

California Gold Rush

Gender Roles and Gender Stereotypes

Gender Roles and Stereotypes

Gender Roles: a set of social and cultural beliefs or expectations about appropriate behavior for men/boys or women/girls

Gender Stereotypes: over-generalizations about the characteristics of an entire group based on gender

- What are some examples of gender roles or gender stereotypes that you can think of?
- Do you think gender roles and stereotypes today are different than they were in the past?

The Victorian Era

- **The Gold Rush** happened during a time known as the Victorian Era. This was a time of rapid change in the world, and it changed gender roles drastically.
- During the Victorian Era, women had very strict rules they were supposed to follow, and people had a lot of stereotypes of what it means to be a woman.



- During the Victorian Era, women were thought to be
 - fragile, weak, pure, emotional, sociable, kind
- Women were expected to
 - stay home, raise children, and look after housework.

Women were not even supposed to be in public without a chaperone.



California's Gold Rush: A Different Culture

- During the Gold Rush, California's population exploded. From 1848-1850 alone **the population grew by about 100,000 people.**
- More men were coming than women. Women during the Gold Rush had different gender roles, and more freedom than women in many other places.



MAP OF THE GOLD REGIONS OF CALIFORNIA.

Showing the Routes via Chagres and Panama, Cape Horn, &c.

IMPORTANT DIRECTIONS TO PERSONS EMIGRATING TO CALIFORNIA.

ROUTE VIA CHAGRES AND PANAMA.
The gold regions of California were known to have existed in their full extent as early as 1771, when the first discovery of gold was made in the State of California, since its discovery in 1848. It is probable that the first emigration of persons to California, for the purpose of settling, was in 1792, when Don Juan de Oñate, a Spanish settler, discovered the gold regions of California. The first emigration of persons to California, for the purpose of settling, was in 1792, when Don Juan de Oñate, a Spanish settler, discovered the gold regions of California. The first emigration of persons to California, for the purpose of settling, was in 1792, when Don Juan de Oñate, a Spanish settler, discovered the gold regions of California.

DESCRIPTION OF CALIFORNIA, OR THE NEW GOLD REGION.

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ROUTE BY CAPE HORN.

The Cape Horn route is the most direct route from the United States to California. It is the most direct route from the United States to California. It is the most direct route from the United States to California. It is the most direct route from the United States to California.

ANOTHER ROUTE.

This route is the most direct route from the United States to California. It is the most direct route from the United States to California. It is the most direct route from the United States to California. It is the most direct route from the United States to California.

Women at Work

- Because working on the frontier was tough, women had greater freedom than in many other places in the country.
- Women did not stay in their homes home, rather they went outside and were a part of society.





- Women helped pan for gold, ran hotels, opened restaurants, and some even worked in mines.

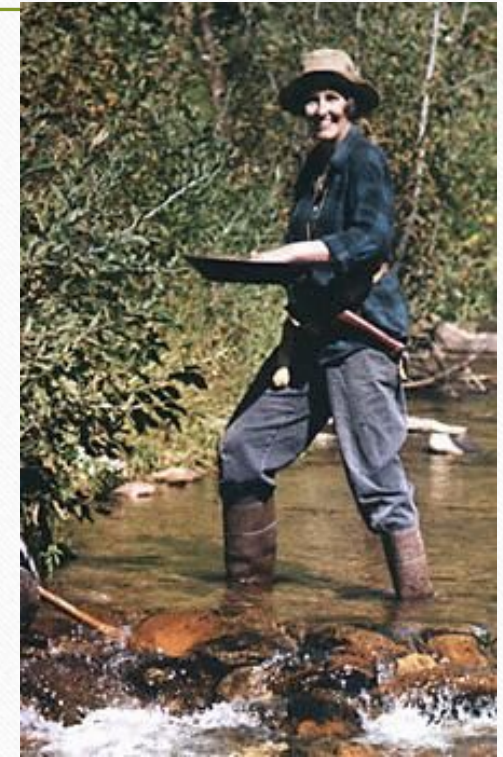
Still Not Equal

- Although women on the frontier had more freedom than women in the Northeast, they were still not equal to men.
- Although some women could work in the mines, it was not generally accepted.



Creating Opportunity

- Because women weren't given the same opportunities as men, some women dressed as men so they could get jobs they wouldn't normally get to do.
- One example was a French Woman, **Jeanne-Marie Suize**, who cut off her hair, and wore men's clothes so she could work in a gold mine.



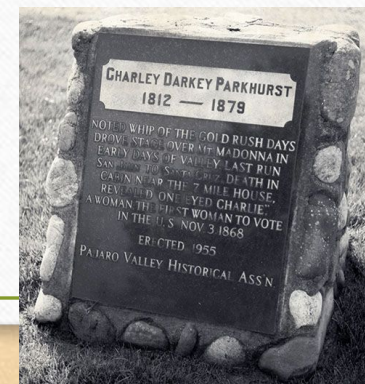
- Sometimes women wore men's clothes to pretend they were men, but some women wore men's clothes because pants were much easier to wear at work rather than the usual women's dress.

Charley Parkhurst



- The most famous person to do this was Charley Parkhurst.
- Charley was labeled “female” at birth in 1812 in Vermont, however he lived as a man most of his life. **Today, we might consider Charley a transgender man.**

- Charley wore men's clothes and when he moved to California he became one of the most well known stagecoach drivers in the country.
- No one found out that he had been assigned "female" at birth until he died and an autopsy was performed.



Sources

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