Mrs. H. J. Taylor Copyright 1936 by Mrs. H. J. Taylor

Table of Contents

Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor	1
About the Author	
Bibliographical Information	
Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor	5
<u>r YOSEMITEr r INDIANSr.</u>	6
r AND OTHER SKETCHESr	
<u>r BYr r MRS. H. J. TAYLORr</u>	6
Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor.	9
PREFACE	9
Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor	11
CONTENTS.	
Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor	13
ILLUSTRATIONS	13
Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor	
THE YOSEMITE INDIANS	15
Chapter 1: The Yosemite Indians.	
<u>r INDIAN VILLAGE AND CAMP SITES IN YOSEMITE VALLEYr</u>	21
Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor	26
<u>Chapter 2: James C. Lamon • 1817-1875</u>	
<u>r THE PIONEER OF YOSEMITEr</u>	
Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor	
Chapter 3: James Mason Hutchings • 1820-1902	
<u>r THE MINER'S TEN COMMANDMENTSr</u>	40
Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor	47
Chapter 4: Galen Clark • 1814-1910	
Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor	
Chapter 5: John Muir	55
Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor	
Chapter 6: Building of Coulterville Road	63
Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor	
Chapter 7: The Peregoy Register.	67
Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor.	
Chapter 8: Early Artists in Yosemite.	
<u>r THOMAS A. AYRESr</u>	
<u>r THOMAS HILLr r 1829-1908r</u>	

Table of Contents

<u>Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor</u>	
r ALBERT BIERSTADTr r 1829—1902r	76
<u>r CHRIS JORGENSENr r 1860-1935r</u>	80
<u>r WILLIAM E. KEITHr</u>	82
<u>r THOMAS MORANr r 1837-1926r</u>	82
Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor.	86
Chapter 9: Cemetery in Yosemite Valley.	86
Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor.	94
Chapter 10: Yosemite Fire Fall	94
Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor.	
About the Author	
Bibliographical Information.	100

r r r

- r • <u>Title</u>
- r
- Preface

r

• <u>Table of Contents</u>

r

• <u>Illustrations</u>

r

• The Yosemite Indians

r

• James C. Lamon

r

• James Mason Hutchings

r

• Galen Clark

r

• John Muir

r

• Building of Coulterville Road

r

• The Peregoy Register

r

• Early Artists in Yosemite

r

• <u>Cemetery in Yosemite Valley</u>

r

• <u>Yosemite Fire Fall</u>

rr r r

r r

About the Author

rrr



гггг r Rose (Schuster) Taylorr r (Mrs. H. J. Taylor).r r Seer <u>frontispiece</u>r for another photor r

r r

r r

r Rose Schuster was born on Jan. 5, 1863 in Wisconsin.r She graduated from University of Wisconsin 1885.r She married Henry James Taylor, a professor of Greek, who sher met at the University of Wisconsin.r Mrs. H. J. Taylorr taught school before her marriage and also lived in Sioux City, Iowa.r After her husband's death, she moved tor Berkeley, California, and Yosemite Valley.r She was one of the founders of the Yosemite Museum and wasr its librarian and a docent for many years.r Besides *Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches*,r Mrs. H. J. Taylor wroter <u>r *The Last Survivor*</u>r and other books and articles for ther Yosemite Natural History Association.r She received the Wisconsin Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award inr 1940.r She died Jan. 25, 1951 in Alameda Co., California.r

r r

r A scholarship in memory of Rose Schuster Taylor was established with ther Hawaii Audubon Society.r

r r

r Her son Paul Schuster Taylor was born 1895 in Sioux City, Iowa.r he was Professor of Economics at University of California Berkeleyr and a Guggenheim fellow.r He was a leader of the progressive movement and one of the fewr to protest mass incarceration of Japanese-Americans during World War II.r His papers are in the Bancroft Library, which includes the collectedr writings of Mrs. H. J. Taylor (3 volumes).r

r r

r

• r <u>r</u> "Mrs. H. J. Taylor 1863-1951," *Yosemite Nature Notes* 30(2):12-14 (February 1951) by Carl P. <u>Russellr</u> r

rr r

r

r r

Bibliographical Information

r r

r Taylor, Mrs. Henry James (Rose (Schuster) Taylor) (1863-1951),r *Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches*r (San Francisco: Johnck & Seeger, 1936),r Copyright 1936 by Mrs. H. J. Taylor.r 7+103 pp.r Illustratedr 24 cm.r Orange paper boards, orange cloth back strip, and paper labelr with black letteringr [cover image].r Bright mylar dust jacket.r 400 copies printedr (not 500, see p. <u>103</u>).r LCCN 36-036466.r Library of Congress Call Number F868.Y6 T28.r

r r r

r Digitized by Dan Anderson, December 2004,r from a copy at San Diego Public Library.r These files may be used for any non-commercial purpose,r provided this notice is left intact.r

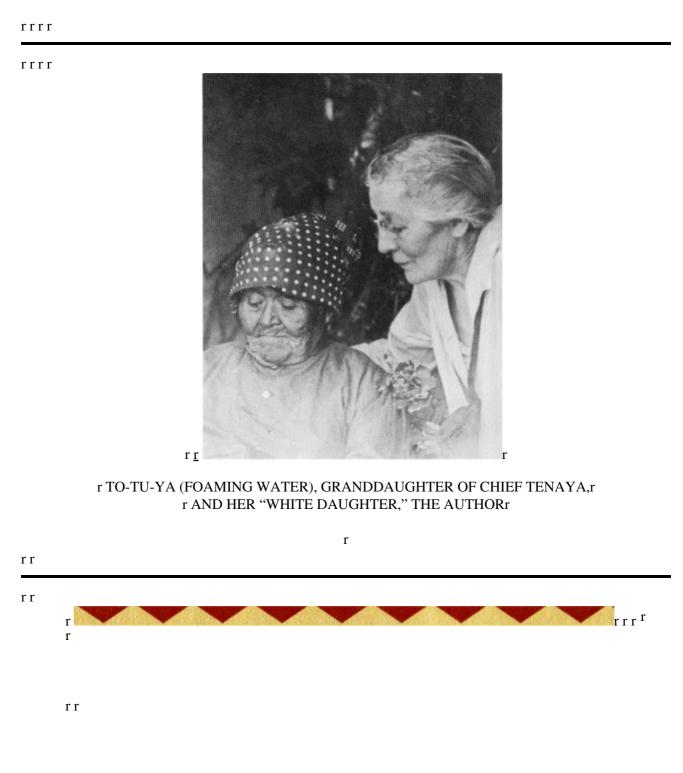
r —Dan Anderson, <u>www.yosemite.ca.us</u>r

rrrr
rrrr
r
rr
r
rr
r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/yosemite_indians_and_other_sketches/r
rrrrrrrr
r
rr
r <u>Yosemite</u> > <u>Library</u> >r <u>Yosemite Indians & Other Sketches</u> >r title page >r
rr
r

r r r

r <u>Next: Preface</u>r •r <u>Contents</u>r

r r r



r YOSEMITEr r INDIANSr

r r

r r

r r

r r

r r

r r

r r

r r

r r

r r

r AND OTHER SKETCHESr

r BYr r MRS. H. J. TAYLORr







rrr	
rr	
r Copyright 1936 Mrs. H. J. Taylorr	
rrr	
rr	_
r THIS BOOK IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATEDr r TO THE MEMORY OFr r TO-TU-YA (FOAMING WATER)r r GRANDDAUGHTER OF CHIEF TENAYAr r LAST SURVIVOR OF YOSEMITE BANDr r DRIVEN FROM AHWAHNEE IN 1851r	
rrr	
rr	
r <u>Next: Preface</u> r •r <u>Contents</u> r	
rrr	
r	
rr	
r	
r r	
r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/yosemite_indians_and_other_sketches/title.htmlr	
rrrrrrrrrr	
r	
rr	
r <u>Yosemite</u> > <u>Library</u> >r <u>Yosemite Indians & Other Sketches</u> >r Preface >r	
r r	
r	
rrr	

r Next: Table of Contentsr •r Contentsr •r Previous: Titler

r r r

rrrr

r r

PREFACE

r r r

related incidents in Yosemite'sr development. The fact that first hand information would not much longer be obtainable determined my search for it. The task proved more serious and difficult than was anticipated.r r

r r

r r The effort to find a relative of J. C. Lamon, Yosemite's first settler, r was constant through nearly three years and seemed futile whenr more than forty letters brought no results, but there came an unexpectedr and happy surprise. Returning from Europe, two peopler in their steamer chairs were discussing my persistent and futiler efforts. A gentleman who overheard the conversation said, 'I amr the nephew of J. C. Lamon and have been several times in Yosemite." r He became deeply interested in the sketch of his uncle and Ir regret that he did not live to see it in print. The Yosemite Indiansr intimately connected with the early history of the Valley have diedr since this work was begun.r r

r r

r r

r r Events are realities only to those who live them. Data in ther following sketches were received in greater part from those whor shared in these historic episodes.r r

		r The Authorr
rrrrr		
rr		
	r Next: Table of Contentsr •r Contentsr •r Previous: Titler	
rrr		
r		
rr		

Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor
r
r r
r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/yosemite_indians_and_other_sketches/preface.htmlr
rrrrrrrrrr
r
r r
r <u>Yosemite</u> > <u>Library</u> >r <u>Yosemite Indians & Other Sketches</u> >r Contents >r
rr
r
rrr
r <u>Next: Illustrations</u> r •r <u>Contents</u> r •r <u>Previous: Preface</u> r
rrr

rrrr

r r

CONTENTS

rrr

	CHAPTER 1: THE YOSEMITE INDIANS	3
	CHAPTER 2: JAMES C. LAMON	17
	CHAPTER 3: JAMES MASON HUTCHINGS	29
	CHAPTER 4: GALEN CLARK	43
	CHAPTER 5: JOHN MUIR	53
	CHAPTER 6: BUILDING OF COULTERVILLE ROAD	66
	CHAPTER 7: THE PEREGOY REGISTER	69
	CHAPTER 8: EARLY ARTISTS IN YOSEMITEr	77
	r <u>r THOMAS A. AYRES, THOMAS HILL, ALBERT</u> <u>BIERSTADT.r</u> <u>r CHRIS JORGENSEN, WILLIAM E. KEITH,</u> <u>THOMAS MORANr</u> r	
	г	
	<u>CHAPTER 9: CEMETERY IN YOSEMITE VALLEY</u>	93
	CHAPTER 10: YOSEMITE FIRE FALL	101
rrrr		101
rr		
	r <u>Next: Illustrations</u> r •r <u>Contents</u> r •r <u>Previous: Preface</u>	<u>e</u> r
rrr		
r		
r r		
r		
r r		
	r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/yosemite_indians_and_other_sket	ches/contents.htmlr

	Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor
rrrr	rrrrrrr
r	
rr	
	r <u>Yosemite</u> > <u>Library</u> >r <u>Yosemite Indians & Other Sketches</u> >r Illustrations >r
rr	
r	
rrr	
	r <u>Next: Indians</u> r •r <u>Contents</u> r •r <u>Previous: Table of Contents</u> r
rrr	

rrrr

r r

ILLUSTRATIONS

r r r

TO-TU-YA AND THE AUTHOR	Frontispiece
INDIAN O'-CHUM AND CHUCK'-AH	2
FIRST CABIN BUILT IN YOSEMITE	16
JAMES MASON HUTCHINGS	28
GALEN CLARK	42
JOHN MUIR	52
FIRST PICTURE OF YOSEMITE	76
ALBERT BIERSTADT	81
CHRIS JORGENSEN	86
THOMAS MORAN	91

r r r r

r r r <u>Next: Indians</u>r •r <u>Contents</u>r •r <u>Previous: Table of Contents</u>r r r r r r r r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/yosemite_indians_and_other_sketches/illustrations.htmlr r r r r r r r

r <u>Yosemite</u> > <u>Library</u> >r <u>Yosemite Indians & Other Sketches</u> >r Yosemite Indians >r

Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor

	Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor
rr	
r	
rrr	
	r Next: James Lamonr •r Contentsr •r Previous: Illustrationsr
rrr	

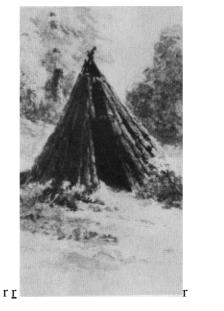
rrrr

rrrr

THE YOSEMITE INDIANS

r r

rrrrr



r Drawing by Jorgensonr

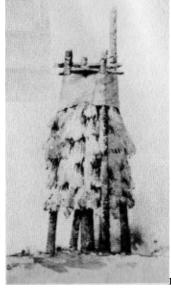
r

r AN INDIAN O'-CHUMr r *r Made of small poles coveredr*

r with cedar bark forr

r winter dwellingr r

r



rr<u>r</u>

r Drawing by Mrs. Jorgensenr

r

r AN INDIAN CHUCK'-AHr r Storehouse for nuts and acorns,r r thatched with pine branchesr r to keep out rodentsr r



Chapter 1: The Yosemite Indians

r Note:r The Yosemite Indians were one of several groups comprising ther California Miwoks which, according to A. L. Kroeber, numbered about 10,000 in 1850,r and the Yosemite group numbered about 500 when the Valley was discovered inr 1851. Early sources include L. H. Bunnell,r Discovery of the Yosemite,r 1880 andr Galen Clark,r Indians of Yosemite,r 1904.r

r r



r r r seriousr and almost hopeless situation wasr thrust upon the Indian tribes in and about Yosemiter Valley when, on the discovery of gold, miners by the thousands flocked into California. The proximityr of the Pacific Ocean made it impossible to pushr the Indian westward as had always been done, but he was conquered.r Miners staked their claims on his territory; cut his acorn-bearingr trees for fuel; hunted his game for food; destroyed his bulbousr roots in digging for gold; invaded his famliy, taking youngr Indian women, willing or not, for servants and wives. Sufferingr from loss of food and territory the Indians made raids on the whites, r taking what they could

from the trading posts; stealing horsesr from the corrals; burning houses; even murdering, then fleeing tor the mountains. A deadly hate was engendered; the Indian wouldr drive the last miner from his territory. The whites determined tor subjugate the Indians and kill all of them if necessary. In vain didr General Eastland report to Washington: "The Indians are morer sinned against than sinning."r

r r

r Military force was called into existence by the authority of ther state and the Mariposa Battalion was organized. Runners were sentr to the bands hiding in the mountains, assuring them that theyr would receive food, clothing and protection if they would treatr with the commission; if not, war would be carried on until everyr Indian was destroyed. All the Indians in the immediate vicinity,r except the Yosemites, came. Scouts reported: "The Indians in ther r r r r deep rocky valley do not wish for peace. They think the white menr cannot find their hiding place, and therefore they cannot be driven out "Another scout added: "In this deep valley one Indian canr withstand ten white men. They will throw rocks down if the whiter men come near them, for they are lawless and strong as the grizzlies.r We are afraid to go to the valley for there are witches there."r

r r

r A special messenger was sent to the Yosemites and Chief Tenayar appeared the next day. He came alone and stood in dignified silencer until motioned to enter camp. He was informed that if her would make a treaty with the commission there would be no war.r Tenaya asked the object of taking all Indians to the plains of ther Joaquin Valley, saying: "My people do not want anything from the Great Father you tell us about. The Great Spirit is our fatherr and he has supplied us with all we need. We do not want anythingr from white men. Let us remain in the mountains where we werer born, where the ashes of our fathers have been given to the winds.r I have said enough."r

r r

r He was asked: "If you and your people have all you want, whyr do you steal our horses and mules? Why do you rob and murderr the white men and burn their houses?"r

r r

r Tenaya sat silent for a time then replied: "My young men haver taken horses and mules from the whites and it was wrong for themr to do so. It is not wrong to take property from enemies who haver wronged my people.

My young men believed the white gold-diggersr were our enemies; we now know they are not, and we will ber glad to live with them in peace. We will stay here and be friends.r My people do not want to go to the plains. The tribes who go therer are some of them very bad. They will make war on my people. Wer cannot live on the plains with them. Here we can defend ourselvesr against them."r

r r

r "Your people must go to the commissioners and make termsr with them," the officer replied. "If they do not make a treaty yourr whole tribe will be destroyed—not one of them will be left alive!"r

rrrr

r "I will not lie to you but promise that if allowed to return to myr people I will bring them in," pledged Tenaya.r

r r

r It was the month of March, 1851. Through the deep snows ther chief went into his Ahwahnee*r r [*According to a statement made by Tenaya to Dr. L. H. Bunnell, the originalr name of the Valley was "Ah-wah-nee," meaning "deep grassy place." The Indiansr living there were called "Ah-wah-nee-chees." Tenaya, who claimed to be a directr descendant of their chief, said they were a powerful tribe until wars and a blackr sickness destroyed most of them. The few that were left went out of the Valley and joined other tribes, leaving the Valley uninhabited for some time. When Tenayar reached manhood, he left the Monos, where he was born and brought up, and r gathered the remnants of his father's people from other tribes, and claimed the Valleyr as his own. His band was called Yosemite, meaning "grizzly bear," because theyr were fearless and expert in killing the grizzly. When it was discovered in 1851, ther Valley was named Yosemite by Dr. L. H. Bunnell.r r [Editor's note:r For the correct origin of the words Yosemite and Ahwahnee seer r "Origin of the Word Yosemite."—dea.]r r but returned to camp the followingr day, saying his people would soon come in. Several days passedr but no Indians came. Tenaya said the snow was so deep they couldr not travel fast, and motioning with his hands explained that hisr village was far down and it would take a long time to climb outr through the snow. When no Indians appeared on the followingr day, the battalion took Tenaya as guide and started for Yosemite.r They had gone about half way when they met seventy-two Indiansr who had climbed the steep trail.r

r r

r "Your band is about two hundred. Where are the rest?" theyr were asked.r

r r

r Tenaya replied: "This is all my people that are willing to gor with me to the plains. Many that are with me are from otherr tribes. They have taken wives from my band; all the rest have goner with their wives and children to the Tuolumne River to join ther Wil-tuc-um-nees."r

r r

r Tenaya with the seventy-two Indians, mostly women and children,r returned to camp. "We will go to your village and your peopler *will* come with us if we find them," declared the Major.r

r "You will not find my people there," returned Tenaya. "I do notr know where they are. My tribe is small—not large as the whiter chief has said. The Piutes and Monos are all gone. Many of ther people with my tribe are from western tribes that have come to mer r r r r and do not wish to return. I have talked with my people and toldr them that I was going to see the white chiefs sent to make peace.r I was told that I was growing old, and that I should go, but thatr young and strong men can find plenty in the mountains; thereforer why should they go? My heart has been sore since that talkr but I am still willing to go."r

r r

r On March 21, 1851, the battalion reached Inspiration Point,r from which Ahwahnee, the home and hiding place of ther Yosemite Indians, secured by granite walls, was in full view. They continuedr the trail into the "deep grassy place" where they found but oner Indian, a squaw too old to climb the rocks, sitting by the dyingr embers of her fire. The villages had suddenly been deserted. Aboutr six hundred bushels of acorns, also pine and chinquapin nuts, grassr seeds, dried grasshoppers, larvae of insects and other foods werer found in caches, which, together with the villages and all theyr contained, were destroyed by the soldiers. Major Savage was disappointedr that he found no Indians but looked with satisfactionr on the ruins of the huts he had destroyed. The slow rising smoker from the acorn caches and other foods was a pleasing sight to hisr eyes and he remarked to his men: "Although I have not carried ar Bible with me since I became a mountain-man, I remember wellr enough that Satan entered Paradise and did all the mischief her could, but I intend to be a bigger devil in this Indian Paradise thanr old Satan ever was." The trail by which the soldiers entered ther Valley was retraced and the battalion returned to headquarters.r

r r

r The Indians who had come from the surrounding tribes, aboutr three hundred and fifty including Tenaya and the seventy-two Yosemites,r started on their trek to the Fresno Reservation. They traveledr slowly, the men hunting by the way, the squaws cookingr acorn mush and bread whenever they wanted food. Confidence inr their captives was such that on the last night out the battalionr went on to Fresno leaving only nine men to bring in the Indiansr on the following day, when a glorious reception with a great feastr and gaudy presents would be given them. The men and Indiansr r r r did not come as expected and when, after much waiting, the captainr and his nine men arrived there were no Indians. They hadr stolen quietly out of camp during the night while the guards sleptr and were nowhere to be found. Runners were sent out and soonr all the captives returned except the Yosemites. All inducementsr failed. They refused beef, saying they preferred horse flesh. Garishr presents offered at the agency were refused by Tenaya as no recompenser for giving up the freedom of his mountain home. A secondr expedition against the Yosemites was admitted as the only meansr of bringing the old chief to terms.r

r r

r This expedition started early in May, 1851, six or seven weeksr after the first. On entering the Valley it was seen that a few hutsr had been rebuilt and there was evidence that Indians had beenr living in them, though not one was to be found. At length fiver Indians were discovered among the rocks and trees. The soldiersr crossed the river while the Indians fled at full speed, disappearingr in the talus near Three Brothers where they were soon captured.r Three of these Indians were the sons of Chief Tenaya, whence ther name "Three Brothers" for these monoliths. The other two werer young braves, the wife of one being a daughter of Tenaya. The captivesr said they were to meet Tenaya near To-co-ya (North Dome).r One of the chief's sons and the son-in-law were sent to tell Tenayar that he and his people would be safe if they would come in andr make peace with the white men; the other three braves were heldr as hostages. The soldiers practiced archery with them, and oner young brave shot an arrow far beyond all the others. Pretendingr to search for it, he dashed away and escaped into Indian Canyon.r The two remaining hostages were tied back to back and fastenedr to a tree.r

r r

r On their return the scouts reported that they had talked withr Tenaya but could not reach him because the rocks were too steep.r They reported that Tenaya would not come in and he would notr go to Fresno. He would make peace if he could stay in his own territory;r neither he nor his people would go into the Valley while ther r r r white men were there. They would stay in the mountains or go tor the Monos. Scouts were sent out with orders to bring in the oldr chief, alive if possible.r

r r

r The hostages were found untying each other and one escapedr into Indian Canyon, so named from this incident. The guard shotr and killed the other—Tenaya's youngest and most beloved son.r The captain, grieved and distressed, told the guard he had committedr murder. At this moment the scouts returned with Chiefr Tenaya walking proudly into camp. Suddenly his eyes fell uponr the lifeless body at his feet. He paused—as he looked, his lips beganr to quiver—he recognized the lifeless form. A deadly hate wasr stamped on his countenance as he raised his head, gazed into ther eyes of the captain and looked over the camp in search of his otherr son. The captain's expressions of regret and sorrow did not mover the grief-stricken chief He stood in silence; not a sound escapedr his lips that day nor for many days.r

r r

r The Indians who had married with the Yosemites, on hearingr that Tenaya was captured, took their women and children to ther Wil-tuc-um-nees on the Tuolumne, fearing the old chief wouldr again promise to take his band to Fresno. Breaking silence, Tenayar said he would call in some of his people and abide by their decision,r that they were not far away and could hear his voice. The call tor notify the band of festivity, danger or death is a vibrating sound ofr such pitch, purity, and quality of tone that it can be heard at a greatr distance. Though he called for many nights no reply was made.r

r r

r A few days later Tenaya attempted to escape but was caught beforer he plunged into the river. Angry that he failed to gain hisr liberty, fearing that he would be shot for the attempt, overwhelmedr with grief, his hatred toward the captain knew no bounds and her burst forth in lamentation and accusations: "Kill me, sir captain!r Yes, kill me, as you killed my son; as you would kill my people ifr they would come to you; you would kill all my race if you had ther power. Yes, sir, American, you can now tell your warriors to kill ther old chief; you have made me sorrowful, my life dark. You killed ther r r r child of my heart—why not kill the father? But—wait a little!r When I am dead, I will call to my people to come to you. I will callr louder than you have heard me call, that they may hear me in myr sleep, and come to avenge the death of their chief and his son. Yes,r American! My spirit will make trouble for you and your people,r as you have caused trouble to me and my people. With the wizzards,r I will follow the white men and make them fear me. You mayr kill me, but you shall not live in peace. I will follow in your footsteps,r I will not leave my home, but be with the spirits among ther rocks, the waterfalls, in the rivers and in the winds; wheresoeverr you go I will be with you. You will not see me, but you will fear ther spirit of the old chief and grow cold. The great spirits have spoken;r I am done."r

r r

r Taking several scouts, and Tenaya as guide, the captain went inr search of the Yosemites who he knew were not far away. When wellr up Tenaya Canyon, so named for the chief, one of the scouts pointedr to a cloud of smoke, which in the clear mountain air, revealed anr Indian village about two miles away on the banks of a beautifulr lake. Aware that the approaching soldiers had made escape impossible,r the inhabitants threw up

their hands and cried, "Pace! pace!"r Thirty-five were taken prisoners, all of whom belonged to Tenaya'sr family, among them his four squaws. The young chief of the groupr said these were all that were left, the rest having returned to ther tribes from which they had sprung.r

r r

r When the young chief was asked if he were willing to go tor Fresno, he replied: "Not only willing but anxious. Where can wer now go that the Americans will not follow us?" They had fled tor the mountains without food or clothing and were worn out withr watching and building signal fires. They had hoped to go to ther Monos when the snow melted and make a home with them. Onr leaving the lake it was named "Lake Tenaya" though the chiefr protested: "It has a name. We call it Py-we-ack." To these, their lastr ochums, the Yosemites never returned. They were taken to ther Fresno Reservation where they arrived about June 10, 1851.r

rrrr

r Tenaya and his people soon tired of the reservation and its restrictions.r All that had made life interesting and joyous was gone,r and they longed for the exhilarating air of the mountains, hutsr without walls, and freedom to hunt food in their own territory.r Liberty is too dear a price to pay for food and shelter and unwantedr clothing. Life was humiliating to the old chief and after a fewr months on the reservation he begged to return to his territory andr gave his pledge—it was never broken—that he would not disturbr the white settlers. He was allowed to go and take his family withr him. With this remnant Tenaya returned to his beloved and secludedr Ahwahnee.r

r r

r In May, 1852, a small party of prospectors were enteringr Yosemite Valley when Indians suddenly attacked them and killedr two of the men. Five of the Indians were captured and were orderedr to be shot immediately. The shooting was observed by a scout inr hiding sent by Tenaya. When the shooting was reported to him,r Tenaya and his people left their hiding places and trekked over ther mountains to join the Piutes and Monos. The soldiers, finding nor Indians in the Valley, hastened to apprehend them on the trail butr could not overtake them.r

r r

r Tenaya and his little band stayed with the Monos until ther early autumn of 1853 when they returned to Yosemite. They builtr their huts in the east end of the Valley, obtained acorns from ther oak trees, and hunted game outside their fortress. The Piutes andr Monos had made a successful raid on ranches and had capturedr a number of horses. Several of Tenaya's men went on a foragingr expedition and, knowing it was safer to rob their allies than riskr a raid on the whites, they succeeded in stealing a few horses from the Monos. In the Valley they felt secure and after a few daysr had a feast of horse flesh. The Indians gorged themselves and onr crammed stomachs slept soundly. The Monos, revengeful andr warlike, pounced upon them before they could rally for the fightr a rid dealt blows of death to the Yosemites, whom they had so recentlyr led and sheltered. The young chief of the Monos hurled a rockr r r r at the old chief whose skull was crushed by the blow. More rocksr were hurled and the last chief of the Yosemites lay stoned to deathr in his Ahwahnee. All but eight of Tenaya's young braves werer killed. These made their escape through the canyon below. Ther women and children were made captives and taken across ther mountains. The once powerful, much feared, cunning tribe ofr Yosemite Indians was all but wiped out.r

r Tenaya's grand-daughter, r<u>r Maria Lebrado</u>, r told the writer that, r two or three weeks after the chief was stoned to death, ther half-breed, Tom Hutchings, brought Tenaya's bones to the South Forkr in a buckskin and, according to their custom, a three day funeralr was held. She said: "We give Tenaya nice funeral. Much Indiansr come; much cry, dance, sing; no sit, no eat. Three days sing, dancer all time, then burn bones and make ashes go." She illustrated byr extending her arms as if to throw the ashes to the winds.r

r r

r According to Maria Lebrado, the sole surviving full-blood Yosemitesr were herself, a daughter, a nephew, and Sally Ann of Coulterville.r All of these are now deceased. Two great-grand-childrenr of Tenaya by his Piute squaw and three great-grand-children ofr Chief Tenaya, half-breeds through a Mexican father, are still living.r But the history of the Yosemites as a tribe is finished. Thisr statement was made verbally by Maria Lebrado to the writer inr 1930.r

r r

r Following are ther <u>r Indian Villages and Camp Sites in Yosemite</u>r asr located by C. Hart Merriam. (Sierra Club Bulletin, Vol. X, No. 2, r published January, 1917, pp. 202-209.)r r r

r INDIAN VILLAGE AND CAMP SITES IN YOSEMITE VALLEYr

r r

r 1. *Hoo-ké-hahtch'-ke.*—Situated at the extreme upper end of the Valleyr between Merced River and Tenaya Creek, and just below the mouth of Tenayar Cañon. A summer village inhabited up to about twenty years ago.r

r r

r 2. *Hol'-low'*, or *Lah'-koo-bah*.—Indian cave, immediately under Washingtonr Column at the mouth of Tenaya Cañon; a low, broad, and deep recess under a huger rock. Said to have been occupied as a winter shelter, and also when attacked by ther Mono Lake Piutes. The overhanging rock is black from smoke of ages, and farr r r r r back in the cave large quantities of acorn-shells have been found. The wordr *Lah-koó-hah*, often applied to Indian Cave, is a call meaning "come out."r

r r

r 3. *Wis'-kah-lah.*—A large summer camp on a northward bend ofr Merced River, r a little west of Royal Arches. Western part of site now occupied by a smallr settlement known as Kinneyville.r

r r

r 4. *Yó-watch-ke* (sometimes nicknamed *Mah-chá-to*, meaning "edge" orr "border,"r because of its position on the border of the valley).—Large village at mouthr of Indian Cañon; still occupied.r

r r

r 5. *Ah-wah'-ne.*—Village on Black Oak Flat, extending from site of Galenr Clark's grave easterly nearly to *Yó-watch-ke*. As in the case of most of the villages,r the village name was applied also to a definite tract of land belonging to it. Thisr area, in the case of *Ah-wah'ne*, was a piece of level ground of considerable size,r

beginning on the west along a north and south line passing through Sentinel Hotelr and reaching easterly nearly to the mouth of Indian Cañon. The cemetery was onr this tract, as was also the barn formerly belonging to J. B. Cooke. This being ther largest tract of open level ground in the Valley, the name *Ah-wah'-ne* came to ber applied by outside Indians to the whole Valley.r

r r

r 6. *Koom-í-ne*, or *Kom-í-ne*.—The largest and most important village in ther Valley, situated on the north side of the delta of Yosemite Creek just belowr Yosemite Fall (*Ah-wah'-ning chú-luk-ah-hu*, slurred to *Chó-luk*), and extendingr south-westerlyr at the base of the talus-slope under the towering cliffs for about three-quarters of a mile, reaching almost or quite to Three Brothers (*Haw'-hawk*). Oldr Chief Tenaya had a large earth-covered ceremonial-house (*hang-e*) by a big oakr tree in this village. The Government soldiers stationed in the Valley took possession of the site and established their camp there in 1907, forcing the Indians out.r (Occupied by Indians during all my earlier visits.)r

r r

r 7. *Wah-hó-gah.*—Small village about half a mile west-southwest of *Koom-í-ne*,r on or near edge of meadow.r

r r

r 8. *Soo-sem'-moo-lah.*—Village at northwest end of old Folsom bridge (now ther ford), less than half a mile south of Rocky Point.r

r r

r 9. *Hah-kí-ah.*—Large village only a short distance (less than one-eighth mile)r below *Soo-sem'-moo-lah*, and likewise south of Three Brothers (*Haw'hawk*). Ar roundhouse, or *hang-e*, was located here, not far from old Folsom bridge. The threer villages, *Wah-hó-gah*, *Soo-sem'-oo-lah*, and *Hah-kí-ah*, were inhabited up to aboutr twenty years ago.r

r r

r 10. *Kom'-pom-pá-sah*, or *Pom'-pom-pá-sah*.—Small village only a little belowr *Hah-kí-ah*, and also south of Three Brothers, or under the talus-slope of the cañonr immediately west of Three Brothers.r

r r

r 11. *Aw'-o-koi-e.*—Small village below and slightly east of the tall pine growingr in a notch on the broad south face of El Capitan. The native Indian name of ther gigantic rock cliff which we call El Capitan is *To-tó-kon oo-lah*, from *To-tó-kon*, ther Sandhill Crane, a chief of the First People.r

r r

r 12. He-lé-jah (the mountain lion).—Small village under El Capitan, a littler west of Aw'-o-koi-e.r

r r

r 13. Ha-eng'-ah.—Small village under El Capitan, and only a little west ofr He-lé-jah.r

r INDIAN VILLAGE AND CAMP SITES IN YOSEMITE VALLEYr

rrrr

r 14. Yu-á-chah.—Still another village under El Capitan, and only a shortr distance west of Ha-eng'-ah.r

r r

r 15. *Hep-hep'-oo-ma.*—Village where present Big Oak Flat road forks to leaver the main road, south of the steep canon which forms the west wall of El Capitan,r and near west end of the Big El Capitan Meadows (*To-tó-kon oó-lah' i-e-hu*). Ther five villages, *Aw'-o-koi-e, He-lé-jah, Ha-eng'-ah, Yu-á-chah, and Hep-hep'-oo-ma*,r were summer villages occupied from April to late October or early November.r

r r

r 16. Tí-e-té-mah.-Village only a short distance below Hep-hep'-oo-ma, andr close to El Capitan bridge.r

r r

r 17. Ho-kó-nah.—Small village a little below Tí-e-té-mah, and near site of oldr (shack) house.r

r r

r 18. Wé-tum-taw.—Village by a small meadow a short distance below Ho-kó-nah,r and east of Black Spring.r

r r

r 19. *Poot-poo-toon*, or *Put-put-toon*.—Village in rocky place on north side of present road at Black Spring, from which it takes its name.r

r r

r 20. *Ah-wah'-mah.*—Lowermost (westernmost) village in Yosemite Valley, ar short distance below Black Spring and above *Til-til'-ken-ny*, where the mail-carrier'sr cabin is located.r

r r

r 21. *Sap-pah'-sam-mah.*—Lowermost (most westerly) village or camp on southr side of the Valley, about half a mile east of Pohono Meadows.r

r r

r 22. *Lem-mé-hitch'-ke*.—Small village or camp on east side of Pohonor (or Bridal Veil) Creek, just below a very large rock.r

r r

r 23. *Hop'-tó-ne*.—Small village or camp at base of westernmost of the loftyr cliffs known as Cathedral Rocks, and close to south end of El Capitan bridge acrossr Merced River.r

r 24. *Wé-sum-meh'*.—Small village or camp at base of Cathedral Spires near ther river, with a small meadow below; not far above *Hop'-to-ne*.r

r r

r 25. *Kis'-se*, or *Kis'-se-uh*.—Large village near the river, nearly oppositer *Hah-kí-ah*. *Kis'-se* was the westernmost of the large villages on the south side. From itr easterly they occurred at frequent intervals.r

r r

r 26. *Chá-chá-kal-lah.*—Large village just below old Folsom bridge (ford).r Formerly a sweat-house (*chap-poó*) here.r

r r

r 27. Ham'-moo-ah.-Village on Ford road, nearly opposite Three Brothersr (Wah-hah'-kah).r

r r

r 28. *Loí-ah.*—Large village in open pine forest below Sentinel Rock (on groundr now occupied by Camp Ahwahnee) and reaching down toward river. Occupiedr during my earlier visits to the Valley.r

r r

r 29. *Hoó-koo-mé-ko-tah.*—Village a little above Galen Clark's house; lookedr out easterly over big meadow. Occupied during my earlier visits. (*Hoo-koo-me* isr the great horned owl.)r

r r

r 30. *Haw-kaw-koó-e-tah (Ho-kok'-kwe-lah, Haw-kaw'-koi)*. Large and importantr village on Merced River, where Sentinel Hotel and cottages now stand. Homer oft he band called *Yo-ham'-i-te* (or *Yo-hem'-i-te*), for whom the Valley was named.r The old woman Callipena was a *Yo-ham'-i-te*.r

rrrr

r 31. Ho-low.—Village on or near Merced River where the schoolhouse used tor stand.r

r r

r 32. *Wah'-tahk'-itch-ke.*—Village on edge of meadow on south bend of Mercedr River near forks of road west of Le Conte Memorial. The wild pea (*wah-tah'-kah*)r grows here.r

r r

r 33. *Too-yú-yú-yú-yu*.—Large village on south bend of Merced River due north ofr Le Conte Memorial and close to the bridge between Le Conte Memorial (or Campr Curry) and Kinneyville.r

r r

r 34. *Too-lah'-kah'-mah.*—Village or camp on open ground now occupied byr orchard on east side of meadow north of Camp Curry.r

r INDIAN VILLAGE AND CAMP SITES IN YOSEMITE VALLEYr

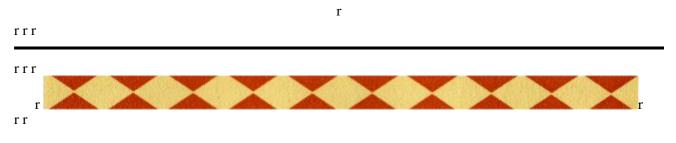
r r r 35. Um'-ma-taw.—Large village on present wagon-road between Camp Curryr and Happy Isles; was some distance from the river; water was fetched from a spring.r r r r 36. Ap'-poo-meh.—Camp on Merced River below Vernal Fall.r r r r 37. Kah-win'-na-bah'.—Large summer camp in Little Yosemite, whose name itr bears.r rrrr r r r Next: James Lamonr •r Contentsr •r Previous: Illustrationsr rrr r r r r r r r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/yosemite_indians_and_other_sketches/indians.htmlr rrrrrrrrrrr r r r r <u>Yosemite</u> > <u>Library</u> >r <u>Yosemite Indians & Other Sketches</u> >r James C. Lamon >r r r r rrr r Next: James Hutchingsr •r Contentsr •r Previous: Indiansr rrr

rrrr	
rrrr	
	r JAMES C. LAMONr
r r	
rrrr	<image/>
	r Photographed in 1861r

r Photographed in 1861r

r FIRST CABIN BUILT IN YOSEMITEr

r



Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor

Chapter 2: James C. Lamon • 1817-1875

r r r



r r r graniter shaft in Yosemite Cemetery reads:r "James C. Lamon. Died May 22nd, 1875 aged 58r years." Little is known of Mr. Lamon, yet that littler reveals a distinct personality, a rare character,r and a life rich in simple kindliness. He was a recluser who lived his life in solitude, and who was often called "Hermit ofr Yosemite." Those who knew him, speak of him as retiring andr unostentatious in manner—a man to be trusted.r

r r

r His nephew has given us something of the background of thisr refined, sensitive man with whom it is difficult to associate roughr mining days of early Mariposa. James Chenowith Lamon, fifth inr a family of fourteen children, was born in West Virginia in 1817.r In 1836 the family moved to Illinois and settled on a farm. Jamesr had but a common school course. A brother, Robert Bruce Lamon, r served as a member of the California State Legislature. In 1839r James C. Lamon went to Texas-then a Republic-and enteredr the service when war broke out with Mexico. In 1850 he went tor California to join his brother, Robert Bruce Lamon. In 1852 ther Lamon brothers and David Clark became partners in a lumberr mill in Mariposa County. In 1858, while Robert Bruce Lamonr was on a visit in the East, the lumber mill burned and unfortunatelyr there was no insurance. Robert did not return and James decidedr to go to Yosemite as he knew something of the Valley through hisr brother Robert, who led the firstr sight-seeing party into Yosemite Valley in 1854.*r r [*J. A. Lamon, nephew of James C. Lamon, in June, 1932, writes: "My father,r Robert Bruce Lamon, knew most positively that his party was the first outside ther Indian fighters. He learned of the Valley from Captain Boling and Mr. Savager and persuaded five of his friends to join him in a trip of exploration and enteredr the Valley in 1854." Concerning the pronunciation of their name, her states : "Ourr name is pronounced as though it was spelled Lemon-the "a" having the soundr of "e" as in "any," "many," etc.]r r This party, in honor of its leader, Robert Bruce Lamon, r r r r named the falls above Vernal Falls, "Lamon Falls" and r placed a sign there with this name. No doubt it was lost in ther snow and storms of the winters but the present name, Nevadar Falls, robs history of this interesting data.r

r r

r In June, 1859, James Chenowith Lamon arrived in Yosemiter Valley, located and preempted 160 acres, in three detached portions, r in the upper end of the Valley*r r [*In 1898 Robert Bruce Lamon, after a lapse of forty years, revisited Yosemite.r Of his brother's orchard he says : "Some of the trees I find still standing and alsor part of the post-and-rail fence he enclosed them with."]r r (Report of Commission tor Governor H. H. Haight, 1869), and remained there the rest of hisr life. He built the first log cabin in Yosemite, locating on the southr side of the Valley. The Sacramento Record-Union, May 24, 1875,r says: "The cabin is of rough logs, dirt floor and no windows, andr contains a granite fire-place, a cot, table, cupboard, bearskins etc."r Mr. Lamon cultivated a garden of vegetables and small fruits andr planted two large orchards.r

r r

r A letter from Galen Clark to Robert Bruce Lamon dated June 6,r 1898, reads in part as follows: "Your brother James commencedr improvements on his place in Yosemite in 1859 but did not spendr a winter there until 1861-1862 and 1862-1863 which winters her spent there alone. In the winter of 1861-1862 there was a

rumorr that a man had been killed by the Indians on the trail to Yosemite.r I got Gus Hite to go with me to Yosemite to see if your brother wasr all right. We found Jim well and exceedingly glad to see us and tor get some of the later news."r

r r

r There is quality and capacity in a man who, shut off from allr human contact, is able to live in the solitude of his lonely hut throughr winter storm and snow. In 1864 J. M. Hutchings and his familyr began wintering in the Valley. His daughter, Gertrude Hutchingsr Mills, in a letter in 1932 writes: "I can remember Mr. Lamon veryr well with longish hair beneath his hat brim, and trousers tucked inr his cow-hide boots, driving his team of large, red oxen. He helpedr my father by hauling logs to the little mill near the foot ofr Yosemite Falls. He was a quiet but not an austere man, much liked andr r r r r r re[s]pected." Mr. Lamon's door was ever open with true and generousr hospitality.r <u>r John Muir writes</u>:r "He was a fine, erect, whole-souledr man, between six and seven feet high, with a broad open face, blandr and guileles as his pet oxen . . . many there be, myself among ther number, who can testify to his simple unostentatious kindness thatr found expression in a thousand small deeds."r

r r

r James Chenowith Lamon was one of God's born gentlemen. Her was a neighbor in the truest sense to all who needed him. If the tiesr of home and family were not for him and the depths of his heartr remained forever unexpressed, there yet radiated out of his simpler life of solitude an atmosphere of mellowed richness and quietuder that made him a figure apart from the ordinary.r

r r

r In September, 1930 the writer visited Henry Hedges, of Mariposa,r the first bus driver into Yosemite. He spoke of Mr. Lamon'sr fine garden of vegetables and small fruits irrigated by water fromr the Royal Arches; his marvelous strawberries, some as large asr hen's eggs; his two large orchards of choice fruits. No tourist omittedr a visit to the cabin of Yosemite's first settler. Mr. Hedges oftenr helped him pack away his apples for winter, placing alternate layersr of grass and apples in a hole dug below the freezing point wherer the fruit kept perfectly. Mr. Hedges added: "I wish you could haver seen Lamon's fine, big oxen —Dave and Brownie— both of 'em red.r They seemed to belong to the Valley and everybody liked 'em.r They did all the ploughing and cultivating in the orchards and nor end of hauling logs."r

r r

r After Mr. Lamon's death in 1875 Mr. Harris leased the place.r Replying to a letter in September, 1930, Mrs. Esther Harris Nathanr said: "Among the apples in the Lamon orchard were Winesaps,r Gravenstein, Rhode Island Greening, Russet, Fall Pippin,r Baldwin, Water Core, Red June, and Maiden Blush or Lady Gregory.r The plums were Green Gages." Mr. Lamon's gardens andr orchard were of interest and pleasure to the tourist. In the book,r *To San Francisco and Back*, by a London Parson, the author says (pp,r 97-98): "There is but little cultivation in the Valley. One enterprisingr r r r man had planted a spot with vegetables, and pear, apple,r plum, and peach trees. Where he found a market for their producer it was hard to say, unless, as is possible, he relied upon selling to visitorsr what he could not eat. His orchard had no fence, and he himselfr was not to be found when we paid it a visit. Outside a little hut,r however, close by, was a paper with the following notice: 'Anyoner helping himself to a mess of fruit from my patch will please put 2r Bits through a hole in my door, and oblige J. C. Lamon.' We helpedr ourselves liberally to peaches and apples, and complied with ther request, adding a little more for the pocket fulls we took away.''r

r Mr. Lamon built a second and more commodious cabin on ther north side of the Valley, near the Royal Arches, where he obtainedr the maximum of sunlight and warmth. This was his home; herer he lived a busy and contented life, and here he died.r

r r

r In 1864, through an Act of Congress, Yosemite Valley and ther Mariposa Grove of Big Trees became a state park. The Act was approvedr by the California Legislature in 1866 and the Commissionersr advised Mr. Lamon that henceforth there could be nor privately owned land in the park and that he must lease his premisesr from the Board of Commissioners. That he should lease land thatr had been his by preemption for seven years, seemed for a time impossibler to Mr. Lamon. After trying for five years to substantiater his claim he presented to the State Legislature the following memorial:r (Commissioners' Report, 1870. Being a Message of ther Commissioners of Governor H. H. Haight transmitting the reportr of the Yosemite Commissioners and the Memorial of J. C. Lamon.)r

r r

r "Yosemite Valley, December 4th, 1869.r

r r

r "To the Honorable Senate and Assembly of California:r

r r

r "Your memorialist would respectfully represent that he is a citizenr of the United States of America, of the State of California, andr of the County of Mariposa. And your memorialist would furtherr represent, that in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine,r he settled in and became a resident in the Yosemite Valley, inr r r the aforesaid County of Mariposa, and that at that time he purchasedr claim there of certain persons who had taken them up underr what is known as the 'Settlers Act' of the State of California.r

r r

r "And your memorialist would further represent, that he went tor work making improvements in good faith, believing that he wouldr eventually be allowed a pre-emption or homestead right to ther land upon which his improvements were located, by the Unitedr States Government; and that he has from year to year, and constantly,r up to the present time, labored industriously makingr improvements, enduring great privations and hardships for manyr years, being fifty miles up in Sierra Nevada Mountains from ther nearest town or Post-office.r

r r

r "And your memorialist would further represent, that in the yearr provements consist of houses to live in and a barn, of fences, and ar very fine garden; of large patches of various kinds of berries, such as strawberries, raspberries, blackberries and others. Also, of two larger and very fine orchards of fruit trees, now beginning to bear abundantly,r being of the very choicest selection of grafted fruit, consistingr of apples, pears, peaches, plums, nectarines, almonds, etc., overr one thousand trees altogether; all of which have been transplantedr and cultivated with the greatest care and labor, in thoroughly andr deeply preparing the ground, and constant cultivation.r

r "And your memorialist would further represent that all theser various improvements, which have cost him ten years constantr hard labor, together with considerable hired labor, he believes atr this time to be worth at least twelve thousand dollars."r

r r

r "And your memorialist would further represent, that in the yearr one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four the Yosemite Valleyr was, by an Act of Congress, granted and ceded to the State of California,r on condition that it should be held forever inalienable as ar place of public resort and recreation, and that the State of Californiar has, by an Act of her Legislature, accepted the grant upon andr in accordance with the stipulations named, and has appointed ar Board of Commissioners to take charge of the Yosemite Valley, withr r r r full powers to possess it and manage all matters pertaining to ther same.r

r r

r "And your memorialist would further represent, that ther Commissioners appointed to take charge of the Valley have brought suitr of ejectment against him, to dispossess him of his various improvements,r which suit is now pending against him, and still undecided.r

r r

r "And your memorialist would further represent, that if said suitr should be decided against him, it would deprive him of all hisr earthly possessions and leave him in poverty and in debt.r

r r

r "And your memorialist would further represent, that if he canr be paid for his various improvements, according to their full value,r by the State of California, he would be willing to vacate the premisesr and give possession of all his improvements to the Commissionersr appointed to take charge of the same.r

r r

r "Therefore, your memorialist would most re[s]pectfully ask thatr the State of California would pay him the full value of his possessions,r that he may not be utterly impoverished.r

r r

r "And your memorialist would ever pray.r

r r

r "J. C. Lamonr

```
r r
```

r "Witness:r

r

r r "Galen Clarkr r "Fred Leidig"r r

r r

r The State Legislature, in the fall of 1874, accepted the terms ofr the memorial and paid Mr. Lamon twelve thousand dollars. Her went to Oregon to visit a sister he had not seen for thirty-five years.r Her children were a great joy to him and he was loathe to leave,r but the log cabin was home, and he returned to Yosemite and leasedr from the commission the tract he had developed into gardens andr orchards. A sapling may be transplanted; a man nearing sixty isr not easily uprooted.r

r r

r In the spring of 1875 Mr. Lamon became ill. Mrs. J. M. Hutchingsr and her mother cared for him in his fatal struggle with pneumonia.r He died May 22, 1875. His executor was his friend, Galenr Clark. Gertrude Hutchings Mills attended the funeral. She says:r r r r "I was lifted up to see Mr. Lamon 'asleep' in his pine box and Ir struggled to get away before I should awaken him."r

r r

r The Sacramento *Record-Union*, May 24, 1875, says: "It was ar fitting day, time, and place for his burial—the Sabbath. . . . We wentr up the river banks and culled a basket frill of sweet, white azaleasr and made a wreath and a cross to place on the coffin. It was an imposingr scene—a procession of over a hundred people, gathered fromr all lands, and many Indians, most of them on horseback, windingr up to the new made grave under the oak by the shining wall. Twor clergymen read the beautiful service as he was laid to rest."r

r r

r The *Mariposa County Gazette* of Saturday, May 29, 1875 recorded:r "Another pioneer gone. John [James] C. Lamon. One ofr the oldest settlers in this county, and long a resident of Yosemiter Valley, died at that place on Saturday last. He was eccentric in hisr habits, but the very soul of honesty and good feeling. As an instancer of this, some years since he became involved, and liquidatedr his debts at the rate of fifty cents on the dollar. Afterward he recuperated,r and paid off every cent of his indebtedness. . . ." These fewr lines are a rare tribute in the evaluation of eternal qualities. Ther quiet, retiring life of James C. Lamon radiated righteousness andr kindliness throughout its days. The essence of his simple life andr kindly spirit will eternally live in the Yosemite Valley.r

r r

r The following appeared in the Youths Companion in 1875:r

r r

r THE PIONEER OF YOSEMITEr

r r

r One June day last summer our little party dismounted fromr their horses at the toll-house near Register Rock. As three forlorn-lookingr females sauntered into the room, there rose from his seatr by the fire a tall, straight, loose-jointed man, with grizzled hair andr beard, a sparkling, pleasant eye, and a friendly face every line ofr which bespoke us welcome.r

r "This is Mr. Lamon, the pioneer of Yosemite," said our guide,r and we all shook hands. . . .r

r r

r He was a wayfarer like ourselves, and had stopped on his way tor r r r "Snow's," so we pressed him to wait until our party had also rested,r and then go on with us.r

r r

r As we sat around the roaring fire (Register Rock is a cool, dampr place even in the middle of June) we heard much Yosemite lore toldr with the pleasantest voice and in the quaintest way in the world.r He first settled there in 1859, when he built the old log cabinr which still stands like a monument of his lonely life, although nor longer occupied as a residence.r

r r

r At that time visitors to the Valley were few, and there was nor one to dispute him when he staked out his claim, planted his orchard,r and cultivated his little garden. For five [two] winters he livedr alone, never seeing a human face other than those of the Indians. . .r who are the most unabashed, unblushing thieves in the world, andr as beggars have no rivals, while treachery and murder sits as lightlyr upon their consciences as down upon glass. Mr. Lamon hadr many a story to tell. . . . One day as he was returning from a day'sr hunt, shot-gun in hand and fat venison on his shoulder, he met ar stalwart red man and his squaw, the latter staggering along withr a heavy basket. The snow lay thick upon the ground, and all hisr winter's stock of flour had been left in his unguarded castle, so itr behooved the pioneer to be somewhat suspicious, egress from ther Valley being impossible save upon snow-shoes.r

r r

r The stalwart red man was about to pass him by with a gruffr grunt, but Mr. Lamon stopped him and said, with a significantr gesture at the huge basket.r

r r

r "What squaw got?"r

r r

r "Nothing," was the red man's unblushing reply, as her attempted to stride past.r

r r

r "O yes!" said our friend, shifting his shot-gun in a way thatr caused the cautious red man to pause.r

r r

r "What squaw got?"r

r r

r "Fish," was the response. "Me catches um."r

r r

r "Go by my house?" was the next question.r

r r

r The red man indignantly denied having been near his house. . . . r r r r The pioneer asked more questions, with the design of entrappingr his friend into making some damaging admission, but without effect;r the red man gesticulated, and grew more and more indignantr . . . while the squaw shook her head and said, "No, no." Finally ther pioneer said:r

r r

r "Well, me look"r

r r

r The red man would have objected, but the shot-gun held himr in check, and when the cover was lifted, lo, the great basket wasr full to the brim with flour! The red man neither blushed nor faltered,r but said, grunting:r

r r

r "You no business leave door unlocked."r

r r

r "And what *did* you do?" we asked breathlessly.r

r r

r "Oh, I gave them half of it, and took the other half home. Ir thought I could get along," he said.r

r r

r Another story was more tragic.r

r r

r One day toward dusk, in the depth of winter, a solitary whiter man passed Mr. Lamon's cabin. He had not even seen an Indianr for over two months, and we can guess how cordially he greetedr him, and hospitably urged him to stay over night in his humbler home.r

r r

r The man came in and rested for a few moments, but said her would rather push on; that he was a miner, and had taken the Valleyr in on his way back to Mariposa, because it was his last chancer to see it. He was going "home," "way down East," to see his wifer and children. He had made his pile he said: it wasn't very big, butr it was big enough for him. He was satisfied.r

r r

r THE PIONEER OF YOSEMITEr

r Mr. Lamon suggested Indians, he had seen a lot skulking aboutr a day or two before, but the miner laughed, and pointed to his shot-gun,r and pulled out his pistol, and asked if he had ever seen an Indianr that wasn't a coward.r

r r

r The pioneer spoke of the deep snow, and the night that had alreadyr crept into the Valley, but the miner said he knew the trailr well, and there was a good moon, and he had no fear, so he bade hisr entertainer good-by and trudged away cheerfully enough.r

rrrr

r That night it snowed, and the next day and the next night; butr the day after the sun came out and shone brightly all day. As duskr came on Mr. Lamon heard sounds like human voices and he sawr five or six men coming toward his cabin. They cheered when theyr saw him and tears filled their eyes as they shook his hand. Somer Indians having plenty of gold dust, a silver watch, a pistol, and ar shot-gun, were placed in jail. One of them acknowledged they hadr murdered a lonely miner "who had made his pile" and was "goingr home." And, said Mr. Lamon, he did go home, poor fellow. I foundr his body the next summer when the snow had melted off, and Ir dug a grave and buried him. No one ever knew his name. . . . Her took us through his garden, bewailing that ripe strawberries werer so few, and took us into his apple-house, sweet-scented with hayr and fruit. I shall never forget his fastidious care in selecting fruitr for the ladies, nor his hearty, laugh when our "Violet" modestlyr inquired why he did not have a "Lamon-ade" to sweeten life's cup.r

r r

r Last May he was taken sick with pneumonia and after an illnessr of a few days he died. They buried him appropriately at the foot ofr the beautiful Yosemite Falls, in that wonderful valley, whose glory,r and grandeur, and loveliness, and peace had left its impress on hisr soul.r

rrr
r r
r <u>Next: James Hutchings</u> r •r <u>Contents</u> r •r <u>Previous: Indians</u> r
rrr
r
rr
r
rr
r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/yosemite_indians_and_other_sketches/james_lamon.htmlr
rrrrrrrrrr
r

	Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor
r r	
	r <u>Yosemite</u> > <u>Library</u> >r <u>Yosemite Indians & Other Sketches</u> >r James Mason Hutchings >r
r r	
r	
rrr	
	r <u>Next: Galen Clark</u> r •r <u>Contents</u> r •r <u>Previous: James Lamon</u> r
rrr	

rrrr
rrrrr
r JAMES MASON HUTCHINGSr
rr
r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r
r Photograph by Thos. Houseworthr
r
r JAMES MASON HUTCHINGSr
rrr
rrr r rr

Chapter 3: James Mason Hutchings • 1820-1902

r r



r r r n ther old cemetery in Yosemite Valley a large,r rough, granite rock bears the inscription: "Pioneerr of Yosemite." The marble headstone reads:r "In memory of J. M. H., Pioneer, Patriot.r February 10, 1818-October 31, 1902."r

r r

r In a letter Gertrude Hutchings Mills states: "My father wasr born February 10, 1820 in the little village of Towcester, Northhamptonshire,r England. His mother, Barbara Mason Hutchings,r was fifty-two years old when he, the youngest of a large family ofr children, was born. His father, William Hutchings, was a carpenterr and cabinet maker, and my father learned that trade. In 1848r he left England for America and in 1849 crossed the plains andr located in California."r

r r

r Yosemite Valley was discovered in 1851 by the Mariposa Battalionr sent to capture the Yosemite Indians. Little information aboutr the Valley reached the press. One bit of description attracted attentionr —"a waterfall nearly a thousand feet high." Here was somethingr different from the rest of the known world; here was ther magnet that should later draw the world. James Mason Hutchings,r living in San Francisco, contemplated the publication of ar magazine, the *California Monthly*, and treasured the newspaperr scrap containing the startling statement. To see that waterfall andr other wonderful scenes would supply him with priceless materialr for his publishing venture. It would be a hazardous trip to Yosemiter but he determined to go. He made inquiry of the soldiers who hadr been there concerning the route but not one could give him directions.r They had gone to capture the Indians; the scenes and trailsr had made little impression.r

r r

r Two Yosemite Indians were secured as guides. With Thomasr r r r Ayres, the well known San Francisco artist to make drawings forr the contemplated magazine, and three additional friends, Hutchingsr and his party left Mariposa in late June, 1855.*r r [**Heart of Sierra*,r 1886, p. 92,r Hutchings says: "It is by no means claimed thatr ours was the first party making the trip there" [to Yosemite Valley].]r r On the afternoonr of the third day the party arrived at Inspiration Point, andr Thomas Ayres, on June 20, 1855 sketched the first picture everr made of Yosemite.r r [Editor's note: the correct date is June 27, 1855.—dea]r r

r r

r It was night when the party reached the floor of the Valley; theyr unrolled their blankets and slept at the foot of the Indian trail and rawoke to a memorable day. Not far away Pohono, from greatr heights, was daintily pouring it waters and refreshing the valleyr as it had been doing for centuries. Gazing upon this wind blownr stream of falling water the party named it "Bridal Veil Falls." Ther name is full of sentiment but it is a loss to the world that Pohono,r so full of meaning revealing the superstitions and imaginingsr characteristic of the Indian mind, was not retained. Setting out tor explore the Valley, the party came to an open meadow and ther

"water-fall nearly a thousand feet high" suddenly became a reality andr more, for Yosemite Falls is 2,526 feet high. Mr. Hutchings and hisr party spent five days in the Valley. On his return many were eagerr to hear of the experiences and scenes of the journey and he wroter an article published in the *Mariposa Gazette* in July, 1855. Leadingr newspapers of the time copied the article and Yosemite wasr made known to the world. Mr. Hutchings says: "In October, 1855r was published a lithographic view of Yosemite Falls (then calledr Yo-Ham-i-te) from a sketch taken for the writer by Mr. Thomasr Ayres in the preceding June, which was the first pictorial representationr of any scene in the great Valley ever given to the public."r

r r

r The first number of the *California Monthly* was published inr San Francisco in July, 1856. The leading article was on Yosemiter and the sketch made the summer before by Thomas Ayres accompaniedr it. After five years the *California Monthly* was discontinuedr due to Mr. Hutchings' impaired health. His physician advisedr r r r him to live in the out of doors and he at once thought of Yosemite.r In January, 1862, he attempted to enter the Valley to ascertainr whether it was habitable all through the year but failed on accountr of heavy floods. In the second attempt, made in March of the samer year, he was accompanied by James C. Lamon and Galen Clark.r The trail was completely covered by snow two to ten feet deep.r When his companions felt they could go no farther, they advisedr Hutchings to return until the snow should melt, but he determinedr to keep on alone. There is enviable fiber in a man who pushesr forward alone to the hoped-for goal, facing hunger, exhaustion,r and death, in the trackless snows of the Sierra. Six days in the deepr snows, making scarcely a mile a day, breaking through the crustr and literally climbing out again, used up his last ounce of strength.r Weariness and fatigue made it impossible to proceed. He droppedr his pack and sat down upon it, "to write a few lines to the dear onesr at home—possibly the last." The day was at its close. The sky wasr gloomy and threatening. His head was bowed on his knees andr the end seemed at hand. Such moments try the souls of men.r

r r

r The weary traveler looked up. The clouds were lifting and ther sky was growing clear. Natural features became definitely outlined.r Could it be that he was sitting on the granite walls of Yosemite?r Below was the Merced winding its way through green meadows,r and there was no more snow! Despair changed to unboundedr joy; the goal lay before him; his weariness became strength; and her descended into the Valley. Courage and perseverance were crownedr with success.r

r r

r The following summer, 1863, Mr. Hutchings bought the two-storyr frame building in Yosemite that had not proved successful asr a tourist hotel; he would make it successful. Each story, sixty-by-twentyr feet, was without partitions and the doors and windowsr were of cotton cloth. In the spring of 1864 he packed in all theirr household goods, fifty miles on mule back, over the trail that laterr became the Coulterville road. The family took up its residencer April 20, 1864, and the two-story frame building was henceforthr r r r known as The Hutchings House. When tourists arrived the "ladies"r were given the upstairs—the men the downstairs, but thisr was not Mr. Hutchings' idea of a hotel and he determined to maker improvements. For immediate use he packed in bolts of muslin andr with it he partitioned off rooms giving some degree of privacy. Ther house accommodated twenty-eight people but a few additionalr ones could always be sheltered. One night, when all had retiredr and every bed was occupied, twenty-nine additional guests arrived.r Mr. Hutchings was a genial host. Not only did he feed this hungryr party at that late hour but also lodged every one of them. Ar newly arrived bale of blankets kept them warm and floor spacer sufficed for beds.r

r In the autumn of 1865 Mr. Hutchings packed in a saw mill andr improvements soon followed. A porch across the front, a sittingr room at the rear, and permanent partitions added greatly to ther comfort and appearance of The Hutchings House. The sittingr room, built around a large Incense cedar (*Libocedrus decurrens*), r became known as The Big Tree Room. In the *Souvenir of California*, r 1894, Mr. Hutchings says: "This cedar, 175 feet high, wasr standing there when the room was planned. I had not the heart tor cut it down, so I fenced it in, or rather, built around it . . . the base ofr the tree, eight feet in diameter, is an ever present guest in that sittingr room. . . . The large, open fireplace was built with my ownr hands. . . . Travelers from all climes and countries welcomed ther sheltering comfort and blazing log fire of this room."r

r r

r The Big Tree Room with its great fireplace, built in 1866, mayr be seen today. Nearby stands Cedar Cottage, the oldest buildingr in Yosemite, with its whip-sawed timbers. In 1864 Mr. Hutchingsr preempted 160 acres extending from The Hutchings House acrossr the Merced to the foot of Yosemite Falls. To get the maximumr warmth and sunlight during the winter months a site nearr Yosemite Falls was selected where, in 1865, he built the log cabin thatr was his home for many years.r

r r

r Mr. Hutchings was hospitable and his cabin, with its comfortabler r r r living room and great fireplace, was known to thousands ofr tourists. Canon Kingsley wrote thus: "Of all the homes that I haver seen, in all my travels, this is the most delectable." Hutchings lovedr Yosemite and the surrounding country and lost no time in makingr it known to the world. The San Francisco *Chronicle* of November 1, 1902r says: "So rapidly did tourist travel increase that in 1872r when he [Hutchings] surrendered his possessions to the state her had 109 saddle animals for tourist use on the trails and over ther floor of the Valley."r

r r

r In the spring, following the completion of the log cabin, her fenced in a five-acre plot for an orchard. In ther <u>Heart of Sierras.</u>r 1886, on page 142, he says: "Many of the trees were grown fromr seeds of choice apples that had been sent to us, the plants fromr which were afterwards budded or grafted. In this way a thriftyr orchard, of about one hundred and fifty trees came into being andr now bears many tons annually of assorted fruit." In her letter ofr October, 1930, Gertrude Hutchings Mills says: "The orchard wasr a short distance below the old saw mill near the foot of Yosemiter Falls. . . . An irrigating ditch carried water to the barn and sider ditches watered the vegetable garden. We had a variety of apples; Ir remember well Spitzenberg, Winesap, King, Rhode Island Greenings,r and Northern Spy. A wormy apple was unknown. We hadr Bartlett and Sichel pear trees, also a few peaches and nectarines."r

r r

r The strawberry patch, obtained after much effort and greatr discouragement, was famous for its quantity and quality of fruit.r Mr. Hutchings sent for a much advertised variety called "Britishr Queen" and the plants were shipped by Panama. The first orderr was dried up and dead when it arrived. The second order rottedr from too much moisture. The mail bag containing the third orderr had been so close to the steamship's funnel that the bag was nearlyr burned and the plants were entirely destroyed. From the fourthr order thirteen small roots were obtained. These cost Mr. Hutchingsr \$45 but they soon increased to thousands and many of ther largest plants produced nearly two hundred berries each.r

rrrr

r In Mr. Hutchings and his family, the Indians found friends.r Gertrude Hutchings Mills says: "The Indians were my goodr friends from babyhood. Among them were Dick, Mary, Jim, Bill,r Lucy, Sally Ann, and our own Tom Hutchings. On leaving Yosemiter my father adopted seed gathering as a side industry. He sentr seeds of the Sierra trees and shrubs to Thomas Meecham of Philadelphiar and also to Veitch of England. Tom was my father's invaluabler aide in this industry." In the price list the seed of ther *Sequoia gigantea* was quoted at \$12 per pound; ther *Sequoia sempervirens*, r at \$4 per pound.r

r r

r When Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Big Treesr became a state park in 1864, Mr. Hutchings was seriously affected.r According to the grant there could be no privately owned land inr the park. He had paid \$400 in gold for 160 acres which he cultivatedr and planted to gardens and orchards; he had built his barnr and house, and Yosemite was home. In 1874 the State of Californiar paid Mr. Hutchings \$24,000 for his buildings and improvements,r and in return he relinquished his claim. His premises werer leased to John K. Barnard and The Hutchings House became ther Barnard Hotel. From 1880 to 1883 Hutchings held the office ofr "Guardian of the Valley."r

r r

r Besides the *California Monthly*, Mr. Hutchings published severalr books and pamphlets. Best known arer <u>Scenes of Wonder and Curiosity in California</u>, r 267 pages, published in San Francisco, r 1862, and r <u>r In the</u> <u>Heart of the Sierras</u>, 496 pages, published at ther Old Cabin, Yosemite Valley, 1886. His last publication wasr Summer Rambles, probably in 1893, as the cover carried, r "Don't go to the World's Fair, go to Yosemite." r *Miner's Ten Commandments*r was first published in the *Placerville Herald* in 1853; later it was putr into letter-sheet form and ninety-seven thousand were sold in ar little over a year.r r r

r The Miner's Ten Commandments as written by Mr. Hutchingsr follow:r

r r

r THE MINER'S TEN COMMANDMENTSr

r r r

r A Man Spake these Words, and Said:r

r r

r I am a miner, who wandered from "away down East," and came to sojourn in ar strange land, and "see the elephant." And behold I saw him, and can bear witness,r that from the key of his trunk to the end of his tail, his whole body has passed beforer me: and lo! I followed him, until his huge feet stood still before a clap-boardr shanty, then with his trunk extended, he pointed to a candle-card tacked upon ar shingle, as though he would say, "READ!" and I read:r

r r

ī

r

r Thou shalt have no other claim than one.r

r r

II

r

r Thou shalt not make unto thyself any false claim, nor any likeness to a mean manr by jumping one; whatsoever thou findest on the top above, or on the rock beneath,r or in the crevice underneath the rock; for, if thou doest, I shall surely visit the minersr around, and tell them what thou hast done, and should they decide against thee,r thou shalt take thy pick-axe and thy pan, thy shovel, and thy blankets, with allr thou hast, and "go prospecting" for "new diggings," but thou shalt find none.r Then, when in sorrow and despair thou returnest to thy old claim, thou shalt findr it all worked out, and yet no "pile" made for thee, that thou mightest bury it inr the ground, or hide it in an old boot beneath thy bunk, or in buckskin or bottler beneath thy cabin floor. Besides this, thou shalt discover that all thou hadst in thyr purse has quietly drifted away; that thy boots and thy garments have been wornr out, so that there is nothing good about them but the pockets, and thy patiencer will be like unto thy garments; and, as a last resort, thou shall hire thy body out tor make thy board and save thy worthless bacon.r

r r r

III

r

r Thou shalt not go prospecting before thy claim gives out. Neither shalt thou taker thy money nor thy gold dust, nor thy good name, to the gambling-table in vain;r for "monte," "Roulette," "twenty-one,"r "faro,"r "lansquenet," "poker," or anyr other games will conclusively prove to thee that the more thou puttest down, ther less thou shalt take up; and when thou thinkest of the gray hairs that thou artr bringing "in sorrow to the grave," of the home thou hast disgraced, of family andr friends thou hast wronged, thou shalt ask thyself, "Verily am I not a simpleton ofr the first water?"r

r r

IV

r

r Thou shalt not remember what thy friends do at home on the Sabbath Day, lestr the remembrance should not compare favorably with what thou doest here; forr well thou knowest that on that day thou washest all thy dirty clothes, darnest allr thy stockings, patchest up thy nether garments, dost tap thy boots, chop thyr whole week's fire-wood, make up and bake thy bread and boil thy pork and beans,r that thou wait not when at night thou returnest from thy labors weary. But, alas!r r r r r thou rememberest not that for six days thou mayest dig, or pick, or wash, all thatr thy body can stand under; by which, if thou art careful, thou canst not wear outr thy body in two years, but if thou workest hard on Sunday also thou canst do it inr six months; and thou and thy wife, thy son and thy daughter, thy male friend andr thy female friend, thy morals and thy conscience, be none the better for it: andr thou shalt try to justify thyself because the trader and the black-smith, the carpenterr and the merchant, the tailor and cheap-john huckster, the gamblers and buccaneers,r defy God, religion and civilization by keeping not the Sabbath Day, such asr memory, youth, and home, made hallowed.r

r r

r Vr

r

r Thou shalt not think more of gold, and how thou canst make it fastest, than ofr how thou art likely to enjoy it, after thou hast ridden rough-shod over all thy goodr old parents' precepts and examples; that thou mayest have nothing to reprove andr sting thee, when thou art left ALONE in the land to which thy mother's love andr father's blessing hath unswervingly followed thee.r

r r

r VIr

r

r Thou shalt not ruin thy health nor kill thy body, by working in the rain, evenr though thou shouldst make enough thereby to buy physic and attendance with.r Neither shalt thou destroy thy self by getting "tight," norr "high," nor "stewed,"r nor "corned," nor "half seas over," nor "three sheets in ther wind," by drinkingr smoothly down, "brandy slings," "gin cocktails,"r "whiskeyr punches," "rum toddies,"r nor "egg nogs," neither shalt thou suck "mintr juleps," nor "sherry cobblers,"r through a straw; nor take it "neat" from a decanter, nor guzzler "lagerr beer" or "halfr and half" until thou art like a swine; in as much as while thou art swallowing downr thy purse, and thy coat from off thy back, thou art burning it from off thy stomach, r beside devouring thine own and others' heritages. And if thou couldst see ther houses and lands, with piles of gold and silver thou hast gobbled up, and the homer comforts thou hast sacrificed and wasted, thou shouldst feel a choking in thyr throat; and when to these thou addest thy crooked walkings, and thy hic-hiccupingr talkings, of lodgings in the gutter, of broilings in the sun, of prospect holesr half full of mud and water, and of shafts and ditches from which thou hast emergedr like a drowning rat, thou shalt feel disgusted with thy self and all such reminiscences, r and enquire: "Is thy servant a dog that he doeth these things?" Surely, r then, thou wilt be tempted to say: "Farewell, old bottle, I will kiss thy whiskey-moistenedr lips no more. And thou, slings, cocktails, punches, toddies, nogs, juleps,r and sangarees, forever farewell. Thy remembrance shames me; henceforth, therefore,r 'I cut thy acquaintance,' and with thee, headaches, tremblings, heart burnings,r blue devils, and all the unholy catalogue of evils that follow in thy train. Myr wife's welcoming smile and kiss, and my children's merry-hearted laugh, shallr charm and reward me for having the manly courage, at all times, and under everyr kind of circumstances, to say 'NO'. Strong drink, comest thou in any form orr garb, I wish thee an eternal farewell."r

r r

VII

r

r Thou shalt not grow discouraged because thou hast not made thy "pile," nor thinkr of going home for not having "struck a lead," nor "found a richr crevice," nor "sunkr a hole upon a pocket," lest in going home thou shalt leave three or four dollars ar r r r r day, and there go to work, ashamed, at fifty cents—and serve thee right—for, asr thou well knowest, sooner or later here thou tightest strike "pay dirt" in somer shape, keep thy self-respect, and then seek home to make thy self and others happy.r

VIII

r

r Thou shalt not steal a pick, or a shovel, or a pan from thy fellow miner; nor taker away his tools without his leave; nor borrow those he cannot spare; nor return themr broken; nor trouble him to fetch them back again when he needs their use. Neitherr shalt thou spin long yarns to him while his water rent is running on; nor remover his stakes to enlarge thy claim; nor undermine his bank in following a lead; norr pan out gold from his riffle-box; nor wash the tailings from his sluice's mouth.r Neither shalt thou take specimens from the company's pan and put them into thyr mouth, until thou canst, unseen, transfer them to thy purse; nor cheat thy partnerr of the smallest portion of his fair share; nor steal from thy cabin-mate his gold dustr to add it unto thine; for in any one or all of these things he will be sure to discoverr what thou hast done, when he will straightway call "a miners'r meeting," and if ther law hinder them not, they will hang thee; or give thee fifty lashes, accompaniedr with the ejaculation "vamose"; or they will shave thy head and brand thee like ar horse-thief, with R burned in upon thy cheek, to be known and read of all men—r Californians in particular.r

r r

IX

r

r Thou shalt not tell any false tales about "good diggings in ther mountains" to thyr neighbor, that thou mayest benefit a friend who hath mules, and provisions, andr tools, and blankets he could not otherwise sell; lest, after thus deceiving thy neighbor,r when he returneth through the snow, with naught left him but his rifle, her present thee with the leaden contents thereof, and, like a dog, thou shalt fall downr and die; when public opinion expressed upon the case would be, "served him right."r

r r

Χ

r

r Thou shalt not commit "unsuitable matrimony," not covet "single blessedness;"r nor forget "absent maidens;" nor neglect thy "first love," knowing how patiently,r and faithfully, aye longingly, she watchingly waiteth thy return, yea, and coverethr every epistle that thou sendeth her with kisses—until she hath thyself. Neitherr shalt thou covet thy neighbor's wife nor by presents or attentions steal away herr heart-love from him, nor trifle with the affections of his daughter; yet, if thy heartr be free, and thou lovest and covetest each other, thou shalt "pop ther question" liker a man, lest another more manly than thou art should step in before thee, andr thence forward thou love her in vain; and in the anguish of thy heart's disappointmentr thou shouldst regretfully express thyself thus:r "*Verily, such is life!*"r and thyr future lot be that of a poor, crusty, lonely, despised and comfortless old bachelor.r

r r

r "A new Commandment giveth I unto Thee."r

r If thou hast a wife and little ones that thou lovest dearer than thine own life,r thou shalt keep them constantly before thee, to nerve and prompt thee to everyr noble effort, until thou canst say, "Thank God I have enough. I will return tor them." Then as thou journeyest toward thy much-loved home and precious ones,r ere thou hast crossed the blessed threshold, they shall welcome thee with kisses,r and, falling upon thy neck, weep tears of unutterable joy that thou art come.r

r r

r So mote it be.r

rrrrrr

r Mr. Hutchings was thoroughly familiar with the stage routesr as well as the surrounding country of the Sierra. He liked to taker tourists over the route which led through the Tuolumne Grover where one could see the first tunnel cut through a Big Tree, inr 1878. The "Dead Giant," as the tree is known, is barked ninety feetr from the ground and stands a ghastly specter among the livingr trees of the forest. There was also an unusual sight in the Calaverasr Grove. A Big Tree, twenty-five feet in diameter, was stumped fiver and a half feet above ground; a roof was built over it and a stairwayr led to the top of the stump which was used for dancing parties, lectures,r and religious services. On July Fourth, 1854, Mr. Hutchingsr was one of thirty-two persons who had at one timer "skipped the light fantastic toe"r in quadrille on this stump with seventeenr bystanders looking on and no one was crowded. The route also ledr through Sonora. In the *Souvenir of California*, 1894, p. 41, Mr.r Hutchings says: "Sonora is one of the prettiest mining towns, andr one that has never been excelled for its rich gold deposits, not onlyr in its placer mines, but also in its quartz ledges. Over one thousandr pounds of gold were taken from the Bonanza ledge in six days, butr a few years ago. At Vallacinto I once saw a nugget of gold takenr out, shaped like a beef's kidney, that weighed 26 pounds, 2 ounces."r

r r

r Mr. Hutchings, fond of people whether personal guests or tourists,r entertained many whose names stood high in science, art, literature,r and political life. When B. F. Taylor was a guest in the cabinr and came to know Florence, the beautiful and attractive daughterr of the family, he suggested that one of the peaks of the Sierra ber named "Mount Florence" in her honor. This same author gives ther following word picture of James Mason Hutchings (*Between the Gates*, 1878):r "A man of culture, he is an enthusiastic lover of ther region wherein he has passed so many years. Tall, spare, made ofr whipcord and grit, he is a revised and improved edition of Cooper'sr Leather Stocking. His gray hair does not suggest age, but like ar horse iron-gray, means endurance."r

r r

r Even after he relinquished his claim, Yosemite remained homer r r r to Mr Hutchings. When his daughter Florence, the first whiter child born in Yosemite, died September 26, 1881, her funeral servicer was held in the Big Tree Room of the former Hutchings Houser and burial was in Yosemite. Six weeks later A[u]gusta L. Hutchingsr died after only a few hours illness and again the funeral service wasr held in the Big Tree Room. Her grave is by the side of Florence's.r The pioneer was sadly bereft by the loss of his daughter and hisr devoted wife and companion, who had been his inspiration sincer the early childhood of his three children. He describes her in theser words: "Think what a wife should be, and she was that." Mr.r Hutchings now devoted much of his time to writing. It was in ther beloved old cabin that he wroter <u>r In the Heart of the Sierras</u>.r Emily A. Hutchings was his devoted wife and companion in the autumnr of his life. The years passed but Mr. Hutchings did not grow old.r He was strong and vigorous when like a thunderbolt out of a clearr sky death struck him down at the age of 82 years.r

r r

r The San Francisco *Chronicle* of Sunday, November 2, 1902,r carried the headlines: "Fatal accident to Father of Yosemite, Jamesr Mason Hutchings, victim of a runaway. The Pioneer writer popularizedr the Valley. Yosemite, November 1, 1902, J. M. Hutchingsr... met with a tragic death last evening on the Oak Flat road aboutr 500 yards above where that road intersects the floor of the Valley.r... Mrs. Hutchings says that one of the horses shied ... and jumpedr over the wagon tongue and started to run.... The wagon struck ther side of a large rock and Mrs. Hutchings was thrown from the wagon.r About twenty feet farther down Mr. Hutchings was thrown rhead first on a pile of rocks and expired within five minutes.... Ther remains were brought to the Big Tree Room."r

r r

r In a letter Mrs. Emily A. Hutchings says: "From the momentr the sad accident was known, the greatest sympathy and kindnessr were shown, loving hands gave reverent aid, and on Sunday,r November 2, 1902, my dear husband was borne from the Big Treer Room and its time-honored memories. The residents of the Valleyr and many of the Indians, who had long known him, followed. Wer r r r laid him to rest, surrounded by nature in her most glorious garb,r and under the peaks and domes he had loved so well and had exploredr so fearlessly."r

r r

r As a Yosemite pioneer Mr. Hutchings had wide contacts. Hisr culture, education, and literary bent drew men of note to him, andr his genial personality made his approachable and interesting to all.r His enthu[s]iasm for Yosemite—the spot he loved above all others—r increased unceasingly until death suddenly took him at the age ofr 82 years.r

rrr	
rr	
r <u>Next: Galen Clark</u> r •r <u>Contents</u> r •r <u>Previous: James Lamon</u> r	
rrr	
r	
rr	
r	
rr	
r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/yosemite_indians_and_other_sketches/james_hutchings.htmlr	
rrrrrrrrrr	
r	

	Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor
	r <u>Yosemite</u> > <u>Library</u> >r <u>Yosemite Indians & Other Sketches</u> >r Galen Clark >r
rr	
r	
rrr	
	r <u>Next: John Muir</u> r •r <u>Contents</u> r •r <u>Previous: James Hutchings</u> r
rrr	

rrrr	
rrrrr	
	r GALEN CLARKr
rr	
rrrr	<image/> <image/>
	r GALEN CLARKr

r

rrr rrr r r

Chapter 4: Galen Clark • 1814-1910

r r

r "GUARDIAN OF YOSEMITE"r

r r



r r r her pioneers of Yosemite are an intimate and interestingr part of its history. Galen Clark,r "Guardian of Yosemite," came to California in 1853, two yearsr after the discovery of Yosemite Valley. For fifty-sevenr years he was closely connected with the Valleyr and adjacent region. In the family record book owned by hisr nephew, L. L. McCoy, there is written in Galen Clark's own hand:r "Galen Clark was born March 28th, 1814. A native of Dublin, r New Hampshire." The following data are from letters and interviewsr with his nephews, L. L. McCoy and A. M. McCoy, both ofr Red Bluff, California. In 1836 Galen Clark settled in Waterloo,r Missouri. He was a cabinet maker by trade. Some years ago whenr Mr. Clark was visiting in the home of L. L. McCoy he

looked at ar chair with hickory bark bottom and remarked, "I made that set ofr six chairs for your grandfather, Joseph McCoy, in Waterloo, Missouri,r in the winter of 1836-37." In 1839 Mr. Clark marriedr Rebecca McCoy, daughter of Joseph McCoy. He lived in Missourir until 1845 when, with his wife and three children, he moved tor Philadelphia. There, in 1848, his wife died, leaving an infant sonr nine days old.r

r r

r Mr. Clark took his children, three boys and two girls, to relativesr in Massachusetts, where they grew up and were educated. Hisr oldest son, Joseph, was killed in the Civil War. The second son,r Alonzo, graduated from Harvard in 1870, and in 1871 came tor California to be with his father who was then keeping the hotelr known as Clark's Station, now Wawona. Alonzo died in 1874 andr is buried in the Mariposa cemetery. Elvira, the oldest daughter,r came west to see her father in 1870 and married Dr. Lee. Theyr r r lived in Oakland, California where her father, Galen Clark, diedr on March 24, 1910. Ruth, the youngest daughter, remained in ther East. Solon, the youngest son, was drowned at the age of nine yearsr

r r

r While Galen Clark was living in the East he heard accounts ofr vast fortunes made by gold miners in California and determined tor see the new Eldorado. He came by way of the Isthmus of Panamar and in 1854 went to Mariposa, heralded for its rich discoveries.r and there engaged in mining. In August, 1855, a party of twelver or fourteen from Mariposa and Bear Valley trailed into Yosemite.r Galen Clark, a member of this party, was fascinated by the Valleyr and the mountain region surrounding it.r

r r

r When exposure of mining injured his health and hemorrhagesr became serious he was forced to give up the work. Mr. Clark recalledr the beautiful mountain meadows he had seen on his trip intor Yosemite and in the spring of 1857 he went to the South Fork ofr the Merced, where the Mariposa Battalion had camped in 1851.r Here, in one of the loveliest mountain meadows of the High Sierra.r he made his home. It was half way along

the trail leading from Mariposa to Yosemite Valley.r

r r

r On the spot where the Wawona Hotel now stands, he built hisr log cabin, crude but not without charm. It had its shelf of rarer books; Yosemite pictures were on its walls; a great fireplace with anr ample supply of wood on either side made it an inviting place tor stay for a day or a month. Mr. Clark's training in cabinet workr proved useful in these early mountain days and Clark's Station becamer a haven of rest for tourists on the long trail. As host, cook,r guide, scientist, and philosopher, Mr. Clark was a rare,r never-to-be-forgotten pioneer. He looked a patriarch and grew morer patriarchal every year. As travel increased, the cabin was enlarged andr furnished with comfortable chairs and the best of beds. Touristsr marveled at the abundance of excellent food. Add to that, Mr.r Clark's interesting personality, refreshing wit, wholesomer philosophy, and his knowledge of trees, flowers, and animals, and canr one wonder that Clark's Station was known far and wide?r

rrrr

r Financially, Mr. Clark was not successful. He gave freely ofr himself and spared no expense for the comfort and welfare ofr guests. In 1870 he took Edwin Moore as a partner and the Stationr became Clarke and Moore's. The extensive repairs and additionsr that were made were too costly for a hotel dependent solely on ther summer season tourists. In 1875 Washburn Brothers took over ther station and changed the name to"Wawona." It is still a delightful,r restful hotel in a charming meadow.r

r r

r The out-of-door life in the mountains completely restored Mr.r Clark's health, as his ninety-six years testify. When the touristr season was over he explored the surrounding country. He becamer acquainted with the Indians as well as with the flora and fauna ofr the region. While out hunting in 1857 he discovered the Mariposar Grove of Big Trees (*Sequoia gigantea*). This grove contains threer hundred and sixty-five trees of great size, and innumerable seedlingsr preparing themselves for coming generations. Mr. Clark becamer a recognized mountaineer of the Yosemite region. John Muirr writes: "Galen Clark was the best mountaineer I ever met, and oner of the kindest and most amiable of all my mountain friends. Hisr kindness to all Yosemite visitors and mountaineers was marvelouslyr constant and uniform. . . . He was one of the most sincere treer lovers I ever knew."r

r r

r Mr. Clark was greatly impressed by his discovery of the Bigr Tree Grove. He would make these unknown trees accessible tor the tourist, and known to the world. He blazed a horse trail from Clark's Station to the grove and built a cabin, known as "Galen's Hospice," to be used as a place to rest or to stop overnight if cold orr storm should overtake the traveler. Today a replica of the cabinr stands on the original location and provides a museum for ther Mariposa Grove of Big Trees.r

r r

r The name "Clark's Grove" was suggested for this grove but Mr.r Clark shunned publicity. His retiring, modest personality couldr not accept the honor and he asked that, instead, it be namedr Mariposa Grove of Big Trees. A tree, 240 feet high and 21 1/2 feet inr diameter,r r r r the one first seen by the discoverer, is named Galen Clark.r The cairn close by was built by Mr. Clark.r

r To advertise the road and also to give tourists the thrill of knowingr the bigness of these trees, the Yosemite Stage and Turn-Piker Company, in 1880 paid the two Scribner brothers \$75 to cut ar tunnel 8 feet by 27 1/2 feet and high enough for stage and passengersr through one of the Big Trees. The tunneled tree was appropriatelyr named "Wawona," which in the Miwok Indian language,r means "Big Tree."r

r r

r The advertisement brought returns and the route through ther Mariposa Grove became popular. Driving through a tree with ther stage was an interesting and thrilling experience. The photographerr saw his opportunity; when the stage was almost through ther tree it stopped; the camera man took the picture; the tourist gaver orders for copies; and the stage drove on, and he awaited the nextr stage. Above the fireplace in the Yosemite Museum hangs a picturer of one of the early stages driving through the Wawona Tree. Inr this picture Galen Clark sits with the driver. Tourists in no smallr numbers drive through this tree each season. It is today in good,r healthy condition. Sufficient bark and living tissue for life andr growth remained after cutting the tunnel. No other tree has beenr so widely known as Wawona, the tunneled tree. Pictured in school-booksr throughout the land the memories of thousands, once schoolr children, recall the Wawona Tree.r

r r

r Four Big Trees (*Sequoia gigantea*) have been tunneled. The Wawona Treer in the Mariposa Grove was tunneled in 1880. The California Tree,r also in the Mariposa Grove, about one hundred yardsr east of the Grizzly Giant, was cut about 1895. The first of the fourr trees to be tunneled was the Dead Giant, in the Tuolumne Grove,r cut in 1878. It was stumped 90 feet from the ground and entirelyr barked, thereby killing it—hence the Dead Giant. It will stand forr centuries, a ghastly specter. The fourth tunneled tree, known asr the Pioneer, is in the Calaveras Grove, and is the only one outsider the boundaries of Yosemite National Park. The Wawona Tree stillr r r r makes its appeal to the tourists of today. The other three tunneledr trees are all but forgotten.r

r r

r Due to Mr. Clark's interest and efforts no other grove has sor many well-known trees as the Mariposa Grove. The Fallen Monarchr attracts tourists in numbers as great as if it still lived and stoodr among its fellows. Dr. Nicholas Senn, in his bookr *National Recreation Parks*,r published in 1904 (p. 145), says: "Five years ago ther Monarch of the Mariposa Grove of Sequoias . . . severed his connectionr with the soil that had nourished him so well and long and fellr helpless, crushing through the branches of his loyal neighbors."r

r r

r The Mariposa Grove must have trembled when the giant Massachusettsr fell in the spring of 1927. the tree is magnificent in itsr repose. Fire burned away much of its base. Road-building in ther early years of Yosemite cut into its roots, which are wide-spreadingr rather than deep, thus lessening still further its hold on the earth.r The eternal law of gravity gradually overcame every hold and ther great Sequoia fell.r

r r

r The Clothespin Tree, the Telescope Tree, and the Three Gracesr are well-known and are interesting in different ways. The Matherr Tree, dedicated to Stephen T. Mather, first Director of Nationalr Park Service, whose valuable service, untiring efforts, and greatr generosity have made every citizen of our country his debtor, is ar young Sequoia with its growth, power and usefulness in the future.r The tree is symbolic of the vision that Mr. Mather had for ther development of our national parks.r

r r

r In respect to symmetry and beauty, the Alabama Tree has ar place all its own. Fire has not scarred it, wind, snow, and hail haver left its branches unbroken. Beautiful in form, vibrant with life, ther Alabama Tree has an alluring charm.r

r r

r To many, Grizzly is the most beloved of all Big Trees. In his book, r Scenes of Wonder and Curiosity in California.r published in 1862,r J. M. Hutchings says (p. 148): "We measured one sturdy, gnarledr old fellow, which, although badly burned, and the bark almostr gone so that a large portion of its original size was lost, is nevertheless,r r r r still ninety feet in circumference and which we took the libertyr of naming the 'Grizzled Giant'." In his article"New Sequoiar Forests of California," published in Harpers Magazine,r November, 1878 (vol. 57, pp. 813-827), John Muir says: "The most notabler tree in the well-known Mariposa Grove is the Grizzly Giant, r some thirty feet in diameter, growing on the top of a stony ridge.r When this tree falls, it will make so extensive a basin by the uptearingr of its huge roots, and so deep and broad a ditch by the blowr of its ponderous trunk, that, even supposing that the trunk itselfr be speedily burned, traces of its existence will nevertheless remainr patent for thousands of years. Because being on a ridge, the rootr hollow and trunk ditch made by its fall will not be filled up byr rain washing; neither will they be obliterated by falling leaves, forr leaves are constantly consumed in forest fires; and if by any chancer they should not be thus consumed, the humus resulting from theirr decay would still indicate the fallen Sequoia by a long straightr strip of special soil, and special growth to which it would give birth.r... The General Grant, of King's River Grove, has acquiredr considerable notoriety in California as the biggest tree in the world,r though in reality less interesting and not so large as many othersr of no name. . . . A fair measurement makes it about equal to ther giant . . . which it also resembles in general appearance."r

r r

r Fire and storm have left deep scars on the Grizzly Giant of ther Mariposa Grove. It has a lean of twenty-four feet and the never-failingr force of gravity will slowly and surely lay it down. When, r no one knows.r

r r

r No other pioneer was connected with Yosemite in so many ways,r for so long a time, and so intimately as Galen Clark. The grant fromr the Federal Government setting aside Yosemite Valley and ther Mariposa Grove of Big Trees for a State Park, was approved byr President Lincoln, June 30, 1864. Frederick F. Low, Governor of California,r appointed Galen Clark on the commission to govern theser two tracts. Later he was appointed Guardian of the newly mader Park. His long and valued service in this position, which he heldr r r r for twenty-four years, earned for him the title "Guardian of Yosemite."r His cordial and generous hospitality, his never-failing kindnessr to all tourists, gradually and permanently bestowed on himr the more intimate title "Beloved Man of Yosemite."r

r r

r In 1890 Yosemite became a National Park, but Galen Clarkr continued to make the Valley his summer home for nearly twentyr years. He brought the first wagon into Yosemite Valley. Charlesr Tuttle, the first white boy born in Yosemite, rehearsed the sensationr created by this event: "I was a boy of eight or nine years when ther first wagon was brought into the Valley. Galen Clark had it packedr in on mule back. I had never been out of the Valley and had neverr seen a wagon. Everybody was interested to see it assembled. When all was in readiness three or four days were given to celebrate ther event and everybody living in the Valley had a free ride; I will never forget those days! They were wonderful!"r In 1889 John Muir writes:r "I find Old Galen

Clark also. He looks well and is earning ar living by carrying passengers about the Valley." The old wagon isr an interesting and prized relic in the Yosemite Museum.r

r r

r Throughout his years Galen Clark was sought by tourists inr order that they might hear the experiences and tales of this pioneer,r who was not without wit and a keen sense of humor. Hisr niece, Florence McCoy Sheffield, told the following to the writer:r "Four women tourists met my Uncle Galen in Yosemite and werer welcomed to his cabin. To their request to hear of his life in Yosemiter he replied that he would tell them of his experiences if theyr would indicate what they were interested in hearing. With oner accord came, "We want to hear all about everything, you just gor ahead!" With a benign smile and a twinkle his eyes never lost her said: 'I'm no artesian well, but I can be pumped. You just gor ahead'."r

r r

r Galen Clark is the author of three small books, all of which werer written when he was past ninety years of age:r <u>r *The Big Trees of California*</u>,r 1907, 104 pages. Illustrated.r <u>r *Indians of the Yosemite Valley and*</u> <u>Vicinity</u>,r 1904, 110 pages. Illustrations by Chris Jorgensen.r <u>r *The Yosemite Valley*</u>, Its History</u>,r 1910, 108 pages. Illustrated.r

rrrr

r On the Lost Arrow Trail there is an open space that frames inr the Yosemite Falls. Here is the John Muir plaque that marks ther spot where once his cabin stood, and a few feet away stands ther Memorial Bench that in 1911 was dedicated to Galen Clark.r

r r

r When Washburn Brothers took over Clark's Station in 1875,r they gave him the freedom of their hotel for the remaining thirty-fiver years of his life. He was a frequent and ever welcome guest.r Upon his death in Oakland at the home of his daughter, Elvirar Clark Lee, on March 24, 1910, at the age of ninety-six years,r Washburn Brothers asked the privilege of bearing all funeral expenses.r They took the body to Yosemite where, more than twenty yearsr before, Galen Clark had selected a burial spot in the old cemetery.r In each corner he had planted a young Sequoia taken from ther grove that he had discovered in 1857. In the Merced *Star* of April 7, 1910,r we read that the girls and boys of Yosemite Valley, dressedr in white, attended the funeral services in a body. Each carried ar wreath of evergreen and cherry blossoms tied with purple ribbon.r One by one the wreaths were laid about the casket. The pallbearersr placed their boutonnieres upon the casket. The body of Galenr Clark was lowered into the grave that he himself had dug a fewr years earlier. A rough granite boulder, upon which he had chiseledr his name in 1890, is his headstone.r

r r

r The many tourists interested in the pioneer days of Yosemiter have worn a path to the grave ofr Galen Clark—"Beloved Man of Yosemite."r

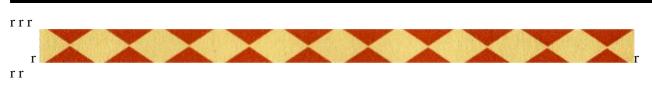
rrrr

r r

r Next: John Muirr •r Contentsr •r Previous: James Hutchingsr

	Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor
rrr	
r	
r r	
r	
r r	
	r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/yosemite_indians_and_other_sketches/galen_clark.htmlr
rrrrr	rrrrrr
r	
rr	
1	r <u>Yosemite</u> > <u>Library</u> >r <u>Yosemite Indians & Other Sketches</u> >r John Muir >r
rr	
r	
rrr	
	r Next: Coulterville Roadr •r Contentsr •r Previous: Galen Clarkr
rrr	

rrrr	
rrrrr	
	r JOHN MUIRr
rr	
TTTTT	
	r Photograph by W. E. Dassonviller
	r
	r JOHN MUIRr
rrrr	r



Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor

Chapter 5: John Muir

r r r



r r r tudentsr and enthusiasts in one or even severalr fields of nature have been many. But one alone hasr had a passionate love for nature in every form andr mood and clime. John Muir stands apart as oner who saw beauty everywhere and felt a kinship andr reverence for all creation. With the magic touch of his pen, and inr words that can never die, he has interpreted nature with feelingr and understanding as no one else has done. Muir is unique, his observationsr are scientifically accurate, his style is ever simple andr magnetic, and from his philosophy of life there radiates a contagiousr atmosphere.r

r r

r The family emigrated from Scotland in 1849, when Muir wasr eleven years old, and settled in Wisconsin, northeast of Lake Mendota.r Pioneer life was rigid, full of hardship and hard work. Comfortsr were few, money was scarce, and schooling was limited. Muirr lived this pioneer life but his Scotch ancestry bequeathed to himr values greater and more lasting than money. His was the priceless rinheritance of integrity, patience, courage, and perseverance. Hisr steadfastness of purpose overcame all obstacles. In his first twelver years in America he had but two months of schooling. His father'sr stern, Scottish discipline sent every member of the family to bedr immediately after prayers, which was about eight o'clock. Evenr though John was a young man of sixteen the rule could not ber changed. He usually managed to steal a few minutes to read byr candlelight in the kitchen, and this happened so often that hisr father, in exasperation, called to him to go straight to bed and getr up in the morning if he must read. Nothing could have pleasedr him more. Five o'clock was the hour when everyone must get upr and go to work. Henceforth he got up at one o'clock and thusr r r r gained four precious hours for reading and for work on his inventions.r Nothing could dim his vision of the future. His aim was ther State University at Madison, a town beautifully situated on ther banks of Lake Mendota. The campus was on a well-rounded hillr facing the State Capitol one and a half miles east. No landscaper architect could add to the natural beauty of these grounds. Muirr was charmed by them, and set forth from his home determined tor attend the university. He rehearsed his background and limitedr schooling to the acting president, who received him with kindlyr welcome and understanding, and after a few weeks in the preparatoryr department, was enrolled as a freshman in the University ofr Wisconsin. Here he spent four years preparing himself for the universityr that has no buildings and the campus of which is the world.r Muir had no degree from the University of Wisconsin; he hadr selected only the work that would further his study of nature.r When in 1869 he left Wisconsin to enter the University of Life,r it was with deep feeling and tearful eyes that he bade farewell tor his alma mater.r

r r

r The Sierra Mountains had long lured him and he set out for ther Pacific Coast. When he arrived at San Francisco, he immediatelyr asked the way to Yosemite. A walk of a hundred and fifty miles orr more offered no obstacle. He shouldered his pack and set forth. Inr an open space near the foot of Yosemite Falls he built his cabin. Itr was a picturesque spot amid the pines and cedar and cottonwoodr trees. Tall growing brakes and great clumps of azaleas surroundedr the cabin, and the Yosemite Falls poured its waters at his door. Muirr says in a letter to one of his friends: "This cabin, I think, was ther handsomest building in the Valley and the most useful and convenientr for a mountaineer. From Yosemite Creek, where it firstr gathers its beaten waters at the foot of the falls, I dug a small ditchr and brought a stream into the cabin, entering at one end and flowingr out the other with just enough current to allow it to sing andr warble in low, sweet tones, delightful at night while I lay in bed.r The floor was made of rough slabs nicely joined and embedded inr r r r the

ground. In the spring, the common pteris ferns pushed up betweenr the joints of the slabs, two of which, growing slender liker climbing ferns on account of the subdued light, I trained on threadsr up the sides and over my window in front of my writing desk in anr ornamental arch. Dainty little tree frogs occasionally climbed ther ferns and made fine music in the night, and common frogs camer in with the stream and helped to sing with the Hylas and ther warbling, tinkling water. My bed was suspended from the raftersr and lined with libocedrus plumes, altogether forming a delightfulr home in the glorious valley at a cost of only \$3 or \$4 and I wasr loth to leave it." For eleven years this cabin was Muir's home. Herer he enjoyed the aloneness that such surroundings make possibler and the solitude that brings wealth of life to him who knows howr to use it. From this cabin he went forth for days or weeks or monthsr at a time to explore the Sierra. His needs were few; his small packr held notebook, tea, and biscuits, but rarely a blanket. Nature providedr in season, fruits, edible roots, and nuts.r

r r

r Muir's first contact with Yosemite Valley and the High Sierrar completely fascinated him. Their solitude brought joy and gladness.r He writesr (*My First Summer in Sierra*,r 1869, p. 61):r "Oh,r these vast, calm, measureless mountain days, inciting at once tor work and to rest. Days in whose light everything seems equallyr divine, opening a thousand windows to show us God. Nevermore,r however weary, should one faint by the way who gains the blessingr of one mountain day." These mountains lured him increasinglyr throughout his life. He traveled widely but the Sierra was hisr home. During his first summer in this region he herded sheep forr a rancher. The money he received was no doubt acceptable butr his observations on sheep grazing gave him first-hand knowledger of the destruction of plants and shrubs and mountain meadows.r When later his articles on this subject appeared in papers and magazines,r the nation was aroused to value and guard its Yosemite, forr here was one who spoke with authority. The people as well as ther government were made aware of the exploitation of their parks.r

rrrr

r The need of money recalled Muir to his Yosemite cabin longr before the snows of winter threatened. Here he replenished hisr purse by working at the saw mill for J. M. Hutchings. It was herer that Le Conte, the elder, met Muir in August, 1870. Le Conte tellsr of the meeting thus: "Today to Yosemite Falls—stopped a momentr at the foot of the falls, at a saw mill to make inquiries. Here foundr a man in rough miller's garb, whose intelligent face and earnest,r clear blue eyes excited my interest. After some conversation, discoveredr that it was Mr. Muir, a gentleman of whom I had heardr much from Mrs. Prof Carr and others. He had also received a letterr from Mrs. Carr, concerning our party, and was looking for us.r... I urged him to go with us to Mono ... [we] learned from Mr.r Muir that he would certainly go to Mono with us. We were muchr delighted to hear this. Mr. Muir is a gentleman of rare intelligence.r... A man of such intelligence tending a saw mill! —not for himselfr but for Mr. Hutchings. This is California!''r

r r

r No place could have been more fitting for these two lovers ofr nature to meet than Yosemite. It was Le Conte's first summer in ther Sierra and Muir led him and his party over the trail that he hadr blazed the year before. That tourist guiding was neither interestingr nor remunerative to Muir is easily understood; few could comprehendr their guide. Muir was not a recluse, however, but respondedr quickly to understanding people and enjoyed their friendship.r Such men as Asa Gray, Professor J. D. Butler, Ralph Waldo Emerson,r and Louis Agassiz, valued the rare opportunity of his leadershipr and companionship. He describes his meeting with Emerson*r r [*Bale'sr <u>r *Life and Letters of John Muir*</u>,r vol. I, pp. 235-255.]r r r thus: "Emerson, Agassiz, Gray—these men influenced mer more than any others. Yes, the most of my years were spent on ther wild side of the continent, invisible, in the forests and mountains.r These men were the first to find me and hail me as a brother. Firstr of all, and greatest of all, came Emerson. I was then [May, 1871]r living in

Yosemite Valley as a convenient and grand vestibule of the Sierra from which I could make excursions into the adjacentr r r r mountains. I had not much money and was then running a sawr mill that I had built to saw falling timber for cottages.r

r r

r "When he came into the valley I heard the hotel people say with solemn emphasis, 'Emerson is here.' I was excited as I had neverr been excited before, and my heart throbbed as if an angel directr from heaven had alighted on the Sierran rocks. But so great was my awe and reverence, I did not dare to go to him or speak to him.r...I wrote him a note and carried it to his hotel [Leidig's] tellingr him that El Capitan and Tissiack demanded him to stay longer.r

r r

r "The next day he inquired for the writer and was directed to ther little saw mill. He came to the mill on horseback . . . and inquiredr for me. I stepped out and said, 'I am Mr. Muir.' . . . Then he dismountedr and came into the mill. I had a study attached to the gabler of the mill, overhanging the stream, into which I invited him,r but it was not easy of access, being reached only by a series of slopingr planks roughened by slats like a hen ladder; but he bravelyr climbed up and I showed him my collection of plants and sketchesr drawn from the surrounding mountains, which seemed to interestr him greatly, and he asked many questions, pumping unconsciously.r

r r

r "He came again and again, and I saw him every day while her remained in the valley, and on leaving I was invited to accompanyr him as far as Mariposa Grove of Big Trees. I said, 'I'll go, Mr. Emerson,r if you will promise to camp with me in the grove. I'll build ar glorious camp fire, and the great brown boles of the giant Sequoiasr will be most impressively lighted up, and the night will be glorious.'r At this he became enthusiastic like a boy, his sweet perennial smiler became still deeper and sweeter, and he said, 'Yes, yes, we will campr out, camp out.' And so next day we left Yosemite and rode twenty-fiver miles through the Sierra forests, the noblest on the face of ther earth. . . . The colossal firs, Douglas spruce, Libocedrus and sugarr pine, the kings and priests of the conifers of the earth, filled himr with awe and delight.''r

r r

r But Emerson did not camp out with Muir. He was in the keepingr r r r of his friends and they were afraid of the "night air" and insistedr he go to his hotel in the Valley. As they mounted and rode awayr Emerson lingered in the rear. On the crest of the hill he stoppedr and turned his horse. Then took off his hat and waved a last good-byer to Muir standing alone at the edge of the grove. It was the lastr time that Muir saw Emerson. Muir confesses to a feeling of lonelinessr as Emerson disappeared from view—not the loneliness forr someone to talk with, but the longing to share a joy that can findr no expression in words. Emerson, he had thought, would love ther mountains even as he did himself; he would be eager to spend ar night amidst Sequoias lit up by a glorious camp-fire; he would ber charmed by the music of the wind playing in the trees; he wouldr enjoy nature wholly and fully as did Muir himself It was this disappointmentr that for the moment made him lonely.r

r r

r Even if he had not been past his prime, Emerson could not haver entered into the joys of nature as had Muir. Those who explorer beyond the reach of others are beacons that inspire many to enterr new adventures. Aloneness is the price that great men pay to standr upon the heights.r

r r

r Muir's wanderings in the Sierra were over uncharted regions,r but many have followed the trail of his footsteps. His path fromr Yosemite to Mount Whitney, America's highest mountain peak,r has become a well-worn trail. Shortly after his death it was markedr by a boulder bearing the inscription—"John Muir Trail—1917."r In the summer of 1933 the Sierra Club, of which John Muir wasr president from its organization in 1892 until his death in 1914,r dedicated to his memory the recently completed shelter-hut onr Muir Pass, 12,000 feet in elevation, built for the protection andr safety of mountain travelers. It is constructed of flat stones and isr shaped like a beehive and consists of one large room with an ampler fireplace. Fifty members of the Sierra Club stood in this room atr the dedication in July, 1933. A bronze plaque set into the structurer of the hut bears the inscription: "To John Muir, lover of ther Range of Light, this shelter was erected through the generosityr r r r r of George Frederick Schwartz, 1931, Sierra Club, U. S. Forestr Service." Muir was once asked if there would be continued need ofr the Sierra Club. His answer seems fitting for the walls of the shelterr hut. "So long as greed and wrong exist in the mountains, so longr must the fight against these evils be carried on by the Sierra Club."r

r r

r Muir knew the Sierra, its glaciers and gorges, its forests, lakes,r and mountain meadows. He explored the head waters of the Tuolumner and in Hetch Hetchy Valley he saw a second Yosemite notr less beautiful than the first. He was quick to see the ruin thatr followed the grazing sheep, "hoofed locusts," herded through ther mountain meadows even to the glacier's edge. Not only did theyr crop close but they uprooted plants and shrubs, changing floweringr meadows into barren wastes. In denuding the mountainsider the lumberman was destroying not only the trees, but was ruiningr in a day landscapes that nature through long ages had sculptured.r Muir lived in the mountains and understood them. His cry andr battle for conservation came from clear seeing and deep feeling.r

r r

r His fight for the creation of a Yosemite National Park wasr accomplished mainly through his articles published in ther Century Magazine.r In 1864 the Federal Government ceded Yosemite Valley,r together with a tract running a mile back from the rim, and r also the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees, to the State of California. Ther State appropriation for the care and maintenance of the park wasr so limited that commissioners and guardian were underpaid—andr often not paid at all. Herding, Lumbering, and Mining were carriedr on until the waterfalls of the Valley were threatened. The headwatersr of the streams feeding the falls were not included in ther State Park grant. It became a growing burden on Muir's mind andr heart that these headwaters and other mountain tracts must be setr aside in a National Park if Yosemite Valley was to be preserved. Inr 1889, Robert Underwood Johnson, associate editor of ther Century Magazine, met John Muir in San Francisco and accompanied himr to Yosemite and into the Sierra. At their Soda Spring campfire,r Johnson remarked that he had not seen any of the mountain meadowr r r r gardens so vividly described by Muir in the articles that hadr been published in the Century. Muir told him that ther "hoofed locusts" r not only ate everything in sight but also pulled up ther roots of plants and shrubs, leaving the meadows barren. The meltingr snow, with no underbrush to hold it, runs in torrents in ther springtime and leaves the falls dry in summer. It was obvious thatr if Yosemite Valley was to be preserved the State Park must be greatlyr enlarged and made a National Park.r

r r

r Johnson*r r [*Remembered Yesterdays, R. U. Johnson, p. 288.]r r says: "I told him [Muir] if he would write for the *Century*r two articles, the first onr <u>r *Treasures of Yosemite*</u>r to attract general rattention, and the second onr <u>r *Proposed Yosemite National Park*</u>.r . . . the boundaries of which he should outline . . . that I

would gor to Congress . . . and advocate its establishment . . . and that in myr judgment it would go through. Muir . . . wrote the articles. . . . Ther next summer [1890], I appeared before the House Committee, ar bill was drafted on the lines of Muir's boundaries. . . . October 1, 1890,r the Yosemite National Park became a fact. "It was put underr military control and sheep grazing was no longer permittedr within the park boundaries.r

r r

r Regarding Yosemite Valley Johnson says: "The neglect of ther Valley under State control had for years been a public scandal. . . .r Portions of the beautiful wild undergrowth of the Valley had beenr turned into hay fields, so that there might be fodder for the horsesr that are employed in taking visitors up the trails. . . . In order thatr one of the little inns should have as good a vista as the State hotel,r the Stoneman House, a lane had been cut to the Yosemite Falls,r and the great trees thus slaughtered had been left lying where theyr fell." Yosemite State Park was surrounded by Yosemite Nationalr Park; the former was under State control, the latter under Federal.r Naturally, the management of these two areas was a complicatedr matter and the results were more and more unsatisfactory.r

r r

r With other interested persons, Muir again led the fight. Johnsonr continues: "This fight for the better management of Yosemiter r r r r went on for many years, always under the uncompromising leadershipr of Muir. It soon took the form of a movement for the retrocessionr of the Valley to the National Government. . . . Muir led ther fight in California, and when the time came, went to Sacramentor . . . and showed himself the most practical of politicians. . . . The billr was finally passed. . . . Writing July 16, Muir says: 'Yes, myr dear Johnson, sound the loud timbrel and let every Yosemite treer and stream rejoice! You may be sure I knew when the big billr passed. . . . You don't know what an accomplished lobyist I've becomer under your guidance. The fight you planned by that Tuolumner campfire seventeen years ago is at last fairly, gloriously won,r every enemy down derry doon'." August 1, 1906, Headquartersr for Yosemite Lodge, and was calledr Fort Yosemite.r

r r

r Muir also led the fight to restrain San Francisco from getting itsr water supply from Yosemite National Park by damming the Tuolumner river at Hetch Hetchy, the "Tuolumne Yosemite," as Muirr called this valley. The bill granting water rights to San Franciscor was introduced by Representative Raker and passed the House inr September, 1913. Hope was centered on the Senate, and even ifr the Senate should pass it, great assurance was felt that the Presidentr would veto the bill. The Senate did pass the bill in December,r 1913, and President Wilson signed it. Muir was downcast but her was also relieved. Writing to a friend, he said: "I'm glad the fight forr the Tuolumne Yosemite is finished. It has lasted twelve years. Somer compensating good must surely come from so great a loss."r

r r

r No one more zealously and untiringly championed conservationr in all its aspects than did Muir, yet it is not as a conservationistr that he is best known. The charming little bell-like Cassiope isr known as John Muir's White Heather. His love for mountain leas,r flowering hillsides, and bloom-covered deserts made him acquaintedr with plants and flowers, yet we do not think of him as a botanist.r Neither was he a zoologist nor ornithologist, though he knewr r r r animals and birds. His description of the saucy, daring, sprightlyr Douglas squirrel thrills to the core. It is at once a contributionr to literature and a rare study of nature. He knew birds from earlyr childhood and increased his acquaintance wherever he met them.r His description of the water ouzel is a classic and has made thisr drab little bird widely known and admired. Besides, Muir was ar

geologist and geographer.r

r r

r His observations on glaciers and erosion are valuable contributionsr to these fields. (Address by C. R. Van Hise, President of ther University of Wisconsin, December, 1916, at the unveiling of ar bust of John Muir.) President Van Hise says: "His explorationsr there [in Alaska] represent the most important part of his geographicr work; they added much to the knowledge of the Alaskanr coast. A number of important inlets were mapped, the chiefest ofr which is Glacier Bay. In the latter was discovered the majestic glacierr which bears Muir's name, a mighty stream, of ice, in its broadestr part twenty-five miles wide and having two hundred glacialr tributaries. As compared with this, the greatest Alpine glacier is ar pigmy. Muir's close observations upon the motion and work ofr glaciers, first the small ones of the Sierra, and later the mighty onesr of Alaska, were important contributions to the knowledge of ther great agents of erosion. . . . John Muir's explorations of the Sierrar and in Alaska were done alone. He had no pack train; his entirer outfit he carried on his back. A sack of bread and a package of tear for food (as long as they lasted), his scientific instruments and hisr note books, constituted his load; . . . climbing in the mountains byr one's self, as did Muir, is one of the most exacting of the physical arts.... To explore glaciers alone, and especially unknown glaciers,r requires agility and endurance, constant skill, steady coolness, andr never-failing watchfulness. To jump innumerable crevasses, to crossr those too wide to jump on ice bridges, are a severe strain upon ther nerves of any man; and yet Muir . . . worked day after day alone onr the vast glacier that bears his name."r

r r

r Muir traveled in Australia, New Zealand, India, Africa, Russia,r r r r Switzerland, South America, and Alaska, always as a student ofr nature, whose every form was to him lovely. But trees rose abover all; to him they were nature's most beautiful expression. He saysr of Mount Hoffman, that the traveler will find the lower slopesr "plushed with chapparel rich in berries and bloom, a favorite forr bears. The middle region is planted with the most superb forest ofr silver fir I ever beheld."r

r r

r Muir is known more widely today than ever before. His namer is honored throughout the world. His spirit has thrilled and inspiredr and recreated thousands who have followed his trails to ther mountains. Grateful appreciation has preserved his name in Muirr Hut, Muir Trail, and Muir Pass, over which thousands hike eachr year. On the Lost Arrow trail in Yosemite Valley the spot where hisr cabin once stood is marked by a large boulder. The plaque bearsr the inscriptionr (*Our National Parks*, r John Muir, p. 56):r "Climb the mountains and get their good tidings, Nature's peace will flowr into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow theirr own freshness into you and the storms their energy, while caresr will drop off like autumn leaves."r

r r

r In presenting to the United States a forest of magnificent redwoods,r Senator and Mrs. Kent requested that it bear the namer "Muir Woods." On the campus of the University of Wisconsin,r where Muir spent his college years, a rise of ground overlookingr Lake Mendota was dedicated in 1915 as Muir Knoll. In the Stater Historical Museum, at Madison, Wisconsin, no object attractsr more interest than the almost human clock invented and constructedr by John Muir in the sixties, and used by him while attendingr the University. At the hour set for rising it dumped itsr occupant out of bed. At a set time, a lever attached from the clockr to his bookcase, brought a book from the shelf, placed it on ther desk, opened at the lesson page, then returned it and brought downr the next. A dainty butterfly in the New York Museum of Naturalr History is named for Muir who collected it on Mount Hoffmanr and sent it to Harry Edwards, who writes (*Papilio*, Vol. 6, p. 54):r r r r "I

have named this exquisite species after my friend, John Muir,r *Thecla Muiri*, who has frequently added rare and interesting speciesr to my collection." Recognition and appreciation of Muir's lifer are expressed in honorary degrees conferred by colleges and universities.r In 1896, Harvard conferred on him the degree of Masterr of Arts. The following year, 1897, the University of Wisconsin,r proud of its alumnus, conferred on him her highest academic honor,r the degree of Doctor of Laws. Yale, in 1911, conferred the degreer of Doctor of Literature, and in 1913, the University of Californiar conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws.r

r r

r But the highest and final degree is conferred by the Universityr of Life at no stated time or place. It is given without pomp or ceremony.r All other degrees and titles become useless and fade away,r as gradually and unconsciously the simple degree of Greatness isr bestowed. The recipients are called Columbus, Huxley, Darwin,r Linnaeus, Muir. They are the product of no school or locality. Ther Great belong to neither time nor place; they are universal.r

r r

r As the interpreter of nature in every form and mood, Muirr stands above the timberline and alone. His burning enthusiasmr and the warmth and life in his expression draw all men irresistiblyr to , forest and mountain, waterfall and quiet stream. His descriptionsr of rocks and plants, of trees and animals, are lasting picturesr of living individuals. Douglas squirrel, water ouzel, cassiope, silverr firs and spruces—all are instinct with personality and life. "His talkr about California trees and flowers was even more wonderful than his writing, and stenographers and desk-men used to invent errandsr to my room in order to listen to fragments of it," says Blissr Perry, editor of the *Atlantic*. Today, in ever increasing numbers,r men and women are following his guidance to an appreciation ofr the beauty and grandeur of things that are natural; they are learningr to see and recognize in waters and rocks, plants and animals,r storm and sunshine, the ever active forces that have made and arer still making the world a never-ending story of beauty and delight.r To everyone who catches something of his spirit, he interprets ther r r r mountain meadow, the roaring waterfall, and the quiet stream.r Storm, wind and hail, thunder and lightning, were to him "a cordialr outpouring of nature's love."r

r r

r John Muir was born at Dunbar, Scotland, April 21, 1838. Her died at Los Angeles, December 24, 1914. He is buried in the familyr plot on the Strenzel ranch near Martinez, California.r

r r

r In 1930 the Muir Pilgrimage was inaugurated. Annually inr April, the month of Muir's birth, the federated women's clubs ofr Alameda County, members of the Sierra Club, and others interestedr meet at the Strenzel Ranch. Under the great white-boledr Eucalyptus tree standing near the entrance to the family burialr lot a program is presented. Wreaths are placed upon the graves byr Boy Scouts and Camp Fire Girls. Those who have walked andr talked with Muir rehearse these precious hours. The presence ofr Muir's oldest daughter, Mrs. Wanda Muir Hanna, adds muchr interest to the occasion. It is mainly through the efforts of Mrs.r Linnie M. Wolfe that the pilgrimage is increasingly interestingr and attractive in its program. In April, 1936 about three hundredr pilgrims gathered at the Hanna Ranch near Martinez. Scotchr Bag Pipers, in colorful plaids and kilts, played Scotch music and ar descendant of Annie Laurie sang that favorite song. At the closer of the program all join hands about the tree as they singr "Auld Lange Syne."r From the distant hills are heard the buglers' taps.r Slowly the Pilgrims depart.r

r Muir's grave is a sacred spot. His spirit lives in the hearts of anr ever widening number of those who are finding health and happinessr in the out-of-doors where nature gives so freely from her well-springsr and asks nothing in return.r

r r
r <u>Next: Coulterville Road</u> r •r <u>Contents</u> r •r <u>Previous: Galen Clark</u> r
rrr
r
rr
r
rr
r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/yosemite_indians_and_other_sketches/john_muir.htmlr
rrrrrrrrr
r
r r
r <u>Yosemite</u> > <u>Library</u> >r <u>Yosemite Indians & Other Sketches</u> >r Building of Coulterville Road >r
rr
r
rrr
r Next: Peregoy Register er Contents er Previous: John Muir
rrr

rrrr



Chapter 6: Building of Coulterville Road

rrr

r AS RECALLED BY VIRGILIO BRUSCHIr

r r



r r r nr the summer of 1930, Virgilio Bruschi, 905 20thr Street, San Diego, was a visitor at the Yosemite Museum.r He has lived in San Diego many years and for twelve years was a member of the Commonr Council. His devotion to the city's welfare mader him a highly respected and beloved citizen. Mr. Bruschi's earlyr life was spent in Coulterville, and he has related to me some of hisr experiences, especially in connection with the construction of ther Coulterville road, the first to be built into the Valley.r

r r

r In 1853, Mr. Bruschi's father, Francis Bruschi, opened a generalr store in Coulterville, then called Bandarita (Little Flag). Herer Virgilio was born in 1858, the second of a family of twelve children,r all born in Coulterville. The population of Coulterville, ther second biggest mining camp in Mariposa County at that time, was about five thousand. Virgilio worked with his father as a packer.r Everything used in the Valley was packed in over one of threer trails, namely: by way of Crane Flat, a second by Bull Creek,r Jenkins Hill, and the Merced River; the third from Mariposa by wayr of the South Fork. McCann's Station at the junction of the Southr Fork and the Merced consisted of a store and a saloon.r

r r

r In 1868, Virgilio Bruschi, with his uncle, Peter Castagnetto, ar gardener, made his first trip into the Valley. Castagnetto at thatr time supplied all the vegetables for A. G. Black's and Leidig's hotels.r Potatoes sold for ten cents a pound; lettuce fifteen to twentyr cents a head; flour thirty pounds for six dollars. About 1868,r Johnny Hennessey started a vegetable garden near El Portal, which rhelped greatly in supplying the hotels and also caused prices tor drop.r

rrrrr

r In 1872, Dr. McClain obtained from the Government a concessionr to make a toll road from Coulterville via Bower Cave, r Hazel Green, Myers Ranch, and the Cascades into the Valley. Itr was completed in 1874

without any serious accident. Francisr Bruschi was agent for the Giant Powder Company, and Virgilio,r aged 16, packed in all the powder that McClain used for blastingr in the construction of this road. His train consisted of from four tor eight mules, each carrying four powder boxes of fifty pounds perr box. From Coulterville to the Valley was a trip of two days. Ther first night was usually spent at Crane Flat or Ferguson Mine.r Crane Flat was a sheep camp where often as many as 25,000 sheepr were gathered. They lambed either on the plains or along the coast.r

r r

r A tollkeeper was stationed at the Cascades. Toll for a single muler was twenty-five cents; a pack mule, loaded, was fifty cents. In orderr to beat the toll, Virgilio Bruschi put all the *aparejo* on two mulesr just before he reached the toll gate. Thus he paid the fifty-cent tollr on only two mules. The single mules went in for twenty-five cents.r Boston, the tollkeeper, was killed for plunder by two Indians namedr Zip and Tom who were sent to San Quentin for the murder.r

r r

r Virgilio Bruschi, accompanied by his brother Fred, packed inr the goods of the German cabinet-maker, Adolph Sinning. On thisr trip there were nine mules in the train. When they came tor Ferguson Mine, the mule loaded with Sinning's tools and goods pushedr the mule behind him, and both mules fell off the trail. It took halfr a day to get them up from the rocks. No bones were broken, butr one mule was so badly injured that he was in the stable for twor months. Sinning made glove and jewel boxes, canes, little tablesr and novelties, all showing the work of an expert craftsman. Hutchingsr speaks of him as a genius, a skilled workman with an artist'sr instinct. The wood used in his work was selected from the Valleyr and vicinity.r

r r

r Mr. Bruschi had another experience on the trail. This time hisr mule train was loaded with general supplies. One mule carried twor kegs of nails, each keg weighing one hundred pounds. This muler r r r was knocked off the trail at the Cascades near where Hutchingsr was later killed. The mule fell on his back among the rocks. Ther kegs were smashed; the nails flew in every direction; the mule,r with his feet straight up in the air, lay pinned and helpless. It tookr several hours to free him, but, once on the trail, he seemed none ther worse for the experience.r

r r

r Packing had its risks. One experience impressed itself indeliblyr on Virgilio Bruschi's mind. Mrs. A. G. Black, wife of the hotel keeper,r wanted a parlor stove. The mule carrying it was pushed off ther trail and fell upon the rocks. The cast-iron stove was broken tor pieces. "I'll never forget that," said Mr. Bruschi, "because I had tor pay for it. It cost me just \$18.50."r

r r

r Mr. Bruschi also told of a big Indian celebration in 1875. To thisr powwow came approximately fifteen hundred Digger Indiansr from Bull Creek, Coulterville, Greeley Hill, Big Creek, and Sonora.r There were songs, dances, games, and races. "Everything in ther Valley was to come and go as you please and this included the Indians,r" said Mr. Bruschi.r

r The first shoemaker in Yosemite was Beaus Umboldi, who mader mostly boots. Francis Bruschi also made boots at twenty dollars ar pair and guaranteed them for one year.r

r r

r "Everything in the Valley was open to camp where you pleased,r put a store any spot you chose, fish anywhere and all you wanted.r The Indians often sold twenty-five to thirty fish for twenty-fiver cents," said Mr. Bruschi.r

r r

r On being asked about gold nuggets, Mr. Bruschi replied: "Ther largest nugget I ever saw weighed twenty-four pounds. The firstr mint in California was at Montofee. Here the octagonal fifty-poundr slug was made which bore the stamp of California."r

r r

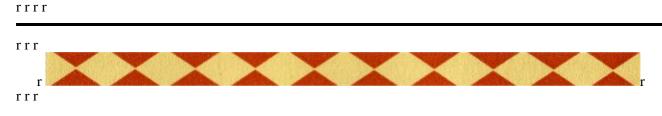
r Mr. Bruschi is glad that he had a part in Yosemite's earliestr development, and he appreciates the opportunities and comfortsr that the Government has provided for the tourist. "And there is nor other place like it," says Mr. Bruschi.r

rrr
rr
r <u>Next: Peregoy Register</u> r •r <u>Contents</u> r •r <u>Previous: John Muir</u> r
rrr
r
rr
r
rr
r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/yosemite_indians_and_other_sketches/coulterville_road.htmlr
rrrrrrrrrr
r
rr
r <u>Yosemite</u> > <u>Library</u> >r <u>Yosemite Indians & Other Sketches</u> >r Peregoy Register >r
rr
r

r r r

r Next: Early Artistsr •r Contentsr •r Previous: Coulterville Roadr

r r r



Chapter 7: The Peregoy Register

r r



r r r ountain View House—Chas. E. Peregoy"r is the inscription on the cover of an old registerr that was given to the Yosemite Museum inr June, 1929, by Mrs. Lucy Peregoy Milburn. Itr is a rare gift, an interesting and valuable book,r because the names on its pages make history in themselves.r

r r

r Mountain View House register has entries from September 10,r 1869, when five guests registered, to October 24, 1874. There arer no further entries until June 5 and 7, 1878, when a small partyr was cared for by Mr. and Mrs. Peregoy. In a letter dated at ther Sentinel Hotel, Yosemite, April 23, 1872, John Muir advises hisr friend, Mrs. Carr, after leaving Clark's, to stop "at Peregoy's, fiver or six miles south of the Valley at the Westfall Meadows." This wasr the starting place for the trip into the Valley by way of Glacier,r Snow's Casa de Nevada located at the head of Vernal Falls.r

r r

r In 1870, between May 16 and October 26, 514 guests registered.r Among these names we find on the page of July 6, 1870,r Terese Yelverton, Viscountess Avonmore, England, who wroter <u>r Zanita, a Tale of the</u> <u>Yosemite</u>,r the first novel written about Yosemite.r The characters in the book are largely taken from the people livingr in the Valley at the time. Zanita is Florence Hutchings, firstr white child born in the Valley. Kenmuir is John Muir. On leavingr the Valley, the Viscountess wrote: "I have spent the four happiestr months of my life in this glorious valley." October 5, 1870, J. M.r Hutchings and Miss Florence Hutchings registered fromr Yosemite Valley. We find the name of Galen Clark registered on October 2.r Fred Leidig, pioneer hotel keeper in the Valley, registered in July.r All of these are prominent names in the early history of Yosemite.r

r r

r G. Garibaldi, B. Ardizzi, Nestor Randseype, and A. Vohl ofr r r r Mariposa registered on July 23. The writing of each name is labored, r yet it reveals character. Are these men from the unknown throng that, through its labors, makes easy the road for others tor travel? If so, we rejoice that the love of beauty and

grandeur remainedr in their hearts and led them to the Valley to satisfy theirr love.r

r r

r The reader experiences a thrill as he reads in the old register:r "July 27, 1870, Mark Hopkins and wife, Williamstown, Mass."r He was in this Yosemite and left here something of his spirit as anr educator and author. Literally, we did not "sit on one end of a logr with Mark Hopkins on the other" to get our education, but in realityr thousands have sat at the feet of his spirit and learned of him.r His book, *The Law of Love and Love as Law*, stands the test of time.r

r r

r Peregoy's Mountain View House was known far and wide forr the unusual hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Peregoy, their excellentr beds and wonderful food. Often the guests, on leaving the hotel,r paid tribute in the register to their host and hostess. The guides,r too, were the subject of most favorable comment. Leidig's Hotelr was also highly recommended. On July 25, 1870, a guest, on returningr from the Valley, records: "We remained in the Valley niner days, stopped at Leidig's Hotel, which we take pleasure to recommendr as a first-class hotel."r

r r

r From May 8, 1871, to October 4, 1871, over 1300 guests registered.r This closed the register except for June 4 and 5, 1878, when a party of 22 registered from New York and Oakland.r

r r

r On June 4, 1871, appears the following entry: "For the first timer a religious service was held under Chapel Tree on Glacier Point,r Sunday, June 4, 1871. A sermon was preached by Rev. Lewisr Frances from the text, Psalm 100:2, 'Serve the Lord with gladness.'r There were present the 18 persons whose names are inclosed withinr brackets upon the opposite page, with the guides, James A.r Ridgeway, Eli Stump, and Thomas Treamer."r

r r

r Concerning the guides that seemed most popular, we find theser comments on the register:r

rrrr

r "Joseph Ridgeway—an a No. 1 Guide.r r Eli Stump—A No. 1 Guide.r r Garvey and Ridgeway—the Lord's Guide.r r We were guided by E. Stumpr r And we voted him a trump.r r Eli Stump, best Guide in America.r r E. Stump best guide in the world."r

r r

r On June 20, 1871, a party records: "The views from Glacierr Point and Sentinel Dome are grand beyond description. The wholer Yosemite Valley in all its beauty and sublimity can be seen fromr these two points and nobody should fail to make the trip." On June 29, 1871, r D. H. Temple, Bloomfield, N. J., writes:

"Returning from the valley. The first tourists through by the new trail from ther Nevada Falls through the Little Yosemite. Left Snow's at 6 1/4 a. m.r Eli Stump, Guide."r

r r

r The words of praise for Peregoy's were generous. On July 7, 1871,r a party says: "Our first party here was delightful and wer were more than glad to return because of the general neatness andr generousness of the fare. God help the host and hostess."r

r r

r On July 15, 1871, "T. De Witt Talmage, Brooklyn, N. Y.,"r appears on the register and awakens memories of early Chautauquar days when he was popular as a preacher. Dr. Talmage's Brooklynr tabernacle, three times consumed by fire, was widely known.r

r r

r On July 17, 1871, a party records:r

r r

r	
r "We went into the Valleyr	
r By the Point of Inspirationr	
r And returned from there todayr	
r By the 'Road of Desperation,'r	
r And have only time to sayr	
r That it met with Expectation."r	

rrrr

r On August 9, 1872, we find written in beautiful penmanship:r

r r

r "Not peregoric but Peregoy!r
r A name of comfort and of joy!r
r Here the tired traveler racked with pains,r
r A little of his strength regains.r
r Here, too, forgetting all his woesr
r Fresh courage takes and Clarkwise goes!"r

r r

r Eighteen hundred and seventy-two has very interesting entries.r "May 24, 1872, A. Bierstadt, N. Y.," is on the register. This namer has special interest. In 1930, *Domes of Yosemite*, painted by thisr German-American artist in 1864, was presented to the Yosemiter Museum by the Charlotte Bowditch estate throughr Sophia F. Baylor.r

r On June 4, 1872, a party writes: "56 tourists caught here in ar pitiful snowstorm and harbored here for shelter 18 hours; all foundr as well as could be expected with accommodations for 16."r

r r

r "June 12, Joaquin Miller, Oregon," arrests the eye. We dor not associate him with Oregon but rather with his California homer near the city of Oakland. On his seventy acres of land near ther city of Oakland this pioneer of the West, this poet of the Sierra,r expressed his life in an unusual, yet most significant, way. On ther hill's slope he planted trees in the form of a cross to signify that allr mankind must bear a cross. To Moses, the Lawgiver, he erected ar pyramid of rock. To Browning, the poet of the soul, he erected ar tower; he also erected a tower to J. C. Frémont, Pioneer. Recentlyr Oakland made a park of Joaquin Miller's home and grounds.r

r r

r On June 12, 1872, a guest records: "A good rectangular repastr and 'guter wein'."r

r r

r On June 12, 1872, "J. C. Lamon, Yosemite," is again registered.r He was the first settler in the Valley and built his log cabin inr 1859. John Muir speaks of him as kindly and hospitable to anyr one who came to his door. The entry on July 15, 1872,r "Prof. A. Gray and wife, Cambridge, Mass.,"r r r r almost startles us. Asa Gray—r the foremost name in botany of his time. To countless thousandsr he has been a help and guide. Gray's Herbarium in Harvard willr continue to guide and inspire.r

r r

r On August 14, 1872, we read, "Horace Greeley, New York."r Hated and beloved in his time, though hate dies and love survives,r Greeleys name is great in history. When, in 1872, Greeley wasr defeated by Grant in the presidential election, every schoolchildr joined in the chorus "Hurrah for Greeley! Grant's elected!" I, too,r was in that chorus.r

r r

r On June 1, 1873, a party writes in the register: "To their kindr host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Peregoy, for their more than courteousr hospitality. Tourists passing this way will do well to availr themselves of the comfortable beds and luxuriant table of ther Hotel Peregoy."r

r r

r On June 1, 1873, another writes: "The best house we have foundr west of the Rocky Mountains."r

r r

r On June 2, still another writes: "Valley of Yosemite, fare theer well, thy tranquil river, thy beautiful cascades, thy towering cliffs.r We may never again look into thy bosom, but we take with us photographedr in our memory thy every wonder and thy every charm,r a lingering long farewell."r

r r

r On June 16, 1873, a beloved name is recorded:r "John Muir, Yosemite Valley."r He has taught us to know the beauty and grandeurr of nature's book, and his spirit will continue to teach throughoutr the years. On the Lost Arrow Trail, near the foot of Yosemite Falls,r a boulder with a bronze tablet marks the site of the little cabin thatr was Muir's home for eleven years.r

r r

r On July 17, 1873, "Bret Harte, N. Y.," is recorded, and we recall the *Luck of Roaring Camp* and other wonderful tales that onlyr Bret Harte could write.r

r r

r The last days of July are full of tributes to the splendid host andr hostess of Mountain View House. Among them are:r

r r

r "The best host and hostess I have found in California."r

rrrr

r "We recommend this locality as it beats the best hotels in ther city."r

r r

r "This hotel is the best in California."r

r r

r In the short period of four summers Mountain View Houser gave splendid service to some five thousand people who came tor look into the heart of what, since 1860, has been Yosemite National Park.r These guests came from every state then in the Union andr from the territories of Wyoming and New Mexico. They camer from the Hawaiian Archipelago, the Philippines, and the Westr Indies.r

r r

r The old register is full of interest and full of history. It provides an original source of historical material, and it also serves as a priceless reminder of many of those pioneer nature lovers who haver done so much for Yosemite and for the nation. We are grateful tor Mrs. Lucy Peregoy Milburn for this gift. She prized it and also appreciated its full value to all who are interested in the early lifer and history of Yosemite, and to all these she gave it.r

rrrr

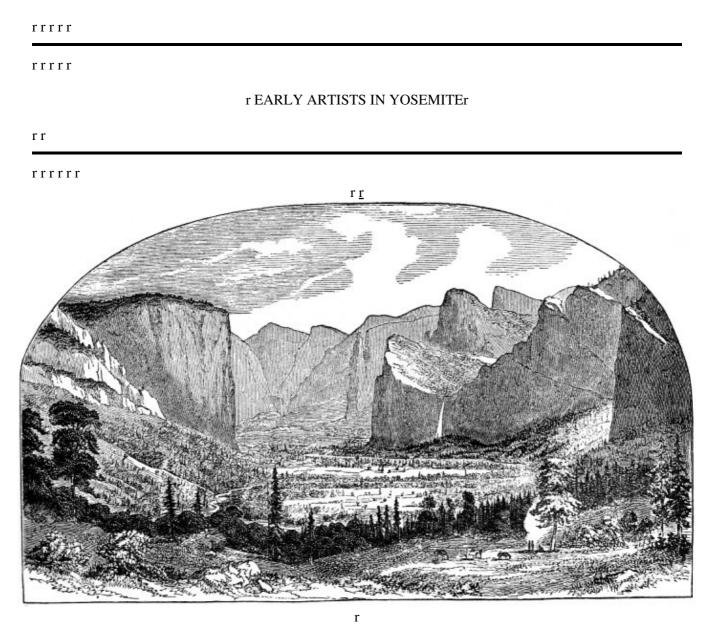
r r

r Next: Early Artistsr •r Contentsr •r Previous: Coulterville Roadr

r r r

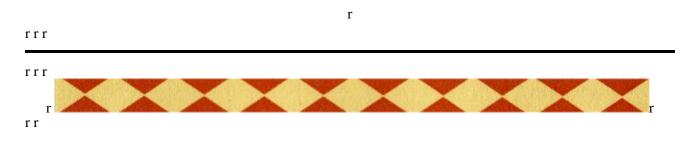
r

	Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor
rr	
r	
r r	
r ht	tp://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/yosemite_indians_and_other_sketches/peregoy_register.htmlr
rrrrrr	rrrrrr
r	
r r	
r	Yosemite > Library >r Yosemite Indians & Other Sketches >r Early Artists in Yosemite >r
r r	
r	
rrr	
	r <u>Next: Cemetery</u> r •r <u>Contents</u> r •r <u>Previous: Peregoy Register</u> r
rrr	



r THE FIRST PICTURE OF YOSEMITE VALLEYr

r r Sketched by Thomas A. Ayres, June 20, 1855r r r r [Editor's note: the correct date is June 27, 1855.—dea]r r



Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor

Chapter 8: Early Artists in Yosemite

rrr

r THOMAS A. AYRESr

r r



r r r her landscape artist, Thomas A. Ayres, was one ofr five men who trailed into Yosemite Valley in 1855r with the pioneer, James Mason Hutchings, whor engaged the artist to make drawings for his proposedr magazine, the *California Monthly*. The firstr view of the Valley was from Inspiration Point and here on June 20,r 1855, Thomas Ayres drew a sketch, the first ever made of Yosemite Valley.r On the pencil drawing the artist wrote:r "Thos. A. Ayres, Del. 1855."r On the mat of the picture he records:r "Drawn from Nature by T. A. Ayres, No. 1." The party remained in the Valleyr five days. The artist, in addition to this first sketch, made fourr other drawings as follows:r

r r

r *El Capitan*. In the lower left hand corner of the picture the artistr has written,r "Drawn from Nature by Thos. A. Ayres, 1855."r On the original mat are the words:r "Scene in the Valley of the Yo Hemity, California. The Cliff of El Capitan, looking West."r

r r

r Yosemite Domes. On this drawing is written,r "Thos. A. Ayres, 1855";r on the mat,r "The Domes of the Yosemite. From the Valley looking East, Morning."r

r r

r Cascades of the Rainbow. On the drawing the artist wrote:r "Cascade of the Rainbow. Valley of the Yo Hemity, California. Drawnr from Nature by Thos. A. Ayres, 1855."r

r r

r The High Falls, now called Yosemite Falls.r On the original mat isr written, "The High Falls, Valley of the Yosemite, California. Drawnr from Nature by T. A. Ayres, 1855, No. 5."r

r r

r The High Falls was the first Yosemite picture to be published.r Copies of the lithograph taken from the original are much soughtr by collectors of Californiana and command high prices.r

rrrrr

r In 1856 Thomas Ayres took a second trip into Yosemite, thisr time on his own account, and made drawings in and about the Valley.r (See photographic copies in California State Library, Sacramento.)r Some of these were secured by Admiral James Alden, ofr Boston, Coast survey appointee in 1853, who came to Californiar to settle the boundary line between the United States and Mexico.r Before his return to Boston in 1860, he visited Yosemite Valleyr and procured the five original drawings made by Ayres in 1855, r and two other

Chapter 8: Early Artists in Yosemite

drawings made in 1856; namely:r

r r

r *Falls of Ta-sa-yue,* now called *Illilouette*. On the mat the artistr wrote: "Falls of Ta-sa-yue, South Fork, Valley of the Yosemite, California.r Drawn from Nature, Thos. A. Ayres."r

r r

r *Falls of Ca-no-pah*, now called *Vernal Falls*. On this picture isr written: "Falls of Ca-no-pah, Middle Fork, Valley of Yosemite, California. Drawn from nature by Thos. A. Ayres, 1856. No. 8."r

r r

r To Admiral James Alden the seven original drawings were ther finest and choicest souvenirs of the Valley. For three-quarters of ar century these drawings remained in the possession of the Aldenr family. Now, through the generosity of his grandniece,r Mrs. Ernest Bowditch, the seven pictures may be seen by all visitors to ther Valley in the Yosemite Museum. In 1926, the five original drawingsr made in 1855 and also a lithograph of the first picture made,r *General View of the Great Yosemite Valley*, together with twor original drawings made in 1856, were presented to the Unitedr States National Park Service by Mrs. Ernest Bowditch, Mrs.r Charles Wells Hubbard, and Mrs. Augustus H. Eustis.r

r r

r Ayres' description of his second trip into Yosemite Valley, publishedr in the *Daily Alta California*, August 6, 1856, attracted attention.r The following year, 1857, his drawings were exhibited inr New York, and he was engaged by Harpers to illustrate severalr articles on California. En route from San Pedro to San Francisco onr the schooner, *Laura Bevan*, Thomas Ayres was lost at sea when ther schooner capsized off the Farallone Islands in April, 1858.r

r r

r In his book, r<u>*Discovery of the Yosemite*</u>r (published 1880, p. 311), r r r Dr. L. H. Bunnell, who accompanied Ayres on his trip into the Valleyr in 1856, speaks of the artist thus:r

r r

r "... Mr. Ayres ... was the first to sketch any of the scenery of ther Yosemite. He was afterwards employed in sketching by Harpers,r of New York. ... Mr. Ayres was a gentleman in feeling and manners.r His ingenuity and adaptability to circumstances, with hisr kindness and good nature, made him the very soul of the party."r

r r

r Thomas Ayres was born in New Jersey; he came to Californiar in 1849. His drawings—the first pictures ever made of Yosemiter scenery—are a distinct and priceless contribution for their historicr as well as artistic value. His untimely death cut short a career ofr great possibilities.r

r r

r THOMAS HILLr r 1829-1908r

r r

r Thomas Hill, pioneer artist of Yosemite, was born in Birmingham,r England, in 1829, and came to America in early childhood. Inr 1854 he studied art in Philadelphia; later he studied a year in Paris.r

r r

r In 1861 Hill took up his residence in San Francisco and the samer year established his studio in the beautiful Wawona Meadow. Inr her book, *The Round Trip*, published 1890, Susie Clark says: "Ther Studio of Thomas Hill located here [Wawona] is an interestingr place to visit, its gallery of art treasures being freely open to all."r

r r

r Hill was a landscape painter, mostly of California scenes. Hisr residence in Yosemite and his paintings of Yosemite scenes gaver him the title "Pioneer artist of Yosemite." Among the paintings byr Hill to be seen at the Yosemite Museum are Vernal Falls and Nevada Fallsr painted on red wood panels, several canvasses in oil, andr a painting of the California Snow Plant (*Sarcodes sanguinea*).r

r r

r Mrs. H. W. R. Strong, of Los Angeles, when visiting Yosemiter in July, 1928, told the writer of her acquaintance with the artist.r Hill's painting, *The Cow*, she remarked, was noted because thatr cow was the first to be brought into Yosemite for home use, andr r r r when Hill died in 1908, she bought the picture. It was at that timer hanging on the wall of his studio. She also boughtr *El Capitan and the Merced*.r

r r

r Hill attained a high rank in his art. Galen Clark, in his book,r <u>Yosemite Indians</u>r (p. 111), says: "He was awarded thirty-two firstr medals." Among Hill's well-known paintings are: Valley of Yosemite, r Donner Lake, *Muir Glacier, Grand Canyon of the Colorado*,r and *The Last Spike*—this the best known of his paintings. Its valuer is chiefly historical. The connection of the Union Pacific Railroadsr in 1869 was a triumphant and significant event in the developmentr of the United States.r

r r

r ALBERT BIERSTADTr r 1829—1902r

r r

r Albert Bierstadt was born in Düsseldorf, Germany, in 1829 andr was brought to America as a babe. As a young man he studied artr in Dusseldorf for four years and in Rome for a year. He returned tor America in 1857. The following year he took a trip overland byr wagon. He made sketches and laid the foundation for a score ofr large canvasses. The following data are from letters received by ther writer from Mrs. Bierstadt's nieces.r

r r

r In 1866 Albert Bierstadt married Rosalie Osborne, of Waterville,r New York, after whom he named Mount Rosalie in Colorado.r Rosalie Osborne, well educated, beautiful, and charming, wasr a fitting companion for the already well-known artist. Three exquisiter portraits of her are still in the family. Education, culture,r and interesting personalities gave to Mr. and Mrs. Bierstadt openr door and they were royally received wherever they journeyed.r

r r

r They had a beautiful home at Irvington-on-the-Hudson, calledr "Malkasten" (the Painter's Box). It was built by the artist in 1865,r of gneiss rock, was 100 feet by 75 feet, contained thirty-five rooms,r and a studio 50 feet by 75 feet, with a ceiling 35 feet high. Manyr members of the English nobility were entertained in this home.r r r r



r Photograph by Mora, New Yorkr

r

r ALBERT BIERSTADTr

r

r r r r r Princess Louise, Queen Victoria's youngest daughter, and her husband,r the Marquis of Lorne, were friends of Mr. and Mrs. Bierstadt.r Mr. Bierstadt enjoyed the personal acquaintance of Queenr Victoria and was her dinner and over-night guest at "Osborne" onr the Isle of Wight.rr r

r In 1867 the artist was sent to Europe by our Government tor study for his painting, *Discovery of the North River by Hendrik Hudson*, r which, when finished, was hung in the Capitol atr Washington.r

r ALBERT BIERSTADTrr 1829-1902r

r The Bierstadts had no children, but no Uncle and Aunt couldr have been more beloved by nieces and nephews and by the childrenr in the homes they visited. In 1893, due to tuberculosis, ther artist was robbed of his splendid companion and charming wifer when she was still young. Her death was keenly felt for she wasr beloved and admired by all who knew her.r

r r

r Among the treasures prized by the nieces are "Aunt Rosalie's"r two autograph albums filled with letters and pictures of famousr writers, artists, and other people of note and prominence. Many ofr Mrs. Bierstadt's pieces of rare and beautiful jewelry are also in theirr possession, as well as a number of "Uncle Albert's" paintings andr sketches.r

r r

r Albert Bierstadt was more than a painter of great landscapes.r He was interested in the animal life of the country and had a deepr feeling for the Indian. An article on the National Academy ofr Design, which appeared in *Frank Leslie's Monthly* in 1888, says:r "While in his teens, Albert Bierstadt began to see that the aboriginalr life of this continent had not yet found any adequate interpreterr on canvas. He read with avidity the works of the then portrayersr of the early life of the continent. Irving, Cooper, Prescott, andr others inspired him with an idea to rescue the aboriginal life fromr oblivion and perpetuate it in natural and historical studies in color."r

r r

r He made a study of wild-horned animals, and had many specimensr of deer, wapati, mountain sheep and goats, from the time ther horns start to grow until they are the most perfect specimens obtainable.r r r r He had fourteen wapati heads. He had, also, a great numberr of valuable studies and sketches and a book written by the Indiansr in their own language and illustrated by them. In it, Sittingr Bull had written a sketch of himself. During ten years in ther Rocky Mountains, Bierstadt had made a collection of Indian costumes,r carvings, implements and paraphernalia of various tribes,r which he considered priceless. All these things, together withr many of his paintings, were destroyed when Irvington-on-the-Hudsonr was burned in 1882.r

r r

r When Albert Bierstadt married Rosalie Osborne, her fatherr built a studio for the artist. In a letter received by the writer in June,r 1935, from Mrs. Bierstadt's niece, she states: "The studio is stillr standing as originally built on the Osborne estate in Waterville,r New York. It is a quaint building reminding one of a green houser with its many tiny glass windows. The studio is used today just asr it was built in 1866."r

r r

r Bierstadt was a pioneer in portraying the lofty grandeur of ther Rockies and the Sierra. His pictures became famous and attractedr international attention. On one of his western trips ". . . Idahor Springs (Colorado) was visited in 1863 by Albert Bierstadt, ther greatest American landscape painter. . . . Mr. Bierstadt soon wentr home to New York and in a little over two years had finished hisr great picture, *A Storm in the Rocky Mountains*. . . . In the winterr of 1865-6 the picture was placed on exhibition in New York . . . r and the proceeds from admission were donated to the relief of destituter soldiers' orphans. It attracted great attention and endlessr criticism. Its only rival in public estimation wasr Church's *Heart of the Andes*, r then in a private gallery in New York. . . . The picture, *A Storm in the Rocky Mountains*, r went to Paris in 1867 to ar world's exposition, where it was almost immediately sold for \$20,000.r Mr. Bierstadt had recently completed another great picture, *The Last of the Buffalo*."r (Magazine of Western History, Vol. II, p. 237.)r

r ALBERT BIERSTADTrr 1829-1902r

r r

r Mr. Bierstadt, like many other artists, was attracted to Yosemiter r r r and thrilled with its scenes. Near Lady Franklin Rock is Registerr Rock, where in the early days, tolls were collected from all touristsr taking the trail to Glacier Point. "... There is one entry upon a slopingr side of rock that is perhaps worthy of notice, as it reads, 'Campedr here August 21, 1863, A. Bierstadt, Virgil Williams, E. W. Perry,r Fitzhugh Ludlum.' It was during this visit to the valley that Mr.r Bierstadt made the sketch from which his famous picture, Ther *Domes of Yosemite*, was afterwards painted."r (*In the Heart of the Sierras*, r J. M. Hutchings, p. 441).r

r r

r Bierstadt made other trips to Yosemite. In the Perogoy registerr we find: "May 24, 1872 A. Bierstadt." Mrs. Bierstadt accompaniedr the artist on a third trip, writes her niece. They camped inr Yosemite Valley and also at Hetch Hetchy where the artist paintedr the valley that is now a reservoir.r

r r

r On his frequent visits to San Francisco the artist was the guestr of Cutler McAllister, one of San Francisco's prominent pioneers,r whose home was on Rincon Hill. A letter received from M. Hallr McAllister, son of Cutler McAllister, states: "Bierstadt was a frequentr visitor at my father's residence, having brought a letter ofr introduction on his first coming to California. This was way backr in the sixties but I well remember his visits. He was evidently fondr of children as he drew little sketches of all kinds for us. I well rememberr his visit in 1872 for one incident especially. One day afterr lunch he took our children's paints and quickly penciled the outliner of a butterfly with open wings. He then painted one wing,r folded the two wings together, then opened them to the admiringr glances of the children as they beheld the complete butterfly."r

r r

r The McAllister family prizes an engraving, twenty-four byr thirty-six, of "The Rocky Mountains," one of Bierstadt's large canvasses,r signed "Painted by A. Bierstadt."r

r r

r Albert Bierstadt received honors both at home and abroad.r Austria, Bavaria, Belgium, and Germany awarded him medals. In ar letter Mrs. Bierstadt's niece states: "Uncle Albert also received ther Order of St. Stanislaus from Russia in 1869 and again 1872 whenr r r r r r the Czar also presented him a loving cup. He received the Imperialr Order of the Medjid from the Sultan of Turkey in 1886." In 1860r he became a member of the National Academy. In 1867 he wasr decorated with the Cross of the Legion of Honor. Among the canvassesr of Albert Bierstadt are the following with their time andr location:r

r r

- r 1861-Laramie Peak. Buffalo Academy of Fine Arts.r
- r 1863-Landers' Peak. London.r
- r 1863-Rocky Mountains with Indian Encampment. Metropolitan Museum inr New York.r
- r 1864-North Fork Platte River. Bought by Judge Henry Hilton, New York.r
- r 1864-Looking Up Yosemite Valley. Presented to Yosemite Museum by Charlotter Bowditch Estate.r
- r 1866—*El Capitan and Merced River*. Bought by Lucien Tuckerman.r
- r 1866-Valley of Yosemite. In New York Library.r
- r 1866-The Burning Ship. Bought by August Belmont.r
- r 1875-Valley of Kern River. Hermitage, St. Petersburg, Russia.r

r ALBERT BIERSTADTrr 1829-1902r

r 1877-Estes Park. Earl of Devonshire.r

r 1877-Domes of Yosemite. Athaneum, at St. Johnsbury, Vermont.r

r 1878-Mountain Lake. Corcoran Gallery, Washington, D. C.r

r 1886—Old Faithful. Yildiz Palace of the Sultan on the Bosporus.r

r *r Discovery of the North River by Hendric Hudson, and Settlement of California*, r were both painted by Bierstadt for the Capitol at Washington.r

r r

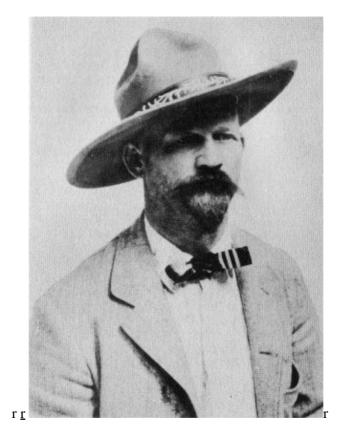
r About the time of Bierstadt's death in 1902, the tendency inr landscape art was toward the small, quiet, more intimate canvasses.r As a painter of magnificent scenery on large canvasses, Albertr Bierstadt stands secure.r

r r

r CHRIS JORGENSENr r 1860-1935r

r r

r Chris Jorgensen was born in Oslo, Norway, in 1860. At the ager of ten years he came to America making California his home. Her was interested in drawing and painting from earliest childhoodr and was the first student to enroll in the California School of Finer Arts organized in San Francisco in 1874. From 1881 to 1883 her was assistant director of the school. In his sketch class wasr Angela Ghirardelli, a young society girl of San Francisco, a giftedr r r r



r CHRIS JORGENSENr

r

r r r r r pupil and art critic. Jorgensen's picture, "Along the Wharfs," hadr hung on the wall of the school for some time. Angela admired itr and appraised it highly. It was exhibited by the Art School inr 1882 and immediately sold. Angela felt the loss of the picture sor keenly that Jorgensen recovered it from the purchaser and presentedr it to his pupil. The following year Chris Jorgensen andr Angela Ghirardelli were married. There followed more than halfr a century of rare companionship. Two children, a son and daughter,r completed the family circle.rr r

r In 1892 Mr. and Mrs. Jorgensen went to Italy, the homelandr of Angela Ghirardelli, where they spent two years with Italy'sr great artists. Shortly after returning Jorgensen built a studio homer in Yosemite, for which he drew the plan and did much of ther labor of building. The panel over the fire-place—a study of headsr —was the work of Mrs. Jorgensen. The artist made all the furniturer in this studio home. Mr. Jorgensen says of this home: "Ther studio proper is a room twenty-four feet square and is always openr during the summer for friend or stranger. The big, broad porchr of our cottage—ten feet in width—is a main lounging place andr it is here that most of the social life goes on." This studio he usedr for twenty years. It was here that he began his painting of Yosemiter scenes, most of which canvases were sold from the studio.r Among these were "Yosemite in the Winter," "Cathedral Spires,"r and "Happy Isles." Other noted pictures of this period arer "Mount Lyell at Sunset,"r "Big Trees," and the entire "Yosemite Valley,"r the canvas needed for this painting was so large that it was takenr to the point of view on a truck and here the artist did his work.r

r r

r Chris Jorgensen had a deep feeling for the old missions whichr he expressed on canvases. When in 1905 he built a studio homer at Carmel-by-the-Sea he painted the Carmel Mission for ther panel above the fire-place. He also built a bungalow at Pebbler Beach. His home on the Piedmont Hills, surrounded by treesr and shrubs and winding ways, was an artist's home built for ther family; for artist friends; for the social life of the son and daughterr r r r and their friends; it was built to meet the unlimited hospitalityr which characterized both Mr. and Mrs. Jorgensen. It was a ramblingr house of many rooms in each of which a picture from naturer in its changing moods was framed in.r

r r

r Chris Jorgensen had a studio home in his beloved San Franciscor where he was also a member of the Bohemian Club andr where his pictures were frequently exhibited. His canvases arer many and will live for their portrayal of mountain grandeur; ofr boisterous waters; of quiet meadows; of by-gone mission days; ofr fishermen and wharves. One great picture will live in history.r This canvas is the expression of the artist's love and distress forr the city that fell in April, 1906. It bears the title "San Franciscor in Ruins."r

r r

r In Galen Clark's book,r <u>*Yosemite Indians*</u>,r published in 1904,r are four drawings by Chris Jorgensen. The cover design and ther drawing of a "Chuck'-ah" are by Mrs. Jorgensen. Jorgensen's portrait of Galen Clark, etched on a slab of red-wood, has, for manyr years hung in the Yosemite Museum and is much admired.r

r r

r Chris Jorgensen died at his Piedmont studio after a brief illnessr on June 25, 1935. Only a few months later, in February, r 1936, Mrs. Jorgensen died. The recaptured picture, "Along ther Wharves," was still hanging on the wall of her room, a preciousr token of girlhood days. The son, Virgil Jorgensen, is the only survivor, r the daughter having died some years ago.r

r r

r By the will of Mrs. Jorgensen many of her husband's paintingsr are bequeathed to the United States Government for exhibitr at the Yosemite Museum.r

r r

r WILLIAM E. KEITHr

r r

r A number of excellent photographs taken from paintings byr William E. Keith are in Yosemite Museum. Like all artists who camer to Yosemite, Keith was impressed by its natural features. The existingr number of his works is comparatively small because much thatr r r r he considered his best, was destroyed in the San Francisco fire inr 1906 and Keith died a few years later.r

r r

r When Dr. Tevis' art treasures were put up at auction in June,r 1934, the *San Francisco Chronicle* of June 20, 1934, said: "Muchr of the interest was in the offering of a collection of the paintings ofr William Keith, long acclaimed the greatest of California painters.r... Though there were many longing looks toward the mellow,r yellowish, and green landscapes, there were no bids and ther auctioneer's starter of \$250.00 for the famous *The Oaks*, appraised atr \$6500, remained undisputed. The painting will be sent to Newr York and London."r

r r

r THOMAS MORANr r 1837-1926r

r r

r Thomas Moran, perhaps the most widely known and best belovedr of American landscape painters, died at Santa Barbara, California, r on August 25, 1926. He was born in Bolton, England, onr January 12, 1837. In 1844 the family emigrated to America and located in the cultural and art loving city of Philadelphia.r

r r

r At the age of twenty-one Moran exhibited at ther Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in 1858. His work attracted attentionr and his art was recognized. In 1862 he returned to Englandr to study the work of Turner. In 1866 he went to Europe to studyr the French and Italian masters.r

r r

r Moran made his first trip west in 1871, a guest of the Unitedr States Geological Survey conducted by F. V. Hayden. He expressedr his feeling and ardent zeal for the West on his many canvases,r best known of which is "The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone."r It was enthusiastically received, congress appropriatedr money for its purchase and placed it in the capitol. This was butr the beginning of Moran's work inspired by a grandeur in naturer he had not dreamed of The West had cast its spell upon him;r one trip followed another until the regions of Colorado and Utah,r r r r the Tetons of Wyoming where he sketched the peak named inr his honor, Yosemite Valley hidden away in the Sierra, Arizonar with its desert and its Grand Canyon of the

Colorado were allr known to him and he teemed with inspiration to express on canvasr their lure and beauty. His canvas, "Chasm of the Colorado,"r was also purchased by congress and hangs with its companionr piece on the walls of the capitol.r

r r

r National parks were not in existence when Moran, on hisr early western trips painted rare and outstanding creations in nature,r yet eight scenes which he interpreted are now in nationalr parks and monuments. His was an unconscious but vital influencer in arousing interest in the value of national parks.r

r r

r Not only the rugged scenery of the West attracted Thomasr Moran; he also saw and felt the quiet beauty in the stillness ofr lakes and meadows. The University of Wisconsin owned twor large and beautiful canvases by him. "Sunset on Lake Mendota"r and "Sunrise on Lake Monona" had rare touches of reality andr feeling. It was a loss to the state when, in 1884, they were destroyedr by a fire on the campus.r

r r

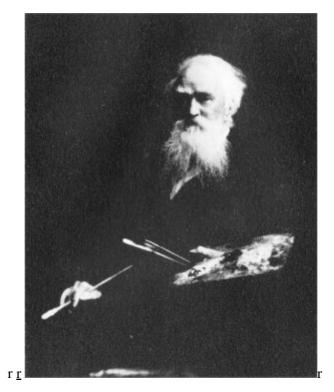
r The artist was a home loving man. The dunes and oaks andr quiet places about Long Island where he lived for forty yearsr were subjects for many canvases.r

r r

r Nine years after the death of Thomas Moran his daughter,r Miss Ruth R. Moran, presented to the United Statesr "The Thomas Moran Art Collection of the National Parks."r Dr. F. M. Fryxell,r of the National Park Service, says: "This collection, includes nearlyr 300 items. It has been temporarily assigned to Yosemite Park becauser of the many Yosemite subjects it contains, and because ofr the facilities available in the Yosemite Museum for its display underr fireproof conditions."r

r r

r Moran's love for Yosemite never ceased to draw him to ther Valley. Yosemite was the objective of his second journey into ther Westin 1872. He returned three times: in 1874 with his wife, andr in 1904 and 1922 with his younger daughter, Ruth, who speaksr r r r



r Photograph by Gledhillr

r

r THOMAS MORANr

r

r r r r of her father's joy in seeing again the waterfalls and cliffs he lovedr so well. In the early '70's the name "Moran Point" was fittinglyr given to a promontory on the Valley rim near Glacier Point. Andr when the final summons came there stood on Thomas Moran'sr easel the unfinished painting of Bridal Veil Falls.rr r

r The collection includes many originals dating back to Moran'sr first trips into the West. There are 61 pencil sketches; 15r black and white wash drawings; 7 water-color sketches; 6 etchings;r 18 lithographs; 2 large charcoal drawings; 2 oil paintings;r and 60 illustrations from drawings on wood.r

r r

r The great centers of art are not within range of the masses.r But the development of museums in our national parks is rapidlyr bringing art in various forms to the millions who annually visitr them. It seems most fitting that works of art of every kind ber housed in the locality that inspired them.r

rrrr

r r

r Next: Cemeteryr •r Contentsr •r Previous: Peregoy Registerr

rrr

	Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor		
r			
rr			
r			
r r			
	r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/yosemite_indians_and_other_sketches/early_artists.htmlr		
rrrrr	rrrrrrrrrr		
r			
r r			
	r <u>Yosemite</u> > <u>Library</u> >r <u>Yosemite Indians & Other Sketches</u> >r Cemetery in Yosemite Valley >r		
rr			
r			
rrr			
	r <u>Next: Fire Fall</u> r •r <u>Contents</u> r •r <u>Previous: Early Artists</u> r		
rrr			



Chapter 9: Cemetery in Yosemite Valley

r r

r Note:r r For many of the data in this article the author is indebted to the followingr pioneers: Charles Tuttle Leidig, first white boy born in Yosemite and continuouslyr connected with the park from the time of his birth in 1869, until August,r 1917; Henry Hedges of Mariposa, the first stage driver into Yosemite;r Gabriel Sovulewski, whose service in the park has been uninterrupted since 1906.r Data onr the ten Indian graves in the northeastern part of the cemetery were obtained fromr the Indians. Among these were Maria Lebrado, granddaughter of Chief Tenaya,r Sally Ann Dick of Coulterville, and Chris Brown.r

r r



r r r o oner seems to know when, if ever, a plat was setr aside in Yosemite for burial purposes. When Johnr C. Anderson was killed by a horse, in July, 1867,r he was buried at the foot of the Four-Mile Trail.r When Agnes, the two-year-old daughter of Mr.r and Mrs. G. E. Leidig, died in 1869, she was buried on the site ofr the present Ahwahnee Hotel. Both were later reinterred in ther present cemetery. According to the pioneers, the first interment itr Yosemite Cemetery was that of a young boy drowned at Happyr Isles. There was no marker.r

r r

r In 1907, Mr. Sovulewski and Mr. Degnan outlined the presentr cemetery area with Incense Cedar trees. In 1918, they builtr the fence that now (1936) encloses about forty graves. This numberr includes a group often Indian graves in the northeastern partr of the plat. The remains of an old well are still to be seen in ther vacant space between the graves of Thomas Glynn and Albert May.r The names of the persons buried in Yosemite Cemetery, togetherr with brief bits of information about them, follow.r

r r

r r Harry Eddy.r Beginning in the southwest corner of the cemeteryr and following the graves in an irregular line northward, wer come first to a weather-worn board marker that reads:r "Harry Eddy, died October 10, 1919."r He was a carpenter who worked orr the Yosemite barns. He lived in a tent at the rear ofr Gabriel Sovulewski's present home.r

rrrrrr

r r Frank Bockerman.r Just to the north another board markerr reads: "Frank Bockerman, July, 1910." No pioneer seems to haver any memory of him.r

r r

r r William Bonney Atkinson.r A rugged piece of granite standsr next, with the inscription, "William Bonney Atkinson, born inr Yosemite June 25, 1898. Died April 15, 1902. Bill." He was ther youngest of three children and beloved by all who knew him. Hisr father was an employee of the State.r

r r

r r The Hutchings Family.r A huge rugged rock of granite marksr the graves of the pioneer, James Mason Hutchings, his daughter,r Florence, and that of his second wife, A[u]gusta L. Hutchings. Ar marble cross is the headstone of Mr. Hutchings' grave. The inscriptionr reads: "In Memory, J. M. H., Pioneer, Patriot, Feb. 10, 1818,r Oct. 31, 1902." Mr. Hutchings' daughter, Gertrude Hutchingsr Mills, says the inscription is incorrect in respect to her father'sr birth; he was born in 1820.r

r r

r The grave of Florence Hutchings, first white child born in ther Valley, is marked thus: "Aug. 23, 1864. Sept. 26, 1881. F. H." Florencer was a gifted child and beloved by all who knew her. Herr funeral was held in the Big Tree Room of the Barnard Hotel which,r before Mr. Barnard's time, was "The Hutchings House." In the absencer of a clergyman, the San Francisco artist, C. G. Robinson, readr the burial service of the Episcopal Church.r

r r

r The grave of Mrs. Hutchings is marked by her initials,r "A. L. H."r She was a devoted and beloved wife. Her sudden death, afterr an illness of only a few hours, followed the death of Florence byr only a few weeks. It was Mrs. Hutchings' good taste and deft fingersr that transformed the old cabin at the foot of Yosemite Fallsr into a home of such charm and beauty that those who entered itr never forgot it.r

r r

r r Agnes Leidig.r Time has worn beyond recognition the inscriptionr from the painted wood marker of this grave. Until C. T. Leidigr came to my assistance, this grave was unknown to me. He said:r "This is the grave of my two-and-a-half-year-old little sister. Agnesr r r r was the first white child to die in the Valley. She was buried onr the present site of the Ahwahnee Hotel. At that time, 1869, myr mother was the only white woman living in the Valley, and therer were only four white men. Later the body of my little sister wasr moved to this cemetery.r

r r

r r Effie Crippen.r East of the Hutchings monument is a boardr marker that more than fifty years has not dimmed. It reads: "Effier Crippen, August 31, 1881, Age 14 years 7 months, 22 days." J. M.r Hutchings, the pioneer, read the Episcopal service in the Big Treer Room of the Barnard Hotel. Among the young friends who sangr at the grave was Florence Hutchings, who in a few weeks was alsor laid to rest "in the grove of noble oaks where Tissiac, Goddess ofr the Valley, keeps constant watch." Mrs. Crippen had married Mr.r Barnard, proprietor of the hotel, and Effie was the light and joy ofr this home. School was closed the day of the funeral so that her littler friends might attend. Among these was Charles T. Leidig, whor told the writer that in the early seventies the school, consisting ofr five pupils, was held for a brief time in a tent on the

present site of the cemetery. The permanent schoolhouse was built east of ther Sentinel Hotel on the present camp 19 site.r

r r

r r Mrs. Cannon.r Just north of Effie Crippen's grave the lot seemsr vacant. A small piece of rock lies upon it as if definitely placedr there. Pioneers say it is the grave of Mrs. Cannon, who died aboutr 1895.r

r r

r r Thomas Glynn.r The board marker at the head of this grave isr easily read. It states briefly:r "Thomas Glynn, Mex. War Vet. Oct. 18, 1881."r Mr. Degnan knew both Mr. and Mrs. Glynn and spoker of them as "excellent people." Hutchings saysr (*Heart of Sierras.* p. 351):r "Mrs. Glynn is an industrious woman and, being a goodr cook, ekes out a frugal living by selling bread, pies and such thingsr to transient customers, and by keeping two or three boarders."r

r r

r r Albert May.r The next grave to the north is marked with ar marble headstone which reads: "Albert May, Native of Ohio, diedr October 23, 1881, aged 51 years." Mr. Hedges says that Mr. Mayr r r was a carpenter for the hotelkeeper, A. G. Black. In the vacantr space between the graves of Thomas Glynn and Albert May wasr the old well. According to Galen Clark, who dug it, the well wasr placed in the cemetery in order to make water available for keepingr the graves green.r

r r

r r James Chenowith Lamon.r A tall granite shaft marks the graver of Yosemite's first settler. It reads: "J. C. Lamon died May 22, 1875r aged 58 years." Mr. Lamon built the first cabin in the Valley, inr 1859, and he was the first white man to winter in the Valley, spendingr the winter of 1861-1862 entirely alone.r

r r

r r Galen Clark.r In the shelter of the Sequoias brought from ther Mariposa Grove and planted by his own hands about 1886, sleepsr Galen Clark, "Beloved man of Yosemite." From the well, which her dug in the cemetery, he watered the young trees. He chiseled hisr name on the rough boulder that is his headstone, and dug his ownr grave. In 1930, his nephews, L. L. McCoy and A. M. McCoy,r completed the inscription, adding the dates, 1814-1910.r

r r

r r George Fisk and Carrie Fisk.r The graves of George Fisk andr his wife, Carrie Fisk, are outlined with small granite stones. Mr.r Fisk's grave is unmarked; he died in 1920. He was an early photographerr in Yosemite, and his work was of notable quality. He workedr for a time in the studio of Carleton E. Watkins, in San Francisco.r The grave of Carrie Fisk, his wife, is marked with a marble headstoner bearing the inscription: "Carrie Fisk, Native of Ohio, Ager 63 years, died Jan. 1, 1918." Mr. and Mrs. Fisk were people of finer character, whose friendship was valued.r

r r

r r Hazel Caroline Myers.r Her grave is immediately north ofr those of the Fisks. The headstone reads:r "Hazel Caroline, daughter of George and Lizzie Myers. Jan. 22, 1902—July 5, 1905."r Mrs. Myers was a

visitor to Yosemite in 1930.r

r r

r r Mrs. Gabriel Sovulewski.r Not far from the grave of Hazelr Myers is the grave of Mrs. Sovulewski. She died in August, 1928,r having lived in the Valley twenty-two years, greatly beloved andr affectionately called "Our Yosemite Mother."r

rrrr

r r Sadie Schaeffer.r Returning to the south end of the cemetery,r we come to the grave of Sadie Schaeffer, marked by a granite shaft.r She was a girl between fourteen and fifteen years of age when, withr a group of friends she came from Packwaukee, Wisconsin, to visitr Yosemite. She was drowned in the rapids of the Merced River, Julyr 7, 1901. A. M. McCoy, nephew of Galen Clark, had just arrivedr in the Valley and took charge of the burial, reading the Episcopalr service. On the tombstone are these words:r

r r

r r SADIE SCHAEFFERr r r Drowned in the rapids July 7, 1901.r r Oh, that beauteous head.r r fi ti did go down,r r t carried sunshine into the rapids.r r

r r

r r James Morgan.r Just to the north is the grave of James Morganr who was buried only a few days after Sadie Schaeffer. A graniter boulder reads: "James Morgan, died July 10, 1901 aged, 69 years."r For nearly thirty-five years flowers were sent on Decoration Dayr to be placed on this grave.r

r r

r r A. B. Glasscock.r A little farther north a rough piece of graniter marks the grave: "A. B. Glasscock, born September 3, 1843. Diedr June 9, 1897. Native of Missouri." In Hutchings'r Guide to Yosemite and the Big Trees, published in 1895, there is mention ofr "A. B. Glasscock,r proprietor of Sentinel Hotel."r

r r

r r Infant.r A few small stones give the spot to the north, thoughr unnamed and unmarked, the appearance of a grave. Mr. Degnanr says it is the grave of an infant born to Mr. and Mrs. Coyle, whomr he knew well.r

r r

r r John C. Anderson.r A marble headstone marks the grave. Itr reads: "John C. Anderson, July 5, 1867. Aged 55 years. Killed byr a horse." Early pioneers say that he was first buried at the foot ofr the Four-Mile Trail near the home of George Fisk. Later the remainsr were removed to the present cemetery.r

r r

r r Angelo Cavagnaro.r An iron fence and a fine monumentr r r r mark the grave of A. B. Cavagnaro. "Died September 9, 1885, agedr 62 years. "Hutchings saysr (*Heart of Sierras*, p. 351):r "Mr. Angelo Cavagnaro, an Italian . . . keeps a general merchandise store.r He has on hand almost anything . . . from a paper collar to a side ofr bacon."r

r r

r r Unnamed and Unknown.r A small piece of granite, at the headr and at the foot, marks the grave. It is said that a man named Woodr lies buried here.r

r r

r r George G. Anderson.r Beyond a vacant lot is a grave that has ar small granite rock at the head and likewise one at the foot. On ther former is cut the name "George G. Anderson," nothing more. Thisr is the grave of the young Scotsman who was the first to ascendr Half Dome. His courage, his daring, his perserverance, helped himr to accomplish the ascent on October 12, 1875.r

r r

r r Hamilton and Whorton.r A little farther to the north are twor graves with small granite stones at the head and at the foot. Ther first is said to be the grave of a man named Hamilton; the secondr that of a man named Whorton.r

r r

r r Unknown.r There is a grave adjoining these the identity ofr which is thus far unknown.r

r r

r r A. W. B. Madden.r East of the last named graves is a woodenr cross with the initials "A. W. B." According to Mr. Degnan, it is ther grave of A. W. B. Madden, a tourist who died at the Sentinel Hotelr in 1883. This cross disappeared in 1933. It probably disintegratedr from decay.r

r r

r [Editor's note:r Carolyn Feroben transcribed this obituary from the May 27, 1897 New Orleans *Daily Picayune* (2007):r "Died in Yosemite Valley—San Franicsco, May 24—Colonel G. A. Madden, of ther British army, stationed in India, returned yesterday from ther Yosemite, but without his brother, who accompanied him on his trip therer somewhat over a week ago. The brother of Madden, a well-to-do tear mercant[sic] of Calcutta, died suddenly at Yosemite on Monday list[sic] andr the remains, which would nt bear shipment to this city, were interred in ther cemterery in the valley.r Colonel Madden and his brother were on their way to London to attend ther jubilee of the queen. The survivor will continue on his way to England, asr he is under order to be there early in June."r —dea.]r

r r

r r Boston; Woolcock; Frenchman; A Boy.r South of the Indianr burial lot there are four graves not clearly outlined and in no wayr identified. It is said that one is the grave of a man named "Boston."r He was the toll-keeper for the Coulterville road and was killed forr plunder by two Indians, about 1875. Concerning the other threer no data seem to be available.r

r r

r In the northeastern part of the cemetery is an irregular row ofr ten graves, all Indians, only one of which is marked. The marker isr a wooden cross on which is the name "Lucy." She died about 1922.r

rrrr

r The accompanying list gives the data as received by the authorr from the Indians:r

r r

r Grandmother ofr r r Lucy Tellesrr r Lancisco Wilsonr r d. about 1885r r May Tom, age 14r r Piuter r Niece of Maggie Howardr r Piuter r r r Bill Brown—1899r r Yosemiter r Sally Ann Dick Castagnettor r Father of Johnny Brownr r Full blood Yosemiter r Grandfather of Chris Brownr r d. Apr. 10, 1932r r r r Mother of Lucyr r Pete Hilliardr r in Grave 5r r Part Yosemiter r Part Yosemiter r 1934r r r r May Dickr r Johnny Brownr r Full blood Yosemiter r Yosemiter r Mother ofr r Father Chris Brownr r Sarah Dick (Sally Ann) Castagnettor r 1934r r r Lucyr r d. about 1920r

r r

r Part Yosemiter

r That some graves lie outside the cemetery is certain. The Indian,r Maggie Howard, places the grave of her father about twentyr feet from the present museum.r

r r

r A young girl of sixteen died at the birth of her stillborn babe.r Together they were buried on the well-traveled road leading to ther barns. "Why wasn't she buried in the cemetery?" the informantr was asked. "The nice people didn't want her in the cemetery, andr she was forgotten quicker being buried where nobody knows anythingr about it."r

r r

r A few years ago a tablet was placed on a huge piece of granite onr the north side of the road near Bridal Veil Falls. It commemoratesr the death of two miners, Sherburn and Rose, killed near that spotr by the Indians. The recently found manuscript of Stephen F. Gloverr gives the history of the eight miners, of whom Glover was one,r r r r and states that the two men killed were Sherburn and Tudor, andr that Rose appeared at the mining camp a few days after the Indianr attack.r (*100 Years in Yosemite*, r C. P. Russell, 1931, pp. 52-57.)r

r r

r The lone and unknown miner, killed by Indians in the winterr of 1862, was found by J. C. Lamon and buried somewhere inr Yosemite Valley.r

rr	
	r Next: Fire Fallr •r Contentsr •r Previous: Early Artistsr
rrr	
r	
rr	
r	
rr	
	r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/yosemite_indians_and_other_sketches/cemetery.htmlr
rrrrr	rrrrrrr
r	
r r	
	r <u>Yosemite</u> > <u>Library</u> >r <u>Yosemite Indians & Other Sketches</u> >r Yosemite Fire Fall >r
rr	

rrrrr

	Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor
r	
rrr	
	r <u>Contents</u> r •r <u>Previous: Cemetery</u> r
rrr	



Chapter 10: Yosemite Fire Fall

r r r



r r r n creatingr Yosemite Valley, Nature endowedr Yosemite National Park with gifts that she didr not duplicate elsewhere. From three thousand feetr above its floor the melting snows of the Sierra pourr in waterfalls over the rock cliffs that wall in the Valley.r Yosemite, Nevada, Vernal, Cascade, and Bridal Veil differ widelyr from one another but all command universal admiration. Tor these natural gifts man has added a unique and radiant spectacle—r the Fire Fall of Yosemite. Millions have gazed upon it, spreadingr its fame throughout the world. It, too, has no duplicate.r

r r

r Yosemite Fire Fall did not spring into being suddenly. Slowlyr and interruptedly it developed into the glowing beauty that wer know today. In 1872 James McCauley, one of the earliest pioneersr in Yosemite, built the Four-Mile Trail from Black's and Leidig'sr hotels to Glacier Point, thirty-two hundred feet above the Valleyr floor, and there operated a hotel known as the Mountain House.r The Trail was a financial venture, and its construction involvedr Mr. McCauley to a considerable amount. The toll, placed at ther reasonable amount of one dollar, was not sufficient to repay the cost.r

r r

r The hotel at Glacier Point was also a new venture. Through Mr.r McCauley's efforts to advertise his Mountain House the idea ofr the Fire Fall was born. A folder published by the Yosemite Parkr and Curry Company in 1930, says: "At first he [Mr. McCauley]r experimented with various kinds of fire works and blazing boughsr which he lowered on wires from Overhanging Rock near the presentr Fire Fall Point. . . . All such displays were comparatively insignificantr on the Valley floor 3200 feet below. Finally he conceivedr the idea of pushing over the embers. The first Fire Fall was pushedr over the cliff in 1874 and was continued during the summer seasonr r r r on special occasions." After Mr McCauley's death, whichr occurred in an accident with a runaway horse, there was no Fire Fallr for many years; it was all but forgotten. In 1899, Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Curryr founded Camp Curry, which at once became popular andr successful. Mr. Curry had heard of the Fire Fall and decided tor display it on holidays and those occasions when prominent guestsr were in the Valley. At such times he sent some of his men up ther Ledge Trail to gather the wood, prepare the embers, and push ther Fire Fall over the cliff.r

r r

r Interest in this spectacle grew with the oncoming tourists. Requestsr for the Fire Fall were so constant and increasingly numerousr that Mr. Curry arranged it daily throughout the summer season.r In recent years, since Winter Sports have attracted tourists in larger numbers, the Fire Fall has also become a regular event during ther winter season.r

r r

r It takes time and preparation to secure a satisfactory Fire Fall.r During the summer season one man gives all his time to it. Eachr day he gathers pine cones, bark, and dead timber, mostly red fir,r which abounds in the vicinity of Glacier Point. About one-quarterr of a cord is required for the daily Fire Fall. A special shovel with ar very long handle was made to push the fire over the cliff. It takesr practice to be able to push the embers in a steady stream of firer flowing fifteen to twenty minutes over the cliff. Wood must alsor be kept in readiness for an emergency. The Fourth of July is celebratedr by a double Fire Fall; two streams of fire fall side by side overr the cliff In the autumn, before snowfall, a supply of wood is storedr where it will be available for the winter season.r

r r

r Mr. Curry was the first to make a ceremony of the Fire Fall. Ther close of the camp program and the extinguishing of all the lightsr are the signals that it is nine o'clock—Fire Fall time. Then followr the calls between Camp Curry and Glacier Point that have echoedr since Mr. Curry first called them. "Hello, Glacier Point!" And ther reply, "Are you ready, Camp Curry?" Then, "Let the fire fall!"r High up at Glacier Point the living embers slowly begin to fallr r r r and continue until they become a blazing stream of red and goldr swaying in the wind while sparks fly off like stars. The streamr grows smaller and smaller until it becomes a mere thread of goldr drawing the curtain of night, and darkness descends.r

r r

r Nine o'clock in Yosemite means the Fire Fall. In recent years itr has been accompanied by music, song, and whistling. The Fire Fallr never grows old. No one wants to miss it. It is ever new and neverr twice the same. Thousands gaze upon it in awe and silence as itr falls over the cliff, a glorious, brilliant stream of fire. Slowly ther glory fades into darkness and another splendor is stored in memory.r The following poem, written by Roland Hartley in 1932, is presentedr with his permission.r

r r

r

r FIRE FALLr r *Roland Hartley*r

r

r Flung for a moment against eternal stone,r

r Fire comes faintly dripping from the dark,r

r Trailing its evanescent veil, alone,r

r Between immensities of night and starkr

r Insensibility of sleeping earth.r

r Brief token of man's love of lovely things,r

r Fading, fading, vanishing into dearthr

	Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches (1936) by Mrs. H. J. Taylor
	r Of splendor, yet leaving high imaginingsr r To trace new glories in the star-spread sky.r r Brief like the tenuous chain of human days,r r Hung between darks like man who is born to die,r r Yet leaving it light to brighten other waysr r Even beyond it, fading and passing by.r
r r	r
r r	
	r OF THIS SPECIAL EDITIONr r FOUR HUNDRED COPIES HAVE BEEN PRINTEDr r BY JOHNCK & SEEGER IN SAN FRANCISCOr r OCTOBER, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SIXr r DESIGNED BY HAROLD N. SEEGERr r PRESS WORK BY LAWTON R. KENNEDYr
rrrr	
rr	
	r <u>Contents</u> r •r <u>Previous: Cemetery</u> r
rrr	
r	
rr	
r	
r r	
	r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/yosemite_indians_and_other_sketches/fire_fall.htmlr
rrrrrr	
rrrrrr	
r	
rr	Yosemite > Library >r Yosemite Indians & Other Sketches >r
rrr	
r	

r r

r r r

r r r

- r • <u>Title</u>
- r
- Preface

r

• <u>Table of Contents</u>

r

• <u>Illustrations</u>

r

• The Yosemite Indians

r

• James C. Lamon

r

• James Mason Hutchings

r

- Galen Clark
- r
- John Muir

r

• Building of Coulterville Road

r

• The Peregoy Register

r

• Early Artists in Yosemite

r

• <u>Cemetery in Yosemite Valley</u>

r • Voca

• <u>Yosemite Fire Fall</u>

rr r r

r r

About the Author

rrr



гггг r Rose (Schuster) Taylorr r (Mrs. H. J. Taylor).r r Seer <u>frontispiece</u>r for another photor r

r r

r r

r Rose Schuster was born on Jan. 5, 1863 in Wisconsin.r She graduated from University of Wisconsin 1885.r She married Henry James Taylor, a professor of Greek, who sher met at the University of Wisconsin.r Mrs. H. J. Taylorr taught school before her marriage and also lived in Sioux City, Iowa.r After her husband's death, she moved tor Berkeley, California, and Yosemite Valley.r She was one of the founders of the Yosemite Museum and wasr its librarian and a docent for many years.r Besides *Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches*,r Mrs. H. J. Taylor wroter <u>r *The Last Survivor*</u>r and other books and articles for ther Yosemite Natural History Association.r She received the Wisconsin Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award inr 1940.r She died Jan. 25, 1951 in Alameda Co., California.r

r r

r A scholarship in memory of Rose Schuster Taylor was established with ther Hawaii Audubon Society.r

r r

r Her son Paul Schuster Taylor was born 1895 in Sioux City, Iowa.r he was Professor of Economics at University of California Berkeleyr and a Guggenheim fellow.r He was a leader of the progressive movement and one of the fewr to protest mass incarceration of Japanese-Americans during World War II.r His papers are in the Bancroft Library, which includes the collectedr writings of Mrs. H. J. Taylor (3 volumes).r

r r

r

• r <u>r</u> "Mrs. H. J. Taylor 1863-1951," *Yosemite Nature Notes* 30(2):12-14 (February 1951) by Carl P. <u>Russellr</u> r

rr r

r

r r

Bibliographical Information

r r

r Taylor, Mrs. Henry James (Rose (Schuster) Taylor) (1863-1951),r *Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches*r (San Francisco: Johnck & Seeger, 1936),r Copyright 1936 by Mrs. H. J. Taylor.r 7+103 pp.r Illustratedr 24 cm.r Orange paper boards, orange cloth back strip, and paper labelr with black letteringr [cover image].r Bright mylar dust jacket.r 400 copies printedr (not 500, see p. <u>103</u>).r LCCN 36-036466.r Library of Congress Call Number F868.Y6 T28.r

r r r

r Digitized by Dan Anderson, December 2004,r from a copy at San Diego Public Library.r These files may be used for any non-commercial purpose,r provided this notice is left intact.r

r —Dan Anderson, <u>www.yosemite.ca.us</u>r

rrrr	
rrrr	
r	
rr	
r	
r r	
	r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/yosemite_indians_and_other_sketches/r
rrrr	