



Bidwell Bar Bridge – Moved to Lake Oroville when the lake was created

Bidwell's Bar – Bidwell: Early mining camp located on the Middle Fork of the Feather River. After finding traces of gold downstream at Hamilton Bend early in 1848, John Bidwell and his party discovered gold on the Middle Fork in July of that year. Numerous miners were successful in finding large quantities of gold, including Bidwell himself. The tent city prospered, and by 1853 the Town of Bidwell at Bidwell's Bar began building more substantial wood-frame structures, including a courthouse as it had become Butte County's second county seat in August 1853. The population said to be at least 2,000, but it was probably greater than that. The first suspension bridge west of the Mississippi River was built here. It was also home to the Mother Orange tree. Butte County's first newspaper, the *Butte Record*, was established here in November 1853. The town went into a decline as the gold played out, and the county seat moved to Oroville in the fall of 1856. The area was the site of a popular park in the 20th century, famous as a swimming hole. Its final demise came with the construction of Oroville Dam in the 1960s, which flooded the area to create Lake Oroville. **See Flashcard #1 in the History section.**