

15 in number, swarmed from a hill at the back of the house. Mrs. Dersch ran toward the orchard where the blind Uncle and children were. The Indians shot her three times as she ran, the last time as she attempted to climb a fence. There she fell, mortally wounded.

The group in the orchard heard the shots and the mother's warning cry of Indians. The children hid in the willows of a nearby ditch. Soon, the Indians were seen running south, at the same time firing a fusillade of rocks and bullets in the direction of the orchard. The house was left absolutely bare of household goods, cooking utensils, provisions and clothing. Curtains were torn from the windows, feather mattresses and pillows had been slit open and the feathers scattered over the floor. The Indians had also gone to the barn, cut up the harness and destroyed what they could not carry away. The buildings were filled with bullet holes. Little Fred ran to the home of Peter Trundley which was about a mile and a half away, to give the alarm.

Mr. Dersch was sent for, and neighbors, anticipating that the house was robbed of everything, brought household goods with them to make the family comfortable.

Mrs. Dersch passed away about midnight. The next morning Mr. Dersch went to Fort Reading for assistance. The commanding officer said he could do nothing.

Rudolph Klotz had several men employed at the sawmill at Shingletown. These were joined by settlers and a posse headed by Rudolph Klotz was organized to capture the Indians. Mounted on horseback, they tracked the Indians toward Mt. Lassen for about two miles. They then turned south. They could tell by the late camp fires that they were on the right trail, leading to Dye Creek canyon, in Tehama County. For several miles the perpendicular sides of this canyon barred entry except at the floor level.

The redmen had climbed down over the cliff to seek refuge under the rock wall where they were trapped. When the posse came to the top of Dye Creek canyon,



they looked down after dark and saw the fires of a camp. Two scouts went down and located the Indians under the rocks. The redmen usually made their attacks at night so they could make their escape under cover of darkness. The whites reversed this order and waited until daylight. The whites separated in groups of two, with the exception of a larger group who went up the creek.

The groups of two had an understanding that as each group got to its hiding place, they were to make a sound like a bird or animal. This was the signal that the others might know that they were in their places and ready. The attack was started by the group that had gone down the creek opening fire on the Indian sentinel. This brought the Indians out in the open. They were driven by the different groups towards the larger group up the creek where the final attack was made in a narrow ravine. All were killed with the exception of a few women who got through the lines.

Among those who escape was a squaw who had been captured by the Mill Creek Indians, from the Big Meadow tribe. She was held as a slave. When the first shot in the battle was fired she ran and jumped into the creek and floated down stream until she came to a place where she could safely get out. She then made her way back to her people at Big Meadows.

Another squaw who was shot at long range wore a buskskin string around her neck strung with silver money.

After the battle was over, the volunteers took some of the articles found in the camp that belong to the Dersch family, together with some scalps, and went to Red Bluff where they exhibited them to the officers. Each member of the posse was presented with a Henry repeating rifle.

It was found afterwards, that the Sacramento River and Cottonwood Indians were in with the Mill Creek tribe, from the fact that some of the articles stolen from the Dersch home were found in their camps.

The volunteers then marched on to Jelly's Ferry, Cottonwood and Millville rancherias and killed all the