

The Prospector

Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc.

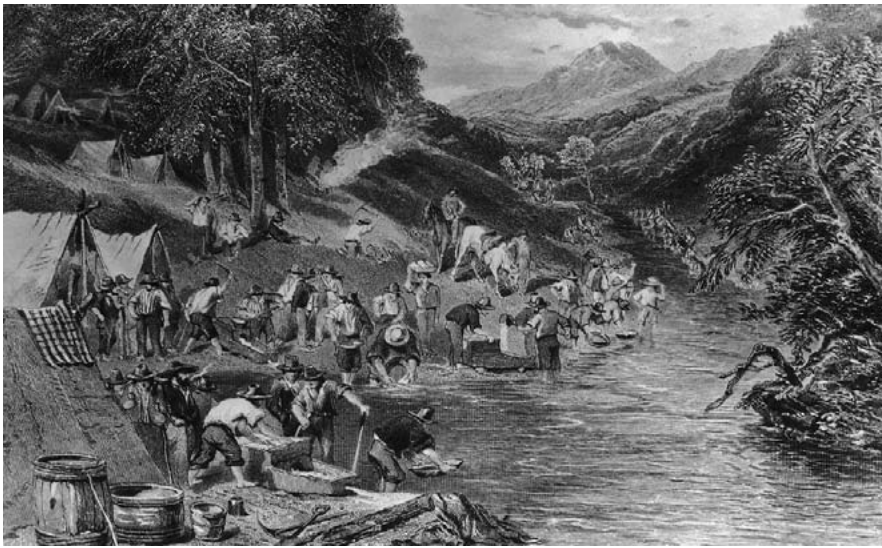
GPAA Portland, Oregon Chapter



December, 2023

U.S. HISTORY

6 Facts About America's Gold Rushes



During the 19th century, the discovery of gold in various parts of the United States sparked a phenomenon known as “gold fever.” An obsession with getting rich off the precious metal caused a stampede of hopefuls to rush to California and other areas where gold had been found. The 1848 discovery of gold in California wasn't the first, but it led to the largest gold rush of the era, the California Gold Rush, which gave way to the northern Klondike Gold Rush in Canada in the late 1890s. Hundreds of thousands of prospectors flooded to these regions, sometimes enduring treacherous journeys in search of fortune. The gold rushes led to the rapid development of towns and cities and irreversibly changed

landscapes; they also left behind several fascinating, if sometimes overlooked, moments in history , — moments that can only be born from the frenzied allure of striking it rich.

Photo credit: Hulton Archive/ Archive Photos via Getty Images

The California Gold Rush Bankrupted the Man Who Helped Start It

John Sutter was a Swiss-born businessman who played a crucial role in the California Gold Rush, but unlike some lucky business owners who profited from its riches, he ended up broke as a result. In 1848, Sutter was having a sawmill built along the American River in Coloma, California (near present-day Sacramento), when his carpenter discovered gold on the property. Though they tried to keep it a secret, news spread, and thousands of prospectors flocked to the area, trespassing on Sutter's land, stealing his livestock, and causing extensive damage. Sutter's attempts to profit from

the gold rush were undermined not only by this recklessness, but also by the failure of his sawmill, due to every able-bodied worker's preoccupation with finding gold. By 1852, he was bankrupt.

Continued on pg. 3

Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc. Secretary's Report November 19, 2023

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Meeting was called to order at 1:30 P.M. by President John Mink who also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendees - 43 attendees and no guests were present.

Treasury Report - A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasury Report that Jessyca read for the month of November.

Meeting Minutes - A motion was made and seconded to accept the Secretary's Report of the previous month as written and published in the November newsletter.

Annual Banquet - We are going to have our club Banquet in January which we haven't done since before Covid. We are going to need some volunteers to help out with this event. There is a sign up sheet for anybody who would be interested in putting this together. We will need kitchen help and other things to be done to make the Banquet a success. The club will provide meat and some other stuff and us members will bring a favorite potluck style dish. More information about the event will be discussed at December's meeting.

Pro's and Con's Event - Dan Rouse had his Pros's and Con's event on November 4th and it was a fun event for everyone who attended. Clark N. also known as the Lidar guy was there doing a presentation and it looks like he will be doing another presentation for our club in February 2024. He will be going over our TYROY claims. This is definately something to look forward to!

Metal Detector - Dan Rouse brought in a new Metal Detector that he is selling in his shop. He demonstrated how it works and told us all about it. It's a nice compact unit that is selling for \$269. Christmas is coming up quick so it's a good time to go check out his shop and all his great merchandise.

Silent Auction - Sandra brought in a beautiful Quilt that she made and she donated it to be auctioned off at our December meeting. We are also going to have about 15 other items that will be available to bid on.

Gold Bags - Some \$10 Gold Bags are spiked with something special and you will know it when you see it and that will give you a chance to win a Gold Nugget!

Raffle - The Raffle was held with \$1 and \$5 tickets. Waymon was the winner of the Gold Bag. Sven Swenson was the winner of the Gold Nugget.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 2:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Yolande Kragerud, Secretary.





Photo credit: Hulton Archive via Getty Images

It Was the Largest Mass Migration in U.S. History at the Time

The California Gold Rush is one of the largest mass migrations in United States history. In 1848, when gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill, it triggered a hopeful frenzy and attracted an unprecedented number of people to the region from all corners of the globe. A rush of prospectors, commonly referred to as "forty-niners," flooded California; by the mid-1850s, an estimated 300,000 people had arrived, meaning one in every 90 people in the United States was living in California at the time. This massive migration reshaped the social, economic, and cultural landscape of the region, leaving a lasting impact on California's history.

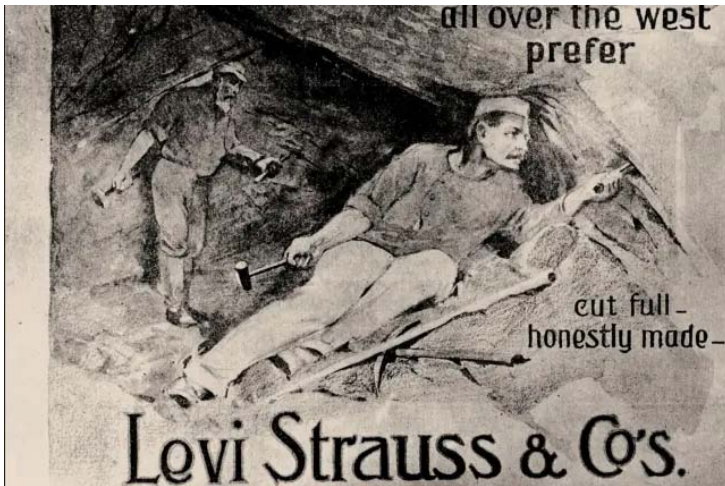


Photo credit: Heritage Images/ Hulton Archive via Getty Images

Levi's Jeans Have Roots in the Gold Rush

In 1853, Levi Strauss, a German immigrant, saw an opportunity for business in the booming California, so he packed up and moved west to expand his family's New York City-based wholesale dry goods store. Over the next 20 years, he built a successful business supplying

the stores that had popped up during the gold rush with clothing, textiles, and other goods. Then, in 1873, Strauss, along with a customer of his who happened to be a tailor, began producing sturdy denim pants reinforced with copper rivets, — the first blue jeans. Although the gold rush had passed, there were still mining, logging, and other industries desiring durable workwear; by the end of the year, the pants exploded in popularity, and by the 1920s, Levi's "denim waist overalls" were the top-selling men's work pants in the country. In 2016, in honor of Levi's success, denim was designated as one of California's official state symbols.

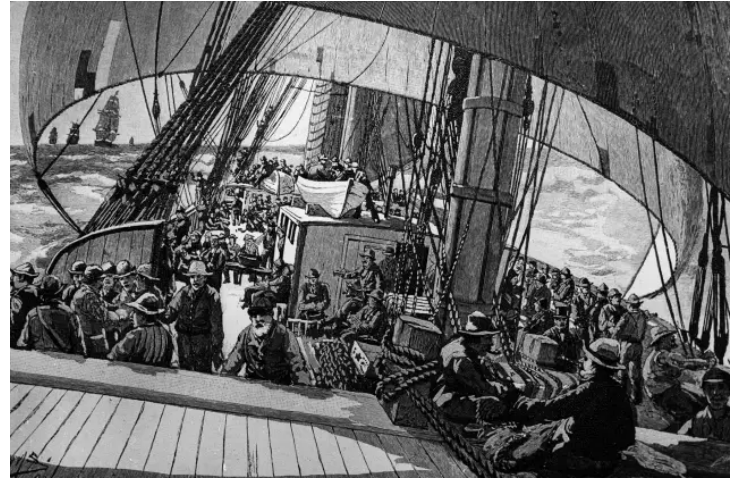


Photo credit: Rischgitz/ Hulton Archive via Getty Images

Ships That Brought Prospectors to San Francisco Are Still Buried Under the City

During the California Gold Rush, ships arrived on San Francisco's waterfront one after the other, carrying eager prospectors seeking fortune. These vessels, often abandoned as their crews fled in search of gold, were eventually used as storage or were demolished and their materials repurposed to build stores, hotels, homes, and more as the city grew. More still ended up being sunk and were buried as the city's shoreline was expanded outward with landfill. To this day, beneath the bustling streets of San Francisco, the buried remnants of these gold rush-era ships remain, serving as a reminder of the city's rich history and the transformative impact of the gold rush.

The Mayor of Seattle Quit to Chase Klondike Riches

The temptation of gold rush riches was irresistible to many people, — and the mayor of Seattle was no exception. In 1897, Mayor William D. Wood made the bold decision to step down from politics and capitalize on the "stampede" of prospectors heading

for Canada's Yukon Territory, by founding a successful company that transported miners to the region. Some 100,000 hopefuls attempted the arduous journey



through northern Canadian and Alaskan terrain as part of the Klondike Gold Rush, and only around 30,000 made it.



Photo credit: Hulton Archive via Getty Images

Canada Required That Each Prospector Bring a Literal Ton of Goods to the Yukon

As thousands of hopefuls decided to head north during the Klondike Gold Rush, the Canadian government made it a requirement that everyone take with them a year's worth of supplies. This included clothing, tools, camping equipment, and approximately 1,000 pounds of food. Altogether, it amounted to roughly a "ton of goods," as the haul became known, which had to be carried in smaller loads across many trips, causing more than a few stampedes to turn back. The rule aimed to prevent shortages and protect prospectors from the harsh realities of the Yukon's unforgiving environment, — and to attempt to regulate and prepare those venturing into the wilderness. The Klondike Gold Rush ended almost as soon as it began, and many prospectors moved on to Alaska in 1899 after only two years in the Yukon.

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President's Corner December 2023

Merry Christmas everyone!

While this blustery weather may beckon you curl up with a good book from our chapter library, come join us for warm fellowship and cheery fun at our December 17 meeting.

Join in on:

- Planning our annual party that will be held at our January meeting.
- Discussing events we would like our club to pull together for 2024.
- Try your luck at an extra special raffle! Okay everybody . . . this is the time to break open your piggy bank and bring your whole allowance for what I am calling Rafflepalooza!

We are pulling out all the stops on raffle prizes just in time for the holiday season. Prizes include:

- A special \$20 raffle with extra GOLD
- Silver coins
- Gold nuggets
- A beautiful quilt handmade and donated by member Sandy
- Christmas decorations created and donated by Jessyca Harmon
- Along with other special prizes and our regular \$1 and \$5 raffles

I can't wait to see you there.

See you all at the meeting!

John Mink

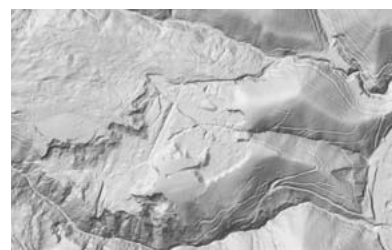
Coming Events

Holiday Party

January 21, 2024 - Details at our December meeting.

LIDAR Presentation

Felbruary 18 - Clark Liewendorp will present LIDAR images of our TYROY claim.



The new **Washington Gold and Fish** pamphlet is now available. You must have it with you whenever you prospect in the state of Washington.

Download a copy to print here: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/hpa/types/prospecting>



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