

Sutter's Mill

[Dan Fogelberg](#)

In the spring of 47
So the story, it is told
Old John Sutter went to the mill site
Found a piece of shinin' gold Well, he took it to the city
Where the word like wildfire spread
And old John Sutter soon came to wish he'd
Left that stone in the river bed For they came like herds of locusts
Every woman, child and man
In their lumberin' Calistogas
They left their tracks upon the land Some would fail and some would prosper
Some would die and some would kill
Some would thank the Lord for their deliverance
And some would curse John Sutter's Mill Well, they came from New York City
And they came from Alabama
With their dreams of findin' fortunes
In this wild unsettled land Well, some fell prey to hostile arrows
As they tried to cross the plains
And some were lost in the Rocky Mountains
With their hands froze to the reins Oh, some would fail and some would prosper
Some would die and some would kill
Some would thank the Lord for their deliverance
And some would curse John Sutter's Mill Well, some pushed on to California
And others stopped to take their rest
And by the Spring of 1860
They had opened up the West And then the railroad came behind them
And the land was plowed and tamed
When old John Sutter went to meet his maker
He'd not one penny to his name Oh, some would fail and some would prosper
Some would die and some would kill
Some would thank the Lord for their deliverance
And some would curse John Sutter's Mill
And some would curse John Sutter's Mill
Some men's thirsts are never filled

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