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MARSHALL'S BLACKSMITH SHOP

EL DORADO COUNTY

Registered Landmark #319

by

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MARSHALL'S BLACKSMITH SHOP

The blacksmith shop of James W. Marshall still stands in Kelsey, El Dorado County. It has been restored and carefully preserved, within the walls of a small fire-proof building, constructed by the State of California in June 1921. A pioneer museum, containing more than three thousand relics of gold-rush days, has been installed in this building. The memory of Marshall, the discoverer of gold in California, whose find precipitated one of the great mass movements in history is perpetuated by this museum.

There are in the museum numerous books of the pioneers such as worn Bibles, antiquated compendiums, family albums, primers and copy-books of Wilson's and McGuffey's day, copies of Godey's Ladies' Book, Leslies' Magazine and an aged volume of the Greek Trilogy. Old prints, pictures made of brushed wool and hair, a worn writing desk, a melodeon and the first organ used in the Placerville school are some of the many items, depicting the cultural background of the pioneers.

The collection has many relics, which emphasize various phases of the life of Marshall. The handmade compasses, with which he measured the timber of Sutter's mill and other buildings are there. Marshall's blacksmith shop

has been reconstructed with forge and anvil, the thimble-skein uprights, which supported the bellows just as placed by him in 1872. The shop, having historical significance worthy of preservation and record, has been registered as State Landmark Number 319.

From this shop Marshall wrought as a carpenter as well as a smith. This blacksmith shop and collection has been called a cross section of the social, industrial, political and spiritual life of the pioneers of the fifties and sixties - a graphic picture of the manners and customs, the thoughts and aspirations, of actual people who lived in the community. Back of the museum are the tunnels of Marshall's old Gray Eagle Mine, which extend some two hundred feet into the hillside.[1]

This museum is reached by a well-paved highway from Placerville or Auburn. The most direct route from San Francisco is to Sacramento by way of Highway #40, thence to Placerville via Highway #50, then six miles north off this highway to Kelsey. A circle of the region may be made by continuing on to Auburn by way of Georgetown. From Auburn one returns to Sacramento via Roseville and Highway #99.

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1. State Department of Natural Resources and the State Park Commission in Coöperation With the California State Chamber of Commerce, Report No. 24, July 12, 1939.

The road in this area traverses deep valleys, lofty timbered mountain ranges and pine-studded mountain meadows, profuse with wild flowers. Groves of pines in red soil present a striking picture to the tourist. The museum and blacksmith shop is another fitting tribute to the memory of a man, whose significance in the history of California and the United States, was far more appreciated in death than in life.

James Wilson Marshall, was born in New Jersey, in 1810 or 1812. He came to California by way of Oregon, after some months in Indiana and Illinois, and a six year residence in Kansas. Malarial fever and ague and the doctor's statement that he could not expect more than two years of life, caused him to leave Kansas with an emigrant train. After a winter in the Upper Willamette River Valley in Oregon, Marshall left for California. In July 1845, he was hired by Captain Sutter at New Helvetia, as a mechanic and carpenter.[2]

A grant of land, on Butte Creek, was obtained by Marshall, which he farmed. In June 1846, he volunteered for service, in the war with Mexico, and was stationed at Los Angeles.

After the war Marshall returned to New Helvetia, where he resumed his old job under Sutter in May 1847. Sutter had been looking for a suitable site for a sawmill,

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2. H. H. Bancroft, History of California, IV, 572,574.

for several months before the return of Marshall. Sutter requested Marshall, to continue the search, and the latter set out accompanied by an Indian guide and two white men, Treador and Graves. Later they were joined by a certain Gingery, who had been exploring with the same purpose along the Consumnes River. This group went up Weber Creek to its head and continued on to the American River, where they discovered the site of Coloma. It was decided, that this was the best site, because of the adequate water power and timber readily available, and the possibility of a roadway to Sutter's Fort.[3]

The site was approved by Sutter, and an agreement was drawn up by John Bidwell, and signed by Sutter and Marshall on August 27, 1847. This contract provided that Sutter was to furnish building materials, all supplies and board, and pay the men employed on the job, while Marshall was to build and manage the mill, receiving one quarter of the lumber as compensation for his supervision.[4] A verbal understanding was made between the two parties, that if it should be finally determined, in the treaty of peace, that California would remain under the authority of Mexico, Sutter as a citizen of that republic should own the mill site, and

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3. Bancroft, History of California, VI, 27-29.
4. Julian Dana, Sutter of California, 272.

Marshall should retain his rights to operate the mill and to cut timber. But if the country were ceded to the United States, Marshall as an American citizen would hold title to the property.

Bidwell warned Sutter against this enterprise. He considered the location selected by Marshall as utterly unsuitable. He remarks:[5]

> 'It is hard to conceive how any sane man could have selected such a site for a sawmill under the circumstances. Surely no other man than Marshall ever entertained so wild a scheme as that of rafting sawed lumber down the cañons of the American River, and no other man than Sutter would have been so confiding and credulous as to patronize him.' However, Bidwell's opinion and others, who choose to refer to this venture as 'another of Sutter's follies,' did not stop the fulfillment of the plan.

Three days after the agreement was signed Marshall and party left for the site. Here they built three log cabins, and gradually a mill of timber and stone was constructed. A dam was raised across the South Fork of the American River, which held though severely threatened by floods. The construction of a tailrace was an important problem. A dry channel some fifty rods long was deepened and widened. At the upper end blasting was necessary, in other places the dirt was

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5. J. P. Zollinger, Sutter the Man and His Empire, 227.

loosened and the larger stones were removed. Water was then run through the sluice gate to wash out the debris during the night.[6]

Marshall and Peter Wimmer, a wheelwright, supervised the Indians digging in the tailrace; the Virginian Mormon, Henry W. Bigler, usually drilled at its head. Charles Bennett and William Scott, who it is asserted would "swear off" liquor for murdering a man, in that year worked at the bench. Alec Stephens and Jim Barger hewed lumber; Azariah Smith and Bill Johnson felled trees; while Jim Brown profanely whipsawed with an Indian. This was the division of labor as the mill neared completion.

It was Marshall's habit at dawn to inspect the channel and shut off the water, which had been allowed to run through the race all night. At dawn, on Monday, January 24, 1848, he sauntered down as usual and after shutting off the water, stepped into the race at the lower end where on a rock some six inches beneath the surface, he observed gleaming particles. Stooping down he began to gather up some of the particles. Then he called an Indian and impatiently ordered him to go to the cabin and get a tin plate. When the man returned, Marshall washed out some of the dirt, separating about a half ounce of the yellow particles.

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6. Bancroft, History of California, VI, 29-31.

Further examination ended as the day's work began, though Marshall pondered over the subject.[7]

"Boys," he remarked that evening, "I believe I've found a gold mine."

"I reckon not" was the answer. "No such luck."

Marshall shrugged and said nothing more. The next morning he arose at the usual hour and following his customary procedure walked down by the race to see the effects of the last night's sluicing, after having closed the headgate and shut out the turbid current.

Alert for further evidence of the gleaming particles, Marshall reached the end of the race where bending down beneath the water, he picked up a larger piece of the substance than he had yet seen, a golden flake that lay against a protection of soft granite. It glittered in his palm "like a tiny flame in the slanting rays of the new sun."[8]

Marshall was undecided as to whether it was really gold, or just mica or fool's gold. He knew that gold was heavy and malleable. He weighed it in either hand; then bit it and hammered the stuff between two stones. He concluded that it was gold beyond a doubt. In a half hour he had

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7. J. W. Marshall, "The Discovery of Gold in California," Hutchings' California Magazine, II:5, 200-201. November 1857.
8. Dana, Sutter of California, 296.

collected about three ounces of flakes and tiny gold grain. The men working at the mill discounted his discovery. To them it was just another of Marshall's peculiar notions.

Two days later, Marshall left for Sutter's Fort with the intention of having his find further tested and thereby silencing the doubts of the most skeptical. The men were instructed to keep his discovery secret.[9]

After a fifty mile ride on horseback through a slashing rainstorm, Marshall entered Sutter's office, dripping with water and bespattered with red mud. Excitedly he asked Sutter to see him alone at once. Sutter led him from his office to his private rooms. Sutter's Diary records the episode thus:[10]

> 'Is the door locked?' said Marshall.
> 'No,' I answered, 'but I will lock it if you wish.' He was a singularly queer fellow and I only supposed he took this way of telling me some secret.
> 'Then he said distinctly: 'Are we alone?'
> 'Surely,' I answered.
> 'I want two bowls of water,' he demanded abruptly.
> I rang the bell for a servant. It chanced that I used six different signals for certain clerks and servants. The bowls of water were brought, the door relocked.

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9. Bancroft, History of California, VI, 34.
10. Dana, Sutter of California, 298-299.

'Now I want a stick of redwood,' ordered Marshall, 'and some twine and some sheet copper.'

'What do you want of all these things, Marshall?' I cried impatiently. 'Come to your message, man!'

'I want to make some scales,' he replied.

'But I have scales enough in the apothecary shop,' I told him curtly. 'I need no more scales.'

'I did not think of that,' said he sullenly.

Shrugging, and thinking to humor him, I went myself and fetched the scales. On my return I failed to lock the door. Then Marshall dug feverishly into his pantaloon pockets and pulled forth a white cotton rag which had something rolled up in it.

Just as he was unfolding it to show me the contents, the door was opened by a clerk who was merely passing through on some business and was not aware we were in the room at all.

'There!' screamed Marshall, 'did I not tell you we had listeners!' Quickly he thrust the rag back into his pocket.

I appeased him, my curiosity aroused. Ordering the surprised clerk to retire, I locked the door.

Then he drew out the dripping rag again. Opening the cloth carefully, he held it before me in his hand. It contained what might have been an ounce and a half of gold dust, flakes and grains. The biggest piece was not as large as a pea and varied from that down to less than a pinhead in size.

'I believe it is gold!' whispered Marshall, his eyes wild and restless. 'But the people at the mill laughed at me - said I was crazy!'

I examined his find closely.

'Yes, it looks like gold,' I admitted slowly. 'Come let us test it....'

Aqua fortis was first applied to the specimen and it stood the test. Then three dollars in silver coin were put into one of the scales, and balanced by gold dust in the other. The gold dust went down and the silver coin up when both were immersed in water. An article on gold in the American Encyclopaedia was then carefully studied and after this all doubts vanished.[11]

Marshall suggested to Sutter, that he return to Coloma with him that night, but the latter demurred stating that he would go the next day. Though it was suppertime, Marshall declined Sutter's invitation to rest until morning without even waiting to eat rode off into the rain and darkness.

The next morning accompanied by an Indian soldier and a cowboy, Sutter set out for Coloma. En route on the trail there, Sutter saw an object moving in the bushes at one side. "What is that?" asked Sutter of his attendant. "The man who was with you yesterday," was the response. "Have you been here all night," asked Sutter of Marshall. "No," Marshall replied. "I slept at the mill and came back to meet you."

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11. Bancroft, History of California, VI, 38.

Riding along with Sutter, Marshall asserted that the whole country was rich in gold. At the mill, Sutter took up his quarters at a house, Marshall had lately built for himself.

During the night, the water as usual had run in the millrace, and in the morning it was shut off. Sutter and the rest then proceeded down the channel, and jumping into it at various points began to gather gold. With the assistence of the men, Sutter obtained enough gold for a ring weighing an ounce and a half. Further examination, up the river, disclosed gold all along the course and in the tributary ravines and creeks.

An attempt, at the impossible, was made when Sutter requested the workmen at the mill, to promise to continue at their jobs and say nothing of the gold discovery, for six weeks. The men willingly promised, but a secret of this nature was one, that could hardly be suppressed, for any length of time.[12]

The men continued working at the mill, and limited their mining of a little gold to off hours. Sutter returned to his fort with the secret, and one of his first actions, was to attempt to obtain title to the land, from

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12. Bancroft, History of California, VI, 40-41.

the American military governor at Monterey. Charles Bennett, one of those under Marshall, at the mill, was selected by Sutter to go to Monterey and endeavor to have his title to the land at Coloma recognized as valid, by the governor. Bennett was told to say nothing about the discovery of gold, but to obtain the land with mill, pasture and mineral privileges. The reason for the latter was because of the reputed appearance of silver and lead in the desired area.

Bennett kept the secret until he reached Benicia. He carried six ounces of gold in a buckskin bag and while in a store there heard the remark, that coal had been discovered near Mt. Diablo. "Coal" was his response, "Hell! I have something here which will beat coal, and make this the greatest country in the world! Gold!" Then he brought out his bag and showed its contents to those in the store.

Governor Mason, at Monterey, was unable to act on Bennett's request. It was his view, that California, in the absence of news of a treaty of peace, was still under the authority of Mexico. A survey was likewise necessary before United States law could be applied. Bennett returned to Sutter's Fort not hesitating to show his treasure to others along the way. This incident and others of a similar nature made Marshall's find public information, and contributed to the awakening of a gold fever which brought a torrent of humanity to California.

The mill was completed in March 1848, under Marshall's direction, but by summer of the same year it had proved unprofitable. The market for lumber had vanished due to the migration of people to the diggings. Sutter and Marshall, with the aid of the Indians at the mill, had taken out a moderate quantity of gold, which was of little benefit to either.

Marshall's discovery made him a marked man. The miners concluded, that as he was the discoverer of gold in the first instance, he must know the location of all the rich diggings. Marshall came to be regarded as a sort of malignant wizard, who held the key to all the treasures of California, but would not unlock them. When he went out of town crowds followed him upon the presumption, that he was about to visit some of his secret diggings. He was watched when he remained at home, as closely as though he had been a criminal out on bail. Wherever he went, he was pestered with questioners, who did not hesitate to threaten him, if he did not reveal the secrets, they supposed him to be in possession of; persons considered themselves insulted, because he could not tell them what he did not know.

Denials from Marshall, that he knew no more where the gold was than they did themselves, only increased the suspicions of the questioners. On one occasion, a whole mining camp attempted to lynch him. A crazy mob, either

drunk on bad whiskey or because of exhausted patience, started after him with the intention of escorting him out of town and hanging him to a tree, if he did not tell them at once, where the gold was located. A John Winters, hearing of Marshall's danger took measures to engage the attention of the miners, while Marshall ran for a thicket near the roadside, where a horse awaited him. It was six months, before he dared return to his home in Coloma. He found his possessions scattered, his lands occupied by men, who scoffed at his claims. Worst of all, he was still regarded with suspicion.[13]

Marshall became a lone prospector. What usually occurred, when he was recognized by other miners, is shown in the following typical episode:[14]

> Imagine a gulch or ravine in the mountains, its sides scarped and cut away and laid bare here and there, by the miners. A stream, yellow as orchre, glides through the cañon, and groups of men are busy digging and washing dirt and arranging flumes and sluice-boxes. A solitary figure, bent and worn, less with years than anxiety, but yet showing a broad-shouldered, robust and athletic frame, approaches one of the groups of miners near the head of the cañon, and after examing the ground with a practical eye, inquires if a certain spot(pointing

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13. G. F. Parsons, The Life and Adventures of James W. Marshall, 81-82.
14. Ibid., 87-88.

> it out) is taken up. The man addressed replies, scarcely raising his head, in the negative. The stranger then asks if he can borrow a sluice-box from the company; and succeeding in this, he repairs to the owner of the water power and arranges for so many inches of water, to be supplied, perhaps, for a couple of days on credit, and paid out of whatever the claim may contain. This being done, he goes quietly to work in his. He has been there but a few hours when some one passing by stops to watch him, and as he rises up to rest his back or wipe the sweat from his brow, recognizes him, and at once says to himself, 'Hullo! there's that Jim Marshall again! he's struck it sure this time!' and off he goes. In an hour or two, twenty or thirty eager men enter the cañon, and at once proceed to take up every foot of ground around Marshall's location, coolly driving him off, with threats and curses.

Experiences of this nature did not sour or embitter Marshall. He still retained a substantial measure of faith in human nature.

One day in the summer of 1849, while going along a trail between the Middle and South Forks of the Yuba, Marshall came upon a man lying by the wayside, apparently very sick. He stopped and after having given the man some refreshment learned that his name was Jack Abbott, and that he had been out prospecting with several others who, when he was taken ill, had gone off and left him to die. Marshall set Abbott on his horse and led him to his camp, where he applied various remedies derived from his knowledge of Indian medicines. During the convalescence of his patient it was

learned that he belonged to a good family, in New York, and that his friends were wealthy. He was considered of an erratic and rather wild nature, and his people had sent him, to California, in the hope that rough experience would steady him down.

Abbott was permitted to go for a short ride on his benefactor's horse everyday, as his strength returned. When his health appeared to be nearly restored, Marshall told him, that now he was so well, he must do a little light work on the morrow. Abbott gladly consented, and mounting the horse, trotted off never to be seen again by Marshall. This was a cruel blow at Marshall's belief in human nature. It is considered, that he felt this incident more than the persecution of the miners or outrages of the squatters. However, there was the slight possibility, that he was mistaken in his judgment of the situation. Some time later, Marshall was in San Francisco and met one of Abbott's friends, who after hearing the story of his disappearance, was of the opinion that Jack must have fallen a victim to some accident. This view was strengthened by the statement, that several months after Abbott was last seen, the skeleton of a man and a horse had been found in a dense wood not far from where Marshall's camp had been. Marshall listened to this story with incredulity believing, that it was invented

to save the reputation of Abbott.[15]

In the summer of 1850, Marshall was working at diggings in Antoine Canyon, near the head of the North Branch of the Middle Fork of the American River, when a party of men from Ohio arrived with a large quantity of gold, which they said they had taken from a creek in the neighborhood. They refused to disclose the exact location of their find. This information led to the organization of numerous groups, in the search for what came to be known as the "Ohio Diggings."

Five or six parties started out each taking a different route. After a short time two or three of the expeditions returned, weary with climbing rocky trails and forcing their way through heavy brush; the others continued the search, but found nothing, that even remotely resembled their objective. Marshall was persuaded to join a new party. They spent several weeks in the mountains and systematically searched the area until their supplies were exhausted. On their return to camp they came upon an old Indian trail, which led them by a sharp turn around a jutting rocky bluff upon a little level opening, surrounded so densely by trees as to darken the place to a dim twilight.

Marshall was riding ahead, and as he rode into this little dell it seemed a good place to camp. Looking

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15. Parsons, The Life and Adventures of James W. Marshall, 89-91.

about him he was startled to see a number of skeletons. There was the skeleton of a horse and mule, the back of one still bearing a Spanish saddle, and a packsaddle on the other. Nearby was a human skeleton, which he decided was a Spaniard, from the fact, that the remains of a pair of pantaloons with leather strips down the legs, were still on the body. Marshall detected evidence of murder from a small round hole in the skull. The rest of the party had entered the dell, by this time and a shout from one of them announced further discoveries. A second skeleton with evidence indicating death from a shot in the breast, was found. Still another skeleton was found; it was clear that this man had been struck down from behind, as he was in the act of leaping over a log, for when found one foot was caught on the log, and the body was doubled backward over it. The skeletons of four more horses were discovered. It was evident, that these men had been shot down, in the act of attending to their animals. The nature of the wounds and the indications of the occupations of the victims, were indisputable proof, that white men were responsible for the crime. The motive was gold.

Marshall after carefully examining the remains and surroundings of the dell, stepped in front of the group and raising his hand to secure their attention, waited until silence was obtained and then remarked: "Boys! we have struck the Ohio Diggings!"

This statement puzzled the party. They demanded to know its meaning. Marshall then explained, that three Spanish miners had struck a rich crevice on Vanfleet Creek, which adjoined and ran parallel with Antoine Creek. These men were in the habit of obtaining their supplies from a trader, a certain James Williams, who lived between the two creeks. When they began to accumulate a considerable amount of gold, they placed it in Williams' care. Eventually, there was seventy-five pounds of gold kept for them by this trader. Williams decided to move to another mining district, and sent word to the Spaniards, to come in and take away their gold. The partners accordingly came to the store and went away with the gold. There were several men, who loafed around the store, ever on the alert for information relative to new diggings or easy money. Some of these loafers were heard to say, that they would follow the Spaniards and discover their diggings. The partners probably had a half hour's start on their pursuers. On reaching the dell it is possible, that they determined to stay awhile and rest. While they were watering their animals the assassins must have crept up, hid in the heavy timber and opened fire. All but one apparently was killed by the first volley. This one made a rush for the shelter of the trees, but a bullet overtook him as he was in the act of leaping over a log, and he died in his tracks.

The horses and mules were killed by the murderers to prevent their straying to some camp, and being recognized, suggest a search for their owners. Nothing but gold was taken. The assassins had gone into Bird's Valley, and had accounted for their riches by the story of the secret diggings, which set a hundred men out all summer on prospecting expeditions. There is no record of the murderers ever having been apprehended.[16]

The miners on occasion could be as niggardly as the meanest miser. In the summer of 1850, Marshall was at Coloma in partnership with a certain Winters and Bayley, who kept a hotel near the mill. Some miners arrived in the area and located a claim, which proved very profitable. When one of these miners became ill, his comrades asked Marshall and Winters for accommodations for him. He was accordingly allowed to occupy an empty cabin which belonged to them. A doctor was obtained for him, but he grew worse and finally died. His comrades borrowed lumber and nails and had one of the mill hands make a coffin. Some of them dug a grave for the deceased and after burying the miner, sent a bill to Marshall and Winters charging them three ounces for digging the grave. The doctor then presented a bill for four hundred dollars, for services rendered to the deceased. After this claim was rejected Marshall --

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16. Parsons, The Life and Adventures of James W. Marshall, 94-101.

remarked to Winters "I'll bet an ounce that his board is charged to us too!"

This comment was found to be true, for the clerk at the hotel had been instructed to "charge it all to Marshall and Winters." Marshall and Winters paid this bill, but not the others. The fact that the so-called friends of the deceased had struck rich diggings, and were able to pay for the expenses of the illness and burial, and yet attempted to shift the cost upon two strangers; perhaps typifies a new record of meanness.[17]

Marshall was restless in his mining activities. If he were working one spot and making a good sum there, he would soon imagine that some other place was better. On one occasion, he and several partners were working a claim producing three hundred dollars a day. Marshall suddenly decided, that another spot would produce seven hundred and fifty dollars a day, so he abandoned the three hundred dollar a day claim in favor of the other, which produced a meager sum. When they returned to the former diggings, it was occupied by other miners.

Marshall after 1850 was a wandering prospector until 1857, when he returned to Coloma and with funds from

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17. Parsons, The Life and Adventures of James W. Marshall, 113-114.

odd jobs bought a few acres of land on a hillside. Here he planted a vineyard and constructed a small cabin.[18]

A young Englishman, George F. Parsons, wrote an official biography of Marshall in 1870. The main purpose of the book was to influence the Legislature of California, to grant Marshall a pension. It was considered, that Marshall was entitled to some reward for a discovery which had enriched the state. Marshall believed, that he should have been rewarded in the same way that the governments of New South Wales and Victoria had recognized Edward Hammond Hargraves, the discoverer of gold in Australia. Hargraves was given honorariums, by the government totalling over $75,000. Marshall epitomized his feelings by writing thus:[19]

> I owe the country nothing. The enterprising energy of which the orators and editors of California's early golden days boasted so much, as belonging to Yankeedom, was not national but individual. Of the profits derived from the enterprise, it stands thus -
>
> Yankeedom . . . . . $600,000,000.
> Myself individually.... 000,000,000
>
> Ask the records of the country for the reason why; they will answer - I need not. Were I an Englishman, and had made my discovery on English soil, the case would have been different.

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18. Bancroft, History of California, VI, 102.
19. Parsons, The Life and Adventures of James W. Marshall, xii.

A lecture tour was used as a means of selling this biography. This must have been an ordeal for Marshall, whose excessive timidity before an audience made speechmaking particularly difficult for him. The tour extended as far as Denver and several thousand dollars were derived from it. This enabled Marshall to visit his old home in Lambertville, New Jersey, where his mother and sisters were still living.

The Legislature acknowledged the validity of Marshall's claims in a measure, by enactment of a statute in 1872, granting him $200 a month for the next two years. In 1874, this grant was reduced to $100 a month and continued at that rate until 1878, when it was stopped.

In 1872 Marshall assembled his blacksmith shop at Kelsey. Marshall invested most of the money he received from the State, in the Gray Eagle Mine located about 200 feet from his blacksmith shop. The venture did not pay and ended when his grant was stopped. The member of the legislature from his own district opposed a continuance of this grant. When informed of this action Marshall replied, "I have asked for bread and they gave me stone."

A man, who knew Marshall at Kelsey, states that he was an eccentric sort of person. He often drank to excess, and when tipsy was a considerable bore. Sober, he talked little and read much. He was continually chewing tobacco,

and with the juice, was often guilty of deliberate rudeness.[20] Of Marshall's cooking an old Indian said, he did not like it, because it was "too dirty."

Another account of him presents the picture of a civic-minded citizen, who was "interested in school and school children, patronizing school benefit balls, and attending school exhibitions ... the first to applaud youthful efforts and always unstinted in his praise." He walked on Sundays "side by side with Rev. C. C. Pierce, to attend Gospel services at the old Kelsey schoolhouse, where that beloved Pioneer minister appeared every month."[21]

> ... benevolent, charitable to those in need; honest, so honest that dishonesty enraged him, courageously truthful; slightly embittered by remembered bitternesses; yet a man of sentiment, with an unforgettable regard for friends of the past, and an unmeasurable love for the neighbors among whom he lived and died.

As owner of the old Union Hotel in Kelsey, Marshall put up many an old prospector. When he had money, others were treated generously. If he had none, he had his thrice daily appetizer at Tom Allen's saloon with his friend, John Sipp.

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20. J. R. Smith, "Memories of Marshall," Grizzly Bear Magazine, IV:2, 4. December 1908.
21. Parsons, The Life and Adventures of James W. Marshall, 26. Mr. Parsons quotes Miss Margaret Kelley, custodian of the museum at Kelsey.

His work, at the blacksmith shop, formed the main basis of his existence at Kelsey. The course of this life, was not materially changed up to his sudden death on August 10, 1885. "Marshall arose in the middle of the night, went out of doors, returned in a few minutes, and laid down." His friend, Sipp, came in and found him lying on his back, dead, fully dressed, with his shoes unlaced, his hat tipped forward over his face, one foot resting on the floor and the other on the bed.[22]

Miners and neighbors took charge of the remains. Pioneers from Sacramento wanted to have him buried there, but his friends decided that he should be buried at Coloma, in accordance with his wishes, on the hill overlooking the place, where he had made his great discovery January 24, 1848. A monument was constructed over his grave, by order of the Legislature at an expense of $9,000. It is an irony of history that like others who made great discoveries, it required the process of death, to transform Marshall from the status of ordinary man, to that of an important historical personality.

There seems little doubt, that as long as the memory and record of California's history exists, the

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22. Smith, "Memories of Marshall," Grizzly Bear Magazine, IV:2, 32. December 1908. Parsons, The Life and Adventures of James W. Marshall, 127-128.

names of John Sutter and James Marshall will loom large. Marshall's blacksmith shop is tangible evidence of his life, in Kelsey. The pioneer museum further emphasizes the civilization, which Marshall's find brought to a then distant frontier.

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