

The Boston and California Mining and Trading Joint Stock Company was established in Boston on Dec. 12, 1848, for the purposes of buying a ship, sailing to California, and engaging in trading and mining operations there. The company consisted of 150 members who sailed from Boston on Jan. 13, 1849, on the ship Edward Everett with Henry Smith as master. Sailing around Cape Horn, the ship arrived in California on July 6, 1849. The company dissolved in August 1849, shortly after reaching the gold mines.

Edward Everett, (Boston and California Joint Stock Mining and Trading Company), Captain H. Smith. 622 ton ship built in the 1840s at Medford, Massachusetts. Left Boston, January 11 (or 13), 1849 with 18 crew and 152 passengers. 174 days to San Francisco, via Cape Horn with a stop at Valparaiso, arriving July 6, 1849.

Smith, Henry, master

The Bostonians aboard the Edward Everett, still clinging to their Bibles and New England civilization, probably lived more comfortably than anyone else on the Cape Horn run. The organizers provisioned the ship with a dispensary, a board of health, a police force, and a weekly paper. They also thought of food and while men in other companies lived on salt pork and salt beef, the men of the Everett enjoyed such delicacies as cheese, potpie, apple sauce and plum pudding. They snacked between meals from a barrel of hardtack. To remind themselves of home the Boston men attached familiar names to the corridors between decks: Beacon Street, Ann Street, Riggers Row and North End. They educated each other in weekly lectures on geology and other scientific subjects. Two ministers took turns preaching on Sundays. On holidays and other special occasions, the company enjoyed concerts by its own orchestra of four violins, four flutes, and several guitars.

From *Gold Dust*, Donald Dale Jackson
Alfred Knopf, 1980
