

Lynchings at Lewiston 1862

From the Golden Age of the 9th inst we learn that three highway robbers...Nelson Scott, David English and William Peoples, were hung by an armed crowd at Lewiston on the evening of the 8th instant. These victims of crime had robbed two gentlemen by the name of Berry on the road from Florence to Lewiston of the sum of \$1,200 in gold dust. They were overtaken at Walla Walla and carried back to Lewiston. An organization has been made to improvise a court to try them by an impartial jury of the citizens but before even such a tribunal could mete out to them informal justice an armed force overpowered the guard, seized the prisoners and hung them. Scott leaves a wife and family in or near Siskiyou County, Calif., English a wife and family in or near Corvallis. Peoples was notorious in California...

--Overland Press (Olympia) Nov. 24, 1862

Cherokee Bob Killed

On the evening of the 1st of January there was a public ball at Florence, Salmon River mines. At this party a woman of improper character intruded herself and was ejected by J.D. Williams, widely and favorably known as "Jakey" Williams, and O. Robbins. This woman was under the protection of Henry Tolbert, sometimes called "Cherokee Bob", who had an intimate named William Willoughby. These two men determined to revenge the slight put on the woman and spent the second day of January in hunting for a fight with Williams and Robbins. During the day a collision took place between Robbins and Tolbert, which came near having a bloody termination. It was only prevented by the interference of Mr. Keenan, the deputy sheriff of Idaho. At night the parties met in front of the Bank Exchange saloon and Tolbert and Willoughby opened fire on Williams and Robbins. Willoughby was slain by 14 pistol shots and died on the spot. Tolbert received five shots in his body and died on the 5th instant. Thus closed the earthly career of one of the most murderously desperate men that has ever figured on the coast--Henry Tolbert. The friends of Mr. Williams and Mr. Robbins will hear with pleasure that they were acquitted of all blame in the matter.

--Oregonian in Overland Press (Olympia)
Jan. 26, 1863

Rustling near Walla Walla

A number of horses have lately mysteriously disappeared from this vicinity in the same manner that so many went off last season...

-- Walla Walla Statesman, April 11, 1863

Our Wallula correspondent writes --

...Quite a lot of cattle have recently very suddenly quit their usual haunts near Wallula...

--Statesman, April 14, 1865

(Statesman for April 21 reports that the vigilante committee caught up with some horse thieves and that "four are positively known to have been hung." One was found "hung to a limb near the race track." Two were also hanged near the Walla Walla river. One of the ~~the~~ alleged thieves had been "returning to and departing from his hotel at all hours of the night, leg^egined and spur^eried as if he had been riding...the occasion of his frequent and unseasonable ~~riding~~ rides seems now to be fully explained..."

The fourth man hung was a Negro "Slim Jim" hung to a tree east of town.)

Boon Helm 1863

Boon Helm, for some time past one of the distinguished guests of the Hotel de Block-house, left about noon~~x~~ one day last week for parts unknown.

--Overland Press (Olympia) April 6, 1863

Arrest of Boon Helm--This notorious individual who escaped from custody a few ~~dx~~ weeks ago was re-captured last week at Yale, B. C., and brought over to this place by the Eliza Anderson on Saturday.

--Overland Press (Olympia) May 4, 1863

Capture of Magruder Murderers

We notice by our Portland exchanges that the four men implicated in the murder of Lloyd Magruder and Charles Allen in the woods some 200 miles from Lewiston have been arrested in San Francisco. Sheriff Beechy of Idaho territory followed the murderers to San Francisco, where he obtained an executive warrant from Govt. Stanford and will return them by the next steamer for the north.

--Overland Press (Olympia) Nov. 16, 1863

Magruder Murderers in Lewiston

The Walla Walla Statesman learns from a private letter that there was great excitement on the arrival of the prisoners at Lewiston, but that no fears were entertained of an outbreak. The letters says Mr. Beachy was received with three cheers by the citizens of the place and that he has the prisoners under guard at the Luna house. Persons just down from Lewiston contradict the statement, saying the prisoners were taken to Ft. Lapwai.

--Overland Press (Olympia) Dec. 14, 1863

Montana Vigilantes

Great Salt Lake, Feb. 5-- Last evening the Bannock express arrived in 13 days from Virginia city and from the Vadette were learn the following in regard to the doings of the Vigilance committee in that region in ridding the country of the band of outlaws who have so long infested it.

The committee is composed of upwards of 1,000 persons exercising jurisdiction over the whole range embracing Virginia, Bannock, Nevada City and the surrounding region.

George Iveams at Nevada City, Stinking Water diggings--1

At Bannock City--Henry Plummer, sheriff; Ned Ray, an escaped convict from Salt Lake penitentiary; Buck Stinson; John Wagner, alias Dutch John; and Spanish Frank-- 5

At Stinking Water--Reed & Brown--22.

At Virginia City--Jack Gallagher, George Lane alias Clubfoot, Haze Lyons, Boon Helm and Frank Parish--5. In all 13.

--Overland Press (Olympia) Feb. 22, 1864

"Gentlemen" of 1865

It is not considered "gentlemanly" in Boise any longer for gentlemen to go to dancing parties with six-shooters and bowie knives on the belts. Derringers are however allowed to the high-toned.

--Daily Mountaineer, Jan. 17, 1866

"Hank" Vaughn pardoned

We learn from a Salem paper that Gov. Woods has pardoned Henry C. Vaughn out of the penitentiary on a petition signed by 800 of the citizens of the state, living in Wasco, Umatilla, Union, Baker, Grant, Lane, Linn, Benton, Marion, Polk, Yamhill and Multnomah counties. Vaughn was sent to the penitentiary for life from Baker county for killing Frank Mattock, sheriff of Umatilla county...

—Mountaineer, March 1, 1870

"Mob Law"

The Indian who attempted to violate the person of a young wife in Kittitas valley, Yakima county, a few months ago was arrested last week and conducted to Yakima City. Owing to the fact that the law is unfortunately too lenient with such cases the ditizens of that county came very near giving him the fatal punishment the extremely cruel brute deserved.

-- Tacoma Herald, Sept. 6, 1878

Selah, Sept. 3

There were 2 Indians arrested and put in jail at Yakima City on the 28th 29th of August. A mob went and took one of them out and we don't know what the result was -- but hope there is one good redskin.

YOUNG AMERICA

MM

-- Tacoma Herald, Sept. 27, 1878

"Mob Law"

(Resolution from public meeting in September 20 Herald)...

On last Saturday, Aug. 31, during the sojourn of those 2 gentlemen (Col. Roberts, chief engineer of the NP and Col S.G. Whipple of Gen. Howard's staff) a large and enthusiastic meeting of our citizens assembled at the courtroom for the purpose of giving an expression of the people respecting our wants and necessities in the way of protection against Indian hostilities, &c. Speeches were made and resolutions were passed -- copies of which have been sent you-- clearly setting forth the importance and necessity of establishing a military post in our midst. Col. Whipple being present and being invited to the floor said that "it is the intention of Gen. Howard that this locality be provided with every protection."

He also said he would use his influence for a military post to be established here. "

He also advised our people to be governed by the strict rules of law and order in all their actions (The Mob Law party was on exhibition the night of the colonel's arrival here). Their exhibition, however, was in the dark of the night so that few persons were able to see the performance. They went to the city jail, broke in and took out an Indian that the sheriff had in custody for breaking into Barker's store, and the Indian has not been seen since. It is thought that he escaped.

This community has been cursed by mob-law for several years.

AHTANUM

-- Tacoma Herald, Sept. 27, 1878

Hank Vaughn Duel ~~188x~~

(from The Dalles Times Jan. 4, 1882)

Mr. J.H. Ward, who was in a livery stable across the street at the time of the occurrence, gave us the following version:

Vaughn and Long had quarrelled in the morning over a game of cards. About 4 o'clock in the afternoon they met in T.I. Glaze's saloon and Vaughn approaching the counter said, "Gentlemen, I wish you to drink with me as a gentleman." At this several walked up ~~the~~ to the counter and among the rest Charlie Long. Vaughn went up to Long and said, "Now Charlie if I'm right drink with me like a gentleman and if I'm wrong, commence shooting." At this they grabbed left hands and emptied revolvers at each other, Long taking the first shot, which was the glancing scalp wound Vaughn received. Both were intoxicated at the time and the ranging of the ~~hark~~ balls at such quarters would give evidence that they moved around considerably and fired unsteadily. Vaughn fired 5 shots and hit Long 4 times. Long shot 4 times. Both had self-cocking pistols. During the shooting there were only two men in the room beside the combatants--one of them hidden behind a screen, and the other dead drunk and lying on the floor between two barrels.

After the shooting Vaughn came out and told the crowd it was a hard fight and then walked up to Graham's saloon, said he was a dead man and invited the men to take a drink with him, after which he was taken home in a buggy.

Our informant says Long is getting along nicely but will lose the use of his left arm, as that shoulder is terribly shattered. Dr. Baldwin has called to see Vaughn and after probing for the ball came to the conclusion that it had ranged upward and lodged in the body but not in any vital point. He thinks with care Vaughn may recover.

--Illustrated Hist. of Central Oregon, Spokane, 1905

Rustling

Henry Harding, the man who some two weeks ago stole horses belonging to ~~the~~ Sheriff Marsh and James A. Davis was brought to town Tuesday evening by Messrs. Sol Warren, William Spencer and Al Phelps, who succeeded in ~~catch~~ capturing him in the Okanogan country some 20 miles this side of the British line. It is supposed that Harding was making for British territory where a band of horse thieves are encamped. He was captured while asleep and had in his possession two revolvers and a rifle...

--Palouse Gazette (Colfax) May 12, 1882

Toughs

The Asotin Sentinel is responsible for the following. The Farmer however takes no stock in it.

It is rumored that a desperate fight took place on the snake river above the Grande Ronde between several men engaged in mining there.

Our informant stated that two of the parties tied their left hands together and fought with their knives until fainting from the loss of blood and falling to the ground the fight was then continued to the death, one receiving 17 wounds and the other 13. The respective friends of the dead men then took up the quarrel, our informant who came down on the Idaho side of the river says he was informed of the circumstances by a person who saw the fight and came away in time to save himself--The Washington Farmer, Christmas Day, 1884.

Robbery--Crime
Transportation

One of the boldest robberies, perhaps that has occurred in this valley for years, was perpetrated on Sunday night last on the Cowychee. The particulars are given as follows:

On Sunday morning last Mr. Al Lillie of this city, who has a large wood and tie contract in the mountains started with a team heavily loaded with supplies for his camp. On arriving at the Cowychee the road was found to be so bad as to stop further procedure that night. Mr. Lillie went to a farm house near at hand and procured lodgings for the night. During the night his wagon was robbed of most of its contents; some \$400 worth of goods being taken in all consisting of sugar, syrup, boots, blankets and clothing. The hardware was not touched. It is to be hoped that the perpetrators of this outrage will be caught and justice meted out to them to the fullest extent.

Mr. Lillie can ill afford to meet this loss and has sympathy of the entire people.--The Washington Farmer, March 7, 1885.

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North Yakima,

Historical

..resolved that the sheriff of Yakima county be requested to appoint a suitable person as deputy sheriff to act as peace officer in the town of North Yakima....it shall be the duty of said deputy sheriff or marshall of the town of North Yakima to preserve peace and order to use all means to prevent and subdue fires to buildings, to examine all flues now in existence and hereafter to be constructed and to report to the committee all cases of danger from fires which are not remedied through his advice in the matter...

He shall exercise a supervision over all the sanitary measures adopted by this committee and approved by the citizens of this town.

He shall be required to examine all privies and offensive places and to notify the property holders whenever any nuisance is occasioned....

resolved that the compensation of said acting marshall shall be derived from subscription by the citizens of North Yakima and compensation not to exceed seventy five dollars per month...

Resolved that should the subscription fund as herein provided exceed in any one month the rate herein fixed the surplus shall be turned over to this committee to be held in trust for town purposes as may hereafter be designated..

W.J. Milroy, secretary, R.W. Mitchell, president..

The Washington Farmer, March 14, 1886.

The demonstrated necessity for a good jail has been fully demonstrated on several occasions lately. On last evening it took several half the men in town to commit one poor whisky soaked maudlin to the keeping of a box car.---The Washington Farmer, April 4, 1885.

Yakima Historical
Jail

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April 4, 1885.

Toughs

An unsuccessful attempt was made to capture Alvin V. Dimick at Gervais station on the Oregon and California railroad.

Diminick (copy) was known as a horse thief and is also accused of setting fire which almost consumed the entire town of Weston the conflagration destroying \$300,000 worth of property. He escaped and his whereabouts were unknown.

The marshal of Gervais and sixmen having discovered his hiding place attempted his arrest but were unsuccessful, he evading them and his location is at present unknown. but he is supposed to be somewhere in Marion county. It is stated that a reward of \$1,000 has been offered for his capture and conviction--The Washington Farmer, April 18, 1886.