

# Lake County Examiner

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## THE MODOC LYNCHERS!

### The Grand Jury Said to be in Sympathy With the Mad Law-breakers.

#### Officers Determined to Do Their Duty if Lips That Could Tell Can be Unsealed.

#### EDITORIAL OPINIONS ON THE LYNCHING.

#### Frightful Killing of Guy Williams, Said to be Accidental, ---Told His Betrothed He Would be Killed.

Special to Lake County Examiner.

ALTURAS, CAL., June 11—The excitement incident to the lynching of Calvin Hall and his three sons Frank, James and Martin Hall, and son-in-law Yantis, seems to be increasing instead of abating. The investigation before the grand jury of Modoc county under direction of Deputy Attorneys General Chas. N. Post and Mr. Stutervant is thorough, and they are probing to the bottom of this dastardly, gold-blooded affair. From all indications those who took part in the lynching will be ferreted out, and it is probable that evidence will be produced that will lead to wholesale arrests and convictions.

The lynching of old man Hall, from all accounts thus far obtained, was entirely unwarranted, as he was a law-abiding citizen. The only thing against him, apparently, is that in years past he consorted with a squaw and became the father of a family by her that turned out to be bad men, and included those who were hanged. Hall's only offense was that he harbored the boys, and allowed them to live with him. The mob took the three boys and Yantis out first, and after hanging them to the bridge, returned to the hotel after the old man. They took the old man out and with a rope about his neck, the other end tied to a railing, threw him over and allowed him to strangle to death.

From reliable sources it has been ascertained that Calvin Hall was not a bad man. He was a veteran of the Civil War and was a member of a Grand Army post in good standing. The Grand Post of this organization is taking hold of the matter, and money will probably be furnished to bring the perpetrators of this unwarranted killing to justice. The evidence is closing around a number of residents in the vicinity of Lookout, despite the apparent efforts of some of the members of the grand jury to "white-wash" the whole affair, and probably before many days arrests may be made.

Eugene Young, a crippled old soldier, tells a story that may lead to the arrest of the ringleaders. The old soldier does not fear the result of what his testimony may lead to—the wrath of the mob—but his memory is poor, and his story is disjointed. Young was at Hall's the day previous to the lynching and tells how a body of armed men came to the ranch, ransacked the house, overpowered Hall when he came in, and threatened to kill him then and there.

"It was about noon Thursday," said Young, "the day previous to the lynching that I saw four men drive up to Hall's house. I was in the garden, and seeing the men heavily armed, I avoided them. I thought they were desperadoes. I went around to lock the

door of the house, but found some of the men inside ransacking the place, so I returned to the garden. I was joined soon after by Isaac Eades, who said he was looking for stray horses. Old man Hall came to the house in about an hour and went inside. Soon after we heard loud talking. Eades told me the men were looking for the hide of a calf that had been stolen, presumably by Hall's sons. We heard Hall say: 'For God's sake, men, is that the way to treat me? To take my life without giving me a chance?' They answered something I didn't catch, and then I heard Hall say, 'Well, I want some kind of papers to show for this.' They talked awhile longer and then all came out, and they took Hall away in a buggy.

"While the racket was going on in the house I said to Eades: 'I hope they are not going to hang the old man.' He replied that Hall's sons were great thieves and that some of them were likely to be lynched.

"I know two of the men who threatened to kill Hall and I think I could recognize the others. The two I know are J. W. Brown, the constable, and Robert Leventon."

Eades, who heard the threat to kill Hall, is a friend of Leventon and will not talk. He is as mum as all the other Lookout men now here.

Robert Leventon, if he was not actually the ringleader of the mob, is probably the man who is constantly conspired by the Lookout crowd suspected of complicity in the crime. His lips are sealed on the advice of the attorney, John Raker, who is admitted to be acting on behalf of the lynchers. Leventon is a blacksmith at Lookout. One of the Lookout men, speaking of the killing of Hall and others, said today: "The fact is the people were driven into that lynching. They had the Halls in custody. The half-breeds made threats and the women of the whole neighborhood were terrorized. It was feared that if the thieves were released they would at once burn the houses or murder the men who had caused their arrest. In that sense the lynching was a case of self-defense. They dared not turn the Halls loose."

There is evidence forthcoming that several members of the grand jury, if not a majority of them, are in sympathy with the lynchers. By their questions put to witnesses they reveal a leaning toward the exculpation of everybody suspected. The lips of the leading witnesses will not be unsealed, despite the searching questions of Deputy Attorney General Post.

The 13 year-old boy lynched was not the son of Calvin Hall, as heretofore stated, but was the offspring of Hall's squaw, by an Indian named Wilson, whom she consorted with after leaving Hall. It is hard to find a man now who will dispute that Calvin Hall was anything but an upright citizen. The apparent determination of Judge T. W. Harrington of Modoc, to probe the lynching to the bottom has worked a great change in the aspect.

Judge Harrington was very impassioned in his remarks to the grand jury. He declared that the good name of Modoc county had been stained, and that the jury, if it had any regard for the dignity of the state or the welfare of their county, "must do their duty as they had never done it before." Judge Harrington continued in a most earnest manner, raising his voice to a shout and waving his arms about. He declared that the lynching of Hall and the four others without giving them a trial was good proof that the lawbreakers had no evidence upon which to convict the victims of petty stealing. "It has not been shown," continued the Court, "that the laws are not enforced in Modoc county. It has gone broadcast over the world that this is a county of lawbreakers and a paradise for mobbers. You must

search into this affair and point out the guilty parties. The law will do the rest, and I shall not discharge you until I am thoroughly satisfied that you have done your full duty."

The lynchers and their friends are well organized. John E. Raker, the attorney tacitly admitted that he was retained by the lynchers or their friends. He declared in court that he would not permit an indiscriminate charge of lynching to lie against a whole neighborhood. "A whole community has been called here," said Raker, "and it looks like an attempt to cinch some persons, guilty or innocent, for the sake of revenge or the reward that is offered. I demand that the charges, if there are any, be made against specified persons. I also demand to know who the witnesses are."

Judge Harrington was very ill at ease during Raker's talk. He finally came out of his embarrassment and ordered Raker to sit down. Raker at first refused to do so, but finally did, muttering under his breath.

The Chronicle correspondent says that an old quarrel between Judge Harrington and Raker is said to account for the bitterness shown. Raker charges Judge Harrington with burning a public document in the courtroom and sending him to jail for contempt. It is said that since this morning's episode both men are looking for trouble and carrying weapons against a possible encounter.

The people of Modoc are not unacquainted with bloodshed, and it remains to be seen whether their sense of public duty is strong enough to follow up and punish the Calvin Hall lynchers. The general sentiment in Alturas is in favor of punishing somebody, but the people believe, at the same time, that the Grand Jury's investigation will be fruitless. They do not believe that anybody from the Lookout neighborhood will have the courage to name the lynchers, though there is no doubt that some of the lynchers could be pointed out in the crowd that hangs about the court house. Every man in Lookout, Gouger's Neck and the vicinity, with the exception of five has been subpoenaed and is in Alturas awaiting examination.

The facts of the lynching given in The Examiner last week were substantially correct.

Special to Lake County Examiner.

#### Still Another Modoc Tragedy.

ALTURAS, CAL., June 11—Modoc county was again thrown into a fever of excitement last Saturday morning by the killing of Guy Williams, the 23 year old son of a well-to-do sheep owner, by Capt. John Jones. The shooting was accidental. Capt. Jones went to the Williams ranch armed with a rifle. He told Mrs. Williams that Wesley Johnson a neighbor had beaten him the night previously, but that he was now armed for Johnson. Mrs. Williams inquired if the rifle was loaded and Jones answered her in the affirmative, and raised the rifle to show her, when the weapon was discharged. Guy Williams was seated at the breakfast table, and opposite him sat a young lady. The bullet passed through her hair, and struck young Williams in the forehead, crashing through his brain. The young lady was in a reclining position, with her head resting upon her hand. Had she been sitting upright the bullet would have killed her. The shooting occurred at Cedarville Pass, about 12 miles from Alturas, on the road between the county seat and Cedarville.

Young Williams had a premonition of death. He was to marry Miss Maude Cantrell in a few weeks, and early in the morning previous to the shooting left her at her home after a dance. When they parted at her home, Williams said: "Good bye, Maude; I never expect to see you again; I fear I am going to be killed."

The Coroner's jury brought in a verdict that Williams' death was caused by Jones, but no mention is made in the verdict that it was accidental. Some people suspect that Jones is insane. He has lived for years like a hermit in a little cabin near the Williams ranch.

The funeral of young Williams occurred on Monday in Alturas, and was largely attended. Williams was quite a favorite. Miss Maude Cantrell, the young lady to whom he was betrothed, and to whom he asserted on the morning of the shooting that she would never see him alive again, was chief mourner at the grave. Her grief was pitiable. She fainted time and again during the ceremony. Just three hours after he bade her good bye, and told her he thought he would be killed, he was dead.

#### Wholesale Murder.

Redding Searchlight: The most shocking crime that could shame a community pretending to civilization was the lynching of five men, among them a father and his three sons, reported from Modoc county in Friday morning's Searchlight.

Granting that the men were stock thieves, the amount of their thefts measured in money was not more than a few hundred dollars. Men in places of honor and trust, and in Modoc county too, have stolen as many thousands, and yet the crimes were not expiated by death at the hands of mobs.

It is safe to say that among those Lookout murderers were men themselves as guilty of stock thievery as any one of their victims. But the mob numbered ten to one, and were not the victims already cornered and unarmed? It is only such considerations as these that would impel a mob to perpetrate murder in revenge for theft.

The men who composed the Modoc mob will go unpunished of course. But should they receive their least deserts each would spend his life in prison.

Special to Lake County Examiner.

#### State's Character Stained.

Record Union:—It is said that one of the victims of mob passion, one of the parties murdered by the lynchers in Modoc county the other day, was an Indian boy, and that in consequence the Indians of that section are very much aroused, though that they will attempt to retaliate upon the whites is not believed. So, then even the rude red man of the Modoc hills is outraged by the crime that has stained the character of the state. Even his untutored mind perceives that it was cowardly and brutal to refuse so much as a lynch court hearing to the Indian lad numbered among the victims. It is very true that the Indians themselves sometimes take their own offenders in hand and send them speedily to their accounting. But we believe that there is no case on record in tribal history of their failure to give an accused person some kind of a hearing, according to tribal custom, which to them has all the dignity and value of a court of justice under civilization.

#### A Disgrace to California.

Willows Journal:—Any community may upon the occasion of some horrible or fiendish or brutal crime, become incensed and outraged to such a degree that excited citizens may have some excuse for putting mob law into practice. Again, a community may be harrowed to such an extent by petty crimes that a coat of tar or notice to vacate would be excused. But in the year of our Lord, 1901, in the commonwealth of California to think there could be collected a mob so cowardly and degraded as to hang five members of the human family for offenses no greater than those laid at the door of old man Hall, his three sons and one son-in-law in Modoc county, is enough to bring a blush of shame to every citizen of this State and if that gang does not meet with retributive justice at the hands of man, they surely will at the hands of God. It is about the worst case of cold-blooded murder that disgraces the State's record.

#### A Slap at Southern Oregon.

The Attorney General and others have gone up into Modoc county, to hunt up the parties guilty of lynching five men in Modoc county on a charge of petty stealing, one an old man of 72, and his two boys of 19 and 13, with another older son and a son-in-law. It is hoped that the leaders may be secured to in-

duce another hanging, as this lynching is an outrage and disgrace to California. It is also suspected that the officials were in league with the lynchers. The old gentleman hanged is said to have been a man of considerable influence, and that prejudice had a good deal to do with his execution. If any reliance can be placed in reports from the stock ranges, probably a number of the men engaged in the lynching have stolen and branded stock not their own, a game practiced to a great extent throughout all Northern California and Southern Oregon.—Yreka Journal.

#### Government in Reality.

Oregonian:—Five men in Modoc County, Cal., were lynched by a mob which had been worked up to fury by depredations of thieves, and which believed the victims were the culprits. If the victims were not guilty, the cure is effective, because the thieves who escaped will not dare to keep up their work. If the murdered men were guilty, they will probably steal no more, at least in this life. The mob numbered many determined persons who took the powers of government into their own hands and became in reality the government. We are prone to sublimate government into an abstraction, and such episodes are useful to keep in our minds the true basis of government.

#### Away Down in The Scale.

Redding Free Press: Modoc county has all at once become notorious—not as a law-abiding community—but on the contrary, as a murderous community. The wholesale lynching of men for the commission of crimes not capital places it away down the scale of civilization. If they had gone a little further and burned their victims at the stake, our fair California might have taken rank with Georgia with its dark tragedies.

Special to Lake County Examiner.

#### Buffalo, N. Y. June 11—Fifteen hundred editors arrived here last night and now have charge of the Pan-American Exposition. A big time is expected. The crowds get larger each day. The grounds are nearly completed.

## WOOL MARKET.

### Opened Up Lively During the Week and 2,000 Bags Sold.

As predicted in our last issue the wool market opened brisk on Thursday, and since then over 2000 bags have been sold. F. M. Miller, for Thos. Dennigan & sons, bought nearly 1000; J. F. Morse with Bailey & Massingill, buying for Hardin & Cavely of Boston, purchased nearly 1200 bags, Mr. Morse opening the market at 10 cents; J. Frankl, for J. Koshland & Co., of Boston, also made some purchases. As near as can be ascertained to date the following clips were sold: S. B. Chandler, 1900 and 1901, 635 bags; Scott & Adams, Cedarville, 375; Tonningsen Bros., 140; M. P. Barry, 50; J. Schellhammer, 23; McElhinney & Dent 75; W. C. Dent 90; I. F. Davies 75; Mrs. Blair & J. Snyder 50; Dan Malloy & Maupin 76; J. M. Reid 60; J. H. Leehman, 126; Reid Bros., 49; Fosket Bros., 50; Colvin & McLaughlin, 13; Radcliffe, 40; and various other lots amounting to about 300 bags. There is considerable more than the above amount of wool still unsold, which no doubt will also bring a good figure.

The highest price paid was 10½¢, and the lowest 10 cents.

#### Returned From Portland.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Duke returned from Portland last Saturday night after an absence of twenty-five days, during which time Mrs. Duke was in a hospital and underwent an operation for removal of a cancer from the right breast. The operation was entirely successful, and Mrs. Duke returns home much improved in health, and with the promise that the growth has been completely removed. While in Portland Frank met numerous old acquaintances who formerly lived in Lakeview, and he was treated royally by them during his stay. He also met many people who made close inquiry about Lake county, and several who had about concluded to come out here to find homes.