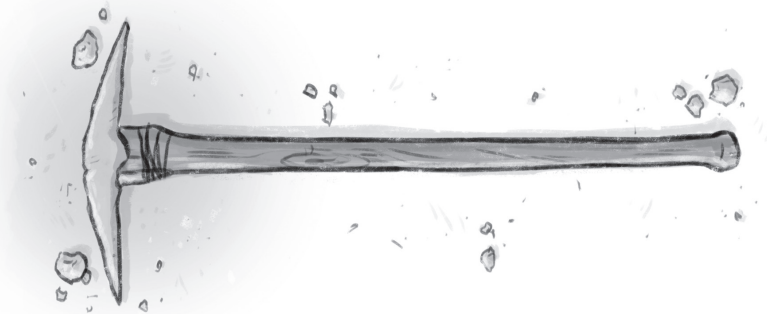


Adventures on the American Frontier

GOLD RUSH ADVENTURES

Part Three

Forty-Niners Cross the Country



A Royal Fireworks Production

Royal Fireworks Press
Unionville, New York



Other books in this series:

John Sutter's Golden Dream

Walter Colton's Gold Fever

Bayard Taylor's Journey to California through Panama

J. Goldsborough Bruff Fights His Way West

J.D. Borthwick Finds Gold with a Paintbrush



This book features QR codes that link to audio of the book being narrated so that readers can follow along.

Copyright © 2020, Royal Fireworks Online Learning, Inc.
All Rights Reserved.

Royal Fireworks Press
P.O. Box 399
41 First Avenue
Unionville, NY 10988-0399
(845) 726-4444
fax: (845) 726-3824
email: mail@rfwp.com
website: rfwp.com



ISBN: 978-0-89824-868-5

Printed and bound in Unionville, New York, on acid-free paper
using vegetable-based inks at the Royal Fireworks facility.

Publisher: Dr. T.M. Kemnitz
Editor: Jennifer Ault
Book and cover designer: Christopher Tice
Audio and narration: Christopher Tice





In the months after gold was discovered in California, gold fever spread east. At first, people didn't believe the stories. Then, as 1848 drew to an end, President Polk spoke of the rich gold fields in a talk he gave, and the speech was printed in newspapers in many cities. Gold fever swept through America.



“Ho for California!” cried those who had the sickness, and from the eastern cities to the frontier of Missouri, they began packing to go west. They were sure they would come back in a few months loaded with sacks of gold.

Talk of gold was everywhere. People saw gold nuggets in a store window in New York City. They read in the newspaper about five men who had picked up \$75,000 worth of gold in three months. Near Sutter’s Mill, a man named Wilson had scraped up \$2,000



worth from under his own doorstep.

“You can read it right here in the paper,” people said. “Some sailors left their ship in San Francisco Bay, went to the gold diggings, and in a week, each of them had \$2,000 to \$5,000! If a sailor can do it, so can I.”

Every day, the newspapers ran ads, right on the front page, for companies that were forming to make the trip west. There were ads, too, for books that told where to find gold and how to mine it. Other books described the western trails.

There were also ads for machines that promised that a man using one could wash the gold from the dirt so fast that he could get rich in less time than anyone else. There were ads for everything a gold seeker should take along, from medicine that would cure every sickness to special shovels made for gold digging.

The first people to head west left New York early in 1849, hoping to reach the gold fields before all the best chunks of gold had been picked up. The Forty-Niners, as they



were soon called, traveled any way they could. Most decided to brave the 3,000-mile journey across America—a dangerous trip through a country that was mostly unsettled west of the Mississippi River. Other people went all the way around South America by ship, which seemed a longer but surer way of getting to California.

Out in a little town in Indiana, a young man named Stanislaus Lasselie read the stories in the local newspaper of people getting rich quick.