

"Twenty-two cargoes of Lumber have been shipped from Bear Harbor this season and others will follow." Mendocino Beacon September 22, 1888  
 "The new Hall at McDonald's Hotel, Westport, will be opened by a grand ball on September 30th." Mendocino Beacon September 24, 1887  
 "Two women and a child from Westport, driving along the Westport grade, south of that town, met with an accident by going over the bluff Monday. For some reason the horses they were driving began backing, and before the occupants of the vehicle could get out the whole rig--horses and all went over the grade. Fortunately, with the exception of a few cuts and bruises neither of the women nor the child were injured but one of the horses was killed and the vehicle badly smashed up." Mendocino Beacon, April 27, 1889

"DeHaven is one of the liveliest places on the coast. Three new dwellings have been erected there in the last three months. One for H.A. Peoples, foreman of the mill, one for M.E. Roach and one for J.A. Gordon." Mendocino Beacon Oct. 5, 1889

The Democrats of Westport had an enthusiastic time Thursday night, in honor of the County candidates who were there that evening. Among other things there was a procession of 100 men bearing torches." Mendocino Beacon, October 20, 1888  
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SHELTER COVE SCALPING

This is the Shoemake, Oliver, Sheppard version of the event to the best recollection of John Biaggi, Jr. a descendant of the early settlers of the south coast.

"William Oliver and his brother-in-law, owned together a large herd of cattle. These were collected here (south coast) and at other places and taken to Shelter Cove. Tradition has it that they were driven to Shelter Cove. On July 2, 1861, Oliver and his brother-in-law, John Hamilton were riding horseback around the Shelter Cove section looking over the cattle. The Indians were hidden and suddenly jumped out of ambush and attacked the riders. Oliver was a well known expert pistol shot, (his two pearl handled revolvers were here until our home was burned in 1927), but he was not able to use them to any good effect. Hamilton was able to spur his horse over a high embankment and get away along the sand of the ocean beach, but Oliver was caught and scalped.

"Hamilton rode back here and with a posse of 14 men, including William Shoemake, returned to Shelter Cove. They watched the Indians who were having a tribal celebration and feast, and when they all lay down to rest the posse attacked. Hamilton led the charge with the cry "Kill them all," and most of them were either driven into the surf with whips and drowned or were shot. The children were put into some sort of a stockade for the night, but during the night one of the members of the posse, who was classified as a "bad actor", crawled into the area and cut the throat of most of the children. When Hamilton, who had prevented the rest of the children from being killed, asked the man why he had done such a terrible thing, he replied that the Indians had killed some of his relatives.

"(This information concerning the murder of the Indian children was learned by Les Hamilton while working with one of John Hamilton's sons in the Shelter Cove country as a young man. He had talked with one of the Indians there who was one of the children whose life had been spared.)

"William Shoemake took along with him to Shelter Cove a length of canvas and cord and the body was sewn up in it and brought back here (Manchester) where he is

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wrecked steamer to land. This was done in hope that it could be done before  
 landed a gun and a line, but the only bullet failed in the evening, to col  
 rough that there was no alternative but to wait until the ocean calmed. The s  
 in the afternoon, and the steamer Alcazar came down from Greenwood. The s  
 The steamer West, bound north came in to render whatever assistance  
 from the throng on land when six of the ship-wrecked were taken in.  
 sea and that more lives would be lost; but they did and were greeted with ch  
 sea-faring men on shore expressed themselves that the boat could not weather  
 be given to the boat crew of the Point Arena for their bravery and skill. M  
 boat with water. It then retreated and gave up in despair. Too much praise  
 had just reached the side of the wreck when a wave washed over and half-fille  
 The Point Arena boat returned for a second load, but met with failure.  
 suscitated and taken to a neighboring house.

shore. The man was almost exhausted, but with Dr. Gallison's assistance he was  
 his mates, with ropes fastened to their bodies, plunged in and assisted him to  
 was a poor swimmer, but with the assistance of his life-preserver managed to keep  
 lifted a sailor off the vessel and cast him into the sea. The unfortunate fellow  
 washed over the pilot house and would have certainly swamped the boat. This wave  
 to the steamer. A minute's delay would have proved disastrous, for an immense wave  
 in, and then a gallant pull took the boat from its perilous position and back  
 seamanship landed the boat alongside the wreck and soon had six of the boat's men  
 and then dashed out to take a lead line to the wreck. The boat's crew and  
 people held their breath as the boat rose on a  
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 where he is buried near to his sister, Isobel Sheppard, in the Evergreen Cemetery.  
 His pistols were recovered from the Indians, the one having them, being whipped  
 into the surf and drowned. Also a link and clasp of Oliver's watch chain was found,  
 and I have it in my possession as the fob on the gold chain I inherited from my  
 great-great-grandfather, William Shoemake.  
 "Levina Shoemake Oliver, his wife, later married Dave Clanton, and they moved  
 to Gilroy with my grandmother, Marie Oliver, who was born after William Oliver's  
 death. Dave Clanton bought a ranch at Gilroy and also property in Santa Barbara,  
 and after the birth of a son, Willie, Levina died of tuberculosis. On hearing that  
 her daughter had died, leaving a small child, Susan Shoemake took with her, a niece  
 Elizabeth Ketchum, a young girl, and riding horseback around San Francisco Bay,  
 they rode to Gilroy and brought back my grandmother, about five years old, and the  
 baby Willie. The boy died at 12 years of age, as the result the story goes, of  
 eating sugar from the barrel for months, undetected, until he became ill and died of  
 diabetes. So ended the story of William and Levina Oliver."

It is interesting to realize that William Oliver is remembered both on the west  
 and east coasts. Up on the road to Shelter Cove from the Garberville area is a  
 place known as "Oliver's Gap". On the east coast, in Nova Scotia, according to  
 Ralph Guy, an Oliver descendant of Nova Scotia, there is a memorial stone, with the  
 correct date of his death inscribed.  
 On Oliver's first trip to California he went via the Horn. On his second trip  
 brought with him his brother James and his two sisters, Helen and Isobel.

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THE WRECK OF THE SAN BENITO

I am indebted to Walter Jackson of Mendocino for this article from the Point  
 Arena Record of December 5, 1896.

"The arrival in town (Point Arena) Sunday morning, (Nov. 29, 1896, of a sailor,  
 reporting that the steamer San Benito had gone ashore between Brush and Alder Creeks,  
 created considerable excitement and soon all available teams in town were on their  
 way to the beach. On arrival there, a pitiful sight met the eye. The big steamer  
 had parted in tow and men were clinging to the rigging for their lives. Great  
 waves washed over the sandbound steamer, but the wreck was firmly grounded and was  
 hardly moved by the breakers.

The San Benito was bound from Tacoma to San Francisco with 4,000 tons of coal.  
 The night was stormy but clear. From one of the crew we learned that the Greenwood  
 electric light was mistaken for the Point Arena Lighthouse light and the steamer  
 hove in. She ran on to the sand and was soon in a helpless condition. She struck  
 between one and two o'clock in the morning, and in about a half-hour, broke in two,  
 just aft of the smoke stack. The two boats were lowered and five men succeeded in  
 getting into one and four into the other. The experience of the boats was terrible.  
 One capsized nine times and but two of the occupants reached shore. The other boat  
 Five human beings went down to a