

# *Sutter Creek Community Benefit Foundation*

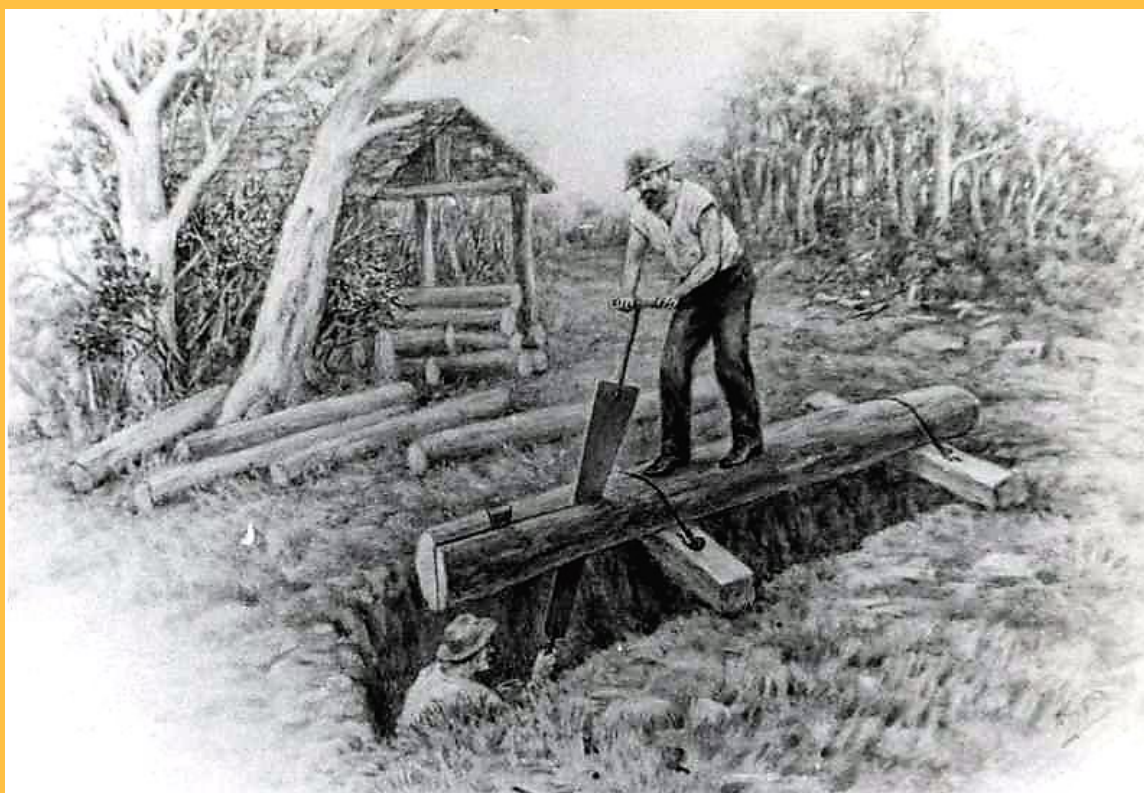
April Newsletter, 2023

## **The Sutter Creek Story**

---

According to MASON'S HISTORY OF AMADOR COUNTY, the first authentic report of the presence of non-native men in the county was in 1846, when John Sutter, with a party of Indians and his men, sawed lumber for a ferry-boat. John Sutter's men discovered large stands of pine, cedar, and oak on a ridge just east of the present town of Sutter Creek, between the Amador Creek and the Sutter Creek.

They built a platform above a dug-out area for a "whipsaw pit."



Here they could saw the logs into lumber, make shingles,

create charcoal, and ship it by wagon to Sutter's Fort some 40 miles away.



Sutter named the logging location “Pine Woods.”

So far, we can find nothing in the literature telling us where these men lived while working at Pine Woods. We can speculate that they would have lived in tents close to water, possibly near the creek we now call Sutter Creek.



This operation existed until the fall of 1847 when a more efficient water powered saw mill was constructed in Coloma.



In July 1848, John Sutter went to the mines near Coloma, finding them overrun he went south to the creek below Pine Woods to have his workers search the creek for gold. This was

known as Sutter's creek. In the summer of 1851, Suttertown, Suttersville, or Sutter's Creek, were the names used for the area. Soon the name Sutter's Creek became the common name and then shortened to Sutter Creek.

By 1850 most of the individual miners had largely moved on or became employed by the newly discovered hard rock gold mining operations. By 1853 there were four major hard rock mining operations in Sutter Creek; the Lincoln, Mahoney, Wildman, and Old Eureka mines.

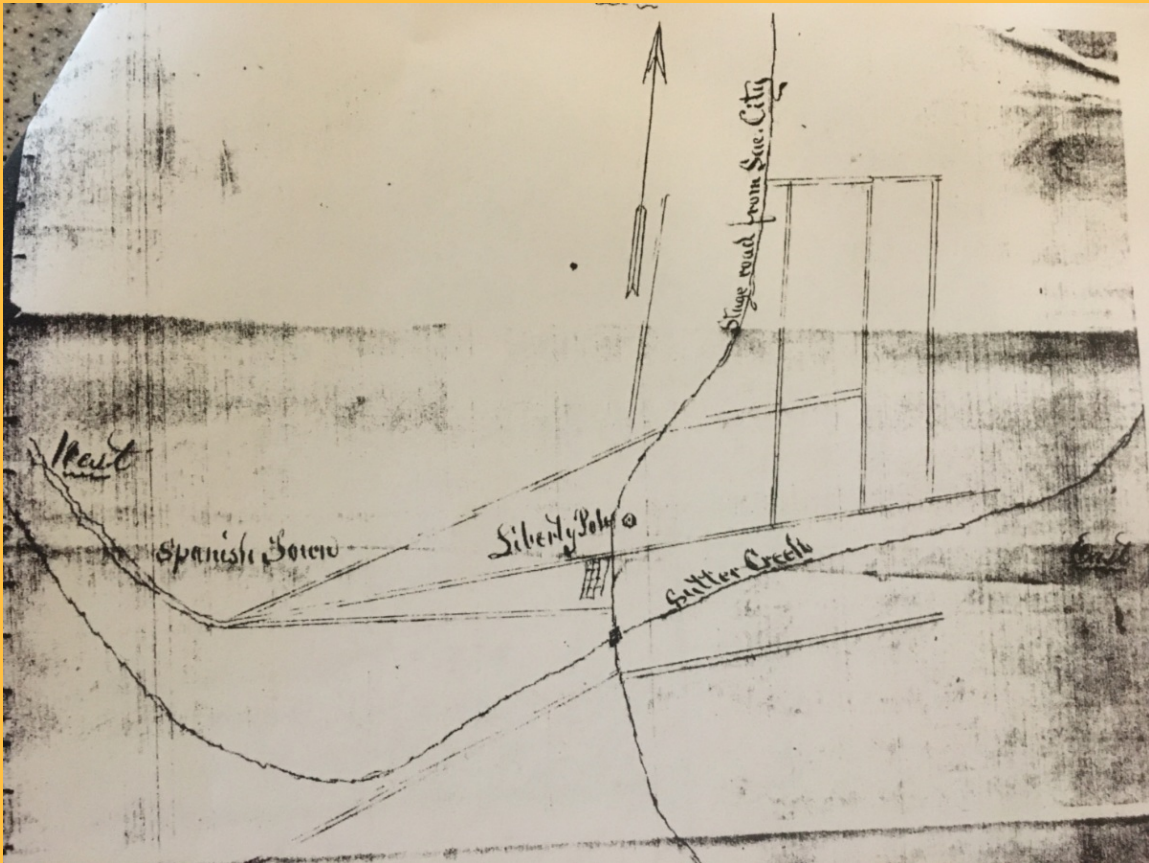


The needs of these four mining operations and their hundreds of employed miners soon led to an explosive growth of the early Sutter Creek settlement.

Sutter Creek was incorporated as a Town in 1854 at the request of a group of local businessmen. At that time the township limits were described as a "one mile distance from the Liberty Pole, located in front of Hanford's store" (the current location of the Native Sons of the Golden West hall and flag pole midtown in the current historic business district).



This photo above shows the Wildman house (destroyed in early 1860's by fire) in the location of the first "Liberty Pole" used as the center marker of the 1854 Township.



This is a copy of the original hand drawn (obviously not to scale) map of Sutter Creek submitted as part of the 1854 Township incorporation document. For reference, note that the Liberty Pole was located in the center of the current historic

business district approximately in front of the current Native Sons of the Golden West Hall on Main Street. It looks like you can see Church Street, Eureka Street, and Keyes Street. Also note “Spanish Town” on the west side of town. Take a look, see what you can identify.

In 1856 the State revised the standards for the incorporation of towns. The Town had to be reincorporated in 1870 in order to comply with the new standards. Eventually the Town was incorporated into a city in 1914.

The early Sutter Creek business district consisted of a series of wooden or wood and canvas buildings which were easy and fast to build but unfortunately also easy and fast to burn.



Like most early mining settlements, Sutter Creek fell victim to a series of devastating fires.

**Sutter Creek Fires** - Sutter Creek had more than its share of fires with portions of the main town area burning down in 1862, 1865, 1868, 1870, 1875, 1877(x2), 1881, and 1888. This last major fire of 1888 wiped almost out all of the east side of Main Street from the creek, north to the top of Humbug Hill, where the Native Sons Hall stands today; and most of the west side of the street from Spanish Street to Keyes.

After rebuilding the town several times, the local merchants turned to stone and brick walls and metal shutters for most of the business construction.



The current Sutter Creek Fire Department was established as the Sutter Creek Hook and Ladder Company in 1869. The first school operated from 1856 until destroyed by arson fire in 1870, and replaced by the current brick school opened in 1871.



The first high school was opened in 1911, due to the efforts of the Sutter Creek Women's Club.



Now over 150 years later, Sutter Creek remains a vital community dedicated to preserving and celebrating its unique place in the early California history.





# SHRIMP FEED



Saturday,  
June 17, 2023

5-9 pm

NSGW Hall  
56 Main Street  
Sutter Creek

ALL YOU CAN EAT shrimp, pasta, salad, and bread.

Dessert auction, raffle, no-host bar.

Tickets \$45, available only at [SCCBF.ORG](http://SCCBF.ORG)

to benefit: Sutter Creek Community Benefit Foundation  
sponsored by: Native Sons of the Golden West #17

For more info, please email: [info@sccbf.org](mailto:info@sccbf.org)

All proceeds go toward the restoration and preservation  
of the Historic Sutter Creek Grammar School.



CLICK HERE FOR  
**TICKETS**

[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](mailto: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](mailto: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 donation 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.*

**SCCBF is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) - Tax ID #87-1825043**

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](mailto:info@sccbf.org) in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!