

Sutter Creek Community Benefit Foundation

June Newsletter, 2022

DID YOU KNOW...

Amador County is the ONLY county in the State named after a Native Californian.

Mexico had won its independence from Spain in 1821 and found the vast northern territory largely unexplored and thought to be uninhabitable. This huge territory included all of today's California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, and half of Texas (although Texas was disputed). California, at the time, was called Alta California and was merely a northern province of Mexico.



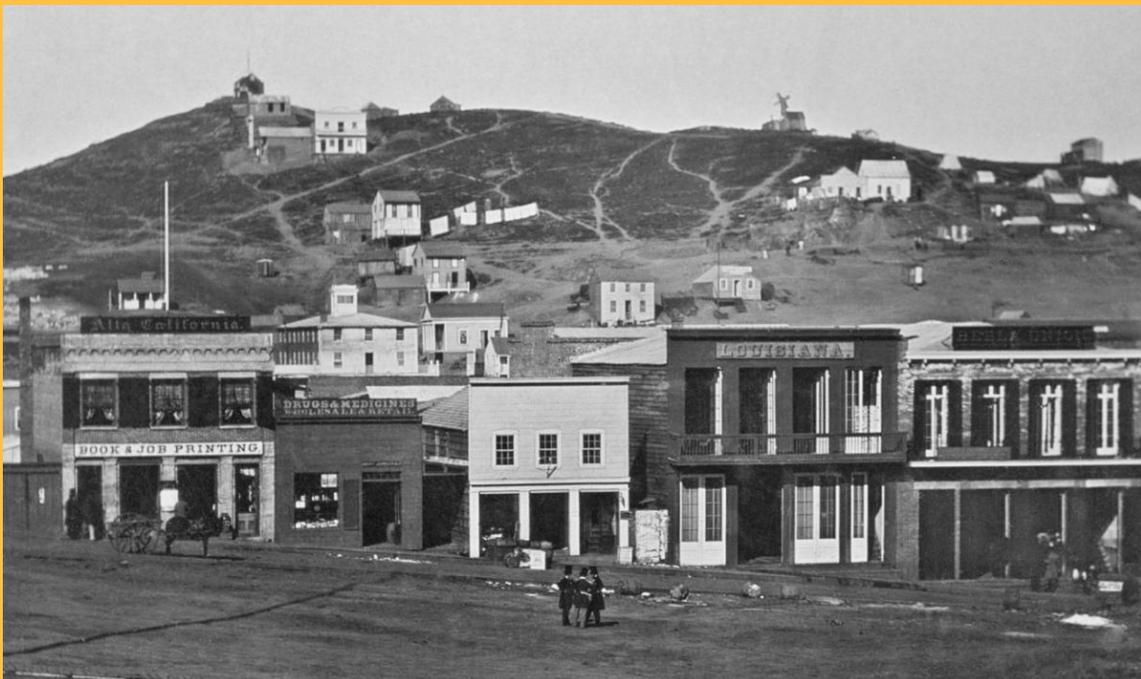
The master plan was to colonize this massive area with a population friendly to, and supportive of, the Mexican government. Wealthy families willing to settle and financially support the Mexican government, as well as others willing to swear allegiance to Mexico, could apply for land grants ranging from several hundred acres to hundreds of thousands of acres. For example, John Sutter applied for a grant in 1839 and two years later was granted 48,400 acres with the stipulation that he become a Mexican citizen and live on his land grant for at least one year.



Sutter's Fort at New Helvetia circa 1845. The waterway is "K" Street.

Jose Maria Amador was born in 1794 in the Presidio of San Francisco, a short distance from the Spanish settlement of Yerba Buena.

The plaza of Yerba Buena remains today as Portsmouth Square located in San Francisco's Chinatown.



Portsmouth Square in 1850. Telegraph Hill is behind.

As a young man, Señor Amador served as a soldier and explorer in the Spanish army of Nueva España (New Spain or

California). From 1827 – 1835 he served as administrator for the Mission San Jose.



Mexican citizen of 1820-1840.

At the end of his service in 1835, he was granted 4,400 acres of mission land. He named his grant Rancho San Ramon and built his headquarters in today's Dublin, California.



Mission San Jose located in Fremont, not San Jose.



Mission San Jose

As early as 1845, Mexican miners had been prospecting along today's Dry Creek, Rancheria Creek, Amador Creek, Sutter Creek,

and many other un-named creeks in the county. In 1847, '48, and '49, Señor Amador was mining along several un-named creeks between Drytown and Sutter Creek. There was no settlement along “Amadore’s Creek” until the summer of 1851 when the discovery of gold-bearing outcroppings brought floods of miners and settlers to the area.



Typical Spanish arrastra as used throughout Amador County.

Naming the new village seemed natural – Amador City. Although he is known to have prospected the area, it seems his main success was in providing supplies brought up from his Rancho San Ramon.

War was declared between the U.S. and Mexico in 1846, and two years later the victorious U.S. acquired all of Mexico's northern holdings. The war had cost the U.S. approximately 13,000 lives with about 1,200 from wounds received and 11,800 from disease.



Typical Mexican lancer of Mexican War period.

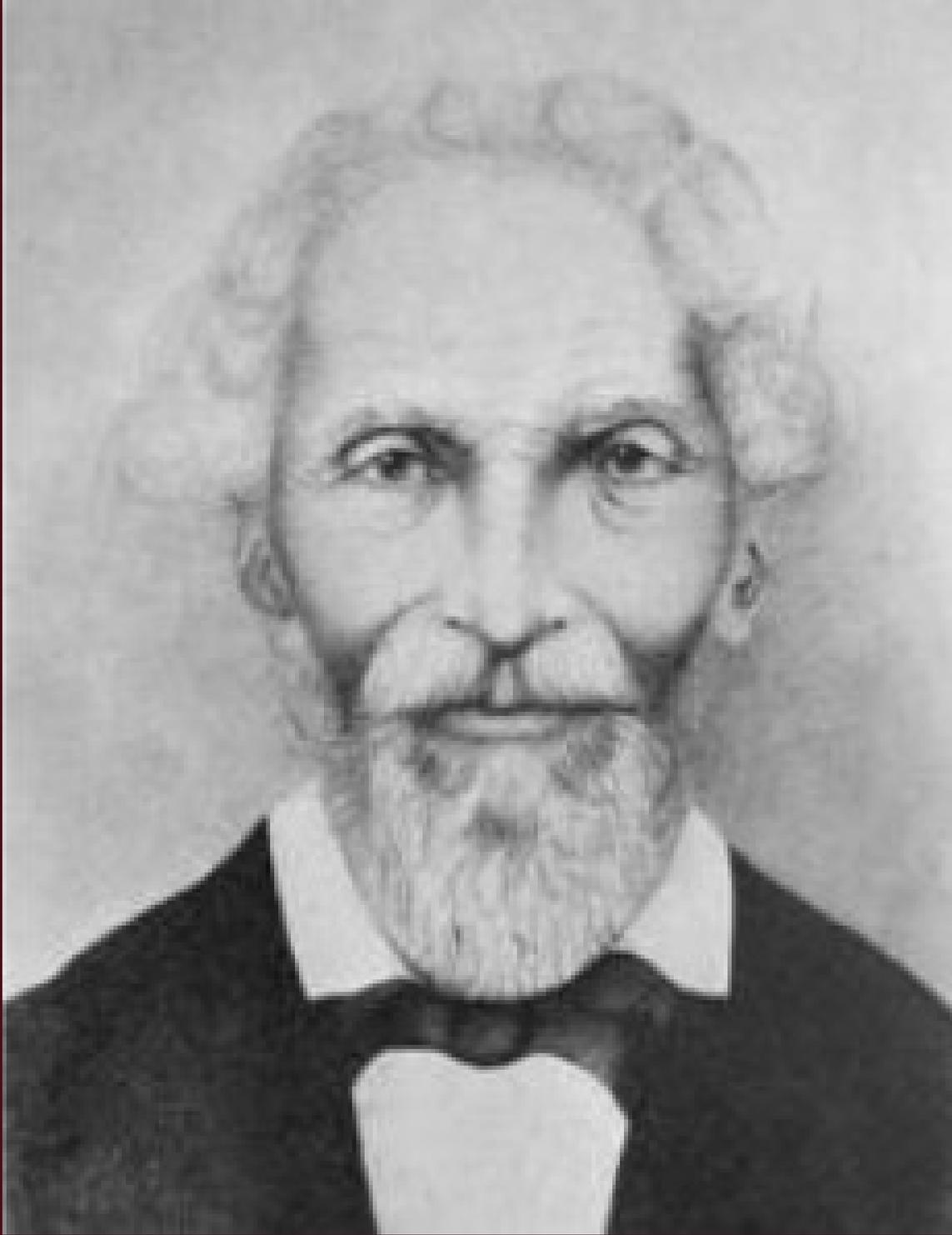
1848 would be a bell weather year for California. In January, James Marshall discovered gold at Sutter's Mill in Coloma and in February, California came into the U.S. as a possession and soon became an official Territory. Of course, the discovery of gold turned the world upside down and precipitated the largest mass migration in U.S. history. Two years later, the exploding population warranted statehood. More than 10,000 people lived and worked in the villages and creeks bearing the name Amadore.

The State was divided into 27 counties (today there are 58) and

the capitol was located at the village of San Jose. Significantly absent in the original 27 county layout of 1850 is our own beautiful county of Amador. Soon, citizens north of the Mokelumne River became dissatisfied with being a “stepchild” province.

In 1852, miners along Amadore’s Creek, and in the villages of Amadore Crossing and South Amadore (or Amadore City), Drytown, Sutter Creek, and Jackson petitioned the State to name a proposed new county “Amador”. When legislation dividing Calaveras was debated in 1854, a motion to name the new county Amador instead of Washington was adopted.

Jose Maria Amador was married three times, had 22 children, and still lived to be 89 years old. Must be that Amador County water! He gradually sold off his land holdings until none was left at his death in 1883. His is buried in Gilroy, California.



[Visit our Website](#)

[Like us on Facebook](#)

[Contact Us](#)

**DONATE
TODAY**

Do you know someone who would like to receive our monthly newsletter? Send contact information to info@sccbf.org to be added to our distribution list.

The Historic Sutter Creek Grammar School is rich in Gold Rush history. This beautiful building is California's second oldest two-story brick schoolhouse. The Sutter Creek Community Benefit Foundation has restored the first and second floor making it a wonderful rental for any occasion. There are four rooms within the Historic Grammar School that can be rented.

Contact the City of Sutter Creek for information on rates and availability - (209) 267-5647 ext. 230 or email info@cityofsuttercreek.org

Whether it's a love of our heritage, a special connection to our town's diverse, deeply rooted cultures, or a desire to improve your community, every donor's passion for Sutter Creek is unique. A gift to Sutter Creek Community Benefit Foundation is the perfect way to fund your passion and watch it prosper. By connecting people who care with causes that matter, we help ensure a stronger, healthier tomorrow. We provide a simple, powerful and highly personal approach to giving. (Donations to SCCBF are received through the Amador Community Foundation.)

SCCBF a Nonprofit, 501(c)(3) | PO Box 24, Sutter Creek, CA 95685

[Unsubscribe info@sccbf.org](mailto:info@sccbf.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by info@sccbf.org in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!