

# **FOOL'S GOLD**

THE DECLINE AND FALL OF CAPTAIN  
JOHN SUTTER OF CALIFORNIA



by **RICHARD DILLON**

# Fools Gold The Decline Fall Sutter

**SB Merriam**



## **Fools Gold The Decline Fall Sutter:**

Fool's Gold Richard H. Dillon, 1967 Dillon examines the paradoxical personality of John Sutter the Father of California and one of the most enigmatic figures in the history of the American West      **The Sutter Family and the Origins of Gold-Rush Sacramento** John Augustus Sutter, 2002 John A Sutter 1803 1880 could have become one of the richest men in California when gold was found on his property Instead he lost his vast land holdings on the Sacramento and Feather Rivers and eventually left California penniless Sutter always claimed to be the victim of charlatans but he bore considerable responsibility for his downfall He had amassed huge debts before the gold discovery and added even more afterward In the rough dealings of frontier capitalism in gold rush California Sutter was easy prey Soon after the gold discovery Sutter s eldest son John Jr 1826 1897 arrived but soon moved south to Mexico Hoping to obtain compensation for the land that he and his father had lost John Jr returned to California in 1855 to give his lawyer a thorough statement cataloging how both Sutters were swindled This extensive document describes the dirty deals of the first great gold rush in the western United States Sutter s statement has not been available for sixty years Editor Allan R Ottley reproduced and annotated this statement providing a full biographical context and offering an appendix bibliography and index Albert L Hurtado s introduction updates the book originally published in 1942      John Sutter Albert L. Hurtado, 2006 Re examines the life of John Sutter in the context of America s rush for westward expansion in a fully documented account of the Swiss expatriate and would be empire builder and his times      **John Sutter and a Wider West** Kenneth N. Owens, John Augustus Sutter, 2002-11-01 This volume begins with John Sutter s own account of his life and the discovery of gold at his sawmill in 1848 Leading historians Howard R Lamar Albert L Hurtado Iris H W Engstrand Richard W White and Patricia Nelson Limerick then demythologize Sutter while giving him a more secure place in western history      **Water, Land, and Law in the West** Donald J. Pisani, 1996 The series presents an interdisciplinary approach to the use and misuse of resources in the American West This volume comprises essays written between 1982 and 1994 and previously published in journals such as Western Historical Quarterly J of American History and Environmental History Review Pisani one of the nation s leading environmental and Western historians highlights the central role played by land water and timber allocation in the American West and shows how efforts to achieve justice and efficiency were compromised by the region s obsession with achieving rapid economic growth Annotation copyright by Book News Inc Portland OR      Empires, Nations, and Families Anne F. Hyde, 2011-07-01 Almanac of American Military History Spencer C. Tucker, 2012-11-21 This almanac provides a comprehensive chronological overview of all American military history serving as the standard reference work of its type Almanac of American Military History is yet another reference work from acclaimed historian Dr Spencer C Tucker and ABC CLIO offering an unprecedented resource for a wide range of students and researchers A comprehensive four volume title this almanac traces all of American military history from the European voyages of discovery through 2011 chronicling the pivotal

moments that have shaped the United States into the country it is today In addition to documenting key events this title presents biographies of more than 250 key individuals and provides information on more than 250 historically significant technologies and weapons systems A detailed glossary is included as are discussions of ranks and military awards and decorations Divided into conflict periods each chapter includes a detailed chronology reference entry sidebars statistical information primary source documents and a bibliography

Something in the Soil Patricia Nelson Limerick,2001 Patricia Limerick is simply one of the best writers alive Garry Wills

**The Encyclopedia of the Mexican-American War** Spencer C. Tucker,2012-10-09 This user friendly encyclopedia comprises a wide array of accessible yet detailed entries that address the military social political cultural and economic aspects of the Mexican American War The Encyclopedia of the Mexican American War A Political Social and Military History provides an in depth examination of not only the military conflict itself but also the impact of the war on both nations and how this conflict was the first waged by Americans on foreign soil and served to establish critical U S military political and foreign policy precedents The entries analyze the Mexican American War from both the American and Mexican perspectives in equal measure In addition to discussing the various campaigns battles weapons systems and other aspects of military history the three volume work also contextualizes the conflict within its social cultural political and economic milieu and places the Mexican American War into its proper historical and historiographical contexts by covering the eras both before and after the war This information is particularly critical for students of American history because the conflict fomented sectional conflict in the United States which resulted in the U S Civil War

*Riches for All* Kenneth N. Owens,2002-01-01 An event of international significance the California gold rush created a more diverse metropolitan society than the world had ever known In *Riches for All* leading scholars reexamine the gold rush evaluating its trajectory and legacy within a global context of religion and race economics technology law and culture The opportunity for instant wealth directly influenced a dynamic range of peoples including Mormon military veterans California Indian workers both slave and free African Americans Chinese village farmers skilled Mexican miners and Chilean merchants *Riches for All* gives attention to the varying motivations and experiences of these groups and to their struggles with both racial and religious bigotry Emphasizing gold rush social history some contributors examine the roles and influence of women workers law breakers and law enforcers Others consider the long term impact of this episode on California and the American West and on subsequent gold rushes in Pacific Rim countries and the Klondike With lively and incisive strokes these historians sketch the most broadly contextualized and nuanced portrait of the California gold rush to date

**Gold Rush Saints** Kenneth N. Owens,2005 Combines narrative history and firsthand Mormon accounts that cast light on the presence of Latter day Saints in California during the Gold Rush in the middle 1840s Reprint

*Encyclopedia of World Biography* ,1998 Presents brief biographical sketches which provide vital statistics as well as information on the importance of the person listed

The Hawaiian Journal of History ,1992

*Encyclopedia of Immigration and Migration in the American West*

Gordon Morris Bakken, Alexandra Kindell, 2006-02-24 Through sweeping entries focused biographies community histories economic enterprise analysis and demographic studies this Encyclopedia presents the tapestry of the West and its population during various periods of migration Examines the settling of the West and includes coverage of movements of American Indians African Americans and the often forgotten role of women in the West's development *Slavery and the American West* Michael A. Morrison, 2000-11-15 Tracing the sectionalization of American politics in the 1840s and 1850s Michael Morrison offers a comprehensive study of how slavery and territorial expansion intersected as causes of the Civil War Specifically he argues that the common heritage of the American Revolution bound Americans together until disputes over the extension of slavery into the territories led northerners and southerners to increasingly divergent understandings of the Revolution's legacy Manifest Destiny promised the literal enlargement of freedom through the extension of American institutions all the way to the Pacific At each step from John Tyler's attempt to annex Texas in 1844 to the Kansas Nebraska Act to the opening shots of the Civil War the issue of slavery had to be confronted Morrison shows that the Revolution was the common prism through which northerners and southerners viewed these events and that the factor that ultimately made consensus impossible was slavery itself By 1861 no nationally accepted solution to the dilemma of slavery in the territories had emerged no political party existed as a national entity and politicians from both North and South had come to believe that those on the other side had subverted the American political tradition **Indian Survival on the California Frontier** Albert L. Hurtado, 1990-09-10 Looks at the Indians who survived the invasion of white settlers during the nineteenth century and integrated their lives into white society while managing to maintain their own culture **The Mexican Frontier, 1821-1846** David J. Weber, 1982-06 Reinterprets borderlands history from the Mexican perspective **Encyclopedia of American Business History** Charles R. Geisst, Ambassador Charles A. Gargano Professor of Finance Charles R. Geisst, 2014-05-14 Presents an alphabetically arranged reference to the history of business and industry in the United States Includes selected primary source documents **River City and Valley Life** Christopher J. Castaneda, Lee M.A. Simpson, 2013-12-09 Often referred to as the Big Tomato Sacramento is a city whose makeup is significantly more complex than its agriculture based sobriquet implies In River City and Valley Life seventeen contributors reveal the major transformations to the natural and built environment that have shaped Sacramento and its suburbs residents politics and economics throughout its history The site that would become Sacramento was settled in 1839 when Johann Augustus Sutter attempted to convert his Mexican land grant into New Helvetia or New Switzerland It was at Sutter's sawmill fifty miles to the east that gold was first discovered leading to the California Gold Rush of 1849 Nearly overnight Sacramento became a boomtown and cityhood followed in 1850 Ideally situated at the confluence of the American and Sacramento Rivers the city was connected by waterway to San Francisco and the surrounding region Combined with the area's warm and sunny climate the rivers provided the necessary water supply for agriculture to flourish The devastation wrought by floods and cholera

however took a huge toll on early populations and led to the construction of an extensive levee system that raised the downtown street level to combat flooding Great fortune came when local entrepreneurs built the Central Pacific Railroad and in 1869 it connected with the Union Pacific Railroad to form the first transcontinental passage Sacramento soon became an industrial hub and major food processing center By 1879 it was named the state capital and seat of government In the twentieth century the Sacramento area benefitted from the federal government s major investment in the construction and operation of three military bases and other regional public works projects Rapid suburbanization followed along with the building of highways bridges schools parks hydroelectric dams and the Rancho Seco nuclear power plant which activists would later shut down Today several tribal gaming resorts attract patrons to the area while Old Sacramento revitalizes the original downtown as it celebrates Sacramento s pioneering past This environmental history of Sacramento provides a compelling case study of urban and suburban development in California and the American West As the contributors show Sacramento has seen its landscape both ravaged and reborn As blighted areas rail yards and riverfronts have been reclaimed and parks and green spaces created and expanded Sacramento s identity continues to evolve As it moves beyond its Gold Rush Transcontinental Railroad and government town heritage Sacramento remains a city and region deeply rooted in its natural environment

**German-American Relations and German Culture in America** Arthur R. Schultz, 1984 This work is organized by subject Materials are grouped under twelve main sections in the body of the work with appropriate subdivisions and subtopics within each main subject Each section is assigned a two letter designation and entries are numbered consecutively within each section This subject code system was designed to facilitate referrals from the Index to the main body of the text and to allow for cross referencing between sections Introduction

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