

▶▶▶ Rave Reviews for *The Golden Highway* ◀◀◀

“...accurate information, well illustrated and also fun and entertaining to read . . . “The Golden Highway, Volume I,” . . .

. . . To report accurately, one must . . . go directly to the . . . actual words of those who were there and experienced what happened. That is what Jody and Ric Hornor have done in “The Golden Highway Volume I” . . .

. . . you will become involved and actually feel the joy, anguish and determination of the brave people who settled this land. . .”

*Mountain Democrat, Placerville*



“This is a **collection of incredible stories** found in actual historic documents and journals as well as **hundreds of restored photographs** taken by some of the first photographers to document the settling of California. Indexed, with a photo on every page, a **must have** for the local history buff.”

*The Union, Nevada County*



. . . the Hornors have done a wonderful job of putting this book together.”

*Mountain Democrat*

A 2007 Bronze Medal winner from the  
Independent Publishers Association





## ▶▶▶ Rave Reviews for *The Golden Corridor* ◀◀◀

“. . . lots of authentic, historical pictures. . . a wonderful job of putting this book together.

...you will actually feel the joy, anguish and determination of the brave people who settled this land...

“*The Golden Corridor*” is beautifully organized . . .

. . . **this is the one book you need to have.** You will spend hours reading the writings of those who were here and delight in the restored pictures of that era.”

*Mountain Democrat, Placerville*



“Fans of old photographs . . . will love “The Golden Corridor.” The book is **filled with amazing black and white photos** that bring early Northern California to life. Sidebars on each page give **fascinating quotes from diaries, journals and newspapers**, as well as anecdotes . . . **well worth checking out.**”

*The Union, Nevada County*



“This is **an interesting read** . . . I especially enjoyed it because most of the book’s dialogue comes from letters and journals of the pioneers themselves. These **firsthand accounts give the reader insight** into what it was like to travel through and settle these then wild lands. . . **the photos of the California Gold Rush are so marvelous** . . .”

*True West Magazine*



. . . a captivating study of 19th century people who helped shape the times.

*Sacramento Bee*



“. . . this amazing collection of firsthand testimony . . . Sidebars offer amusing quick vignettes from the era! **Enthusiastically recommended reading** . . .”

Midwest Book Reviews



“. . . **educational and entertaining.** Profusely illustrated . . .”

*Auburn Journal*

## Awards from:

The Independent Publishers Association

Sacramento County Historical Society



 THE   
**GOLDEN HIGHWAY**  
Highway 49

Volume II: 19th Century California including Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne,  
Mariposa (including Yosemite) and Madera Counties

Including Jackson, Sutter Creek, San Andreas, Angels Camp, Sonora, Murphys, Jamestown, Mariposa, Coulterville, Oakhurst  
and smaller communities in between.

Written and photographed by the people who lived and made California's history.

# Acknowledgements

This book is dedicated to the thousands of pioneers who wrote California's history, the early photographers who captured the scenes and the hundreds of historians who have preserved it over the years.

This work would not have been possible without the help of dozens of libraries, librarians and archivists including:

Amador County Archives

Bancroft Library

Calaveras County Archives

Calaveras County Historical Society

Fresno Flat Museum

Library of Congress

Mariposa County Historical Society

Tuolumne County Historical Society

Wells Fargo Bank

As we searched the vast libraries for the appropriate photographs, we found many of the same photos in different archives. The attributions are based on the archive from which we actually obtained the image. Any corrections or suggestions are welcome. Our apologies for any real or perceived errors.

We'd also like to thank our fact checkers and experts who helped assure the accuracy of this publication.

Deborah Cook, Amador County Historical Society

Shannon VanZant, Calaveras County Archives

Cate Culver, Calaveras County Historical Society

Leonard Ruoff, Tuolumne County Historical Society

Judy Sheets, Mariposa County Historical Society

Roger Mitchell, Fresno Flats Museum

THE  
GOLDEN HIGHWAY  
Highway 49

Written by:  
California pioneers and 19th century historians.

Researched and compiled by Jody and Ric Horner  
Photo restoration by Ric Horner  
Edited by Paula Bowden

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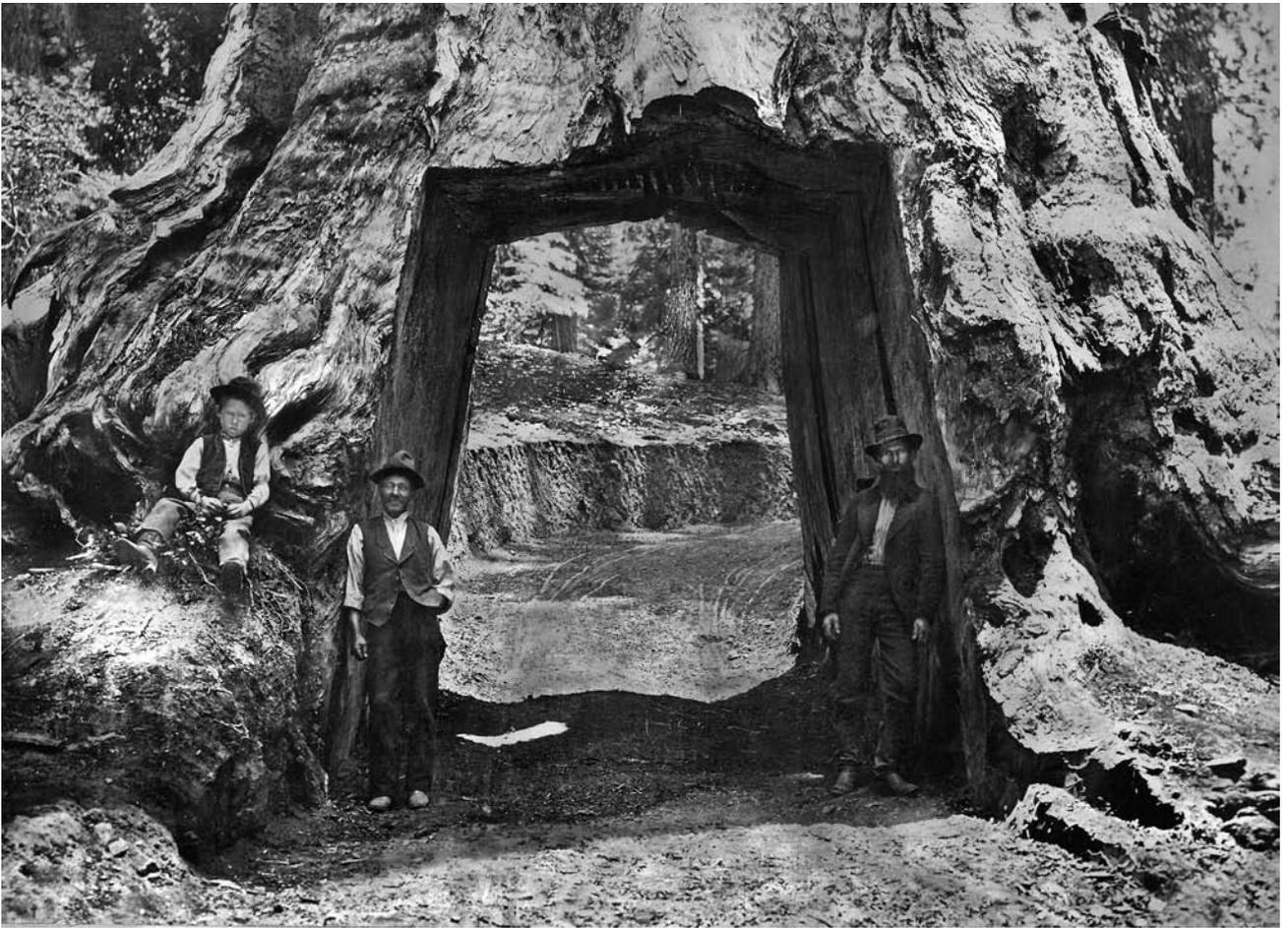
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## Table of Contents

Introduction	IX
Chapter 1: Amador County	15
Jackson, Plymouth, Ione, Sutter Creek, Volcano, and vicinity	
Chapter 2: Calaveras County	87
San Andreas, Mokelumne Hill, Murphys, Copperopolis, and vicinity	
Chapter 3: Tuolumne County	145
Sonora, Columbia, Jamestown and vicinity	
Chapter 4: Mariposa County	235
Mariposa, Coulterville, Hornitos, Yosemite and vicinity	
Chapter 5: Madera County	275
Oakhurst [Fresno Flats], Coarse Gold, and vicinity	
Bibliography	283
Index	287
Additional Exhibits (when available) at	online
<a href="http://www.19thCentury.us/Gold">www.19thCentury.us/Gold</a>	





*James Lumsden, the man who cut the hole through the tree at Big Trees of Tuolumne, on Oak Flat Road on the way to Yosemite. This picture was taken right after he finished the job.*

## Introduction

Before the Gold Rush there was a trickle of hardy, adventurous and tenacious people who began to settle California. With the discovery of gold in 1848, thousands of people from the “States” and around the world came to pursue their hopes and dreams. For a few, those hopes and dreams came true. Most, however, battled bitter elements, a lawless society, disease and famine. Thousands suffered immeasurable hardships. Hundreds died. And a few — a lucky few, made their “pile.”

It’s on the labors and hardships of these early pioneers that California developed into what it is today.

Culled from roughly 5,000 pages of primary source documents, you witness their monumental accomplishments, brave deeds, and the exciting times that they experienced.

Feel the joy,  
anguish and  
determination of the brave  
people who settled this land.  
Enjoy their humor, admire  
their flair.



As you read their tales, you'll be amazed by their ingenuity, resiliency, and stamina. You'll feel their heartbreak and pain. You'll laugh at their antics. And you'll marvel at their accomplishments.

This is their story, in their words with their photographs.

With the exception of the photo captions and introduction, this book was written in the 19th century in the colorful language of the time.

Because of the many contributors and their individual writing styles, you'll find some that are challenging to read. Words were often spelled differently and punctuation and sentence structure were different as well. But they're well worth your effort. Our goal is to preserve these styles for you to enjoy, so we have intentionally done nothing that will make the chapters consistent in their presentation, punctuation, spelling or format, as it would eliminate each contributor's personal style and flavor in doing so.



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There were huge cultural biases that are reflected in the text. As ingenious as these brave pioneers were, they had yet to invent "political correctness." As degrading and disheartening as some of the terms and stories are, they do reflect history.

Keep in mind that history, as it was recorded in the 19th century, was often done so subjectively. Many of the early history books (from which most of the core text is taken) were underwritten with the support of the people whose lives were chronicled within them. Thus the poor or not so vain may have been omitted unless they were truly newsworthy.

We're fortunate that there were a number of photographers, especially after 1860, who traveled extensively through the area and took hundreds, if not thousands, of photographs. Even so, finding the one image that exactly illustrates a point in the text is often impossible. We must sometimes go out of the specific geography or era to give you the best illustrations of the places and events being discussed.

Many of the original photographs are so damaged that it's nearly impossible to see the detail in them. They are carefully restored to uncover details that have faded over the years. Sometimes we make amazing discoveries in the restoration process. Other times there's a tinge of disappointment that we



See page 113



See page 195

*Photo restoration examples. These are the originals.  
See the noted pages for the restored version.*

can't fix the many years of degradation. Even so, some of those images are included because they illustrate important points of our history.

Hundreds of hours of restoration have gone into the photographs used in *The Golden Highway*. Many of the original photos are in the public domain and available through the organizations noted with each image. Some are from private collections. In all cases, the restoration work is copyrighted. If you'd like copies of these images for your own use, you must contact the libraries or archives noted and obtain them directly from the respective institution.

Unique challenges and situations were encountered in the development of this particular book.

First, county boundaries changed over the years on most of the counties documented here. Calaveras was once part of Amador. Mariposa County, referred to as "the Mother Counties," first spun off Fresno County, which in turn spun off Madera County. Consequently, you'll read references under one county that refers to a location that is now in a different county.

Secondly, after all the splits occurred, records and archives were divided up and not all the records that we like to reference have been located. Thus more unique approaches were taken to compile the histories of those areas.

So have fun wandering *The Golden Highway* in the 19th century. Get a taste of the rich history. And, if this book has whet your appetite for more, pick up a copy of *The Golden Corridor*, which covers the area from San Francisco to Lake Tahoe, or *The Golden Quest* that covers Lake Tahoe and Northern Nevada. Have fun with your studies!

## Side Bar Legend

Most of the side bars provide new information that is not contained in the main body of text. The nature of the information is denoted by the following icons:

*Text from personal letters will appear in this script font with the quill pen.*



Stories about crime will appear with the hangman's noose in this font.



Quotes from diaries or journals will appear with this image of President Taft's personal journal.



Call outs, text that appears in the main body of content, highlighted for emphasis, appears with this magnifying glass.



You'll also occasionally find direct quotes from old newspaper articles which are in this font and quoted and sourced.

