

Historic Research of the Mumford Bar Cabin

There several lines of research where historic places are concerned. These include: the location itself, if applicable the person(s) associated with the location, oral history, and the archaeology. This presentation will present the data as is currently understood.

Locational Research - comes in the form of historic maps, Government Land Office Notes, archival research, mining claims, water rights, articles of incorporation, local histories, etc.

The Person - can be researched through archival research e.g. birth and death records, probate records; where applicable mining claims, water rights appropriation records, corporate records (where applicable); census records; local histories; genealogy; newspaper accounts; and diaries and journals.

Often the search for the historic background of a given location or person can lead the researcher to local, state, and national archives and libraries. As well as county accessors records, collections, and museums.

Oral History - can often fill in important missing information not always contained in local histories, newspaper articles, or diaries and journals.

Archaeology - or the surface and subsurface investigation (using accepted professional standards) of a given location by looking at the remaining artifacts and features, can often substantiate, modify, or refute the historic record. Analysis of glass, nails, cans, and other associated artifacts can often provide important temporal frameworks. In this case studies of tree rings from cabin logs and nearby trees can substantiate or refute reported construction dates. This section will be discussed separately.

First, I will present the results of our research of the Mumford Bar location, then John Mumford as we know him, and lastly what we know through Oral History. As stated earlier the Archaeology of the Cabin will be discussed later.

How and when did Mumford Bar get it's name based on locational data? The Government Land Office Notes of **1874**, for Township 16, Range 12, Section 34, did not call the cabin or the trail. Map data provides the following insight: the **1902** Colfax Quadrangle shows Mumford Bar Trail, the cabin is NOT shown, but given the scale of the map this is not unexpected. Information for this map was originally compiled by H.H.Wilson and A.F.Dunnington in 1885-87. The **1911** Tahoe NF map shows the trail from Westville to the North Fork American River, Mumford Bar is NOT shown. **The 1913 Placer County Map by L.F. Warner Jr. of Auburn shows Mumford Bar with a square symbol indicating a structure.** The **1916** TNF Map shows a structure symbol at Mumford Bar. The **1919** TNF map revised in **1929** shows a structure being located at Mumford Bar.

Conclusions: Based on Map data we can definitely state that by **1913** there was a structure at Mumford Bar. Given the 1916 TNF map, it is logical to assume that the Forest Service knew of it's existence as early as 1916. Given the scale of the 1902 Colfax Quadrangle it is impossible to determine if Mumford Bar Cabin was not listed because it was not there or because the compilers weren't aware of it's existence. If they used the

GLO Notes of 1874 for their map basis, then it is understandable why no cabin was shown. We do NOT know how or when John Mumford's name was attached to the place known as Mumford Bar.

John Mumford - For Mr. Mumford there are two lines of inquiry: 1. We need to place him on the North Fork of the American River and at Mumford Bar. 2. We can trace his life and determine if and when he might have been at Mumford Bar.

1. The August 22, **1856** Sacramento Daily Union reports In story about mining activities at Iowa Hill (from Iowa Hill News) writer reports also on river claims, including those of Messrs. Mumford and Co. which had just got to work on river with good prospects in sights. The best link we have for Mr. Mumford being on the North Fork American River is provided by the Placer County Archives Assessor's Rolls for **1879-80**, Dist. 3, pg. 114 states, "Also a ranch and cabin in Township #8 Placer County situated on the South Fork of the North Fork American River about 1/2 mile below Bardwells Bay and known as Mumford Ranch." The **1876-7** Assessor's Rolls (pg. 9) only lists the ranch. The **1880** Assessor's Rolls, (pg. 57) lists only the ranch.

Conclusion: This does provide conclusive evidence that Mumford was on the North Fork American River, at least during **1876-1880**, it also indicates existence of a ranch and cabin. Which may substantiate a claim of an earlier cabin at Mumford Bar. Just where Bardwell's Bay is is unknown, definitely this is another avenue of research.

Mining Records are often vague and hard to decipher. The following records do not tie John Mumford with the American River, but tie the location with other mining activity.

From the Proof of Labor - Mining Claims Book H, Jan. 20, **1914**, Pg. 276 Laurence Chapman filed a claim for the King Solomon Mining and Power Company, known as the ... Mumford Bar #1 and Mumford Bar #2, no cabin is listed. From Book N, July 5, **1923** the Mumford Mining Claim - Canada Hill Mining Dist., a George Stroner did \$100 of assessment work and is described as such: cut in bank, repairs to cabin on claim, trail work and brushing out lines. From **1925-27**, George Stroner filed claims and claimed improvements similar to those in 1923. But in **1929** (Book O, pg. 234), Stroner and Swift also report "repair trails and **getting timbers for addition to cabin.**" In the years: 1930, 1931, 1933, 1934, 1935, and 1936; Stroner filed claims (the last two without Swift), and in most cases mentioned repairs to the cabin. In **1939** K.D. Robinson, filed the claim on the Mumford Placer Mining Claim and reported "repairing cabin".

Conclusions: It is obvious that a cabin was located in the vicinity of present day Mumford Bar. It is likely that the recently restored cabin, is the one in the same as mentioned above. In 1923 Stroner mentions repair of cabin, NOT construction of cabin, given this we can assume that the cabin existed prior to 1923. And that the addition (on the east wall), was added to the cabin in 1929 by Stroner and Swift.

2. John Mumford's life as traced through various documents and archival research. The San Francisco Ship Passenger Lists Vol. III of November 7, 1851 to June 17, 1852 indicates that a J.Mumford (pg 189) sailed from Panama aboard the ship Tennessee and arrived at SF on **May 10, 1852**. Reviews of Volumes I, II, and IV show no other

J.Mumfords. It is impossible to say if this was "the" John Mumford we seek, as he may have come across the plains, but given his unusual name, I would like to speculate that it is highly likely this is the correct Mumford.

The California Census of **1852** lists him as 26 and born in Ohio! On **April 7, 1856** he purchased a claim in vicinity of Yankee Jim's on Georgia Hill from William Duck (MORTGAGES, Book B, Placer CO. pg. 381 PLA ARCH). The California Census of **1860** he is not listed. The Placer County Directory of **1861** pg. 155 lists a John Mulferd, miner at Michigan Bluff, possible this is a misspelling of Mumford or he simply was not listed. Possible he was in the Civil War? The Great Register of Voters of Placer County (**1867**) lists him as John Munsford, age 48 born in Pennsylvania, miner and resident of Yankee Jim's. The BLM Claim Records for Sept. 15, **1867** notes the Armbuster Placer Mining Claim and lists John Mumford as one of the owners. The California Census of **1870** lists his birth place as Michigan! The Great Register of Voters for Placer County (1866-79), lists his age as 55, Place of Birth, Pennsylvania, Date of Reg. **October 1873**, residence Deadwood. McKenny's Directory of **1879-80**, lists him as miner and resident of Yankee Jim's. Census of **1880** gives his age as 60, marital status as single, and Pennsylvania - Native. The Assessment Role, Placer County, District No. 3, **1881** shows had a mining claim on Swindle Hill near Yankee Jim's, valued at \$100.00. The McKenney's Directory of **1884-85** lists him as miner and resident of Yankee Jim's. The Great Register of Voters of **1896**, gives his age as 77, POB Pennsylvania. The Placer Herald reported that on October 28, John Mumford checked into the County Hospital in Auburn suffering from cystitis (inflammation of the urinary bladder), he died the next day on **October 29, 1898**, at the age of 80 and was buried in Plot No. 736 at the Placer County Hospital Cemetery. Placer County Probate Records for Oct/Nov 1898 failed to mention any will or disposition of his property.

What else do we know about John Mumford? The Great Register of Voters for **1896** provides the following description: Age 77, Height 5'8", Complexion - light, Eyes - Hazel, Hair - Grey, No visible scars, Place of Birth - Pennsylvania, Address - Yankee Jim's, Able to Read and Write English and mark own ballot - YES.

Future Research: Pennsylvania Census Records of 1840 and 1850. Possible register of ships leaving East Coast Ports near Pennsylvania - might provide his departure date. Genealogical records through the LDS. Journals of individuals living on the Divide. Newspaper accounts on the Foresthill Divide. Possible interviews (Oral History) of individuals who might have known Mumford (most likely these would have to be from the 1950s or earlier).

Conclusions: John Mumford's maintained a residence or presence in and about Yankee Jim's from 1856-1898. He probably carried on most of his mining activities around Yankee Jim's, but moved around somewhat as well, since he was listed at Deadwood and Michigan Bluff as well.

Oral History - Currently, we have two oral interviews that provide some background data, unfortunately, there are enough irregularities and inconsistencies to preclude our using them. Clearly, additional research is needed, and additional studies to corroborate the oral histories we now possess.