

In the winter of 48 the rush began from the states to Panama, and in the spring across the plains. It is estimated that 80,000 men reached the coast in 1849 about half of them coming overland, three fourths were Americans. There was no home life in California. In 1850 women numbered 8% of the population, but only 2% in the mining countries. The miners were an energetic, covetous, wandering, absolutely unstable body of men. Thousands would flock on unproven rumors to new and distant localities where many might perish from disease and starvation the rest returning in rags and poverty. Such were the Horn River fever of 1855 and the greater Fraser River rush of 1858. The latter which took perhaps 20,000 men out of the state. Many enterprising towns lost one half of their population and some virtually all their population and it precipitated a real estate crash in San Fr that threatened temporary ruin.

The decade 1850 - 60 was also marked by the activities of filibusters against Sonora and C. A.

True overland immigration from the U.S. began only about 1840.

J. A. Thornton's Oregon & California July 1845

E. G. Buffum's Six Months in the Gold Mines London 1850

J. T. Brooks Four Months among the Gold Finders London 1849

G. G. Foster, Gold Regions of Calif. N. Y. 1854

The name California was taken from Ordóñez de Montalvo's romance of chivalry Las Sergas de Esplandian Madrid 1510.

The lower Colorado River was discovered in 1540.

1602-3 Sebastian Vizcaino discovered the sites of San Diego & Monterey.

1769 San Fr. Bay was discovered.

Between 1769 & 1823 20 missions were established by Miguel José Serra.