

# Nevada Journal, Volume 2, Number 50, 8 April 1853 — Another Indian Murder. [ARTICLE]

[Back](#)

## Another Indian Murder,

*Death of Lieut. Russell.*—We take the following account of the murder of Lieut Russell, from the *Union of March 30*, as furnished in manuscript to that paper by the editor of the *Shasta Courier*, dated March 26th:—

It is with feelings of intense sorrow that I announce the horrible death of Edward Russell, First Lieutenant of the Fourth Infantry. He was murdered yesterday, on the head waters of Thom's Creek, by a band of Indians belonging to a tribe inhabiting that portion of the Coast Range forming the western boundary of Colusa county.

You will doubtless have learned by this morning's *Courier* that Lieut Russell was ordered to that portion of Colusa county by Col. Wright a few days since, in consequence of the numerous depredations committed by the Indians of that section upon the Colusa ranch-men. It was in the performance of this service that Lieut. R. lost his life.

It appears, according to present information, that Lieut Russell had met and captured some eight or ten Indians on his way to rancheria in the mountains, whom he at once disarmed, placing their bows and arrows in the hands of his interpreter, an Indian boy. He then continued his course in the direction of the rancheria. In a short time he, together with his guide, interpreter, and the prisoners, being some distance in advance of his men, got

still farther separated from them in consequence of each party taking a different direction around a hill. It was while going round this hill that the Indians, snatching their arms from the boy, fell upon Lieut. R. At the time of the attack the guide, an old mountain man, was about one hundred yards behind the party, but before he could reach the ground the Indians had unhorsed the unfortunate Russell and beaten his brains out with clubs — Lieut. R. shot one of the Indians dead, and wounded a second, and the guide killed some two or three more. The remainder made their escape. Lieut. R. had seven arrows shot into his body.

Thus has a brave and chivalrous a soldier as our army can boast—full of high hopes and noble aspirations—and while defending his countrymen against the incursions of the ruthless savages—been suddenly cut down, in the very midst of his youthful career. It was but a few days since that he called in our office, with the flush of health upon his cheek—full of life and spirits—and confident of being able, in a short time, in connection with the efforts of his brother officers, to rid our people of the further depredations of the savages.

Lieut. Russell is widely known in this State, and his lamentable death will be regretted by a large number of acquaintances and friends. Of course the sad event has still further exasperated the citizens of this section. The corpse of Lieut. R. was taken to Fort Reading to-day.

**ONE OF THE WITNESSES.**—A queer excuse was made a few days ago by an old lady. The good woman was subpoenaed to appear as a witness on a rather delicate case. She did not come, and a bench warrant was issued