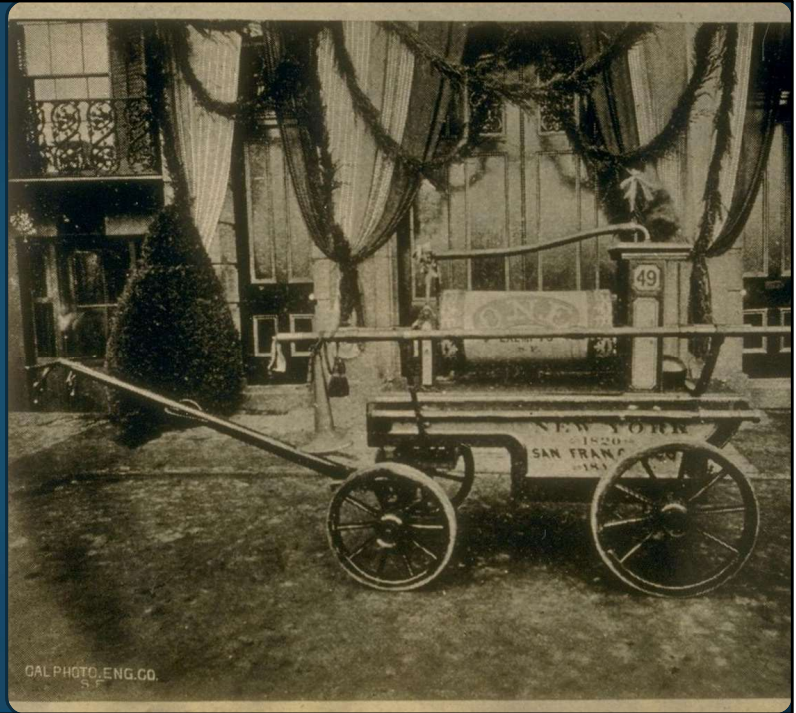
1906 Type IV
Built by Ariel Motor Car Company
Boston, MA



- Company was formed in late 1904 and gone in 1906, three months after relocating to Bridgeport, CN, when seized for unpaid debts.
- Car had a 30 HP engine, fairly powerful for that era.

MARTIN VAN BUREN FIRE ENGINE

"A celebrity of 1849"

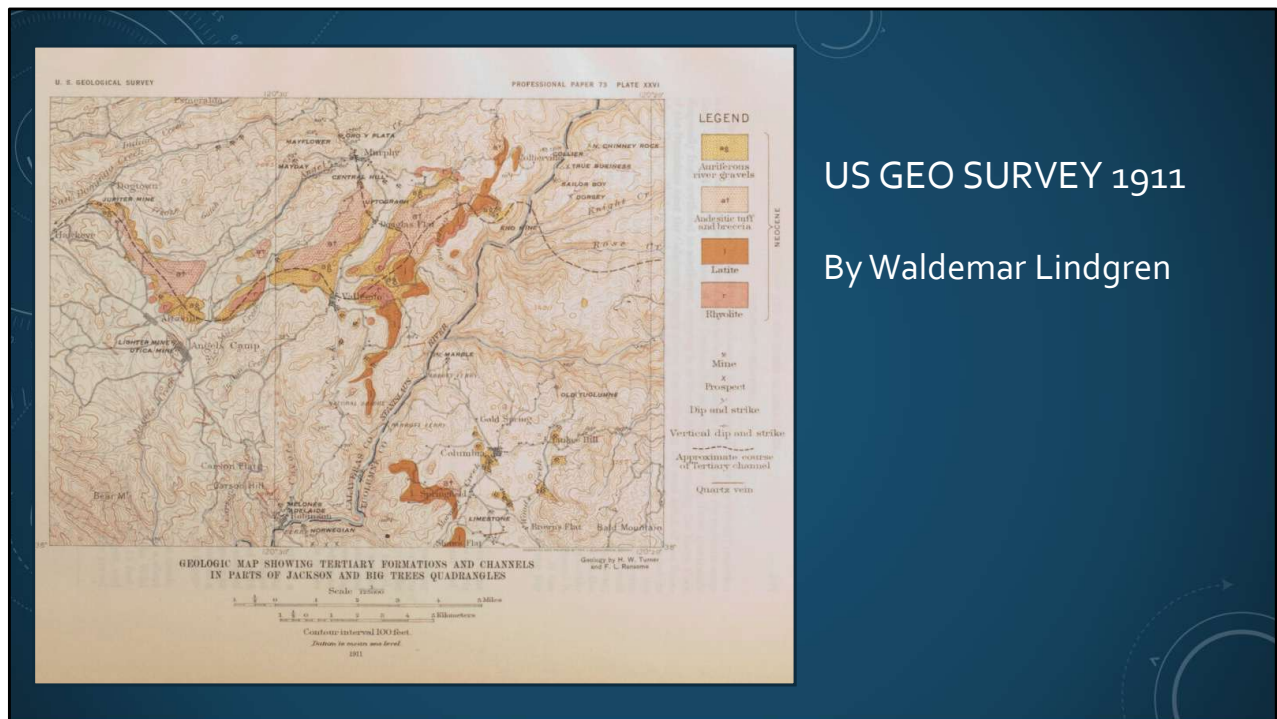


- The first fire engine ever used in San Francisco. It was built in 1820 and was the property at one time of Martin Van Buren, President of the United States, from whom it was secured by William Free, who brought it to San Francisco in 1849.
- The engine was lost in the 1906 Fire when it was housed in the Veteran Fireman's firehouse at Portsmouth Square.

OLIVER AMES & SONS, NORTH EASTON, MA



- Founded 1774 by Captain John Ames at Bridgewater, MA.
- Oliver Ames Sr. moved operations to North Easton, Massachusetts, in 1803. By 1844, sons Oakes and Oliver Jr. took over, naming it Oliver Ames & Sons.
- The company grew into a massive industrial power, producing roughly 60% of the world's shovels by 1879. Ames tools dug the California Gold Rush claims, the Union Pacific Railroad, and canals.



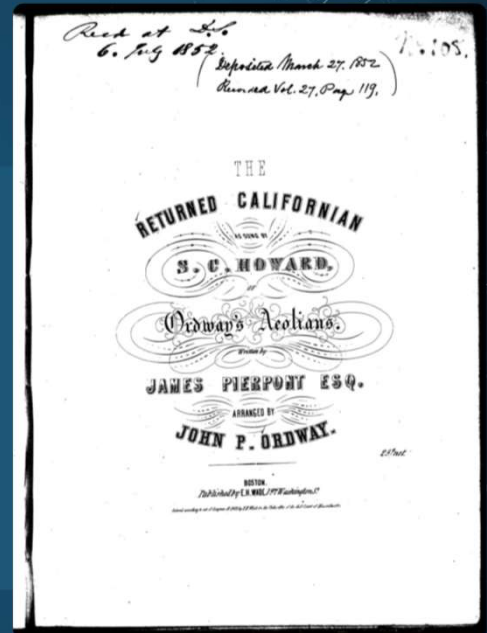
US GEO SURVEY 1911

By Waldemar Lindgren

- Geographic survey showing California ancient rivers from the Tertiary Period.
- Cited on page 528 of Bound for Gold paperback edition.

THE RETURNED CALIFORNIAN

- The son of Medford's Unitarian congregation minister was gripped by gold fever and left his wife and children with his father in 1849 to Journey to California.
- Instead of panning for gold, he tried to make his fortune as a businessman and daguerreotype artist in San Francisco.
- In May 1851 a massive fire swept through San Francisco, destroying his shop and goods.
- Destitute and pursued by creditors, he fled back home to Medford.
- He wrote a ditty in 1852 about his California experience.



In August 1857, James Pierpont's song "The One Horse Open Sleigh" was published by Oliver Ditson and Company of 277 Washington Street in Boston dedicated to John P. Ordway. The song was copyrighted on September 16, 1857.

WANT MORE?

- MHSM Newsletters Fall 2021 and Fall 2022 articles by Will Tenney
- Argonauts of '49 : History and Adventures of the Emigrant Companies From Massachusetts, 1849-1850 by Octavius T. Howe. Harvard University Press, Cambridge MA, 1923
- *Cape Horn and Cooperative Mining*, by Willard B. Farwell (Secretary of the Boston and California Mining and Trading Joint Stock Company), The Century Magazine Volume 42, July 1891
- Old Ships and Ship-Building Days of Medford 1630-1873 by Hall Gleason. West Medford MA, 1936
- The Rush: California Gold, the Civil War, and the Making of the Modern World by Nathaniel Philbrick. Viking (Penguin Random House), 2026.