

Daily Alta California

1-22-1853

New and rich diggings have just been discovered, between the West Branch and North Fork of Feather river. Cayote diggings at Frenchtown and flat diggings at Rich Gulch, one mile from Frenchtown, which have been opened less than a week, yield from one to four ounces per day, to the hand. One lump of pure gold, taken from the cayote diggings at Frenchtown weighed \$129. Some very rich quartz veins are in the neighborhood, which have never been worked.—*Herald.*

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Marysville.

MORE INDIAN DIFFICULTIES—DEATH OF A CHIEF.—A correspondent of the *Marysville Herald*, writing a few weeks since from Lyon's Ranch, gave an account of an affray with the Indians which resulted in the death of eighteen or twenty, writes again under date of 15th inst.:

Yesterday evening, information was received that the old chief was at Frenchtown, a mining settlement across the West Branch, four or five miles distant, openly threatening vengeance upon the whites for the severe castigation they had received.

A party of eight was immediately formed, and at 6 o'clock set out from Hasty's Ranch, crossed the river, arrested and brought back the old chief, arriving before 11 o'clock. After binding him, a strong guard was placed over him to prevent the possibility of his escape, until this morning, when he was removed about a mile, to Lyons' Ranch, and after a short deliberation, it was unanimously resolved to hang him at once. Arrangements were soon made, and the redoubtable old brave, who has figured so conspicuously in every Indian affray of importance in this region, since the introduction of the whites, after calmly surveying the preparations made for his execution, met his fate with consummate bravery. He was suspended by the neck to the limb of an oak in the neighborhood

The vote deciding upon this course was unanimous, but there is at least one who strongly doubts the policy or justice of the proceeding. Time will show. There are still two chiefs remaining, and a tribe that can muster at least 250 fighting men, in the immediate neighborhood of a small scattered population of exposed and defenceless whites. What course they, together with their allies, the Tigres and Nimskews, will pursue, remains to be seen.

Lyon's Ranch would become Pence's Ranch shortly after this.

The ranch was located at the intersection of today's Durham Pentz Rd and Wheelock Rd. Frenchtown was located across the Feather River on Nelson Bar Rd.

Weekly Alta California 2-19-1853

Indian Disturbances in Mariposa.

Lieut. Moore, arrived in town from Fort Miller, assures the *Republican* that nearly all the accounts relative to the Indian difficulties in that region have been grossly exaggerated. The particulars of the depredations of the Chowchillas were, in the main, correct; but the accounts of the killing of Mr. Converse and the attack on Fort Miller were mistakes altogether. The facts of the last case are: a mule was stolen from one of the camps, as was supposed, by the Indians. Lieut. Moore with a company followed the trail of the animal several miles, and finally reached the spot where it had been killed and part of it eaten. One or two arrows were still in the body of the mule, and they were recognised as the same used by the Merced Indians, a warlike and troublesome tribe.

In the Chowchilla difficulty the Indians say the whites fired first, while the whites as strenuously maintain that the Indians were the aggressors.

Exciting News from Tehama—Indian Thefts— Terrible Vengeance of the Whites.

Mr. Lurk, of Adams & Co., furnished the *Union* with the following exciting news.

The Indians have committed so many depredations in the North, of late, that the people are enraged against them, and are ready to knife them, shoot them, or inoculate them with small pox—all of which have been done.

Some time since, the Indians in Colusa county destroyed about \$5,000 worth of stock belonging to Messrs. Thomas & Toombs; since which time they have had two men employed, at \$100 per month, to hunt down and kill the Diggers, like other beasts of prey. On Friday, the 25th ult., one of these men, named John Breckenridge, was alone, and armed only with a bowie knife, when he met with four Indians and attacked them. They told him to leave, and commenced shooting arrows at him; but, undaunted, he continued to advance, and succeeded in killing one, and taking one prisoner, while the other two escaped. He immediately proceeded to Moon's Ranch, where the captured Indian was hung by the citizens.

On Friday, the 25th Feb., stock was stolen from Mr Carter of Butte county, to the value of \$3,000. Mr. Carter went forthwith to the camp of the well known stage proprietors, Messrs. Hall & Crandall, and thence started with a party of twelve men in search of the Indian depredators. After a fruitless search in the vicinity of Pine and Deer Creeks, the party became impatient, and dispersed on Sunday evening. Returning home, one detachment of the party discovered a half-breed by the name of Battedon, and took him prisoner. The man, fearing for his own life, agreed to show the cave where the Indians were concealed, if they would release him. Notice was sent round, and the people assembled again at Oak Grove on Monday, from which place they started at midnight for the cave.

Arriving there at early daylight on Tuesday morning, rocks were rolled into the cave, and the wretched inmates, rushing out for safety, met danger a thousand times more dreadful. The first one that made his appearance was shot by Capt. Geo. Rose, and the others met the same fate from the rifles of the Americans. Altogether, there were thirteen killed; three chiefs of different rancherias, and three women. Three women and five children were spared; and it is but doing justice to say, that the women who were killed were placed in front as a sort of breast-work, and killed either by accident or mistake. Capt. Rose took one child, Mr. Lattimer another, and the others were disposed of in the same charitable manner among the party.

On Tuesday night, March 1st, three work oxen belonging to Messrs. Bull and Baker were stolen from a corral in Shasta city, and on Thursday morning twenty-six head were driven off at Red Bluffs; value near \$4,000.