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NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY

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The Squaw Valley "Fever"
of 1863

Letters From a Nevada Doctor
To His Daughter in Connecticut
During the Years 1881-1891

Teacher's Examination

The Pyramid Lake Indian
War of 1860



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THE SQUAW VALLEY "FEVER" OF 1863

By PEGGY TREGO

[FOREWORD: We find some universalities in *Squaw Valley "Fever"* and *Letters from a Nevada Doctor*, the first two articles in this issue. We, however, will undoubtedly be accused of selecting the *Squaw Valley* item because it is so much in the news—crass opportunism! and in a publication so young, too. But to the universalities we find in the articles: The discovery of a lode—gold, silver, uranium—heralds the birth of a camp, and people eagerly watch the growth of the bawling infant. Through to maturity the camp commands their attention; then, with evidence of decline, attention wanders and is caught up again only when the camp has become a ghost. Peggy Trego's *Squaw Valley* reveals the universality of interest in the "birth"; Russell R. Elliott's *Letters from a Nevada Doctor* reveal other universalities: The faith of those who lingered on with the camp—their knowing that its greatest riches had yet to be struck, and then obscurity. Had Squaw Valley developed into a rich camp like Hamilton, Nevada, it, too, would have declined. Professor Elliott brings us that facet in the story of a camp which has the least glister: The decline, the faith, the obscurity—unpleasant words, those; but moments in history frequently overlooked—people so like the happy ending.—THE EDITOR.]

In the summer of 1863, a newspaper reporter from Sacramento traveled west "over the hump" to verify a large number of reports from Squaw Valley and vicinity. He found, wrote he, "700 crazy people running about in the woods" all afflicted with the lunacy peculiar to bonanza-chasers.

"Squaw Valley fever," as the *Placer Courier* termed it, was a comparatively severe epidemic of its kind which in a few weeks populated the quiet valley under Squaw Peak with hundreds—even thousands—of hopeful Californians who had missed or lost the fortunes of '49, plus a goodly number of disappointed souls from around Virginia City which was then experiencing one of its periodic slumps. The infection spread through the heavy timber northeast of Squaw Valley itself, winding down the Truckee River banks and into the hills north of Lake Tahoe, its contagion evident in the staking of miles of claims, in the frenetic digging of dozens of tunnels and shafts and in the announced

founding of seven hopeful towns, several of which became visible even to the untrained eye.

Squaw Valley and environs had nearly everything a mining boom could want: Plenty of land to be divided into "feet," abundant water and timber, a comparative nearness to older, settled areas where supplies could be got. It seemed perfect. The only thing missing was a lode.

Just why Squaw Valley was mistaken for a second Comstock is something yet to be explained. Perhaps it was basically a matter of bad geology. Possibly speculation reared its ugly head over what human error had created. Certainly the collective hopes of hordes of unlucky miners from both California and Nevada Territory contributed most to the situation that arose by building a thrilling, blinding probability out of lukewarm fact. However its origin, Squaw Valley's grand rush of 1863 was a little dandy of its kind.

John Keiser and Shannon Knox, Comstock-bound, were the first to scent treasure when they loitered in Squaw Valley early that July to do a little prospecting. The two men found something promising, or thought they did, and either they or the grapevine did the rest. On Thursday, July 18, the first news of their activities became public when the *Placer Courier*, a bright weekly issued at Forest Hill by Philip Lynch and John H. Mundall, printed a rather mild paragraph headed "SILVER AT SQUAW VALLEY."

We are informed [the *Courier* stated] that at Squaw Valley, 47 miles above Forest Hill (according to Stangroom's survey) new and rich silver mines have been discovered. Some of the people at Last Chance and Michigan Bluffs have gone up to secure claims. One who has returned, brought specimens along which are pronounced rich.—The locality is a beautiful valley several miles long just east of the first summit, and north of Lake Tahoe, and within four or five miles of the point where the Pacific Railroad strikes the Truckee River. Should these mines prove rich, and a settlement spring up, their supplies will be obtained in Forest Hill and at the Bluffs.—"Westward the (silver) Empire takes its way."¹

Now the news of a big new mining strike in Placer County was something to ring the welkin and wring a miner's heart. Everyday business could have been better in Forest Hill and "the Bluffs"; the gold excitement of more than a decade earlier had lost considerable lustre all along the Mother Lode, and some of the communities were hard put to settle their economies happily with no more of their early intense mining to count on.

As early as the summer of 1856 this had been true, and in that year Placer County had instructed its surveyor, Thomas Young, to set up a new road over the Sierra to compete with the heavily-travelled Henness Pass to the north and the Placerville route to the south. By means of their new road, Placer citizens reasoned, some of the lucrative trans-Sierra trade could be lured away from El Dorado, Nevada, and Sierra Counties.

Young's road, never improved much beyond the trail stage, set out easterly from Fork House midway between Yankee Jim's and Iowa Hill, swung up the north branch of the American River's Middle Fork and over a ridge into Squaw Valley. It was this trail that Keiser and Knox had taken on their way to Virginia City, and the result of their trek was greater use of Young's road than it ever had before, or has ever had since. The *Courier's* first article, coming when it did, was comparable to a short fuse. The resultant explosion started a fair-sized exodus from the once-thriving Mother Lode towns.

Even the *Courier* itself was a bit startled by the events of a single week. "IMMENSE EXCITEMENT!" shouted its top line in the July 25 issue, with "SILVER AT SQUAW VALLEY" in larger type than seven days earlier. The story, although tempered with caution born of experience in mining booms, was shot through with ebullience:

In publishing the news in the last *Courier* of the discovery of silver diggings up at Squaw Valley, we little expected to see such a rush of people for the place as there has been within a week past. We published what we did, merely from *report*—and if there should happen to be more humbug than reality in these reported new and rich discoveries, we can't be blamed. Of this we feel certain, that not less than one thousand people have flocked to Squaw Valley within the last eight days from different directions—even from Washoe. Of this we are certain, and our informant is reliable, that several lodes of silver-bearing rock have been discovered, and that a mill for crushing rock and also sawing lumber is now in course of construction there. Report had it, that assays have been made of the rock in one lead which assays eighty dollars to the ton. There being neither a store or a tavern in Squaw Valley—the only habitations being merely a few board cabins, many of the excited silver seekers who went there without provisions have yearned after "grub" more than silver bricks. It is even reported that provisions have sold as high as five dollars a pound and that men had nothing to eat for two days!

Several men who went from Michigan Bluffs last week, returned on Monday, obtained supplies and have gone out again.²

Even the Comstock took note of the doings at Squaw Valley, and its evening paper, the *Bulletin*, stated:

GREAT EXCITEMENT.—Rich silver discoveries, recently made, have caused quite an excitement in Squaw Valley, between Lakes Bigler and Truckee. A gentlemen [sic] just in from the locality informs us that men are flocking in from Placer and El Dorado Counties in large numbers. The richest discoveries have been made in the range of mountains between the Lakes and a small ridge near Truckee, in which silver has been detected with the naked eye. The country around this new El Dorado is well supplied with wood and water, but provisions being scarce, the miners are now engaged in building scows, with which they intend to navigate Lake Bigler, and procure the necessaries of life from its southern shore.³

Pinpointing things better than did its sister in Washoe, the *Courier* explained that:

. . . Squaw Valley is four or five miles in length, runs from south-west to north-east, and is surrounded on all sides by high and thickly-timbered mountains. The outlet of the valley is on Big Truckee river, four miles below Lake Tahoe—is 47 miles from Forest Hill and 34 this side of Carson City.⁴

The July 25 issue of the *Courier* also carried a second long article on the same subject, headed "LATER FROM SQUAW VALLEY:"⁵

A gentleman who left Squaw Valley on Thursday morning, informs us that the Valley and the surrounding mountains, as also Truckee River valley, for many miles below Lake Tahoe, was full of people "prospecting" for silver. A lode has been found on the east side of the Truckee which has been staked off for a distance of *eight miles*! Report says that rock, assayed at Virginia city, taken from this ledge has yielded three hundred dollars to the ton! Another assay, made from rock in several other ledges, has yielded at the rate of from one and a quarter to one hundred and three dollars. Many of the Virginia city and San Francisco "sharps" had had [sic] already arrived in the neighborhood. Town lots were being staked off at the junction of Squaw Valley and Truckee river, and there is plenty of pine timber there, which will soon be converted into lumber, Tahoe City will be a large town in a few months. At least, so report says. Provisions, brought in on pack trains, are becoming plenty and reasonably cheap. We predict, that if these silver diggings turn out as is now reported—(we publish these speculations only on general report)—Squaw Valley and Big Truckee will be the most famous localities in all Placer County. If the wealth is there, however, no cause exists for excitement or panic. It will take time, patience, labor and money to develop it.—The exertions, toil and labor now being bestowed upon disembowelling the locality, will prove within a month or two hence whether Squaw and Truckee Valleys are a "silver humbug" or not.⁵

Hope vs. a faint frown of doubt led the *Courier* to chronicle a couple of luckless excursions at the end of this second article:

Ex-Senator Saxton, of Volcanoville, struck a "big thing" at Squaw Valley last week. In company with some others, he staked off four thousand feet on a *ledge*. A mule load of the rock was taken to Virginia, assayed and the product was—"nary cent." Still, the croppings may have the true indications.

A gentleman named Kelley, from this town, also struck a "big thing" on Monday. Being determined on having some "feet," he started to walk to Squaw; travelled furiously for twenty-one miles, and then found his FEET as raw as a porterhouse steak. He was glad to get home alive!⁵

Eighteen sixty-three was a year of near-violent Civil War sentiment in California, and one of the products of that high feeling also made it the "Year of the Oath." Staunch Unionists managed to push a bill through the state legislature requiring all attorneys in California to take a special oath, swearing fidelity to the Union and guaranteeing that they would grant no comfort or aid to the Confederates. In the same month that the Squaw Valley rush began, California's supreme court upheld constitutionality of the oath, and therefore at least one disgruntled lawyer with Southern sympathies decided to trek eastward to avoid embarrassment if not downright ostracism. Such a one was given the happily pro-Union *Courier's* attention, also in the July 25 issue:

SQUAW VALLEY FEVER.—That jolly cuss Jeems Anderson, of Auburn, passed through town on Wednesday, on his way to the newly-discovered silver region in Squaw Valley he expects to also change his name as soon as he reaches Squaw Col. Anderson visits Squaw Valley to see how many "feet" are in it, and also to see about "law and lawing." There is good prospect for both

[Col.] Anderson has refused to take the Attorney's Oath, as required by law, and has fled to Squaw Valley to ameliorate his offended dignity From what we can learn from there, however, Secessionists are not allowed to take up any claims.⁶

The *Courier* may have been right about pro-Union feelings around Squaw Valley. Several of the larger claims were given "monikers" of decidedly Unionist leaning, and the most prominent mining district of the area was christened with ringing patriotism, something the *Courier* noticed among other things in an early August issue under the heading:

SQUAW VALLEY AND HASKELL SILVER MINES

In our last paper we announced the discovery of new silver mines in Squaw Valley and on the Truckee river for a distance of fifteen miles down from Lake Tahoe. We are pleased to inform our readers that these mines are a reality, and likely to prove valuable. A number of distinct ledges of silver-bearing rock have been opened, and the "indications" are decidedly encouraging. Two different districts—the "Summit" and the "Red, White, and Blue"—have been laid off, miners' records established, and a large number of claims staked, posted and recorded. Nearly every person who has returned, with whom we have conversed, gives a flattering account of these new discoveries, and express [*sic*] a confidence in them. Shafts are being sunk in some of the ledges, and several assays of rock made which have proven satisfactory.

A village, called Knoxville, on the eastern bank of the Truckee, was laid out into lots, last week, and the proprietors sold quite a number of lots the first day the books were opened, at five dollars a lot. As they went "off like hot cakes" at that price, the owners on the second day raised the price of lots to one hundred dollars. This for a time checked the sales.—In the meantime, another town site was laid off [*sic*] on the west bank of the Truckee, at the mouth of Squaw Valley, and sales of lots opened at ten dollars each. Canvas tents and brush arbors, abound in the neighborhood. Several log and board houses are now in course of construction. Squaw Valley is said to possess excellent water-power for mills, in case these mines turn out as now expected.⁷

To all of the foregoing, the *Courier* had to add:

. . . Another district,⁸ known as the Haskell mines, eight miles east of the Truckee, and about five north of the Lake—between the middle and eastern summit of the Sierras—is attracting a good deal of attention, and many claims have been secured. Report has it that they are rich. . . .

As the whole of these mines are undoubtedly situated within the boundary of Placer County, we understand that the Board of Supervisors have established two elections precincts for the accommodation of the miners: one at the Lake and one at Knoxville. . . .⁸

As another practical piece of information, the *Courier* pointed out that "The roads are excellent for a distance of twenty miles above Forest Hill—to Kelley's Retreat—formerly known as Secret Springs—from which point pack animals are used, the distance being thirty miles to the Truckee. Powell & Co., of Todd's Valley, are about to survey a route for a wagon-road from this point."⁸

Mid-August found the *Courier's* man in a jubilant mood. In an article headed "A LUCKY EDITOR!" he trumpeted: "Our readers may as well congratulate us *now* as at any time. We are

the undisputed owner of six hundred feet of silver-bearing rock!" Joyfully the single long paragraph lists the editor's holdings as 200 feet in the "Uncle Sam" ledge at Squaw Valley, 200 feet in the "Courier" ledge at Haskell's diggings and 200 feet in the "Old Abe" ledge at Juniper Creek. "We certainly feel hopeful," added the "lucky editor," noting that "if these 'feet' should really prove to be a fortune to us, it would candidly be a good and a lucky joke." He added, with perhaps more significance than the average reader would grasp, that "we intend to pay a visit to our silver possessions" immediately after the September elections.⁹

It could have been that Lynch and Mundall, finding things duller than ever in Forest Hill, were contemplating setting up the "Red, White and Blue" Mining District's first newspaper. It is quite certain that they were considering a move eastward over the Sierra.

The *Courier's* Squaw Valley news article of August 13 was, as usual, cheerful in tone. Cheerful, that is, for its first half:

The excitement concerning the recent discoveries of silver lodes at Squaw Valley, and vicinity, continues unabated. Silver-seekers are going and coming continually. Further discoveries have been made on the Big Truckee river eight or ten miles below Squaw Valley. During the last ten days the excitement has principally tended towards the Haskell diggings, eight miles east of Squaw; here a number of lodes have been found and many claims taken up and recorded. The rock in the Haskell claims (Mr. Haskell being our informant's authority) assays ninety-five dollars to the ton.—Four distinct lodes have also been taken up, (principally by men from Forest Hill) on Juniper Creek, eight miles north-east of Haskell's and within sixteen miles of Carson city. All these discoveries are within Placer County, the newly-surveyed State boundary being just east of them, as we are informed by a gentleman who has seen the "blazes and monuments" of the Boundary Survey. Of course, it will require time, labor and outlay of money to develop the hidden wealth of these long unknown belts of primeval silver. If we are not mistaken, all these discoveries are within the same range of mountains as the Silver Mountain districts, about eighty or a hundred miles to the southward.

Silver-seekers, with whom we have conversed, speak in glowing terms of the mountain scenery, pure air and water on the Truckee—and then, too, the delicious mountain trout, and other fish in Lake Tahoe! Shade of Epicurus! memory of Sir Isaac Walton! Ho, for a trip to Tahoe!

A town site was laid out on the north-west bank of the Lake, near the head of Truckee river, and lots were offered for sale on Saturday.

Knoxville, near the mouth of Squaw Valley, is building up,

and creature comforts are said to be plenty there. (We have good authority in saying, that the rock in Mr. Knox's silver lode, taken out thirty-five feet from the surface, yields \$35 to the ton. This is the most promising Assay we have heard of about Squaw Valley rock.) . . .

The foregoing remarks, as our readers will observe, is the *bright side* of the silver question. . . .⁹

Without benefit of paragraphing, and this possibility to lure the too-sanguine reader right on into a different look at things, the *Courier's* article proceeded to picture something else anent Squaw Valley experience:

We would now utter a word of *caution*: While there are reported assays of rock said to be found in and about Squaw Valley, giving very flattering returns, most of what we hear is too indefinite and intangible, for a prudent man to rely upon. Even in cases where reliable Assayers have given their receipts, the attending circumstances need to be well cared for. For the benefit of those concerned, we give an instance or two falling under our notice. We have been shown a button of silver at the Assay office of G. G. Webster, of this place, reduced from 200 grains of rock assayed as Squaw Valley rock, which gave the value of \$1,010.78 per ton! The party offering the rock, took it as rock from the new diggings, and so believed it to be, though not claiming to have dug it out by himself. All indications tend to the *conclusion* that this was a piece of *rock from Washoe*. Again, another assay was made at the same office of rock bro't [*sic*] in *already pulverized*; the assay was satisfactory, chiefly in gold. The fact has since been ascertained that the rock was pounded by a man engaged in buying gold dust. In this case, the assayer's certificate may induce, innocently, a purchase into a pile of rocks, instead of taking stock in another man's mortar—the probable true source of the good assay. We have reason to believe that horse-trading is a very innocent amusement compared to fancy stock brokerage. Therefore I say, LOOK OUT!⁹

Webster—Forest Hill's G. G. Webster, attorney, notary, and chief assayer—took pains to keep his integrity unchallenged. Advertising his several talents in the *Placer Courier*, he declared:

. . . MELTING DONE IN PRESENCE OF THE DEPOSITOR.⁹

From Squaw Valley itself to the *Courier* came a letter signed "DOT" and written at Knoxville on August 17. Containing a peculiar mixture of joyful anticipation, caution, and a hearty pro-Union stand, the letter stated:

I will endeavor to be candid in giving my observations of this and the surrounding country. Too often do those sending communications from newly-discovered diggings greatly exaggerate, and thereby many who are making a good livelihood, possessed of comfortable homes, and laying up a few dollars from week to

week, are induced to leave at once for the "new discoveries." But how many thousands return disappointed, fully determined never again to get excited over "new Discoveries?" Yet from among the hundreds who have visited this locality, who can tell the number that have been to Caribou, Salmon River, Kern River, and Gold Lake? Yet, sir, I would not compare this section to those localities. If you remember, five or six hundred dollars per day was spoken of as common in Washoe—and when you hear of three and four hundred dollars assay per ton from "croppings," just you think of former days. Yet, such an assay might not be impossible; a small piece upon the outside very rich, and yet the ledge might not pay.

But of one thing I am fully convinced—in this section is a large an [*sic*] amount of rock that contains silver and gold; judging from opinions expressed by persons here, who have resided in Washoe for two and three years, who have operated in and are acquainted with silver rock, I have come to the conclusion that the "indications" here are similar to the early prospects of Virginia city and Gold Hill mines. But to develop the richness of different ledges, here, will take time, money and labor. Should the result prove equal to the "indications," California, now the champion of Gold, will enter the ring to contend for the Silver belt also.

As far as assays have been obtained here, they are all from "croppings" only—except one claim at Haskell's diggings, and the "Georgetown" here. The latter have sunk a shaft forty feet in depth. At the commencement, the rock assayed from three to four dollars per ton; but as they descended, at the distance above stated, the pay increased to forty-two dollars per ton.

Much will yet be done this Fall to develop [*sic*] these mines, and the fact fully established that this section abounds in silver. New comers arrive every day, and I believe none fail to get some "feet." New ledges are discovered frequently, and some of the last found bear appearances of the best rock. Whatever there is in this locality, will, with perseverance characteristic of Californians, be discovered.

Mr. Editor, I do not want to be, nor am I, visionary, regarding the "prospects" here, but I have seen enough to convince me that great inducements exist to develop these mines. They evidently exist from the headwaters of the American river to the Uncle Abe and Juniper creek diggings over forty square miles.

Quite a settlement has sprung up on the east bank of the Truckee, opposite Squaw Valley. Knoxville is the name of the place. It contains five provision stores, two clothing stores, one eating house, called the "Union," presided over by a Frenchman, Monsieur Weed—one meat market, one blacksmith shop, fruit stand, hay yard, &c.

A large number of specimens of rock have been sent for assay to different places, and when I can learn the result, I will write again.

We intend giving the largest Union majority here, according to the number of votes cast, of any precinct in the county.¹⁰

There was, in this same month, another correspondent of a different kind in the Squaw Valley area whose opinions did not tally with those of "DOT." William Henry Brewer, brilliant member of California's first official geological survey team, happened to travel that way in late August when Squaw Valley's silver fever was at its height.

Brewer was an acute observer and a fine geologist. Knoxville's "creature comforts" under his candid, amused gaze were listed for what they were; Squaw Valley's mines struck his trained eye as worthless. On August 27, 1863, having come through the area north of Lake Tahoe and camped "on the Truckee River" near the mouth of Squaw Valley, Brewer shaped a typical report by letter to his family in the far-away East. Beginning with a description of his party's journey to Tahoe, the letter reads:

We struck over a ridge, came to the lake again at its north end, then left it entirely, crossing a high volcanic ridge and sinking into a new mining district which is just starting—a new excitement, and the people are pouring in. As we went down a canyon we passed numerous prospecting holes, where more or less search has been made for silver ore. Since the immense wealth of the Washoe mines has been demonstrated, people are crazy on the subject of *silver*.

We passed through the town of Centerville, its streets all staked off among the trees, notices of claims of town lots on trees and stumps and stakes, but as yet the *town* is not built. One cabin—hut, I should say—with a brush roof, is the sole representative of the mansions that are to be. Three miles below is Elizabethtown, a town of equal pretensions and more actual houses, boasting of two or three. We stopped at the main *store*, a shanty twelve feet square, made by driving stakes into the ground, siding two sides with split boards, and then covering with brush. Bacon, salt, pepper, tobacco, flour, and more than all, poor whiskey, are kept. The miners have camps—generally some brush to keep off the sun and dew; but as often nothing. Some blankets lying beside the brook, a tin kettle, a tin cup, and a bag of provisions, tell of the *home* of some adventurous wandering man. We passed the town and camped two miles beyond, in Tim-i-lick Valley. The day had been warm, but the night was cold enough to make it up, the temperature sank to 20° F., twelve degrees below the freezing point.

August 26 our animals eloped in the early morning and it took us until ten o'clock to find them and pack up. . . .

Well, we struck over the mountains for the Truckee River, to this place, where new mines have "broken out"—at least, a new excitement. We crossed a high volcanic ridge, very rough trail, all the way through an open forest of pines and firs, as one finds everywhere here, and camped on the river about Knoxville. Here I have been examining the "indications" today. Six weeks ago,

I hear, there were but two miners here; now there are six hundred in this district. A town is laid off, the place boasts of one or two "hotels," several saloons, a butcher shop, a bakery, clothing stores, hardware and mining tools, etc.—all in about four weeks.

I would give twenty-five dollars for a good photograph of that "street." A trail runs through it, for as yet a wagon has not visited these parts. The buildings spoken of are not four-story brick or granite edifices—not one has a floor, not one has a chair or table, except such as could be made on the spot. This shanty, in the shade of a tree, with roof of brush, has a sign out, "Union Clothing Store." I dined today at the "Union Hotel"—a part of the roof was covered with canvas, but most of it with bushes—and so on to the end of the chapter. The crowd—only men (neither women nor children are here yet)—are all working or speculating in "feet!"¹¹

Brewer, as he usually was, was right, but even the enthusiastic "DOT" seemed to have caught onto the truth by this time. "DOT's" second, and last, communication to the *Courier* was dated August 25, and was also written from Knoxville, but only the last two short paragraphs of the long communication mentioned Squaw Valley. Nearly ten inches of type were necessary to reproduce the main part of "DOT's" letter, which was an impassioned plea for Union votes in the September elections. Appended to this political shouting was a local report of decidedly lukewarm temperature:

The silver excitement here has abated to such an extent that our people have gone to work in good earnest. Quite a number of claims will be worked this Fall and Winter. Several tunnels are already commenced and the active sounds of industry greet the new comer on every side, proving to them that there is a determination to solve the silver problem which is believ- [sic] to be buried in the bosom of our mountains.

A number of assays have been had. Every company which has had an assay, has commenced preparing for winter. This is an indication of confidence in the lodes which have been assayed. I tell you, Mr. Editor, "*It is here!*" You may talk to me of silver on the brain—but our rock beats any man's brains in the country.¹²

The onset of winter at Squaw Valley's rugged, high elevation, along with continued disappointments from the mines, put a quick end to early enthusiasms. Some of the dogged "discoverers" stayed on, but depopulation was widespread and rapid. Knoxville, which had boasted a thousand citizens and a brass band when autumn came, was a deserted village by late spring of 1864. Five others of the original seven "towns" had virtually disappeared by spring, some of them never developing beyond the embryonic

stage of their platting. The forest closed in over the abandoned remains of Elizabethtown, Claraville, Centerville, Neptune City, and Modiosho; a scant few months later, Knoxville had vanished with them.

It has been 94 years since the little *Placer Courier* first put Squaw Valley on the map. The *Courier* has long since vanished. Nothing ever revived six of the seven nascent little cities in the "Summit" and the "Red, White, and Blue" Mining Districts.

But once again there are crowds of people in the quiet valley under Squaw Peak. "SQUAW VALLEY FEVER" in 1957 has taken an Olympic turn.

NOTES

¹*Placer Weekly Courier*, July 18, 1863. [The files of the *Courier* are in the University of Nevada Library.]

²*Ibid.*, July 25, 1863.

³*Virginia City Evening Bulletin*, July 24, 1863. The *Bulletin's* confused mention of a "Lake Truckee" and the already-outmoded terming of Tahoe as Bigler indicates something in the way of the Comstock's peculiar isolation, both as to outlook and geography. At least the *Courier's* article appended a better location of Squaw Valley than did the *Bulletin's*. [The files of the *Evening Bulletin* are in the University of Nevada Library.]

⁴*Courier*, July 25, 1863.

⁵*Ibid.* The *Virginia Evening Bulletin* did not mention Squaw Valley again in July, unless tacitly in a tart paragraph emphasizing that there was no truth to published reports that a rush from Washoe was in progress.

⁶*Ibid.*

⁷*Ibid.*, August 6, 1863. No doubt the second town was Claraville, Knoxville's immediate suburb. The *Courier's* July 25, 1863, reference to a town in the district as "Tahoe City" seems to have been guesswork, as Tahoe City itself was not platted until some time later.

⁸*Ibid.* Elizabethtown was the metropolis of this second district. Somewhere in between Elizabethtown and Knoxville were scattered: Neptune City, Centerville, and Modiosho—the last-named being an Indian word for quartz.

⁹*Ibid.*, August 13, 1863.

¹⁰*Ibid.*, August 20, 1863.

¹¹William H. Brewer, *Up and Down California in 1860-1864* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1949), pp. 444-445.

¹²*Courier*, August 29 1863. This issue was the next to the last under the name: *Placer Courier*; Lynch and Mundall, the *Courier's* owners, took their press across the Sierra to the Comstock, and there they revived the *Courier* under a different name—great in pioneer journalism in Nevada: the *Gold Hill Evening News*. The issue of September 2, 1863, is mutilated; hence there is no news about the "diggings" at Squaw Valley.

LETTERS FROM A NEVADA DOCTOR TO HIS DAUGHTER IN CONNECTICUT (1881-1891)

Commentary, Notes, and Transcription

By RUSSELL R. ELLIOTT

Hamilton, Nevada, the original county seat of White Pine County, and the locale of the letters, was one of the most famous of the early Nevada mining booms. A fabulously rich discovery in the fall of 1867 led to one of the most exciting, if shortest-lived, mining excitements in Western history. Thousands flocked to the area in the years between the discovery date and 1870. Within a short time, five communities were established: Hamilton, the center of the rush, with a population estimated at 10,000 during the peak of the boom; Treasure City, some 9000 feet above sea level, near the top of Treasure Hill, with an estimated population of 6000; Shermantown, between Treasure Hill and White Pine Mountain; Swansea, about three-fourths of a mile north of Shermantown; and Eberhardt, in Applegarth's Canyon at the bottom of Treasure Hill. Each of the latter three camps had estimated populations, ranging from three to five thousand persons.¹

At Hamilton, during the boom, conditions were little short of chaotic. People from all walks of life, capitalists, merchants, farmers, miners, adventurers, "Bummers," men of all trades and men of no trade, women of all kinds, even boys and girls came to White Pine. The town was soon filled with thieves, murderers, prostitutes, gamblers, and desperadoes of every stamp and nationality. New arrivals in the spring of 1869 numbered fifty to one hundred a day. Some of these came by train to Elko, the rest of the way by stage. Others came in buggies, on horses, or even walked, begging and stealing as they came.

Unfortunately, the mineral wealth of the area did not keep pace with the excitement created by the first discovery, and within a few years the town was on the decline.² Incorporated in 1869, disincorporated in 1875, the final blow to Hamilton's glory came in 1887 when Ely became the county seat after a disastrous fire had destroyed the White Pine County Courthouse at Hamilton in 1885.

During the period covered by the Herrick letters, roughly from 1881 to February 1891, Hamilton was rapidly becoming a ghost

town, thus the comments of Dr. Herrick provide the reader with many interesting sidelights of a boom mining camp going through the process of decay.

The author of the letters, Dr. H. S. Herrick, was born and reared at Schaghticoke, New York. After obtaining an education, probably at Yale, Herrick left the East, arriving in California in 1854. For some reason, not disclosed in the letters, he left his family in the East. This may very well have been intended as a temporary separation, the family to follow later. The letters, however, give no indication that he ever returned East, or that he ever requested his family to join him.

Dr. Herrick came to Nevada in 1860 and to Hamilton in 1869; thus he knew Hamilton in its days of glory and in its decline. At Hamilton he played an active role in community affairs, acting as county doctor for many years,³ and as County Superintendent of Schools for a number of terms between 1869 and his death.

Besides these activities as county doctor, and county school superintendent, Dr. Herrick also owned a small drugstore which brought him into close contact with the daily life of the inhabitants. According to the business letterheads, this old-time drugstore bears a rather close resemblance to its modern counterpart; for not only was Herrick advertised as an M.D. but also as a Druggist, a Dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Perfumery, Paints, oils, brushes and sponges. And as the letters themselves indicate, he also sold groceries such as onions and cabbages.

The letters, written to his daughter, reveal an educated but very lonely man trying desperately to hang onto certain marks of civilization, marks which become dearer as the years bring increasing debility to him and continued decline to the community.

There is little doubt that Herrick wished to leave Hamilton and settle permanently in California, but like so many other businessmen in mining communities he found himself with an investment which proved to be a stone around his neck when the decline in mineral production began.

The Herrick letters, now in the Nevada Historical Society Museum, Reno, Nevada, are presented to the reader basically as written, with editorial comments or emendations only where such seem necessary to an understanding of the text. The doctor evidently suffered a paralytic stroke about the time the first letter appears, and although the writing is quite legible, it is apparent that many mistakes of punctuation, grammar, and misspelled words, can be attributed to infirmities caused by this

condition aggravated by old age. In spite of many repetitions the letters do draw an excellent picture of a mining camp during its decline, and add spice by the interesting comments on medical practices of the period.

Hamilton, March 28, 1881

Dear Daughter,

Yours March 19th is received, also your picture, which I think is excellent. I can see some changes from the previous ones. You speak about having one of your mother's copied, taken twenty years ago. I have one taken about that time, when I was about leaving for Cal[ifornia] in 1854. Your mother sits with you on her lap, that picture I have, when you were about 2 years of age. She sent me another, with you in the same position as before, then 2 pictures of herself separately. All these I yet have, so it will not be worthwhile to have copies of that date taken You say she has changed very much and I would hardly know her. Well I have changed very much in 27 years and a very perceptible in the last 10 years. "This world is full of changes." It is one of the qualities of nature. When I requested her picture, I did not expect to see a young woman of five and twenty as I once saw her. I don't think, judging by past occurrences, that she wants me to see her in any shape, so let it go. I shall never make any more requests of any kind. I am here alone in the world and expect to live and die alone. I have been alone $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of my life time, and in fact, know no difference, consequently it has become a second nature for me to live alone. I have cooked and kept house about all the time since I came on the Pacific Coast, because at first I had to do it, now I do the same because I am better satisfied. I do many things at present which I was not alone, would be otherwise. I am one that has learned not to grumble when I cant have things as I wish and desire. . . . You speak about smallpox. I was vaccinated when a child and then about 20 years ago, have been a great deal exposed since, but have never taken it although it does not hurt to be vaccinated once in 10 years. It has been terrible in Troy [New York] during the past winter hundreds have died. It has been very bad in San Francisco and also in Virginia City [Nevada]. It has not been here since 1869. I have attended persons in all diseases in which flesh is heir to but of all loathesome, which caps the climax, I must say smallpox takes the preference. You speak about the present and coming generation in American schools and institutions. All over the U. S. states, it is seen and felt. In all mining camps, the

trouble of strikes is all caused by this foreign element, and it is growing daily. As long as there is so much ignorance among the laboring classes, so long there will be differences. There was a strike in a camp about 200 miles from [here] not long since. The strikers said no one should work to fill their places. During the war or fight several were killed. The mines were shut down and the very strikers lost hundreds of dollars, which is always the case. I expect the forreign element has very much increased since I was a citizen in Conn[ecticut]. It is increasing all over the U. S. states, our poor-houses, Hospitals and Prisons are filled with forreighners, that is in majority. This element rules now in one sense in politics, whichever side gets this vote carries the day. You speak about the severity of the winter East, here, it has been very mild, the most so known since inhabited by Whites. A great deal of snow has fallen, often heavy winds, but not very cold. Our snow is pretty much gone, except on the mountains which lasts till summer, often all summer. In regard to your Mother's health, you did not state what was the direct complaint outside of her sore eye. Does she have any cough, perhaps she will recuperate when warm weather arrives. Since I wrote last I have been very much better in my lameness, how long it will last, can't say, my general health is very good at present. Times are about the same as they have been for the past six months. The mines of White Pine at present don't pay to work them at the present prices of silver. Labor is \$4 per day, then to take out the hauling of the ores, expenses of tools and powder with the milling of the ores, rock that runs \$50 per ton nothing is left the owners. There are many claims that will pay if silver was at the old standard. I am interested in a claim that would bring me in a good sum monthly, if silver was at the old price. Now it is laying idle like thousands of others. I don't know what I will do in the future. I don't calculate to ever settle again in another Mining Camp. If I can sell out I will do so, even at a small sacrifice. All over Nev[ada] it is dul times, but little is doing on the great Comstock lode. It is reported over 5000 are out of employ and hundreds are just living and waiting for something to turn up. So far I have kept my own house as much as I had a year ago. What I make, I save. Hundreds who had means a year ago are now dead broke by the falling of stocks. Well my way is to hold on till I can do better. A great blow was made about Cherry Creek last fall,⁴ a great many went there, but have not done much better than those who stayed. It would be a good camp if silver comes up.

One great drawback to Nev[ada] is the cost of freight. The Central Pacific rates are exhorbitant in all freight. It cost eight times as much as freighting East. If Nev[ada] ever gets reasonable rates on railroads then the state will improve. The whole state is not good for anything else but mining. When this business is flourishing, then it pays to farm. As it is at present, farming will not support a man. I was much pleased with the inagural of Garfield. I think he has made a good Cabinet selection. Hope it will prove a good administration. I will write again April 1st and send a money order. My payments come at that time.

From your Nev[ada] F[ather]

H. S. HERRICK

Hamilton, Jan. 12th 1882.

Dear Daughter,

Your very welcome letter of Jan.2d is received. I am quite well at present except my lameness, which is not much better than it was a month ago. I ride now whenever called out any distance. I am in less weight that at any time for the past five years. I am still some restless at night times. Sometimes have to take something for insomnia. I think I will be all right when I get strength. You make the interrogatory concerning my ancestors. My great grandfather on my mother's side was from Holand raised as a farmer 8 miles from Amsterdam. My grandfather on my mother's side came from the town of Letterkenny, County of Donegal, Ireland. His name was Daniel Swenney, came over to N. Y. 96 years ago. Came to Schaghticoke, went into business as a weaver, married my grandmother whose name was Sarah Groesbeck. When my mother, who was the oldest of the family was a year old, the family went to Johnstown 30 miles from Schaghticoke, and settled on a farm. My grandmother had four children, 2 girls 2 boys. The youngest boy was Daniel by name, when he was about a year old my grandfather died, after his demise, the family came back to Schaghticoke, where all the family were raised except an aunt by the name of Susan who went and lived with a sister of my grandmother in the town of Greenfield, Saratoga County 10 miles west of Saratoga Springs. My two uncles or brothers of my mother, one after whom I was named died in Greenfield since I was east, was killed on the railroad. Daniel Swenny died in Lansingburg, his widow is still living. My ancestors of the Herrick family are said to come from England in 1750, three brothers, one settled in Maine, one in

Conn. the 3d in Dutchess County N. Y. My grandfather H. was a grandson of the one settled in N. Y. My grandmother on my fathers side was born in Shrewsbury, Conn. whose maiden name was Adams. She was married to grandfather in Dutchess County and after this event moved to Pittstown, Renssalaer County, N. Y. bought a farm raised their family and died in the farm where Uncle Smith died. The farm is now in the hands or occupied by a cousin, a son of Wm. Herrick. The farm of my grandfather is still in the family. As Charles has the farm of my great-grandfather Groesbeck. There you see as to blood I am something of three different nations. My grandmother on my mother's side was a relative of the Knickerbockers. If my memory is right my great-grandmother was a Knickerbocker. All those Dutch families of Schaghticoke are of distant relations. I see you are reading the history of the Dutch Republic. It is many a year since I perused it. I would like to read more of history than I do, but what loose time I have outside of my business, is in the perusal of medical works and writing. By your account of the weather East, it corresponds to this region. We have had pleasant weather, most of the time all the fall and through Dec. and Jan. till within the last 4 days, it is now cold and some snow. It has been the remarkable winter ever known on this coast. It is also the hardest times ever known. We do not expect good times till the discount on silver is removed by remonetization and when that will be times must determine. I feel very much better to think I am again able to be around and see to my affairs. I can't write yet with that facility I could before I was taken sick, still I am gradually gaining under numerous tonics. I was not out Christmas or New Years to take any dinners, lots of eatables were brought to me. I have many good-hearted friends in these regions. Everybody called when I was sick. I did not want for anything, did not have any expense except watchers. It cost \$8 per day, for men to be on hand. It is very expensive to be sick here, at the best. Still it don't trouble me if I only fully recuperate. I suppose you are again teaching. I will now close hoping soon to hear from you.

From your Nev[ada] F[ather] in love

H. S. HERRICK

[P.S.] Emma Ralston, Daniel's Daughter
lost her only child some 4 weeks ago.
You will see the account in the
Troy Times.

Hamilton, Nevada

March 8th, 1882

Dear Daughter

I returned home last evening after an absence of one month. I feel very much better than I did before leaving. I am lame in my right hand, got hurt in coming from the railroad. It was very rough by stage. It is a very pleasant journey to Cal. except the 45 miles by stage at this season of the year. I had a very nice and pleasant time in Cal. took what is called Turkish baths, which helped me very much. I always take them when at San Francisco. It takes about 2 hours to go through the ordeal. These baths consist in steaming and rubbing. San Francisco is a great place, never saw a place like it in all my travels. There is everything there one can imagine to amuse. One can live cheaply as much so as in N. Y. I went out sailing in the Bay, visited the Cliff House on the ocean beach, which is a great place of resort. One can stand on the cliffs and look off upon the Pacific Ocean and see the waves roll mountain high. There are high rocks about 100 yards from the shore where hundreds of sea lions crawl out to sun themselves on a warm day, they look like so many hundreds of yellow dogs. They have a tail like a fish, four legs, and head like a dog, they are continually howling. A more ferocious looking animal is not known. They have enormous teeth and a good sized lion can bite a common dog in two pieces. The Cliff is going to be a great place of resort in time. The man who owns it is making it all that art can adorn it. I would like very much to live permanently in Cal. on account of the good climate. I will go there as soon as I can close up business here. As regards making money it is no better than the states. Californians are a fast people. It is very cold here at the present time, snow about a foot. I hated to come back till warm weather was around. White Pine is pleasant in the summer but awful in winter. I suppose you are again teaching, hope you and your mother are in health. Shall soon expect to hear from you.

From your Nev. [ada] F[ather] in love,

H. S. HERRICK.

Hamilton

March 22, 1882.

Dear Daughter

Yours of Feb. 27th was returned to me last evening. When I left that city I gave word to the P.O. to forward my letters to Hamilton. So yours came last evening. I wrote you on my return home. I ought to have remained longer in Cal. but was obliged to come back on account of more patients in the hospital. The Doctor I left in charge did not give satisfaction, consequently, I was obliged to return or resign which I did not want to do as long as I do business in H[amilton]. The trip did me some good. I have felt much better since my return. A change from the mountains is help to me at anytime and to go to Cal. is much better. It was disagreeable some part of the time on account of rain. The contrast was very great in coming from green fields and gardens of flowers to these regions of ice and snow. We have to ride in wagons 45 miles over hills and mountains before arriving at the narrow gage railroad, then go 90 miles when we are at the C[entral] P[acific] then 600 to Cal. or San Francisco. It costs heavily to travel in this country. My passage down and back was \$108. While at the Bay City I took what is called the Turkish baths, it takes two and a half hours to go through the ordeal. I have never found anything that seemed to relieve me as much. I took them every other day, it won't do to take them every day. They are to weakening. The ordeal is very soothing. The first operation is to sit in an easy chair in a hot room till the perspiration flows freely. Then go into another room and perspire still more freely than in the first, this takes an hour or more, then a man goes through manipulations with water & soap by rubbing and brushing. Then one is put under a shower bath of tepid water after which another rubbing is given then one is wrapped in woolen blankets and sleep as long as you please, on rising another shower bath is given and rubbing, then dress and sit in a comfortable room & read papers 1/2 hour, this ends the program. One comes out feeling a complete new person. There is about everything in San Francisco to amuse and please, everything to catch one's money, it to spend. There are several theaters going nightly of different grades and kinds. On Sunday the great place of resort aside from churches is Woodards' gardens, here is a regular Menagerie, numerous aquarians with a pond of salt water with a high rock in the centre where the sea lions can come out upon. These lions were caught and put in this pond, they are

fed once a day on fish. It is a great curiosity to see them come up at a whistle call to eat. All kinds of fish are in the aquariums which are made of glass. Every Sunday there is a regular Theater and all kinds of gymnastics are performed with polytechnics. The Museum and gardens of flowers are not to be excelled in any part of this world. The Sunday I was there twenty thousand people were assembled. The most interesting place to me of all was the art gallery, here is everything in art in the way of fine pictures and drawings with statuary of the finest in the world. There is also a fine library attached, one can obtain anything of reading for the price of one dollar a year. I see you have closed your reading of the *Dutch Republic*, it has been some years since I read it, I know it was a fine history to read and very interesting. I do not have as much time to read general literature as I desire. I take several medical magazines which takes about all of my spare time together with the general news of the day coming in papers. One to be always ready and proficient in any profession must always be a reader if not they will soon find themselves in the background. I am pleased to learn of the good health of you and your mother through the past winter. I wish I could say the same in respect to myself, however I hope for the better. I have no idea of giving up as long as I can get around. Business is exceeding dull here at present, in fact, is so all over Nev., there is no hope unless mining starts up anew again. Mining stocks are very low, never was so low before in Nev. and there is no telling when they will be economical again. All business is depending on this one branch, if this fails all others must succumb. I have visited, while absent, a number of places in Nev., all complain of dull times. Since I came back it has been snowing $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of the time, snow is from 5 to 10 feet here in H[amilton], it is now going off very fast. I will now close hoping that you and mother are in good health.

From your Nev[ada] F[ather] in love,

H. S. HERRICK.

Hamilton April 27th, 1882

Dear Daughter,

Your long looked for epistle has at last arrived, I am happy to learn that your mother and self are in a normal state of health. I had become a little uneasy thinking one or both of you might be on the sick list, by my not hearing from you. Since my return

from Cal. I have been in very good health, have not lost a day in my business. I am still lame and I don't cherish any idea of ever recovering and arriving at my former standard of strength and activity. I was once a man of more than ordinary strength, now I don't think my self even a half of a man. Yet I am thankful matters are no worse. I see you have moved from your former residence. I hope you are pleasantly located, and enjoy your house. You speak about the backwardness of spring in your section, it seems to be universal all over the northern latitude. Here it is like winter, our mountains and hills are still white with "beautiful" snow, April up to the 25th was the most stormy month of 1882. We have had a few days of pleasant weather. We never calculate on any real warm weather till June, then it lasts till Dec. You say you have grown stouter of late, that is natural for the Herrick family. I never weighed over 150 lbs till after I was 35 years. Last winter I was down to 170, now I am 205 lbs. I feel the best carrying 180 or more lbs. I find a change of climate, if only of a few weeks has a very salutary effect. I am well satisfied that nothing of a medicinal character has any beneficial effect. Since the roads have become passable, I take regular morning and evening walks. I am very regular in my habits, in fact, I always have been. I never had but one bad habit and that was in the use of tobacco, which I concluded years ago to abandon. I was never a slave to its use, still I acquired its use and it took me a long time to fully eradicate the appetite; even now I like the taste. I see by the Eastern papers all the factories, machine shops and other establishments are going which must make all things look very lively. Here in Nev. it is right the reverse. Mining is at its very lowest ebb and when it will be better time must determine. If silver ever resumes its former standard, the mining business will rise. I have not heard from home in a long time. I guess all are extant or I should have been informed. Did your mother receive this spring, the payment of Charles' note given for the balance due on the estate. The last letter I had from him, he thought of selling out. The great excitement on this coast has been the Chinese question.⁵ When the wires brought the intelligence of the President's veto it caused great indignation among the laboring classes. Arthur was burned in effigy in every prominent place. If the bill reducing the time to ten years passes and is not vetoed, it will allay the anger to some degree. There is no work or business

in which the Chinese engage in but they monopolize. Having to make a call, I will close as the mail goes out at 10 P.M. I hope to soon hear from you again.

From your Nev[ada] F[ather] in love,

H. S. HERRICK.

Hamilton—July 20th 1882.

Dear Daughter

Your favored epistle of July 10th is received. I am sorry to hear of your mothers illness; perhaps the change and visit may prove beneficial and restore her to a normal state of health. I had a sick spell for 4 days a week ago, but at present am able to attend to my daily practice and business. I would like very much to take a change. I have always found that to change and travel three or four hundred miles beneficial. You did not say whether your mother was afflicted with any particular complaint. Well I see you have a vacation. I know that such a respite is very desirable among teachers and pupils, although I never had a vacation while a student and teacher. My vacations were always work to make a little money to go on with for the next term. You speak about hot weather, East. I very well remember the hot weather I have seen East in July & August. The most I ever felt the enervating effects of warm weather was in Cincinnati in all my travels. In Cal. it is very warm, in summer, but it don't have any debilitating effects. Here in White Pine the heat is seldom to 80° and as soon as the sun is down the Ther[mometer] falls to 60° and 50°. I sleep with my windows open but have a blanket and quilt. Our summer so far has been different from any one previous during my stay here. We have had a number of showers during the spring and summer so far. The hills never presented such a verdant appearance at this season of the year. Stock is favored with fine feed this year which makes fine meat. We are now having fine fruit of all kinds of Cal. production. The farmers of the valleys have fine crops growing at present. Well I suppose you have read all about the fighting and killing in Egypt. According to all accounts many were massacred—innocent people. Well such is the effects of wars. Our school here will be in session till Nov. then a vacation till spring. July & August are pleasant months for teaching

among these elevated peaks. I subscribe for two copies of the Troy weekly times, one to be sent to you and one to my address, they sent the one to go to you to me with your name on it. I sent a postal card to have it corrected, have you received a copy regular? I have nothing to write of importance in reference to this region. This country is the same, no changes. Stocks are very low at present. Many a few years ago were considered millionaires are dead broke. Many would like to see them rise in order to have a stake. Today our County Central Committee meet to choose delegates to the State Convention. Fall elections will soon be on hand. I may go to the convention. As you are having a vacation I hope you will have no excuse in writing often.

From your Nev[ada] F[ather] in love,

H. S. HERRICK.

Hamilton—June 27th 1883.

Dear Daughter,

Your favored epistle of June 15th came to hand this evening, I reply immediately. I may not have time to close as I am expected to be called out. I see you have been sick. I think your dizziness all proceeds from a torpid liver and also a disordered stomach. I have had many a time of that kind of sickness in my younger days, more especially when teaching and while a student. I don't think you will be troubled with it if you attend to these two parts. While I lived in Cincinnati, I had such spells often, that climate did not suit my temperament. I suppose you are now having hot weather all over the East, no very warm days have occurred here yet, Ther[mometer] not above 80°. In Cal. it has been terrible all through June to date. The oldest inhabitants never saw such intensity of heat. It has caused great damage to the crops and fruits. The snow is not all gone from the mountain peaks of White Pine Mountains. As soon as "old Sol" has gone behind the great western peaks and while the azure brightness is yet to be seen in all its beauty and splendor the cold zephyrs begin to descend making a change of 30° in less than an hour, all are obliged to wear thick clothing in the evening. You speak about your mother having a small garden. I always liked a garden; while in Cal. I always had one, because I had plenty of good ground to cultivate, here nothing of garden truck is undertaken, it might grow finely for a short time, but first one would know[,] a change of weather comes, there is frost

and all is defunct. Nothing grows in these hills and mountains except bunch grass and the most hardy wild flowers. My health so far has been very good, and I don't know why I have stood the long, cold weather and worked daily. I have had more mountain fever than any spring since I came to H[amilton]. Some days I have had as high as 8 or 10 patients with mountain fever, which is a nervous low-type of bilious fever. If a physician understands it is easily treated. The fever lasts from 12 to 24 hours under proper treatment and while under it they generally think they are going to die. Women, if on the order of hysterical are to *die*, certain, but I have never lost any by this complaint. It is a pandemic disease. Our town has more business this summer than at any time for the last 5 years. A large company was formed in N.Y. city last Jan. who have repaired a large mill for crushing rock and are now working ores successfully. A number of New York gentlemen and ladies are out here at present. All have had the fever & I have brought all of them safely through. They are very tony. The first one taken sick was the President of the Company. I was sent for, he began by giving his orders. Interrogated by asking him if he or I was the physician, he said that was his custom in N. Y. I deliberately informed him that it was not according to my practice, he said that he did not want my attendance. I left, about 15 hours afterward I was sent for, he had got a quack, who has 3 or 4 things to give, this N. Y. gent begged me with his wife and daughters to take hold of his case and in 2 hours the fever began to go down from 108° to 98°. It took a week to get him around as he is a man hard on to 70 years. In three or four days his wife and two daughters were taken down. I was employed to attend them, they got around before the father did. So I have had the whole crowd of these "aristocrats". It has been a good bit for me as did not attend them for a song. Everything is high here and I give them to understand that Doctors services were in proportion. This crowd ride out daily, sometimes in carriages at other times horse back. They enjoy themselves hugely, the young men are regular dudes and ape English and French styles. I have quite a classical library for this country. One of these "dudes" with the young ladies was in my office one day and he interrogated me to know what use I made of such books. I told him I kept them for anyone to read who wished to peruse them. 'Ah, he said, how kind you are. One of the ladies opened to the ode of Horace in 'ars poetica' and asked him to read it, he said in

his *dude* style that it was so long since he had perused Horace that it had gone from him. She then asked me to read it which I did. This young snob is a graduate of Yale, at least he pretends. He says that he has been studying 3 years the profession of law. They brought out all the dainties and nicknacks imaginable, because they had an idea that nothing could be found here to eat. I have something nice sent daily. Two niger waiters are along. They propose to return to N. Y. the last of August. Well I guess this will do for this time. I hope you will have a good vacation and fully recuperate.

From your Nev[ada] F[ather] in love,

H. S. HERRICK.

Hamilton, Nev. Jan. 12th, 1884.

Dear Daughter

Your very welcome epistle of Dec. 7th came to hand sometime days since. I was then very lame and could not write. I have not been very well for over a month. I caught a severe cold—I have not been on my trip to Cal. as I expected. My being laid up has delayed all things. I had to employ more help on account of this trouble. I am happy to learn that your mother and self are in normal health. We have had the most remarkable fall and winter ever known, since White Pine was discovered. It has been almost one succession of pleasant weather. Some little snow has fallen on the mountains. In the valleys it is like summer. We expect to catch it by and by. Well the great days of observance is over. I did not keep them but had to stay at home. A number of the ladies sent in dishes, so I had plenty to eat. You speak about dul times East. I guess it is as dul all over the world. I don't know of a place in Nev. or Cal. where there is good times. Here we don't expect much in the winter. Virginia City it is like night. We expect better times here this spring. An English Co. and a N.Y. Co. are making preparations for work this spring. I hope things will improve because such times as we have had the last 4 years is discouraging. You speak about attending lectures. I never go here because we don't have any. When I am in Cal. I go to churches and hear lectures. I take Troy Times, Toledo Blade and any amount of Medical magazines, so I get plenty of reading. There is one thing singular about my eye-sight. I can read daytimes without glasses. I have been a

student all my life and yet my sight is better than most of men my age. If I was only well in my limbs I would be a very good man yet. I have to write with a quill pen at present on account of my lame hand—if you can read all right—must now close hoping to soon hear from you.

From your Nev[ada] F[ather] in love,

H.S.H.

Hamilton, Nev. May 20, 1884

Dear Daughter,

Your epistle of April 30th arrived some 10 days ago, while absent. I was out of town 5 days on professional business and since my return I have been hurried night and day and had all I could attend, in writing business letters. I see you have been unwell and threatened with pneumonia, which is a terrible complaint there if allowed to run to the 2d stage. We have it here sometimes very severe, during the past winter I have not had a case. This last letter is the first I have had from you since Jan. You must be mistaken about sending one, giving an account of the accident of your mother, if you sent one, I never received it, secondly I would have remembered it and I would have the letter on hand. Your Grandmother Clark has got to be an aged woman. She is nearly the age of my Father when he died. You probably remember an old lady by the name of Scribner living near the old homestead. She died this spring at the age of ninety-eight and would probably have lived longer had she not got up in the night to make a fire and fell down, got frozen, which ended her days. I see your Aunt Julia's husband was an elocutionist in N. Y. city. We use in Nev. a text book of which he is the author. I have one of them. I am pleased to learn that your aunt was left in comfortable circumstances. Does your grandmother Clark reside in Birmingham. This past winter has been terrible all over the northern latitudes where it has not been rain it has been snow. Here in White Pine, it has been snow in a succession of storms since Jan. 1st 1884 till May 12th. Our roads in and out of Hamilton are terrible at present where the drifts were from 20 to 30 feet. The snow has not left entirely, which makes it difficult for teaming. Wood and all kinds of provisions is very high at present and will be till hauling is cheaper. I laid in a big stock last fall, yet I am at present very low down

in staple goods. It will be a month yet before we can get in an addition of supplies as things now look. In previous springs our roads have been good by May 1st. It is only 5 days ago sleighs were running in our streets. Well I guess we will get fine weather after a time. One thing certain, we have always fine and beautiful weather during all the summer and fall months. This backward spring has put our mills back a month later than in previous years, which makes it bad in all kinds of business. When the mills are in operation, the workmen then have money to pay debts. The last two years has been very hard on merchants because not half of the men here could get work. Everything here depends upon mining, when this business gives out, all goes by the board. I see by the papers that there is a terrible breaking up among the Brokers in N. Y. city, some Banks have succumbed. This will give stocks a downward move. General Grant is connected with a firm called Ward & Grant which has failed for millions. Well those who speculate and take chances must expect to lose. Of late years thousands are willing to lose all in chances. There is a law in chances, as well as in the works of nature. There is no chance, but has a cause, not at the time known. We know that all of natures works are by a law and when mankind digress from these laws the consequences follow. We have not opened our schools yet on account of the bad weather. I think we will be able to start on June 1st. The people are very transient here, not half who will attend this year were here last. Our teacher for the summer is from Montana. . . . I suppose politics are being talked over in the East. On this coast, in cities, there is some discussions. The great talk is now who will be nominees of both parties. It is going to be a close fit on both sides, and the one who has the best man in the eyes of the voters will carry the day. In this state the people of the republican party are about equal in favor of Blaine and Arthur for the nominee. I suppose you get or receive the Troy weekly times. I paid for yours at the same time I paid for mine. I see that General Hawley of Conn. is talked of as one of the nominees. I don't know whether I will run this fall for any county or state office. I know I can have one of two offices that is Treasurer or Supt. of Schools. The last or latter I have had many years and is not much trouble to take care of. I am now Dept. Treasurer and it requires a great deal of care and work besides. I have written this letter amid talk, have been at it since 6, O'clock]

and now it is 10, O'[clock], I have been up and down over twenty times. Consequently you may find a puzzle to connect all together. I hope you won't make any mistake in writing, but put it down to remind you to call up your memory.

From your Nev[ada] F[ather] in love,

H. S. HERRICK.

(To be continued.)

NOTES

¹Population figures for mining camps during boom periods are difficult to evaluate. In so many cases the real boom came between census years. Such was the case at Hamilton. By 1870 the boom to the district was over, and although the area was supposed to have nearly 30,000 persons at one time, the 1870 census shows a total of 7,189 persons for the entire county. By 1880 this county total had dropped to 2,682, and by 1890 to 1,721.

²Couch, Bertrand F. & Carpenter, Jay A.—“Nevada's Metal and Mineral Production, 1859-1940, inclusive,” University of Nevada *Bulletin*, XXXVII, (November 1, 1943), p. 149. The total production of the White Pine Mining District (Hamilton) from 1859 through 1940 was only \$10,675,388, and for example, by 1876 the annual production was down to \$38,268.

³As county doctor he held a contract to run the county hospital. For this he was paid \$300 a month to feed, clothe, and care for all patients brought to the hospital. (Miller, B. F.—“Nevada in the Making,” Nevada State Historical Society *Papers*, (1923-24), IV, p. 442.

⁴Reference here is made to the small town of Cherry Creek, located in Steptoe Valley, some fifty miles north of the present town of Ely, Nevada. Although discoveries had been made here earlier, a boom hit in 1880 with the discovery of some rather rich ores. However, the boom was short-lived at Cherry Creek as it had been previously at Hamilton.

⁵The reference here is to the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. President Arthur vetoed the original act which provided for the exclusion of Chinese laborers for a twenty year period. However, so much pressure against Chinese labor had built up on the Pacific Coast that a new bill providing for a ten year exclusion period was pushed through Congress and this one Arthur signed.

TEACHER'S EXAMINATION

Commentary and Transcription

By HAROLD N. BROWN

Following patterns well established in the white man's settlement of America, the "colonists" who poured into western Utah Territory after the discovery of the Comstock Lode soon gave their attention to cultural institutions. In July, 1860—while rude huts housed men who had left comfortable homes in California—"some 70 persons collected together, at a large tent to participate in religious services . . ." in the new metropolis, Virginia City.¹ At Atwill and Company's, persons fond of "social comforts, the delights of home, the quiet enjoyment of amusement and instructive conversation," were able to read papers and magazines from East and West.² The prime cultural needs of the community, however, were church and school; so citizens set about soliciting funds for both—a church and a school-house—for there were "quite a number of children . . . and the school-house must not be forgotten," so wrote a correspondent to San Francisco, in a city that hoped "to become the centre of correct deportment and a law-abiding community."³ Spurred on by its desire to equal San Francisco, Virginia soon had three of the civilizing cultural institutions: home, church, and school.

When territorial status was achieved, the first territorial legislature provided for "local school trustees" who were given the responsibility of certificating teachers. The next year, 1862, Territorial Law made it mandatory that the county superintendents (elected) examine teachers in cooperation with boards of school trustees. Statehood brought with it the first school law of the State of Nevada which called for the creation of county boards of examiners who had sole authority to certify teachers. These county boards, appointed by the State Superintendent, were to be governed by regulations made by the State Board of Education. In actual practice, however, county boards of examiners maintained almost complete autonomy. Usually appointed upon the recommendation of prominent citizens, the county boards of examiners received no compensation; hence appointment went frequently to those possessing sufficient wealth and leisure to afford the time. The greatest difficulty was that of finding candidates who possessed sufficient educational qualifications to enable them to select teachers on a professional basis. The

law creating county boards of examiners specified that certificates were valid only in the county wherein they were granted and for a period of one or two years.

Despite the inadequacies of the law it remained on the statute books until 1885—the beginning of the so-called modern period—when certification was made the responsibility of the State Board of Education. Since that time the State Board of Education has maintained authority over all certification in Nevada. Although the modern period has seen the gradual movement away from certification by examination, it should be noted that the Nevada State Department of Education was giving teachers' examinations as late as 1930, and the teachers were certificated after successfully passing the examination.

The examinations of the modern period and of the period of early statehood, 1864–1885, are, however, two distinctly different kinds of examination. One such examination which comes down to us from the early period shows the emphasis upon memory and drill in our schools in 1876. Throughout the examination there are few so-called thought-provoking questions which might call for discussion. Many of the questions are purely factual. But, according to the editor of the *Territorial Enterprise*, "The questions proposed in the several branches were fair and reasonable."⁴ To the person trained for the modern period, the examination for 1876 shows that the learning of that period had as its objective the training of the mind by the use of the impractical, as much as by the use of the practical. A brief examination of the arithmetic examination, the first one listed below, shows the training of the mind involved in the mental exercise of finding a dividend, whereas the practical would ask for the quotient. The person in the modern period would find it highly impractical to seek answers to a problem wherein \$50 is divided between two people in the ratio of $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$, or to find the cube root of 1,030,301, let alone to determine the sum of a series of numbers where the ratio is two and the number of terms five. Similar comments might be made concerning the examinations in other subjects. It should be noted also that while this is evidently an examination used to certify teachers for the first six grades, the prospective candidate was examined on subjects not taught in the elementary grades: chemistry and natural philosophy. Here follows an examination used in 1876; some of the questions may prove as baffling as anything heard on "TV" programs where more than teachers' certificates is at stake:

ARITHMETIC.

If two-thirds of a gallon of water fill a pitcher three-fourths full, how much will the pitcher contain?

Divisor 319, quotient 26, remainder 17, what was the dividend?

Change eight pounds avoirdupois to Troy weight?

How many yards of carpeting, three-fourths of a yard wide, will it take to carpet a room 30x40 feet?

A owns three-eighths of a melon and B five-eighths; C offers them a shilling for an equal share in the melon. What would be an equitable division of the money between A and B?

Compute simple interest on \$17 17 [*sic*] for 17 years, 17 months and 17 days, at 17 per cent.

Change \$1,000 in greenbacks into gold quoted at \$1 12 [*sic*].

Divide \$50 between A and B in the ratio of $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$.

Find the square root of 1-144 and the cube root of 1,030,301.

First term of geometrical series 3, ratio 2, number of terms 5; what is the sum of the series?

GEOGRAPHY.

First—Define the terms equator, tropics, polar circles, isothermal lines, latitude and longitude.

Second—Give the latitude and longitude of Virginia City approximately.

Third—What influences operate to produce the climate of any locality?

Fourth—Define gulf stream and trade winds.

Fifth—Name five principal cities of England, Scotland, Ireland and France.

Sixth—Bound Kansas and Arizona.

Seventh—In what zones are the Barbary States? Sandwich Islands? Iceland?

Eighth—What cities of the world are on or near the fortieth parallel north latitude?

Ninth—What island is at the mouth of the Hudson river? river of St. Lawrence?

Tenth—Name twelve rivers of Europe, ten of Asia and five of Africa.

Eleventh—Name the highest mountain and the longest river in each grand division.

Twelfth—What is the water communication between Madagascar and Africa [*sic*] England and Ireland?

Thirteenth—What river separates Louisiana from Texas?

Fourteenth—Which of the South American States border on the Pacific Coast?

Fifteenth—What countries have a Republican form of government?

NATURAL PHILOSOPHY.

First—Define natural philosophy and give divisions of the subject.

Second—What are the universal properties of matter?

Third—How is the specific gravity of a body lighter than water determined?

Fourth—What is the second law of motion? Describe the toy called the gyroscope.

Fifth—Name the six mechanical powers. What are the relative positions of power, weight and fulcrum in a lever of a third kind?

Sixth—Under what circumstances will a load of hay tip over on being driven over uneven ground? Describe the leaning Tower of Pisa.

Seventh—Name the different parts of the eye.

Eighth—Enumerate the principal sources of heat, light and electricity; define fire, caloric and heat.

Ninth—Suppose a cannon ball fired from a train of cars in motion, in a direction at right angles with the train; will it land to the right or left of the object aimed at, if itself and the train have each a velocity of 100 miles per hour?

Tenth—If a tree should fall in a forest, would it produce any noise, supposing there were no ear there to hear it?

SPELLING.

Primer, supersede, dumfounded, vacillate, ecstasy, deleble, fuchsia, diphthong, driest, moneys, hymeneal, indictment, pumice, accordion, dyeing, putrefy, signify, numskull, vaccinate, Cincinnati.

CHEMISTRY.

First—Of what does chemistry treat?

Second—How many elementary substances have been discovered? Name ten of the principle [*sic*] ones.

Third—Give the atomic weights of hydrogen, oxygen, carbon, nitrogen, and mercury. Name the heaviest known substance.

Fourth—Give the scientific term and symbol of common salt, chalk, blue vitriol and green vitriol. What are the constituents of gun powder?

Fifth—In what do starch and sugar differ from each other?

Sixth—How can an acid be distinguished from an alkali?

Seventh—What are the chemical properties of ozone?

Eighth—What do the symbols SO_3 , NO_5 , FE_2 , O_3 and HO stand for?

Ninth—What poison do we exhale in the act of respiration?

Tenth—What do plants appropriate from the air, and what do they give back in exchange?

AMERICAN HISTORY.

First—State the cause of the Revolutionary War. Name five prominent American generals engaged in it and its decisive battles. How long did it last?

Second—Name the thirteen original States.

Third—Name the Presidents in order, and state how long each one served.

Fourth—State what is meant by the Monroe doctrine—the Missouri compromise.

Fifth—What caused the War of 1812?

Sixth—What connection had William Penn with American history? Sir Walter Raleigh? Governor Oglethorp? John Smith?

Seventh—What was the cause of the war between the United States and Mexico? Name five prominent battlefields; what generals commanded on either side at Buena Vista?

Eighth—What connection had Stephen A. Douglas with American politics?

Ninth—What causes led to the war of the rebellion? Name six distinguished Federal and Confederate generals. State ten of the most important battlefields of that war.

Tenth—When and where did Lee's surrender take place?

PHYSIOLOGY.

First—Define anatomy, physiology and hygiene.

Second—How many bones in the human body? Give your authority.

Third—Of what substance are the teeth composed?

Fourth—What is chyle, chyme and lymph?

Fifth—Describe the circulation of blood in an adult.

Sixth—In case of a cut on an arm how can you tell whether a vein or an artery has been severed? Where would you place the bandage or ligature in each case?

Seventh—How is the temperature of the body kept from becoming too high?

Eighth—What injuries might be inflicted by striking a child on the head?

Ninth—What is the cause of the phenomenon called fainting?

Tenth—In what manner can teachers best recuperate their exhausted energies after the labors of the day are closed? Can they afford to spend late hours at balls? Should they be expected to teach in Sabbath schools?

Eleventh—What is the effect of a badly ventilated school-room upon children?⁵

Lest the reader think the examination gives evidence that people were better educated in those days, it should be pointed out that we do not have the scores made on the examination. We do know that there were ten applicants for the examination; one of the ten "won" a first grade certificate; six were awarded second grade certificates. There was one way to avoid the test: be graduated from a Normal School and thus be certificated "first class."⁶

NOTES

¹San Francisco *Weekly Bulletin*, August 4, 1860.

²San Francisco *Daily Morning Call*, October 12, 1860.

³*Bulletin, op. cit.*, August 4, 1860.

⁴Virginia City *Territorial Enterprise*, August 20, 1876.

⁵*Loc. cit.*

⁶*Territorial Enterprise*, August 23, 1876.

THE PYRAMID LAKE INDIAN WAR OF 1860¹

Commentary, Notes, and Transcription

By WILLIAM C. MILLER

The story of the Pyramid Lake Indian War has been chronicled many times. The present telling is not a restatement of what has been told; rather, it is source material which Nevada historians—De Quille excluded—have ignored;² as a consequence much in the succeeding telegraphic dispatches, letters, and newspaper accounts corrects details which the historians have distorted. Too, the source material brings into scope details of activities hitherto minimized—the activities of officialdom: civilian and military, as well as the activities of the everyday citizens of California. Moreover, the material pinpoints the blame, placing it squarely on the shoulders of white men. Beyond that, the material shows mob rule at work, the rumors engendered through hearsay, and the poetic justice meted out to those who clearly displayed their belief in: *the only good Indian is a dead Indian*.

Although present-day highway maps do not show “the Great Bend of the Carson” river, they do show the Lahontan Reservoir area where the “Great Bend” is located and where the “massacre” took place. Present-day maps show the town of Wadsworth at the site of the “great bend” in the Truckee River; between that point and the town of Nixon, on Nevada highway “34,” the war took place. If, then, we should draw a triangle and let the base line be represented by a line from the town of Genoa to the Lahontan Reservoir and the two side lines represented by lines drawn from the Lahontan Reservoir to Nixon and from Nixon to Genoa, we have, in general, the total locale of the immediate territory involved in the “war.”

THE PYRAMID LAKE INDIAN WAR OF 1860

PART I

DISPATCHES AND RUMORS

Virginia City, U.T., May 8—4 P.M.

Last night a horrid massacre was perpetrated by the Indians below the Great Bend of the Carson. J. Williams arrived at Buckland's, near the Bend, and gave the information of the

murder of his two brothers and five other white men at the same hour, and the burning of the house. After witnessing the perpetration of this shocking butchery, on his way up, Mr. Williams called at two other houses, on the opposite side of the river; the doors were open, but loud calling, at a short distance, failed to induce any signs of life about the premises. He supposes all are murdered. They number twelve or thirteen men. The Indians are about 500 strong, and all armed. They pursued him to within six miles of Buckland's. The Pony Express dispatched their horses and riders, and through them we have received the dreadful intelligence. J. Barstoles and J. H. Smith brought the news.³ It is to be feared that Buckland station may be attacked to-night. Efforts are making here now to go to the relief of the border settlers and stations. Much excitement prevails.

A committee of five, consisting of Col. Whitman, L. Nightengale, George Ashe, Henry Meredith and Capt. Johns were appointed to make arrangements for forming a company of volunteers and scouts to protect settlers, and warn parties in the mountains, near the desert, of their danger.

Capt. Leonard's company, from San Francisco, of 17 men, have gone on to Buckland's to-night, to defend that station.

The Indians engaged in the murder are the Carson division of the Pah-utes, numbering 150, but were reinforced by 300 more. They are under the command of Capt. Ham, a notorious rascal.

They are now about 25 miles from here. Volunteers are enrolling and a subscription is open to defray expenses. The excitement is increasing.

9:30 P. M.

A company to reinforce Capt. Leonards' company, start at 12 o'clock to-night. A company of scouts, consisting of 13, start for the Nevada district at 10 o'clock. There will be a company of mounted men leave early in the morning. Five hundred dollars and increasing had been raised.

Virginia City, U.T., May 9—1 P.M.

There is no further report about the massacre by the Indians on the night of the 7th. Many parties have gone out in pursuit. So soon as any news comes in, it will be forwarded.

Carson City, May 9, 2 P. M.

The news of the Indian massacre at Miller's Station, at the Big Bend of the Carson river, night before last, created great excitement. A company was organized here last night, numbering thirty mounted men, under the command of Major Ormsby, who left here this morning, at 8 o'clock, for the scene of action. By an express, this morning, we learn that the Indians have fortified themselves at Ragtown,⁴ and threaten a big fight. Everything in the shape of firearms, from Allen's "pepper-boxes" to U. S. muskets, is in requisition.

A negro and a white man have been accused of selling ammunition to the Indians for some time past, knowing their intentions. The negro is now under arrest.

A company has been organized at Genoa, under the command of J. Cradlebaugh. The women and children have all left the river, and are at Silver City, which place is fortified. . . .

2 10 P. M.

The white man above alluded to has just been arrested for selling powder to the Indians. He had over one hundred pounds concealed in his cabin, about one mile out of town.

Carson City, May 10.

G. Clark has just arrived from the scene of the massacre, and corroborates the statement that four men were murdered, besides the two brothers of Williams. He informs us that he saw the remains of their bodies in the burned ruins of the house. He left the sink of the Humboldt at 7 o'clock last night, and met one company of rangers, composed of 30 men, at Miller's station; one company of 25 men, three miles this side; Judge Cradlebaugh with 12 men, and Major Ormsby with 30. Three in addition were reported yesterday. Total rifles on the ground, over 200, with provisions for four days. The Indians engaged in the massacre were the Shoshones, Smoke Creek, Honey Lake, Pahutes, with those previously reported.

William's Ranch, Miller's Station, May 10th.

A company arrived here 24 strong, last night, and found no others as yet on the ground. There were two bodies burned that were recognized as males, and another body almost gone, so that it could not be identified. W. F. Mason was appointed coroner.

But little information could be got. We buried the bodies, and are now waiting for James Williams, and some more men, and then we move most likely for Pyramid Lake. One of the dead is known to be Samuel Sullivan, who drove a wagon here. But few Indian signs exist. We have found tracks where stock had been run off, and we intend to follow them up. It is reported that one of the Williams was found alive and told his brother that he had been attacked by the Pahutes. He soon died. There are traces of blood for more than half a mile from the house, as though some one had escaped, or some Indian had been wounded. Mr. Gilbert, of Salt Lake, has been very active in the command, as have been Sergeant McIntosh and his companions, recently from Salt Lake.

signed: W. A. Spear and Capt. Ormsby.⁵

Virginia City, May 13—10:40 A. M.

C. T. Lake—belonging to the Company that left Silver City to fight the Indians who committed the late outrages—has just arrived here. The force, 100 strong, struck camp between 3 and 4 o'clock, P. M., on the bend of the Truckee, yesterday, and advanced on the trail towards Pyramid Lake. The Indians, judged to be 2,000 strong, came upon the Company and opened fire upon them from ambush. By order of Maj. Ormsby, the troops charged upon the Indians, who opened right and left, surrounding the troops, who fired occasionally. Their ammunition soon gave out. The Indians, seeing this, closed in upon them, pouring in volley after volley. Lake was ordered to guard the pass to the east, to secure an avenue of retreat. He succeeded in this, and was followed by six men.

Lake thinks a few escaped across the river, but none others came through the pass. Maj. Ormsby was shot, and Lake thinks that the greater part of the force were left dead upon the field.

Among those who went out to fight, and who are supposed to be killed, are William S. Spear and Richard Snowden, of San Francisco; Maj. Ormsby, of Carson Valley, and Henry Meredith, of Nevada. . . .

Carson City, May 13—10½ P. M.

Mr. Meredith is dead, sure. Joe Baldwin is missing, and probably dead. Many of your acquaintances are among the dead and missing. The battle was fought about sixty-five miles from here, commencing yesterday afternoon about four o'clock and

lasted two hours, when a general retreat was made by the whites, the Indians pursuing them for twenty miles, when darkness saved the fugitives. The families are all leaving the valleys. The Indians are driving off the stock and murdering the inhabitants.

signed: Geo. Hurst,
W. M. Lent,
Geo. Story.

Virginia City, May 13—10 P. M.

The citizens of Carson City are fortifying that place against the Indians. At this place, picket guards are stationed, and will go out to-night. Every stone house is being put in defense for the protection of females and children.

The names of the dead of Capt. A. McDonald's Virginia Volunteers, taken from the roll, are: Joseph Baldwin (yet in doubt,) A. Kellot, F. Gathouse, W. Hawkins, A. Haven, George Jones, Col. McVance, H. Meredith,—McIntosh, Patrick McCount, Henry Newton, John Noyce, A. J. Peck, R. Snowden, and William Arrington, mortally wounded. The remainder, thirteen in number, have arrived.

No definite information yet as to the Carson and Silver City Companies.

Capt. T. D. Johns of San Francisco, has been appointed to the supreme military command. He has, accordingly, declared martial law. Forces are now being enrolled.

Virginia, May 14—3 P. M.

As soon as we receive arms we shall send out for the dead bodies. Col. Snowden is here, and says that he has no hope for his son. This town is under martial law. We shall look for arms to-morrow night.

Virginia City, May 14—10 P. M.

There were 106 men engaged in the battle, 80 under Ormsby, and 26 under McDonald. They followed the Indian trail from Williams' Station, Carson river, to the Truckee, down that river and through the Pass to four miles off Pyramid Lake.

When attacked, the Indians broke their line. Forced back to the river, they charged again and again. Some whites fled at the first fire. There were 500 Indians well mounted, and armed with rifles. The whites retreated, and forced the Pass. Many were

killed on the retreat. Others, completely routed are scattered through the mountains. The baggage, mules, provisions and arms are mostly lost. Stragglers have been coming in ever since the fight. There were not half as many killed as we thought when first accounts were received;—82 names of those engaged in the fight are known.

No returns are received from Silver City and Genoa companies. Much excitement exists all through the territory, Carson, Genoa, Black Rock country and Honey Lake, and all ranchmen, miners, and others outside are removing to the towns. Some settlements are fearing attacks, but we do not anticipate any here. Shoshone, Smoke Creek, Pitt River, and Pah-Ute Indians are supposed to have been engaged in the fight.

Carson City, May 14—10 A. M.

The reports of yesterday are confirmed. At least 60 or 70 must have been killed. The forces which left Downieville on the Honey Lake route, it is feared, will be cut off.

Capt. Joe, of the Washoe tribe, has come in and surrendered nine guns to Capt. Proctor, which is evidence that he wishes to preserve peace. This will subject the Washoes to the most bitter hatred and warfare from the Pah-Utes and Shoshones.

Carson and Virginia City are not generally considered in danger of an attack. All the parties outside are pouring into the towns so as to concentrate the strength. No arms or ammunition have yet arrived, although this assistance is needed. The Indians are gathering a goodly force, and are determined to clean out the whites in this country. The Pitt Rivers are supposed to be with them, and the rumor that the Salt Lake bands are also with them, has been confirmed. W. Wasson and others have gone to Long Valley, to warn the inhabitants there. Couriers have been sent in all directions. Arrington, who was brought in wounded yesterday, died last night.

signed: C. E. Goodrich.

Virginia City, May 14—11 A. M.

Maj. W. W. MacKall:—A fight took place near Pyramid Lake, on Saturday, 4 P. M., between 105 whites from this place and Carson Valley, and 500 Indians, well armed and trained, 150 of whom were well mounted. The whites were defeated, with a loss of 25. The Indians are in arms and full war-paint between

the Humboldt and Pyramid Lake, and are also reported so on Walker river. There are 300 friendly Indians at the Sink of the Carson who are threatened by the Pah-Utes if they do not join the war.

We have a few revolvers and shot guns to defend this place, but it is feared that the Indians will sweep the valley, which is perfectly defenseless. We have no arms to fit out a party for its protection. There appears to be no doubt that there is a general combination among the Indians. We want arms and ammunition at once, and troops as soon as they can be sent, as the the [sic] Indians will be emboldened by success. All prospecting parties are coming in, and all work in the country, outside of this place, is stopped. Can you send two mountain howitzers with ammunition? Judge Baldwin's son is in all right.

signed: W. L. Dall,
C. P. Patterson.

Virginia, May 15—1:30 P. M.

About midnight last night there was an alarm. The Indians were reported to be within two miles of the town. The women and children were gathered at Pat. Ryle's stone hotel, which was barricaded. Many left town with their blankets and rifles, during the night, others left yesterday. Some of them will be in San Francisco soon. No Indians were seen or heard, nor do I believe any are within fifty miles. Our population has been much diminished within the last few days, but absentees will return after the arrival of troops and arms now on the road. A war is anticipated, but the Indians won't come here to fight us.

A proposition has been made emanating from Genoa, to send delegates to Carson City at once, to organize a temporary or provisional government. We have a military government now, and it is all that is necessary for the present. Better wait for Congress to organize the Territory.

Virginia, May 15—3:30 P. M.

On account of the varied and discrepant rumors relating to the catastrophe which befel [sic] the forces engaged near Pyramid Lake, we have deferred the transmission of the names of our friends engaged in the action, until something like an approximation could be made of the true number engaged, and their

fate. The annexed names are all that are at the present time known. The lists of the different companies, with one exception, are lost; and we are dependent on our couriers to collect the remnants as they come in. All who left Gold Hill have returned safe.

We have received returns from Silver City. Most who left that place have returned.

From Genoa our tidings are as yet meagre, and from Carson City they are quite incomplete. From the two latter towns none who left have returned, and hence our difficulty. As they return, after this reaches you, there will be forwarded the names of the persons engaged in the expedition [*sic*], and the localities from which they came, so far as they can be ascertained.

The company from Genoa, under Capt. Condon, was composed as follows: Thomas Condon, D. E. Kimball, Michael Lay, Robert Ridley, Big Texas, M. Pular, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Lee, and Mr. James.

The company from Carson City, under Major Ormsby, consisted of Major Ormsby, John Blackburn, F. Steinger, Mr. Barnes, James Gatewood, William Spear, Frank Gilbert, William Mason, Wm. C. Marley, Richard Watkins, John Holmes, Samuel Brown, Dr. Eckelroth, Dr. T. Sader, James J. M'Intyre, and nine discharged United States soldiers, whose names are as yet unknown.

The company from Virginia, under Capt. F. Johnson, consisted of: F. Johnson, J. Call McFreery, Hugh McLaughlin, Charles McLoud, John Fleming, (Greek);—Henderson, (Greek); Andres Scuald, (Italian); Marco Kneegiswoldt, (Austrian); John Gaventi, (Austrian); Geo., (Chileno).

The second company from Virginia, under Capt. A. McDonald, consisted of William Arrington, C. W. Allen, G. F. Brown, J. Baldwin, D. D. Cole, A. K. Elliott, C. Forman, A. L. Grumes, F. Gathousi, W. Hawkins, Archibald Haven, J. C. Hall, George Jones, R. Lawrence, Col. McVane, Henry Meredith, P. McIntosh, Patrick McCourt S. McNaughton, Henry Newton, John Noyce, A. J. Peck, Richard Snowdon, M. Spear, O. Spear.

The company from Silver City, under R. Watkins, consisted as follows: Capt. R. Watkins, Parsons, John Holmes, Keene, Albert Bloom, Charles Devans, James Shabell, James Lee, Boston Boy—(lame and unknown.)

Total of all the companies, 81. These include all the names at present obtainable of the aggregate numbers engaged. The whole number who entered the battle was 105, and there are therefore

24 persons whose names are unaccounted for, and their fate as yet is unknown.

The names of the returned wounded and dead of the different companies to this hour are as follows:

GENOA COMPANY.—Of this company we have the following: Thomas Condon, fate unknown; *Returned*—Michael Tay, Robert Ridley, Big Texas, M. Pular, Thompson Lee James

Of the Carson company: *Dead*—Maj. Ormsby, William S. Spear, Dr. T. Jader; *Returned*—John Blackburn, D. E. Kimball, F. Steinger, C. Barnes, James Gatewood, Frank Gilbert, William Mason, Samuel Brown, William C. Marley, Richard Watkins, Dr. Eckelroth, John Holmes, James McIntyre; *Fate unknown*—Nine discharged U. S. soldiers, names unknown.

Of the Company from Silver City: *Dead*—Parsons, Charles Devans, James Lee, Boston. *Wounded*—James Shabel. *Returned*—J. Holmes, Albeot bloom, (unknown.) Mr. Keene and boy, name unknown.

Of the company from Gold Hill, the number and names are unknown. They have all returned.

Of the company from Virginia, under Capt. F. Johnson: *Dead*—F. Johnson, Charles McLoud, John Fleming, S. Aubersen, Andrew Schued, M. Knezerwitch, John Gavenbo. *Wounded*—Hugh McLaughlin. *Returned*—J. Call McLierney, Geo. O. C. Steel, D. E. Kemble, H. Beet, (unknown,) M. Shasterich.

Of the company from Virginia, under Capt. A. McDonald: *Dead*—William Armington, A. K. Elliott, W. Hawkins, George Jones, Henry Meredith, Wm. Mackintosh O. McNaughton. *Wounded*—F. Galehouse. *Returned*—A. McDonald, Charles W. Allen, Joseph Baldwin, B. D. Cole, Charles Forman, A. L. Grunns, Archibald Haven, J. C. Hall, Richard Lawrence, Col. McVane, Patrick McCourt, Henry Newton, John Noyce, A. J. Peck, William Spear. (Unknown, Richard Snowden.

The following is a recapitulation of these figures:

Fate unknown and missing, 43.

Returned alive, 38.

Dead, 21.

Wounded, 3.

Total, 105.

Capt. T. D. Johns, commanding, has despatched an ambulance, with Dr. Perkins, of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company to the Truckee river to attend the wounded there, with provisions and other necessary stores. He left at 11 A. M. to-day.⁶

Virginia City, May 17—9 P. M.

Messrs. Espers, Anderson, Lamar, Ques, King, Charles Palmer and Marco Cuesavick, left here Saturday, 5th, for Pyramid Lake. At Red Bluff, Truckee river, they were joined by John Gibson and Mr. Canfield, recently from Oroville. They left Red Bluff, Monday morning, for Pyramid Lake. Their bodies have been found in Willoughsby river, four miles from the place of departure, showing that they were murdered the day they left Red Bluff. This was the day on which the massacre at Williams' Station took place.

This settlement has been considerably alarmed a few nights past, by reports of Indians close at hand. There are no Indians probably within fifty miles of this place. Great fears has [*sic*] been experienced by thousands of poltroons who have run away from here.

Two hundred and fifty stand of arms and an escort of twenty men, under Col. Sanders, from Sacramento, reached Genoa last night, and started for Virginia City this morning.

Dr. T. Jader, reported killed in the battle, returned yesterday with three slight arrow wounds. He lay concealed near the battle ground two days. He saw seventeen dead bodies of whites stripped, but not mutilated. Three days ago their faces were beaten with stones. Dr. Jader had nothing to eat for four days.

At an election held here yesterday to decide for or against a Provisional Territory, the vote stood—*ayes*, 7; *noes*, 1,175. Carson also opposed it, but Gold Hill and Silver City voted in its favor.

PART II

ACTIVITIES AND DISPATCHES IN CALIFORNIA

[As reported in detail in the columns of the San Francisco *Steamer Bulletin*, May 21, 1860.]

Placerville, May 13—3 P. M.

The intelligence of the defeat and slaughter of Major Ormsby's company caused intense excitement in our city.

Mayor Swan promptly called a meeting of the citizens at one o'clock, P. M., to make provision for supplying the inhabitants of Western Utah with arms and ammunition. The Theatre was crowded. Mayor Swan acted as Chairman, and D. W. Gelwicks as Secretary. Mayor Swan called the meeting to order, and explained its object. Fervent and patriotic speeches were made by several citizens, when resolutions were adopted authorizing

the Mayor to procure arms and ammunition, and forward them instantly to Carson Valley. A messenger was sent to Captain Von Guelder, of Coloma, to obtain the arms of the "Coloma Greys." The meeting promptly and liberally responded to the subscription list, and a large sum was paid in before the meeting adjourned, to defray expenses in sending arms, etc.

Sacramento, May 13—6 P. M.

The citizens of Sacramento are requested to meet in front of the Orleans Hotel, at 6 o'clock this evening to concert measures for the relief of their fellow citizens at Carson Valley.

The feeling was further increased by the announcement that white men had been described acting with the Indians, inducing the belief that the treacherous Mormons were leagued in with the savages.

Action of the Authorities.

Naturally the first inclinations of the public mind favored the immediate chastisement of the savages committing the outrage, while immediate attention was given to the defense of the residents of Washoe against any further hostile proceedings. General Clarke of the U. S. Army was appealed to for relief and the authority of Governor Downey invoked for aid. The Governor was absent from Sacramento and the Secretary of State, Dr. Price, essayed the following action:

THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO GEN. CLARKE.

Sacramento, May 13—3 P. M.

Gen. Clarke—Can you furnish arms immediately for the citizens of Carson Valley? There has been a terrible butchery of our citizens by the Indians—Gov. Downey absent.

Johnson Price.

THE SAME TO GOV. DOWNEY.

The wires are cut between here (Sacramento) and Carson City. I have taken the responsibility to order two hundred stands of arms, with ammunition, to the seat of war.

Johnson Price.

GOV. DOWNEY'S ANSWER.

You have done rightly. I am now making arrangements with Gen. Clarke. Have any arms been sent from other sources?

J. G. Downey.

GEN. CURTIS TO GEN. HAVEN.

What are you doing relative the Carson Valley Massacre? Where is the Commander-in-Chief, Gov. Downey? Will Gen. Clarke take action in this matter?

N. Greene Curtis,
Maj. Gen. 4th Division, California Militia.

GEN. HAVEN'S ANSWER.

We are acting in concert, and promptly.

J. P. Haven.

. . . from Gen. Curtis, to Gov. Downey:

Sacramento, May 13th.

To His Excellency John G. Downey: Sir—The Sutter Rifle and City Guard of Sacramento, and the Marysville Rifles, are ready to march at any moment. They await orders.

The Nevada Rifles and Coloma Greys are also ready.

A company of citizens of Placerville are also prepared to march to the scene of action forthwith.

N. Greene Curtis,
Maj. Gen. Div. California Militia.

THE STATE AND FEDERAL AUTHORITIES MOVING.

On the receipt of the disastrous news in this city, although Gen. Clarke was present, Gov. Downey was on a visit to the State Prison. A concert of action between the State and Federal authorities was immediately determined upon. Gen. Haven, of the State militia, with commendable zeal, boarded the U. S. steamer *Shubrick*. Her commander, Capt. Boggs, was notified of the exigency of affairs, at 4 P. M. At a quarter past 5 P. M., the *Shubrick* reached San Quentin, with Gen. Haven, and the Governor at once repaired to this city [San Francisco], for an interview with General Clarke.

THE ACTION DETERMINED UPON.

Obstacles in the way of action by the Executive of the State arose from the fact that the enemy committing depredations were in a neighboring territory, without the limits of California. General Clarke, with respect to furnishing an immediate force was powerless from the meagre number at his command—two companies in the vicinity of this city and one at Benecia, with an available number for duty of perhaps 120 men being all that

could be depended upon. Under such circumstances an aggressive warfare was out of the question and measures of defense were the next resort. A conference was held between Governor Downey and General Clarke, when the latter very promptly signified his willingness to break through the trammels of "red-tapeism" of the strict line of his authority, and agreed to assume a certain responsibility upon a proper representation of the facts by the Governor.

REQUISITION FOR ARMS BY THE EXECUTIVE.

Governor Downey forthwith transmitted a requisition to General Clarke for 500 stand of arms, accoutrements and ammunition. The requisition cannot be published, but the action of the General is shown in the following order:

San Francisco, May 13th, 1860.

To Captain Callender, Commanding Benecia Arsenal.—Deliver to Governor Downey, of California, five hundred stand of arms, one hundred thousand rounds of ammunition, and the accoutrements necessary for each stand.

N. S. CLARKE,

Col. Sixth Infantry, Brevet Brigadier General.

We are apprised that the arm to be issued is the Minnie Rifle Musket, than which a more effective weapon does not exist in any service.

THE GOVERNOR SENDS THE ARMS TO WASHOE.

Adjutant-General Kibbe being absent from the State, a temporary substitute was found in General Haven, of the 2d Division, who shook off the trappings of his fancy rank, and bent himself in earnest to the real duties of a soldier, as appears by the following documents, bearing the official date of the seat of government, but indited from this city [San Francisco]:

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

Sacramento, May 13, 1860.

To J. P. Haven, Major General California Militia—

SIR: In the absence of the Adjutant Quartermaster-General, you will discharge such duty, and proceed to receive, receipt for, and dispatch such arms and ammunition as Major-General Clarke, Commanding Pacific Division, U. S. A., will deliver to you, upon my requisition.

You will use all possible dispatch in transporting the arms, etc., to the scene of Indian outrages in Carson Valley, using all necessary economy on behalf of the State.

Consult with the regular and authorized command of such military expedition as you may find at the scene of action, and take proper receipts the property.

Having complied with these instructions, you will report to me forthwith. Respectfully,

John G. Downey.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Sacramento, May 13, 1860.

Col. C. W. Tozer, Aid-de-Camp, &c.—SIR: You will place yourself under the order of the Acting Adjutant and Quartermaster-General (Haven) and render such aid as he may require in transporting arms etc., to Carson Valley. Having done which you will report to me forthwith. Respectfully,

John G. Downey,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

GENERAL HAVEN ON THE MOVE FOR THE SCENE OF ACTION.

About 11 P. M., General Haven, provided with the above authority, left headquarters and took a special steamer for Benecia, getting under weigh at 2½ A. M., prepared to carry the efficient means of relief at his disposal with the utmost dispatch to the field of hostilities.

From the prompt action that we have detailed, the citizens of Carson Valley will soon receive the only really requisite assistance. There are fighting men enough there, or soon will be to successfully cope with the savages, and all apprehension for the safety of the main settlements should be allayed. The scourging of the Indians who committed the late slaughter, and the probing to the bottom of the alleged collusion of the treacherous Mormons, belongs to the Federal Government. Such U. S. troops belonging to the command of Gen. Clarke as can be availed of for the service, we are assured by that officer, will at once be ordered to march. At Salt Lake city [*sic*], there were stationed, at last accounts, 650 men, infantry, dragoons, and artillery, under the command of Col. St. George Cooke. Gen. Harney, of the Oregon division, has doubtless an available body under his orders, and in a very brief period the General Government at Washington can be apprised of all the facts.

MONDAY, 3 o'clock, P. M.

We telegraphed early this morning to Virginia City for a full summary of the latest news from that quarter. The answer received at 2 P. M. was: "Everybody is so excited that nothing can be done. There is no more known to-day than was telegraphed last evening."

We have other parties to get a summary of news, and hope yet to receive full particulars before going to press for our city edition. Meanwhile we have the following particulars through private dispatches:

A dispatch to Gov. Downey states that the excitement at Virginia City is overdone, and that the number killed has been exaggerated.

Mr. Holiday, received a dispatch from Mr. Marley, agent of the Pony Express. He was in the battle—had a horse and mule shot under him, and escaped by a *scratch*." [sic] He thinks some 60 men were killed. . . .

Gen. Clarke has ordered the U. S. troops at Honey Lake to proceed to Virginia City, a distance of about 100 miles.

A dispatch received here at two o'clock by C. A. Crane, from Mr. Williams of the *Territorial Enterprise*, says that Mr. Mason (a partner of Mr. Spear) and who was at first named as among the killed, was in the fight but escaped unhurt. The telegram adds, "The number of the killed was not so great as reported."

The troops (consisting of two companies of light artillery acting as infantry) that Gen. Clark [sic] sends to Carson Valley, will leave at 4 o'clock, this afternoon, on the boat for Sacramento. Probably the company of infantry at Benecia will be joined to the command *en route*, embarking this evening. . . .

The sum of \$2,000 was raised last evening at Sacramento, for aid to the volunteers in Carson Valley. . . .

The Marysville *Express* gives the following extracts from two private letters written by S. W. Langton, from Downieville, on the evening of 14th and 15th of May. The first dated letter says:

We received intelligence last night from Sierra Valley, that Joseph Blodget and a Mr. Cady are missing, and are supposed to have been killed by Indians. They went to look for stock, and not returning that night, a party went in search for them, and discovered Indian signs on their trail; and also, Blodget's dog came back, apparently much terrified. They went in the direction of Pyramid Lake, and are doubtless murdered.

Urgent dispatches requesting aid and arms were received last night and to-day from Messrs. Ayer, Hungerford and others.

It was feared here that Dr. Bryant and W. M. Stewart were in great peril on the road, but both arrived here to-day—the latter having left Virginia City before the reception of the news of the battle. Dr. Bryant states that going he met ten men, separately, who had told him that they had been with the Indians at Pyramid Lake, and that they are fifteen thousand strong—six thousand of them mounted and all well armed, and with great quantities of ammunition—Pitt River Indians, Shoshones and Pah-Utes. According to the story of the men who warned Dr. Bryant to turn back, the Indians say they are hemmed in by the whites on either side; they must either starve or fight; they are determined to war to the death.

The following is from the letter of [1]5th May:

Your dispatch relative to Sierra Valley received. Much alarm is felt there. A messenger came through last night reports some 1,200 Indians camped in Long Valley. He informed me that they learned from some friendly Indians, (of the Washoe tribe) that it was the intention of the Pah-Utes to make a descent upon the valley in a few days, and drive off all the stock.

FOR THE SEAT OF WAR.

General Clark [*sic*] has ordered one company of infantry from Humboldt, to be here in five or six days, and in readiness.

The troops at the Presidio are under orders to start at a moment's notice to the seat of war, and should Captain Steward call for more troops from Carson, they will proceed forthwith.

(*To be continued*)

NOTES

¹The telegrams, dispatches, letters, and news accounts are to be found in the columns of the *San Francisco Steamer Bulletin*, May 21, 1860. The *Bulletin* was published as a daily, weekly, and as a "Steamer" issue, the last carrying stories out of the "Daily," up to the latest possible moment prior to the sailing of the packet boat.

²Historians after De Quille relied on accounts of the war as told by survivors as late as twenty, thirty, and forty and more years after the event. There is, of course, the later historian who relies entirely on secondary sources for his material.

³This is in keeping with De Quille's *Big Bonanza*, p. 118, account.

⁴Ragtown was a trading post on the Carson River where "exhausted and thirsty emigrants recuperated after their 40-mile trip across the Carson desert between Humboldt Lake and Carson River." The trading post was slightly to the north and east of Hazen, Nevada.

⁵This dispatch confirms the number killed as stated by De Quille, *op. cit.*, p. 118, and challenges succeeding historians who, seemingly, did not think that the murder of three men constituted a "massacre."

⁶A similar list of names is to be found in Angel's, *History of Nevada*, pp. 153-154, and in accounts by succeeding historians who rely on Angel.

CONTRIBUTORS

PEGGY TREGO, who contributed the *Squaw Valley* article, is highly conversant with the Nevada scene. For quite a few years readers interested in the historical turned to the Sunday editions of the *Nevada State Journal* for articles which were headed: "by Peggy Trego." Deservedly, she has been honored by the Association of Historical Societies for her research and publication of Nevada items.

RUSSELL R. ELLIOTT—Associate Professor of History at the University of Nevada—has his Ph.D., from the University of California, and is a recognized authority on Nevada. The *Letters*, which he comments on, come from White Pine County where Dr. Elliott was born. Dr. Elliott's Master's thesis is on the very locale where the *Letters* had their origin.

HAROLD N. BROWN is well known throughout Nevada. As a professor in the College of Education at the University of Nevada, he has, for years, influenced the educational patterns throughout the State. He, too, is an historian; his doctoral dissertation was *A History of Education in Nevada*. The *Examination* which he comments on is but a facet of the numerous elements which Dr. Brown touches upon in his courses in *School Law* and *History of Education*—courses known to many teachers in Nevada and elsewhere.



CARSON CITY, NEVADA

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