

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Who Has the Treasure?

"More Treasure" was the headline over a story which appeared in The Californian on December 23, 1879, one week after the first article had appeared in this early Monterey newspaper.

The news story began "The 'Buried Treasure' article that appeared in the Californian last week has been the topic since of no little conversation among many of our citizens. Very few doubt the fact of the money being buried near here in the manner related, but believe if it has not already been removed, the 'land marks' have, and that only through accident will it ever again see the light of day."

The discussion of the subject brought up other reminiscences, among which is one to the effect that some three years before, (1876) four men were engaged in chopping wood on a point that extends down toward the "Willows" and at a distance of about half a mile from the place. After working about one week they suddenly and mysteriously disappeared, and up to the time the story was written for the paper not one of them had been heard from again. On investigation it was found that in taking their departure they had failed to take away their tools and the same were found where they had been busily at work as if abandoned hurriedly.

A few days subsequent a man in passing over the place found an excavation in the ground near where they had been employed at the bottom of which was a rude box hewn from slabs with the cover removed, and if it had ever contained articles of value they were then "non est".

Another story which we had heard was that Percy Dolley, the owner of a number of head of cattle, was looking on horseback, for the calf of a cow they had found. Being unable to discover the hiding place of the calf, the owner returned to his home and brought his dog back with him. Upon seeing the dog, the mother cow hurried to protect her calf where it was hidden, which appeared to be also the hiding place of this buried treasure. The strong wooden box lay beside the hole from which it had been taken, but its contents was missing.

It has ever since been surmised that these men, so the 1879 article relates, either by accident or previous information had been fortunate in unearthing a treasure buried years previously, and their sudden disappearance, coupled with the fact of a desire on their part, that their whereabouts should not become known has led to a belief that the 'find' was a large one, and the parties fearful that the rightful owner might soon deprive them of the contemplated pleasure of spending it did they remain in this section, had taken all possible steps to cover up their tracks.

Henry B. Collins, formerly curator of the Stevenson House in Monterey, and now curator of the Old Shasta Historical Monument, is accomplishing a splendid work at that Shasta County Monument. On Sunday, May 20th, a caravan of one hundred men will leave Redding at 9 a.m. accompanying an old stagecoach to Shasta, Queen City of the North, reenacting the old days of the last trip. The caravan will be in charge of Captain Nolin Glahn of the Shasta County's Sheriff's Posse. Upon arrival, the stage, which is the gift of the McCloud Parlor of the Native Sons of the Golden West, to the Shasta Historical Monument, will formally be presented by Judge Albert F. Ross.

On May 10, 1869, the Union Pacific Railroad, building west of Omaha, and the Central Pacific Railroad, building east from Sacramento, met at Promontory Point, Utah, thus completing the first continental railroad in the United States. The event was celebrated with appropriate ceremonies, including the placing at the junction of a tie, a spray of California laurel and a silver plate containing the name of officials and directors of both companies, and the driving of the golden spike by President Leland Stanford.