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THE SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 28, 1972 VOL. IV, No. 1

THE SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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Author Unknown

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THE HITHERTO UNPUBLISHED JOURNAL OF AN EASTERN MINER IN THE DOWNIEVILLE REGION IN THE MIDDLE 1850'S.

The Sierra County Historical Society is pleased, and just a bit proud, to bring to our readers a new "first" ---the publication of a Journal kept by a miner from the eastern U.S. (probably Virginia) who mined in the Downieville region in the mid 1850's. This Journal has never before been published. It came to the Sierra County Historical Society from Mrs. Marian Lavazzola, County Treasurer of Sierra County. The journal lay unnoticed for many years in an old trunk belonging to Mrs. Lavezzola's family. How the Journal came into the possession of her family, why it was kept and why it was not thrown away is uncertain.

The Society thanks Mr. Harry Klein of Loyalton, California, and his class in Sierra County History for doing the tremendous job of translating the Journal and then typing it on masters for printing. This was no easy job. Mr. Klein and his class kept to the original spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure in order to give the reader the flavor of the original. The reader will notice that the writer of the Journal used no set rule for capitalization nor for punctuation. Since he was keeping a diary for his own use he used any sentence structure which time permitted and often ran two or three sentences together-perfectly understandable to him but extremely difficult to understand by the class of students who translated the original work.

At this point in the translation of the Journal we can not identify the writer by either name of place of origin. He is from the East as he mentions his family, a wife and baby, in Virginia. He is an avid reader and mentions several of the books he is reading which indicates he was educated. He holds a job for the County. It is not exactly clear what this job is (again, at least not thus far in the Journal) but it entails collecting fees or taxes from miners, and it appears that this tax is for road construction. Perhaps, as we get further into the Journal in subsequent issues of the Bulletin we will be able to answer many more questions about our mysterious writer.

The fascination of reading the Journal lies in its description of day to day life in a mine of the 1850's, in its descriptions of life in Downieville (the writer lived some miles from Downieville but made frequent trips into Downieville), and in the writers observations of his fellow miners, and his rather stern judgements (which he was not at all loath to make) of his fellow men.

We shall run the Journal in the next three issues of the Bulletin. We hope it brings as much enjoyment to our readers as it already has brought to us.

Again, thanks to Mrs. Lavezzola for allowing us to print the Journal, and thanks to Mr. Harry Klein and his class for the hours and hours of hard work in translating the Journal.

East Fork. Saturday Eve April 12, 1856

Last Sunday the first of this week I was home all day. Employed the time in reading and washing, the latter labors were by far the most important. I procured a washingboard a few days before however which rendered even labor Easier than heretofore.

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Did not have the finest flow of exuberent spirits which is very often the case with hermits and solitarys.

On Monday morning I began to exercise the functions of my office as Supervisor of the East & part of the Middle Forks districts. Went along the Middle F. saw the miners & registered their names. informed them of my business, did not collect any money, did not ask for any, had to argue the case a little but I guess that they will pay will generally pay up. From there I passed down the East Fork & registered the few persons resident there. Reached home again about noon, worked in my diggings part of the afternoon, did not clean up.

Tuesday Morning I started up the East Fork on a tour similar to the one of the day previous. The population is rather larger than on the lower E. F. but not so large as the E. F. & M. F. together. I went up as far as the low Divide between the E. F. & M. F. there is a log cabin at that place which I found vacant. I saw a trail leading on up the river but did not follow it. understood that there were a few miners still farther up. Collected eight dollars which were paid me by two Germans (?). I gave them Rcpts.

Mr Rich who lives nearly at the upper Extremity of the Fork & is mining by himself, invited me to dime with him. I did so. he had been out sporting on the Sunday before & had killed a fine grouse which he served up in excellent style. I found my host to be a very sensible man & one who is pretty well read in books & especially in that marvelous work yclept human nature. There is but a little mining in his vicinity at present, though by the numerous notices along the river I suppose there will be a great deal attempted during the coming season.

On my way down stopped at Dumbart Colscabin a few moments, found Mr D. preparing to go to work in their old claims by the house which they partially abandoned some five or six weeks ago. They have been prospecting around in several places on which they have bestowed a good deal of labor & time but found nothing so were forced to return to the old "two or three dollars a day diggings" It was nearly Sun Set when I reached home so did not attempt to mine any to day, passed the fore part of the Evening with my usual reading & retired to my couch fatigued by the labors of the day.

On Wednesday, I left home about eight o'clk and went to Downieville which is within an hour's walk of my habitation. Was called up on the Side Hill just above town by Mr. Cain to look at some quartz rock which he and another gentlemen were exhuming out of the mountain with some faint intention of setting up a quartz mine ξ testing in a practical manner the real value of this value of this rock which is so plentifully distributed throughout nearly all parts of this county. Was in town nearly an hour. Left suddenly for Eureka, a distance of about Eight miles. The road is pretty smooth for most of the distance, but very uneven taken altogether.

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Two very steep and long hills have to be climbed before the traveler arrives at Eureka. I reached the place between Eleven & Twelve. This place is on a gravel Range and called Dry Diggings. There are three large and lay (?) ditches which convey the waters of several mountain streams into the place, but the quantity at this time was very small not over ten sluiceheads in one ditch which only a week previous carried nearly thirty. The decrease was owing to a few very cool nights which checked the thawing of the snow up in the hills.

With the opening of Spring business is getting to be quite brisk, this is (or expected to be) the millenium for the Stan Kufors and others who have money owing to them. I learned that they are some forty families residing in this town and its precincts, when two years ago, when I lived up there, there were only three ladies in the place. The people are beginning to be civilized. Sat down to a very poor dinner at the "New Orleans Restaurant" a famous name anyway, reminding one of a great city with its ?????? streets & splendid Eating houses where such a contemptible affair as this would not be tolerated as a fifth rate Establishment.

Went over Expressly to transact a little business which purpose failed solely on account of the stubborness and Extreme cautiousness of the other party "interests". So I had my Expense which was a dollar for dinner for nothing. There had been a good deal of wind blowing up at different times while I was on mywayover & soon after my arrival it began to rain but veryviolently. Looked in at the Bookstore which is pretty well kept where was a fine large comfortably warmed room furnished with benches & table for the accomodation of all who should choose to drop in to read a paper or purchase a new book. There is no snow to be seen Except under the heavy timber where the sun can not shine--Arrived bact to Downieville about four P. M. & home before dark, where I was very glad to get because my head ached considerably owing to my having been without coffee for dinner. Thus Endeth with my getting into bed, the Experiences of this day.

Thursday I went out to work but recollecting that I had the day previous promised Mr Ran that I would go down the E. F. & saw Mr C. F. Jones & learn of him the wherabouts of a certain quartz lode he worked in, in the Spring of 1855. I went down, Examined the stream very carefully went on to Mr Jones cabin but did not find the gentlemen therefore went down by the Saw Mill hoping to see him but was disappointed, came around on the the main trail by the bridge & from thence on up home. When a little before non accompanied by a shower of rain which protracted itself through out the afternoon. My mission down the E. F. failed as I have before said. I was very foolish to promise Mr Ran that I would spend a part & probably half of a day just to ascertain quartz lode which they would work with me & which in all probability they would not work themselves. Only last Monday Evening Mr Kam (hard to tell whether Mr Ram or Kam) came up to see if I would Either sell or lend a wheelbarrow (belonging to Messers Taylor & hoge(?) who in their absence have left their property in my charge) as he wanted to prospect a little for a few days as I understood. I in order to preserve the property of Messers T. & as much as possible very readily to Mr Kam that my own wheelbarrow (which was are the house) was at his service. The next day he came & took it away, not to any place in this vicinity but to a town a distance of three miles, where there are several shops for making wheelbarrows & where I will most likely have to go when I want to get one to use. I did not Expect when I offered to loan it that it was to go so far away, so far in fact that in all probability it will never return but I supposed some part of the Flat below him was to be the scene of operation. I know very well that I should never have had the presumption to ask the loan of an article like that under such

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circumstances. But I do not speak of it on account of the Expected loss at all, but merely as illustrating my extreme simpleness, gullability & easyheartedness. I have had a great many such lessons already in my short life but somehow I always neglected to profit by the example, though that Example showed how much I was lo sing. I have frequently been accused by Stephen & Lesbome (?) (my dear & honored relatives) of avarice of a very great & larger desire to make ??????? money. now I believe if I know myself that it is all a libel on mygood name. I believe that a man ought to use every honest endeaver to make money & save it for the maintainence of his family & Triends that are needy, if he is among that happy class who really have friends. Now I believe that I not do right even by my own wife & child, for it is plain to myself that I have not half exerted myself to Either make of to "lay up money" many days. I do not think of money and hardly of the work at all, not that my mind is taken up with profound study & Exercising itself with abstruse meditation but I love to read & could easily spend all of mine with a book did not my poor circumstances imperatively call me to act. "I am what I am" & don't see that I shall Ever by any better.

Rained all of Thursday afternoon, which I spent in the house reading & writing to keep up a fire out of wet wood.

Friday was a rainy day, some very hard showers on several occasions. The sun came out from his hiding place but he was again quickly obscured & another shower would make me forget that there Ever had been any sun shine. Resumed my reading of the 'Decline & Fall" which had been suspended for many months. It is fatal to my improvement to be thus diverted from what I conceive to be the path of duty but which digression I am nearly always unable to resist when a celebrated novel comes in my path. I love works of fiction very much although the indulgence is highly injurious to the mind & especially to the memory. However I have had novel reading su???? & can go on with a course of sober history & philosophy for several weeks perhaps until the old mania again awakens. The storm is much warmer than usual. I did not observe any snow on the mountains, which are nearly always white after a rain in the valleys.

Saturday morning opened dull and heavy-quite cool. Had difficulty to keep warm in bed, got out late, no sign of rain or clouds, and after the sun arose, a fine speciman of early summer. There are some flowers already though I am so much of a barbarian that I cannot call scarcely anyone. Worked about Eight hours in the diggings didn't make anything.

Baked a loaf of bread after dinner, made some much for dinner \S am boiling beef to night. Thus I am miner, cook \S all of those functions of a man of the world. Doctor Yarington called on me a little while ago on his way to town. His great peculiarity (at least the apparent one) is his Enthustasm. Everything is colored by his present modes of thinking \S his prospects. He is asmost a estimable man \S a perfect as they are generally found on this earth.

Thus Endeth the week's Experience.

Saturday Eve April 19th 1856

Sunday--was at home all day. Renovated things generally and myself in particular so far as a good thorough ablution goes toward renovating the outward man. tried to read but did not succeed to any purpose, had too much spare time. If I had been obliged to perform some difficult work, would have entertained the thought of reading as a very happy one, but I generally read too much for a sound digestion. One good

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book thoroughly digested is worth to the reader whole libraries imperfectly understood, was in too thick a fog to read Gibbon so took up an old Review & read a couple of articles. Past the entire day away in indolence & ease and didn't effect a thing. Some irish boys with whom I was acquainted came along & took supper with me, had fresh boiled beans, beef, bread & coffee. Dr. Yarington came up in the evening & brought along the "Countess of Rudolstadt" a novel of German life a century ago by madam Gross (?) Sand--was reading it until late in the Evening.

Monday intended to have been at work on the trail, but as it stormed a little in the morning did not go. Kept in the house, a stormy day. a good deal of rainfall, high wind in the afternoon, snow on the mountains. Finished reading the Countess of Rudolstödt. In the evening wrote a letter to sister Hannah, filled a sheet, mostly nonsence & sentimentality. was very late when I closed up the accounts of the day.

Tuesday made my first essay on the road, took a pick and shovel & began below the highbridge. made quite an improvement there, laid a few loose plank on the ridge for the convenience of foot passengers. The weather began to be warm. In the morning the snow, which had fallen the day before, extended, two thirds of the way down the mountain sides & by night there was scarecly any to be seen anywhere. Mr Clark passed me on his way to town. He soon returned with blankets in rubber boots etc. he is going to mine with Mr George E. Cochrane on the East Fork. went home at night very tired, the result of the first day's operation on the Road. Read some in 'Decline & Fall'

Wednesday--On my way down to the trail was met by the Deputy Sheriff of the County, who summoned me to attend as a juryman. I was directed to attend at ten oclk A. M. about fifty men met with the same object as myself, we were ordered to meet again at three P. M. Did so & was dismissed altogether, was not paid a cent-made out to do a good deal of work on the trail, came home with a head ache, read but little & very soon went to bed

Thursday got up late, my head ache so badly Expected to stay at home, but soon felt relieved of that difficulty & went off to work. The trailies not bad in no place where I have been fixing it, my principal object is to make it smoother level & wider. Heard that the mail had arrived, went down before Sun Set, & the mail had not yet arrived but it came soon after but toollate for me too get anything from the P. O. Bought the February number of Blackwood & came home. Mr White came up with me, he had a large bundle of papers, stayed with me all night--Dr. Y had been here in my absence & taken his best clothes, he & Mr Locke & Clark men going to have a sing at Mr Ayre's Mr John Stul was going to introducethem.

Friday morning came on bright & beautiful, went to work at an early hour. People were already streaming down from the Forks, hurrying to town to witness the execution of M. D. Harlow who was tried & convicted for the crime of murder on the person of a Mr Smith. the deed was committed over a year ago, crowds continued to move towards noon till all of the sources were exhausted. I kept on the trail until noon, went to town this morn for the purpose of getting something from the P. O. then to see the crowds of the Execution. The Sierra Guards men drilling in a large room in Craycrofts building. I with a great many others on the loose scaffolding outside when without a signal I found myself some ten feet below the surface of the street lying mixed up with a heterogeneous mass of men, planks, mud & dust. I scrambled out as quickly as possible glad to escape with no worse wounds than a rent pantaloon leg & a bruised Knee. Recd two letters and four Tribunes. The Guards

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were out in their pride but I thought there was but a little to be proud of. I have no knowledge with drill yst (?) I was forced to consider them to be very imperfect. I left town about one oclk P. M. I don't recollect of ever seeing more people together in Downieville since the fourth of July 1855. Worked a few hours longer on the road, was tired out long before night & went home full two hours before the usual quitting time. Drank some strong coffee & began to read the Tribune.

Saturday, went first to the Middle Fork to collect money for the Road had very poor success. saw some of the East Fork folks, but no money from them. got home again before noon. Ate an early dinner. Went up the East Fork, saw a good many of the residents, they were indisposed to pay from want of will & means. no mining today. Was at Dunbar & Cos. cabin for supper. they intended to take up and work a place of ground for a Ranch below their place.

Saturday Eve April 26th 1856

This weekhas been a monotonous one. On Sunday I spent the greaterrpart of the day in town, not because I admire the place so much but to collect a little Road Tax which had been promised me. Of course did not get all that I expected, came home late in the afternoon hungry and tired, I am sooner wearied by standing on my legs quietly than Either by walking or working. Washed my shirts & read a little before bed time.

Yesterday started in good season for my work on the trail. The trail many places had been worn away by logs sliding down the mountain, then I had to do considerable & thus made but little progress, by night arrived at a part of the trail which is opposite the lower End of Wisconsin Flat. nearly all that was required there was to throw out the stones & cut off old roots & stumps. Most people that passed along had something to say about the "hanging" on Friday last. The Sheriff I understand performed his duties very carelessly. The physicians in town got the body & dissected it almost publicly, such is the reward of criminals when justice is rendered.

Tuesday, advanced a full half mile of the trail, ate my dinner by the side of the Wisconsin Ditch near the cabin at the upper end of the Flat. Judge Galloway has built a small house at the point between the Middle & North Forks. he is cultivating a small garden or rather his wife is for I have seen her out at work twice to his once--Bradshaw came down in the evening on his way to town. Messrs Chapman & Clements went up in the morning to view the proposed route for a Sierra Valley Trail, returned late in the afternoon & reported (to me) adversely to the route on the plea of its costing too much.

Wednesday--had not been at work along time before Mr C. F. Jones came up to see me & have a chat, by which he might let off some of his superabundant experience. He has been in the mines this last time nearly two years. & has made a good deal of money. Though he is wonderfully Endowed with a stock of worldly prudence which cannot fail to make other people rich & keep them so, yet he by some hocus pocus in Economics has had the ill fortune to make very bad investments of his, which he has put out at different times and in various meaning man take him all in all, though he makes a great many professions of honesty which I had as leif a man would keep to himself. All the people in the neighborhood came in for a share in our discussions, well pleased I was too that some of them were absent. A word spoken against the reputation is a fire brand of discord to friendly feelings or even peace in society--he stayed with me until nearly noon & then returned home refreshed by the outpouring of his peculiarly interesting conversation.

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Thursday--arrived at a point from whence I could see Stove Pipe Flat the home of my adoption. A Mr. Caster from Downieville came along soliciting contributions for the M.E. Church of that town, the building is nearly completed and the congregation are in debt. I was too poorto give much so I only presented him one dollar, he gave me an/ account of a rumor which reached town 7/ the Evening before, relative to a great quarrel at Spanish Flat in which several men were killed & several wounded. All for money, fighting for water that this might wash more dirt & make more money --Woe unto thee California, for thou hast burned thyself down to anicol (?) -wealth -- gold -- Mammon. Made less progress on the trail than yesterday. It is laid on the bed rock & requires a great deal of digging, though that Bed Rock fortunately is soft & Yields Easly to the pick and sledge.

Friday-- Expected to finish the old trail to where the snow begins but did not, in fact I began to feel the weight of years. I am stiff and slow in my gait already, caused by to close application this week. I suppose that in a month or two I would not mind a little fatigue. a great many people passed along most of whom stopped, when one would exchange news & general information. Got up late in the morning--devoted all spare time to reading & read as long as I can see in the

Saturday though he latest & the scenes are freshest im my memory it seems the dullest of any of its predcessors. Worked on the trail in the foremoon. After dinner lay on the bed reading Blackwood fulltwo hours, then took the pick I use in the trail up to Stules to have it sharpened, found an old Greenoak Advertiser there & read a little in it. Mr Clark came along soon after & accompanied me down home, took lunch & went on to town. My heads aches & feel dull generally--

Saturday May 3rd 1856

Evening .--

Sunday--Lay in bed sluggard like till the sun was high in the heavens, washed dressed & went to town. Arrived there a little before noon, collected a little money & paid it out again. Was there about three hours. Reached home, dined & read a good deal before night, Was overtaken by a shower on my way home, had some books with me which I had borrowed of Mr Locke, with some dificulty protrected them from injury. Sometime after dark heard a noise on the trail as I suppose of some drunken Frenchman.- An hour after Mr Locke came in with a light he had borrowed on the Flat. he was dripping wet & had dropped two books he was carrying in his hand. after taking a cup of hot tea he took my lantern & went out again in search of hos lost books. He was absent a long time it seemed to me, when I started out in search of him. Discovered him upon the trail with his light Extinguished & on his way home but without the books. we Monday-Rained all of the forenoon & part of the afternoon. Locke stayed with me for breakfast & dinner. He was reading the life of Josephine by P. C. Headly, a finely written work but more like a eulogy than a biography. I began the 3rd Vol. of Macaulay's England, a history of which I cannot speak too highly. Dunbar called here on his way to town. Bradshaw was here & stayed for dinner. The sun came out soon after & Locke & Bradshaw ent off home: I kept in the house all day.

Tuesday--Sky clear & sunshine bright. Went to work, & made a good deal of new trail. Saw some snow in the sides of the mountains. Dunbar came from town in the forencon. I bought his dog for the summer or until he (Dunbar) should move on his Ranch. I wanted the dog for company. I live and sleep alone. I think something that will not hinder me from reading by garrulousness will be best obtained in a good quiet faithful dog. Commenced raining again scon after Sunset. Read many pages before bedtime.

On Wednesday, was kept in the house all day by a heavy storm, a great deal more rain & much colder than on Monday. River rose rapidly, snowed a little towards night, but it melted as soon as it fell. Was alone all day neither saw nor heard anybody--

Thursday--went along the trail again, had a very, fine, clear, beautiful sky. Made over two hundred feet of trail. The soil is loose & but few rock. Some stumps. In the forenoon Locke went to town to perform on his Bass viol at the May Day Ball, he is a quiet man, says but little but that little shows considerable sense and intelligence. he is fond of rusic & a good performer I understand on the bass instrument which he usually plays--Clouded up in the <u>Alternoon&gave</u> notices of another rain.

Friday-In the Early morning was snowing. I lay in bed late, did not go out to work in the forencon. Mr. C. F. Jones called on me & chatted away about three hours. he is a very garrulous man, but not very intelligent.

Stopped til afternoon when I went to work & he went up to see Stephen. Dunbar came down in the forencon & brought a chain to fasten Bowser with. Was shivering all afternoon. Locke came up from town as I was sitting down to supper. He brought no news from any kind, went away before dark. Began the 4 th Vol. of Macaulay's England.

Saturday-- was on the Middle Fork in the forenoon trying to collect Road Tax. was not very successful--

In the afternoon worked on the trail. Dr. Yarington called here on his way to town. In the Evening Dunbar came down to stay with mel. A friend of his had arrived from town & he had only one narrow bunk to sleep in== Sat up very late reading-- getting cold.

(Manuscript evidently was not kept from May 10 to Aug. 24 of '56, for the next entry is dated August 25, 1856.) ED.;s note

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East Fork Monday Eve August 25th, 1856

It was about dusk last evening when Doctor Yarington came down. I was engaged washing my shirts, heard a slight noise behind me turned & saw the Doctor turning over "Byson" (?) He came down to see about the claim & to make some arrangement by which one of their company might come here & represent his interest I had been thinking the matter over for several days & arrived at the conclusion that I would get along better if I owned the whole interest here: to which End I should have to purchase of Doct Yerington provided he would sell. I frankly told him what my idea on the subject was & asked him if he was willing to sell. He then gave me to understand that he placed a very high value to the claim, his hopes of raising money to enable him to go home were principally centered here. This surprised me a good deal for here tofore he has never spoken of the claim in relation to its merits or demerits hardly unless I began the subject. I gave him to understand at length however of my desire to go on unconnected with anyone & would do so if he & I could agree as to terms of sale. He plead very hard to have me continue on the same terms I had been hitherto, but I told him that I had nothing against him, bon (?) will win against cherished no unkind feeling whatever. we did not come to an arrangement & he went off home taking his double barrel shotgun with him. He stayed until it was quite late. I was left entirely alone, the men Dennis & Peter were not back from town. But the rats whose number is legion kept up a tremendous racket nearly all night. I was in town & saw quite a number of people. then the talk with Doct, Yerington had excited me a little so much indeed that I did not close my eyes until long after Midnight. Was up before the Sun. Had an early breakfast soon after Peter arrived from town where he had stopped over night. he dispatched his breakfast. When we proceded to work on the claim. Dennis came along after a while looking very badly. He had been intoxicated ever since Saturday Evening when he went to to town, his face seemed bloated, his eyes dull, he had not slept any & worse than all his money was all gone -- Twenty Three Dollars I paid him last week the bal of his months wages. He had worked One day & a half on a new month which as he wanted to go I quickly paid him glad to get rid of him. A good man to work, but liquor is a curse to him.

Peter & myself worked on Stove Pipe Flat Ditch in the forenoon raising the stringers in different places of the flume so that it would convey more water) & thus allow me to use a sluice head. About middle of afternoon Doct. Y & Mr Locke came here in order to arrive at some definite conclusion with regard to the claim here. After a good deal of useless talk he accepted of my offer & he gave me a bill of sale which will be valid when the conditions are fully complied with. He was displeased at what he terms my ungrateful treatment of him. I Esteem him very much as a man & a gentlemen. Peter and I were busy washing sand in afternoon, of course, no gold in it—

Tuesday Evening August 26th 1856

Had a slight headache when I went to bed but the slumber of the night. Entirely relieved me of that and of general weariness-- Began work very early. There is so much to be done so many rock to handle, such a large quantity

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of sand & muck deposited on the ground when the dam was there, that two men do not seem to accomplish anything. The quantity of water in the river varies at different times during the day. The pumps had great difficulty in keeping the water out in the forenoon & part of the time this afternoon. The band of the lower pump was nearly worn out in one place so that I stopped the wheel, cut out the part that was worn the most, put a piece of new canvass in its place, tacked strips off of an old india rubber boot by on the Edge of the Elevators to make them fill the pump better & thus throw more water.

After dinner I tried the little revolver I bought on Saturday last by shooting at mark. I placed an empty bottle at thirty feet distance from me & placed a piece of board behind it. I discharged the six barrels at the bottle but did not hit it. However the board had several balls in it. The pistol is not in condition for shooting not having been cleaned in a long time. It has become rusty & won't revolve without aid. Thomas Hoge called to get his blankets. The first time he has been here since the morning he ran away, which was on the 20th of July--

Wednesday August 27th 1856

Peter left here for Downieville right after supper. He Expected to form one of the band who would play on the occasion of the dedication of Fraternity Hall today -- Thus I was entirely alone again. I slept much later than usual this morning. Breakfasted and washed the dirt in the ripple, did not find much gold. Concluded to go to town & witness the dedication of Fraternity Hall myself, arrived in town about 11 Ocl'k. Learned that ceremonies would not begin before two ocl'k. Paid for the last bill of goods that we received up here yesterday & got receipt in full. Ate dinner at the Riis House, was late & found everything in the greatest confusione. People coming and going constantly waiters running in all directions. I managed to get a sort of a dinner by waiting patiently until I could be served. Fraternity Hall is a large building two stories in height. It is built by the Masons & Odd Fellows in conjunctione. The hall is in the second story. There is one outer room, a closet or two & a room for invalids should there be any, this is fitted up with a bedstead & other paraphernalia of the sick room. The lower story which is in a room yet had its walls & ceiling hung with spruce boughs which gave a beautiful appearance. There were also about a dozen paintings representing Raphael in different scenes of his life suspended from the walls. There is to be a grand ball there to night. The price of tickets of admission was ten dollars. Of course I did not purchase. Heard two very poor orations -- was home by dark .--

Thursday August 28th 1856

Dennis the man who left here on Monday morning last came back again to work, he arrived here about dusk. He had the half of a month's wages when he went to town last Saturday where he almost immediately got himself intoxicated & remained so until Monday morning when he came up here to get a little bal. of three dollars which I owed him, he left here with his own pair of blankets on his arm & I supposed he never would returne. Soon after I got in town yesterday I saw the poor fellow. He was nearly sober but had all of the Effects of that wretched state which follows a beastly debauch visible on his countenance. He was Entirely destitute of means, had pawned his pair of blankets & withal was hungry. I gave him a dollar to procure himself some dinner & reengaged him to work for me on the condition that he should not drink a single drop of any kind of intoxicating liquors while he should remain with me. This morning before going to work I wrote a Pledge in which he promised to abstain totally until the first day of December next, a period of about three months. Peter witnessed the contract. I hardly think he will keep it so long, for the appetite for strong drink is great within but I trust he may conquer it for a time at least. Tried to clean off some bed rock but it was so very rough that I did not complete the job, saw a little gold. Washed considerable sand and gravel but I expect there is not much gold in it--

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Friday August 29th 1856

Had been at work about two hours when two young men came along with tools such as a pick, pan & shovel as if they were out prospecting. They were looking for a place to hire by the month they said. I agreed with one of them to come and work for me at the rate of fifty dollars per month. The one that I engaged was to come on Saturday morning. Alex. Miott called down before noone with the minutes of the Primary meeting held at his Ranch last Saturday Eve when I was chairman & he secretary. He brought the minutes to me in order that I might sign them. After dinner I informed Peter & Dennis of my intended absence during the remainder of the day & requested them to go on as well as if I was with them. They promised to do so. I arrived in Downieville between one & two ocl'k. I learned that there had been a preliminary organization of the Convention previous to my arrival. They appointed a committee of three to receive & examine the credentials of the delegates. This committee was in session when I arrived.

The Democracy men divided. The highest office to be nominated for was for State Senator, for which there were three aspirants. The strife was in pretty good earnest, both parties wer were around me soliciting my vote. They probably supposed that as I was a young man & without any particular preference for either of the three gentlemen I might be pulled into doing as they wished me to do. I was determined to : make my own choice & did so. The chief contest was decided on the 2nd ballot. The convention adjourned "Sine die" about ll oclk p.m. "" J 30000

Saturday Eve August 30th 1856

It must have been nearly one oclock this morning when I reached home nearly worn out. I was soon in bed & asleep, rested well. Awoke about sun rise got up immediately, got breakfast & went to work. Washed the small riffle, made small wages yesterday. Have gone over but little ground this week, the bed rock is very roughe, the gold fine & difficult to get. I don't intend to leave any ground behind me that will pay small wages so that all expenses are paid and a little left to lay up for a rainy day. One weak since I thought in looking over the ground that this week would certainly enable us to get the dam built near the lower End in order to stop all of the leakage from below, which Effected the lower wheel & pump need not be used there.

I hope to see all of this & move down next week. At this snaillike pace it: will require six months at least to work out the whole flume when there are certainly not over three months in which work can be done pleasantly and advantageously. John Quackenbush, a miner who lives about two miles below here, came up in the forenoon, in search of a wheelbarrow which some person had appropreated without leave. He came here to purchase one of me as his search for the lost one had failed-- he has had a great deal of trouble in drying his river claim this season & has not got on the bottom yet. Says he will persevere until it is worked-- is going to the Atlantic States in January next--

Sunday August 31st 1856

Took a good long sleep. The bright sun was shining in the cabin when I got up. Peter was up before me & had breakfast nearly ready. After breakfast I cleaned the lower riffle which had not been washed out during this week. I found about two dollars, washed my shirt towels & C. Went up to Miotts to borrow a little sweet oil to use on my pistol. It is rusty & wont revolve easily-- one man from the Middle Fork came to me & paid his road tax.

Dunbar was down here about noon. He says that they are finding some good pay in the ground they are working now. They contemplate working another flume about two miles farther up the river. half of their company will go up there. It seems that Dr. Yarington was very much offended at me for making him sell out to me. He thinks or pretends to do so, that I have used him very badly & wrongfully. I told Dunbar that I was sorry to have been compelled to hurt his feelings but that after all I had nothing against him & should not hold any unfriendly feeling towards him. Dr. Y & Mr. Locke went to town last evening=--Dunbar went off up home to go up the river as he said. He returned again as Dennis & I were eating our dinners. He sat down & partook with us. I went to Davis' cabin on the Flat & borrowed a vol. of Marryatts novels & a large dragoon pistol to shoot squirrels with.

Monday September 1st 1856

Night are growing cooler. morning was advanced when I got out to work. Peter stopped in town over night. Dennis & I were at breakfast when Peter arrived. He said that he was engaged in making music for the people at the german brewery until late in the evening. So that he thought at least to stop till morning. The pumps were not started again until this morning. The river was very low & the wheels run very slow. The water was not out till noon so that we could begin to work with any advantage.

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In the afternoone the wheels ran better. The pumps had the water down entirely by sun set to night. I cleaned up a little but only saw a few colors. Toward night the wind began to blow, the air is much cooler, we have thrown in a good deal of sand to day which of course has nothing in it--I Engaged a man last Friday who promised to be here on Saturday morning. He failed to come but yesterday sent another to fill his place. He came up to see if the arrangement would be satisfactory. He brought his blankets this Evening & expects to begin work in the morning. With three men I shall have to keep looking out to make them Earn something. The Expenses now will amount to about four ounces per week--a good deal of Expense & which I will not be able to stand long if there is no money made.

Tuesday Sept. 2nd 1856

Was out early, was up before sunrise, washed out the riffle & only had one half ounce which is a little over expense. The new hired man Fredrich came on this morning, that is began work. He begins like most other people to work with all his might the first day or two. Anyway he appears to know something of mining & is quite handy in the diggings, this was a hotter day than yesterday. One of the French Co. on the Flat came up on the forenoone wanting to hire, he is unable to speak any English and as I had a new man come only this morning I was obliged to decline the offer, cleaned up considerable Bed Rock and only saw a few small thin pieces of gold. About the middle of afternoon left the diggings as work in charge of Peter & went to towne. I took a pick along to get laid & also to purchase another pick. Called at the P.O. the first thing. No letters for me. recd a lot of papers. Got two letters for Dr Yarington two for Dunbar & two for Locke, also a large lot of papers for Locke. Sold a little gold dust & bought five hundred pounds of flour & fifty of porke. Called at Wright & Co's store where we usually trade & priced their flour. When they asked nine dollars per hundred, I went to another store & bought it for one half dollar less on the hundred. Saw Mr C. F. Jones who was as loquacious as usual. He is making a little money all the time. Has one hired man whom he pays Sixty Dollars per month. Took my rubberboots away from the cobbler shop, paid three dollars for having them bottomed and nailed. The boys had finished supper when I arrived home.

Wednesday Sept. 3rd 1856

On going out to work was grieved to find the pumps going very slowly & the water two feet deep in the diggings. I let more water in the river out of the ditches which gave a little more spurt to the wheels, but the river soon became very muddy indicating that there was water coming down the Empire Ditch & from the Middle Fork & emptying in the East Fork--the muddy water was of service by filling the small cracks in the flume thus making the leakage smaller for the pumps to throw out again.

Have reached the other side of the stream after a protracted effort, the rock is hard & smooth. No gold on it. Mr Hagerman's packer brought a load of flour here this afternoon he also brought the fifty pounds of pork I bought yesterday. The other load of flour will be brought the drum nearer the end of the lower wheel this afternoon & moved the drum nearer the end of the shaft so as to move the pumpinto a deeper place & also to get it onto ground which has been cleaned off. Got it to going again just before we quit work, but it ran so very slow I doubt its power to keep the water down as low as it was before. The sun shines very hot in the middle of the day. After dinner looked over the three late Luzoon (?) Unions which I recd last. Have read the first article in Chamber Journal to night.

Thursday Sept. 4th 1856

A good deal of wind during the night. It continued during the day at times blowing with considerable violence. We are probably on the Eve of a storm. A great many people predict an early fall & an unusual quantity of rain & snow. I am somewhat alarmed I must confess for if the rainy season should set in early and keep the streams high I would be oblighed to suspend fluming operations for this year which I would dislike to do very much. My great desire is to work out the present claim this fall if possible. There is a small piece of ground by the house where I live. I can postpone the working of this latter piece however until another season and will be pretty well satisfied to work out the one I am now at. At noon I observed that the river was higher than usual. The wheels sped around like tops. the reason was that the Empire Mill Co.'s Ditch let a great quantity of water & in running down the hill carried a great quantity of gravel into the little flume & filled it up entirely. I went up to clean it out & found both companies from the Flat were there throwing. the stuff out. Dennis & sank the lower pump about one foot in the rock in the forenoon & in the afternoon cleaned off the bed rock around it. Saw a few pieces of gold but principally light specks.

The wind has blown so much of late that the air is quite cold. Kept Peter busy digging dirt nearly all day. Frederick was laying stone for the wall for the new foot dam. A felon is beginning to make itself felt on my right thumb.

Friday September 5th 1856

Was awakened several times in the night by the throbbings of my thumb. I thought in the morning I would be unable to use the right hand with any advantage at all it was so stiff & sore, but after going to work a sensible improvement took place so that I scarcely felt any pain or annoyance during the day. Have got the foot dam about half completed expected to have finished it today but I was kept busy cleaning up some bed rock near the lower End & as I was getting a little gold I deemed it prudent to continue at it.

George Scholes came along in the forenoon in quest of work. He has been working on the Middle Fork in company with another man, but yesterday he sold his diggings. I have known him a long while & always found him to be upright & straight forward in his dealings. Much as I should have been pleased to engage him to work for me, I could not hire on account of the price he asked-sixty dollars per month. It is true that some men are worth ten & twenty five dollars more a month than others, both for the greater amount of work which they will perform & for the aptness with which they will understand anything that is told them. The wind has lulled since noon. The sky did look somewhat like rain but it is clear again now, probably will not rain for a week or two yet. I hope not.

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Saturday Sept. 6th 1856

Morning was very cool. Frederick & I were Employed in cleaning off the bedrock below the new foot dam. Peter & Dennis were at work on the dam. After dinner Peter told me that he wanted to leave, that a Frenchman wanted him to accompany two or three Frenchmen who could not speak any English down county as far as Marysville & perhaps as far as San Francisco to buy mules. I paid him off & he hook his blankets 5 started. I had hoped to finish the dam and probably would have done it if he had remained during the afternoone. About four oclock we were very busily Engaged trying to finish the Bed Rock by Sun Set, Dennis cried out that the lead dam was broke. A great quantity of water was coming right down through the diggings and in a few minutes the little pump was nearly filled with sand and gravel. We stopped the wheels as quickly as possible, threw the tools out of the diggings, went to the upper end. Took off the side board & let the water out of the flume into the old channel. The upper was so near the bottom of the flume that when running the paddles touched the canvas

underneath. A hole was made which soon filled with chips & away went the rotten canvas over a hundred feet down the flume. The bottom of the flume is full of holes so that a very large sluicebed of water went through--we commenced caulking, want to finish tomerrow. We all got well wetted which is nothing uncommon however. Have burned coffee to night.

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Sunday Evening Sept. 7, 1856

Did not sleep well, feel sore in my bones, was up & had breakfast ready by the usual time, for going to work. We all went out & finished caulking the flume and had the water in by noone. Started the upper wheel which went off very well. The little light wheel we could not get to running so started the lower wheel which went off with great speed, but there is & was so much water in the river that the foot dame allowed the water to run back as fast as the pump could throw it out. The Empire Mill Co's Ditch in discharging its contents down the side hill caused a slide & overthrew the Stovepipe Flat Ditch. It did not get repaired last Evening and consequently the East Fork is much higher than usual. It was afternoon when we had dinner. I then washed the dishes, panned out the riffle weighed yesterdays dust & found one ounce. Just wages & no more. Shaved & went to towne. Sold a little dust-bought a few necessaries -- paid butcher bill & had Dr Kibbee lance the felon on my right thumb, he did it very nicely & quickly & without causing me much pain, and above all he made no charge very courteously said that he made no charge whatever. Was home again by jusk. Dennis had supper ready & although I was not hungry Enough to Eat I drank two cups of tea.

Frederich mixed the bread for me tonight. Pete who left here yesterday sent word that he was coming back tomorrow.



PART III

HISTORICAL SURVEY OF

THE STAMPEDE AREA

The Sierra County Historical Society is pleased to present to our readers the third installment of the Historical Survey of the STAMPICF RESERVOIR AREA IN THE LITTLE TRUCKEE RIVER DRAINAGE DISTRICT by Prof. W. Turrentine Jackson, Prof. of History at the University of Calif. at Davis. We are publishing this work through the permission of Prof. Jackson and the Department of the Interior. The first two parts of the survey, Immigrant Routes Traversing the Area and Roads for Wagons Freighters, and Stages, have appeared in previous volumes of the Historical Society Bulletin. The fourth and last section, Logging, and Timber Operations: Railroads, will appear in our next issue. Here is the third installment of this most interesting work:

Summer Dairy Ranches in Sardine, Stampede and Hoke Valleys

Earliest Known Ranching in the Area: The earliest attempts to utilize the land north of Donner Lake and Truckee are revealed in the manuscript census dealing with agriculture in the 1879's. For example, Prosser and Son had 100 acres of improved land in the Meadow Lake Township of Nevada County, farming equipment and machinery evaluated at \$500, four horses and 36 cows appraised at \$7000. The statistics indicated that they were engaged in raising hay and dairying and were using hired help. In addition, Tinker and Fenton were listed as having 80 improved acres evaluated at \$1500, a horse and 32 cows worth \$2000. Tinker's name appears prominently in the list of stage stations along the Dutch Flat and Donner Lake Wagon Road and he apparently was operating a dairy ranch with a partner in conjunction with his wayside innol

The first man known to have engaged in summer dairy ranching in Stampede Valley was John Fleckenstein, who arrived sometime between 1865 and 1870. Prior to his coming to Stampede Valley, Jay Parsons, a lumberman, was the only resident of the area. As previously noted, Fleckenstein obtained residence for his family at Sardine House, built by Parsons, and may have started his career as an employee of Parsons, but later worked independently. Apparently his operations became sizeable through the years because he reported to the 1880 census-takers that he rented 300 acres of permanent medow or pasture. 120 acres of unimproved woodland and forest, 220 acres of unimproved old fields, all for a fixed money rental. He reported that he had paid out #1800 in wages, including board, in 1879. His livestock consisted of four horses and 86 cows that dropped 75 calves. Seventy of these he sold. In addition, he made 15,000 pounds of butter in 1879. The estimated value of the farm produce sold or sonsumed by bis family was \$3759.² The Fleckenstein family returned to the Stampede-Sardine Valley area year after year in the summer months. Mrs. Alice Trentman, daughter of Fleckenstein, recalls how the family "putdown" the butter in 60 lb. kegs, or on occasions, in smaller kits. In those days there were no separators so the cream had to be taken off the top of the milk with a knife and ladle. Churning was by hand. The butter was all made in the summer, brine was poured over it to keep it fresh, and then the entire production was sold in the fall.

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In 1890, the family elected to stay at Sardine House throughout the winter. They had to lay in the food supply and cut wood for a family of eight including the six children. The family used tallow candles and kerosene lamps. That winter the snow was 16 feet on the level. The Fleckenstein family home was in Folsom and they usually returned there for the winter months.

Another Folsom family identified with Stampede Valley is that of Joseph Woodward, who had come to California in 1849. He established a ranch three miles east of Folsom in 1852, homesteading 80 acres and purchasing the remaining acreage that he needed. With an associate, Lemuel Light, he ran cattle. Teamsters were continually passing his Folsom ranch on their way to Virginia City, and according to family tradition, they asked him why he remained in the Folsom area and let his cattle dry up when there were so many unoccupied green valleys up in the Sierra. They told him there was a man who owned a cheese factory in Sardine Valley who was very eager to have more dairy herds up there to furnish him with milk. On the basis of this intelligence, Woodward and Light in 1867 drove their cattle up to Sardine Valley. When they arrived, only Parsons and Fleckenstein were there.⁴ The first Woodward Dairy was about two miles from Sardine House on the Sierraville Road.

The Dry Valley Ranch:

Sometime later the family moved over the divide from Sardine to Stampede Valley to what was known locally as Dry Valley. This Dry Valley Ranch was operated not only by the Woodwards but by their daughter and son-in-law, Ed and Jessie Payen.⁵ It has been suggested that another family by the name of Geyser moved into Dry Valley for a a year or two, but they were not regular summer residents.⁶ Apparently the partnership between Woodward and Light was dissolved shortly after they came into Stampede Valley. The 1880 agricultural census for Sierra Valley Township in Sierre County noted that Lemuel Light possessed 320 acres of permanent meadow pasturage, valued at \$1000. Like the rest, his livestock consisted of 80 to a 100 cows and four horses to tend the herds. He had sold 60 calves out of a crop of 82. He also was paying wages to hired help and produced 12,000 pounds of butter in the summer season of 1879.⁷

The Bill Williams Ranch:

About a mile from Sardine House was a dairy ranch owned by Bill Williams. Apparently he had been in the area for some time; Jessie Payen recalls visiting the ranch as a small girl in 1887. Williams sold this land to Carrie Unsworth, who in turn sold it to Edmund Payen. Williams had no children and apparently lived to be 80 years of age. This property, belonging to the Payen family, is 320 acres of the east half of section 18, range 17, Township 19.0

The Perazzo Dairy:

This was a dairy ranch in operation started by another family from Folsom. There were two brothers by the name of Joe and Pete. At least one of these stockmen was married, for there were twin girls and a young boy about the place. There headquarters were in the southern part of Stampede Valley, just across the Little Truckee on Sagehen Creek. The ranch house was located about a mile below the ruins of

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"The Mansion" on the right hand side of the road leading from Sardine House to Truckee.9

The Hoke Dairy:

The Hoke Dairy belonged to Louis and Mamie Hoke. This dairy was about two miles from the site of Bill Williams' dairy purchased by the Payens. Louis Hoke was the stepson of Bill Williams and this fact explains the proximity of the locations. Hoke was known locally as "Lou"; he played the violin for all of the dances in the area. After his death, his wife continued to run the dairy for several years. The Hoke Dairy was at its height of operation about ten years later than those previously mentioned, probably in the 1890's.10

Ranching and Dairy Operations in the Region Adjoining the Stampede Valley Area:

Throughout the period, 1879-1900, there were many ranches which had both cattle and sheep in the vicinity of Stampede Valley but their headquarters were outside of the area to be flooded. For example, the Sales Dairy was located in the north end of Sardine Valley. This property was owned by William and Elvira Sales, the maternal grandparents of Mrs. Alice Trentman. This couple had come across the Plains in the 1850's. They had 10 children. William's brother, Abb Sales, worked for Ed and Jessie Payen on the Dry Valley Ranch.

William H. Johnson was a well-known sheep man who ran his flocks in the north end of Sardine Valley in an area described "on the way to Tucker Valley." He had originally been a cattleman, like the rest, and his shift to sheep made him something of an "outsider" in the com-The Sheaf Family was remembered for the operation of a munity. wayside inn on the way to Sierraville. Their home was a social center where many of the families gathered periodically for dances. The Bickford Family also operated a cattle ranch on Sagehen Creek, at the site they called Sagehen Place. This family had headquarters in Penryn where they raised fruit. Grace Nye lived on Prosser Creek in a twostory building nearby the bridge where the road to Ruckee crossed the creek, and she served travellers who passed by. There is some indic-ation that she had purchased the property that had once been known as the Prosser Creek Station on the Dutch Flat and Donner Lake Wagon Road Thus it is seen that throughout the entire period after 1879 there were not a dozen families known to have resided in Stampede Valley and the surrounding area. This small group was there only in the summer months when dairy ranching was possible. Of these, only four families operated on sites specifically in Stampede Valley and its offshoot, some times designated locally as Hoke Valley. *****

1. Ninth Census of Calif: Nevada Co., Agriculture, 1870

2. Tenth Census of Calif.: Oneida Township, Sierra Co., Agriculture-1880 3. Information provided by Mrs. Alice Trentman,

4. Information provided by Mrs. Jessie Payen, daughter of J. Woodward.
5. Dry Valley Ranch indicated as Site No. 4 in the Inventory.
6. Information by Mrs. Alice Trentman. 7. Tenth Census of Calif.:

6. Information by Mrs. Alice Trentman. 7. Tenth Census of Calif.: Sierra Valley Township, Sierra Co., Agriculture, 1880. 8. Information from Mrs. Payen. 9. Information from Mrs. Payen and Trentman. 10. Ibid. 11. Information from Mrs. Trentman.

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EARLY ANNALS OF DOWNIEVILLE AND VICINITY By One of the Earliest Settlers

Number Seven

Downieville, today, with its shady streets, picturesque old buildings with tidy yards, and its relaxed and pleasant pace of daily life, is indeed a charming retreat from the frantic activity of the sprawling and ugly cities in the valley. But a century and a few years ago things were much different.

This was the frantic bustling community, isolated from the outside world, but here the center of a large number of booming gold camps. Excitement ran high and violence was commonplace. A horde of new prospectors was steadily streaming in over the long, hard trail from Marysville, to replace those leaving the Northern Diggings, disappointed and looking for better prospects elsewhere, or others, luckier, with a fat stake, heading for Sacramento and San Francisco.

An endless procession of mule trains slowly plodded up and down this trail, to keep Downieville and the surrounding camps supplied with the necessities. Expressmen, with bulging saddlebags, astride sturdy and sure-footed mounts, impatiently rushed past the slower traffic. Events in the neighboring camps were eagerly watched by the townpeople, the hopeful prospectors, the gamblers, and no doubt, by a small but dedicated group of professional highwaymen.

The author of "Early Annals of Downleville and Vicinity," recaptures this gold rush spirit in his seventh and last installment, published in the Tuolumne Courier in 1860, which he entitled "Scattering Camps." This chapter is reprinted below, just as our Annalist wrote it more than a hundred years ago. William Pickiepoche

SCATTERING CAMPS

In as rapid a review of the history of this vicinity as I have necessarily been obliged to make, much has been overlooked, much condensed, and, perhaps, something entirely left out. I intend in this, my last of the series, to take a rapid glance at some of the surrounding camps.

The most important of these, perhaps, are the quartz leads surrounding the Downieville Buttes, which were discovered early in 1851, during the great quartz excitement of that period. These were taken up rapidly, and many quarrels and lawsuits were in anticipation from the frequency of the claims being jumped, and the unconscionable size of the claims which the cupidity of the holders had induced them to seize. A proposition was in consequence made to throw all claims together, enumerate the claimants; and then allow to each a certain number of feet. But as this was likely to create disturbance again, it was agreed that each one should draw his claim in a sort of lottery, and should be obliged to locate that one and no other, or abondon it, at his own pleasure. This necessarily obliged the committee of arrangements, who had to be disinterested persons, to number each claim, corresponding to the number of claimants. By this arrangement much quarreling and bloodshed was avoided, although en-

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tire satisfaction was not given, because it divided the claims too much; for partners were frequently separated hundreds of feet apart making it unhandy to work the claims. Many abondoned, others only worked them enough to hold them, watching for a chance to change the laws. The minority, that kept to work diligently, invariably did well.

A large mining town was soon built, which was named Quartzville, and machinery brought with much trouble and expense there. The quartz was extremely rich; but like all first attempts at quartz, mining was not generally profitable; although there was a show of working the quartz for some time. Little by little the companies began to drop off, until the camp, town and leads were all but abandoned, except by some roving bands of Mexicans, who did not confine their operations to any particular claim; but were a kind of roving, predatory set, now working on this man's claim, and now on that; anon commencing again where the croppings were the easiest to get at, and which appeared to pay best; but no regular mining benefit was obtained in this way, although vast sums were taken out by these Spanish banditti.

I term them thus, from the fact that they were the nucleus from which our troubles on Kanaka Creek and Pike City proceeded; for their countrymen, hearing of their success, flocked to this vicinity for two or three years. Too lazy to work, fond of gambling as the whole race is, they commenced a species of guerilla robbery which was extremely annoying. Being in alliance with the gamblerswho invariably sent them notice of danger-they eluded for a long time the efforts of the miners' police to put them down.

In 1854, they attacked, in broad daylight, Langton's Expressman, and robbed him, obtaining but a small booty, however, but doing it in a bold and skillful manner; attacking him almost within sight of Galloway's Ranch, while a team was actually in sight in the direction of the ranch, and another so close behind that they were obliged to release their prisoner in a few minutes. The party robbing him were armed with double barrelled shot guns, and rose out of the chapperral so suddenly that he had no time to draw his pistol. After robbing him, they tied him to a tree and retreated. In this gang were two young white men-the rest were Mexicans. Many men were also missed, and never more heard of, on this trail, about that time; others, who had not been missed, were found in old deserted shafts. The writer well remembers quite an excitement caused by the discovery of a body in a deserted shaft on Durgan Flat, by some miners, in 1854.

But one company of whites, in 1854, commenced regularly to work the Butte lead. In August, 1855, just after the driving out of the Mexicans from Kanaka Creek, this company, finding their provisions going too rapidly for the legitimate consumption of their number, determined to watch their cook, who was a Spaniard. Catching him in the act of carrying provisions into the "bush", they threatened to flog him if he did not tell them the truth. He confessed that there was a party of his countrymen concealed in that neighborhood, waiting for an opportunity to rob the arrastra, which had not been cleaned up for 14 of 15 months.

Accordingly, the company cleaned it, and Moffat, one of their

(Page 3, Early Annals of Downieville and Vicinity)

number, started down to Downieville with the treasure. On his way down to Downieville with the treasure, he saw a Mexican following him. Stopping, he found the Mexican did the same. Drawing his pistol, he ordered the Mexican to go ahead. This he did, sullenly, and Moffat, being a determined man, kept him within shot all the way to town. As soon as Moffat arrived, he deposited his gold in the banking-house of Sam Langton & Co. On leaving the bankinghouse, he saw the Mexican and a gambler known as Dave Butler, in conversation, but thought not much of it.

In the evening, Moffat, being in Craycroft's saloon talking with some friends, Dave Butler came up to him and stationed himself so that he could hear all that was said, at the same time looking very hard at Moffat. Moffat, supposing that Butler wished to speak to him, courteously asked if he wished to see him. Butler answered roughly that he could look at whom he pleased. Moffat replied that he thought he might be more civil. Butler said he would do as he pleased, and if he did not like him, he could do as he pleased. Moffat, who was getting warm by this time, replied, he certainly did not think much of him, or anyone who followed his profession. Whereupon, without more ado, Dave Butler drew a six-shooter, and blew Moffat's brains out, and then escaped, although it was done publicly, in the largest gambling saloon in Downieville.

Butler escaped for the time, after stealing the fastest mule in town. He was subsequently arrested in Oregon, brought back, tried, and executed at Nevada City, to which he had changed the Venue.1 This ended the rule of the Mexicans and gamblers. Quartzville is still in existence, but never has regained its pristine vigor which it lost in 1852.

Cayotyville, or the Blue Banks, was also a place of some importance in 1850 to 1855; after which time it has commenced to decay, although mining has not entirely ceased. One of the most interesting and at the same time curious fossils ever found, was taken out of one of the tunnels in this rich deposit, which may be ranked as a depression of the celebrated Blue Lead. It was a solid fossil fish, weighing 17 pounds, showing not only the form of the fish, but the fins and scales. The color being of blue on the back, and whitish on the belly, carried the illusion still further. It was found by a Mr. Walker, who refused \$100 for it from the writer.

The City of Six was established or founded in 1850, on the upper bench of Downieville Hill, and is directly in the range of the celebrated Blue Lead; which here is nearly of a white color. It has always been a place of some note as a mining camp.

Goodyear's Bar is the oldest camp of the upper Yuba, being settled early in 1849. It has always been noted, as well as the creek of the same name, as a place of considerable value to the miner. Here, on the upper flat, is the grave of Mr. Goodyear, the founder of this celebrated mining camp.²

Jem Crow Canon I mentioned before, in a former number, and Secret Canon, although only separated from the last by a trifling divide, was not discovered until the summer of 1850, by Wm. Downie, and not till the spring of 1852 by the public, upon the robbery of Downie by his partners.

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Wolf Creek, another rich placer, was not discovered until 1851. All these places diverge as from a common centre, from the Downieville Buttes, and are all rich even to this day. And now, having completed my rounds of Downieville and vicinity. I shall humbly make my congee, wishing that the public may reap as rich a harvest as I did. Columbia. June 23rd. 1860

T. The fascinating story of the Moffat murder and subsequent capture, trial and execution of Butler, is told in great detail in "Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Major C. Bolin, Alias David Butler, as Related by Himself to A. A. Sargent," republished by Lewis Ozborne, Palo Alto, 1966, with a foreword by Richard H. Dillon. Sargent was Butler's attorney, and believed him innocent, but the justice of the day made short shift of the matter.

2. According to the Goodyear family history, his remains were taken to the Goodyear plot in Benicia.

Editor's Note: The Sierra County Historical Society is again indebted to William Pickiepoche for the above article, number seven in a series about Downieville and vacinity, Notes on Mr. Pickiepoche can be found in previous bulletins. We will all look foreward to further contributions from Mr. Pickiepoche.

THE SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMENDS TO OUR READERS AND MEMBERS THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS WHO ARE HELPING THE WORK OF THE SOCIETY BY THEIR GENEROUS FINANCIAL SUPPORT--AND WE WOULD HOPE THAT MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY WOULD REPAY OUR SPONSORS BY PATRONIZING THEM WHEN MEMBERS ARE IN SIERRA COUNTY:

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