



The (Secret) History  
of Gold Prospecting  
in the United States,

and the 38 states where gold  
has already been found!

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Award Winning, former U.S. Geological Survey Scientist,  
Engineer, and Published Technical Author

**The (Secret) History of Gold Prospecting in the United States, and the 38 States Where  
Gold Has Already Been Found!**

...Get an introduction to the truth about gold prospecting in the United States,

...The truth about the *EXTENSIVE* deposits of gold still waiting to be found by the educated,  
small-budget prospector, and

...the secret to finding your first gold nugget *FAST!*

By **Tim Rapp**

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**Find more gold prospecting information at the author's website: "[The Essential Introduction for New GOLD Prospectors.com](http://TheEssentialIntroductionforNewGOLDProspectors.com)"**

## DISCLAIMER

Gold prospecting is inherently a potentially dangerous activity in which all participants willingly engage in activities that could be viewed by some as risky. This is of course true of all outdoor activities that involve digging, lifting, hiking, using hand and powered tools, working in unfamiliar surroundings, activity near water bodies or wildlife, mines or mining activities, chemical processes, etc . The information in this eBook is provided "As is" without express or implied warranty. The information contained within this eBook is strictly for educational purposes. If you wish to apply ideas contained in this eBook, you are taking full responsibility for your actions. The author has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information within this book was correct at time of publication, but the author does not assume and hereby disclaims any liability to any party for any loss, damage, or disruption caused by errors or omissions, whether such errors or omissions result from accident, negligence, or any other cause. By accepting and using this publication and the information contained herein, the user agrees to relieve the author from any liability from the use of any information contained in this publication. The user also accepts any responsibility for any liability incurred by family members or guests incurred from the use of any information contained herein.

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## About the Author

The author is an award winning former U.S. Geological Survey Scientist, a published technical author ([Report 1](#), [Report 2](#), [Report 3](#), [Report 4](#)), and a degreed engineer with 13+ years of professional experience collecting geologic data, samples and reporting on natural resources for U.S. Federal agencies, Municipalities, and Private Industry. He has training and experience in the fields of Hydrology, Geology, Physics, Chemistry, Cartography, Numerical Modeling, and Petroleum, Chemical, Civil, Mechanical, and Industrial Engineering.

## Acknowledgements



*Figure 1. "The logo of the Gold Prospectors Association of America"<sup>1</sup>*

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Prospectors and suppliers of goods and services to the mining community whose contributions to the gold prospecting and mining industry were included in this comprehensive reference, and are referenced in the pages of this eBook and in Appendix A - Selected References.

## Introduction to USA Gold Facts



*Figure 2. A young prospector with a handful of wealth he collected while prospecting.*

The history of gold prospecting in the United States, and the massive gold resources still waiting to be found in the lower 48 states are not known by the overwhelming majority of American citizens.

Most Americans don't know that:

- Gold has already been found in over 75% of the United States - 38 of the 50 states!
- That the U.S. Geological Survey, the premier geologic science agency of the U.S. Government conservatively estimates that there are over 13,200 metric tons of gold still undiscovered in the lower 48 states.<sup>2</sup> That is worth more than \$514 Billion dollars at the 12/3/2014 New York closing price of \$1,209.60/ounce.
- The estimate of undiscovered gold in the lower 48 states is almost 3 times the estimate of undiscovered gold in Alaska. And yet most Americans don't even think of looking for gold in the lower 48 states!
- The U.S. Geological Survey says that 77.2+ million ounces of undiscovered gold is waiting to be collected east of the Rocky Mountains (worth approximately \$92.6 Billion).
- The U.S.G.S. says that 347.2+ million ounces of undiscovered gold is waiting to be collected west of the Rocky Mountains (worth approximately \$416.6Billion).
- One of the largest gold deposits in the western hemisphere with proven gold reserves of over 100 Million+ ounces (\$67.5+ Billion) was discovered as recently as the 1960's.
- A Gold mine in Wisconsin State produced \$2.0+ Billion worth of Gold, Silver, and Copper between 1993 and 1997.
- A Gold mine in South Carolina produced approximately 1.5 Million ounces of gold between 1988 and 1998.

This free eBook has been prepared to introduce the average American to a fact that they won't hear on the evening news: with a basic introduction to the right tools and the free scientific resources available online, any American can find that gold!

The collapse of the economy in 2007 took an enormous financial toll on families and individuals. Roughly [7 million+ Americans lost their homes due to foreclosure](#) by banks.<sup>3</sup> What if those people who lost their homes knew how to systematically locate gold in their region of the United States, and went out to find some of that gold to pay their bills? During the month of [March, 2008, gold](#) exceeded a London Fix Spot price of \$1,020/ounce and in [September of 2011 the price reached over \\$1,889/ounce](#). Just an ounce or two of gold could have paid the mortgage and all of the rest of the bills for that month. And for most Americans those ounces of gold are less than a few hours' drive away!

Do you think any of those 7 million+ Americans who lost their homes from 2007 to 2011 would have been willing to find those ounces of gold if they knew how to do it using the latest scientific tools and techniques?

Some basic gold facts: a piece of gold the size of a [standard sugar cube](#) weighs 3.06 Troy ounces, and would have been worth \$5,780 in September, 2011. A tiny gold nugget of one Troy ounce would have been worth \$1,889 during the same period! That same tiny one ounce nugget could have been sold to a jeweler for twice the market value of the gold itself.



*Figure 3. "The Carolina Gold Rush became one of the most successful industries in the 1800s"<sup>4</sup>*

The successful gold prospector needs a basic working knowledge of specific aspects of Geology, Physics, Chemistry, History, and Engineering. Modern gold prospecting is not what most people think it is. Did you know that the [first Gold Rush in U.S. history](#) happened in North Carolina in 1799? Or that one of the largest gold deposits in the western hemisphere, with proven gold reserves of over 100 million+ ounces (USD\$67.5 billion+) was only discovered as recently as the 1960's and [contains gold so fine that it can't be seen with the naked eye?](#)<sup>5</sup> Or that some very successful prospectors [mine for gold with vacuum cleaners](#)? **Or where gold has been found before, it is ALWAYS found again?** The more you know about gold prospecting's current state of the art, the faster you will see the massive opportunity for literally picking up wealth and financial security off of the ground!

A hundred and fifty years ago a gold prospector truly lived a life of adventure. In addition to a working knowledge of the previously listed disciplines, the successful prospector might have to defend himself from hostile natives and bandits, a sudden blizzard, or an attack by a wild animal. Grizzly bears, cougars, and rattle snakes were not just seen in zoos. And broken bones or even a tooth ache could mark the end of the trail for the old time prospector.

Modern prospecting is not as hazardous today, but the rewards can be considerably larger!

This free eBook's topics are generally ordered as follows:

- An introduction to the author of this free eBook.
- Acknowledgements to the contributors, scientific and otherwise, who have made this book possible.
- The (Secret) History of Gold Prospecting in the United States.
- States where gold has been found and documented.
- Why there has never been a better time to prospect for gold in the lower 48 states!
- Record breaking gold nuggets collected by modern prospectors in 1989, 1998, and 2014.
- Gold is often not found "gold" colored, and it pays (BIG!) to know how to identify gold when it is found combined with other minerals!
- Reasons why gold prospecting is easier now than at any time in our nation's history!

**NOTE:** Additional information about Gold Prospecting research, the latest gold prospecting news, recommended tools, and special offers on gold prospecting products and services can be found at: <http://www.theessentialintroductionfornewgoldprospectors.com/>

## Chapter 1 The (Secret) History of Gold Prospecting In the United States

Almost everyone knows what gold is, its common physical appearance, and how it is valued by society. And almost anyone growing up in the United States has heard of the California Gold Rush and the 49'ers who dashed to the West Coast to find their fortune.



*Figure 4. A replica of Sutter's Mill"<sup>6</sup>*

The [California Gold Rush](#) started at [Sutter's Mill](#), near [Coloma](#). On January 24, 1848 [James W. Marshall](#), a foreman working for [Sacramento](#) pioneer [John Sutter](#), found pieces of shiny metal in the [tailrace](#) of a lumber mill Marshall was building for Sutter, along the [American River](#). Marshall quietly brought what he found to Sutter, and the two of them privately tested the findings. The tests showed Marshall's particles to be gold. Rumors soon started to spread and were confirmed in March 1848 by San Francisco newspaper publisher and merchant [Samuel Brannan](#). With the news of gold, many families trying their luck at Californian farming decided to go for the gold, becoming some of California's first miners. On December 5, President James Polk confirmed the discovery of gold in an address to Congress. Soon, waves of immigrants from around the world, later called the "forty-niners," invaded the [Gold Country of California or "Mother Lode Country."](#)

**What most people don't know is that there have been at least 10 other major "Gold Rushes" in U.S. history!**

1. [North Carolina – 1799](#) (Figure 3)

2. [Georgia - 1828](#)
3. [Alabama 1830's](#) (in Chilton County along tributaries of Blue and Chestnut Creeks.)
4. [California - 1849](#) (the "Forty-Niners")
5. [Colorado - 1859](#) (the "Fifty-Niners")
6. [Minnesota - 1860](#) (Gold was discovered near Lake Vermilion),
7. [Nevada - 1860](#) (Aurora)
8. [Idaho & Montana - 1861-1866](#)
9. [Black Hills of South Dakota - 1874](#)
10. [Nome and Klondike, Alaska - 1899](#)

A common misconception is that after a “Gold Rush”, there is no more gold to be found.

It would be difficult to imagine an idea more flawed than this!

Because most of the gold is concealed beneath earth and rock, usually only a small percentage of the gold actually present in an area is ever found by the miners seeking it. There is one indomitable truth of gold prospecting: **“Where Gold has been found before, it is ALWAYS found again!”**

There are many examples of this presented in [“The Essential Introduction for New Gold Prospectors, Second Edition”](#) available through the [author’s website](#), but here is a classic example:



*Figure 5. Swauk Creek, Washington State<sup>7</sup>*

**A 51 Year Search for the Mother Lode**

**George Jordin moved into the [Swauk-Liberty region \(Washington State\)](#) in 1895,** accompanied by six grandsons. George initially tried his hand at placer mining, but theorized that the coarse gold in the creeks had originated from lode veins close at hand. He realized that the compressed gold recovered from Swauk Creek (Figure 5), Williams, and other streams in the area was simply mashed lode gold. He and several others set out to locate the motherlode, the source of all the placer gold.

The initial lode discoveries had been made in 1887 when Thomas Tweed and William Johnson happened across a rich pocket of gold bearing quartz. These miners built an arrastra (a simple ore crushing apparatus used by early Spanish explorers/miners and extracted 900 ounces of gold from the quartz. In the summer of 1891, Andy Flodin hit rich gold bearing bird's-eye quartz nearby. Other miners slowly worked their way eastward until a series of high grade ore strikes were made in nearby Kruger Gulch.

In 1896, in the same area, [George Verdin discovered the Wall Street Series](#), a ledge of narrow quartz veins carrying staggering amounts of "free" gold (gold unalloyed with other minerals). L.K. Hodges stated in 1897 that "George W. Verdin has taken some of the richest ore in camp from the two forks of the widest ledge of the Wall Street Series, and several thousand dollars were cleaned up from one run of an Arrastra. In 1897, the price of gold was \$20.97 per ounce. At an average December 3, 2014 gold price of approximately \$1200.00 per ounce, these miners would have processed \$138,700.00 to \$277,431.00 of gold every day or two in their crude ore refining mill!"<sup>8</sup>

This auspicious beginning not only launched the career of George Verdin but also focused the search of other prospectors in the area. George Jordin was now convinced that there lay, somewhere in the immediate area, a vast repository of gold ore of incalculable value.



*Figure 6 The Liberty mine located in the Swauk Mining District of Kittitas County, WA <sup>9</sup>*

51 years after George Jordin found gold in the Swauk-Liberty region, His grandson, Clarence Jordan, after carefully studying the pattern of other gold finds in the area, was prospecting a nearby hillside. He noticed a promising looking prospect that had been passed over by numerous fine prospectors. He called it the Ace of Diamonds mine. One gold pocket alone yielded 134 pounds of gold. Estimates of the total production from his mine workings are 11,000 to 13,000 ounces of gold (\$13,305,600.00 to \$15,724,800.00 at the approximate December 3, 2014 average price of gold per ounce).<sup>10</sup> He believed this was the "Mother Lode" that his family had been searching for since the late 1800's. The photo of Figure 6 is a typical mine in the Swauk Mining District where **George Jordin, the grandson of Clarence Jordin, located the fabulous Ace of Diamonds mine, over 51 years after the first gold had been found in the Swauk Mining District!**



*Figure 7. United States map with states highlighted where gold finds have been documented*

## Chapter 2 States Where Gold Has Already Been Found!

In the United States, Gold has been found and documented in 38 of the 50 states (Figure 7). Large scale commercial, corporate mining gold deposits have been found in about half of these states, **but in the other half the amounts of gold recovered are on a scale that would appeal more to the small-budget prospector**. A few tens or hundreds of ounces of gold can't justify an investment of millions of dollars in corporate mining startup costs, **but at \$1000+ per ounce these gold deposits would interest the small-budget prospector!** The states in which gold recovery has been documented includes: [Alabama](#), [Alaska](#) ([and here](#), [here](#)), [Arizona](#) ([and here](#)), [California](#) ([and here](#)), [Colorado](#) ([and here](#)), [Connecticut](#), [Georgia](#), [Idaho](#), [Illinois](#), [Indiana](#), [Iowa](#), [Maine](#), [Maryland](#), [Massachusetts](#), [Michigan](#), [Minnesota](#), [Missouri](#) ([and here](#)), [Montana](#), [Nevada](#) ([and here](#), [here](#)), [New Hampshire](#), [New Mexico](#) ([and here](#)), [North Carolina](#), [North Dakota](#), [Ohio](#), [Oklahoma](#), [Oregon](#) ([and here](#)), [Pennsylvania](#) ([and here](#)), [South Carolina](#), [South Dakota](#), [Tennessee](#) ([and here](#)), [Texas](#), [Utah](#) ([and here](#)), [Vermont](#), [Virginia](#) ([and here](#), [here](#)), [Washington](#), [West Virginia](#), [Wisconsin](#) ([and here](#)), and [Wyoming](#). **No matter where a person lives in the continental US, they are within a day's drive of a state documented to hold gold!**

**NOTE:** Each state name in the previous paragraph is associated with a link to a webpage documenting an example where gold has been found in each state. Click on the link to open the webpage.

For states that have recorded smaller quantities of gold recovered, the sources of gold have sometimes been attributed to [outwash from glacial sediments](#) deposited during a previous ice age. Some geologists will disparage placer deposits derived from glacial sediments as “poor” sources for placer gold, but make no mistake: the [depositional processes](#) that result in placers out west are the same ones concentrating gold deposits in the north-central portions of the US. And just like the gold streams in the Western US, in these Central and Eastern region states some gravel bars show no gold, some show a trace, and some have rich deposits. **The prospecting game is the same everywhere: systematic searching and persistence will yield results. And go first where gold has been found in the past.**

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