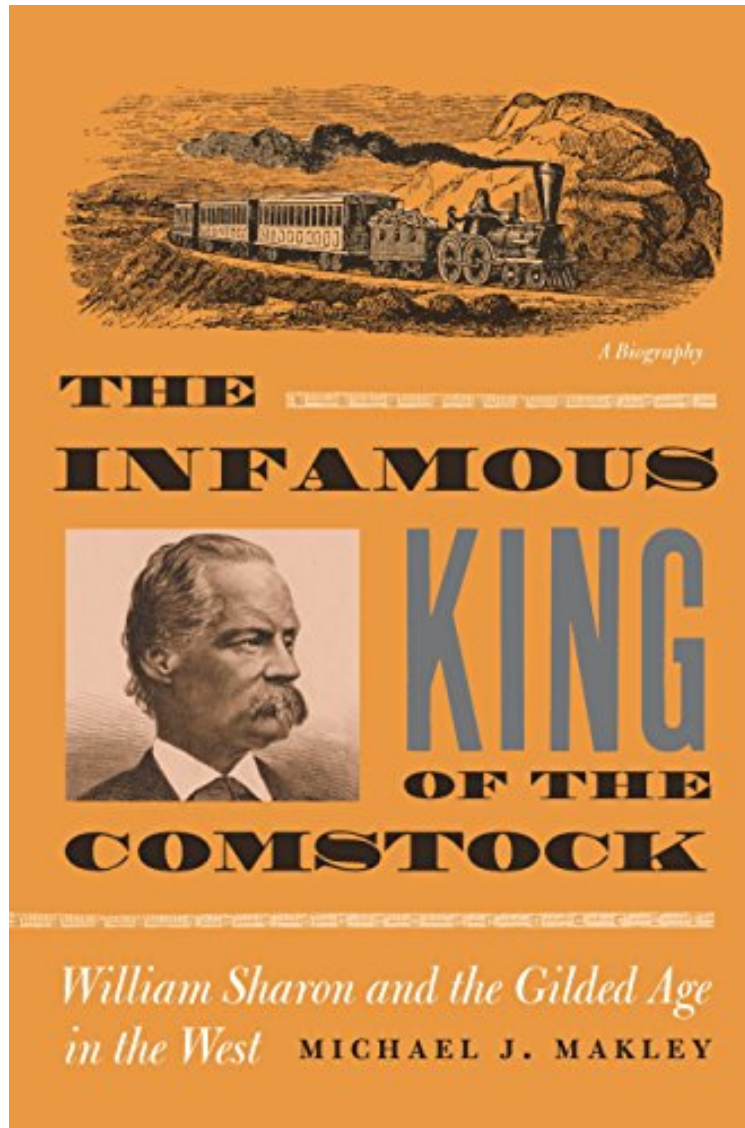


[Mobile book] The Infamous King Of The Comstock: William Sharon And The Gilded Age In The West (Shepperson Series in Nevada History)

## The Infamous King Of The Comstock: William Sharon And The Gilded Age In The West (Shepperson Series in Nevada History)

Michael J. Makley

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Michael J. Makley : **The Infamous King Of The Comstock: William Sharon And The Gilded Age In The West (Shepperson Series in Nevada History)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised **The Infamous King Of The Comstock: William Sharon And The Gilded Age In The West (Shepperson Series in Nevada History)**:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommended to historians and lay readers alikeBy Midwest

Book Review  
The Infamous King of the Comstock: William Sharon and the Gilded Age in the West is the true-life story of one of Nevada's most notorious figures of Gilded Age capitalism. William Sharon earned a great deal of animosity, but even more wealth, from loaning money to mining operations and then foreclosing on them; when his business partner's enterprise failed and his partner died, Sharon benefitted immensely from his partner's remaining assets. To top it all off, he served in the Nevada Senate. The Infamous King of the Comstock is the absorbing story of not just one man, but the (somewhat) corrupt and money-hungry era in which he lived, highly recommended to historians and lay readers alike.  
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. very interesting  
By F. Jackson  
I'm just starting this book, but I wanted to mention that I recently met the author (Mr. Makley) at a book-signing in Carson City and found him to be very knowledgeable about the history of the Comstock. I was greatly impressed by his friendliness and willingness to discuss his book with a newcomer to this subject. If my experience with Mr. Makley is an indicator, the "Infamous King of the Comstock" will be a great read.  
Steve Jackson

William Sharon was one of the most colorful scoundrels in the nineteenth-century mining West. He epitomized the robber barons of the nation's Gilded Age and the political corruption and moral decay for which that period remains notorious; yet he was also a visionary capitalist who controlled more than a dozen of the greatest mines on Nevada's mighty Comstock Lode, built the Virginia Truckee Railroad, manipulated speculation and prices on the San Francisco Stock Exchange, and revived the collapsed Bank of California. One enemy called him "a thoroughly bad man—a man entirely void of principle," while a Comstock neighbor called him "one of the best men that ever lived in Virginia City." Both descriptions were reasonably accurate. In this first-ever biography of one of Nevada's most reviled historical figures, author Michael Makley examines Sharon's complex nature and the turbulent times in which he flourished. Arriving in San Francisco shortly after the Gold Rush began, Sharon was soon involved in real estate, politics, banking, and stock speculation, and he was a party in several of the era's most shocking business and sexual scandals. When he moved to Virginia City, Nevada's mushrooming silver boomtown, his business dealings there soon made him known as the "King of the Comstock." Makley's engaging and meticulously researched account not only lays bare the life of the notorious but enigmatic Sharon but examines the broader historical context of his career—the complex business relationships between San Francisco and the booming gold and silver mining camps of the Far West; the machinations of rampant Gilded Age capitalism; and the sophisticated financial and technological infrastructure that supported Virginia City's boomtown economy. The Infamous King of the Comstock offers a significant fresh perspective on Nevada and the mining West.

"Makley demonstrates that detailed, prodigiously researched biographical writing can reveal the complex intricacies of history." - Southern California Quarterly  
"This book makes valuable contributions to the history of mining in the American West and will merit inclusion in many libraries concerned with that subject." - Western Historical Quarterly  
"Makley deserves commendation for rescuing a significant figure from his undeserved obscurity." - New Mexico Historical  
About the Author  
Michael J. Makley is the author of two previous books on Western history. He lives in Woodford, California.