

James W. Marshall as
I knew him,

In the spring of 1849 Bancroft Library
I first met the discover-
er of Gold, and for several
years met him every day.
He was a man of very
ordinary looks, of ~~ordinary~~ ^{ordinary}
intelligence, no education
of no business qualifications.
In fact a mere prospecting
tramp. While around the
mill he did not take
any particular interest
in it, and never did
any work in or around
it. After the mill closed
down he spent the most
of his time prospecting.
But having no knowledge
of minerals he never
struck a prospect that was
worth developing. He was

very imaginative. If ⁱⁿ ^{Bancroft Library}
 wheelright as he claimed
 to be I never saw any
 of his handywork. Nor
 any of his ingenuity about
 the construction or running
 of the Mill. In fact the
 wheel first put in was
 useless as it gave very
 little power to the saw.
 There was no lack of
 water or fall. There was
 water enough running
 through the race to saw
 10,000 ft of lumber a day
 with a circular saw
 and suitable wheel. But
 as there was only a
 single rough saw after
 a good wheel was put
 in 3000 ft in 24 hours
 was its full capacity.
 The dam was made
 with brush and rocks

end was substantial.

It was built, and the race was dug by indians under the supervision of Marshall and 3 or 4 other white men. The mill was of the very primitive construction.

It is generally supposed that where the gold was first discovered that as a matter of course it was a very rich spot - and that much gold had been taken out there. He lived for nearly a year within 50 yards of where Marshall personally told us that he picked up the first gold, and for several years ~~that~~ there was not a prospect-hole sunk within a half mile

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of the spot, and there
never was a rich strike
made there to the best
of my knowledge. ~~There~~
~~was~~ it was on a bar
and as there was not
fall enough to ground
slide or use a long
tomb, and was several
feet to pay dirt, and
was not rich enough
to pay for drifting and
washing with a rocker
it was not worked, as
there was hundreds of
places on the small
streams and in the
gulches that a man
~~could~~ could use a pick
and pan and take out
10 times as much gold
as I able to get

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My knowledge or rather
recollections in proper
shape for publication &
they would probably be
interesting reading to
many readers.

J. B. Bayley