Placer County Mining Claim Records

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Placer County Archives
101 Maple Street
Auburn, California 95603
(530) 889-7789
http://www.placer.ca.gov/museum
2019
Descriptive Summary
Title: Placer County Mining Claim Records
Dates: 1850-1947
Collection Number: By Volume and by Box
Creator/Collector:
Extent: 30 Bound Volumes and 5 Boxes
Repository: Placer County Archives
Auburn, California 95603
Abstract: The Placer County Archives maintains a collection of official Placer County Records regarding the recording of ownership and location of mining claims in the County.
Language of Material: English
Access
The Collection is open for research by appointment. A separate index has been created for the earliest volumes A -C and is available at the Archives. Appointments are available on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays from 9-3.
Preferred Citation
Placer County Mining Claim Records. Placer County Archives
Biography/Administrative History
In the early years of the California Gold Rush there was a spectacular lack of organized governmental oversight in the area. Situated between the end of the Mexican-American War in 1848, the governance of California by the U. S. Military and the eventual statehood of California in September of 1850, the gold fields were beyond the reach of any established law. Miners very quickly recognized this lack and formed Mining Districts complete with Miner’s Codes. These codes regulated the size of claims in a particular area, how the claims were to be defined and other rights of the claim owner. Generally, Miner’s Codes declared that simply leaving work tools on the site of a claim was enough to show ownership. This method lasted until more and more men came into the gold regions. Conventions were called and when California was admitted as a state in 1850, counties and county governments were formed. Placer County was not one of the original twenty-seven counties in California, it was carved out of the counties of Sutter and Yuba in 1851. The records in this collection are representative of the earliest officially recorded legal claims of ownership for mining purposes in Placer County The irregularly shaped county landmass runs from the urban south Placer towns, through the Gold Country foothills region up into the Sierra Mountains around Lake Tahoe. The major waterway running through the county is the American River. This water way and the ravines were the first places gold was found. The name “Placer” comes from the Spanish word for sand or gravel in which gold is found. Gold mining was pivotal in the growth of Placer County.
Scope and Content of Collection
The Placer County Mining Claims Records Collection includes bound volumes and loose photocopied pages. The records contain the name of the claim, the name of the locator/owner (s) of the claim, the physical location of the claim, the date the claim was recorded, the name of the Attester/Recorder and occasionally a diagram of the location of the claim and occasionally the cost of a transaction.

Inventory of the Placer County Mining Claim Records