

into the hands of Jeremiah Sarles as a dairy ranch, John W. Moore being one of his employes. Then it was owned by John W. Doolley, the stage proprietor, and later by Henry Barnhart, who died a millionaire.

There were quite a number of immigrants who settled outside of the Weber grant and took up government land. They were Missourians, pro-slavery men who would accept no favors. Among the number were Dr. J. C. and James Isbel, who took up land in November, 1846, on the north and south side of the Calaveras River on what is now known as the Waterloo and Lockeford roads. It is stated that John C. Fremont camped under a tree at that point in 1844, and there crossed the river on his way south. Dr. Isbel erected a log cabin which stood on the place for over thirty years. In 1848 the doctor sold the ranch to a Mr. Hutchington and he in turn sold the land to Jonathan A. Dodge in 1858. The land is still in the possession of the children of the deceased pioneer. Turner Elder, his wife and three children, came into the county about the same time as the Isbels, November, 1846, erected a log cabin on Dry Creek and later the town of Liberty was there founded. Elder remained there about a year, then removed to the so-called "Benedict Rancho." Thomas Pyle and his family settled at what was later known as Staples Ferry on the Mokelumne River, but in 1848 they removed to San Jose. After Thomas Pyle left, the place was occupied by his brother, John F. Pyle, he and John W. Laird becoming partners. These two men sold to Staples, Nichols & Company in February, 1850, and then was established Staples Ferry. "Johnny" Laird, as he was familiarly called, remained with his family in this county until the early '60s. A strong secessionist, he then removed to Stanislaus County, where he could find company more congenial to his political ideas, and there became a prominent citizen of the county.

#### Indian Raids

The territorial and gold-seeking pioneers as a rule were not humanitarians in any sense of the word; they believed that "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" was the only prevention of crime. Death, they believed, was the only proper punishment for horse and cattle stealing, and woe to the Indian cattle thief whenever caught. On the other hand, the mountain Indians, not having the rich valley lands to supply them with acorns, seeds, game and fish, thought it no great wrong to drive

off a few cattle or horses to their mountain home for their winter food for women and children. So in the fall of 1847 they made a raid on the settlers of Livermore, San Ramon, Pacheco and Martinez Valley and drove off nearly all the horses. The settlers in the various parts of the district joined together and organized companies to punish the thieving Indians. The settlers in those valleys sought Captain Weber's assistance, as they knew him to be a brave and well-disciplined military man, because of his great work in the Mexican War. A number of the settlers who had been fortunate enough to save their horses rode up to Tuleberg, bringing with them a document from James Weeks, alcalde of San Jose. It was addressed to Captain Charles Weber and authorized him to arrest the criminals, even though it be necessary to resort to the use of arms. After making hasty preparations for the expedition such as getting food supplies, warm clothing, equipments, etc., Weber was ready for the start late in January. He had organized a company of about 200 men, most of them friendly Indians. The ride across the county was slow and tiresome, as there had been heavy rains and the horses sank deep in the mud. The party were considerably worried over their slow progress as they were anxious to find the thieves before they had killed all of the animals. Traveling up the mountains to the snow line they soon found the rancherias of the tribe, but all of the horses had been killed. Attacking the Indians they were completely routed and most of the bucks were killed. Taking a few prisoners, women and children, the party returned to Tuleburg.

A treaty had been made by Captain Weber with all of the tribes in this section of the county except the Polo and the Chowchilla tribes, who were very aggressive and refused to make any peace treaty. To bring them to terms Weber now began the organization of a large company of men. He first proposed attacking the Chowchillas, for they had been stealing the property and murdering all of the settlers who crossed their pathway. It was necessary to organize a large company, at least 400 men, as they were a powerful, warlike tribe and had among them many Christian Indians who, being educated, knew how to carry on a successful battle. They were well supplied with firearms, having obtained them in the missions. An event of world-wide importance saved them from extermination, that event was the discovery of gold at Coloma, in January, 1848.