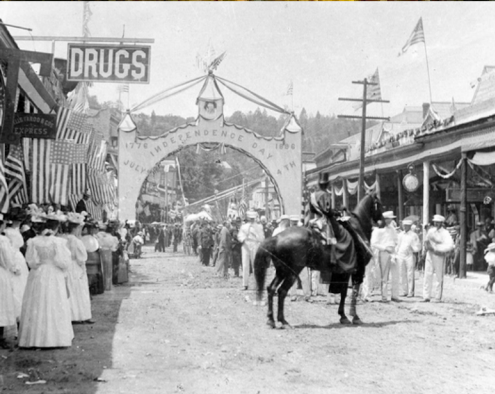


# Our History



**El Dorado County is a tapestry of rich history.**

Our County is the traditional homeland of the Nisenan, Maidu, Miwok, and Washoe tribes that lived in the foothills of the High Sierras and whose influence continues today.

**Our history has also been immortalized by the remnants, bounty, and legacy of the California Gold Rush.**

In 1839, a German-born Swiss businessman named Johann August Sutter founded a settlement at the confluence of the Sacramento and American Rivers after obtaining a land grant from the Mexican Governor. By the early 1840's, the first organized settlers began arriving. In 1846, Sutter contracted with James Marshall to establish a sawmill on the American River in Coloma to support the growing region. When flakes of gold were found in 1848, the world forever changed as the Gold Rush sparked the largest mass migration in United States history. When California became a state in 1850, El Dorado County was established as one of the original 27 counties. Known as the heart of the Mother Lode, our name, *"the Gilded One,"* reflects our affluent origins and golden past.