



Living History Student Activity

Create Your Own Pioneer Family

While Bernhard Bernhard and his family operated their farm, Placer County was changing dramatically from the days of the initial Gold Rush. New industries were flourishing, families were settling in and growing, and systems of law and order, religion, and education were becoming formalized.

Pretend you are in Auburn in 1889. Using one of your own ancestors, or the information sheet at the end of this packet, make your own family story by answering the questions below.

What is my name, and who are the members of my immediate family?

How did I, or my family, come to California?

Overland Route

The greatest number of emigrants came overland by foot, wagon, stage, or horseback on the California Trail. The journey took emigrants across the northern Plains, over the Rocky Mountains, through the Great Basin, and finally over the Sierra Nevada Mountains into California. Miners risked sickness and accidents over their 2,000 mile journey to reach the gold fields.

Isthmus of Panama

By 1850, the fastest and most popular sea route consisted of three parts: a steamship from New York to Chagres; overland across the Isthmus; and a steamship from Panama City to San Francisco. Over 6,000 miles and 33 to 35 days, travelers faced malaria, yellow-fever, and highway robbers.

Cape Horn

The journey around Cape Horn was the easier and most widely used of the three sea routes to California in 1849. Most 49ers had never been on water before and diaries reported that many were seasick for the first week or longer. People traveling this route spent four to eight months on the 20,000 mile trip.



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Why did my family or I come to California?

Aside from gold fever, families moved to California for the healthy climate, a new start, the opportunity to acquire land, or to rejoin family who had already moved West.

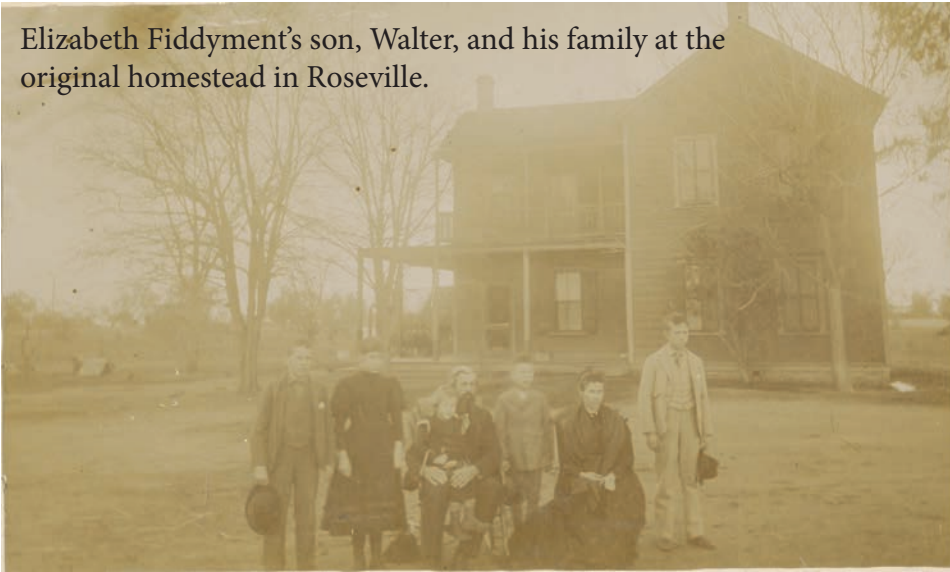
What is my, or my family's occupation?

While mostly men came to mine for gold in the 1850s, by 1880 Placer County had developed an economy including agriculture, commerce, and transportation.

Draw the tools you might need for your job.

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Elizabeth Fiddymment's son, Walter, and his family at the original homestead in Roseville.



Elizabeth Fiddymment came to California after her husband died in 1852. With her infant son Walter, Elizabeth boarded a steamer in New York and started for California. She crossed the Isthmus of Panama by boat, foot, and mule, and made it to San Francisco.

She bought land and raised cattle, and donated part of her land for a school and served as a teacher in Roseville.

Draw a picture of what your house and family might look like in 1889.

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Regional Family Names	Common Occupations in Placer County, 1870s-1880s		
Auburn Bernhard Bell Tuttle Robie Lardner Barkhaus Birdsall Cassidy Loomis Loomis Webb Bradley Hyatt Brennan King Newcastle Kellogg Boggs Madden Perkins Wardlow Wilson Rocklin Griffith Whitney Hawes Levison, Trott Bickford Ruhkala Roseville Astill Schellhous Duncan Hill Pratt Branstetter	Attorney Apothecary Baker Banker Barber and Hairdresser Blacksmith Boot and Shoemaker Butcher Carpenter Clergyman County Officer -District Attorney -Sheriff -Surveyor -Treasurer Dentist Dry Goods & Clothing	Store Express Agent (Wells Fargo) Farmer Granite Quarry Worker Grocer/Merchant Gunsmith Harness and Saddle Shop Hotel or Saloon Keeper Laborer Lawyer Livery Stable Owner Milliner Millwright Miner Plaster and Masonry Photographer	Physician Post Office Agent Railroad Fireman Railroad Brakeman Rancher Tailor/Dressmaker Sawyer (lumber mill) Sheriff School Teacher Sewer Pipe Manufacturer Stage Coach Driver Telegraph Operator Teamster Tinsmith Watch and Jewelry Maker Wagon Maker Vintner
Period Clothes			
<p>Clothing in the 1880's had developed beyond the "pioneer or prairie dress." Most women sewed their own clothing at home using paper patterns available at the local mercantile store for a few cents. They followed fashion trends carefully. Both one-piece dresses and separate bodice and skirts were appropriate wear. Women wore a corset under their outfits. During this time hats began to replace the bonnet. In the 1870's, hats were small, richly decorated and worn on the back of the head. Shoes were high heeled and round toed.</p> <p>Men's clothing changed little over time. In public they wore a frock coat cut away over the hips and buttoning high over the chest, or a double-breasted overcoat. Work clothes consisted of button-up pants with suspenders or a belt, and a loose fitting shirt with gathered sleeves. Men wore vests, rimmed hats and high leather boots.</p>			
The 19th Century Home			
<p>The home was different in the 1800s, and life changed dramatically from 1800 to 1899. For the middle-class worker or farmer in the 1880s, a family could expect to have gas lighting, no electricity. Fireplaces and wood cooking stoves would provide warmth and heating, while windows and shades offered cooling in the summer. Indoor plumbing was uncommon. Most likely, the family would have an outhouse and chamber pot for their toilet and a tin wash tub for bathing. All water would need to be heated on the stove.</p> <p>Many chores that now use electricity were done by hand. Laundry, baking, and cleaning, were time intensive and took hours of hard labor.</p>			

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Placer County Timeline - 1870s-1880s

1870	1871	1872	1873	1874	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879
Placer Herald prints anti-Chinese editorial. Flour mill established at Sheridan.		J.P. Whitney acquires sole interest in Spring Valley Ranch.	Placer Herald article deplors the condition of the local <u>Indians</u> . Placer Weekly Argus runs article on the fact that Central Pacific RR continues to refuse to pay their <u>state taxes</u> . Auburn to Forest Hill Turnpike organized.	Griffith <u>Griffith</u> erects the first commercial granite polishing <u>mill in state</u> . B. Bernhard builds his winery in Auburn.	Gladding <u>McBean</u> Company formed to mine clay in <u>Lincoln</u> . Massive flooding from hydraulic mining inundates Marysville & <u>Yuba City</u> . Colfax to Forest Hill Turnpike organized.	Chinese forced out of <u>Rocklin</u> . Largest Placer County nugget found at the Polar Star claim in <u>Dutch Flat</u> . Commercial fruit dryers used in Auburn and <u>Ophir</u> . 1,000,000 lbs. of fruit shipped from <u>Newcastle</u> . Nevada Narrow Gauge Railroad completed from Nevada City to Colfax.	Gold Run Mining District yields \$6,425,000 between 1865 and 1877.	American River Dredging Co. <u>formed</u> . Newcastle Fruit Growers' Shipping & Preserving Association formed.	The City of Marysville vs. The North Bloomfield Mining Company <u>lawsuit filed</u> . Newcastle association ships approximately one carload of fruit per day.

1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889
Census reports Placer County population at 14,226 with 7,124 white males, 4,923 white females, 1,843 Chinese, 235 "colored" and 100 Indians.	Judge Keyser issues injunction against hydraulic mining companies as part of Marysville vs. North Bloomfield Mining <u>Company</u> . The People vs. Gold Run Ditch & Mining Co. <u>lawsuit filed</u> . Wells Fargo & Co. shipped \$434,634.65 in gold dust, coin and currency through the Auburn office.		<u>Sierra Normal School opens</u> .	Judge Sawyer judged against the mining companies (Sawyer <u>Decision</u>). New stage road from Colfax to Forest Hill. Toll road proprietors of road between Auburn and Forest Hill reduced tolls 40%. <u>Sierra Normal School holds first graduation</u> .	Voters reject \$40,000 bond to pay off county's <u>indebtedness</u> . California Lime Co. in Clipper Gap begins operation.	Placer County wins second place in Sacramento Citrus Fair.	Legislature passes the Wright Act, allowing the formation of water <u>districts</u> . Water Convention held in Auburn in May with local farmers <u>represented</u> . Placer County Board of Trade organized with J.P. Whitney as <u>Chairman</u> . Placer County Bank organized.	City of Auburn incorporates for second <u>time</u> . California Electric Co. prepares to build electric <u>plant</u> . Auburn gets daily mail <u>service</u> . Refrigerator cars first used in this <u>area</u> . Placer County Citrus Colony organized.	Placer Agricultural Society <u>organized</u> and first District Agricultural Fair held. Bell Electric Co. organized.

COLOR KEY: Government/Political Mining Agriculture Railroad Roads Social/Cultural Events

