

# Oroville Register

1-3-1901

## MINING NEWS.

### Concerning The Mines In and Around Little KimsheW.

Herman Tegrunde, who was down from Little KimsheW on a brief visit, gave us some items Thursday concerning the mines in that section. Five mines are being worked in the neighborhood on Big and Little KimsheW Creeks.

W P Lynch and Mr Helman have bonded the Josephine mine owned by Snow & Kendall on Little KimsheW and are developing it by the drifting process. Mr Tegrunde, who is an experienced miner, is confident they will be well rewarded for their efforts and says he is sanguine they will have one of the best paying drift mines in the county.

Keating & Carr are working steadily on their mine. Mr Bower has a mine that is doing well. David Reece has three men at work in his mine on Big KimsheW, and there is an abundance of water this winter so all the miners can work.

Mr Anderson, who is in partnership with Mr Ramstead, is opening up a fine mine. Mr Ramstead is residing here in Oroville, and his partner has the sole management of the mine.

Mr Tegrunde says the wagon road by way of Lovelock is fully ten miles longer than the trail by Flea Valley. There is a good wagon road to Flea Valley and a fair road from Flea Valley within four miles of the mining district. The miners hope to get help enough to complete this short stretch of road in the spring, when the travel will be by way of Yankee Hill, Cowcow and Flea Valley instead of by way of Magalia and Lovelock.

# Oroville Mercury

## 1-24-1901

### THE OROVILLE MERCURY

The DAILY MERCURY is published every evening (Sundays excepted) and the WEEKLY MERCURY every Friday morning.

MRS. J. A. LAWRENCE, Proprietress.

Office: Bird street, bet. Myers and Huntoon

#### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

DAILY	WEEKLY
One year, mail....\$5.00	One year.....\$2.50
Six months..... 2.50	Paid in advance.. 2.00
Three months.... 1.25	Six months..... 1.25
Per week, carrier.. 10	Three months.... 75

Oroville, the county seat of Butte county is situated on the east bank of Feather river and is the terminus of a branch of the Southern Pacific railway system, 152 miles from San Francisco. Located in the center of the northern California citrus belt, having within a radius of 7 miles, about 8,500 acres of orange and olive trees. The oranges of this belt are ready for shipment from four to six weeks earlier than Southern California fruit. Oroville is also the great stage center for the summer resorts and mining districts. Ten stages depart from and arrive in Oroville each day. \$500 per acre Southern California land for sale here for \$25.

A letter addressed to the MERCURY will elicit any desired information

**THIS PAPER** is kept on file at E. G. DAKE'S advertising agency, 54 and 65 Merchants' Exchange, San Francisco, California, where contracts for advertising can be made for it.

THURSDAY ..... JANUARY 24, 1901

#### Advertised Letters.

**L**IST OF UNCLAIMED LETTERS REMAINING in the postoffice at Oroville, Cal., Jan. 24, 1901. To obtain any of these letters the applicant must call for "advertised letters" and give date of this notice. If not called for within 14 days they will be sent to the Dead letter office:

#### DOMESTIC.

Campbell, Frank	Metz Newton
Chemical Oil Painting Co.	Milne, E E
Chino, E J	Standiford, Clark
Devoc, Frank	Sharp, Miss Ruthie
Dolan, M J	Sperry, L G
Frazier, Miss Hazel	Silvera, Manuel
Felton, George	Scott, G W
Jones, J P	Southworth, Charles
Johnson, Arthur	Wallace, Miss Erma
Lounsbury, Mrs Nancy-2	Wheadon, Zarah, S
Williams, Jack	

#### FOREIGN.

Ingward M Christensen  
JOHN P. LEONARD, P. M.

### CHEROKEE CHIPS.

Interesting Items Sent in From the Mining Town.

CHEROKEE, January 23, 1901.—The Cherokee mine is a busy looking place. Two hydraulic chiefs and twenty-five to forty men are working every day. The management does not intend to increase the force of men for some time, however.

John A. Clark and Arillee May Petteys of Yankee Hill were joined in marriage at the residence of Marvin Clark Sunday evening, by Justice of the Peace, Wm. Thunen. We wish them success in life.

A wellknown building will soon disappear from the Cherokee landscape. The Good Templars' hall was so badly shaken up by the wind this winter that the Grand Lodge intend to sell it for old lumber to avoid losing it altogether.

It seems to us that those who purchase their groceries below and in the East, are short-sighted. The freight makes the outside merchant's goods almost as high as the local dealer's, and eastern and San Francisco merchants often palm off their damaged goods on country customers, which are not returned because it is to much bother and expense, and the local merchant has to wait for his money, while the cash goes to city merchants and the railroad. Spend your money with the man who buys your produce and keeps on furnishing you with grub when you are busted and out of a job.

# Oroville Mercury

2-7-1901

## CHEROKEE CHIPS.

---

Interesting Items Sent in From the Mining Town.

CHEROKEE, February 5, 1901.—Joe Davis of Pentz bought the Good Templars' Hall today. We understand that he will remodel the building and convert it into a blacksmith shop.

There was a social dance at the Odd Fellows' Hall on Friday night. The attendance was not large, but it was lively.

Wm. McGregor hurt his foot at the Wagner Mine in Morris Ravine today. It is not very serious, but will probably necessitate his taking a week's holiday.

Mrs. Darby is quite ill at her home in Upper Town.

A dead coyote was found recently under the Oregon City school house, and the residents of the burg are debating as to whether he went there to die so as to get Christian burial, or whether he thought to get revenge on his natural enemy, man, by dying under the school house and not being found until he would be too ripe to be easily removed.

# Indian Waldo

Oroville Mercury

March 4, 1901

## FATAL FRACAS NEAR CHEROKEE.

Dick Johnson's Knife Does  
Terrible Execution.

### INDIAN WALDO KILLED.

Salvador Blanco Likely to Die and  
Two More Wounded is the  
Record of the Row.

Special to the MERCURY.

CHEROKEE, March 4.—Seven or eight men had a celebration and a big time yesterday afternoon at Joe Brown's cabin, one mile from Cherokee on the Yankee Hill road, and, as a result, Waldo Waldo is now a "good Indian," Salvador Blanco, a native of Chili, is likely to die and both Billy Parker, a half-breed Indian, and Joe Brown, a full blood, are badly cut.

The knife which did such murderous execution was wielded by Dick Johnson, a half-breed Indian, who was himself badly beaten by a chair in the hands of Billy Parker.

According to the story told by Brown's squaw, who was a witness to the affray from start to finish, the men were playing the grass game outside the house when Johnson, who did not understand the game very well, said he would go inside and play cards with the women.

After a time Waldo came in and told Johnson to quit playing with the women, and a quarrel ensued. Brown tried to stop the row and Johnson attacked him. The other Indian made an effort to restrain Johnson and the knife work followed. Johnson was finally subdued by a blow on the head with a chair, but not until Waldo was fatally stabbed and Salvador Blanco probably fatally cut, and both Brown and Parker had received serious wounds.

After the affray, which occurred about 4:30 p. m., Johnson went to the house of Justice of the Peace Wm. Thunen and told that he had been beaten with a chair by Billy Parker, a story which was fully confirmed by the gory appearance of his head. He told where Parker could be found, and added, "Mr. Thunen may want me; if he does, I am willing to go, but I want my wife to go with me."

Justice Thunen was away but Constable Johnson of Cherokee investigated the affair and placed Johnson under arrest and took him to Oroville, Johnson's wife and child accompany him.

Coroner Bullington arrived this morning and began holding an inquest at 11 a. m. District Attorney Sproul is expected this afternoon, and the inquest will proceed after his arrival. Photographer Phares is taking pictures of the cabin for the use of the officers.



# BROWN, Joe

Oroville Mercury

March 6, 1901

---

## BROWN IS DEAD.

---

Dick Johnson is a Double Murderer.

Joe Brown, the Indian who was badly cut by Dick Johnson on Sunday afternoon, in the row near Cherokee, died of his wounds. Brown was cut in the abdomen, making an ugly wound which has been well nigh hopeless from the first.

Prior to his death, Brown made a statement to to Wm. Thunen, Justice of the Peace of Cherokee, which will be used in the prosecution of Johnson.

The preliminary examination of Johnson has been set for Saturday at 11 a. m. in Justice Hill's court.

Parker, the halfbreed, who was cut in the adomen, is said to be likely to die.

---

# Oroville Mercury

3-8-1901

---

## Inquest Held.

Coroner P. F. Bullington held an inquest yesterday on the body of Joe Brown, the Indian who was fatally stabbed at Cherokee last Sunday. Deputy District Attorney Jones conducted the examination of witnesses and the testimony was taken in short hand by Miss Beulah Evans. Only two witnesses were examined, Mrs. Brown and Dr. Moffit. While three wounds had been made by Dick Johnson, who stabbed Brown, only one of the incisions penetrated the abdominal cavity. This was the wound which caused Brown's death.

# DICK JOHNSON IN JUSTICE'S COURT

Evidence Shows Him to Have  
Been the Aggressor.

KILLED A PEACEMAKER.

Joe Brown Was Trying to Prevent  
Trouble—Johnson the Only Man  
Who Used a Weapon.

Our report of the preliminary examination of Dick Johnson closed Saturday before the really important testimony began.

O. H. Porter and J. F. Barnes, who passed the place in a buggy while the row was in progress, testified that Mrs. Johnson was trying to get her husband to leave the place, and then an eye witness of the tragedy told of the row. This witness was John Maxon, a bright youth, a stepson of Parker. He told of the events prior to the row: that he went after a gallon of wine, which was consumed, all present drinking except Johnson and himself and some of the women. His story of the fight places Johnson in the position of principal aggressor, and his straightforward way of telling it will go far in convincing a jury that such was the case. His memory of the way the cutting was done is remarkable, but a stiff cross-examination failed to weaken it in any material point. The boy said he was in the room during the greater part of the trouble. He said Waldo came in and asked Johnson to go outside and play with the men. Johnson refused, and told Waldo to get outside or he would put him out. Waldo went away, but soon came back with the others, and told Johnson to quit playing with the women, at which Johnson rose and said "—— ——— you, if you

Oroville Mercury  
March 11, 1901

want anything out of me, come on." He then started for Waldo, but Joe Brown stepped before him and said, "Let's not fight; let's have a good time." Not heeding this peaceable overture, Johnson began pounding Brown, and, when several tried to take him away, drew his knife and stabbed him. While this was going on, Mrs. Brown kept begging Johnson not to fight Joe, as he was too small. When it was seen that Johnson was using a knife, Parker struck him with a chair, whereupon he became the subject of attack, Johnson turning upon him with the words, "You —— ——— you want some of it, do you?" The witness saw Parker stabbed and then saw Johnson catch Waldo by the hair and stab him three times, the third time in the region of the heart. After the fight, Johnson went outside and dared the crowd to come on, saying he had been in such fights before and always came out all right.

Brown then went to his trunk and got out his hunting knife and securing a rifle, tried to shoot Johnson, but Mrs. Johnson disturbed his aim and the bullet was directed through a partition of the house.

The boy said Johnson cursed and swore during the whole of the fighting and that his wife cried out repeatedly, "Oh Dick, don't! don't!" When asked if he was scared the boy replied, "No sir, not a bit." He said Johnson was the only man who had a knife during the row.

One of the witnesses for the defence being absent the hearing was postponed until Thursday for conclusion, when Johnson will undoubtedly be held for trial.

# PARKER, Billy

Oroville Mercury, March 12, 1901

---

## THE THIRD VIC- TIM OF JOHN- SON'S KNIFE.

---

Dick Johnson is three times a murderer. Billy Parker, the third victim of his fatal knife breathed his last at Cherokee this morning. Parker was one of those cut in the fatal row at the Indian camp, near Cherokee, on March 3d, and it has been practically certain for several days that he could not survive. He is the only man of the party, except Johnson, who used a weapon of any kind, and his weapon was a chair, grasped hastily when it was seen that Johnson was stabbing Joe Brown with a knife.

Both Brown and Parker lost their lives in an effort to prevent a serious ending of the trouble, and are entitled to some credit for the part they took in the fight. Brown merely tried to make peace, and Parker was killed for trying to save Brown.

Coroner Bullington went to the scene today to hold an inquest on the remains. He was accompanied Stenographer L. V. Hendricks.

---

## JOHNSON, HELD TO ANSWER.

The Second Case Is Now Being Considered.

The preliminary hearing of Dick Johnson for the killing of Walter Waldo came up for continuation in Justice Hill's Court this morning, having been postponed at the instance of the defense. The defense opened with Rock Creek Jim on the stand. Jim is a good Indian, but was not a fine witness, his knowledge of the killing being limited. Attorney Duncan plied him with questions calculated to elicit facts favorable to his client, but Jim had not heard much of the talk or seen any of the fighting. He was out where the grass game was being played and was very sleepy. He thought Waldo went into the house and knew something about his rejoining the crowd outside, but didn't hear him say anything about Johnson cheating the women, and he thought a half hour elapsed after he came from the house before the crowd went in. After the fighting inside, he saw Johnson come out, heard him swearing, but could not understand his words and did not see his knife. He went away at once. The evidence of Rock Creek Jim was but a small part of the proceedings, the greater part of the forenoon hour being taken up in wrangling by attorneys and court. Mr. Duncan was loaded with postponement tactics, and, if he keeps up the record, as begun, his client will die of old age before he gets through the Justice's court. Assistant District Attorney Jones came into the court fortified with a late magazine and comfortably whiled away the time, while his opponent talked postponement. Once he addressed Mr. Duncan as "Mr. Collins."

## Oroville Mercury March 14, 1901

In the first place Mr. Duncan asked for a postponement because of the absence of two witnesses whose testimony he declared was material to the defense, Frank Ayres and Frank Duensing, neither of whom had yet been located by the officers who sought to subpoena them. He wanted to file an affidavit, and after a time got until 1 p. m. in which to file it. The case against Johnson for killing Joe Brown was taken up in the face of vigorous objection by Mr. Duncan, who desired this postponed until after the continuance of the first case in order to file affidavit asking for change of venue. His Honor was adverse to granting any continuances, but the discussion lasted until 12 m., and the pangs of hunger came to Duncan's assistance and the case was postponed until 1 p. m.

An exciting incident occurred when J. F. Barnes of Chico arose and addressed the court asking that he be excused, having already given his testimony in the first trial. The District Attorney was willing to excuse him, but not so Duncan, and a remark by Barnes called forth from him a demand for a citation for contempt—a demand which Judge Hills ignored.

After noon Johnson was held to answer the first charge of murder and the hearing on the second charge proceeded.



---

# ALLEGED MURDERERS ARRAIGNED TO-DAY

---

Wheelock and Johnson Sit  
Side by Side.

---

PLEADING POSTPONED.

---

Wheelock Will Plead on Wednes-  
day, and Johnson  
Later.

---

The Superior court was the scene this afternoon of the arraignment of two men, both of whom are charged with the most serious crime known to the law—that of murder. If all the charges against these men are true, the two persons who sat together at the Bar today are guilty of the murder of four human beings, all on the same day.

The men arraigned were Richard Johnson and James Wheelock. The former is charged with killing three men in a row near Cherokee on March 3d, and there is no doubt that he did the killing. The evidence adduced at the preliminary examinations for two of these killings tended very strongly to show him the principal aggressor, though his defense is yet to be shown. His attorney asked ten days in which to file demurrers and was given until March 25th.

Wheelock is charged with killing an old lady at Coutoleuc, also on March 3d. The evidence against him is wholly circumstantial but is very strong. His defense, too, is a closed book as yet. He was given until Wednesday at 11 a. m. to plead. The proceedings were entirely formal and occupied but a few minutes.

---

Oroville Mercury  
March 16, 1901

# Oroville Mercury

## March 21, 1901

---

### CHEROKEE CHIPS.

---

#### Brieflets of Interest From the Mountains.

There are no more survivors of the Indian tracas which occurred a couple of weeks ago, except "Old" Salvador, who is at the hospital, and it is to be hoped that it will be a long time before the Coroner will have occasion to come here again. He was here so frequently of late that it was feared his trips to Cherokee might become a habit. The last victim, the half-breed, Billy Parker, was pretty well thought of by the white people, and quite a number of them attended the funeral last week. Mrs. McCloud and Undertaker Topping read the burial services.

Rev. Joseph Benton preached in Pentz and Cherokee on Sunday last and will preach regularly at each place every Sunday hereafter.

The only thing that is now between Wm. McGregor and complete happiness is a suitable name for his boy, who arrived on Saturday last.

Tom Darby and Frank Thunen went to San Francisco Monday.

Thomas Esman is planting a grove of oranges at his place between Cherokee and Pentz.

---

# Daily Register

## 3-23-1901

### At Long's Bar.

There's a spot at the bend of the river,  
Where the travel of long ago,  
Came over the Long's Bar Ferry,  
As traffic passed to and fro.

When Sparks and Smith worked the  
"Banner."

And the "Monte De Oro" ran,  
And cheered the hearts of the owners,  
To the tune of five hundred a pan.

When Hendricks had tapped the mountain,  
And the "Perkin's Point" still paid,  
And the fate of Dan Shine, the miner,  
Had made no man afraid.

\* \* \* \* \*

Near this spot by the bend of the river,  
A little maid sleeps long,  
In a grave of her own sad seeking,  
In sound of the "Feather's" song.

And happier she, thought another,  
Who dreaming beside its flow,  
Once wove in an artless childhood,  
The fancies of long ago.

Loving the murmuring water,  
The flowers and the shining sun,  
Not knowing that hungry hearted,  
We may be when the day is done.

To-day by the bend of the river,  
Its surging flow beside,  
The one through the long years living,  
Thought of the one who died.

The radiant green of the hillsides,  
The mountain far away,  
Rocks--river--and light and shadow,  
Made up the perfect day.

No longer she envied the sleeper,  
By the river's endless song.  
The burden of life has grown lighter,  
Though the years should be sad and long.

For renewed at the bend of the river,  
The hope and trust of life,  
Leaving no place for her sorrow,  
Banishing every strife.

After the pain and the parting,  
After the toil of years,  
After her heart was heavy,  
With the burden of unshed tears.

She has come to the bend of the river,  
To learn what is last and best,  
That the dream of her youth was immortal,  
And she need not grieve for the rest.

ANNA M. REED.

March 14, 1901.

## Anna Morrison Reed

1849 - 1921



*Anna Morrison Reed*

Anna Morrison Reed grew up in Oregon City, Butte County, Ca and later Wyandotte. She gave her first lecture in Tehama County, Ca at the age of 19. Her life story was published in the Oroville papers in 1871, at the age of 22. Later moving to Ukiah, Ca., she was the editor of the local paper for a number of years. She wrote and published three books of poetry. Her life story was published in 1978.

# Oroville Mercury

4-2-1901

## Deadwood Notes.

DEADWOOD, March 31, 1901.—Mr. and Mrs. Evans of Deadwood and their daughter, Miss Josie, have just recovered from the mumps and now Misses Maude and Rhoda Evans have them. Will Peachy, who is stopping at Deadwood, also has them and the sanitarium is full, but no doctor. To mend the matter the boys were running around trying to get up a dance there last night. It is reported that they have had the mumps at the Clark camp on the river, Earnest Richards got them and had to return to his home in Concow.

OBSERVER.

# Oroville Mercury

## April 10, 1901

### Court Notes.

J. H. Helms has filed his account as guardian of the estate of Carl W. Freer and annual account as guardian of Carl W. Freer, a minor, and also his final account of the last will of Clara G. Greer deceased.

The account of executor of the estate of Clara G. Freer shows receipts \$1,141.28, disbursements \$876.37, balance on hand \$267.91

In the matter of the estate of William Campbell, deceased, a decree has been entered confirming the sale to Robert Campbell of real and personal property.

→ An information for murder was filed against Richard Johnson. This is the third formal charge and grows out of the killing of Wm. Parker, the last to die of the three victims of Johnson's knife.

In the matter of the estate of Benj. Westermeyer, an order has been made allowing the final account of administrator, P. F. Bullington. The business of the estate has been closed. The administrator was discharged and the balance of \$235.06 deposited with the County Treasurer for the heirs.

In the case of Leininger vs. Wick, notice has been filed by attorneys for defendant that the case has been set for trial April 29th, at 10 a. m.

H. D. Lauson, H. C. Hills and Frank Atkins, appraisers of the estate of J. M. Smith, have filed their report. They value the estate at \$250.



# Oroville Mercury

## April 19, 1901

---

### CHEROKEE CHIPS.

---

Articles of Interest From the Mountains.

CHEROKEE, April 17.—The ice cream social Friday evening was a success financially and otherwise.

Dave Williams is taking the school census.

Dr. Moffitt has purchased a blooded horse and a buggy.

Mercedes Fitzgerald is up from the Odd Fellows' Home for a fortnight's visit.

The Quaker Medicine company is giving a series of entertainments at the Odd Fellows' Hall.

Don't forget that the Rebskahs will give a grand ball on Friday evening, April 16th. You cannot afford to miss it. They promise to have a good crowd, good music and last, but not least, a good supper and a good time. The Oroville band will furnish the music.

---

# Oroville Mercury

April 20, 1901

---

## Indian Pow Wow at Chico.

Indians from Colusa, Butte, Lake and Glenn counties to the number of a thousand are gathered at the rancharia above Colusa, for a grand pow wow, which will last for ten days. The potlach has a tribal significance and it is not without feature of enjoyment. In a large sweathouse, built of mud and thatch and shaped like a bee hive, the Indians crowd for their dances. A fire in the center lights the place and the only openings are a small one in the roof for the smoke to escape and the holes at which the braves and the squaws crawl in. When the wierd dance has been in progress for a time no white man could inhale the heavy atmosphere within without fainting. Feasting and singing enliven the nights. The Pit, Shasta and Modoc Indians of Northern California hold themselves aloof from the Indians of the lower counties, and have sent no representative to the present potlach.

---

# Oroville Mercury

## April 25, 1901

---

### Court Notes.

In the case of Bullington vs. Cain in which the plaintiff, as Public Administrator, desires to recover certain funds which he claims are being withheld from the estate of B. Finnegan, deceased, Attorney White explained to Judge Gray that Mr. Cain was ill and unable to be present in court, consequently he would ask for a continuance. Mr. Sexton objected strenuously to any continuation, and after both attorneys had spent some time in argument, Judge Gray decided that the case should be continued to May 9th for trial. Mr. Cain was also cited to appear on that date to show cause why he should not be fined for contempt in not having paid the referee approved in the above case, the sum of \$100 as ordered.

Richard Johnson plead not guilty to three charges of murder. Before entering his pleas, his attorney, W. E. Duncan, moved for dismissals of the informations, but his motions were denied.

Judge Gray also denied the motion of Mr. Duncan that A. F. Jones and L. V. Hendricks be ordered to produce copies of certain statements made by Mrs. Johnson to them.

J. D. March has been appointed referee in the divorce cases of McCabe vs. McCabe and Jensen vs. Jensen. The defaults of defendants in both cases had been entered.

---

# Oroville Mercury

## April 25, 1901

### CHEROKEE CHIPS.

#### Interesting Items Sent in From the Mining Town.

CHEROKEE, April 24.—Rev. Mr. Benton went to Deadwood yesterday to conduct the funeral of Mrs. Grant Croghan who died at that place on Monday. It was an unusually sad death, as five small children are left motherless. All the neighbors for miles around came to show their sympathy for the bereaved family.

Miss Heynen of Thermalito is visiting friends in Cherokee.

The Cherokee Baseball club and the Oroville Junior nine played a good game of ball Sunday. The Cherokee boys won, making one more tally than the Oroville boys.

The Quaker Medicine Co. played every night to crowded houses. It is a meritorious show. Part of the program Wednesday evening was a contest for proficiency in driving nails and was participated in by half a dozen ladies. Mrs. White, wife of blacksmith White, won so handily that many of her neighbors think she has had some practice shoeing horses. If a cyclone ever hits Cherokee the postoffice will go into the air in one mass, for one of the ladies, in order to practice for the contest, drove the building so full of nails that no zephyr can rip a board off. Miss Kate Cheshire was given a gold watch for being the most popular young lady in town, and Mike O'Neil was adjudged the homeliest man and received a useful prize.

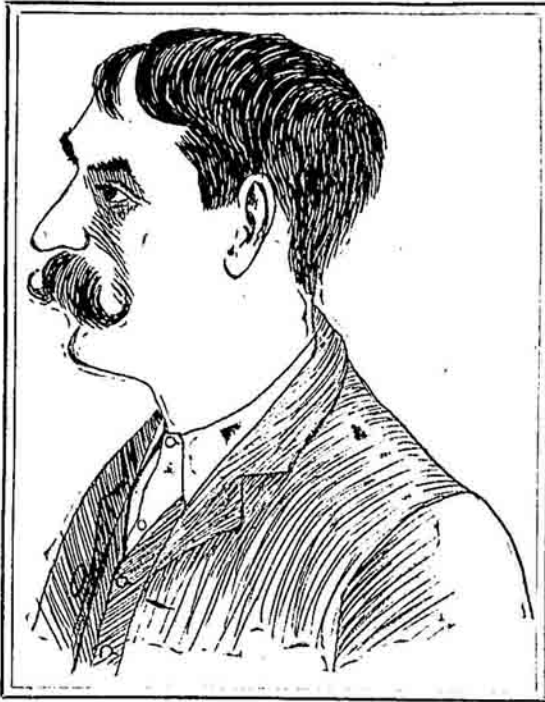
WM. THUNEN.

# RICHARD JOHNSON, INDIAN SLAYER, ON TRIAL FOR MURDER OF WARDO

Killed Three Men With His Pocket Knife in a Rough  
and Tumble Fight.

SELECTION OF A JURY POSTPONED ONE DAY.

Attorney Duncan Adopts the Tactics of the Unlamented Collins—  
Supervisor Reynolds Named a Woman to  
Serve as a Juror



RICHARD JOHNSON.

The trial of Richard Johnson for the murder of one Wardo, was called in the Superior Court this morning. The case is one of considerable interest by reason of the fact that in addition to the murder charge on which the defendant is now being tried, two others are pending against him.

Seventy-five jurors were to report for duty this morning, and most of them were on hand when the bailiff declared the Honorable Supreme Court in session. A few had been excused, and the call for further excuses was responded to by a considerable number, some of whom were excused for good reasons, while others, whose reasons were considered less meritorious, were not permitted to leave.

## Oroville Mercury

### May 2, 1901

### Page 1 of 2

Beyond calling the roll of jurors and granting excuses to those who showed cause deemed sufficient, nothing was done today, for Attorney Duncan, following in the footsteps of another attorney who had a hopeless case in this court a few months ago, challenged the jury pannel on the ground of irregularities in selecting and summoning a jury. As a consequence subpoenas were issued for the members of the Board of Supervisors and the officers who served the jury summons, and court adjourned until tomorrow.

It is understood that the challenge hinges mainly upon the fact that a woman's name was among those selected to serve, and Supervisor Reynolds, in whose district the lady resides, will have to stand some good natured joshing when he gets here tomorrow. It seems that the lady appears on the assessment roll as M. E. Lothrop, and the supervisor supposed the initials to be those of her husband. It is extremely unlikely that the fact of the lady's name having been on the list will operate to disqualify the others on the pannel, or that any irregularities sufficient to have that result will be discovered. The points raised against the jury pannel in the Rodley case were passed upon by the Supreme court, when the case was before it on appeal and were considered frivolous. The present objection is of the same character and will merely save time and cost money.

Johnson is the man who killed three Indians near Cherokee on March 3d, in a row growing out a Sunday gathering, at which gambling was the chief amusement.

The trouble occurred at the home of



# Oroville Mercury

May 2, 1901

Page 2 of 2

an Indian named Joe Brown, a little cabin situated about a mile from Cherokee. A number of Indians and a few renegade whites had called to have a good time. Johnson had been doing his gambling in the house with his wife and some other women, while the other men played an Indian grass game outside. An Indian named Wardo thought it would look better for Johnson to play with the bucks, and told him so. Johnson became angry and Wardo beat a retreat. Shortly afterward he returned, accompanied by the others and fighting began at once. According to the story of an eyewitness, told at the preliminary examination, Johnson didn't wait to be attacked, but upon being again asked to desist, he opened the fight. The first victim of his knife was Joe Brown, who essayed to act the role of peace-maker, and thereby became the object of attack, receiving a knife thrust from which he died a few days later. In order to save Brown, Billy Parker attacked Johnson with a chair, but was no match for the man with the knife and received his death thrust in short order. By this time the cabin was pretty well cleared of Indians and women, who made haste to get beyond the reach of Johnson's knife, but Wardo still remained, and, seizing him by the hair, Johnson sunk his knife deep in his breast. Then, rushing from the house, he brandished his bloody knife and dared the survivors to approach.

Wardo died on the grounds, but Brown and Parker lived several days.

Johnson has been arraigned on three separate charges of murder, and the trial begun today is on the first charge growing out of the killing of Wardo. He claims the killing was done in self-defense. What evidence he may produce in support of this defense is not known, as no evidence in his behalf was given at the preliminary examinations. Shortly after the killing, Mrs. Johnson made a statement to the District Attorney, which was taken by a stenographer. Johnson's Attorney has tried to secure an order directing the prosecuting attorney to permit an inspection of the statement, but the order was denied. Its purport is not known, but it is believed it will be valuable evidence for the people. All the eye witnesses examined at the preliminary examination agreed that Johnson was the aggressor and that none of the others were armed.

### Hengy Mining Notes.

Elias Jones was down from Hengy Friday, but reported nothing new in that locality. He says the snow is going off rapidly in the Gravel Range region and that work is being begun in good earnest.

In the Snow mine at Kimsbaw, the gravel is looking exceedingly well. As there is some cement in the gravel the owners are considering the advisability of erecting a mill on the mine for purpose of crushing the gravel ere it is washed.

There is a rumor that the Standard mine at Hengy will resume operations but it is not positive that the rumor is true.

# JOHNSON CASE DRAGS ALONG SLOWLY

Only One Eye Witness Examined Today.

## JOHNSON'S KNIFE FOUND

Justice of the Peace Thunen Had It—Mrs. Johnson Had It Near Her Home.

In the case of People vs. Johnson the taking of testimony began yesterday. The first witnesses were O. W. Jasper and M. E. Phares. Mr. Jasper identified a plan of the house and grounds, made by him after careful survey of the premises. Mr. Phares introduced negatives of photographs taken by him on the ground. The exhibits were introduced in evidence this morning over objection of counsel for defense.

The defendant had his mustache shaved off before the trial began, and as he appears at present does not look much like the picture published in these columns a few days ago, which was from a sketch by Thunen, made during the preliminary examination. In appearance Mr. Johnson is rather prepossessing than otherwise. He has been variously reported as a half-breed Indian, a mixture of Spanish and other Latin races with Indian, etc., etc., etc., but his genealogy is probably not known, and all these reports but guesswork. It is understood that he claims to have no Indian blood, and his appearance is rather in favor of the claim. His wife, too, who appears in court at times, is only slightly darker than Caucasian women, and the little babe she carries with her is very fair, and a lively child which laughs and plays, all unconscious of the shadow in which its father sits.

Oroville Mercury  
May 4, 1901  
Page 1 of 2

Jurors were carefully questioned by Johnson's counsel as to their sentiments on the doctrine of self defense, and of all those examined not one was found but believed a man in peril had right to kill as many men as necessary in protecting himself. Johnson's plea will be self defense, and the numbers against whom he fought may be of assistance to him. Witnesses who reside in the neighborhood will testify that his previous reputation for peace and quiet was good during the time he has lived in that neighborhood. What testimony he may be able to introduce regarding the fight is not known. All the known testimony as to facts being that of the prosecution and of a very damaging character.

The first real surprise of the trial came when Wm. Thunen of Cherokee was placed on the stand. It developed from his testimony that he had in possession a knife which may prove to be an important factor in the case. This knife was found near Johnson's cabin and has been in Mr. Thunen's possession since. It seems from the testimony that Attorney Duncan wrote Mr. Thunen that he desired his attendance at the scene of the crime, where he was going for the purpose of securing evidence, Mr. Thunen, who is Justice of Peace at Cherokee, and Constable Johnson of the same place, accompanied Mr. Duncan and Mrs. Johnson to the Johnson cabin. There the lady went to a pile of rocks, about thirty feet west of the house, and secured the knife. From that time it remained in Mr. Thunen's possession until introduced in evidence. The presumption, of course, is that this was Johnson's knife and the one used by him in the row.

# Oroville Mercury

May 4, 1901

Page 2 of 2

The knife of Joe Brown also figured in the proceedings. This knife has been in the possession of the District Attorney's office and was produced while Dr. Bullington was testifying as to the nature of the wounds. The Doctor said in reply to questions that the wounds could have been made with such a knife, but Dr. Moffatt, who followed, while believing it possible that this knife may have made them, deemed it unlikely because of the width of the blade. It was a pocket hunting knife with a large blade. It has been a source of no little wrangling among attorneys, as Assistant District Attorney Jones delights in carrying it in his pocket, a porceedure which offends Mr. Duncan because he fears blood-stains may wear off and be lost. A lively tilt occurred over it today, which ended as usual in the capacious breeches pocket of the attorney for the people.

In the examination of Mr. Thunen it developed that Mr. Duncan had asked him to take charge of any exhibits that might be found during the search, in order that they might not fall into the hands, or rather the pocket, of the opposing counsel. Mr. Duncan was anxious to show that it was not intended to conceal the knife, but the court would not permit conversations regarding it to be introduced, though he called attention to the fact that Mr. Thunen was a peace officer and there could be no suspicion of motives in placing things in his hands.

Only one eye witness was examined today. This was Jack Robinson, an Indian, and he was on the stand when our report closed. By agreement court adjourned at 3:30 until Monday morning.



## WITNESSES TELL OF THE FATAL FIGHT.

All Agree That Johnson  
Was the Agressor.

MAY BE ANOTHER TALE.

Report That Defense Has a Wit-  
ness Who Will Say He  
Was Attacked.

The testimony of eye witness to the row in which Wardo, Brown and Parker were killed is of course the most interesting of any. The witnesses, so far as known, are mostly Indians, or of mixed blood, and agree that Johnson was the aggressor. According to their statements he began the fight without provocation and was the only man armed. A report is current that a white eye-witness to the tragedy will swear that Johnson was not the aggressor. Just who this may be is a matter of considerable speculation, but there are those who believe in him and that his testimony will do Johnson a world of good.

The Indian witnesses are hampered by their inability to understand questions and easy to catch in seeming contradictions. Just how important these may be is for the jury to determine. Jack Robinson, the first witness, one of the Indians who accompanied Wardo inside, just before the row, told substantially the same story as at the preliminary examination: that Johnson and some women were playing cards inside the house, he and other men playing the grass game outside, and that the crowd left the grass game and went inside, when Johnson, without provocation,

attacked them and killed his comrades. Prior to this he saw Wardo come out of the house, but did not hear him say anything about having asked Johnson to quit playing with the women. He said this matter was not discussed by the men, and that they did not go in for the purpose of making Johnson quit playing with the women. He said no attack or threats were made except by Johnson, who attacked Brown. On cross examination Mr. Duncan quoted from the testimony given by Robinson at the preliminary to the effect that Johnson's playing with the women was discussed by the crowd, that they did go inside to stop the game.

Mrs. Emma Parker, mother of Billy Parker, one of the victims, was a good witness. She testified that she was asleep in a chair when the men came in. When she awoke she saw Wardo and the others standing looking at the game between Mrs. Brown and Johnson. She heard no threats, but saw Johnson throw his cards down, jump up and go to choking Brown. Brown went down and Johnson reached in his pocket, whereupon she ran to the kitchen, much frightened, and told some men there not to go in, for Johnson had a knife. She did not see the knife but thought he had one. Afterward Johnson came toward her and she begged him not to cut her. On cross examination she stated that a number of the Indians were "full," though none were drunk. She said a jug of wine came to the place Saturday evening, another Sunday morning.

Mrs. Minnie Brown, wife of Joe Brown, another of those killed, was a very good witness. Her command of English is excellent. She testified that she was playing poker with Johnson when Wardo came in. He asked Johnson to come out and play with the men, and was told to get out, which he did. When he came back with the crowd he said, "This man don't want me in here, but I'm here." This angered Johnson who said, "Put me out if you want to you — — —," and began to fight Brown. She



identified the knife found at Johnson's cabin as his property and also identified Brown's hunting knife (which was introduced in evidence and thereby passed out of the hands of Jones and into the custody of the clerk) and identified a pistol as the property of Wardo. Her testimony regarding the Brown knife and Wardo pistol is of importance, as she clearly stated that neither was used in the fracas thereby supporting the theory of the prosecution that no violence was intended by the Indians. She said Brown tried to shoot Johnson after the fight, but was prevented by Mrs. Johnson, the gun being discharged into the floor. He then went for his knife. Wardo's pistol, she said, was used for target shooting in the forenoon, and afterward cleaned and put away by him in the "kitchen loft" where she found it a few days ago, it having taken no part in the row.

J. F. Barnes of Chico, who passed just after the fight, told of the situation as seen by him, and it was noticeable that in several details Mrs. Brown's testimony fitted his exactly. Mr. Barnes also testified that Johnson's wife was trying to get him away while he seemed to want to remain. All the Indian witnesses agree that after the fight Johnson defied the whole party to approach and said he would kill them all.

Mrs. Brown also detailed the discovery of Waldo in a dying condition by Rock Creek Jim and his subsequent removal into the house by her order, and Jim told exactly the same story.

# SALVADOR TELLS OF THE CUTTING

Story of Today Differs From  
That of March 4th.

## EFFORTS TO IMPEACH.

Much of the Day's Work Was For  
the Purpose of Discrediting  
Witnesses.

Johnny Maxon was the last witness for the prosecution. He is apparently a white youth, but is commonly reported and regarded as of mixed blood, and lives with an Indian, Minnie Brown, whom he regards as his grandmother. He is a bright boy and gave a clear story of the tragedy substantially the same as at the preliminary examination. He saw the whole fight, and declares Johnson was the aggressor and that Joe Brown was stabbed while trying to prevent fighting. According to his story, Johnson acted like a wild man, cursed and swore but used his knife in a manner that would indicate a deadly purpose.

On cross examination, Mr. Duncan quizzed Johnny closely on some discrepancies in his testimony. It developed during the cross-examinations that the boy had told quite different stories at different times as to just what was said by Johnson before the fighting began. In one examination he had said Johnson's words were: "If you want anything out of me, come on," and "— — — — —, if you want to put me out, you can;" in another, "You — — — — — you have been fooling with me long enough." The testimony on all occasions was that Johnson was cursing all the time, so there was probably time enough to have made both statements and several more, but Mr. Duncan succeeded in worrying the witness a good deal over this and other like differences.

# Oroville Mercury

May 7, 1901  
Page 1 of 2

An energetic effort was made to impeach Maxon, and to this end he was asked if he had a butcher knife in his possession during the fight. He testified that he did not and that he did not tell any one that he had, although he might have stated that he would have used a butcher knife had he had one. Later on a number of well known and reliable witnesses testified that the boy did say in their presence that he had a butcher knife and would have cut Johnson had he come his way. It was shown that he made this statement in different places and different times on the evening following the killing.

In addressing the jury, Attorney Duncan outlined the defense. He said he proposed to prove as clear a case of self defense as was ever produced in a court. He would show that the Indians were drinking and gambling Saturday night before the tragedy, and on Sunday before it occurred, and were in a more less intoxicated condition; that they were angry at Johnson for playing with the women and sent Wardo in to tell them to come out, and afterward all went into the house to "do him up;" that they ranged themselves about Johnson, and Wardo began the row by striking Johnson, Brown drew his knife, and Johnson grappled with him but was forced into a corner and drew his knife, believing it was fight for his life.

The first witnesses for the defense were for the purpose of showing Johnson's previous good reputation for peace and quiet. Jacob Patterson, Ray Patterson, Zed Thomas and — — — — — Roberts of Cherokee, Geo. B. Lewis of Butte City, and Wesley Lewis of Gridley testified that it was good, but upon cross-examination it was brought out that all were testifying from personal observation, had never heard his reputation discussed and were therefore not qualified to testify as to his *general* reputation, and the testimony was stricken from the record.

# Oroville Mercury

May 7, 1901

Page 2 of 2

Regarding Johnny Maxon's butcher knife several well known Cherokee citizens testified that he told them he had the knife during the row and would have cut Johnson had he come his way. Those who testified to this were Jacob Patterson, Will Rowe, Sidney Wright and Fred Nix. Both Fred and Tom Nix testified that Maxon, in detailing the causes of the row, said Wardo accused Johnson of robbing the women.

Robert Matthews, foreman of the Cherokee mine, also heard the boy tell the butcher knife story and he was permitted to tell that Billy Parker was a very large, powerful man. Williams, Frank Thunen and Bert Hannis all testified that Maxon told them Wardo accused Johnson of cheating the women.

O. S. Topping was put on to testify that he found Joe Brown's rifle under the house, but was not permitted to testify on the ground that the gun was not connected with the case.

The star witness of the day, so far as the defense is concerned, was Salvador Blanco, the old man who was cut during the row. He testified that he was with the Indians, where they were playing the grass game and went inside with the crowd; that Wardo attacked Johnson and Brown undertook to help him. He (witness) grasped Brown to pull him off and felt a stab in the bowels as he did so. He did not know who cut him, but thought it was Brown. He said Brown was making movements as though to stab Johnson but he saw no knife. On cross-examination it was brought out that on some of

the previous occasions when his testimony was taken he said he did not go into the house until he heard the row, also that he didn't know that he was cut until he reached his own cabin. Also on one occasion he said the men were inside half an hour before fighting began. Asked to explain these discrepancies, he said he was very sick on the former occasions. Attorney Jones had about as much fun with Salvador as Duncan had with some of his witnesses earlier in the day. He asked him if his conversations with Mr. Duncan caused him to get better and to remember what to say this time and Salvador gave the astounding reply that they did.

Testimony for the defense is being given as our report closes.

# MR. AND MRS. JOHNSON TELL OF THE TRAGEDY

Both Say Wardo Started  
the Row.

HE WANTED A LOAN.

Became Angry Because Johnson  
Wouldn't Lend Him  
Four Bits.

M. T. Clark and wife of Yankee Hill both testified that they passed Brown's cabin, between 5 and 6 p. m., on the day of the killing and that Minnie Brown made statements to them at variance with her sworn testimony in the case. Mr. Clark also testified that Johnson's reputation for peace and quiet was good. W. A. Beard, who reported the preliminary examination for the MERCURY, was placed on the stand to give testimony relative to the knife controversy between the opposing attorneys that was so much in evidence in the earlier part of the case, the object being to prove that Joe Brown's knife was carelessly handled at the preliminary examination. The witness was not allowed to testify, objection being made that such testimony had no connection with the case.

John Thornton was called to testify to the size of Wardo and Joe Brown. He said the former was a tall man of muscular build and the latter about five feet six inches in height and weighing probably 145 pounds. Further evidence was offered but ruled out, as the prosecution was willing to admit the size of the men as already shown.

Fred Duensing and Frank Ayers were called to testify to Johnson's previous good reputation for peace and quiet. Both declared it was good, but upon Mr. Ayers saying that he had only heard it discussed since the tragedy of March 3d his testimony was stricken out. Mr. Duensing had a vague recollection of a conversation in which Johnson's reputation for peace and quiet was discussed before that time.

# Oroville Mercury May 8, 1901 Page 1 of 2

At this point Johnny Maxon was recalled for re-cross-examination and asked about his search for a necktie in Joe Brown's trunk. He was asked about the position of Brown's knife and said it was near the top. Mr. Duncan quoted his earlier testimony that it was near the bottom, but the court declared this line of questioning improper at this time. Mr. Duncan also offered to prove by Minnie Brown that she hid Joe's rifle under the house after the fight, but this evidence, too, was rejected.

The real star witnesses for the defense were the defendant and his wife, and when Mrs. Johnson took the stand there was a greater interest than at any previous stage of the case. Mrs. Johnson, contrary to reports hitherto circulated, is a white woman. She is a brunette, but not of so pronounced a type as she seemed when seen mostly in shadow. She carried her child to the witness chair and held it during the greater part of the time she was giving testimony. The little one laughed and cooed and was finally placed on the floor and played about her feet. Becoming restless, Johnson took it in hand and held it until the mother's testimony was concluded. In reply to questions Mrs. Johnson said she was a native of Kansas, of French and Irish extraction, and was married to Johnson in Grant county, Oregon.

Mrs. Johnson's testimony was to the effect that on the morning of the tragedy Lewis Parker came to the cabin where she lived and told her husband the Indians were going to have a big time at Brown's cabin; that he had already won four dollars, and suggesting that they go down and play partners in the gambling. Johnson went and an hour or two later she followed. She told of the gambling, in which she joined, and explained that her husband played poker with the women because he did not understand the grass game which the men played. She said Wardo first came into the house and asked Johnson to loan him four bits, but was refused and became angry. Later he came

back and told Johnson to quit playing with and cheating the women. The third time he came the others were with him and Wardo said to Johnson, "You've got to quit," and also volunteered the information that he was "a bad man from Flee Valley and could lick any white man in the house." Johnson rose from his chair and said to her, "We had better go home," but Wardo struck him and Brown and Parker also began fighting him. She described the fight and said when her husband got a chance he ran outside and she followed. She went back for his hat and was just in time to keep Joe Brown from shooting him. She said that during the fight Johnny Maxon had something in his hand and kept trying to get to where the men were fighting, but was prevented by the crowd. After the fight they went home and on the way Johnson told her he had his knife out but did not know whether or not he cut any one. At her request he gave it to her. She also testified that he had a gash on his head and marks on his throat.

On cross-examination Mr. Sproul quoted from the transcript of her statement the day after the homicide, the statement the defense has tried so hard to secure, and which only appeared at this stage, and asked her to explain certain discrepancies. Among other things she said at that time that her husband

had no knife, that he didn't own one. She also failed to mention Maxon's name among those present.

On redirect examination she testified that she did not sleep on the night of the third; was in a delicate condition and extremely nervous and worried when that statement was made.

The defendant, Richard Johnson, followed his wife on the stand. His story of the events of the day agreed in all substantial particulars with that of his wife. He grew intensely interested in his story as he proceeded and illustrated his fight by showing, as best he could, the positions into which he was forced and movements made by him. He said he saw Joe Brown's knife open in his hand shortly after the fight began, and, fearing for his life, called Salvador to his aid. He said he drew his knife as he rose after being knocked down by the chair in the hands of Billy Parker and used it as best he could, believing his life in imminent danger from the attacking party. In reply to question Johnson said he was of French and Spanish extraction.

On cross examination it was brought out that Johnson and his family had spent the night following Christmas at Joe Brown's house and spent a week there before moving into the cabin, near by, which they occupied at the time of the tragedy. This was for the purpose of showing that the Johnsons associated intimately with the Indians.



# Oroville Mercury

May 9, 1901

## JOHNSON CASE NEARS THE END.

In rebuttal the prosecution put Drs. Moffatt and Bullington, Sheriff Wilson and Robert Johnson on the stand with a view to showing that the wounds on the body of Salvador were not made by Joe Brown as implied by him.

Dr. Moffatt, it will be remembered, when the knife was produced at the first preliminary examination said he "didn't expect to see so large a knife," and on this occasion he testified that while it was possible for the wounds on Salvador to have been made with it, he thought it very improbable, and believed the wounds on all were made with one and the same instrument. Dr. Bullington had measured some of the wounds and was positive they were not made with so large a knife. Sheriff Wilson testified that Salvador told him after the fight that he didn't know who cut him, and Robert Johnson said that Salvador told him that Dick Johnson cut him.

Assistant District Attorney A. F. Jones made the opening argument for the State. He outlined the theory of the prosecution; that Wardo's actions irritated Johnson and were finally regarded as an insult which he sought to avenge, and quoted from the evidence to show the reasonableness of this theory.

W. E. Duncan, attorney for the defense was addressing the jury when our report closed. He is making good use of the varying statements made by some of the witnesses for the prosecution. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson occupy seats together within the railing and Mr. Johnson holds the little child, which has slept in his arms much of the time during the day. The arguments will be concluded and the case will go to the jury this afternoon.

## THE JOHNSON JURY, COULD NOT AGREE

Eleven Were for Conviction  
But One Blocked It.

### COURT'S INSTRUCTIONS.

Judge Gray Defines the Degrees  
and Tells What is Lawful  
Self-Defense.

The jury in the case of *People vs. Johnson* failed to agree. From first to last the ballot stood the same, eleven for conviction and one for acquittal. Those who favored conviction, were divided between murder of first and second degree and manslaughter. Had he so desired the one man could probably have effected a compromise on manslaughter, but he held to his conviction that Johnson fought in self-defense. At eight o'clock this morning the jury came into court and had the instructions on self-defense read again and again retired. They were discharged about three o'clock.

In his instructions to the jury Judge Gray carefully defined the several degrees of crime growing out of homicide, and lawful self-defense.

The instructions were quite lengthy, and, as usual, the jury was informed that the defendant must be considered innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, which was defined as "not mere possible doubt." They were instructed that where doubt existed as to the degree of crime, the defendant could be found guilty of the lowest degree only. The different degrees of murder were clearly defined: Murder is the unlawful killing of a human being, with malice aforethought. Wilful, deliberate and premeditated killing, or which shall be perpetrated in an attempt to perpetrate arson, rape, robbery, or burglary is murder of the first degree, punishable by death or life imprisonment, at the

discretion of the jury. All other kinds of murder is murder of the second degree. Manslaughter is the unlawful killing of a human being without malice and may be "voluntary" upon a sudden quarrel or heat of passion, or "involuntary" in the commission of an unlawful act, not amounting to a felony, or in the commission of a lawful act in an unlawful manner or without due caution.

The jury was instructed that homicide is excusable when committed by accident, or misfortune in doing a lawful act with ordinary caution and without unlawful intent; by accident or misfortune in a sudden combat where no undue advantage is taken or any dangerous weapon used; when resisting an attempt to murder, do great bodily injury, or commit a felony; when committed in defense of habitation, property or person against one who manifestly intends to commit a felony or enter the habitation of another to offer violence to a person therein; when committed in lawful defense of self, wife, husband, parent, child, master, mistress or servant; when there is reasonable ground to apprehend a design to commit a felony or do great bodily injury and imminent danger of such design being accomplished, but the slayer must have really, and in good faith have endeavored to decline any further struggle before the homicide was committed; when necessarily committed in effort to apprehend any person for felony in lawfully suppressing riot and keeping the peace.

The law of self defense was defined "a law of necessity" and the necessity must be real or apparently real. To justify a person in killing another it must be shown that the danger was urgent and pressing and that the person killed was the aggressor or that the slayer had endeavored to decline further combat before the mortal blow was given.

The jury were informed that they are sole judges of fact and of the credibility of witnesses. They may believe the whole or any part of the testimony of any witness according to the dictates of sound judgment. They were instructed that the testimony of a witness believed to have wilfully sworn falsely in any material respect should be distrusted in others and his testimony received with great caution. They were told that all verbal admissions made by one and repeated by authority should be received with great caution.

Instructions read at request of defendant's counsel were, in part, to the effect that the jury have no right to disregard the testimony of the defendant on the ground that he is the defendant, and that the proof of good character is a fact in the case.

## PENTZ PENCILINGS.

### A Number of Interesting items From That Section.

A number of young people of Pentz and Cherokee attended the party at Magalia which was given last Saturday evening in Bader's hall. Among those from this place were Misses Loreta Lee, Josephine and Callie Esman, and Henry Esman and Frank Corey. Some of those from Cherokee were Misses Josie Bader and Edwina Lunt, and Will Herbert and others whose names I do not recall.

Mr Ohas Riley of Butte City, Glenn county paid relatives here a flying visit last week. He rode from there on his bicycle and returned on Monday.

School closed here on Thursday but on account of the heat nothing unusual was going on.

The Magalia party just mentioned was a success and a large number were present.

Mr Sam Hiott and family from here have moved to the mountains for the summer.

Frank and Clarence Bennum and sister and Mrs Stone of Pentz visited Oroville during the week,

Mr J Dausey and two children and Mr Ed Morris and family of Lovelock passed through here on Sunday going to Oroville to attend the trial of Wheelock.

Erma Wilson left here Sunday for San Francisco where she will visit relatives.

Little Hazel Jones who has been seriously ill from a dog bite and who a week ago was not expected to live is now improving.

The farmers here are busy haying. Mr Lee and Mr Mortenson have both been cutting hay. The latter cut some before the rain came and so it was out in the rain but we have not heard whether it was damaged or not.

There will be a party at Nimshew in Walker's hall next Friday evening and also an entertainment at the school house during the afternoon.

PETROLEUM.

Pentz, May 15th 1901.

Daily Oroville Register  
5-20-1901

---

---

**Pence Hotel Burned.**

The home of Chris Mortenson of Pentz, was burned on Saturday about noon. The family were expecting some relatives from Biggs and Mrs Mortenson had been baking and had a rather unusual hot fire in the stove. As the fire caught from the kitchen stovepipe this is thought to have been the cause. Some of the furniture and a piano was saved from the burning structure. This building is what was known for years as the Pence hotel, and will be remembered by a large number of travelers.

## PENTZ PENCILINGS.

### A Number of Interesting Items From That Section.

EDITOR REGISTER: Saturday afternoon about three thirty the large Pentz hotel owned by Mr O Mortenson who recently bought the place was burned to the ground. The hotel was a large structure built many years ago by W M Pence who has long been dead. The building was so dry that it burned very fast and the flames set fire to several outbuildings which were also consumed. The fire originated in the back part of the house and it is thought that a spark must have blown from the chimney in the kitchen onto a pile of wood which was in the yard near the kitchen and which set fire to the house itself.

Mrs Mortenson was alone in the house at the time of the accident, the men being at work in the fields. By the time help came the fire had gained considerable headway and all attempts to save the house was useless. A piano, chairs bed clothing, and other things were saved from the fire but never the less the loss to Mr Mortenson was a heavy one. Much sympathy is felt here for Mr Mortenson and his family in the loss of their home. On Sunday they moved into a house in Pentz where they will reside until they can rebuild.

The Daville house between here and Magalia was burned last week.

Mr S Hiett did not move to the mountains as stated last week but he and his family went up for the purpose of erecting a tombstone over the grave of his wife's mother.

Several families from here have moved to the mountains this week.

We saw a piece in the paper last week stating that Mr Thos Lookerman owned oil land at Pentz. It was a mistake for he does not own any oil land here, but Mr William Lookerman brother of the one mentioned owns what is known as the Arbuckle place on which oil is thought to be found.

Many teams are now hauling lumber from the saw mills in the mountains to Cherokee and places about there.

Church is held here every other Sunday by Rev Mr Benton of Cherokee. He is also striving to establish a Sunday school here.

There will be a dance this week at Mr Williams at Clear Creek.

Mr Henry Curtis is home from Oroville where he served on the jury that convicted James Wheelock.

PEACHERINE,

Pentz, May 20th, 1901.



May 23, 1901

---

# OROVILLE REGISTER.

---

VOL. XXIII.

OROVILLE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MAY 23, 1901.

No. 24.

---

## Quartz Mining in Butte.

Quartz mining in Butte county, as elsewhere in California, is the natural outcome of the early mining industries of the State, and following placer mining in its decline. The gold found in the placers showed unmistakable signs of originating from quartz ledges, and often the richest strikes in placers were made in small quartz seams in the bedrock.

The ledges of Butte county on the whole are large, well-defined veins, running generally northwest and southeast, varying from thirty to sixty degrees pitch.

In coming to the point, it might be here flatly stated that the great drawback in quartz mining in Butte, as in El Dorado and some of the other comparatively virgin mining counties, lies in the failure to attain depth on the veins. With two exceptions, that of the Gold Bank mine at Forbestown and the Banner mine near Oroville, there is no other mine in Butte that can claim a respectable working depth. The Gold Bank has been worked to the 2,400 level and the Banner to the 1,000 level, although the latter is barely within the line of depth necessary for successful operation in properly developing a property or with a view to encountering a reliable, average grade of ore.—California Miner.

---

The San Francisco Call May 26, 1901

## **Butte County Diamonds.**

**The Oroville Mercury says:**

Butte County diamonds are again attracting attention. For some time a man named Thompson has been at Cherokee searching for precious gems. Lately he has shifted the scene of his operations to Big Bend, where he believes he has found unmistakable evidences of diamond deposits which, if his view is correct, occupy a strip extending diagonally across country and including Cherokee, where gems have been discovered occasionally for several years. Another alleged diamond expert has been at Cherokee for several days and is reported to have been buying such stones as were for sale, probably for speculative purposes.

The mine of William Pinkston at Big Bend is to be further developed by sinking deeper. Saville Bros. will drive the shaft down. At the Clark mine, near Big Bend, gravel is being drifted and washed as rapidly as possible with the scant supply of water. Thornton, Wing & Co. have struck a good piece of gravel on the north fork a short distance below the Wing & Malone claim.

# LYNCH AND HOHL BUY BANNER MINE.

The Famous Old Mine to be  
Abandoned.

## POWER POSSIBILITIES.

The Ditch and Pipe Line Would be  
Valuable With Water in  
Them.

The Banner Mine, "with all the hereditaments and appurtenances there unto belonging," has been sold to W. P. Lynch and L. J. Hohl of Cherokee. Mr. Lynch is a well known mining man and politician of this county and Mr. Hohl is superintendent of the Cherokee Mine. They buy the property with a view to realizing a profit on the machinery and buildings which they will offer for sale. The mine is to be abandoned as the company which has owned it has found it unprofitable. It is understood that the last run proved unsatisfactory, hence the decision to stop operations. The ore is low grade, but a number of managers believed that they could work it profitably and many thousands were spent in putting up for economical working.

The Banner Mine is one of the oldest quartz mines in the State of California. In days gone by it has yielded hundreds of thousands of dollars, and it made several fortunes for its owners during its prosperous days. The mine was located in 1852 by a joint company and worked by the most primitive methods. In '53 it was purchased by E. J. Sparks and J. McKinstry Smith, who worked it for several years at a big profit. At one time they had six arastras

Oroville Mercury  
May 29, 1901

working, all by mule power, and were coining money, the rock yielding from \$100 to \$185 per ton. The first stamp mill was built on the property in 1856, it was of wood, and in '58 it was replaced by a mill of later design. In 1859 the ledge was lost, and two miners, who were driving a crosscut for prospecting purposes, were entombed by a cave. The cave led to the temporary abandonment of operations and it was twenty years before the mine was reopened. The skeletons of the two miners were found side by side, but the paying days of the Banner were over. The rich stringer was never found again, and later operations were upon nearly parallel ledges. The bottom of the shaft on the most westerly ledge is five hundred feet below the level of the sea, and other ledges have been developed extensively.

For a number of years the property has been in the hands of an English syndicate, which has spent many thousands of dollars in development work and in building one of the most complete mining equipments. A forty stamp mill is on the property, with electrical, water and steam power and very complete machine shops. There are houses, barns, offices, etc., etc., etc., and all of these will be sold by the new owners.

One of the latest improvements was the construction of a ditch and pipe line from Cherokee to the Banner for the purpose of securing water power. The only thing necessary to render the ditch and pipe a valuable property is water to put in it. By extending the big pipe line from the Banner down to the river a head of 900 feet could be secured. The only source of water supply is the Cherokee ditch, which is the property of the Cherokee mining company, and the water of which is used in their mine.

# Sivils, Chas (Indian)

5-30-1901

---

## OROVILLE REGISTER.

---

VOL. XXIII.

OROVILLE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MAY 30, 1901.

No. 35.

---

### LIVED A CENTURY.

#### The Oldest Indian Resident in This County.

Jas Nelson of Rackerby, was in town Thursday making arrangements to bury one of the oldest Indian residents of Butte county. In a very early day the old man worked for Charley Sivils and took his name. This was when Mr Sivils first came to California and worked at Yankee Flat.

The native Chas Sivils was a brother to Mr Nelson's grandfather. Mr Nelson says he is now forty-four years old and he can remember the old man when he was not more than six. He was then a gray headed man and the Indians reckon his years at a full hundred. He was active up to about two months ago when his legs and arms seemed to fail him suddenly and since then he has been confined to his house up to the time of his death.

He was married ten times, surviving the nine first wives, but leaves one wife now living. His children and all his grandchildren have passed away, leaving Mr Nelson his nearest living relative.

His remains were buried on Friday at Swede's Flat. where he lived nearly his entire life. Mr Nelson tells us the aged Indian was one who worked for the late John Bidwell at Bidwell Bar, when gold was first discovered there.

**PENTZ PENCILINGS.**

**A Number of Interesting items From  
That Section.**

EDITOR REGISTER: Mr R Duggan, the well known miner of Kunkle district killed a large California lion last week. The animal weighed about 250 pounds. It was a very old lion that had frequented the Magalia ridge for years and destroyed much property but until last week had evaded all traps set for him. Mr Duggan got desperate when the lion had made away with four mules belonging to a gentleman up here and also several hogs owned by himself so fixed a trap which helped to end the existence of Mr lion.

Mr Geo Taylor brought up a load of furniture on Sunday which had been shipped from San Francisco to Mr Jones who resides between here and Kunkle,

The Good Templars say their lodge is very small at present as only three members outside of the officers attend but one would be rather under the impression that there must be a great many officers to fill judging from the number of boys and pretty girls who adorn the porch of Good Templars hall each Saturday evening.

Miss Aleata Lockerman of Pentz left on Monday for her mountain home in Magalia to enjoy a breath of mountain air for a few weeks.

A large band of mules passed through here last week bound for the mountains.

The Retson Bros took a herd of cattle to the mountains last week but when the animals attempted to cross the bridge over the West Branch the bridge fell.

PEACHERINE.

Pentz, June 4th, 1901.



# Daily Oroville Register 6-19-1901

## Buried Today.

The funeral of the late Chris Mortenson will take place this Wednesday forenoon from Odd Fellows hall and under the auspices of Oroville lodge No 59 I. O. O. F. Friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend.

# BAD

# FALL

Of W. B. Heckart of  
Pentz.

STEPPED OUT OF A HIGH DOOR

He Fell Nearly Twelve Feet and Dis-  
located his Right Shoulder, Also  
Breaking two of his Ribs. Dr  
Benjamin Summoned.

W B Heckart was a trifle hungry right before last about 9 o'clock in the evening, so he started to go into a storeroom where a kitchen safe is kept with victuals in. The room opens off the kitchen but is only used as a storeroom. In one part of the room near the safe a door opens, but this door is some twelve feet above the ground and there are no stairs leading to the ground.

On the night in question by some means the door had been left open, and as it was dark in the room, Mr Heckart missed the safe and reached the door. He had put his hand out to touch the wall near the safe but walked straight out through the door and fell to the ground below. The fall dislocated his shoulder—right one we think—and broke two of his ribs.

Dr Benjamin was called and put the shoulder in place and bandaged the side where the ribs were broken. The Doctor thinks he will get along all right unless pneumonia should set in on account of the injury to his side.

## MUCH CONTROVERSY ARISING OVER THE GOLD-DREDGING OPERATIONS ALONG FEATHER RIVER

The gold dredging operations along the Feather River have given rise to a controversy among the newspapers published in the interior. On one side such papers as the Woodland Democrat and the Colusa Sun are inclined to discuss the ultimate effect upon Butte County. The Oroville Mercury, on the other hand, speaks of the prosperity which dredging for gold has brought to Oroville. Already there are warm expressions of opinion. The Sun paints a picture of the future when it foresees that "as the gold will have been taken out Oroville will have a big hole, a pile of bowlders and a burrowing place for badgers, skunks, rattlesnakes and owls." The Woodland Democrat says that "about 4000 acres of the most productive bottom land has been acquired by mining companies; some of the finest orchards in the State are disappearing and the dredger is sterilizing land that has heretofore produced enormous crops of hay and grain. Wherever the dredger operates the soil disappears, and there is no earth enough left to sprout the hardiest plant known." The Democrat also says:

That dredger mining in that district is a profitable enterprise is absolutely certain. Men of experience and capital are engaging in it. Dredgers are multiplying and they are in operation day and night. But it is an enterprise that destroys the source from which it derives its wealth. An acre of land that is worth \$300 or \$400 to-day may be absolutely valueless next month. The gold that is washed out of the soil is not invested in local enterprises. It is not utilized to develop the resources and add to the assessment roll of the county. It is shipped out of the county and only so much of it ever comes back as is necessary to keep up repairs and pay the few men employed. The capital is in the main foreign and the men who furnish it live elsewhere and employ the income derived from the dredging enterprise to increase their wealth and permanent investments in another State and possibly in another country.

### The Miners' View.

The Oroville Mercury presents the other side of the matter in a long article, from which some extracts are taken:

There are about 200 men employed in and on and about the dredgers in this vicinity and they receive an average of about \$100 per month each. The total of salaries paid by these dredgers is about \$20,000 per month. The evidences of the prosperity to which the dredgers have contributed are to be seen on every hand. During the past two years there has scarcely ever been a vacant dwelling in the town and new ones have been building all the time. At the present time there are seven or eight houses in process of construction, some of them elaborate and expensive. The building has not been confined to residences alone. Within the past two years two of the handsomest business buildings in Northern California, solid and substantial in construction, elegant in design and finish, have been built here. They stand as monuments to the faith our business men have in the future of the town.

\* \* \* We have a thousand square miles of land just as good as that the dredgers are plowing up. We have thousands of acres of better fruit land in our foothill regions and with a better fruit climate. The dredgers work in low land where frost sometimes nips the fruit crop in the bud. The foothill lands of the thermal belt which the valley people, in their provincialism, persist in calling "poor," are the best fruit lands in the State. Butte County foothill growers of deciduous fruits are securing better returns on their investments to-day than any other deciduous fruit growers in America, while Butte County foothill oranges are the earliest and best in the State and yield more clear money to the acre than many valley farms yield to the square mile.

# Oroville Mercury

7-8-1901

## Two Hostile Indians Meet on a Trail Near Magalia and go to War.

### INDIANS FIGHT.

George Moore, a halfbreed Indian, and James Stevens, a fullblood, met on a trail near Magalia Saturday and proceeded to have a lively mixup. Stories differ as to which was the aggressor. Moore is a cripple and he was the first to appear to tell his story. He reached Chico Saturday evening and Constable Rowe brought Stevens in Sunday night. Moore's story as told to the *Chico Record* is to the effect that the feud is of long standing and the fight on this occasion was forced by Stevens. Something over 20 years ago they had a fight in which one used a brickbat the other a knife. Both were at Magalia on the Fourth and Moore, who is a cripple, with only one leg, started on his horse for home, a distance of about four miles, over a lonely trail leading to Flee Valley. Stevens followed him on foot and about two miles out overtook him. Stevens asked him if he remembered cutting him years ago.

Moore replied that he did, but begged Stevens to let that be a matter of by-gone days. Stevens was ugly and only awaited a word as an excuse for an attack. Finally Moore, after pleading with him not to hurt him, as he was unable to defend himself, said, "Jim, you know you were to blame in the old fight.", Stevens then referred to him with an oath, and pulled him from his horse.

He then struck Moore twice as he fell to the ground, and then, after nearly breaking one of his ribs by kicking him on the back, jumped on him and began beating him on the head with a rock, inflicting exceedingly painful but not serious wounds. In the meantime Moore succeeded in getting his pocket knife from his pocket, and, opening it with his teeth and one hand, made a thrust into the body of his assailant.

Moore says that as soon as he stabbed him, Stevens quit and disappeared.

It is understood that Stevens claims that Moore provoked a quarrel, finally tried to stab him, and succeeded in cutting him slightly on the jaw. He then gave Moore a thrashing.

# Oroville Register

7-11-1901

## Heavy Fire About Cherokee.

The fire at Cherokee on Saturday night broke out back of the Wilson place and swept up to the edge of the town so that people were much alarmed. Fully forty men were at work fighting fire most of Saturday night ere all dangers were past.

## Sale Made.

Jacob Patterson of Yankee Hill has purchased the house and lot on Robinson street which was owned by J M McGee. It is the lot between the home of M Reymon and the Veatch tract. The present residence will be pulled down and a neat cottage built at once.



# Oroville Register

7-11-1901

## Chris Natts Crazy.

Deputy Constable W. Houlahan drove to Yankee Hill on Tuesday evening and on Wednesday morning brought back with him an old resident of that region known as Chris Natts.

Natts looked the sane man he proved to be when examined. Doctors Reardan and Karsner made the examination and he told them quite positively that ghosts were all around him; that they came from every direction and talked with him. When asked if he did not believe in God he said, "Who is he?"

The unfortunate man had been living in a cabin near Yankee Hill but this was burned and then Mrs Wells gave him and his family the use of a building, but Mr Natts has lately shown himself to be of unsound mind and it was thought best to have him examined. He will be sent to the Napa insane asylum.

He was examined before John Guidery as Court Commissioner.

## RANCH FOR SALE

Mrs. O. L. Durban of Pentz offers her ranch of 500 acres in Mesilla valley for sale. The ranch is most favorably situated for raising grain or hay and the land and climate will produce every kind of citrus or deciduous fruits grown in California. There are two dwellings, a wine house and a dry house besides a good barn. Water is piped to nearly all the buildings. Plenty of free water to irrigate the entire tract. A hundred head of cattle can be kept winter and summer on the land. The locality is the most favored of any in Butte for freedom from frosts and freedom from north winds.

ADDRESS,

**Mrs. C. L. Durban,**  
**PENTZ, CAL.**

**Oroville Register**  
**8-1-1901**

### NEW SAWMILL.

**Jas A. Hutchinson Will Soon Build a  
Fine One.**

Jas A Hutchinson, the enterprising and competent manager of the Chino sawmill, has purchased the machinery in the Flea Valley sawmill. He will move the mill this fall to Galen Creek, a mile and a quarter above Berry Creek hotel.

He has bought a tract of timber land there from George V George of Morris Ravine, and also a tract of railroad land.

He expects to have the mill up and ready to run ere winter sets in and it is thought the mill can be run successfully during at least a part of the winter.

# Plumas National Bulletin

## 8-15-1901

### **Purchased Gravel Mine.**

Yesterday, Mr. William P. Lynch, of Cherokee, who has gained the reputation of a successful mining man, purchased the Yuba placer mine at Morris Ravine. It is rumored that the price paid was about \$15,000. The owners of this property for a number of years were Fred Cornelius and George Haesloop, now deceased. These parties made a good living from the property, as it has been a steady producer. Haesloop died a few months ago and left half of his property to Carl Bottjer, of Thompson's Flat, and the other half to German heirs.

It goes without saying that Mr. Lynch has secured one of the best gravel mines in Butte county, and we expect to see the new owners put in modern machinery and handle the gravel on a large scale.—Oroville Register, 10th.

10-21-1901

## **FRENCH CREEK DAM WILL BE BUILT**

**Operations Merely Suspended  
Until Spring.**

## **SEVERAL MEN WORKING**

**Surveys Are Still Being Made and  
Preparations for Spring Work  
Are Under Way.**

When the Bay Counties Power company discharged a large number of men at the French Creek works, a short time ago, the report was circulated that the proposed dam and power plant at that place would be abandoned. At the time, the MERCURY was informed that the suspension of activity was merely on account of the lateness of the season, and so stated. Subsequent information confirms this statement, and there is practically no doubt that the work will be continued as soon as spring opens, and pushed to completion.

We are informed by Supervisor J. P. Kimbrell, who visited the scene of the proposed dam, a few days ago, that fifteen or twenty men are still at work, engaged in surveying, building and apparently preparing for extensive operations later on. He met Mr. Theberath, chief engineer of the Bay Counties company, and was informed by him that the work will be pushed on a large scale as soon as the weather clears in the spring.

Mr. Kimbrell was unable to meet Mr. O. W. Jasper, who is the engineer in direct charge of the works, as that gentleman was off making a survey.

The order to discontinue active work was given upon the occasion of the visit of President DeSabra and other high officials of the company to the works. It was no surprise to the MERCURY as the lateness of the season made it seem to us a very wise move. We expect to see the dam built, and understand that something like a million dollars is to be expended on the plant.

## BIG BEND.

### An Article Written by Geo. W. Weeks of Alameda.

Geo W Weeks, editor of the Alameda Encinal, lately visited this county and wrote three extended articles on the county. One being on Oroville and vicinity, one on the Big Bend country and a third on Feather river. In the article on Big Bend, Mr Weeks gives some excellent fruit notes which will be found below:

"A ride between six and seven hours through the heart of the Sacramento Valley and into the lower foothills of Butte county brings one to the pretty little town of Oroville, embowered in fig, orange and other trees and hugging closely the banks of the Feather river, which, it may be remarked, is at this point a vastly different stream from the foaming, plunging torrent farther back in the mountains,

On the opposite side of the river the road lies through orchards of olive and orange, fine thrifty trees, their beautiful clean foliage and limbs, dark colored and perfect the trees hanging thick with unripe fruit, giving abundance of evidence that this is the equal of any part of California for the cultivation of the semi-tropical fruits. It is old mining ground that we pass over and from whose surface is now being garnered a second golden crop, more permanent and satisfying than the first one that brought so many here a half-century ago.

Leaving Oberokee the road winds through the hills, always the old mining ground in sight, and ever mounting higher and higher until at high noon the little hamlet of Yankee Hill is reached, and the stage is left because it goes no farther into the Big Bend region. Here at the rural hostelry of Mrs Wells, who as her name indicates to those posted on such matters, hails from 'away down east in the State of Maine,' a hearty meal is enjoyed and then ho for the remotest recesses of the Big Bend.

We pass from the thick forest into a clearing, open a gate and drive into as well kept and fruitful an orchard and vineyard as can be found anywhere. We are invited by the gray haired proprietor, Mr Muleto, to sample his fruits and hasten to avail ourselves of his hospitality. From grapevine to apple tree, from fig to peach and prune and walnut and almond and pear and chestnut, and goodness knows what all, we go, tasting here and there and filled with wonder that a pine forest should have given away to such trees and vines and such fruits. You cannot find anything like them in the city market. Grown on these sunny hillsides, well cultivated, with no irrigation to stimulate size at the expense of quality; with a soil manifestly rich in those constituents required for the production of fruits of absolutely perfect size, color and flavor—Mr Mullen lacks but one thing to make his products famous and that is ready means of transportation to distant markets. However, he has a good home market, so does not sigh for what he does not need, but it is a genuine loss to fruit lovers not to be able to make the acquaintance of such delicious products as are here found in abundance.



## Oroville Mercury 10-25-1901

Twenty-five quartz mining locations were filed with the county recorder yesterday, the locatore being J H Ryan, F D Mitchell, T D Davidson and O Buckland. As near as we can determine from the notices, the claims are in the neighborhood of Concow and Flee Valley.

Mrs. Ophelia Campbell, who's dwelling and contents, near Cherokee, were burned about ten day ago, was in town today and the Queen Insurance company, through Jno. P. Leonard, its agent at Oroville, paid to her the full amount of her insurance without any deduction or discount. She feels very grateful for the liberal, prompt and gentlemanly manner in which the loss was adjusted and paid, and desires us to express her thanks to them.

# Oroville Register 10-31-1901

Men were loading a ten stamp quartz mill from the Banner mine Thursday to be taken by cars to Nevada City.

# Oroville Register 10-31-1901

## New Saw Mills.

Geo Martin is down from Saddle Back, near Mountain House. He tells us that R O Dowdin is about to move his saw mill from its present location to the Butterfield place.

Lathrop & Dick will shortly move their mill from where it is now located to Jerry West's place on Wild Yankees.

The machinery is now being hauled from Flea Valley to Berry Creek where Aleck Hutchinson, son of Jas A Hutchinson, is to build a new mill.

A new mill is to be built near Mountain House. It is not known positively who advances the capital but it is thought to be a Michigan man who has lately been inspecting the timber in that locality,

# Oroville Register

10-31-1901

---

## Wendell Miller Dead.

Wendell Miller, an aged and respected citizen of Butte, died on his ranch five miles from Chico, on the 23d inst. He was 79 years of age, and a native of Germany. He was a brother of Joe Miller of Yankee Hill. He had been ill about a month with brain fever. The funeral took Saturday at 11 a. m. from the Catholic church in Cherokee.

## CHEROKEE CHIPS.

Items of Interest From a Lively Mining Town.

CHEROKEE, November 6.—Salmon fishing in the West Branch is a popular sport just now. Quite a good many have been caught in the past week.

Lee Mortenson, a young man of Pentz, has diphtheria, and the Mortenson home is quarantined to prevent the disease from spreading.

Mr. and Mrs. Rollins of Portland, Oregon, are visiting T. L. Vintin and family. Mrs. Rollins is a daughter of George Vintin, who lived on the Miller ranch below Pentz twenty years ago. They travelled overland in a wagon built for the purpose, which is a very comfortable, homelike affair. They are on a pleasure trip, and, after seeing as much as they wish of the State, they intend to return to Portland by steamer.

Rev. Mr. Benton went to Palermo yesterday to attend the ministers' meeting.

The Good Templars' organ was auctioned off Monday and was knocked down to Lou Cheshire. W. T.

A marriage license was issued today to George Charles Duensing and Marie N. C. Hansen. Mrs. Hansen is the widow of the late Neils C. Hansen, who was drowned in the Feather two years ago.



# RANCH FOR SALE

Mrs. O. L. Durban of Pentz offers her ranch of 500 acres in Mesilla valley for sale. The ranch is most favorably situated for raising grain or hay and the land and climate will produce every kind of citrus or deciduous fruits grown in California. There are two dwellings, a wine house and a dry house besides a good barn. Water is piped to nearly all the buildings. Plenty of free water to irrigate the entire tract. A hundred head of cattle can be kept winter and summer on the land. The locality is the most favored of any in Butte for freedom from frosts and freedom from north winds.

ADDRESS,

**Mrs. C. L. Durban,**  
**PENTZ, CAL.**

Dr Moffitt of Cherokee, has sold his practice to another physician who will locate in that place.

# Oroville Register 11-7-1901

## Mining News,

Herman Tegrunde was down for some days from the Kinsbaw mining district. He says owing to the lateness of the fallwater is rather scarce and in the Kinsbaw mine only development work is at present carried on. Ten men are employed. They had six inches of snow during one storm and two inches during another this fall.

Keaton & Carr are developing a good hydraulic mine about a mile from the Kinsbaw mine. Phil Ream has a good mine about a mile and a half from the same property.

Mr Tegrunde tells us residents of that section are now using the new road via Flea Valley and find it more convenient than the road by way of Lovelock. In winter they will have a less distance to go on snow shoes.

# Oroville Register 11-7-1901

J M McGee is the attorney for the executor of the Wendell Miller estate. It is one of the large estates of Butte and valued at from \$50,000 to \$75,000.

## WILL FILED.

### How Wendell Miller Disposed of His Estate.

The following is a copy of the last will and testament of Wendell Miller, deceased:

"This is my last will: My name is Wendell Miller. My age is 63 years or thereabouts; I reside in Butte county, Cal. I am in every respect of sound and disposing mind and competent to make a will. I bequeath to my brother Ignatz Miller \$100; to my nephew Joseph, son of Ignatz, \$2,000; to my nephew Fred Miller, son of Ignatz, \$1,000; to my niece Teresa, daughter of said Ignatz, \$500; to my niece Helene, \$500; to my sister Elizabeth Gollinger, \$1,500; to my niece Elizabeth Schmidt, \$1,500; to the children of my brother Antone Miller, \$2,000.

All the rest and residue of my property real and personal, I bequeath to my brother, Joseph Miller.

In a codicil he states that his sister's name should read Maglich, not Gollinger. She has died since the will was made and in the codicil he gives the money bequeathed to her to his nephew, Fred Maglich.

The value of the estate is about \$48,000. It consists of 4,423 acres of land valued at \$40,000, 600 head of cattle valued at \$6,000, and other personal property to the value of \$2,000.

## Oroville Register 11-14-1901

In the matter of the estate of Wendell Miller, deceased, A E Boynton has been appointed attorney for the absent heirs. The following are the names of the persons for whom said attorney is appointed: Ignatz Miller, Teresa Miller, He'ene Miller, Elizabeth Schmidt, Elizabeth Maglich, Fred Maglich, Mrs Mary Nunan, Fred Miller, Mrs Glory Montgomery, Bertha Miller, Wendell Miller, Obe Low and ——— Miller.

# SALMON FISHING

Is Just Now All the  
Rage.

AND IT IS A RARE SPORT

Parties From Cherokee Go Over to the  
West Branch of the North Fork in  
the Evening and Provided With  
Torches They Have Great Sport.

Salmon fishing is just now all the rage and a good deal of sport is being had from this kind of fishing. These fish are running up the Middle Fork and lately a number of young men from Enterprise have been down there catching fish or rather spearing fish. Frank Maxson seems to have been the most fortunate one among the number. His largest catch was a thirty-seven pounder.

At the West Branch of the North Fork and within two or three miles of Cherokee several salmon spearing parties have been made up. They start off just at dark, take their lunch, are provided with kerosene torches and on reaching the river find the salmon by aid of the lights and then spear or try to spear them in the stream. Six young men were down from Cherokee on Thursday night and caught seven, the largest weighing 16 pounds. Another party went down on Friday night. Jas Campbell, brother of Mrs M E Phares of this town, was fortunate to spear one lately that weighed 29 pounds.

Mr Montague of this town, is proving himself the most expert angler we have in Butte, and is catching these splendid fish with the hook and line, or spoon and line. He caught one weighing 8 pounds with a line, another of 6 and another of 5½ pounds.

A man named Jack Pinkey on the Middle Fork lately speared a 40 pound dog head salmon but so far none have been caught in the South Fork of the Feather.



# The Oroville Mercury

12-3-1901

## YANKEE HILL NOTES.

Flee Valley Mill Machinery Moved—  
Mining and Other News.

YANKEE HILL, November 24.—We are having warm showers and both feed and grain is looking well. The rainy weather, however, has put a stop to plowing and seeding for the present.

At Concow everything looks green and beautiful, and volunteer lettuce is nearly large enough to eat. John Miller has some huge cabbage and turnips, such as only Concow can produce.

Marshal Miller is down with pneumonia at Jordan Hill.

Mrs. Nellie Thomas has been quite ill with pneumonia, but was better at last accounts.

Our roads are in bad condition. On the Flee Valley end it is cut up by the teams hauling shakes and mill machinery. Alec Hutchins has been taking out the old Flee Valley mill machinery which he is going to use near Berry Creek.

The mining interest is rather quiet, owing to the scarcity of water. J. A. Clark is waiting for water, Eli Piper has been constructing a reservoir and the Bohannon company has been getting in supplies and material for their winter run.

John Miller has bought all the old buildings of J. A. Hutchins and is trying to get them removed to his home at Concow.

The stamps are clattering away at the Pinkston mine.

M.

## THE CHINESE QUESTION.

Cherokee Correspondent on Apathy of  
Butte County People.

CHEROKEE, November 28.—Mrs. Doon, who resided in Cherokee until about three years ago, paid Cherokee a flying visit of business and pleasure combined a few days ago. She returned to San Francisco on Tuesday.

Walker and Suggett are having a new roof put on the Waldeyer house.

Seven Portuguese miners quit work in the Cherokee mine yesterday. They complained that the boss "cusses" them too much. We are informed that American miners will be put in the Portuguese' places.

Andrew Johnson and Suel Van Gooden are putting a string of sewer pipe from the mining company's office to the postoffice. It is a much needed improvement.

We cannot understand the apathy of the Butte county people on the Chinese question. If the people of Butte county do not make a stupendous effort to prevent it, the exclusion act will be allowed to expire. Four-fifths of the people of this county are opposed to Chinese immigration, but with the exception of the Mercury we don't know of any one making an effort to acquaint Congress with Butte county sentiment on the subject. Petitions ought to be in every postoffice in the county and everybody ought to sign them. If something is not done, and done in season, the exclusion act will be allowed to expire and the people of California will be kicking about an evil that they could have prevented.

WM. THOMAS.