

## ▶▶▶ 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



## ▶▶▶ Reviews for *The Golden Highway, Vol. II* ◀◀◀

“. . .a fascinating illusion of time travel. . . history that crackles with immediacy. Snippets flow from the page. . . By relying exclusively on primary-source material, the Hornors have humanized the pioneers . . .”

*The Fresno Bee*



“. . .the narrative comes alive in the language of the 19th Century. . . The book is a banquet of information best enjoyed in several courses. . . The bibliography is a veritable gold mine of personal sources, and the photographic restorations are superb.”

*The Union*



. . . you will spend many enjoyable hours reading the writings of those who were there and delight in the restored pictures of that era.

*Mountain Democrat*

## ▶▶▶ Rave Reviews for the Golden Quest ◀◀◀

“This book is exciting . . . What makes these books wonderful is not only the words, but the abundance of authentic, historical pictures. These are not the grainy scratched photos . . . These have been carefully restored to look new.

*The Golden Quest* is beautifully organized, starting with a look at El Dorado County – Lake Tahoe and the High Sierra. Then, into Nevada . . . there is a discussion of events not often covered, the Indians and their wars in Nevada.

*The Golden Quest* not only describes what went on, but makes you a part of it . . . you will spend many enjoyable hours reading the writings of those who were there and delight in the restored pictures of that era.”

*Mountain Democrat*



*The Golden Quest and Nevada's Silver Heritage* . . . The text comes from history books of the 1880s and from letters, journals, diaries and newspaper stories of the era.

They liked the writing style in the historical books . . . as a way to deliver the “flavor” of the times, as well as the information. . . . The goal was . . . To bring together things that are not currently available unless someone wants to spend hours sitting in a library . . .

*Reno Gazette-Journal*

## ▶▶▶ 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.

I am a lifelong resident of Northern California and I learned from this book... “The Golden Corridor” is well worth checking out.”

*The Union, Nevada County*



...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*

[The Golden Corridor]...

...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*

 THE   
**GOLDEN HUB**  
**Sacramento City and County**

Including Folsom, Fair Oaks, Galt, Elk Grove, Walnut Grove and surrounding communities.

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

THE  
GOLDEN HUB  
Sacramento

Written by:  
California pioneers and 19th Century historians.

Researched, compiled by Jody & Ric Hornor  
Photo restoration by Ric Hornor  
Edited by Paula Bowden

Printed in Sacramento

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Ric & Jody Hornor

ISBN # 0-9766976-8-8

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Published by:



An Imprint of Electric Canvas™  
1001 Art Road  
Pilot Hill, CA 95664  
916.933.4490

[www.19thCentury.us/Gold](http://www.19thCentury.us/Gold)

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## 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:

Bancroft Library

California State Library

California State Railroad Museum

Elk Grove Historical Society

Fair Oaks Historical Society

Galt Historical Society

Folsom Historical Society

Library of Congress

Pioneer Mutual Hook and Ladder Society

Sacramento Area Museums Collections Center (SAMCC)

Sacramento County Library, Sacramento Room

Sutter's Fort Collection's Center

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.

Jim Pearce, Fair Oaks Historical Society

Randy Wootten, Pioneer Mutual Hook and Ladder Society

Judy Russo, Sutter's Fort Collection Center

Terry Cook, State Capitol State Historic Park

Daniel M. Sebby, California Center for Military History

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*Although some hunting and fishing might have been part of this outing based on the equipment in the camp, photography was clearly one of the major goals of the expedition. There are three stereo cameras visible. This photo was shot by a fourth camera that was not stereo, as we can tell by its horizontal format. Even with the major difficulties of lugging lots of equipment, photographers of the 19th century captured thousands of scenes that allow us all to envision what life was really like in the 1800s. This scene, probably in the 1880s, was shot at a logging camp on Slab Creek near Georgetown in what is now El Dorado National Forest.*

## Introduction

Gold fever turned the fledgling Sutter's Fort and community of New Helvetia into a booming metropolis, *The Golden Hub*—Sacramento.

Thousands of people from the "States" and around the world came to and through Sacramento on the way to the mines. It didn't take long for many of the early pioneers to realize that the real wealth was in mining the miners. Within a year of gold discovery, a boom town quickly sprouted and formed the foundation of today's Sacramento.

For a handful of the miners, merchants and pioneers, their hopes and dreams came true. But first, they had to battle bitter elements, a lawless society, disease and famine. Thousands suffered immeasurable hardships. Hundreds died. And a lucky few made their fortune.

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





It is on the backs of their labors, the graves of their dead, and the dreams of their dreamers that Sacramento took form and became one of the most desired places to live and work.

As you read about the adventures of the miners, merchants, farmers and citizens, in their own words, 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 wonder if you could have conquered the challenges these hardy pioneers faced every day.

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

Culled from roughly 5,000 pages of primary source documents, in *The Golden Hub* you witness the many monumental accomplishments, brave souls, and exciting times that made Sacramento what it is today.



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.

With the exceptions of the photo captions and introduction, this book was written in the 19th century. Key points of history are delivered in the colorful language of the time.

Also, as you read the core text, the diary entries, letters and newspaper articles, you may find many different formats and writing styles. That's because the main body of text comes from one source and the side bar materials come from many different writers. Words were often spelled differently in those days. Punctuation and sentence structure were also different. Because of the many contributors and their individual writing styles, you'll find some that are challenging to read. 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 flavor in doing so.

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 to today's society, 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 county history books (from which most of the core text is taken) were underwritten with the support of the people whose lives were



See page 62



See page 35

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

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 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 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 Hub*. 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.

So have fun wandering *The Golden Hub* in the 19th century. Get a taste of the rich history. And, if this book has whet your appetite for more, check the website for our other titles. Or use the bibliography as a guide and find yourself a library with a good California reference section. Have fun while you learn about *The Golden Hub*, Sacramento!

## 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.



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.