

Indians might exhibit their skill with the bow and arrow; he complied, whereupon the treacherous Kaweahs turned their aim upon him and quickly shot him to death. Woods fled to the cabin and fastened the door. This the savages attacked with great fury, but it was strong and resisted their assaults. Woods had a single rifle and a short supply of ammunition, and with this he attempted to defend himself. Of all this we have the reports of Indians only, as from the time the two escaped none other was left to tell the story of the treachery and the tragedy. The entrapped man determined to sell his life as dearly as possible. As opportunity offered he fired through the apertures of the logs and with deadly effect, as during the contest seven of the Indians were killed. At last the scanty ammunition was exhausted, and the despairing condition of the helplessness overcame the brave Woods. The assailants, finding their prisoner no longer able to do them harm, renewed their efforts on the door, until it at last gave way and the enemy was in their power. Woods had made a brave defense, had slayed and wounded many of their number and a revenge in consonance with the Indian spirit was determined upon. This was nothing less than flaying him alive. The doomed man was bound down and while defying his torturers, his skin was taken from his body and afterwards nailed to an oak tree.

According to Stephen Barton the cause of the outbreak as given by the Indians was that Indians from the north sought the aid of the Kaweahs as allies, representing that the whites were seizing their country and driving them out. When the tribes of this valley declined to assist the visitors, these made war upon them and captured many of their women. The majority of them fled to the hills, the few remaining slaughtering the Woods party. Other accounts are that from seven hundred to one thousand Indians took part in the butchery.

A party headed by a man named Lane arrived within a day or so after the massacre and rescued a wounded man, whose name was Boden, and carried him back with them to Mariposa, where he recovered. To C. R. Wingfield, Boden gave a detailed account of the fight at the Woods cabin.

A report of the massacre was taken to Fort Miller, on the San Joaquin river, and a detachment of troops in command of General Patten marched to the scene. The log house stood intact and evidence of the brave defense, the massacre and the butchery remained. What was left of the bodies was buried and work was commenced on the construction of a fort about half a mile from the Woods cabin, but before its completion the troops were withdrawn.

The above story is essentially as given by Stephen Barton in his early history of Tulare county, his data being obtained from several of the first settlers. In the issue of the *Visalia Sun* dated