Contents

Preface and Acknowledgments	ix
Prologue	1
Ch. 1 – Gold Fever	7
Ch. 2 – Arrival	19
Ch. 3 – Necessities: Lodging, Food, Water – and Mail	36
Ch. 4 – Carnival of Greed	47
Ch. 5 – Gambler's Paradise	71
Ch. 6 – Goddesses and Whores	85
Ch. 7 – Crime Wave: The Hounds	96
Ch. 8 – Scoundrel Time: Civic Chicanery	107
Ch. 9 – Glimmers of Civilization	144
Ch. 10 – Ethnic Stew	148
Ch. 11 – Quagmire	159
Ch. 12 – Fire!	175
Epilogue	185
Chronology	209
Appendix A – Alcaldes of San Francisco, 1846-1850	216
Appendix B – Military Governors of California, 1846-1849	217
Illustrations Credits	218
Endnotes	221
Bibliography	255
Index	279