

## Mariposa Free Press:

1863

“Agents for the Free Press,” *Mariposa Free Press*, January 24, 1863, 1:1:

[Excerpts:]

San Francisco	Thomas Boyce.
Visalia	C. M. Vallee.
Hornitos	William Grade.
Millerton	Jeff Shannon.
Snellings	F. Prince.
Coulterville	Thomas Ayers.

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Big Oak Flat C. H. St. John.

“United States Mail Line of Stages” (advertisement), *Mariposa Free Press*, February 7, 1863, 1:1:

A. O. Thoms is running his United States Mail Line of Stages, between Visalia and Hornitos, via Scottsburg and Millerton. They will run every other day. They connect at Hornitos with Fisher & Company’s stages for Stockton and the boats to San Francisco. They also connect with all the lines running to Mariposa, Jamestown, Sonora, Columbia, and other places and connect at Visalia with [Thomas] Heston’s stage for Keyesville and “**The Coso Silver Mines!**” The mines can be reached by Heston’s line in 5 days from San Francisco. Dated at Visalia, January 16, 1863.

“Enoch Peyton” (advertisement), *Mariposa Free Press*, February 7, 1863, 1:1:

Enoch Peyton, a freighter and forwarder, on Levee Street, in Stockton, will forward all goods “with Promptness and Dispatch” and at the lowest rates.

Dated at Stockton, January 16, 1863.

“Visalia Items,” *Mariposa Free Press*, February 14, 1863, 2:3:

“From a letter from Visalia under date of Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>, we learn that it is very lively times [time?] there. Money plenty on account of the soldiers having been recently paid off. There are three companies there at present, and the camp is under command of Lieut. Col. Jones, who has been recently promoted from a captaincy. Judging from the frequency of desertions, there must be considerable disaffection in camp. Our informant states that during the last month there has been no less than thirty desertions besides six or eight dishonorably discharged. Three men belonging to Company D took ‘French leave’ on Thursday night. Considerable excitement exists in regard to the silver mines in the Slate Range District. Men recently returned from that place report favorably of its richness.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, March 28, 1863, 2:1:

“The Sonora and Aurora Wagon Road Bill has passed both branches of the Legislature.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, March 28, 1863, 2:1:

“The *Delta* says that an express rider was waylaid and robbed between Keysville and Visalia, near White river on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst. The robbers got about \$750 by the operation.”

[More to come:]

J. H. L. [J. H. Lawrence], “Editorial Correspondence,” *Mariposa Free Press*, April 11, 1863, 2:3-4:

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“MILLERTON, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1863.

“Between the *winners*, who got on a big spree by way of celebrating their victory in the race on Saturday last—the *losers*, who took the same method to drown the recollection of a bad investment—and the outsiders, who out of pure sympathy have been drinking with both parties—this town has been on a powerful ‘bender’ for the last two days. At the hour of commencing this, the ‘brilliant cuss’ whom you have condemned to defame during a temporary absence, is left to a few quiet moments. The ‘last surviving signer’ has ‘gone from my gaze,’ to sleep off the effects of a pretty fair article of whisky, and to awake to a seat on the stool of repentance, and refreshing draughts of *San Joaquin straight*.

“The great event of the season which was to settle the question of superiority in horse-flesh between the rival clans of Kings River and the San Joaquin, and decide the comparative speed of ‘Joe Johnson’ of the former stream, and ‘Jeff Davis’ of the latter, occurred according to contract on Saturday last. The race came off near Converse’s Ferry. Both horses had been well trained, and were in tip-top condition—track a fine one—distance, 650 yards.—The prevailing opinion here seemed to be that the King’s river horse wouldn’t hold out over 500 yards. The result goes to prove that its [it’s] easy to be mistaken—the race being won by ‘Joe Johnson’ with ease. The victor is a fine sorrell [sorrel] stallion—was raised by Cherry and Anderson, and was entered by W. C. Coldwell of King’s River. ‘Jeff Davis’ is a beautiful gray stallion, formerly owned by Dr. Johnson, now the property of Jeff Shannon, who made the race on him. The race seemed to be a peculiarly geographical affair—King’s River staking their cash and stock on their own nag, and Millerton on the gray. A big crowd was present—nearly the whole county, besides a small delegation from the outside precincts of Mariposa, Merced, and Tulare. The affair passed off in good shape—not the first symptom of a row, or sign of dissatisfaction as to the result. Everybody says it was a square racee [race], and the best horse won. A few scrub races wound up the day’s sport. Aside from this topic and the usual regrets of the one side that they did’nt [didn’t] bet more, and the other that they did’nt [didn’t] lose less, there is nothing going on of an exciting nature.

“Report says that two hundred soldiers are to be sent here shortly—whether to *preserve the peace*, as they have done in Visalia—to chastise the Indians who make sad havoc with the clover patches at this season—to make a joint land and naval attack on Richmond, by way of the San Joaquin—or to take a hand in the next election, as is intimated by some people—is a question. I should hardly think the last surmise correct. Soldiers sometimes think for themselves, and if allowed the citizens [citizens’] privilege, of voting—will probably vote as they please. Seriously, though, the policy of quartering soldiers where they are not needed is worse than folly—particularly when there are places not far away where there is work to do. Every man who has had any experience in military life and has a thimble full of brains, know that garrison life is irksome to American soldiers, who *enlist to fight*, and not to loaf.

“Last evening several men from Keyssville and the adjacent mining districts, came in on the stage. They report additional Indian troubles near Owen’s river. One man from the ‘Telescope District’ says that a very numerous band of Indians were discovered in a valley about 35 miles from Keyssville by a scouting party who were conducted in sight of the place by a friendly Indian. They had lots of cattle and horses—tracks of the latter giving evidence of having been lately shod. These Indian difficulties have been a serious drawback to the prosperity of the mines in that quarter, though there will soon be enough people there to take care of themselves. Travel in that direction is on the increase. Thom’s stage usually takes a fair load to Visalia bound for Coso, Slate Range, or any other place where silver doth abound.

“ ‘Hark, I hear a [an] angel singing.’ No, its [it’s] one of those fellows I spoke of in the first place, as having *got quiet*. He’s waked up, got a drink—coming to McCray’s. ‘you know,’ to get another—he’s *whispering* an Indian war-whoop—no, he’s hurrahing for somebody (not Lincoln)—now he swears he’s the best man in the world and can ‘whip any body that dont [don’t] like him excepting his friends’—as I am one of his friends he’ll probably want me to drink—‘Yours respectfully, ‘ will ‘git.’

“P. S.—One word about McCray’s Hotel—its [it’s] a number one place to stop—plenty to eat drink, and *a good place to sleep*—except just after a horse race.

“And one word about the ‘FREE PRESS.’ Why was it that the Millerton package of the 28<sup>th</sup> ult., did’nt [didn’t] come here at all? Is it so d-d-dreadful small that a man can’t see it? Next week the bundle will be ‘good for sore eyes’ if ‘that’s what’s the matter’ with the Post Offices between this place and Mariposa. When a package of letters directed in a plain fair hand to Mt. Ophir, is seen at Gwin P. O., traveling towards Visalia, a man naturally supposes that the Post Master in and about Hornitos is careless, or has’nt [hasn’t] got the smarted deputy in the United States. This thing of our package missing fire, has occurred several times, while the *Gazette* has come through regularly. If Government suppresses a newspaper, the proprietor of it is necessarily compelled to grin and bear it, till in the providence of God, Government gets into better hands—but if any power is vested in the hands of a country Post Master to ‘come the Giraffe’ over an American citizen in regard to mail facilities, the undersigned would respectfully ask to ‘*see the papers.*’

J. H. L.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, April 18, 1863, 2:1:

“A party consisting of Messrs. H. Grafton, W. H. Lake, Neil Robinson and two other gentlemen whose names we did not learn, left here on Thursday last for the Mono mining district. They go with animals, and by the Placerville route.”

“Keyssville Items,” *Mariposa Free Press*, April 18, 1863, 2:3:

“A correspondent at Keyssville sends us the following under date of April 3d:

“Nothing particularly new here, except the Indian war which promises to be a very serious affair this time. All the Indian tribes with the exception of a very few in our neighborhood having joined for the campaign. If they are not thoroughly whipped this time, the mining interests east of here will suffer. I refer to the ‘Russ’ [sic] ‘Telescope,’ ‘Coso,’ ‘Argus,’ ‘Slate Range,’ and ‘El Paso,’ near Gold and Silver bearing mining districts.

“I am happy to say that since I saw you last, your humble servant has had the good luck to discovery some very good lodes (in connection with some of our old mining friends here) of silver in the ‘Slate Range’ which assays up to the thousands. I have some five or six tons on the way to San Francisco for reduction, which I think will do more towards convincing people of the richness

of some of the lodes in 'Slate Range' than all the gassing that has, or could be done for that district."

J. H. L. [J. H. Lawrence], "Editorial Correspondence," *Mariposa Free Press*, April 18, 1863, 2:4-5:

"VISALIA, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 1863.

"Something of 'the pomp and circumstances of war' has enlivened the valley of oaks during the past week. The arrival of a detachment of troops with a mountain howitzer, and their departure for Owen's River to-day, together with the killing of one of the Indians who participated in the late fight at Owen's lake, are among the noteworthy wants since Wednesday last.—A portion of Company E, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry had previously left for the seat of war, and the remainder, together with part of Co. D., started about 11 o'clock to-day. It is likely that they *mean business*, and will not fool their time away making treaties. *Who began it*, dont [don't] make any practical difference—the Indians have to be whipped out, and if there is any use for soldiers in this quarter, it is for this purpose.

"The 'Wally' alluded to above, as having participated in the fight at Owen's Lake, is about a match for 'Colorado Jack.' He first gained notoriety by killing a Frenchman on the San Joaquin some three or four years ago. He ran away, went over the mountains and joined the Mono tribe. Shortly afterward he got into difficulty with the Monos and left them and joined the Pah-Utes—was in the fight at Pyramid Lake, then seeking another range for deviltry, strayed over to Owen's Lake last year, and took a hand in the fight when Mayfield, and Sheriff Scott of Aurora were killed. He was one of the very few who got away alive at Owen's Lake week before last, and made his way, wounded, into this valley. Having been see about the premises of a man living five or six miles from town on Thursday last, the following day a small squad of cavalry were sent after him or his scalp. Declining to be taken alive, his light was knocked out, closing the brilliant career of 'Joaquin Jim.' The departure of these troops leaves the command stationed here consisting of Company I, probably numbering not over one hundred men. There is no use for them in a military point of view, unless the cause of the Union requires their presence to steady the nerves of the *Delta* man, while he forges the thunderbolts which are to annihilate General Wright, and that unfortunate class of Editors, who, like the subscriber of Niggerdom, and are gently alluded to as 'copperheads,' (probably to distinguish us from the *kinky-heads*.)

"Perhaps you have not heard startling tales of 'Guerrellas' [Guerrillas] in this region.—'Guerrilla,' it seems is a sort of war term here to designate a few horse thieves who have committed some depredations South of this place. Some half a dozen horses have been taken, which is about all these cock and bull stories amount to, when traced up. It seems to be the object of a certain class of terrorists, to make it appear to the outside world that this county is in a state of revolution. Whether with a view of impressing upon the military authorities the importance of holding armed occupation of this region, let the public judge. Only a few nights ago a man was out a few miles from town, and returning, saw some one riding ahead of him. Wanting company, he spurred up his horse, for the purpose of overtaking the rider ahead, who hearing him coming, looked back, and in the dim light of the stars, saw not less than twenty *Guerrillas*, each one with from one to an armfull [armful] of six-shooters, and from two to three of the biggest sort of Bowie knives, riding as if the devil was after them. He happened to have a pretty good horse, and made his best time for town, where he told his *guerrilla* story, but hadn't got through with it till his innocent pursurer [pursuer] arrived and explained. Great country this. Renowned for big oak timber, fat hogs—productive soil—good natural roads—poor bridges—tow-headed children, (heap of 'em)—patches of alkali—vineyards—and peach orchards. 'Secesh' also thrives in this climate and does well, in all appearances. It may be set down to their credit, however, that they

have not molested the persons nor destroyed the property of those of Union proclivities. People from the outside cannot help being struck with the extreme views of the inhabitants on political subject—some holding that the Southern Confederacy is a Divine Institution, and others that Abraham Lincoln is one of the Lord's anointed. Like their brethren in other portions of the country the Lincolnites are dropping their disguise of 'Union' and talk only of subjugation and Emancipation, as the true end of the war. A Peace Democrat is in their diseased imaginations, an incarnate fiend, who in due course of time will be strangled for treason, and his estate (if he has any) given over to the tender mercies of some champion of suffering Africa.

"Next time you hear from the undersigned, it may be from the Kern River country Slate Range 'or any other man.' The Stage line, formerly owned by Heston, between this place and Keysville, after being suspended for a while, has changed hands, and the wagon again started on Thursday last. Thos. Derby is proprietor. After going to the end of the stage road there are two chances for travel. One to start horse-back, and the other to make a lariat and go afoot.

"J. H. L.

"VISALIA, April 14, 1863.

"Travel towards Coso, Slate Range, and other mining districts South, which fell off and to some extent in consequence of Indian hostilities, has been renewed during the past week. Parties from San Francisco and other parts of the State are arriving with every stage and going right along as if nothing had happened. A number of Cornish miners are in town on their way to the silver mines, having been employed by companies owning veins and designing to practically develop their riches. There is no doubt that these silver districts will rival Washoe in richness, while in extent there seems to be no limit to them. New discoveries are constantly being made. That fortunes will be made by the lucky ones is certain while it is equally sure, as in all mineral speculations, there will be many a 'slip up.'

"The April term of the Court of Sessions for this county closed yesterday. But little business was transacted. The Grand Jury found no bill in the case of Heston for shooting Dr. Roberts.

"Two prisoners escaped from custody last week by out running the officers. One of them was assisted by his wife and another lady, who fascinated the susceptible gizzard of the Under Sheriff, by engaging him in conversation at the door of the jail, while the prisoner darted out and made tracks for the timber. The officer tried his best to call him back, but he would'nt [wouldn't] come and has not been heard of since. The other had been arrested for stealing a six-shooter and some money from a man near Hornitos, and had his name booked for a free passage to Mariposa. He took 'leg bail' as he was being led from the jail to the stage office.

"Two Indians got into a fight on the bridge near the *Delta* office, Sunday last. One used an empty bottle and the other a pocket knife. He of the pocket knife had the best of it, inflicting a pretty severe wound in the arm of his opponent. Two others of the same tribe have since been caught stealing, and summarily whipped.

"Thursday night a wooden building occupied by Chinese, took fire (supposed to be by spontaneous combustion) and was totally consumed. One unsophisticated individual undertook to cry 'fire,' but was summarily hushed. It is reported that several of the inmates of the building were severely burnt. This is the second case of *justifiable Chinacide*, within the last month.

"A festival and ball will come off on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, which is expected to be a gay affair. Some of the 'youth and beauty' who help to adorn this town can hardly sleep o' nights for thinking about it. The festival will take place about ten miles from town, near the foot hills.

"Efforts have been made this season to construct a wagon road over the mountains in the neighborhood of Keysville. Wm. B. Poer and John McFarlane have got a trail completed from Linn's Valley to Bogersville [Rogersville], a point on Kern river about ten miles above Keysville. The route is practicable for a good wagon road, which is much needed to facilitate travel and transportation from this place to the mines. An Act to authorize the Supervisors to loan the credit

of the county to the amount of \$25,000 for the purpose of constructing a road is before the Legislature, subject to the attention of that body, if they can spare any time from the regular routine of business which seems to be divided between elevating the nigger, making a loyal record, and legislating for wharf and railroad companies in San Francisco. J. H. L.”

“New Stage Line,” *Mariposa Free Press*, April 25, 1863, 2:1:

“We would call attention to the advertisement in another column, of Messrs[.] Derby and Nash, proprietors of the Visalia and Keyesville Stage line. Passengers are conveyed over this route to the Coso and Slate Range mining districts, and are assured of a safe, rapid and comfortable journey. The Stage runs semi-weekly from Visalia to Linn’s Valley, where horses are furnished to those wishing to go beyond.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, April 25, 1863, 2:1:

“If the readers of the FREE PRESS, residing down in Tulare county should see anything of a stray editor who belongs up in this section, they will please label him for Mariposa, and put him on board some safe conveyance coming this way, as some of his friends are getting worried about him. One of them swears that he had a ‘vision’ the other night in which he saw the editor of the PRESS mounted upon a bucking mustang, and driving innumerable herds of cattle into Mariposa, that he had obtained in a *matrimonial* speculation. All sorts of rumors are rife concerning his prolonged absence, and nothing but his early return will satisfy some of the bachelor fraternity that he is not away on a ‘contraband’ mission.”

“Derby & Nash” (advertisement), *Mariposa Free Press*, April 25, 1863, 2:5:

After bought the express and stage line between Visalia and Keyesville [from Thomas Heston], the firm of Derby & Nash announces its summer arrangement. Beginning on May 1, its stage will leave Visalia on Thursdays and Mondays, at 6 a.m., for Linn’s Valley, where animals and saddles will be furnished to passengers traveling to Keyesville, Coso, Slate Range, Owens River, or any other of the “Southern Mining Districts.” Packages will be forwarded “with promptness and dispatch at all points on the route.” At Visalia, the line will connect with A. O. Thoms’s line, running between Hornitos and Visalia. Dated at Visalia, April 15, 1863.

J. H. L. [James H. Lawrence], “Editorial Correspondence,” *Mariposa Free Press*, May 2, 1863, 2:4 (Keyesville, April 19, 1863):

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“KEYESVILLE, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1863.

“To judge from the tenor of the editorials of the *Visalia Delta*, the safe arrival of a person at this point, after running the gauntlet of from some hundreds to several thousands of ‘guerrillas,’ with which Tulare county is infested (in a horn) would be a marvellous [marvelous] event. The plain naked fact is, that there is’nt [isn’t] any sign of a solitary ‘guerrilla’ between this place and Visalia or ‘any other place’ inside the bounds of California—not a one—and if the scary editor of the paper aforementioned, will consent to quit fulminating his pronunciamientos against General Wright, and forwarding his heartrendingly, pathetic appeals to Governor Stanford, the subscriber, who got in here about an hour ago, on the day and date above stated, will agree to *kill and eat all the guerrillas in this county, without peper [pepper] or salt*, making no inconsiderable saving to the State, and *dispensing with six companies of U. S. troops*, which the *Delta* urges should be quartered

in Visalia. The article alluded to, appears in the *Delta* of April 16<sup>th</sup>. Read it carefully—for it is a gem, in its way. An outsider who was not posted in the character of the writer for truth, and the motives actuating him in publishing such a willful perversion of facts, would suppose that a state of anarchy, rebellion, and revolution existed in Tulare county—that bands of Guerrillas pop out in unsuspected quarters—that the muzzles of rifles and shot guns stare the traveler in the face from behind trees, stumps and fences—that no man could venture a hundred yards from town without meeting from twenty to thirty ‘*men in buckskin*’ (like Fat Jack Falstaff’s men in buckram’ [sic]) who would, at the least, despoil him of all his worldly goods, and teach him to be duly thankful for escaping with life and limb. Without further comment at present, I will assure all loyal and peaceable citizens that they can travel in all portions of this disreputable county with perfect impunity, and that these Munchausen tales of armed rebel bands are the offspring of a guilty conscience or a diseased imagination.

“The command under McLaughlin arrived here yesterday, and this morning cleaned out an Indian camp on Kern river about eight miles above this place. On the commencement of hostilities at Owen’s River nearly all the Indians here and hereabouts left for the seat of war. Most of them have been in the habit of doing this—whenever there was any trouble, slipping off and taking a hand in it and then when it got too hot from them, returning and making friends with the whites. The same fellows have been detected in numerous thieving operations. The soldiers came in on their rancheria about daylight this morning and surrounded. The bad Indians were taken out apart from the others and shot. People living here say it serves them right.

“News came in from Owen’s river yesterday of another fight in which five Indians were killed. Some three or four hundred redskins surrounded a small party of Cavalry, who defended themselves till their comrades, who heard the firing, came to their rescue, when the Indians traveled. It is thought that hen the balance of the troops arrive, there will be a fight, it being the intention to crowd the Indians into some place where they will be compelled to make a stand.

“News is favorable from Slate Range. No room for particulars. J. H. L.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, May 2, 1863, 2:4:

“Mr. Longhurst, of Coulterville is making arrangements at the Yo-Semite Valley, to entertain parties visiting there the coming season, who may be assured of receiving the best of attention.”

“Visalia House,” *Mariposa Free Press*, May 9, 1863, 2:1:

“Mr. J. B. Barr has fitted up this well known stand in Visalia, and is prepared to entertain the traveling public in a manner unsurpassed by any hotel in southern counties. People visiting or traveling through Visalia may be assured of receiving the best of attention at this house. See advertisement in another column.”

“Visalia House” (advertisement), *Mariposa Free Press*, May 9, 1863, 2:1:

J. B. Barr, the owner of the Visalia House, in Visalia, has furnished his hotel “in good style” and will supply his tables “with the best the market affords, and will not be lacking in all the delicacies of the season.” He provides good beds and room for “single Gentlemen or Families.”

Dated at Visalia, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1863.

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, May 16, 1863, 2:1:

“Stevenson & Davison, have just completed the fitting up of a new Bar and Billiard Saloon on Mill Street, Visalia, opposite Sweet’s Store, up stairs.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, May 16, 1863, 2:1:

“The Nevada *Democrat* has discontinued its publication. The proprietor designs to remove the material to Nevada Territory, where he will commence the publication of a new paper.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, May 16, 1863, 2:1:

“A. O. Thoms of Visalia proprietor of the Exchange Saloon, has recently taken charge of the establishment and guarantees a good drink to his patrons. His place is well patronized.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, May 16, 1863, 2:1:

“The attention of the citizens of Visalia and transient visitors is respectfully called to the advertisement of Charles Rice, proprietor of the Exchange Livery Stable, Visalia. Charley has just received a lot of new Concord buggies, and is prepared to furnish elegant turnouts for his patrons.”

“New Map of California!” (advertisement), *Mariposa Free Press*, May 16, 1863, 2:1:

W. Holt announces the publication of a map of California; it has been “carefully compiled from information received from each County Surveyor throughout the State, and from individuals engaged in actual Surveys in different parts of California.

For sale by W. Holt, No. 305 Montgomery Street, San Francisco. Dated at San Francisco, April 5, 1863.

[Recopy:]

J. H. L. [James H. Lawrence], “Editorial Correspondence,” *Mariposa Free Press*, May 9, 1863, 2:4-5 (Visalia, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1863):

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“VISALIA, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1863.

“To begin at the place where I dated my last hurried notes from (Keyesville) which by the way most of our readers are aware is situated on Kern River.

“MINING OPERATIONS.

“Kern River has a very dubious reputation. It made its *début* in the year of grace 1854 and gained the deserved fame of a first class humbug, which still cleaves to it, after the manner of old grim death to a deceased ‘African brother.’ Recollections of wearied, travel worn, and heart-sick miners are still green in the memories of the inhabitants of the northern and middle counties, who then and there saw them returning from the Kern River mines. This was in the days when mining operations were confined principally to placers—before the era of successful and systematic quartz mining had been inaugurated. Discoveries in this latter branch of the business have been since made, which have already proven remunerative, and bid fair to make big fortunes for the fortunate possessors. Among the leads known to be remunerative I will mention the ‘Big Blue[,]’ ‘Bull Run,’ ‘Jeff Davis,’ and [‘]Beauregard.’ These are all rich veins, and for extent and facilities for working cannot be beat. The ‘Big Blue’ is a sulphuret vein sixty feet in thickness, and has paying rock all through it. It is not over a quarter of a mile from the river, where any amount of

water power can be obtained.—There are now two small mills owned by Wayland, Sumner and Caldwell, in operation. A third owned by Niswander & Co., is at present out of order, but will be in operation soon—or rather another one which the owners contemplate erecting soon. With such a mill as is on Green's Gulch, near Princeton, or a better one, which an income could be realized. Capitalists who invest in imaginary 'feet' away off in some far away place, might do better nearer home—even in the ill reputed locality of Kern River. At least it is worthy of attention, and this hint costs nothing and adds n'ary red to the pocket of the undersigned in the event of its being acted upon.

“THE INDIAN KILLING.

“The wholesale wiping out of over thirty of my K. N. brethren, which occurred on the morning of the day of my arrival at Keyesville, occasioned a variety of comments among the *foreign population* (white folks) und [and] brought grief and wailing into the camp of *Wallydom*. On the evening of that day the survivors piled up the saddles and other consumable property of the deceased and made a big bonfire. Their belief is that their departed friends are astride of those same saddles, riding cavorting mustangs in the precincts of an Indian Heaven. ‘So mote it be.’ One bad feature in the affair is that the citizens of Keyesville and vicinity had held a meeting a short time before, and sent a committee to confer with some of the head men of the Indians and to tell them to come over on the north side and deliver up their arms, and they would not be molested. On the strength of that, most, if not all of them, gave up their guns. It is said, however, that some of the bad sort took advantage of it and came out of their hiding places in the mountains and mixed up with the Indians of the valley. Another is that there were two or three killed who were known to be harmless. Well—it is a pretty severe proceeding—and if such work is necessary, people of humane feelings will not regret that they are not the chosen instruments of destruction.

“LINN'S VALLEY.

“This is peculiarly a grazing and agricultural district—and is situated about 25 miles this side of Keyesville. The people are renowned for lots of fine cattle and horses, minding their own business, and extending the right hand of friendship and hospitality to traveling editors. To their other good qualities, it may be added that they generally subscribe to the ‘FREE PRESS.’

“NEW DIGGINGS.

“Some excitement has been occasioned by the discovery of some very good paying quartz claims at a place called Indian Gulch, about 16 miles from Linn's Valley and 8 from Posa Creek. The trail leads from Gardett's store on Posa Creek, in a southerly direction through what is known as the South Pass. The discovery was made by the McFarlane brothers, who with some other partners have commenced getting out quartz and are running an arastra at present. They have not yet cleaned up, but the lowest estimate made of the quartz they are grinding is \$200 a ton. Another party are also engaged in working an arastra.

“AN UNFORTUNATE AFFAIR.

“While on the return trip, and stopping at White River, business called me to Gordon's Gulch, where I happened to witness the shooting of a man by the name of Graves, during which Lane was very abusive, and drew weapons (a knife and a pistol.) Graves ran into the house and tried to get Robinson's pistol, and then attempted to seize a gun from a rack in the room, but Robinson and others present kept him from it. Robinson. Robinson then came out and going behind Lane, slipped his pistol out of its scabbard—with a view of disarming him, and thus preventing anything serious. Lane felt for his pistol and finding it gone, and seeing it in Robinson's hand, drew his knife and rushed at him. Robinson ran several steps—Lane after him cutting at him. Robinion [Robinson] turned just as Lane had nearly overtaken him, and fired—the ball entering the left breast, just below the collar bone, ranging downward through the heart. He stood for three or four seconds and then fell dead, with the knife still grasped in his hands. This all passed quicker than I

can write it—there was no time to interfere—it was the impulse of self preservation. I had made a step or two towards them when the shot was fired. I got hold of the pistol Robinson used, directly after the shot, and he gave it up and said he wanted to give himself into the hands of the law. I went with him to White River and gave him into the hands of John Keyes Esq. Had to returned the same evening as a witness before the Coroner's Jury. Inquest and Examination resulted in the discharge of Robinson. Deceased is said to have been a quiet, peaceable man, when sober. He and Graves were both under the influence of liquor. Another sad comment on the evils of the 'flowing bowl'—particularly when the 'bowl' aforesaid flows with regular 'tangle-leg.' Whisky, if there were no other name to know thee by, I would call thee 'kill-em.'

"RETURN TO VISALIA—THE PIC-NIC.

" 'Pic-nic' in the Visalia country is associated in the mind of the writer of 'these few lines' with the recollections of something passing by the name which occurred hereabouts, two years ago when a promiscuous party went some four miles into the country to squat in an ant bed and eat a cold collation seasoned with bugs and other creeping insects and mixed with equal proportions of sand, and drink tepid water from a suspicious looking ditch. The present occasion was, in some respects, an improvement on the original performance in the same line. The ground chosen might have been worse in many respects—though there are many more suitable groves in the neighborhood. For instance; the genius who selected the place probably made his choice at about 9 or 10 o'clock, A. M.—forgetting that the sun would change its position during the day, or thinking that some modern Joshua would be specially deputized to command that orb to stand still.—Then the distance from town was illy chosen—about two and a half miles—a little too far for a walk, and not quite far enough for a pleasant ride. Reptiles and insects were not quite as numerous as on the former occasion, and were generally well behave. To be sure one illmannered [ill mannered] snake tried to effect a coil around the boots of an elderly gentleman, and an amorous frog made a demonstration to jump into the bosom of a charming girl of sixteen—(sensible frog), but retreated 'in great confusion'—(foolish frog.) Some slight attempts at romping were made, but generally things seemed dull—something after the manner of a camp-meeting—omitting the praying, singing, and shouting. A ball last evening followed, which was pretty well attended by citizens and soldiers, and passed of [off] pleasantly.

"The soldiers stationed here at present consist of Company I, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry, and are generally well behaved and intelligent men. No extra vigilance is observed on account of the presence of the noted Guerrilla chief, and Copperhead editor, whose signature is fixed to this document. The FREE PRESS need not suspend on account of the cowardly attacks from the mouth-pieces of Niggerdom here and in Mariposa. Their cases will be attended to 'in the course of human events.' The paper suits all but the irrepressible Repubs. Let them squirm under the lash—*its* [it's] *a hurting of 'em—thats* [that's] *what's the matter.*

J. H. L."

"Died," *Mariposa Free Press*, May 9, 1863, 2:6:

"At Aurora, Mono county, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 1863. Mr. LEROY VINING, aged 40 years.

"At Aurora, April 23d, Mr. ADAM McKINZIE, aged about 38 years."

"Death of former Residents of Mariposa, at Aurora," *Mariposa Free Press*, May 9, 1863, 3:2:

"A correspondent at Aurora, Mono county, sends us the following under the date of April 28<sup>th</sup>:

"I regret to inform you that our old and much esteemed friend Leroy Vining has gone to his long home; he died yesterday, the 27<sup>th</sup> inst., at 7 o'clock A. M., from the effects of a wound inflicted in the lower part of the abdomen by the accidental discharge of a derringer that he had

in his pocket; he lived 36 hours after the accident occurred, during which time he suffered a great deal. He was decently buried to-day, and a large number of people attended his funeral. Leroy was well known as one of the pioneers of this place and was universally respected as a noble hearted, generous and high minded gentleman, and he leaves behind many friends who deeply deplore the sad event which cut him off from amongst them, and who will ever cherish a kind remembrance of the many noble qualities and virtues of which he was possessed. Adam McKinzie, a well known mechanic of Mariposa county, died on the 23d inst., at this place; he had a difficulty with a Chinaman and received a wound in the arm with a knife from which he died.’ ”

Butterfly, “Aurora Correspondence,” *Mariposa Free Press*, May 30, 1863, 2:4 (Aurora, Mono Co., Cal., May 18, 1863):

“AURORA, MONO CO. CAL., May 18, 1863.

“DEAR JEEMS:—In order that you may be said to have a correspondent in this part of silver land, and consequently be posted in everything worth knowing, I take this opportunity to inform you that we still live, and trade, and gass [gas], and have our fun; and buy, sell, and discover—and sometimes jump—feet, —not the pedal extremities your mind has wandered to.—but interests in silver mines which are to make us all rich, and flood the world with wealth faster than the Federals and the Confederates can promise to pay in greenbacks, or ‘cotton loans.’ Our town is building very fast. It appears to be impossible to furnish building material fast enough to supply the demand. Lumber is grabbed up as though it were a bargain, at \$125 per thousand. A half dozen brick yards are in operation, yet do not supply the demand. There are about two thousand persons here now. The stage comes in daily, loaded with immigrants, coming here to make their fortunes—(the Lord grant it.) We are building the gayest little town in silverland, and if we should be found to have the wind and bottom to keep up our present rate of speed, we shall in a very short time discard the adjective *little*, and assume more important airs. So mote it be. As regards the wind, there cannot be a doubt but that we have it even to excess; (it has blown nearly all the hair off my head,) and plenty of dust for the wind to raise, or dust to raise the wind. As to the ‘bottom,’ there is no end to it, the deeper we penetrate it it the better it is, and the greater the value per foot.

“We are determined not to be excelled by any camp in California or Nevada, in style, speed or safety. Whenever business is not sufficiently lively, somebody gets up a little tragedy, and gives us a man for breakfast. It is *so* interesting; and then it saves the man a spell of sickness some other time, perhaps, and possibly a doctor’s bill. Besides, it gives the Coroner a chance; the court, business; the printer an item; the lawyer, a case; the moralist, a subject; the rowdy, an example, etc., etc. All this fine writing is merely a prelude to informing you that we had a very nice thing of that kind here yesterday. It appears that two ex-convicts met, one by the name of Chancey, the other by name of Bagly. Chancey trod on Bagly’s corns, at which that ex-gent spit in C’s face, at which C. shot B. in the breast, killing him instantly. Perhaps whisky was the main cause. Bully for whisky!

“Speaking of whisky, reminds me that I am getting dry, and I cannot interest you further until I head plead my case at the bar.

“Yours, &c., BUTTERFLY.”

“The McFarlane Wagon Road,” *Mariposa Free Press*, June 6, 1863, 2:1:

“By reference to advertisement it will be seen that McFarlane & Co., to whom was given by the legislature a franchise for constructing a road from Linn’s Valley to Kern river, are ready to commence work. We learn from the parties interested that it is their design to complete it the

present season. When finished it establishes an excellent wagon road communication between Visalia and the mines of Coso, Slate Range, and other Districts—thus opening up a market for the cattle, hogs and agricultural products of Tulare Valley. Its importance to that district cannot be overrated. The pass avoids that terrible eye-sore to teamsters and packers—the Greenhorn Mountain—and is probably the best practicable route for a road over the Sierra Nevada. In this connection it is not out of place to mention that laborers out of employment can find work on that road at good wages.”

“Tulare County in the Field,” *Mariposa Free Press*, June 6, 1863, 2:3:

“We publish to-day the proceedings of the Tulare County Central Committee who met on Saturday last, at Visalia. It will be observed that they have endorsed the Butte county call for a convention on the 8<sup>th</sup> July, and elected their quota of delegates in conformance with the apportionment of the Butte county club. They are conservative, sound, and democratic, without any superfluous nonsense, greatly to the disappointment of some of their Republican friends in that vicinity, who have indulged in a fond hope that Tulare county would declare war against the Federal Government, or come so near it as to justify sending ‘six or seven companies’ of soldiers there. Living upon the feverish excitements which are the fruits of their own wilful [willful] misstatements or the coinings of a diseased imagination, the Jacobinical clique who ventilate gas through their respiratory organ once a week, will be out of a sensation item this time. They will have to delegate one of their number to steal a horse and raise another guerrilla story, or tear down a house and call on Governor Stanford to take General Wright’s business off his hands.

“Democrats will read the proceedings of the committee with more than ordinary interest, and hail the conservative tone of the resolutions as another omen of the old party as it was. All that is necessary to insure a complete democratic triumph in that county, is the nomination of good and capable men on their ticket.”

“Proceedings of the Democratic Central Committee of Tulare,” *Mariposa Free Press*, June 6, 1863, 2:5:

“The Democratic Central Committee of Tulare County met May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1863, S. A. Sheppard, in the Chair.

“On motion, T. O. Ellis, Sr., was appointed Secretary. A committee to whom was referred sundry letters and resolutions, submitted the following report:

“Your committee beg leave to recommend, that the whole matter, touching the merit of resolutions, as a platform, be respectfully referred to the State Convention to meet in Sacramento city, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 1863. [sic] in pursuance [pursuance] with the Butte county call.—Your committee further recommend the adoption of the following resolutions, viz:

“Resolved, We recommend the democracy of Tulare county, to meet in their several precincts and organize democratic clubs, the only test for membership, to which shall be,

“1. An unwavering support of the Constitution of the United States in time of war and in time of peace.

“2. Opposition to the republican party, principles and policy of the present Administration.

“3. A pledge to support the nominees of the Democratic State Convention of July 8<sup>th</sup>, 1863, and of the Democratic County Convention of Tulare.

“The foregoing report was unanimously adopted.

“On motion, the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup> 1863, was fixed as the time for the meeting of the democratic convention of Tulare county, in Visalia, at 10 A. M., and that the primary elections for delegates to the said county convention be held in all the precincts on Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, A. D.

1863, and recommend that the polls be opened at 11 A. M., and close at 5 P. M., under the following apportionment, viz:

“The following persons were appointed to see that the primary elections were held in their respective precincts, viz:

“Pleasant Byrd, for Visalia; R. R. Bailey, Kings River; Porter Putnam, Tule River; James Houston, Woodville; R. K. Nichols, Outside Creek; J. A. Young, White River; W. W. Campbell, Linn’s Valley; James S. Pemberton, Petersburg; George McKay, Keysville; Wm. De Shields, Granite Spring; — Owens River; William Dougherty, Lower Kern River; Andrew McFarlane, Clintonville; Dr. Woody, Jerry Robinsons; Wm. Lightner, Walker’s Basin; Wm. Henry, Pages precinct.”

“The following persons were duly elected delegates to the democratic state convention to be held in Sacramento city on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of July 1863, viz:

“S. A. Sheppard, Esq.; Lovely Rogers, Hon. Todd Robinson, Hon. Solomon Heydenfeldt, and Col. Phil L. Edwards.

On motion of Col. Thomas Baker, it was,

“Resolved, That the following resolutions, although not adopted by this committee as a political platform, are fully indorsed as embodying sound democratic principles, viz:

“Resolved, That we regard the constitution of the United States, as the great charter of our liberties, and the fundamental law of the land, and that we owe allegiance to that sacred instrument as the basis of our union and government in peace and in war.

“Resolved, That we hold it to be our duty to support the government and its officers in all official acts, *not inconsistent* with the constitution, and that no citizen is in duty bound to sustain the acts of any administration, or its officers acting under the government, when their acts are inconsistent with the constitution, either in time or peace or war.

“Resolved, That we regard the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, the purchase of slaves at the expense of the government, and the notorious emancipation proclamation of January 1<sup>st</sup> 1863, the establishment of a paper currency, in the shape of legal tender notes, the abridgment of the liberty of speech and of the press, the suspension of the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus*, and the illegal and unwarrantable arrests in peaceable states, under the pretence of military necessity, as palpable violations of the constitution of the United States, and tending to the establishment of a military despotism.

“Resolved, That we regard the peaceable and constitutional use of the ballot box, as the proper remedy for political evils, and that we unqualifiedly condemn all secret political associations as having a tendency to disturb the peace and good order of society, and that we believe such organizations are without any shadow of excuse in this state, *so long* as the people possess and enjoy the constitutional right to correct political evils by the proper use of the ballot box.

“On motion, it was resolved, that the proceedings of this meeting be published in the MARIPOSA FREE PRESS, the *California Republican*, and the *Marysville Express*.

“On motion, the committee adjourned to meet at the call of the Chairman.

“S. A. SHEPPARD, Ch’m.

“T. O. ELLIS, Sen., Secretary.”

“Fifty Men Wanted” (advertisement), *Mariposa Free Press*, June 6, 1863, 2:6:

The McFarlane Pass Road Company wants 50 laborers immediately to work between Linn’s Valley and Kern River. The company will pay liberal wages. Prospective workers may apply to P. Goodhue or W. B. Poor, in Visalia, or John McFarlane, in Linn’s Valley. Dated June 6, 1863.

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, June 27, 1863, 2:1:

“A. O. Thoms has started a new line of Stages between Visalia and San Francisco, via Gilroy. Stages leave Visalia every Thursday and Friday morning’s [mornings] at four o’clock.”

“The ‘Union Democrat,’ ” *Mariposa Free Press*, June 27, 1863, 2:1:

“This able and fearless democratic journal published at Sonora has entered upon its tenth volume. The *Democrat* is doing good service in the cause of a united democracy, and we hope to see it sustained.”

“The McFarlane Wagon Road,” *Mariposa Free Press*, June 27, 1863, 3:1:

“From a private letter received from one of the party interested in the McFarlane Pass Wagon Road, we learn that the work is progressing rapidly and will be completed in September. Over sixty men are now engaged in the work, and everything goes on smoothly as could be wished. Tulare county is waking up.”

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Butterfly, “Aurora Correspondence,” *Mariposa Free Press*, July 18, 1863, 3:1-2 (Aurora, Mono Co., Cal., July, 1863):

“AURORA, MONO CO., Cal. July 1863.

“DEAR JEEMS:—It has been so long since my last to you was written that I have become fearful lest the obituary of a ‘Butterfly’ might appear in the PRESS; and, as I still wish to live,—both in this sublunar sphere, and in the memory of friends—even should they be *creditors*—my vanity, in conjunction with other generous and lofty feelings, prompt me to wield the instrument considered even ‘mightier than the sword’—‘the gray goose quill.’ You need not mind remarking that it (and goose quill) has got back to the original owner. It would not be *very* smart. Besides the reader will want the credit of seeing the point himself. As this letter is written principally to immortalize its author, it can scarcely be worth while to change the subject, (self.) It is such a delightful and all engrossing one. But people have become such utilitarianists, that they, in some cases prefer something useful, even before pretty stores of (really, I’m *too* modest)—self. Well, as too much of a good thing satiates, the subject will be dropped for the present—‘to be continued in our next.’

“Our town goes bravely on—up, I mean, and over the hills. Aromatic forests of sage-brush give place to brick buildings.—We are building to stay. There are many fine residences building, and also, many stores, hotels, etc. We send our quota to all new excitements, but your side of S. Nevada immediately fills all the vacancy and spare beds. (If you come to see us, come in ‘49 style.) House room here lets at fabulous prices.

“The city of Aurora is to be one of the largest towns in the west. Such an immense, rich, extensive, and lasting, mining region is bound to attract attention all over the world. The new discoveries continually being made serve, for the present, to take away from us, the attention properly ours. Small capitalists go to the new districts. ‘Feet’ are cheaper than at older and better known districts. There are not people enough in our mines to develope [develop] them. Wages are \$4 to \$5 per day. Nor is there capital enough to conduct the business on a fair scale. Money is loaned here at from 3 to 5 per cent. [cent] per month. There are, it is true, some mills here pounding out bullion, and sending it below. But generally the mills here are poor shifts, none but the ‘Wide West’ and ‘Antelope Mills,’ are considered of any force; and their apparatus for saving silver is considered defective. It seems that different mines require different processes for saving

the silver. It was thought that these mines were comparatively free from base metals; but on sinking deeper in them more antimony, iron, and every other metal known to silver mines appears to thicken. There are but few companies here who have the [missing section]. Gold quartz is worked by a clearer process, and consequently, gold is the only metal that the mills here are capable of saving. The best lodes here are undoubtedly those in which silver predominates over gold, and that class of ledges are but little developed. Silver increases, and gold decreases as they sink deeper on the ledges. The deepest shaft yet sunk in this (Esmeralda district), is but two hundred and fifteen feet, and that is on the summit of Middle Hill, 'Bright Star Lode.' In this claim, the quartz croppings were rich in both gold and silver; but in going down the gold decreases, the rock becoming more grayish, and for over one hundred feet, the quartz contained little but iron. At the present depth (215) the lode shows *all* for silver. Such, in my opinion, will be the history of many of the lodes in this vicinity. There are mines enough—paying ones—in Esmeralda to support thirty or forty thousand people. You will say I am bragging, but time will tell the same story. We think Esmeralda is the grand center of the silver region. Come and see us, and get a few 'feet.' It will pay you better than editing a paper; so some along and leave the dirty pool of politics. I have written myself to sleep, and perhaps—the reader; so pleasant be your slumbers. Good night.

"Yours, &c.,                      BUTTERFLY."

"Democratic Club at Keysville," *Mariposa Free Press*, July 18, 1863, 3:2:

"The democracy of Keysville, Tulare county, have organized a Democratic Club, which already numbers over thirty members. The democracy of that section will give a good report of themselves in September."

"Judge Burke on the Stump," *Mariposa Free Press*, July 25, 1863, 2:1:

"Hon. E. Burke, District Judge, has opened the campaign in this district, at Visalia. The learned abolitionist harangued the people of that burg on Saturday night the 11<sup>th</sup> inst. From a gentleman who was present, we learn that his speech was made up principally of abuse of the democratic party—who placed him in office two years ago—vulgar witticisms, and sickly adulations of 'Honest Abe's' policy. Wonder if the Judge has forgotten about calling the President some very hard names a short time since. We think the people of this Judicial District will conclude to relieve a few of his sort of political renegades of their offices at the coming election."

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, September 26, 1863, 3:2:

"Surveyor General Houghton, who has been running the boundary line between California and Nevada Territory, has discovered that the city of Aurora is in Nevada. Accordingly, the Lt. Governor elect, of California, is not a resident of the State; he resides in Aurora."

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, September 26, 1863, 3:2:

"The entire democratic ticket is elected in Tulare county by majorities generally of about one hundred, with the exception of sheriff. Meadows, the democratic candidate, beats Gill, his opponent."

M. W. S., "Owen's River Correspondence," *Mariposa Free Press*, October 17, 1863, 1:4 (Bend City, September 30, 1863):

"BEND CITY, Sept. 30, 1863.

"EDITORS FREE PRESS:—Sirs: Between Indian hunting and prospecting for the dear stuff, I had almost forgotten the promise I made you in San Francisco; but as late is better than never, and an opportunity offering I will try and put a few of our news item together, hoping they will be of interest to your readers.

"Bend City is situated on Owen's river, three miles south of the town of San Carlos, and is now the most prosperous town in this section; there are at present, in course of erection fourteen adobe buildings; one hotel, 60 by 30 feet two-story, and the balance dwellings. The population number in all, about 200—150 of which are men, about 20 ladies and 30 children. The valley is near one hundred miles in length and an aggregate width of 15 miles, two-thirds of which is as good farming land as can be found in any portion of the State of California, and where it not for our occasional Indian troubles, we would soon have a population that would do credit to any country. Most of those who are now coming in are bringing their families and settling on farms,—yet hundreds of good sections are still vacant and just as good opportunities for getting good land as ever before offered, can be now had.

"The mineral resources of the country are indeed fabulous, and as yet, not half prospected; the lodes are generally of immense width, and with the wood and water facilities, I cannot see what will ever prevent Owen's river country from becoming one of the most substantial in the State; at least, from appearance, the people that are here seem determined to stay, for all are building good comfortable homes either on their land or near their mining interests. The river is not over forty feet in width, but so deep that it is impossible to cross it with teams. The people of this place are however, now building a substantial bridge, and others will be erected before the winter's high water visit [visits] us.

"There are as yet, but two mills in operation—the Union and Ida—these are reach of the capacity of ten tons per day. Two are in course of construction—the San Carlos Co.'s mill, to be built at San Carlos, and the Owen's river Gold and Silver Mining Co.'s mill—this latter is under the supervision of Mr. G. F. Whitman' [sic] a practical engineer, a fine gentleman and a most competent man, and will be built at Bend City.

"I would mention by way of explanation that our Indian troubles do not extend further south than the white [White] mountains [Mountains] a distance of about 90 miles from here, so we are in comparative safety from trouble; but before any great emigration will venture in it will be necessary to bring Joaquin Jim and his tribe to terms of peace, which is sure to be done within the next 90 days.

"The people of Mariposa are probably not aware that the Owen's river valley is not over 60 miles from the town of Mariposa. I am informed by Mr. Benj. Kelsey, that with a very trifling expense a trail can be made, starting due east from the town of Mariposa, and coming into this valley at what we call 'Big Pine' (near here); that any ordinary animals will pack two hundred pounds; with an abundance of grass and water, and passing over a most excellent hunting ground. Mr. K. has made the trip himself and he is reliable authority. I will write again, soon.

"Yours, M. W. S."

"Methodist Episcopal Church South," *Mariposa Free Press*, October 24, 1863, 2:3:

[Excerpts:]

The Methodist Episcopal Church South held its annual assembly in Petaluma, on October 7, 1863. The Reverend O. Fisher was the president and J. C. Stewart secretary.

Stockton District. J. L. Burchard is the presiding elder.

...

Snelling Circuit: James G. Shelton.

Mariposa Circuit: J. C. Pendergrast.

Visalia and King's River: J. M. Edwards and J. N. Turner.

Los Angeles: J. C. Stewart.

Washoe District. J. Trowell was the presiding elder.

Washoe City: to be supplied.

Virginia City: M. Evans.

Union City: J. W. Simmons.

Austin City: A. P. Anderson.

Esmeralda City: to be supplied.

Carson City: to be supplied.

"Aurora," *Mariposa Free Press*, October 31, 1863, 3:5:

"AURORA, October 25.—A shooting affray took place last night, about 12 o'clock, in which George Lloyd was instantly killed. Seven or eight shots were exchanged."

"Death of A. N. Fisher," *Mariposa Free Press*, November 28, 1863, 2:4:

"The public will regret to learn of the sudden death of A. N. Fisher, which occurred in Stockton on Saturday last. Mr. Fisher was an active and enterprising business man. Several years since he was Mayor of the city of Stockton, but is better known here in his connection with the Stage line between that place and Mariposa—being the Senior member of the firm of A. N. Fisher & Co. His loss will be felt in the city where he resided as well as in other places where business connections and social intercourse made him many acquaintances and friends."

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, November 28, 1863, 2:3:

"Some of the soldiers at Camp Babbitt, Visalia, since being paid off have invested money in land in Tulare county, and in mining claims in the Coso and Owens River districts."

"School Fund Apportionment," *Mariposa Free Press*, November 28, 1863, 2:5:

[Excerpts from reports of the semiannual apportionment of school funds in the judicial district:]

...

*Fresno*: Kingston [School District], 32 children, at 58¢ apiece: \$18.56.

*Tulare*: Visalia, 451 students; Woodville, 278; Tule River, 101. Total: 836 students, at 58¢, \$484.88.

...

"New Saloon in Millerton," *Mariposa Free Press*, December 26, 1863, 2:1:

"Mr. Henry Sullivan has opened a new Saloon in Millerton, Fresno county, which has been christened 'THE DIVAN.' The reputation of Mr. Sullivan is sufficient to make his Saloon a popular resort."

“New Trail to Owen’s River,” *Mariposa Free Press*, December 26, 1863, 2:1:

“Mr. J. B. Hockett and others, have petitioned to the Board of Supervisors of Tulare county, to grant them the right to construction a trail from Visalia to Owen’s river. The route will be a short one compared with the one which people are obliged to travel at present, and will be of considerable advantages.”

## 1864

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, January 9, 1864, 2:1:

“A telegraphic dispatch from Visalia, states that the McFarlane wagon road is completed to the top of the mountain, between Linn’s Valley and Keyville, so that loaded teams can now pass over into Owen’s Valley and Slate Range. There will, undoubtedly, be a great deal of travel over this route the coming Spring.”

J. H. L. [James H. Lawrence], “Editorial Correspondence,” *Mariposa Free Press*, January 16, 1864, 2:3:

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“SONORA, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

[Excerpt:]

“The above name and date will suffice to inform the PRESS-gang, or ‘any other man,’ among the anxious friends of the undersigned, of his present whereabouts.

“Sonora is hardly the ‘gay old place’ of other days, though it comes nearer holding its own than a majority of the towns built up during the flush times of rich placer diggings, when a pick, pan and shovel constituted a capital sufficient to start a man in a good healthy business—when monte banks, fandangos and big sprees were features of the place, and ‘Luck’ the patron saint. Such are among the recollections of the Past. [sic] of the Metropolis of the Southern mines. The Present is an era of dull times, and hopes of the Future are built on the completion of the Mono Wagon Road, and the yield of numerous copper veins, in which a majority of the white population appear to be interested. Very good prospects have been obtained, and work is going on, which will soon develop the veins, and settled the ‘vexed question,’ for better or worse. If any delegates are sent from this town to the Insane Asylum, it will be safe to say the cause can be traced to *copper*.”

...

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, January 23, 1864, 2:2:

“The Senior Editor having returned from a two week’s absence, most of which time was spent in Tuolumne county, cannot omit the present opportunity of expressing his thanks to many friends in Sonora and neighboring towns, for favors received. We shall be likely to visit those localities again, and there are many now [new], as well as old acquaintances who will not be soon forgotten.”

“A Little Plain Talk to Subscribers,” *Mariposa Free Press*, January 23, 1864, 2:2:

“Having conducted our paper for one year without saying anything through our columns in the way of dunning subscribers—we beg the indulgence of our patrons generally, while we ‘remark a few remarks’ (to use the language of Artemus Ward) in reference to pecuniary affairs.

“To begin with, we will inform our readers that the expenses of bread and butter, fuel and materials for running this machine will not fall short of \$100 per week. To meet these demands and keep grocery keepers, bakers, butchers, and two or three dozen tax collectors at a respectful distance requires some *active rustling*. Any one who doubts this fact, can, upon application, and giving the necessary certificates of good character, have the privilege of paying our bills for a few weeks only, until they are ‘let out,’ which won’t take any great length of time.

“Our subscription list now numbers nearly 900 and is steadily increasing. In this respect, and in the way of advertising patronage we have no grounds for complaint; but as we are without any county official support, it becomes necessary to ask of all who are in arrears a speedy settlement. The sums due are in small amounts but in the aggregate foot up enough to make us feel easy in regard to money matters.

“In addition to this, we would say to all who feel interested in maintaining a newspaper in Mariposa which shall be Democratic in sentiment and just what its name implies—a FREE PRESS—now is the time to manifest their sentiments in that respect, by coming out with the sum of *five dollars in advance* for the coming year. There are but few who cannot afford to do this much in the cause. In return, we will endeavor to make it uncomfortably hot for the enemy by a free and fearless advocacy [advocacy] of right, and opposition to wrong, in whatever shape it may come.”

“From Owen’s River,” *Mariposa Free Press*, March 26, 1864, 2:5 (correspondent to *Aurora Times*):

“A correspondent writes the *Aurora Times* as follows, concerning the mines of Owen’s River:

“Everything has been settled quietly with the Indians on Owen’s River. Through the services of Passmore and High, of Bend City, Robinson, of Montgomery District, Wingate and Ederly, of Owensville, and Cutter, of Bishop’s Creek Valley, a treaty has been made, and is being effectually carried out with Joachim [Joaquin] Jim’s band, which insures peace and quietude for the future. The only stipulations were that the whites would not molest the ‘reds’ when they come down into the valley, and the ‘reds’ must no harm the whites either in the valleys or mountains. The practical effect is already being shown. No longer does your correspondent have to waste his time over the wash tub, or ruin his constitution by cutting wood. ‘Tom,’ his protégé, does it all, ‘hokadi’ being the equivalent he receives for his services. Seriously, though, Mr. Editor, there is no longer any fear for the immigrant. There really has been no cause for alarm during the past six months, but now that every thing is arranged, and we have the Indians working for us, it is safe to travel through our rich valleys and auriferous mountains, as it is to walk Montgomery street, and much safer than walking through the streets of Aurora when the ‘roughs’ held high carnival here.

“Owensville not only still lives, but has cast off her swaddling clothes, has ceased to creep, now walks alone, and before the fall winds shall strew the plains and valleys with the yellow leaf, will be full grown and prosperous. A party are now locating a road from the town to the White Mountain District, through Silver Creek Cañon, and but a few weeks will pass before all the rich trade of that section of the country will drop in on our burgh. The mines, as they are being developed, realized the anticipations of the owners. The Hercules Consolidation Company are bringing in some good indication rock; the Vallejo Pioneer’s Company have struck in their ‘Golden Wedge Ledge’ rock which shows gold plainly to the naked eye. The ‘Leviathan,’ a new claim lately discovered, shows rock equal to anything yet discovered. This claim is the smallest in the District—1200 feet. The ledge is well defined; is of good breadth, and will certainly prove a ‘good thing.’ ”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, April 9, 1864, 2:1:

“Robert Ferral, formerly editor of the Sonora [*Union*] *Democrat*, has been admitted to the practice of law in Esmeralda county, Nevada Territory.”

“Married,” *Mariposa Free Press*, April 9, 1864, 2:5:

[Excerpt:]

...  
 “At the residence of the bride’s father, in Walker’s Basin, Tulare county, Mr. DANIEL W. WALSER to Miss MARY F. LIGHTNER, both of Tulare county.”

...

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, April 16, 1864, 2:1:

“The county seat of Mono county has been established at Bridgeport.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, April 16, 1864, 2:1:

“Col. George S. Evans has been appointed Adjutant-General of this State, vice Gen. Wm. C. Kibbe. Col. Evans represented Tuolumne county in the last Legislature.”

“Hepburn & Peterson’s Amalgamator,” *Mariposa Free Press*, May 28, 1864, 2:2:

“The attention of persons engaged in gold and silver mining is directed especially to the advertisement of Hepburn & Peterson’s Amalgamator. The work of reducing and amalgamating the ores, it is well known by practical miners, is the most important branch of the business. The Machines of Messrs. Hepburn & Peterson have been thoroughly and practically tested, both in this State and Nevada Territory and give perfect satisfaction. The inventors are receiving orders now faster than they can turn out the machines, and are making arrangements to manufacture them at double the present rapidity.”

“C. G. Sayle” (advertisement), *Mariposa Free Press*, June 4, 1864, 1:1:

C. G. Sayle announces that he is an attorney at law and district attorney for Fresno [Fresno] County. He will practice in all the courts in the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. His office is at the courthouse, in Millerton.

“Died,” *Mariposa Free Press*, June 11, 1864, 2:5:

[Excerpt:]

“At Clintonville, Long Tom District, Tulare county, May 27<sup>th</sup>, ROBERT D. RICKS; aged, between 27 and 28 years; a native of Louisiana [Louisiana].”

...

“Bigotry,” *Mariposa Free Press*, June 11, 1864, 2:4:

“A Fair and Ball took place lately at Aurora, N. T., for the benefit of the Sanitary Commission, and was run completely as a ‘loyal’ concern. So narrow-minded and intolerant were the managers

who had charge of the affair, that they took occasion to do all in their power to keep away everybody not inflated with their peculiar kind of bogus patriotism. The *Times* says that Democrats were pronounced ‘ “rebels’ and “rebels’ ” money was not wanted there.’ At the entrance to the Fair room was placarded—‘No admittance to Copperheads.’ The result of this species of bigotry was a saving to the Copperheads and a loss to the Sanitary Fund of not less than \$1,000.

“Sail along old Sanitary, but Copperheads keep your money.”

“The Big Tree Turnpike,” *Mariposa Free Press*, June 11, 1864, 3:1:

“A correspondent of the *Bulletin* gives statistics in reference to the distances by the Placerville and Big Tree routes to Reese River and other points in Nevada Territory, and strikes a balance in favor of the latter. The Big Tree turnpike will be completed by the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, and the traveling public will have good reason to rejoice. The work is being done in a thorough and substantial manner.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, June 18, 1864, 2:1:

“A new stage line between Stockton and Virginia City, by way of the Big Tree route, has been started by M. J. Dooley & Co. Stages leave Stockton on alternate days, taking passengers to Silver Mountain and other intermediate.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, June 25, 1864, 2:1:

“It is reported that the stage line between Hornitos and Visalia is to be suspended, and the mail carried on horseback.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, June 25, 1864, 2:1:

“A. O. Thoms, the enterprising proprietor of the Visalia stage lines, is about putting on a line of stages to run between Visalia and Keyesville, by the new road over Greenhorn Mountain.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, June 25, 1864, p. 2:

“There is not a Postoffice in existence at the present time on the Visalia road, between Visalia and Indian Gulch—distance, 120 miles. There is none at Millerton, county seat of Fresno, and, we believe, not one in the county.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, June 25, 1864, p. 2:

“The ‘Big Blue’ quartz lead is reported to have changed hands—several of the original proprietors having disposed of their interests to San Francisco capitalists. In facilities for work, extent and richness, the vein has few superiors in the State.”

“From Yo Semite,” *Mariposa Free Press*, June 25, 1864, p. 2:

“Several returned visitors from the Yo Semite Valley, arrived in Mariposa on Thursday evening. Among others, Mr. Sullivan, of the firm of Sullivan & Cashman of San Francisco, and Messrs. McKee and Wheeler of Coulterville, and Rev. Father Auger of Sonora. They went by way

of Coulterville, and returned on this side, stopping at the Big Tree Grove, on the South Fork of the Merced.”

“Daily Mail Needed,” *Mariposa Free Press*, June 25, 1864, p. 2:

“This is the caption of a paragraph in the Stockton *Independent* calling for the circulation of a petition for a daily mill between Stockton and Silver Mountain. Could not a change of that sort be effected between the ‘City of Wind-mills’ and Mariposa? A daily mail has been talked of till the subject has been worn threadbare, and has thus far ended in talk. Hardly a stranger arrives here who does not notice and comment upon the inconvenience of stopping over night at Hornitos, within less than 20 miles of their destination, but the old citizens have got used to it, and put up with all the attendant inconveniences, including waiting for news till it is stale to ‘the rest of mankind’—except when a special messenger is despatched [dispatched] to procure it.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, July 2, 1864, 2:1:

“A newspaper has been established at Bend City, Coso county, by L. W. Ransome, proprietor of the *Visalia Delta*. It is called the *Owen’s River Herald*. It is devoted to the local interests of that district, and professes neutrality in party politics.”

“Post Offices Discontinued,” *Mariposa Free Press*, July 30, 1864. 2:4:

“The post offices at the following places have been discontinued, the business not justifying their continuance: Oro Fino, Shoshone, Idaho Territory; White River, Tulare county, California; Pacific, Humboldt county, California; Pea Vine, Butte county, California.”

“From Tulare,” *Mariposa Free Press*, September 3, 1864, 2:5:

“The Democratic Central Committee of Tulare County met on Saturday last and elected the following delegates to the State Convention: vs. J. W. Freeman, S. A. Sheppard, J. C. Brown, Thos. R. Davidson, and W. M. Tucker. The committee adopted resolutions expressive of confidence in the Democratic party and in its ability and determination to maintain the cause of American liberty, ‘peaceable if they can, but forcibly if they must;’ and pledging the hearty co-operation of the Democracy of Tulare County to attempt success at the ‘ides of November.’ ”

“Gone Under,” *Mariposa Free Press*, September 3, 1864, 3:2:

“The *American Eagle*, which succeeded the *Flag* in Sonora, has discontinued publication. In making the announcement the proprietor thinks his efforts are abundantly repaid ‘if he has cultivated a deeper Union sentiment and aroused a deeper hatred for copperheads and traitors.’ In a pecuniary sense, the machine has not paid, but he is not prepared to say whether it has gone dead entirely or is only a case of suspended animation. It is of little consequence which may be the case.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, September 17, 1864, 2:1:

“The Visalia stage line has resumed running and will hereafter make three trips a week.”

“Shooting in Aurora,” *Mariposa Free Press*, October 8, 1864, 2:5:

“C. H. E. Wheaton, formerly a resident of Sonora, was shot and instantly killed by Wm. B. Lake, in Aurora on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September. It was stated that the shooting was caused by the deceased having ‘persecuted’ Lake’s wife and endeavored to induce her to leave her husband. It appears to have been a cowardly murder, but the coroner’s jury in their verdict pronounced it ‘justifiable.’ ”

“Revived,” *Mariposa Free Press*, October 8, 1864, 2:5:

“The *Aurora Times*, a spirited and ably conducted Democratic paper has been revived and is now published by Geo. O. Kies and Robert Farrell [Ferral], as a daily. Farrell [Ferral] formerly edited the *Union Democrat* and is a writer of ability. The Abolitionists who have been croaking over the decease of the *Times* will find it a *live* institution.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, October 15, 1864, 2:1:

“Calvin B. McDonald, the leading writer for the *American Flag*, one of the lowest wretches who ever contributed to the most infamous blackguard and blackmail newspaper that ever disgraced California journalism, was arrested on Saturday evening last, for using disgustingly obscene language in the dress circle of McGuire’s Opera House—so says the local reporter of the *San Francisco Press*, and from the antecedents of the miserable libel on manhood we should judge it was exactly his style. He is one of the high priests of Loyalty—is Saint Calvin.”

“Democratic Meeting at Kernville,” *Mariposa Free Press*, October 15, 1864, 2:4:

“A meeting of the Democracy of Kernville and vicinity, was held at the aforesaid place on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. The meeting was called to order by the Hon. J. W. Freeman who nominated Jos. Caldwell, Esq., President *pro tem*, and B. F. Walker, Secretary. The object of the meeting being to organize a Democratic association, a constitution and by-laws were submitted for the consideration of the meeting, which were unanimously adopted and an association formed under the name and style of the McClellan Democratic Club. An invitation was extended to all present, who desired to become members; whereupon every Democrat present immediately came forward and subscribed their names to the constitution and by-laws.

“Permanent officers were duly elected: Joseph Caldwell Esq., President B. F. Walker, Secretary, and W. J. Cummins, Treasurer. The platforms of the National and State conventions were read by J. W. Freeman Esq., the resolution of which were heartily endorsed by the Club. A great many Democrats were present and the utmost enthusiasm prevailed. The meeting closed after passing a resolution that an abstract of the proceedings be forwarded to the *Democratic Press* and *Mariposa Free Press*, for publication.

“B. F. WALKER, Sec.’y.

“Kernville, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1864.”

An Observer, “Communicated,” *Mariposa Free Press*, October 22, 1864, 2:4:

“VISALIA, Oct. 17, 1864.

“FRIEND LAWRENCE:—I have just returned to this gay and festive town, from a few days sojourn in the mountains, in the vicinity of Kern River and Linns Valley; during which time I attended a ball on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst., given by our old friend and highly esteemed fellow citizen, John Hawpe; he having just completed a large frame house, which is situated on the McFarland

[McFarlane] Pass Road, four or five miles above Linn's Valley, at which place you can always get a 'square meal,' and a good bed. Of course it was necessary after the erection of the house to give a 'house warming' (a law Arkansaw) [Arkansas]; which I assure you was a grand affair. I was agreeably disappointed to see so many ladies present. All of them were pictures of health, and many of them young and prepossessing. (I need not add that I was very much enamored.) The dancing commenced at 7 o'clock p. m., and was continued until daylight. At 11 o'clock supper was announced, at which your humble servant did justice, as I felt at that time as usual—hungry. The table was bountifully supplied with all that the market affords; wines, etc., and reflects much credit upon the hostess, Mrs. Hawpe. Nothing occurred during the evening to mar its pleasure. During the intermissions of quadrille we were favored with a jig by Mr. Combs, (alias Bones) a resident of Kernville.

"Mr. Hawpe has the finest location I have ever seen in the mountains on this coast, and it being upon one of the very best mountain roads in this country, will have not doubt in a short time net him a very handsome sum of money.

[Note: single quotes used to enclosed "boys."] "John is a popular man among the 'boys'; 'whatever John says or does is all right.'

"Yours, respectfully. AN OBSERVER.

"P. S[.]—I failed to find, during my stay in the Mountains, a single man of the party who would not support McClellan. The ides of November will prove that Tulare is still true to the cause!"

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, October 22, 1864, 3:1:

"From our Visalia Correspondent, 'Observer' we are gratified to learn that one of [of] our old Visalia friends, Mr. Hawpe, has established a public house on the McFarland Pass Road. It is an excellent location and the proprietor is every way deserving of success. Among other qualifications he evidently knows how to keep a hotel."

"New Mines in the Kern River District," *Mariposa Free Press*, October 22, 1864, 3:1:

"Some very rich quartz mines have recently been discovered at what is called Clear Creek, between Kern River and Walker's Basin. The lodes are about eight feet in thickness and appear to be very extensive. About fifty or sixty persons have located there—among them several families. They have named the camp Havaliah [Havilah]. There is at present a grocery and produce store, butcher shop and hotel."

An Observer, "Communicated," *Mariposa Free Press*, October 22, 1864, 2:4 (Visalia, October 17, 1861):

"VISALIA, Oct. 17, 1864.

"FRIEND LAWRENCE:—I have just returned to this gay and festive town, from a few days sojourn in the mountains, in the vicinity of Kern River and Linns Valley; during which time I attended a ball on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst., given by our old friend and highly esteemed fellow citizen, John Hawpe; he having just completed a large frame house, which is situated on the McFarland Pass Road, four or five miles above Linn's Valley, at which place you can always get a 'square meal,' and a good bed. [More to come.]

"Homicide in Linn's Valley, Tulare County," *Mariposa Free Press*, November 19, 1864, 1:5:

“The San Francisco *Bulletin* copies an account of a fatal affray which occurred at Linn’s Valley, resulting in the killing of Rad. Ellis. We knew both McFarlane and Ellis. The latter was inclined to be quarrelsome, particularly so when drinking, while McFarlane is a man who is not disposed to to [sic] seek difficulties, and bears the reputation of being a quiet and peaceable man and a good citizen, generally. The *Bulletin* heads the account with the caption of ‘Another Murder,’ and after rendering its verdict, gives the extract from the *Visalia Delta*, as follows:

“On the morning of November 9<sup>th</sup>, the day after election, the deceased left home with the avowed intention of killing John McFarlane. His family, and also a Mr. Dunlap, tried to dissuade him from it, but without effect. At the time the meeting took place McFarlane was at the residence of John Hawpe, and saw Ellis approaching. Sic] and rose and said to his host, ‘There comes Rad. Ellis to kill me;’ and as he approached, Hawpe advanced to the entrance and said: ‘Uncle Rad., go away; we don’t want any trouble here.’ At that he drew his pistol, when McFarlane came forward and told his friend to stand back. [sic] as he was not going to stand there and be fired at, when Hawpe withdrew, and both fired at the same moment, Ellis’ ball passing in the exact range where Hawpe had stood. The ball of the first discharge took effect in the chest of the deceased, near vicinity of the first, and Ellis said ‘Well, John, you’ve killed me,’ and fell. The difficulty grew out of the fact that McFarlane refused to carry the Greenhorn Mountain Road past his place—hence the killing. Ellis, before leaving home, said to his family, ‘If I kill McFarlane, bury me in the burying-ground (naming it); if I don’t kill him, bury me where you d—d please.’”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, December 3, 1864, 2:1:

“The Silver Mountain *Bulletin*, a ‘loyal’ paper, has pegged out.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, December 3, 1864, 2:1:

“Professor Silliman, the elder, died at New Haven on the 24<sup>th</sup> ult., in his 86<sup>th</sup> year. He graduated at Yale College in 1796.”

“Snow in the Mountains,” *Mariposa Free Press*, December 3, 1864, 2:1:

“A party of men came in on Wednesday evening from Sweetwater and report an average depth of ten inches of snow in that camp, and cold—whew-w-w-!”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, December 3, 1864, 2:1:

“The *Union Democrat* reports that Robert Ferral, formerly connected with that paper, but recently with the *Aurora Times* is about to start a new weekly in what is known as the Montgomery district, between Aurora and Owen’s River valley.”

“A gay old trip,” *Mariposa Free Press*, December 3, 1864, 2:1:

“We saw three men at Agua Frio on Monday last packing animals with provisions preparatory for a trip over the mountains by way of Crane Flat and the Upper [San] Joaquin [River]. Their destination was the Montgomery district, where one of them had left his wife and family. It looks like suicide to attempt the journey by that route at the present season, and we hope they did not undertake it.”

“Roads in a bad fix,” *Mariposa Free Press*, December 3, 1864, 2:1:

“The roads are now in an awful condition, and traveling, in consequence, difficult and dangerous. The mischief is that the means of repairing the public highways seems to be exhausted. It is suggested that Messrs. Gaskill and Wilcox, who were instrumental in repealing our former efficient road law might be applied to for way and means to remedy the existing evil.”

“ ‘The Occidental,’ ” *Mariposa Free Press*, December 3, 1864, 2:1:

“We have omitted, heretofore, to mention the appearance of an independent newspaper under the above title, published by Flaven & Co., and edited by Zach. Montgomery. It is ably edited, presents a fine typographical appearance, and deserves to grow in public favor. It is published weekly, and has reached its sixth number.”

“Indian Fight over the Mountains,” *Mariposa Free Press*, December 10, 1864, 2:1:

“Information has been brought in to the effect that serious difficulties had occurred at the Montgomery District between the miners and some of the Owen’s River Indians. Accounts are rather indefinite; but from what has been related, we learn that two men were attacked while working at a shaft and both of them killed. Subsequently a fight occurred between ten of the whites and a large party of indians [Indians] in which the latter were whipped. The notorious ‘Joaquin Jim’ who has been reported killed at least twice—once in the immediate vicinity of Visalia—has again turned up and is said to be at the head of the hostile tribe.

“That Indian appears to have a number of lives, each of which he clings to with commendable tenacity.”

“Catholic Notice,” *Mariposa Free Press*, December 10, 1864, 2:1:

“Rev. FATHER SANCHES, will celebrate Mass in Bear Valley, on Sunday (to-morrow) Dec. 18th, at 8 o’clock A. M.; in Mariposa at 11 o’clock, at St. Joseph’s Church.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, December 10, 1864, 2:1:

“We have received the first number of the Montgomery Weekly *Pioneer*, of Mono county, success to it.”

*Mariposa Free Press*, December 10, 1864, 2:1:

## 1865

“Tuolumne Newspaper Matters,” *Mariposa Free Press*, February 11, 1865, 2:3:

“George Duchow, of the *Tuolumne Courier* has suspended the publication of the paper and disposed of the material which will be removed to Sonora, where a new paper of the ‘loyal’ sort is to be established. The Democrats of Tuolumne county are hereby reminded that they owe a duty to themselves to see that their *own paper*, the *Union Democrat*, receives a generous support.

“Francisco has battled long, earnestly and effectively, and ‘blow high or blow low’ is ever to be found at his post throwing hot shot into the camp of the enemy. There are enough white men in old Tuolumne to keep the machine in running order. Subscriptions with prompt payment will do the business—in the mean time every Democratic business man should advertise in his own party paper in preference to his opponents.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, February 18, 1865, 2:1:

“The *Fresno Times* came to hand since our last issue. It was mislaid—we apologise [apologize].”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, February 18, 1865, 2:1:

“The Tuolumne *Courier* has been removed to Sonora. J. C. Duchow has retired from the Editorial Chair, and George L. Sharretts succeeds him.”

“Rather Discouraging,” *Mariposa Free Press*, April 15, 1865, 1:4:

“A late number of the *Esmeralda Union*, published at Aurora, says: In about five months from now the hills surrounding this city (Providence permitting) will be covered with a coat of green. Won’t it be nice! In California the trees are leaving, the wheat and grass are knee-deep to a six footer, and flowers without number are bestowing their odoriferous emissions with the most generous liberality. We of Aurora will soon have cause for rejoicing; therefore let us wait. When Spring does come—if it ever comes at all—we’ll see over a hundred flowers within a circuit of five miles (or more). Let us be gay.”

[recopy:]

J. H. L. [James H. Lawrence], “Editorial Correspondence,” *Mariposa Free Press*, May 27, 1865, 2:2-3 (Snelling, Merced County, Sunday, May 21, 1865):

“SNELLING, Merced County. }

“Sunday, May 21. [sic] 1864. }

“To properly appreciate the county seat of this agricultural and bovine district, it should be visited, as well as read of in the papers. Old citizens who have been luxuriating in the quiet of rural life, never dreaming of a residence in ‘the prettiest and liveliest place in this section of the State,’ have read the announcement in the *Herald* of the 13<sup>th</sup>, and, with a laudable desire to sustain the credit of their local organ for veracity, are stirring about with unwonted animation. New sources of beauty and life are turned up in unexpected places—plans of improvement in the matter of streets, squares and town lots, are mooted—new windmills are in course of erection; public attention, diverted from the dull, commonplace avocations of the country, is attracted to new fields of labor. Copper discoveries are among the new fountains of prosperity destined to sustain the ‘lively and pretty,’ though very . [sic] young, reputation of Snelling. Yesterday a party of prospectors visited a new copper district, called the Antelope, situated about three miles from Lagrange, on the road from Morley’s Ferry to Coulterville. It is near the junction of Merced, Stanislaus and Mariposa counties, but mainly in Merced. ‘Feet,’ the biggest sort, is now the topic of interest. Trading in ‘feet,’ taking up ‘feet,’ recording ‘feet’ in copper discoveries, has superseded ‘petroleum on the brain,’ and threatens to revolutionize the heretofore leading interest of the county. Specimens are on exhibition in proof that the holders have struck a ‘good thing,’ and, from what we are able to learn, the chances are favorable. Don’t we hope it will turn out to be a

'big thing,' even to the extent of making this rose-scented town *prettier* and *livelier* even than at present.

"Crops look favorable, so far as hay and grain are concerned, but some varieties of fruit 'suffer some;' for instance: peaches, a total failure; apricots, ditto. An exception, however, may be made in favor of Gwin's ranch, which, from some providential or other unexplained dispensation, appears to be exempted from the general wreck.

"Speaking of 'crops,' it would do you good to see the sudden, spontaneous and patriotic uprising of the people in search of county offices. Posters announcing the self-sacrificing intention of some philanthropic individual to devote his time, money, labor and constitution to the service of the public in an official capacity, stare you in the face from every corner, stables, smaller outbuildings, gates and fences. It amounts to nearly a *sweeping conscription of every able-bodied white citizen capable of bearing arms*. The announcements are made subject to the County Democratic Convention, which will probably settle the fate of the aspirants.

"We are just now camped in the office of the *Herald*. Wigginton is out of town, attending to his agricultural interests. Robertson, the portly, good-humored Judge, is about, miscellaneously occupied in attending to his secular and religious devotions. (Bet a quarter he is trying a glass-blowing experiment on one of the tumblers at the Bar of the Cotton Plant Saloon.) He is talking of a pilgrimage to Mariposa. Should the event occur before our arrival home, give him the 'freedom of the city' in a match box, and see he doesn't [doesn't] suffer for the necessaries of life.

'You may hear from the undersigned again. Try and keep the *Gazette* in its usual amiable humor till our return.

"J. H. L."

**"Still Later.**

"MONDAY, May 22d.

"District Court is in session to-day—or will be, soon as the Judge arrives. Only one criminal case [is] on the docket—that of the Mexican, Ramon Rosas, indicted for murder. He has been in jail four months. This morning a Mexican woman came into town from a settlement on the river below, and entered a complaint against a countryman who came to her *casa* last night with intent to kick up a muss. She captured his arms (a pistol and Bowie knife) and ran him off. She is the same woman, Anita, who captured the prisoner Ramon, accused of murdering 'lovyer [lover] so bold.'

"Nothing has yet been heard of the missing boy, John Clough. A gentleman just over from the other side of the river, says the whole country has been thoroughly searched, and that most of those who have been hunting for him have given it up.

"People from the surrounding country are arriving in town, some to attend Court, others to inquire after the health of their constituents, etc.

"Haying and harvesting as just commencing, subjects of more interest just now than the result of any suit pending before this Court. L.

"On Saturday evening the Glass Blowers gave an exhibition at the Court House, an instructive and entertaining affair. Hart, the manager, and Kelley, the principal operators, are clever, gentlemanly fellows, and deserve encouragement.

**Change of Base.**

"MILLERTON, Tuesday, May 23d.

"Just arrived in safety, after a disagreeable ride by stage from Hornitos. No fault of 'Rarey,' the accomplished driver and horse-tamer, who does the propelling on this end of the Visalia line—but such a wind and such clouds of drifting sand as have played mischievous pranks with these eyes, these nose, these form and these harness! We had what the ancient mariners call a '*fair* wind—dead aft,' and swift enough to keep up with us, no matter was gait. Among our passengers was our ancient friend of jovial memories, McCray, of the Oak Hotel, just returned from a strictly business

trip to 'the Bay,' where he has been looking after his 'wood interest;' also, one of our German fellow citizens, who appears to have vague and indefinite ideas of going somewhere to 'brospect.'

"Business is said to be dull just now, but of that we will give fuller and more interesting particulars in dispatches which you can look for next week. Among the new institutions is the photographic and ambrotype gallery of Messrs. Harmon & Coffin, who have just opened their establishment, with a very fair prospect of success.

"Emigration seems to be setting in southward, judging from the family wagons we passed on the road to-day. The beef business seems to be flourishing. We met a number of droves of fat cattle on their way up the country. Their appearance bodes favorably of nice beef steaks in the mining regions.

"The excitement in reference to the King's River mines seems to have subsided. The latest accounts are to the effect that parties are leaving the diggings, though there are still some thirty white men (including six or seven families) and about fifty Chinamen at the diggings.

"The 'card' at present, in the 'down south' region, is the Clear Creek District, and thither numerous emigrants are bending their steps. Clear Creek is about fifteen miles from Kernville, Tulare county, near the Walker's Basin trail.

"A Mariposan, just returned from Montgomery District, reports favorably. Several of those who migrated from Mariposa and Merced counties will return in a few days for their families, with the design of permanently locating at Montgomery.

"More anon.

J. H. L."

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, June 3, 1865, 2:1:

"A Nevada paper says that Montgomery District is nothing but a 'nest of vile secessionists.'"

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, June 3, 1865, 2:1:

"Lovely Rodgers, well known hereabouts, left Visalia a few days since for the new gold fields on Clear Creek."

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, June 3, 1865, 2:1:

"Everybody is talking of going to Yosemite. We hear of horses already being engaged here by parties in San Francisco, who will visit the Valley next week,"

J. H. L. [James H. Lawrence], "Editorial Notes From Our Stray " 'Chief,' " *Mariposa Free Press*, June 3, 1865, 2:2-3:

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#### "An Outline Sketch.

"Tourists in search of excitement, need hardly visit Millerton at this season. Quiet reigns unbroken; save by the ordinary routine of business and an occasional raid on the whisky shops by some of the 'boys on a bender'—which, by the way, seems hardly as frequent as in former times. The old military post, by courtesy know [known] as 'the Fort,' is unoccupied—most of the habitations used in former times as barracks. [sic] officers' quarters, and store houses for provender, for man and beast, are unoccupied, with two or three exceptions. The San Joaquin glides on its peaceful mission and pours its yearly tribute to the sea as readily as when the burnished musket and flashing sabre flung their glittering brightness on its rippling surface. 'The pomp and circumstance of war,' entailed by three companies of Infantry, are gone. Happily there

is no rebellion here to crush. Civil officers, who know their duty and will do it, are abundantly able to squelch any offenses against the peace and dignity of the State, or 'any other man.'

#### Swimming the River.

"Saturday last witnessed a little active life down at at Converse's Ferry, consequent upon crossing some four or five hundred head of cattle from King's River, destined for the northern market. The water is of a temperature better adapted for drinking than bathing purposes. So thought the cattle, evidently, for after being driven in, they obstinately refused to cross. Then came the coercive policy, followed by a stampede of the entire drove into the hills—then a pursuit, a rally and a charge, wherein some equestrian feats not given in the 'small hills,' were performed by *Vaqueros* of various grades in skill. Where 'all behaved so well' it might be injustice to particularize. The result was in favor of *our cavalry*, who, by attacking the enemy in small bands, finally forced them over, 'without losing a man.' Some six or seven drowned beeves left their carcasses to the tender mercies of the Indians, who will undoubtedly be duly grateful to their Aboriginal God for a dispensation in their favor. The only other casualties reported are the breaking of two or three lariats and the summary unhorsing of some good average riders.

"N. B.—Know 'by these presents' that the reporter of this engagement viewed the fray from a safe locality, in the shade of Jones' Grocery, on the north side of the stream. Very much like an army correspondent—was it not?

#### "Political.

"But very little excitement, as yet, in regard to the coming election, though candidates are beginning to show themselves, and now and then a poster is cropping out. A 'Union meeting'—so called—was held a few days since. Some say that it is the intention of the party known familiarly as 'Blacks' to run a ticket—*providing always* that from two to three Democrats are caught running for the same office.—'Strategy, my boy.' Those fellows will bear watching.

#### " 'Millions for do Fence.'

"Last week a queer genius made his appearance here, proffering to sell a patent right to a self-sustaining—no posted—double-locked, portable, sheep-distressing, hog-disappointing, hoss-discouraging fence. A fence that is warranted to be 'horse-high, bull-strong, and pig-tight'—such as old uncle 'what's his name' used to call a 'bunkum fence.' The man has met with some success in his travels—so it appears. Farm rights are sold at five dollars—sheep men have to pay ten, with the privilege of migrating with the fence or the patent.—The proprietor, who is one of the best talkists we have heard in our travels, generally succeeds in convincing his man in two hours, but, if obdurate, he don't mind spending half a day on him. To our friend, McCray, we are indebted for an introduction as a *wealthy land holder*, which secured us an hour's lecture on the advantages to be desired from his fence. The expression of disgust which flitted across his radiant phiz when it was gently revealed to him that he was talking to a country Editor who wanted a fence forty feet high, would have been a study for an artist.

#### Miscellaneous Items.

"In the way of amusements, we are told that balls and parties have been the rage for the pass three or four months. A dancing school, during the winter, set people crazy on the subject, and parties at Henry's Hotel were of regular weekly occurrence. The wire edge appears to be worn off now. [sic] and the votaries of Terpsichore rest from their labors.

"Harmon & Coffin's Picture Gallery is now the sensation. Everybody and everybody's wife and tow headed baby are going to have their 'picters' taken. Yesterday (Sunday) was a busy day with the artists, who appear to be giving general satisfaction and doing a healthy business.

"Here's another item, just freshly caught—reckon it will do to print.

#### "Two Strings to Her Bow—Two Beans on a String.

“A very good story is told of the antics of a young and healthy widow who resides within the limits of this county, somewhere in the King’s river range. It appears that a few days ago a fellow came riding, ‘in hot haste,’ and, flushed with the excitement common to prospectors of Copper or Petroleum where they’ve struck a ‘big thing,’ rushed to the County Clerk’s office to procure the necessary license to marry the lady in question. The document was duly signed, sealed, and delivered, to the intense gratification of the heir apparent of her store of affection, who went his way rejoicing. Alas, for the uncertainty things crinoline—two days elapsed and here came another applicant for a similar document wherein his name was to appear as the party of the first part, to be joined in the ‘holy honds [bonds]’ with the same woman. After duly swearing him as to the fact of the lady still remaining unencumbered with a husband, the second series of papers were issued and gent number two bucked out of town on his mustang, after making sundry boasts to the effect that ‘some people thought they were d—d smart,’ but *he* happened to be ‘*the chieftain.*’

‘Chapter third—The perverse widow obstinately refuses to marry either of them. Bets are made on who will be the next victim. The clear is ready with plenty of blank licenses, which will be issued, on application, to candidate of lawful age, possessing the necessary qualifications—terms cash.

**“Supplemental.**

“Have seen the FREE PRESS—very well done, ‘old sport.’ Struck a new correspondent, eh? ‘Young lady on the Rose Buds,’—bully subject—‘nifty’ young lady—try and keep her on it—till the boys behave themselves.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, June 10, 1865, 2:3:

“During the absence of the Editor of the ‘FREE PRESS’ a mistake occurred in putting up the mail, by which our subscribers at Keyssville, Tulare county, were swindled out of their papers. We owe them an apology and two back numbers of the PRESS.”

“Clear Creek,” *Mariposa Free Press*, June 10, 1865, 2:3:

“The rush for Clear Creek, in Tulare county, was unabated, at last accounts. Thomas’ stage, on the Gilroy road is regularly loaded with passengers, and great number are going by way of Los Angeles. The mines are said to be very rich. Several quartz mills have been already constructed, and it is reported that there will be fifteen in operation before the summer is over.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, June 17, 1865, 2:5:

“‘Kearsarge’ ” is the name of a new mining district over in Nevada, which is just now attracting considerable attention. It is now situated at the eastern base of the Walker River Mountains, nearly midway between Aurora and Virginia. About 50 miles north of the stage road between those places, and just across the mountain from Genesee District. Some two years since, Squibs prospected that range, and found lead in great quantities, loadstone, native copper, iron, argentiferous and auriferous quartz in abundance, from the croppings of which assays from four to fifteen dollars per ton were obtained, feldspar, gypsum, talc, chalk, wild goose berries, sage hens, antelope, pine-nuts, snakes, jackass rabbits and snow.”

“Daily Examiner,” *Mariposa Free Press*, June 17, 1865, 2:5:

“The first number of the *Daily Examiner* made its appearance in San Francisco on the 12<sup>th</sup> instant. It is conservative in tone, proclaims that old issues are obsolete and old parties

disorganized, and appeals to the people of common sense irrespective of party, to rise above the sectional prejudices of the day—to preserve what is left of our country. The paper in typography resembles the *Democratic Press* and gives evidence of ability. B. F. Washington, well known previously in the newspaper world, is its editor. W. S. Moses, publisher and proprietor.

“Meeting of the Democratic Central Committee in Tulare County,” *Mariposa Free Press*, June 17, 1865, 2:5:

“At a meeting of the Democratic County Central Committee of Tulare county, held in the town of Visalia, on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of June, A. D. 1865, it was ordered that a Primary Election be held at the various precincts throughout the county, on Saturday, the 15<sup>th</sup> day of July next, and that the apportionment of the Delegates for the various precincts are as follows, to wit:

<i>Precinct.</i>	<i>No. Del.</i>	<i>Precinct.</i>	<i>No. Del.</i>
King’s River . . . . .	1	Petersburg (Greenhorn) . . .	1
Buzzard Roost . . . . .	2	Kernville . . . . .	2
Visalia . . . . .	7	Keysville . . . . .	1
Woodville . . . . .	3	Clear Creek . . . . .	3
Outs[i]de Creek . . . . .	3	Kern River . . . . .	2
Lower Tule River . . . . .	1	Owen’s Lake . . . . .	1
Tule River . . . . .	2	Coso . . . . .	1
White River . . . . .	2	Owen’s River . . . . .	2
Linn’s Valley . . . . .	2	San Carlos . . . . .	2
Clintonville (Long Tom) . . . . .	1		

“Los Angeles New Items,” *Mariposa Free Press*, June 24, 1865, 2:3:

“A letter from Los Angeles, under date of June 14, gives some items of interest in reference to former residents of Mariposa.

“Capt. Smith’s company is at Drum Barracks and is spoken of as being one of the finest ever stationed there. They are to leave for Arizona soon.

“Among others, who formerly lived here and hereabouts, are mentioned the names of Brant Phillips, Bill Hubbard, Goss of Hornitos, Thos. Gates, Dave Bitler and Ned Hewitt.

“Gates has just opened a new saloon—one of the finest in the country.

“The Clear Creek excitement continues unabated and travel in that direction makes times lively. Los Angeles is looking up—so says our correspondent who speaks in glowing terms of the climate and the country generally.

“The arrival of a suspicious looking character, with a hat on, supposed to be the one we lost at the Hornitos ball, is noted. Nail him, boys, if it takes the whole military force at Drum barracks.

“Speaking of travel to the mines, the establishment of a semi-weekly mail is noticed.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, July 8, 1865, 2:3:

“A correspondent who has recently made a trip to Clear Creek, says: ‘It certainly promises to be a very wealth and prosperous camp; there are at present about five or six hundred people there, four or five mercantile houses, several blacksmith shops, and a full complement of drinking saloons. At present there are but four mills in operation, but others are on the way. Business at the camp is greatly retarded in consequence of the capacity of the mills being insufficient to crush the rock at present on hand.’”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, August 5, 1865, 3:2:

“Harpending, who was tried in San Francisco as one of the Chapman pirates, is now hard at work constructing a large water ditch in order to convey water from San Francisquito Creek, near Los Angeles, into some rich alluvial placer diggings, there having never been a supply of water there to work them with. He is backed by San Francisco capitalists.”

M. S., “Letter from Clear Creek,” *Mariposa Free Press*, September 2, 1865, 3:1 (Havilah, Clear Creek District, August 11, 1865):

“HAVILAH (Clear Creek District), }  
     “August 11<sup>th</sup>, 1865.}”

‘EDS. PRESS: From the pleasure I take in reading the FREE PRESS, I feel that I owe it a small contribution, and hope you will receive a short letter as my mite.

“The name of the town was chosen from a rare work with which I am not very familiar, called the Bible. It is in some way connected with the first discovery of gold in the world, and we think the name very appropriate for the Clear Creek Mining District. The town is situated on sloping ground, and a small creek on each side of it, both uniting at the foot of town, and emptying into Clear Creek. There are 75 or 80 buildings in the place, and at an election for the office of District Recorder on last Saturday, 349 votes were polled, and not one-half of the population voting.

“I venture the assertion that there is no camp in the State to-day presenting a more lively and prosperous appearance than does the village of Havilah, Clear Creek District. While I write, four mills are thumping away, producing from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per day; the streets are full of busy men, and train after train of pack animals are passing and repassing, laden with as good if not better ore than is produced any place else on the Pacific coast. It is due to say of William Freeman, Esq., and Joseph H. Thomas, millmen, that but for them the miners would be rather badly off. These gentlemen both have excellent mills, and have sacrificed their own interest to a great extent in accommodating others—never refusing to crush any quantity of ore the miners send to them, at very reasonable rates. This good fortune enables all of us to have a little bag of the dust, and we find our camps well supplied with plenty to [eat] and wear, besides the great advantag[-] [—] developing our claims—an advantage I assure you, that is very uncommon in new districts. This district is properly nicknamed when it is called the ‘Poor Man’s District,’ for anybody and everybody who will work can find employment here at something.

“There are recorded 480 claims, and at least 100 of them are being worked—some, of course, only to ascertain their value, and to be ready for the several new custom mills that are on route hither. We will at least by late Fall have four more 10-stamp mills in operation. This will carry us through the Winter swimmingly.

“The town is full of stores. Among the first is the house of Reed & Thompson, late of Little Owen’s Lake. They, like everybody else in that section of country, after worrying out a miserable life of three long, windy years, took up their blankets and walked. Dame Fortune, however, took them by the hands and led them to the town of Summer showers, where they will soon forget that they ever lived among the Indians, cobble stones and wire grass, and drank water which I think (from y experience in that section) came out of a soap mine.

“There are two large hotels in town, one called the Havilah House, and kept by a German firm; the other, the Clear Creek Exchange, kept by Joseph Fountain. Joe is rather the best landlord, from the fact that there is a most estimable lady about the house, a Mrs. F., whose careful supervision of matters in general makes the house pleasant for everybody. Everything to eat that can be had, clean and comfortable beds, good liquors and cigars, I imagine, is all anybody

wants, and we have it at Joe Fountain's hotel. There is no kink of a 'machine' that I can think of that is not here and established.

"Yours,

M. S."

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, September 16, 1865, 2:1:

"Our letter from Clear Creek this week was mislaid and lot."

"Dead," *Mariposa Free Press*, September 23, 1865, 2:1:

"A daughter of Kit Carson, who bore her father's name, and who formerly resided at Hornitos in this county, recently died of dissipation, in Aurora."

"Death of Henry," *Mariposa Free Press*, September 23, 1865, 2:5:

"Dispatches dated Los Angeles, September 16<sup>th</sup>, state that James Henry, of the firm of Mason & Henry, highwaymen, was shot fifty-seven times and very particularly killed, twenty miles from San Bernardino, on the 14<sup>th</sup>. He was betrayed by a confederate named Rogers, who went to San Bernardino for provisions and ammunition, got drunk and bragged of being one of the Mason and Henry gang, was arrested and told where his companion was awaiting his return. There are fifteen more men under Mason, yet in the mountains below Los Angeles."

"James Henry," *Mariposa Free Press*, October 7, 1865, 3:1:

"There can be very little doubt but the man recently killed near San Bernardino was none other than the above named individual. The description, as given in the Los Angeles papers, is very correct. Deceased was a lineal descendant of the great Revolutionary orator, Patrick Henry. He was about thirty years of age, and a native of Virginia. The *Los Angeles Journal* gives the following description, which, with a slight exception relative to the eyes, is a very correct one: 'Hight 5 feet, seven inches; weight, 145 pounds; dark auburn hair; forehead not high but open; eyebrows well arched; eyes light hazel; hands and feet small.' His eyes were dark gray, instead of light hazel, as described, but the alteration made by death, would easily lead to this mistake, and we think there is no doubt but James Henry was the man killed."

"M. E. Church (South) Conference," *Mariposa Free Press*, October 14, 1865, 2:4:

"This body assembled in San Francisco on the 4<sup>th</sup> instant, and had a most harmonious session. Revs. O. P. Fitzgerald, W. R. Gober and J. C. Simmons were elected Delegates to the General Conference, which commences in April next at New Orleans. The next Annual Conference is to be held in Petaluma. The following appointments were made for the Stockton District: J. C. Burchard, P. E.; Drytown Circuit, G. W. Wood; Michigan Bar, W. M. Armstrong; Visalia, E. B. Lockley; Mariposa, J. O. Fonsman; Clear Creek, J. N. Turner; Snelling, J. C. Pendegast; Knight's Ferry, J. H. Neal; Millerton, L. J. Hedgepith; Calaveras, B. C. Howard; French Camp, George W. Howard; Liberty and Mokelumne Run, W. M. Culp. The Conference resolved to publish a religious weekly paper entitled *The Weekly Spectator*, Rev. O. P. Fitzgerald, an elegant and forcible writer, to be editor."

"Snelling Directory—Pocket Edition," *Mariposa Free Press*, October 28, 1865, 3:2:

“The *Merced Herald* sums up the fixtures and fixins, trades, callings, business and character of its population in the following condensed form:

“Our town has four Stores, three Saloons, one Hotel, one Livery Stable, two Blacksmith Shops, two Carpenter Shops, one Wheel Wright Shop, one Tin Shop, one Boot and Shoe Shop, one Barber Shop, one Printing Office, and one School House. We have four Lawyers, two Doctors, two Surveyors, one School Teacher, three Printers, two Editors, four Blacksmiths, three Carpenters, two Wheel Wrights, one Shoe Maker, one Barber, and loafers, bummers, and hangers-around in proportion. Some town, this.

“It omits all its literary and charitable associations; for instance, the Order of Rose Buds, Odd Fellows, Guinters, San Lappers, and a Chinese Laundry. In flush times it has Mock Legislatures, Writing Schools, Weekly Prayer Meetings, Horse Races, big Drunks, Free Fights, and the Fever and Ague.”

“Clear Creek,” *Mariposa Free Press*, November 11, 1865, 2:5:

“George D. Roberts, of Nevada county, recently returned home from the Clear Creek mining region, and furnishes the *Grass Valley National* with a glowing description of the prospects of that district. He says that the ledges are numerous, very rich, and although narrow at the surface, invariable expand to a respectable width wherever opened to any considerable depth. Roberts, who, by the way, understands quartz mining thoroughly and whose statements and judgment can be relied on, thinks that Clear Creek is destined to become one of the most famous mining localities on the coast.”

J. H. L. [James H. Lawrence], “Editorial Correspondence,” *Mariposa Free Press*, November 25, 1865, 2:3 (Millerton, November 14, 1865):

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“MILLERTON, November 14, 1865.

**“The King’s River Valley.**

“Just returned from a trip to Scottsburg, as the central trading post of the Upper King’s River Valley, is still designated. The few scattering buildings comprising what was formerly known by that name, were swept away by the flood of 1862. Along with those shanties went a variegated assortment of decayed vegetation, using in the manufactures of chills and fever, which local visitation also emigrated, and after an absence of two years, arrived in its usual style this season. The shakes have not been as severe as in former times and the season is about over. A store and hotel constitute the nucleus around which in course of time will gather enough of the usual fixtures of civilization to constitute a town. The store, kept by Mr. A. J. Anderson, is doing a good business—in fact supplies most of the farmers and stock men, with the necessaries of life. W. C. Caldwell, proprietor of the Falcon [?] [damaged section] Hotel, sets a good table and entertains his visitors hospitably. [It might be well to say here in view of the fact that newspaper men are in the habit of saying this sort of thing by way of puff, that this is in dead earnest—it is, it is.]

“Now a few words about the Valley in an agricultural point of view. At a rough guess, say from thirty-five to forty thousand acres of the best land the sun ever shone on, are comprised in what is known as the Upper King’s River bottom. Of this amount, probably not one acre in twenty, [is] under cultivation. Nothing that ever grew in any corner of God’s earth, but will here grow to perfection. Cerials [Cereals] jump right out of the ground, as Dave Crockett said ‘sponinaciously,’ in time to harvest, and prepare the ground for a successful second crop. Several farmers here have for two or three years past harvested barley, and then planted and raised a good crop of corn, the same year. Vegetables of all kinds flourish luxuriantly—in fact the entire valley is naturally a

garden. Experiments have been made in the culture of cotton, and there appears to be no doubt that this plant can be successfully cultivated. Mr. Kincaid, formerly of Santa Clara, has this season, 100 acres under cultivation. The result indicates that it may become a profitable business, though in the present instance, the proprietor is of the opinion that the planting was not early enough. None of it is sufficiently matured for picking, and a rain of long duration, with subsequent cold weather, would be ruinous.

“The location of this district is about midway between Millerton and Visalia, lying in the county of Fresno. Its only drawback—save a want of population—is its unhealthiness. Probably this latter disadvantage would be removed by the settlement and cultivation of the land. Such has been the case in other and similar localities. Game is abundant, affording rare sport for hunters. The population of the valley is steadily though slowly increasing.

**“Millerton Local Items.**

“Company A. [sic] 2<sup>nd</sup> cavalry, left for Visalia on Friday last. Capt. Loring, their commander, is of a very different stripe from some of the officers who have preceded him. It is only necessary to say, that he is held in estimation as a gentleman, by citizens who know him, and in his official capacity, commands the respect of his men.

“The Watts case went to trial yesterday, and was argued last evening. [sic] Burckhalter for the defense, Wigginton and Sayle for the prosecution. So far as heard from, the jury are at a dead lock—chances slim for a verdict—yes, very slim, for as I am writing they are discharged.

“Rain has set in, in earnest, pouring down at a steady all day rate. Prospect [is] good for witnesses and jurymen to get a soaking, on their homeward bound trip. Pity for them, the Bar and Press can stand it, in consideration of the consoling reflection that we are not going to be blinded with dust on the return passage.

“Doesn’t everybody know, that when a man commences talking about the weather, he has no great stock of interesting news on hand? That’s my case, and—that’s all. “J. H. L.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, December 23, 1865, 2:3:

“AN attempt was made to burn the office of the *Tulare Times*, on Saturday night or Sunday morning, the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>, by separating the stove-pipe just below the roof. When a fire was started in the stove on Sunday morning, the roof was immediately set on fire, and only for its timely discovery, the office, together with a number of other buildings, would have been consumed.”

## 1866

“Clear Creek,” *Mariposa Free Press*, March 3, 1866, 2:5:

“A gentleman recently from Clear Creek, Tulare county, informs us that the prospects of the people there are good. With the opening of Spring, it is thought that times will get very lively. Some of the quartz veins in the locality are said to be unsurpassed in richness. Wages of miners and mechanics are from four to six dollars per day.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, April 14, 1866, 2:1:

“OUR Virginia (Nev.) correspondent has not been heard from in several weeks. What has become of you JIG?”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, April 14, 1866, 2:1:

“THE *Territorial Enterprise*, at Virginia, Nev., has abandoned its quarto form, and now appears at a four page sheet.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, April 14, 1866, 2:1:

“THE time of Fisher & Co.’s stage between Stockton and this place has been changed. The stage will hereafter leave Mariposa at 1 o’clock on alternate days.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Free Press*, April 14, 1866, 2:1:

“A GENTLEMAN writing from Clear Creek in the new county of Kern, says that there are thirty candidates for the office of Sheriff of that county.”

“From Clear Creek,” *Mariposa Free Press*, May 26, 1866, 2:5:

“We received a call the other day from W. M. Rains, formerly of Mariposa, but now residing at Havilah in the new county of Kern. He reports that the Clear Creek country is flourishing—plenty of work and lively times. A number of new and rich leads have been struck recently and the country is being rapidly developed. He says that all the Mariposa boys are doing well. An election for county officers is to be held in July—candidates are plenty.”

“Kern County Nominations,” *Mariposa Free Press*, June 2, 1866, 2:5 (*Tulare Times*):

“The Democratic County Convention of Kern county met at Havilah, on Saturday last, for the nomination of candidates for the various County offices. We have not received the proceedings of the Convention, but learn through a private letter that they were harmonious, and resulted in the nomination of the following ticket: For Sheriff, W. B. Ross; County Clerk, H. D. Bequette; District Attorney, E. E. Calhoun; Treasurer, D. A. Sinclair; Assessor, R. B. Sageley; Surveyor, Thomas Baker; Public Administrator, nomination not given; Supervisors, H. Hamil, S. A. Bishop and J. J. Rhymes. The triumphant election of the entire ticket is a foregone conclusion, if the party vote their strength, or anything near it. The Republicans are running a ticket, but only, we presume, for the purpose of maintaining party organization and discipline.—*Tulare Times*.”

“Still they Go,” *Mariposa Free Press*, June 2, 1866, 2:5:

“Another party of tourists arrived here on Tuesday and went on their winding way to Yo Semite. There were eighteen in the party, about half of which were ladies. We believe they hail from Santa Cruz. If travel continues this year as it has commenced, there will be ten times the number of visitors that there has ever been in any year before since the discovery of the Valley.”

J. H. L. [James H. Lawrence], *Mariposa Free Press*, June 23, 1866, 2:3 (McFarlane’s Pass, June 13, 1866):

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“MCFARLANE’S PASS, June 13, 1866.

“This is dated from the Toll House on the McFarlane wagon road, about four miles near Heaven (by an easy grade) than Linn’s Valley, and about seventy from Visalia. I arrived here in

good condition, on Friday last, and concluded to make this point my 'base' for supplies while skirmishing on this side of the summit. This road has been made since I was here (in the spring of 1863), and is the route by which freight and passengers are transported from regions further North to Clear Creek. Considering the rough sort of country it traverses, it is a very excellent one—freight wagons with ten thousand pounds make the trip easily. The Toll House, kept by Frank Warren, is the stopping place for stage passengers, and although not yet completed, has very fair hotel accommodations. Good water and plenty of firewood are among the list of advantages of the location. The latter is no small item, judging from the altitude of the place, no less than from the specimens of weather for two or three days after my arrival. Dense fogs, a chilling wind, and threats of a snow storm, made a big fire and comfortable quarters desirable. But it's all over snow, and appearances indicate that winter has broken up at last.

“FROM PAHRANAGAT.

“A prospecting and exploring party returned from the Pahrana-gat district last week—Andy, Tom. [sic] and William McFarlane, John Parker, and Pierce. They left here on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April, by way of Walker's Pass. Their principal object was to hunt a route for a wagon road from this section of country Walker's Pass, by way of Death Valley, in the new district. Pahrana-gat lies about 250 miles from Walker's Pass, in a northeasterly direction, and not more than that distance from Salt Lake City, in nearly a direct line to the latter place. The district is small in extent, so far as known at present, but includes from very rich silver mines. There are some two hundred or two hundred and fifty people located there at present. Indians (Pah Utes) are troublesome—frequently coming into the town and stealing horses and cattle. A constant guard over stock is necessary. The party was attacked on the way by a delegation of three amiable children of the forest, who succeeded in killing two animals and driving off a third, leaving several *locks of hair*, amounting in the aggregate to six Pah Ute scalps, in payment therefore. Three 'Wallies' have been in the habit of whipping or bluffing off small parties of white men, but they got 'picked up' for once. What appeared to astonish them most was a Henry's rifle, which kept shooting always. It was probably their first introduction to this shooting machine.

“THE LONG TOM DISTRICT.

“The grand secret of the charm attached to new mining regions is their *distance*. Men will overlook fabulously rich places within a day's [day's] ride of them, and even right under their noses, and trusting to uncertain rumors, sacrifice all their available means, will spend months in search of wealth in New Granada, Montana, Carriboo [Caribou] or Bugi boo—no matter where, so that distance lends the enchantment of a glorious uncertainty. Now here is a place which I visited day before yesterday, returning last evening. It is situated about sixteen miles from Linn's Valley, twenty from White River, and seventy-five from Visalia. The principal vein was discovered and worked with arrastras by the McFarlane brothers in 1863. It is now owned by the Long Tom Company, and managed by the Roberts brothers. The company have erected a neat ten stamp mill, have run about seventy days, and taken out already more than enough to pay the purchase money, cost of machinery, and expenses of working. Yesterday they were cleaning up and retorting. They had just *roasted* one batch of amalgam (about 90 pounds), and had two more similar lots. It loses, ordinarily, about 60 per cent. The gold assays \$15.50 per ounce. Other parties are making money with the old arrastra process, among others, Mr. A. Mills and Mr. [Higgins?], formerly a preacher in Visalia, now a very respectable worlding. The way he 'fell from grace,' as told to me, is in this wise. He says he preached the gospel faithfully—that he 'broke himself up at it'—that he 'called upon his brethren for assistance—that they *failed to respond*—and now,' says the ex-parson, '*I am going to hell a gentleman.*'

“SUPPLEMENTAL.

“HAVILAH, 9 P. M.

“This letter was suddenly interrupted by the arrival of a vehicle which brought me to this place in good time and excellent condition. The town presents a rather lively appearance, but I shall venture no extended compliments till I have investigated more thoroughly. Several ‘familiar faces’ have greeted me already—old Mariposians, of which there seems to be an abundant sprinkling in this region.

“J. H. L.”

[Check column numbers. They may be 4 and 5.]

J. H. L. [James H. Lawrence,] “Editorial Correspondence,” *Mariposa Free Press*, June 30, 1866, 2:5-6 (Havilah, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1866):

“HAVILAH, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1866.

“THE TOWN OF HAVILAH.

“This is the principal, and in fact the only town of any note in the County of Kern. Geographically, in reference to the mining districts heretofore known at [as] the ‘Clear Creek Mines,’ its location is central, and will suit the conveniences of the inhabitants of this county as well [as], or better than[,] any other. There are at present about a dozen stores, two hotels, seven or eight saloons, two livery stables, two breweries, two barber shops, and other et ceteras common to new mining towns, ‘the world over.’ The town will probably pull about five hundred votes. For a new place, it appears to be rather peaceable than otherwise. No fights to speak of since my arrival.

“MINES AND MINING PROSPECTS IN THIS IM-  
MEDIATE VICINITY.

“I have been at some pains in investigating with reference to the mineral wealth developed or undeveloped within twenty miles of this place. A transient visitor has to depend upon the statements of interested parties, which here, as in any other mining region, must be taken with proper allowances. This fact will be conceded by any man of common sense who didn’t come to the country last year in a cart. You will hear men talk immensely of certain claims as *the best, much the best*, in this region, and then they’ll tell you of certain others that are—oh! no telling how rich—but—and then they’ll impart to you in a half confidential manner the secret of the failure of the proprietors to make a fortune. They *manage badly*—that’s what’s the matter. A great deal of this talk, retailed out to strangers, is gas. Cases of bad management do occur, but *very rich* claims in forty-nine cases out of fifty *will pay*—the owners, if not good practical quartz miners themselves, usually having a per cent[a]ge of sense—enough for instances, to dictate to them the necessity of placing their property under the management of those who understand the business.

“There are several very good mills in operation near town, running regularly and with remunerative results. Some have suspended operations for a time; among them is the mill erected by Pieper, late of Mariposa, who had a sort of sub-management, under Fred Law Olmsted. Pieper is in bad luck—or perhaps, like ‘Fred,’ his *forte* is’nt [isn’t] quartz mining. Among those which are in successful operation (so reported) are the Bigler Mill, Marsh & Kennedy’s, Davis & Clarkson’s, Colonel Rand’s, and Howe’s. To enumerate each particular vein and company would take too much space and use up all the CAPS. If one claim in a hundred proves rich and extensive this is the richest mining district in the world.

“FURTHER UP IN THE MOUNTAINS. KELSOE,  
“PIUTE AND AGUA CALIENTE.

“If any of our readers ever land in this port and take it into their heads to go up in Kelsoe Canon [Cañon], they will very likely have the curiosity to ask how far it is from Havilah. In all probability some ‘old smarty’ from ‘Mud Springs,’ or ‘Poor Man’s Creek,’ will volunteer to inform

him that it is *eight or ten miles*. It is proper to state, right here, that he's one of the biggest lairs in the State. It is eighteen big American miles, nine-tenths of the way up-hill, *very up*, in Kelsoe's, and from fifteen to sixteen coming this way. I started out for that 'neck of woods' on Monday (this is Thursday)—hired a horse—the last one the man had—the last one the man had—cautioned me about getting on him, he did—said he was quick on the start, not much for beauty, but *go*—he'd go a ways. (Right about that—I haven't thought as much about *Eternity* since the war was over as I did before reaching my destination.) But why speak ill of that horse? Judicious *timbering* saved him from caving in, he and I got back all safe, his owner is a right clever fellow, takes the FREE PRESS—pity if we can't make him as sick of the paper as I was of his horse.

“But about Kelso, for this is the name adopted by the citizens of what was formerly known as Kelsey's Cañon. They held a meeting there last week and voted in Kelsoe, and have since petitioned for the establishment of a Post Office. The place has been regularly staked off in streets and town lots. It has a hotel, blacksmith shop, store, two butcheries, and a grocery. A saw mill is in course of construction, and the machinery for two or three others is said to be on the way. A quartz mill with five stamps (Rogers & Co.,) is in operation. Several good paying veins are reported in the immediate neighborhood. Some very good placer diggings have been worked in the creek or gulch from which the place takes its name. The gold is of inferior quality, containing a large per centage of silver, and worth only about \$11 per ounce.

“THE PI UTE DISTRICT.

“This is situated about four miles from Kelsoe's, away up still higher. Close to the clouds—the region of tall timber, where the magnificent cedar, the stately pine and the symmetrical fir, clothed in perpetual verdure and their lofty heads to the cool mountain breezes—cool—for the heated term [?] under which we swelter and roast, and wish we were fishes swimming in rivers of sherry cobbles bounded [?] by banks of ice cream, is all unknown in that altitude. Something like the timbered flats skirting the heights around. Yo Semite is the Pi Ute District. But no human [damaged area] can save it from the destiny which [is ?] [damaged area] the fate of all gold bearing earth [damaged area] cool rivulet will be lapped up to slake the thirst of the engine, and those stately trees will fall a prey to the axe of the pioneer and minister to the demands of a Utilitarian age—(cause we ain't Indians.)

“This district I look upon as one of the richest in the State. I have seen the quartz, dug it out, tested it and have the results of practical experiments. The gold is there, and not all in one vein. Several of the Pi-Ute company sold out a few days siuce [since] to a party of capitalists who have paid a portion of the money in hand, and have three weeks to pay the balance. The purchase includes six or seven veins. Several of our Mariposa boys have struck some very good veins. George Lacy, Grafton, and Rains, who are all old residents of our county, have discovered three or four that prospect well, one of them (the Hope Vein), is a little richer than any I have yet seen. They had just got at work with an arastra, and were taking the world easy.) Reynolds and McEwen, at whose cabin I put up while in that neighborhood, had not yet struck it, but if perseverance and industry will tell, they'll win.

“THE RETURN TRIP.

“After procuring a verbal chart of the country from an intelligent prospector, we, (this is me and my horse), struck out for the south side of the ridge, with a design of turning the enemy's works at a point on the Los Angeles road known as Scobie's Ranch, thence making a raid on Agua Caliente, theuce [thence] returning on the road towards Havilah as far as the ranch of Williams & Wyatt. This was all accomplished, in time, *without the loss of a man*. (the enemy's loss must have been at least double that number—[see official dispatches], besides immense supplies of forage.)

But before going any further, I will here advise as follows to any one who may travel that trail: When you get on the summit, stop. [sic] (a little rest won't hurt you) climb to the top of those

rocks at the right of the trail, and take a good look at more of God's earth, (perhaps) than ever you saw at one view. Down at your feet is a valley, dotted with low and undulating hills, scattering [?] timber, and one little green oasis varying its general arid character. On either hand the timbered crest of the range you are crossing. Farther on at the right is Walker's Basin, and if the day is clear you can see the houses and other buildings of the few settlers who have located in that delightful summer retreat. Now look away over the ridges forming the lower rim of the basin. That dim blue cloud like something, vibrating between the intermediate hills and the Coast Range, is Kern Lake, and away further at the right lie the lakes Buena Vista and Tulare. This is the southwest view—now draw a bead on that gray, smoky vacuum beyond the mountains towards the rising sun—a little south if you please. That is the Mohave desert, and you needn't want to buy any of it. Directly in front is a succession of black rugged hills, the lurking places of grizzly bears, coyotes and snakes. You wont [won't] want to locate you land warrant there. But taken as a whole, the view from that summit is unsurpassed in grandeur. Let somebody describe i [it] who can. I took a long look and then drew a long breath. This was my reflection: Oh! what a 'big thing' is this world, and what a very small tumble bug is this creature, man, that's cutting up such shines on its surface.

"This is spun out so long now, that nobody will ever read it. There are many things remaining to be said about mines and mining. At Agua Caliente several parties are working with arastras, among them Tungate & Worthington, formerly of Mariposa. I stopped at 'Ham' Williams' last night, and visited the Joe Walker vein this morning. They are down 106 feet with their shaft, and have a good well defined vein, varying in thickness from three to seven or eight feet. It will pay well. It is situated in the foothills at the upper end of Walker's Basin.

"There were some sights and sounds in town on [?] [damaged section] Sunday last which might do in print [damaged section] but they must lay over till next time or be indefinitely postponed.

"In conclusion I will state that I believe this is really a very good mining county. Of course, like all other places, many will fail and a few get rich. One important feature of it, and one which will hardly be overlooked by the people of this and Tulare county, is that it must necessarily create a home market for agricultural products. Let them see to it that they improve their opportunity.

"J. H. L."

"Kern County Election," *Mariposa Free Press*, June 30, 1866, 3:1:

"An election for officers of the new county of Kern will take place one week from next Thursday. [sic] the 12<sup>th</sup> of July. The Democracy have got a good ticket in the field and have every prospect of success of they only are *up and* doing and work with a will. To the honor of their sprightly young county, for the respect they owe to themselves and for the general good of all, we hope they will use every honorable effort to achieve a glorious victory. The principal fight will be made for the office of Sheriff. The Democratic candidate for that office is W. B. Ross, formerly a resident of this county. He used to live on the Chowchilla, near Brown's Ranch, and was universally respected as an honest upright citizen. He is well fitted for the office and will make a first rate Sheriff."

J. H. L. [James H. Lawrence], "Editorial Correspondence," *Mariposa Weekly Free Press*, July 7, 1866, 2:2 (Keysville, June 25, 1866):

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"KEYSVILLE, June 25, 1866.

"KEYSVILLE AND KERNVILLE.

“The numerous discoveries which have been made in the region around and about Havilah, have not only had the effect of introducing capital and systematic labor into that immediate neighborhood, but their influence has been felt in the districts above named. Keysville, formerly the only town on or near Kern River, had about dried about—the remnants of a few old shanties, scorched and blackened by time, standing in evidence that there was once a town. Marsh & Kennedy’s store was about the only live institution remaining. The failure of the Big Blue Lead near Kernville, had a sort of earthquake influence on this place—swallowed it up—obliterated it to some extent. Times have changed within a few months; men are at work in earnest, and things look alive once more. The Mammoth Lead, just above Keysville, has been purchased by Messrs. Baldwin, Sanborn and Roberts, who are erecting a good substantial water power mill of twenty stamps, near the site of the old mill below the bridge on Kern River. The mill will be completed in about two months.

“At Kernville the Big Blue mill is in operation, under the control and ownership of Staples & Co., crushing quartz from the Sherman vein. It is said to be paying well. They employ about twenty five men.

“On the Greenhorn Mountain, the mill formerly owned by Marsh & Kennedy has been purchased by Messrs. Eldridge & White, together with several veins in the neighborhood. They are pushing along their work rapidly, and their property is considered, by those who are posted, as valuable.

#### THE HOT SPRINGS.

“On the south side of Kern River, about two and a half miles from Keysville, lies the ‘Hot Spring Valley.’ This place is but little known beyond the limits of this county. Eventually it will attract attention and become a famous place of resort. But little has been done in the way of improvement—a rough wood structure containing a dining room, bar, and wholesale sleeping apartment, being the only arrangements, as yet, for the accomodation [accommodation] of visitors. The proprietors either lack the means or disposition to make any more expensive improvements, so they have rented it to Harry Chapman, who is doing the best he can with the means at hand. The water, which comes boiling and steaming up from God knows what place, is nearly hot enough to scald, smells of sulphur and things, tastes of iron and other minerals, and undoubtedly possesses wonderful curative properties. Some fifteen or twenty invalids have been here during the present season—some crippled up with rheumatism, some saturated with mercurial medicine, some ‘chock full of Alkali,’ and one afflicted with paralysis. Most of them have gone away *cured*. *This is so*, and the present lessee of the place is willing to guarantee a cure in most cases or no pay. I took several baths by way of a preventative against snake bites, &c., and for experimental purposes. One itinerant newspaper man who preceded me on this route, tried it on and fainted twice. His system was full of mercury [mercury], alkali and Radical abolitionism. Trying to sweat out al’ [all] these poisons at once was too much for him. It has no such effect on a healthy man. Harry has given me a bottle of the wate [water] for analytical experiments. It will be submitted to a practical chemist and the result will appear.

“Next hot thing in the springs is the weather, which even up here in the mountains is terrific. At McFarlane’s. [sic] where I am at present writing, and where about two weeks ago we had to pile on *more* wood, even in this cool locality i’ts [it’s] some hot. Suffering humanity! won’t it give me a ‘solitary horseman,’ h—l, (so to speak,) down about Visalia?

H. H. L.”

J. H. L. [James H. Lawrence], “Editorial Correspondence,” *Mariposa Free Press*, July 14, 1866, 2:2-3 (Visalia, July 7, 1866):

“VISALIA, July 7, 1866.

“You ought to see *our* horse, a blazed-faced mustang several hands high [?] and a number of years old, with an aversion for black [—?], an immense appetite for barley and hay, and a gentle and amiable disposition—that’s *him*. Then you ought to see his rider, as he came into town on Monday night, after a tedious trip over many sunburnt miles of alkali and hog-wallows and things that go to make up the sum total of what is known in general terms as ‘the plains.’ Talk about hot weather in the mountains—the thermometer does indicate a pretty high old temperature, but to get regularly roasted, stewed and suffocated, just ‘stay in this wilderness a few days.’ It comes near being an elementary course preparatory for a h—ereafter than anything I ever experienced. Nearly everybody wilts under it —old residents not excepted. Disguising a fellow’s self as a wealthy cattle man wont [won’t] save him, neither will an unlimited amount of iced drinks more than partially alleviate poor suffering humanity. To day brings us the second little puff of wind we have had since my arrival, just enough breathing time to admit of a few notes about matters and things in general:

“THE FOURTH OF JULY.

“The dust and smoke and f[—], consequent upon a proper tribute of respect to the memory of our forefathers, have blown over, the fatigue and third of ‘the day we celebrate’ are blended with recollections of whisky and ice, anvil salutes, brass bands, fire crackers and the gay and festive dance.

“One of the best features of the celebration here, and one deserving of commendation, was the fact that there were no party lines drawn. Without discussing the question of who has been to blame for the narrow-minded sectionalism which for several years past has pervaded the atmosphere of this region, it is cheering to notice a decided improvement in this respect. The celebration, however, though not marked by any unpleasant incident, was hardly up to what might have been expected from the ‘bills of the day,’ (see posters with names of 100 leading citizens as managers ‘and 500 others.’) The procession was of very modest proportions, and the audience at the grove few in number. There was no oration, as advertised, but in lieu thereof the speaking was divided out in small parcels, and delivered in fractional oratory currency by several speakers who were called out after the fashion of candidates at a political convention. It strikes me that’s not exactly the style for a Fourth of July celebration, but it is only justice to the several speakers to record the fact that they didn’t say any thing positively wrong or ridiculous. The band played several good old fashioned national airs, and the audience retired to their respective dinners.

“The afternoon exercises consisted principally of a burl[e]sque performance by a party of men and boys mounted on mustangs, mules and jackasses, decorated with American flags, and variously masked and disguised—some as Negroes, some as Chinese, Indians, Harlequins etc[.] As the masquerade precludes the possibility of any covert disloyalty in the exhibition, it is fair to presume that they were only in fu[n]. Or is it possible that this little byplay means something? Then might not the allegory be interpreted in this way? The donkeys represent the poor, suffering, patient, tax-burned people. Look at their riders, Lord! What a load they have to [-]jack! Clowns, j-e]sters, court-fools, and jugglers. Those much be our Radical Congressmen. Chinese and Niggers too? Emblematical of Emancipation and Civil Rights. See how the [they] poke fun at the [‘]Star Spangled Banner[.’] Look at that fellow spurring his poor donkey. He refuses to cross the bridge. Is that the river Styx, and are the shades of departed patriots threatening them fro the unseen shore? The elements too are taking part in the play. A light shower of rain—the Goddess of Liberty shedding tears over the folly of her degenerate sons. The curtain falls, [sic].

“[—] which [—] on the same evening was a pleasant affair, and numerously attended. Music good—supper not any to speak of for the Fourth; that is, for those who doat [?] on suppers. It was one of the sort we used occasionally to get in Mariposa in times past, and which finally got

the name of a 'horse Ball'—all the same as stand up and eat. Complimentary notices of such things are but relics of a barbarous age of journalism. Speak of them as they are; 'nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice,' is the best motto. These sickly, stereotyped, indiscriminate compliments are too common.

"MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

"A new fashioned bug has introduced itself to the notice of wheat raisers in this county lately, and from the way it has started in, is likely to do a great deal of mischief. It's [Its] method is to bore a hole into a kernel of wheat whil[e] it is in the milk, and then eat out the inside, the outside looking fair as ever. When the grain is threshed, it is found to be usually chaff, and the unfortunate farmer gets about one bushel where he reasonably expected four. Two cases of this kind have occurred within a few miles of this place, and there may be others as very little threshing has been done as yet.

"A serious accident occurred on the night of the 4<sup>th</sup>. Ben Mitchell, of Havilah, walked out on the balcony of the hotel while asleep, and fell to the ground from a height of fifteen feet, breaking his leg and bruizing [bruising] himself . . . Ben is highly esteemed by everybody, and has the sympathy of all who know him, and as much care and attention as is possible under the circumstance.

"A new line of stages starts for Owen's River to day, under the proprietorship of A. O. Thoms.

"Hotels and saloons are doing a thriving business here just now, and money is plenty with everybody.

"Bonney [?], the Pacific Coast Directory man, is around [?], gathering items and statistics. He leaves for Clear Creek on Monday. I don't know the exact day nor hour that will take me home. Tell my anxious friends to keep their respective nether garments on and not fret. Excitement, mental or physical, should be avoided during the summer months.

"J. H. L."

"Staging," *Mariposa Free Press*, July 14, 1866, 2:4:

"Now is the time for people to travel who desire to get along cheap. The fare from Mariposa to Stockton has been reduced from ten dollars to three, and the time from forty-eight hours to less than twenty-four. The people along the route owe a lasting debt of gratitude to Ellison for putting on a line in opposition to the Fisher monopoly, and ought to pray for its successful continuance. Fisher may have more long winded Elbowers [?] and stikers [?] in this town than than his opponent, but we notice that he does not get in here wi[t]h his old cart *much* ahead of the mail line. Old [?] 'Coon' threw the whip upon those mustangs very prettily Wednesday morning. [sic] and reached the Post Office slightly ahead of Fisher's fancy stock. For the benefit of the public we hope that Ellison will not be bullied, coaxed or bought off."

"Hurrah For Our Side!," *Mariposa Free Press*, July 21, 1866, 2:4:

"KERN COUNTY ELECTION.

"We have just received a note from Havilah, under date of July 16<sup>th</sup>, which conveys the gratifying intelligence that the DEMOCRATS made a clean sweep of everything at the election on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst.

"The majority so far as heard from, at that date was 193.

"The Repubs. had all gone to the *Hot Springs* to change their socks and take a bath prior to their departure for the head waters of Salt River."

XX, "Kern County Correspondence," *Mariposa Free Press*, July 28, 1866, 3:1 (Kelsoe, Kern County, July 15<sup>th</sup>):

"From a letter dated Kelsoe, Kern County, July 15<sup>th</sup>, we make the following extracts:

"THE ELECTION.

" 'The election for County officers was held on Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> inst., and resulted in the election of every man on the Democratic ticket. All the precincts are heard from except Fort Tejon and Kern River Island. The majority for our ticket, as far as heard from is one hundred and sixty-five, and the other two precincts will probably swell it to two hundred. Tehatchape cast forty-five votes—all Democratic except two; Kelsoe gave five Democratic majority; Havilah forty-three, (Havilah is the place where the Repubs. were going to get thirty majority)—in this place they put their majority at six, but we cleaned [cleared?] them. The election passed off very quietly all over the county—no disturbance of any kind. This is glory enough for one day. It is the first time I have ever voted a ticket that elected all the men on it. I suppose the fact that *men are not so cheap* as they are in your county, may have something to do with the result.

"MINES AND MINING.

"The Atchinson Company have made the purchase of the ledges they bargained for from the Pi Ute Company, and they are now hauling quartz to Rogers' mill in this place. They are down on the ledge thirty or forty feet, and the rock looks very well. Munkton, Sprague & Co. I understand, have made a sale of their ledges to a New York Company. The Hope Vein holds out as usual and s [is] getting wider. The boys cleaned up, after grinding twenty-five hundred pounds of rock, and got nineteen and three quarters ounces of gold. They expect to do better than that, the next clean up. They are in good spirits, and are going to put up another arastra.

"THE FREE PRESS.

"Your new subscribers here receive their paper from you regularly, and are well pleased with it. You must not forget this portion of the country, and I will try and keep you posted.'

"XX."

"[The writer gives some personal news intended for our private perusal—makes numerous inquiries not of any interest to the general reader, and speaks favorably of the *health* of himself and friends—says he is '*improving*.' Whew—w!—how fat he will get to be, if the beans, bacon and flapjacks hold out. It just does a man good to see him eat."

"Weekly Courier," *Mariposa Free Press*, August 25, 1866, 2:1:

"This is the title of a paper the first number of which was issued at Havilah, Kern County, on Saturday last. It is well filled with readable editorial matter, present a fair appearance typographically, and if a liberal spirit is shown by the people of the county it will prosper."

"Ellison's Stages," *Mariposa Free Press*, August 25, 1866, 2:5:

"It will be an item of some interest to the public to learn that Ellison's Stage Line is still a living institution, and that it will hereafter run through to Mariposa. An arrangement has been made with Fennessy & Davis, by which their stages from Knight's Ferry and La Grange will connect with Ellison's at Hornitos. Last Tuesday they made their first trip, arriving with the Stockton mail of that morning a little before mid-night—the first time within the memory of man that ever a mail was brought by a stage through in a day from Stockton.—Passengers down can go by the usual route, changing stages at Hornitos, or by Knight's Ferry. The fare to Stockton is five dollars and to Hornitos two dollars. The proprietors of this line have fixed the price at about what they think is a living rate. They have one of the easiest running wagons on the end of the route we ever saw, and are getting a good share of the traveling patronage."

“Accident,” *Mariposa Free Press*, August 25, 1866, 3:1:

“The *Visalia Delta* of the 16<sup>th</sup>, says: ‘As a teamster, named Gray, was hauling a load down the Greenhorn Mountain, over a very rough road, his brake gave way and precipitated team, driver and load down a mountain side some two hundred feet, killing two horses, mashing the wagon to smithereens and breaking the driver’s arm.’”

“Fresno County Buildings,” *Mariposa Free Press*, August 25, 1866, 3:1:

“Mr. C. P. Converse, the contractor for the building of the Court House and Jail in Fresno county, passed through Hornitos last Saturday for the purpose of employing additional workmen. The granite has been already quarried—most of the material is on the ground, and it is expected that the building will be completed about Christmas.”