

Boston Ravine was named by a Boston company, who mined very successfully in this portion of town in 1849, leaving in December, 1850.

Jules Rosiere opened a sort of trading post in Boston Ravine in December, 1849, selling to B. L. Lamarque in May, 1850; this really being the first store opened in this place. The second store was established by the Fowler Brothers in June, 1850, and was purchased by Thomas Fielding and William Pattingall in the fall of the same year.

Quartz, which has made Grass Valley world-renowned, was not discovered until June, 1850, seven or eight months after the opening of placer mines here. The earliest discovery of quartz bearing gold was made, as we have already stated, in June, 1850, on Gold Hill, but, owing to a general ignorance of quartz veins, the discovery created little or no excitement among the miners, who were satisfied with their yields from the placer mines. In October, 1850, a man named McKnight, who had come from Newtown to Boston Ravine, camped on the summit of Gold Hill, overlooking Boston Ravine, and there discovered the Gold Hill ledge, which has proved one of the richest mineral veins ever opened. He made the discovery at a point known as the "Elbow," where the lode cropped out quite prominently, showing an average width on the surface of two feet. This discovery set the camp in the wildest excitement, and soon hundreds flocked to Gold Hill. Claims, originally thirty by forty feet, were staked off immediately, and prospecting at once commenced. Among those who successfully worked Gold Hill in its incipient days were Thomas Cracklin, William Hugunin, and others, who are still residents of Grass Valley. The first Gold Hill mill was erected in 1851. In 1852, the majority of the Gold Hill Company's stock was purchased by the Agua Frio Company, (an English Company,) for \$50,000.

Following the Gold Hill quartz excitement came the discovery of quartz on Massachusetts Hill, in the same neighborhood, the vein being quite rich but not so wide on the croppings as the Gold Hill ledge.

The first family located in Grass Valley was a Mr. Scott and wife, who came here in the spring of 1850. The first families in Boston Ravine were John R. Rush and Peter Mason.

As forming a thrilling feature in the early days of this section's history, we give the following account of an adventure with Indians, written by Mr. Sargent:

Early in November, 1849, Samuel and George Holt, and James Walsh, came with wagons, tools, machinery, etc., to a place about four miles below Grass Valley, for the purpose of erecting two saw mills—the one by the Messrs. Holt, a water mill, and Judge Walsh's, a steam mill. Zenas Wheeler was of the party. The Holts finished their mill in March, 1850, and were sawing lumber on the 3d of May. While working in the mill they were attacked by Indians, of whom there were a great number in the vicinity. The elder Holt (Samuel) was pierced and at once killed by their arrows. George Holt escaped with life, fighting eight or ten Indians up the hill between the two mills, with only a small pocket knife in his hand, and fell into the arms of Judge Walsh, covered with blood and wounded in thirteen places with arrows. Only three of the company were at home at the time of the attack, Mr. Wheeler having gone below for the engine, and two others to the Yuba. The property was plundered and burnt the night after the attack on the Holts, and the camp of Judge Walsh was threatened. A few friendly Indians gave their assistance during the night, and Captain Day (subsequently County Surveyor of Nevada County) and another man came in on noticing the fires and disorder. Old Chief Wemeh brought the dead body of Holt to the camp. The next morning Captain Day and his friend started for camp "Far West," on Johnson's Ranch, at Bear River; and the morning after, twenty-four United States soldiers arrived, supplied by Major Day, commanding at that station. One hundred miners from

Deer Creek also poured in, and in a couple of days they killed and run off all the Indians. Mr. G. Holt was removed to Stocking's store, on Deer Creek, and recovered in ten days.

In our early times, Judge Lynch presided, and if his rulings were not always dignified or legally correct, his promptness was certainly never brought into question. The miner knew no such thing as the "law's delay." The punishment was generally in ratio to the crime committed. In November, 1850, a man named Napoleon Collins, who had stolen a mule, was taken up, tried by His Honor Judge Lynch, was found guilty of the crime, and was sentenced to receive thirty-six lashes, which he did, and he soon afterward left.

Following the discovery of quartz in Grass Valley, a demand came for quartz mills. The first erected, an experimental affair, was in 1850, by Dr. Wittenbach, for J. Wright. It stood in the rear of the present Lady Franklin mill. The second, known as the Abby mill, was built by the Boston company in the spring of 1851, of which Abbey was superintendent, and the late Louis R. Sowers was machinist. It occupied the site on which the Sebastopol mill now stands. The third mill, in Boston Ravine, was built by Wright & Hansard, the same spring, the late James Harper being machinist.

The first saw mill in Grass Valley was constructed by Judge Walsh, in July, 1850, of which G. P. Clark was engineer, and Zenas Wheeler, wheelwright. It was built in Mill street, on the ground now occupied by the City Brewery.

The first quartz mining, like the same branch of business in later days, resulted not altogether in Midas-like realities. Ledges were touched, aye, roughly handled, but they turned not into gold. Fortunes came speedily to the favored few, but tardily, and in too many instances not at all, to the unlucky many. Prices of crushing were disastrously high; the processes for saving gold were imperfect, and men were financially wrecked in working quartz which would now prove a fortune to its owners.

In the fall of 1850 the first hotel was erected by Thomas Beatty, on the south side of Main street, the present location of the Senate Saloon, and was named the Beatty House.

The town was early supplied with ditches, the first, the Centerville, being dug in the fall of 1850, by Ormsby and others, who obtained their water supply from Wolf Creek. The next, known as Murphy, O'Connor & Co's Ditch, was built in the fall of 1851, the principal projectors of this work being Judge Isaac Murphy, late Governor of Arkansas, and Judge M. P. O'Connor, still of Grass Valley. Day, Fouse & Co. brought in a ditch from Wolf Creek the same year; and the Empire Ditch, built by L. L. Whiting, J. P. Stone and others, and the Union Ditch, the latter being supplied from Little Deer Creek, were constructed in 1852.

Boston Ravine was the pioneer settlement of the valley, having a vigorous existence before even the cloth shanty of the danger-braving gold-seeker had been pitched in Grass Valley.

In the early part of 1851 Grass Valley contained but two or three cabins, but its growth during this and the subsequent year was almost marvelous.

In 1851 the first school was opened by Miss Rosanna Farrington, (now Mrs. J. P. Stone, of this place,) in a little building which stood on the lot now owned and occupied by S. D. Bosworth, on Mill street.

A Postoffice was established in this place in the year 1851, under the administration of Millard Fillmore, and Dr. C. D. Cleveland was appointed Postmaster.

The first homicide, but, unfortunately, not the last, was committed in Grass Valley