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Sacramento Transcript, Volume 1, Number 26, 30 May 1850 — Massacre of Eleven Americans by the Yumas Indians. [ARTICLE]

Massacre of Eleven Americans by the Yumas Indians.

Near the junction of the Colorado and Gila rivers, a ferry was erected over the Colorado, some time in March last, by a company of Americans. The business done by the ferry was large, and several men stopped at the place to carry it on. For some reason, which has not been explained, the Yumas Indians, heretofore considered a harmless and inoffensive tribe, have very unexpectedly shown decided evidence of hostility. By a dispatch from Abel Stearns, first Alcalde of the District of Los Angeles, sent by extraordinary express to Gov. Burnett, we learn the following facts. On the 21st of last April, six of the ferry company crossed over the Colorado to the Mexican side, for the purpose of bringing over the animals of some Sonorians; the rest of the company, numbering eight, remaining on the American side of the river. Three of the company left the houses and were cutting poles in some woods near the ferry, and while thus engaged, some fifteen or twenty of the Yumas Indians came to them, saying that the captain of the ferry had sent them to help cut the poles. As they had never before been thus employed, their motives were mistrusted. A hatchet, however, was given to one of them, with which he commenced cutting, and he was soon observed to strike very near the head of one of the Americans. The Americans hereupon drew their pistols, and the Indians ran, circling round towards the houses belonging to

...ing round towards the houses belonging to the company. The three Americans started for the houses also; but before getting out of the woods they heard a yell, and as they emerged from the brush into the open country, the Indians fired upon them. There being little chance of escape, the party commenced firing back, running at the same time to gain the houses. They succeeded in reaching their houses, where they found the dead body of Glanton, the captain of the ferry company. They next ran to a Mexican camp in the neighborhood, but were there refused admittance. They then fled to the river, and succeeded in getting off from the shore in one of their boats. The Indians now commenced shooting balls and arrows at them from both banks, while the party hurried down the river. After rowing fourteen miles, they found they had outstripped the Indians, and then landed nearly opposite a place called Algodores. They then took to the woods; at moonrise they returned, and found their boat had been taken away. That night they went fourteen miles further down the river, built a raft, and on the 24th, crossed the Colorado. During the 24th the party changed their course and went up the river, and in the course of the day fell in with a party of Indians, from which they were fortunate enough to escape. Pursuing their course up the river, they travelled all night on the 24th, and at daylight on the morning of the 25th, they reached the Mexican camp that was at the ferry where the Indian's attack commenced—having been without food since twelve o'clock, M., of the 23d. From the Mexicans the party learned the fate of the rest of their companions.

Glanton and Dr. A. L. Lincoln were asleep, each in one of the houses. A Mexican woman saw the chief of the Yumas enter the house in which the Doctor lay, and hit him in the head with a stone; whereupon he rose to his feet, but was immediately killed with a club. Another woman related the death of Glanton in the same

woman related the death of Glanton in the same manner. The three others who remained at the houses were killed, the manner not known; but none of them had an opportunity of killing any of the Indians. The party also learned from the Mexicans that the six who crossed the river with the boat for the Sonorians, were also killed by the Yumas. The bodies of five of them were brought over to the Mexican side and burned; as also were the bodies of Dr. Lincoln, Glanton, and the rest of the five murdered at the houses. Dr. Lincoln's dog, and two other dogs, were tied to his body and that of Glanton, and burned alive with them. A large quantity of meat was thrown into the fire at the same time. The houses were also burned down, and the bodies of the other three Americans, named John A. Johnson, Wm. Pewit and John Dorsey consumed with them.

It seems that the attack was made first on those who crossed the river in the boat. The Indians met them as they touched the opposite bank, in a friendly manner, and while the Americans were suspecting nothing wrong, they were suddenly put to death before they could make any resistance. The names of the five others killed in the boat, were Thomas Harlin, of Texas; Henderson Smith, of Mo.; John Gunn, of Mo.; Thomas Wilson, of Philadelphia; James M. Miller, New Jersey, and John Jackson, a colored man. The names of the party killed at the houses have been given. Dr. Lincoln was of St. Louis, Mo.; John J. Glanton, of San Antonio, Texas; John Jackson, of New York; Wm. Pewit, of Texas, and John Dorsey, of Mo. At the time of the massacre, Dr. Lincoln had in his possession \$50,000 in silver, and between 20,000 and \$30,000 in gold, belong-

ing to the ferry company, which it appears has fallen into the hands of the Indians.

The three Americans who escaped in the manner described, were named William Carr, Joseph A. Anderson, and Marcus L. Webster. The above

A. Anderson, and Marcus L. Webster. The above statements are taken from depositions made by them before the Alcalde of Los Angeles, which were forwarded to the Governor in the manner aforesaid. The testimony goes on to say that the Indians have declared to the Mexicans that their tribe is at war with the Americans; that they do not intend to suffer Americans at the ferry, and will kill all who come to their country; that they want to fight with the Americans. These Indians have since pursued two Americans, who are now at Los Angeles, after having succeeded in robbing them of every thing they had

The object for sending the intelligence to the Governor will appear from the following extract from the letter of the Alcalde of Los Angeles, which came with the depositions :

“There is a necessity for immediately sending an adequate military force to the scene of the late massacre, in order to protect the emigrants who are coming down the Gila; many of whom, it is to be apprehended, will arrive wholly unconscious of the hostility of these Indians. It is the custom of the emigrants to travel this part of the road in very small parties, the Yumas being supposed to be harmless and inoffensive. Heretofore they have only been accused of theft upon such as have delayed in their neighborhood without proper caution. But there is no doubt *now*, that they are in a state of actual war, with all who bear the name of Americans.”

It is thought by the Alcalde that from fifty to one hundred men will be amply sufficient to protect the emigrants against the Yumas.

NEVADA CITY, DEER CREEK.—From our correspondent, Mr. J. T. Foster, we have further news from the astonishingly rich locality, on Deer Creek, called Gold Run, the discovery of which we noticed in one of the first

covery of which we noticed in one of the first numbers of our paper. Mr. Foster writes from Nevada City, Deer Creek. The letter is dated May 11th, and reads as follows:

Mr. Editor: Sir—With haste I embrace this opportunity of writing you. Our teams came into town on Saturday, about noon. We left at 3 o'clock. I had no time to see you. Gold will soon begin to pour down to Sacramento from this section. The men on Gold Run are taking out from five to twelve pounds per day. In fact, they are only waiting for the water to fall a little.

They have their dams made, their ditches dug, and are all ready to turn the water, and take the gold right out.

This is a most delightful climate—nobody is sick here. The spring has just opened, and the leaves have just put out.

The water is too high yet to work on the Yuoa, but one claim has sold there for 10,000 dollars.

We wish you great success in your levee. The teams are about to start, and I must close. You shall hear from me again.

FOUND DEAD.—Some time ago we noticed the fact of the mysterious disappearance of a young man from one of the neighboring ranches, under somewhat mysterious circumstances, and requested any one who possessed intelligence concerning the young man to confer a favor upon his anxious parents by calling at

our office and making us acquainted with it. We are indebted to Mr. James McDermott for the following information. As he and two of his friends were on their road to this city from Auburn, in striking out of the road in order to save distance, they discovered a dead body very much mutilated, and considerably decomposed, lying on the prairie about four miles from the American river, on the other side, and between the "Middle Ferry" and where the Yuba road crosses the North Fork road. Many of the ribs were broken from the spine, and the body had several twists in it. The shirt and coat had been drawn over his head, a hair lariat and a wooden stirrup were lying near.

Mr. McDermott came immediately to town and the Coroner repaired to the spot. An inquest was held, and from the testimony the verdict was rendered that the deceased, Wm. Jamison Findley, son of David Findley, was murdered about seven miles from this city, by some person or persons unknown.

LETTERS FOR THE STATES.—Messrs. Angle & Co., inform the public that they will receive letters and other packages, to be forwarded to the States, either by mail or by express, until the departure of the Senator, for San Francisco, on Friday afternoon.

J. B. Starr & Co. will sell this morning, at 10 o'clock, at their sales room, corner Front and K streets, a large assortment of desirable merchandize; also, several trunks left on storage on board bark Wm. Ivy. For par-

particulars see advertisements.

FROM PILOT HILL.—We have received a short letter from our regular correspondent at Pilot Hill Dry Diggings, dated May 27, 1850, from which we extract the following intelligence:

“On Saturday last, a disturbance took place between a Mr. McAllister and Charles Cooper, at this place. The disturbance arose from the effects of *good liquor*. It was first excited by the deceased. Hard names (liar, &c.) were called, and the result was that McAllister was knocked down with a spade by the hands of Cooper. McAllister did not speak from that time; his skull having been badly fractured and bleeding profusely. He died this morning about 10 o'clock. Cooper made his escape to parts unknown.

The Diggings here are failing for want of water. I have knocked off digging and am now connected with the “Hickory Tent” in the big valley.”