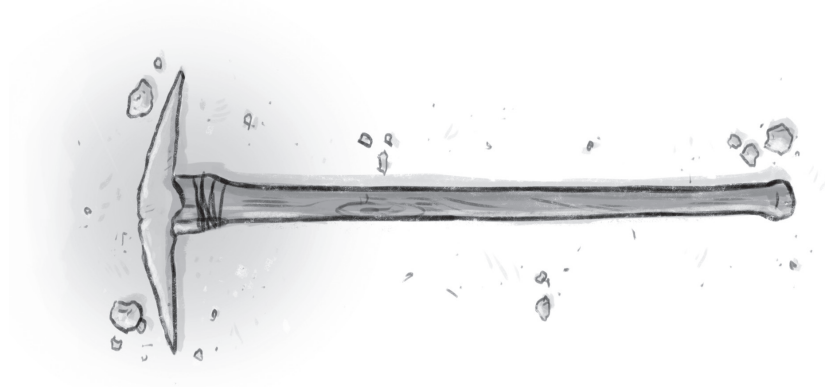


Adventures on the American Frontier

GOLD RUSH ADVENTURES

Part Six

**J.D. Borthwick Finds
Gold with a Paintbrush**



A Royal Fireworks Production

Royal Fireworks Press
Unionville, New York



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The Gold Rush brought people to California in droves. In fact, so many people came in the first year of the Gold Rush that in 1850, California became the thirty-first state of the United States. And still the Gold Rush went on.



Not all of the people who caught gold fever were Americans. Some, like the artist J.D. Borthwick, were from other countries.

J.D. came to America from Scotland in 1851. By then, the city of San Francisco was booming. What had begun as a tiny village of wooden shacks had grown into a thriving city. There were houses spreading all over the hillsides, a water company to supply them with water, and businesses of all kinds. There were horse-drawn buses to take the people up and down the hills,



and there were churches, schools, and even a public library.

J.D. looked around. He liked the busy city. He learned that many of the 50,000 people who lived there had worked in the mines, where they had found enough gold to be able to build and stock their stores. But the young artist wanted to see more than the city. So he packed up his drawing supplies, put on the rough clothes of a miner, and went off to the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains.

Along the way, J.D. could see that men had dug into every hillside near the American River. The ground looked as though it had a bad case of the chicken pox. There were piles of stone, heaps of dirt, and holes about six feet deep and as wide across. Little log cabins were scattered among the diggings. Now and then, J.D. came to a small town where someone had made more money selling supplies to the miners than many of the miners had made.

One afternoon, J.D. rode into Placerville,



a town near Sutter's Mill, where the mining had begun. "Dry Diggings" was the first name given to this place because it was here that men discovered that gold wasn't only in the riverbeds but also on the dry hillsides. By the time J.D. reached the town, it was known as Hangtown because some miners had hanged three robbers from a big oak tree that grew in front of the saloon. Its name of Placerville, which it has today, came from the miners, too—a "placer" is a place where the topsoil has rich minerals in it.