

The Gold Rush was a mass westward migration in the United States that occurred in the 1800s. As stated in the Garrison Letter, a primary source from the time, there were two routes taken to get to California where the gold profit was rumored to be ~~high~~ at its best. The migrators ~~were~~ mostly consisted of younger men, as the ~~primary~~ ^{secondary} source of PBS states that "a gray beard was almost as rare as a petticoat" implying that women & elders were few & far between. Profits were small & goods were expensive, causing harsh conditions to become commonplace.

Gold Rush 1848-1855

The American Gold Rush took place in California from 1848-1855 after gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill. About 300,000 people flooded there, both from within the United States and from Asia and Mexico.

The journey there was perilous, especially for those who took the northern route and were faced with starvation and cannibalism. The living conditions in the camps were crowded and filthy, and very few had much luck making money, most of what they made went towards just surviving.

During the year 1848 the Gold Rush began drawing many people to the West for gold. In order to get across the country people could travel by boat around the country but most chose to go by wagon on the North trail. In the Garrison Letter he refers to others' trials on the trail when he states, "those that went the northern route are starving to death and eating each other..." Even though the journey was rough the outcome was good for most because according to the Garrison letter men were earning five dollars a day.

The Gold Rush, located in California in the Western United States led many to take the dangerous journey across the country in search of gold and opportunity. There was a wide variety of routes to reach California, settlers would have to take a gamble to decide the route they would take. In a letter to his sister Garrison wrote about two different routes and how he luckily chose the best one to decide. All of the routes to California were extremely dangerous and thousands of men would die of starvation and natural causes. Garrison talked about a party of men who took a shortcut in the mountains only to get trapped in the Sierras, they resorted to cannibalism, historically this would be labeled as the Donner Party. The long journey and high living costs that resulted from the Gold Rush were not worth the effort and possible achievement of the Gold Rush in California. One traveler, William Swain, ultimately advised his relatives and other people to stay at home.

The Gold Rush

The gold place was pivotal event in America history. Starting in the 40s along the west coast thousands of men packed up their life and headed to California. This event provide much hope and many opportunities for men, but also women. Both a letter from William Garrison of an article from PBS ("The Diggings") stated that the gold attracted thousands of miners not just across the country, but all over the world. Although the brought new economic opportunities it came with a price. Both sources stated that the price for daily necessities in California were very expensive.

Gold Rush

The gold rush started in 1849. Thousands and thousands of miners flocked to California. By 1850 California had 90,000 citizens which was enough for statehood. The mining camps were overcrowded and competitive. The competition led to an increase of prices.

Garrison states "In this place a man can get five dollars a day and it will cost him almost that to live." The increased tension caused distrust between ethnic groups. A miner's tax was

placed on non-American immigrants. The tax was in effect from 1852 to 1870.

Everyone wanted to strike it rich but Americans were favored. Garrison was promised cheaper rations while other Americans had to resort to the laws to protect. Even with laws, men resorted to violence to better their chances.

The gold rush was a large migration of americans seeking high paying jobs in California gold mines. The first gold was found on the land of John Sutter, which he wished to keep quiet but rumours spread and in 1849 the gold rush began. During this year 50,000 people decided to migrate to California, but the journey was perilous and most americans decided to wait for the covered wagon trails. Many people went to California based on the observations of the explorer John C. Fremont, who made official expeditions to the Rockies in the early 1840s. Other scouts such as Kit Carson were portrayed as heroes while in the Rockies. As most people arrived they expected the stories they heard of all people succeeding at that they would become rich beyond their wildest dreams. This was not the case and very few people actually struck it rich. The gold rush was best described by the quote, "piles of gold rose up before me... In short, I had a very violent attack of the gold fever."

Gold Rush

Before the Gold Rush the first gold was found on the land of a Swiss adventurer named John Sutter, who lived in California. Rumors then began to spread and everyone came to California, like Garrison who traveled across the country, went through drowning, cannibalism and more. A mormon elder named Sam Brannan was sent to California to establish a colony for the church. Rumors then sent him to Sutter's mill. Like Garrison and the people with him went to California for the gold. They wanted to go to the mines to earn good money to get food. The Gold Rush had finally begun. By June, $\frac{3}{4}$ of men in San Francisco had left just to get gold. One American reported that many men headed north. 7 miners employed 50 indians and they dug out 273 pounds of gold in just two months. It had seemed that many Americans fell in the path to get gold.

During the Gold Rush, people were travelling west in search for gold.

Some people would travel by wagon, and some would go by sea. On land, there were many different routes that could be taken, but according to Garrison, many people were starving on the Northern route. When men embarked on this journey, they left their wives and children behind and would write to them. The men faced rough terrain, disease, and starvation. These dangers killed many men and gave head-starts to some travellers.