"Indian Outrage in Shasta -- Murders of McKinney and Capt. Gillmore," Sacramento Daily Union, March 9, 1852: p. 2, col. 4.

For the Union.

## Indian Outrages in Shasta--Murders of McKinney and Capt. Gillmore.

SHASTA, March 1, 1852.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—This community has been thrown into a state of feverish excitement during the past week, in consequence of a most diabolical murder committed by a small tribe of Cottonwood Indians upon James L. McKinney, a young man nineteen years of age, and son of a very worthy and much respected citizen of our county, Charles M. McKinney, who keeps a ranch on Cottonwood. It appears that a few days since the young man had his blankets stolen from the ranch, and suspecting a small rancheria of Diggers who had been on friendly terms with McKinney's folks—having been liberally fed and clothed by Mr. McKinney—the young man saddled his mule and went to the rancheria, some three miles distant, in search of his blankets. The mule returning without James induced the father to go in search of his son; but not finding him nor getting any information of the unfortunate young man, he (as we all do under similar circumstances) went to Major Reading's and appealed for advice and assistance in finding his lost son. The Major instantly sent some twelve or fifteen of his Indians upon the hunt, and in twenty-four hours they returned bringing with them two of the murderers and the heads of two who could not be taken alive. The miners in the vicinity, to the number of about thirty, immediately turned out and in company with Major Reading's Indians assisted in arresting those murderers. Upon their arrival at the Major's the two who were brought in alive were hung up to an oak tree, and the heads of the other two hung up with them, and were suffered to remain so suspended for a whole day that the spectacle might strike terror to all the neighboring Indians, who were summoned to witness the awful and sure retribution of such demons. There were five men belonging to this rancheria, four of whom have thus been caught and received their just deserts; the other is yet at large. One of the heads brought in

Scanned by KJD - 2009

"Indian Outrage in Shasta -- Murders of McKinney and Capt. Gillmore." Sacramento Daily Union, March 1852: p. 2, col. 4.

who were summoned to witness the awful and sure retribution of such demons. There were five men belonging to this rancheria, four of whom have thus been caught and received their just deserts; the other is yet at large. One of the heads brought in was that of a venerable grey-headed old man who had times without number partaken of the hospitalities of Mr. McKinney, and who knowing the heinousness of the crime he had committed, and knowing the terrible punishment awaiting him, refused to be taken alive; he was accordingly beheaded, together with his desperate associate, and their heads swung up to the same limb with their guilty comrades. It appears that they were found through the instrumentality of an Indian boy belonging to Major Reading, and who knew the murderers well. The squaws belonging to this little rancheria escaped.—The body of young McKinney was found near the rancheria; his skull was cut open with an axe, and several other mortal wounds were upon the body.—All the circumstances connected with the horrid affair so unmistakeably fixed the guilt upon those culprits, that no one believes any member of this doomed rancheria innocent.

In a conversation with Mr. McKinney to-day upon this painful subject, he with tears in his eyes could not refrain speaking of the noble and generous conduct of Major Reading. He said he should ever remember with feelings of the deepest gratitude the interest taken in his welfare by that good man, who left no means untried to bring the murderers to justice and in finding the body of his son. Although a stern man myself, I could not repress my feelings in listening to the recital of Mr. McKinney's irreparable loss, and to see the tears of gratitude coursing down his manly cheek in speaking of the praiseworthy conduct of our own noble Major Reading. God bless the Major, and let all the people respond amen. Mr. McKinney is from Calloway county, Missouri.

Captain Gillmore, a trader at Clear Creek, has likewise been inhumanly butchered by the Indians on Indian Creek, a branch of the Trinity. Almost every day we hear of the murder of some of our citizens by those cursed rascals, and yet Government does nothing. War, open and inveterate, exists and has existed here for some time past, as much as it ever has in any country. Our citizens who happen to be alone and unarmed are continually being murdered, and nothing is done. How long must we submit to such dreadful outrages? Nothing short of a war of extermination will ever ensure us peace and

Scanned by KJD - 2009

has existed here for some time past, as much as it ever has in any country. Our citizens who happen to be alone and unarmed are continually being murdered, and nothing is done. How long must we submit to such dreadful outrages? Nothing short of a war of extermination will ever ensure us peace and comfort. Philanthropists and Commissioners may preach a different doctrine, but the actual observation and experience of our own citizens on the spot teach a different course. How many lives, I ask, of those cursed Diggers will atone for the life of one of our best citizens? Let Government issue a decree to exterminate the whole race, and place a price upon their heads, and in less than three months I predict that a peaceable and quiet citizen could pursue his journey unmolested. JOSIAH KOOP.

"Indian Outrage in Shasta -- Murders of McKinney and Capt. Gillmore." Sacramento Daily Union, March 9, 1852: p. 2, col. 4.

DAILY UNI

SACRAMENTO, ~~MONDA~~Y MORNING, MARCH 8, 1852.