

HISTORY OF LASSEN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

tioned for the others to stop. They had a spyglass, and with the aid of that they could see some Indians who appeared to be setting nets for ducks in the lake. They thought these might be the Indians they were after, so a man or two went up on a ledge of rocks to watch them through the spyglass and the rest of the party went down into a canyon and camped. Just before sunset the Indians left the lake and went west across the valley to what appeared to be a mound south of the middle of the lake, and half or three quarters of a mile from it. The whites sat around their camp fire until some time after midnight, and leaving Conkey to watch the camp, they set out to find the Indians. The lake lay between them and the mound, but from the actions of the Indians they thought it must be shallow and they took a straight course. When they reached it they found it was deeper than they expected, and some of the men went around instead of going through the water. Those who waded got ahead of the others and had to wait for them to come up. When they got to the mound they found there were three of them, and the two southern ones looked very much alike. This bothered them; but after talking the matter over they concluded to divide and part of them go around the south side of the south mound and the rest go up on the east side, and if they found no Indians they would try the next mound. It was the right one and both parties reached the Indians about the same time. They were camped on the east side of a steep ledge and those who went around came out right above them—not more than eight feet away. It was then just after daylight, and one of the Indians raised up and poked the fire with a little stick. The whites immediately fired and killed all of them, three bucks and a squaw. Only one man fired the second time. One of the Indians sprang up convulsively when he was shot, and some one who had a double-barreled shotgun shot him as he raised up. They were Pit river, or Dixie valley, Indians, but not the ones they were following. The white men thought, however, that they deserved their fate, for there were marrow-bones and fresh rawhides in their camp. The party then went back to their camp, and after breakfast took the trail and followed it along the east side of the lake, through Dry valley, then over a little sand ridge onto the west end of Madeline Plains, kept on north, and that night camped by a spring at the northwest corner of the Plains. The next day they went down through a pass to

the south fork of Pit river, and camped that night on a creek that runs into it near where Alturas now stands. That night Dow and Elliott put on some moccasins they had taken from the Indians killed in Grasshopper valley, and went up on the side of a mountain twelve or fifteen miles away to look for Indian camp fires. They went up the mountain until they could see all over that part of the country, but saw no fires. The next morning the trail led them up Pit river, and during the day they came to a place that looked as though the Indians they were following and the rest of their band had wintered there. The Indians who had been left in camp joined the ones with the stolen animals, and they all went on together. In this place Dow and Hines do not agree, but the matter is not important. Dow says they camped that night near the south end of Goose Lake valley at the place where the Indians had camped the night before. Hines says the trail had not been very fresh, and the next morning after they camped here some of the men became discouraged and wanted to turn back. Rough Elliott and Alec. Chapman almost had a fight over it. Finally it was agreed that they would follow the trail until noon, and if it was no fresher they would turn back. Early that forenoon they struck the Sheep Rock road which left the Lassen Trail at the lower end of the valley and went west to the Yreka country. In this road they found the fresh tracks of shod horses and this puzzled them. They knew it was too early for emigrants, and they thought that either the Indians had stolen some horses in Shasta county and brought them there, or that another party of white men had come from the west hunting Indians. They followed the Lassen Trail to the north, the new tracks and the tracks of the Indians they were following both being in the road. They were excited on account of finding the new tracks and also because they saw a signal fire, the first one they had seen on the trip, in the hills to the northeast, and they rode fast until they came to a steep hill that ran west to the lake. Here the tracks separated, the new ones going around the hill toward the lake and the Indian tracks straight up it. Here the Honey Lakers divided their crowd, nine men following the new tracks and the other six going up the hill. The foregoing is the way Dow tells it. Hines thinks they saw the signal fire before they reached the Sheep Rock road and that the six men started in that direction as soon as they saw it. The nine men went on around