Preface

While beginning research on the California Gold Rush for the sesquicentennial, much to my surprise I could not locate a bibliography of any kind that listed periodical articles. Seeing this unfortunate oversight, I set out to compile one of my own and disseminate it to libraries, historical societies, and interested researchers.

I have done very lengthy bibliographies in the past and know the rigors of the effort; thus, I was not anxious to begin yet another one. But I too knew that one learns much about the topic while doing the research, and yes, it does provide a certain degree of enjoyment and satisfaction which most sane people don't understand, besides how can anyone turn away from such article titles as "The Grave of Ephraim Brown" or "Goodbye God: We're Going to Bodie!"; how about settlement names such as Happy Camp, Poverty Hill, or Hangtown?; and yes, characters such as Joaquin Murieta, James Marshall, and Sam Brannan? No, it is not easy to ignore such a defining moment in western American history.

The Gold Rush has really never lost its attraction, its excitement. It was truly a spectacular event where thousands of men, women, and children swarmed California seeking instant wealth. Think of the logistics, the sheer energy, and certainly the insanity of it all where the discovery of a flake of an earthly element caused humanity to lose control for a moment, pack belongings, and trudge thousands of miles into an unknown future. And to extend that thought further, to me, 150 years later, who is attracted by the same adventure, but in a milder form, through its literature. So, with this bibliography, I invite you, my dear reader, to join me, and embark on a treasure hunt of the celebrated and notorious California Gold Rush.

This bibliography consists primarily of articles from scholarly journals and local history periodicals. There are no magazine articles per se, except for those written last century and early this century which have been included to give a sense of the historical treatment of the topic. This compiler sifted through every issue of the below listed periodicals looking for articles "surrounding" the California Gold Rush. Included are articles directly on the Gold Rush, and also on relevant California topics of the era, such as law, mail service, politics, law, race relations, transportation, water, and others. The articles cover events from January 1848 through December 1855 which is generally acknowledged as the "Gold Rush moment." After 1855, California gold mining changed and is outside the "rush" era.

These are many of the periodicals that have been indexed:

American Historical Review
American West
Annual Publications of the Historical Society of Southern California
Because of the closeness of the sesquicentennial, only short parenthetical annotations for some of the articles were possible; however, for many, the words found in the titles reveal the topics. To augment this, there are two indexes at the end of the bibliography to draw the researcher to specific topics and persons.

At the beginning of each chapter, the reader will find short anecdotal pieces from the Autobiography of Charles Peters who was a California Gold Rush miner. I consider Charlie part of my family because he could have been my great grandfather, or close approximation there of. He came from the same Azorean island as my great grandfather who too ended up in the Mother Lode. My great grandfather mined the Comstock later on and part of his legacy were three silver rings he had fashioned for his wife and daughters. One of the rings is currently in the possession of his great-great granddaughter which illustrates the multigenerational connection of the California Gold Rush.

To research this bibliography the compiler used the library collections at California State University, Stanislaus and Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections at the University of the Pacific Library. He is especially thankful for the hospitality and assistance of Daryl Morrison and her staff at Holt-Atherton.

I dedicate this bibliography to the California Indian who was virtually decimated by the onslaught of the gold miners and their subsequent permanent habitation. Greed is indeed ugly and destructive, and the Indian serves as a vivid reminder. In a few short years, very little remained of these basically non-hostile native people whose only fault was living on a spot on earth where gold was glittering.
Bob Santos  
December 25, 1997


Bob Santos  
May 23, 2002

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GENERAL

"I was in New London, Conn., in 1848, when the news came of the discovery of gold in California, and I soon got the gold fever. I sailed in the ship 'Elfa' from New York with several hundred other '49ers."

___ The Autobiography of Charles Peters


Del Rio, Juan. "'48 and '98." Land of Sunshine 7(October 1897): 181-190. (Comparison of California and Alaska gold rushes)


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"I arrived in Sacramento with two sacks, made from sail cloth, filled with my personal effects. I carried the sacks on my back fastened with leather straps under my arms."

—The Autobiography of Charles Peters


Cann, T.H. "From the Mississippi to the Valley of the Sacramento." Overland Monthly, second series 45(June 1905): 526-528. (Memories of 1853)


Carter, Robert W. ""Sometimes When I Hear the Winds Sigh': Mortality on the Overland Trail." California History 74(Summer 1995): 146-161.


Clark, J.E. "From St. Louis to San Francisco in 1850." Annual Publication of the Historical Society of Southern California 1(1890): 27-32.

overland, 1849, Colusa County)


[B69] Cushing, John M. "From New York to San Francisco Via the Isthmus of Panama, Including the Voyage From Panama to San Francisco on the Ship 'Niantic'." Society of California Pioneers Quarterly 6(October 1929): 118-134.


Dumke, Glenn S. "Across Mexico in '49." Pacific Historical Review 18(February 1949): 33-44.


Quarterly 37(December 1958): 311-346.

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Hale, Israel F. "Diary of Trip to California in 1849." Society of California Pioneers Quarterly 2(June 1925): 61-130.

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Heath, Minnie Beatrice. "Nancy Kelsey - The First Pioneer Woman to Cross the Plains." Grizzly Bear 59(February 1937): 3, 7. (1841 along with later years)

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Horton, James C. "Interesting Experience of a '49er." Pony Express Courier 1(February 1935): 16. (Overland)


________. "To California by Ox Team." Pony Express 21(September 1954): 3-6.


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"List of Passenger Ships Arriving From March to December 1849." Society of California Pioneers Quarterly 1(December 1924): 36-45.


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Remsburg, George J. "The Tails of Two Trails." Pony Express Courier 1(March 1935): 1, 16.

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"Letter to a Gentleman in Missouri." Pony Express Courier 6(February 1940): 12.

"The Saga of the Lone Grave." Pony Express 18(May 1952): 3, 12. (Nebraska 1952)


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138; (September 1945): 235-260; (December 1945): 343-364.

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PEOPLE

"On my arrival in Jackson, in the latter part of 1850, I built a log cabin. The first night I slept in it, I had company of three rats. During the night, I felt something cold moving across my feet and thought it was one of the rats getting friendly. In the morning I found a rattlesnake curled up in a corner of my cabin."

___The Autobiography of Charles Peters

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[C9] Arbuckle, Clyde. "His Honor Judge William B. Almond." Pony Express Courier 9(June 1942): 3-4, 15-16; (July 1942): 3-4; (August 1942): 3-4, 9, 14; (September 1942): 5-6, 16; (October 1947): 5-6, 12, 14, 16; (November 1942): 6-7, 12. (San Francisco judge)


[C38] _______. "In Days of Big Mike Goldwater." Pony Express 31(January 1965): 3-8; (February 1965): 8-10. (Tuolumne County)


[B58] "Butte County U.S. Census 1850." Butte County Historical Society Diggin's 6(Summer 1962): 4-32. (Pioneer names)


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Coleman, William R. "This Emperor Did Wear Clothes." Manuscripts 49(1997): 5-13. (Joshua A. Norton of San Francisco)


[C82] _______. "General Sutter and the Admission of California to the Union." Grizzly Bear 64(September 1939): 4.


[C90] Corcoran, May S. "Robber Joaquin As Seen in Statues of California, Legislative Journals and By One Living Ranger." Grizzly Bear 28(June 1921): 4.


Dana, Julian. "Father of the Fort." Pony Express Courier 1(January 1935): 4-5. (Sutter)


Dana, Julian. "Sutter the Man." Pony Express Courier 3(June 1936): 8.


[C125] ________. "James Wilson Marshall and His Gold." Grizzly Bear 53(January 1934): 4-5. (Has picture of cabin and blacksmith shop)


Freeman, Leslie J. "Biography of James Harrison Miller." Pony Express 20(May 1954): 3-5. (Shasta County)


[F135] "Fritz Boehmer." Society of California Pioneers Quarterly 4(June 1927): 86-103. (German Around the Horn)


Gregg, Kate L. "Boonslickers in the Gold Rush to California.." Missouri Historical Review 41(1947).

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[C172] ______. "Redington, Holden & Almy to California in 1849." Pony Express 24(September 1957): 3-5, 12. (San Francisco merchants)


[C186] Hollenbeck, Edna R. "Trees and Graves Mark Site of Canon House." Covered Wagon (1966): 40-42. (Frederick McIntosh, 1853, Colusa County)

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[C201] "Interview With Martha Bidwell Greene." Covered Wagon (1971): 47-49. (From Wisconsin, 1852, Shasta County)


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Jarvis, Clarence E. "Sutter and His Fort." Grizzly Bear 34(May 1924): 12, 14.

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Jones, MaryEllen. "Governor Waterman's Butte County Years." Butte County Historical Society Diggin's 13(Spring 1969): 3-9. (Robert W. Waterman, overland, 1850)

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________. "The Story of Elijah Merchant: Founder of Butte County's First Church at Forbestown in 1853." Butte County Historical
Society Diggin's 3(Fall 1959): 15-16.


[C244] "Life of James Lick." Society of California Pioneers Quarterly 1(June 1924): 5-14. (San Francisco)


[C254a]
"Lure of Gold." Smithsonian 28(January 1998): 82. (Gold Rush photos)


[C266] McGie, Joseph O. "The Gridley Story." Butte County Historical Society Diggin's 1(Fall 1957), 4-5. (Joseph F. Gridley, from Illinois, overland, 1850)


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[C282] Nopel, John. "The Yana and Yahi Indians." Butte County Historical Society Diggin's 3(Fall 1959); 1-14.


[C310] "Pierson B. Reading." Society of California Pioneers Quarterly 7(September 1930): 134-147. (Northern California 1845-1851)


[C320] Remsburg, George J. "Judge William B. Almond." Pony Express Courier 3(September 1936): 4 (San Francisco judge)


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[C332] Rowdy, Araras. "David Colbert Broderick - '49er and Statesman." Pony Express Courier 6(August 1939): 11; (September 1939): 11; (October 1939): 11, 15; (January 1940): 10; (February 1940): 7,9; (May 1940): 10, 13; (September 1940): 6, 11; (November 1940): 8, 12; (December 1940): 8, 15; (January 1941): 8, 12, 14; (February 1941): 8, 14-15.

[C333] ———. "James King of William." Pony Express Courier 6(September 1939): 5, 10-11. (San Francisco banker)


[C339] "San Francisco's Leader Through 1851." Pony Express (February 1952): 9. (Selim E. Woodworth)


"The Scourge of Old Sonora (Fresno County Was His Rendezvous)." Pony Express 22(March 1956): 9. (Joaquin Murietta)


"Building of Dr. Shurtleff's House." Covered Wagon (1955): 13, 21. (Shasta, 1851)


"John Parrott and Henry Halleck." Pony Express 20(June 1953): 3-7, 13. (San Francisco pioneers)


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Snyder, Rachel J. "John Sears." Society of California Pioneers Quarterly 8(December 1931): 265. (Miner and boat captain)

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"They Came Seeking the 'Golden Hills'." Wagon Wheels 22(February 1972): 4-6. (Chinese, Colusa County)

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"Thomas Mooney, Sr. - 1822-1884." Pony Express 22(February 1956): 1. (Yuba County's freight and station hotel operator)

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[C411] Wells, Harry L. "Tom Ball, the Gentleman Highwayman." Pony Express Courier 3(September 1936): 11.


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"He seated himself on the bedrock and with the pan between his knees began digging with his knife the mud out of the crevices and dropping it into the pan. Soon a yellow gleam began to appear in the pan and then my hopes began to rise. Then a nugget, weighing at least two ounces, dropped with a bang upon the bottom of the pan. 'Have we struck it?' I asked. 'Oui, oui,' he said, and then I knew we had."

___The Autobiography of Charles Peters


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"Busy Mining Towns of Early Sierra County." Pony Express 17(February 1951): 6.


"California State Capitols After the Spanish Days." Pony Express 15(October 1948): 1. (Pictures only)

"California's Two Largest Cities As They Appeared in the Gold Rush Days." Pony Express Courier 3(June 1936): 1. (Photos)


Cherry, Donald L. "Boston Looks at E. Dorado." Overland Monthly and the Out West Magazine 91(March 1933): 43-44.


"Colusa's Historic Riverside Hotel." Wagon Wheels 42(Fall 1992): 4-7. (Built 1851)


________. "Folsom's Claim and the Leidesdorf Succession." Grizzly Bear 92(January 1954): 4. (San Francisco)

________. "Klamath: California's Lost County." Grizzly Bear 70(February 1943): 2.


________. "Oakland: Site of Early Day Duel." Grizzly Bear 69(June 1942): 4. (Broderick 1852)


[D53] ________. "When We Were Young." Pony Express Courier 3(November 1936): 3. (San Francisco)


[D79]  Floberg, E. "Smith's Flat Chronicle." Pony Express Courier 7(November 1940): 5.(El Dorado County)


"Hangtown in the Days of John Studebaker, the Blacksmith." Pony Express Courier 8(August 1941): 1-2, 4.


Hooper, Frank W. "Early Struggles for County Seats." Pony Express Courier 8(November 1941): 16.


Hunt, Rockwell D. "Angel's Camp: In the Heart of the Mother Lode." Grizzly Bear 77(October 1946): 8, 23.


[D134] _______. "Capitol for a Day." Grizzly Bear 75(August 1945): 4, 15. (Columbia)


[D142] _______. "The Upper Pit River." Grizzly Bear 78(January 1947): 8, 12. (Shasta, Modoc, Lassen Counties)
Keller, John E. "The Saga of Round Valley: 'Last of the West.'" The Californians 1(March-April 1983): 6-18. (Mendocino County)


Knight, Dorse P. "Great River of the Great Valley." California History Nugget 7(February 1940): 144-150. (Sacramento River)


"Landmarks of the Southern Mines Counties." Pony Express 16(July 1949): 4-11.


Lehr, Ernest. "John A. Sutter, Sr., 1839: He Called It 'Sutterville'." Golden Notes 30(Spring 1984): 1-18. (Sacramento)


[D197]________. "Founding the San Francisco Police Department." Pacific Historian 27(Fall 1983): 36-49.


[D206]"Niantic Hotel (On Sansome St. Beach in Days of '49)." Pony Express 18(February 1952): 6. (San Francisco - from ship of same name)


[D211]"Old Columbia's Early Days." Pony Express 34(October 1968): 3-5.


[D216]Olmsted, Roger, Robert A. Weinstein, and J.S. Holliday. "In San Francisco & the Mines, 1851-1856." American West 4(August...


[D231] "Placer County's Original Forest Hill in the 1850s." Pony Express 24(July 1957): 5.

[D232] "Portsmouth Square Opens July First." Pony Express 16(July 1949): 12. (San Francisco)


"Quaint Old Hornitos." Pony Express Courier 1(September 1934): 15.


Ross, Albert F. "Whiskeytown." Covered Wagon (1982): 36-56. (Shasta County)


"San Francisco's First Post Office - 1849." Pony Express Courier 6(October 1939): 1. (Picture only)


Senkewicz, Robert M. "Religion and Non-Partisan Politics in Gold Rush San Francisco." Southern California Quarterly 61(Winter


[D258] "Sites - A Town of Spirit." Wagon Wheels 47(Fall 1987): 4-11. (John Sites, overland, 1850, Colusa County)


[D261] Smith, Grant H. "Bodie, the Last of the Old-Time Mining Camps." California Historical Society Quarterly 4(March 1925): 64-90.


Tyrrell, James C. "Grass Valley, Nevada County: The Largest Mining City of California." Grizzly Bear 23(June 1918): 18, 26-27.

Upton, Will O. "Odd Place-Names of El Dorado County, California." Pony Express Courier 3(September 1936): 8-9.


________. "San Joaquin, the 'Gateway County': Historical Sketch Dealing Particularly With Stockton, Lodi, Tracy." Grizzly Bear 28(April 1921): 4, Supplement 2-4.

"Vigilance Committees of San Francisco." Overland Monthly 12(April 1874): 350-357.

"Volcano: Mother of 90 Million Dollars." Pony Express Courier 7(August 1940): 10.


Warnecke, Mary D. "St. Canice Church." Nevada County Historical Society 9(November 1955): 3-4. (Catholic church, Nevada City)


________. "Well's History of Siskiyou County: More About the Prospecting Party." Siskiyou Pioneer 2(Fall 1954): 53-56. (Gold discovery Yreka)


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MINES AND MINING

"I sat on the counter of a store in Jackson one evening, when a Digger Indian came in with several ounces of nuggets tied up in a rag. He put the package in one bowl of the scales and laconically spoke the word 'raisin.' The storekeeper leisurely walked around the counter, found a box of raisins and returning to the scales began dropping raisins, one at a time, as if they were too precious to part with, into the other bowl of the scale. When the raisins balanced the gold, he emptied them into a paper bag which he handed to the Indian who departed satisfied."

__The Autobiography of Charles Peters


[E2] __________. "January 19th or 24th?" Pony Express Courier 11(February 1944): 8, 10.


"A Dance in the Mines." Pony Express Courier 4(October 1937): 1. (Picture only)


[E42] Hamlin, H. "Breyfogle's Lost Map to Gold Mine." Pony Express 23(March 1957): 1,3-4. (Death Valley)


[E44a] Hendry, Mike, Mary Luecke, and Jim Rock. "John Daggett and Salmon River Mining." Pioneer 7(Fall 1998): 156-167. (Siskiyou County)


Holliday, J.S. "In the Diggings." California History 61(Fall 1982): 168-188.


[E68] "Mining Gold in California." Hutchings' Illustrated California Magazine 2(September 1860); (November 1857); 5(September 1860).


[E82] Paul, Rodman William. "Mining Frontiers As a Measure of Western Historical Writing." Pacific Historical Review 33(February 1964): 25-34.


[E107] "A Trail Bearing to the Left." Covered Wagon (1979): 6-11. (Squaw Creek, Shasta County)


[E120] "World's Largest Nugget (Calaveras County's 1854 Discovery)." Pony Express 23 (October 1956): 8.


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"With an oath 'Blue Dick' laid his cards on the table and drawing his bowie knife sunk it into the table an inch deep through the cards, thus fastening them to the table. Then saying he would kill any man who touched his poker hand while he was gone, left the saloon to raise more money."

___Autobiography of Charles Peters


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Eaton, Richard B. "Court of Sessions." Covered Wagon (1976): 53-57. (Shasta County)


"Flood-Storm in the Sierra." Overland Monthly 14(June 1875): 489-496.


Heath, Earl. "From Trail to Rail." Pony Express Courier 4(January 1938): 7-10; (February 1938): 7-10; (March 1938): 7-10; (April 1938): 7-10; 5(June 1938): 5-6; (July 1938): 5-6; (August 1938): 5-6; (September 1938): 5-6, 11; (October 1938): 5-6. (Railroad)


[F136] ______. "Houses That Came Around the Horn for the 'Alameda Gardens'." Overland Monthly 49(March 1907): 210-215. (Pre-made homes shipped to California)


[F138] "Jackass Mail Previous to Pony Express." Pony Express Courier 1(July 1934): 1. (Placerville)


"Jenkins Hangs at Midnight on Portsmouth Square." Pony Express 24(October 1957): 24. (San Francisco)


"Gold Rush Suspension Bridge." Grizzly Bear 80(June 1948): 4. (Mokelumne River)


"Justice in Mining Camps." Pony Express Courier 5(October 1938): 4, 12.


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[F184] "Two Pilgrims . . . to Thompson's Dry Diggings." Siskiyou Pioneer 2(Fall 1953): 26-27. (Fiction)


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"Moon's Ferry Over the Sacramento River." Pony Express Courier 3(March 1937): 9. (Picture only)


Sandos, James A. "Because He is a Liar and a Thief: Conquering the Residents of 'Old' California, 1850-1880." California History 79:2(2000): 86-112.


"Sheep-Farming in California." Overland Monthly 8(June 1872): 489-497.


[F243] Steffen, Jerome O. "Notes and Documents: The Mining Frontiers of California and Australia: A Study in Comparative Political Change and Continuity." Pacific Historical Review.


Talbitzer, William (Bill). "Butte County's Courthouses - Where?" Butte County Historical Society Diggin's 12(Summer 1968): 8-12. (Chico or Oroville)


Taylor, Ted M. "Vanished Monarch of the Sierra." American West 13(May-June 176): 36-38, 59. (Grizzlies)


"Vigilantes Almost Hung the Wrong Man." Pony Express 18(January 1952): 8-11, 14-15. (San Francisco)


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Whiteside, C.E. "The Bidwell Bar Bridge." Pony Express Courier 7(December 1940): 9. (Feather River)

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The Gold Rush of California: Names Index

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The Gold Rush of California: Subject Index

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