

A History of Native CA Lunch Series

Ch. 5: Indigenous People and the California Gold Rush, 1846—1873

April 24, 2026

Takeaways and Resources

The following resource(s) were shared during the webinar:

- [Register here](#) for the next lunch session on May 29: Chapter 6: Working for Land: Rancherias, Reservations, and Labor

Selected resources relating to this chapter for additional reading:

- For more on the transfer of control from Mexico to the United States, see *Indian Survival on the California Frontier* by Albert Hurtado.
- For more on the gold rush, see *To the American Indian: Reminiscences of a Yurok Woman* by Lucy Thompson
- For more on the treaty process, read the *Report of the Secretary of the Interior, Communicating in Compliance with a Resolution of the Senate, a Copy of the Correspondence between the Department of the Interior and the Indian Agents and Commissions in California*, Senate Executive Document, No. 4, 33rd Congress, Special Session (1853). You can find it online [here](#).
- For more about the genocide, see Benjamin Madley's *An American Genocide: The United States and the California Indian Catastrophe, 1846-1873*.
- For more on the Tolowa massacre, see *Surviving Through the Days* by Herbert Luthin.
- For more on California Indian slavery, see Michael Maglieri's article, "Free Soil, Unfree Labor," in the *Pacific Historical Review* 73 (August 2004), 349-90.
- Also see William J. Bauer Jr.'s book *We Were All like Migrant Workers Here: Work, Community and Memory on California's Round Valley Reservation, 1850-1941*.
- For more on California Indian workers in 1850s Los Angeles, see the book by George Harwood Phillips, *Vineyards and Vaqueros: Indian Labor and the Economic Expansion of Southern California, 1771-1877*.
- For more on the origins of reservations, see George Harwood Phillips' book *"Bringing Them under Subjection": California's Tejon Indian Reservation and Beyond, 1852-1864*.
- For more on the Round Valley trail of tears, see the *The Chico to Round Valley Trail of Tears* by Pamela A. Conners.
- For more on Hoopa Valley, see *Our Home Forever: The Hupa Indians of Northern California* by Byron Nelson Jr.
- Check out this new book discussing the importance of restoring Indigenous Fire Stewardship and Ecological Partnerships: [Landkeeping | OSU Press](#)

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- For more on indentured servitude and slavery in California, see [California, A Slave State](#), by Jean Pfaelzer (2023).