

----- INQUEST NOTES -----

At the inquest: Dr. Swisher and Constable R. K. Truitt of Healdsburg, Coroner King, Marshal Blume, Fred Wickersham and the unnamed reporter for the Petaluma Courier from Petaluma, Elliott Jewell, Sime Martin, and the coroner's jury: S. Scott, W. Frazer, A. J. Seules, C. Martin, George Skaggs, Deputy Sheriff A. P. Crigler of Cloverdale, James F. Hoadley, A. B. Cook and George B. Baer.

Coroner's inquest January 22, 1886

pg 1 Jesse C. Wickersham

had R K Truitt Deputy Constable summoned nine persons to act as a coroner's jury. The jury being sworn viewed the body of deceased, after which the following testimony was taken

pg 2 Jewell age 35 "stock grazer"

saw w alive last time on 3d day of January; next saw him dead Thursday 21st of January at 10 o'clock AM. Was found sitting at table. The way I come to find him sitting at table, ten [?] Indians come to me the night before at about before dusk asking if I had seen Mr. W. I said no. They saying had not seen him for two days and they thought something was matter. I coming over to the house next morning found him as before described. I did not come in house, returned home at once and then went to Mr. Skaggs and telling then and a telegram was sent to N. King, coroner at Petaluma

pg 3 Jewell

Did not see anyone at the house at that time when I went with Indians.

I had known him for about 15 years. He had one Chinaman working about house; Don't know what became of Chinaman; did not see him. Two Indians came with me when I first saw Mr. W. dead; The Indians were cutting wood on ranch; I think Indians are friendly; I saw shot wounds on Mr W. and think he came to death by same. I think China cook killed him; should think so from the position of Mr w and disappearance of Chinaman.

Mr Jewell again called says: On ly going to the ranch Jan 22 1886 the shot gun was found in customary place 2 empty shells in gun 2 empty shells on the

pg 4 Jewell

table. The door near gun was burned which shows that door was part open when the fatal show was fired; the door between dining room and kitchen

pg 5 Swisher

one charge of small buck shot entered the base of the brain, behind right ear and ranged toward left eye; a second charge entered and pierced the 5th and 6th ribs on right side, a little posterior to middle and ranged a little upward, forward toward the left nipple passing through right and left lungs and heart;

I believe the first shot fired caused death. They were both fatal shots

pg 2b Jewell

saw her last on 3rd of Jan at the ranch of Mr. W. Saw her dead on Jan 22, found her laying forth on bed, tied with cord. Saw gun shot wounds on her side. I do not know who killed her but believe it to be Chinaman

They always lived happily together; I came to the ranch to investigate the affair with number of others

[strike] The shot gun was found in accustomed place. two empty shell in gun two empty shell on table. The door near gun was found burnt with powder, and ??? not ??? [strike]

pg 3b Swisher

a charge of small buck shot entered right side passing through 8th and 9th ribs, piercing liver, passed through diaphragm; portion of shot passed through base of right lung; 2 shots passing through heart; 4 or 5 shot passing through body, ranging toward left shoulder; on my commencing to examine I found deceased tied to bed in a kneeling posture, her head resting on bed; I thing she was shot after being tied. I found only one gun shot wound.

THE CHINESE QUESTION.

An effort is being made in some parts of lower California to organize societies for the protection of the Chinese against the unjust treatment they are in many place receiving. Meetings have been called in several places in which speeches have been made denouncing the action of the anti-Chinese agitators. The principal actors in this movement do not expect much help or encouragement from the people on this coast, but look to the East for support and sympathy. Such a movement they think will produce an effect upon Congress, and with the great authority in the White House strongly pro-Chinese in his views, they are

not very far out of the way in their expectations...The President is a man who will not be dictated to, and if he takes a firm stand in favor of the Chinese, good-by to all harmony of action in the Democratic party. The best of Democrats on this coast hate the Chinese more than they love the President or their party, and if things come to the worst, they will not hesitate to act according to their convictions.

- Daily Republican, January 8, 1886

A Healdsburg Sensation.

Officer R. K. Truitt, of Healdsburg, arrested a man and woman at the Piedmont restaurant in this city Saturday morning, on a charge of threatening to kill John A. Paxton, a wealthy and influential citizen of Healdsburg. The actions of the couple are exceedingly mysterious, and it was impossible to learn from them any of the particulars...

...it was ascertained that the woman's name is Mrs. F. Kasten, who made herself notorious some time ago in attempting to assassinate a man named Plater, in Los Angeles...

- Daily Republican, January 16, 1886

"The Chinese Must Go."

A number of petitions are in circulation in this city showing that our citizens have awakened to the necessity of taking some steps to rid ourselves of the obnoxious Chinese. There are two forms of petition; one is addressed to the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress, asking that the Burlingame treaty be abrogated, also that Chinese leaving this country be debarred from returning; the other is a local matter, and is simply an expression from the merchants of this city. The list consists of nearly all the business men of the city, including all the cigar dealers and tobacconists, who pledge themselves neither to buy of nor sell to the Chinese, also to further the interests of white labor. It is rumored that a mass meeting will soon be held in this city for the purpose of discussing the question.

- Daily Republican, January 18, 1886

A CHINESE FIEND.

The Assassination of Captain Wickersham.

Killed While Seated in Chair--A Theory That Mrs. Wickersham Was Outraged Before the Murder of Her Husband.

SANTA ROSA, January 21st. -- A telephone message from Skaggs' Springs was received by Sheriff Bishop this evening stating that Captain Jesse C. Wickersham and his wife were found murdered on their ranch, about twelve miles northeast of the springs. Sheriff Bishop, accompanied by Coroner King and Marshal Blume of Petaluma, left in the evening on the north-bound train for the scene of the tragedy. No particulars were given, but the deed is supposed to have been committed by some Chinese employees, with whom Mr. Wickersham has been having some trouble. Every one is anxiously awaiting the return of the Sheriff and party. The murdered man is a nephew of J. G. Wickersham [sic], the Petaluma banker. It is reported that Wickersham's body was found under a blanket in a pool of blood, and that his wife's body has not yet been discovered....

THE MURDER.

This morning the lifeless body of Captain Wickersham was found in his house under such circumstances as to leave no doubt that he was the victim of an atrocious murder. When discovered the lifeless remains were huddled up in a large chair, with a pool of blood underneath, all the indications showing that the murder had been committed by an assassin who, approaching his victim from behind while the latter was quietly reposing in his chair before the fireplace, dealt the deadly blow without affording the unconscious man any opportunity to defend himself.

But this, it is apprehended, is not the worst. Mrs. Wickersham, the Captain's wife, and the Chinese cook were not to be found, and there are the gravest reasons for believing that the unfortunate woman has also fallen a victim to the cupidity or revenge of her husband's assassin, and the disappearance of the Chinaman leads to the suspicion that he is the double murder.

HORRIBLE SUSPICIONS.

At the time that information of the murder was received here the body of Mr. Wickersham had not been found, nor the Chinaman apprehended, and there are not a few people here who express the opinion that she may have met a fate worse than death to a woman of her character, and that her former servant, after murdering his master may have carried her off to some hiding place, possibly aided by confederate of his own race, for the basest purposes....

- Oakland Tribune, January 22, 1886

DOUBLE MURDER.

Jesse Wickersham and Wife Found Dead on Their Mountain Ranch.

A dispatch was received by Sheriff Bishop from George Skaggs of Skaggs Springs, Thursday, about 5:30 p. m., stating that Jesse Wickersham and his wife were murdered. The dispatch was very brief, stating that Mr. Wickersham had been found murdered, lying on the floor of his room in a pool of his blood, with a blanket thrown over him, and Mrs. Wickersham was found dead near the house. Subsequently we learned that a dispatch was received by Coroner King of Petaluma, from Mr. Jewell, stating the same facts as above, but more explicitly. Mr. Jewell had been informed by some Italians employed on the ranch as wood choppers that Mr. and Mrs. Wickersham had not been seen for two or three days. He immediately went to the house, and on entering Mr. Wickersham's room, found him lying in his own blood as stated. Nothing was found of the wife of the murdered man at the time of the discovery of his body, but subsequent search disclosed her remains near the house, where it is supposed she had been murdered.

Mr. Wickersham was the nephew of I. G. Wickersham, President of the Petaluma National Gold Bank, and he was at one time employed as clerk in the bank. Mr. Wickersham was an old resident of Petaluma, and was at one time a member of the City Council. He was a native of Iowa, aged about 50 years. Mrs. Wickersham, formerly Miss Lindsey, was a sister of Mrs. I. G. Wickersham.

In 1880 Mr. Wickersham purchased a large sheep ranch adjoining Sheriff Bishop's ranch about twenty-eight miles west of Healdsburg, where he has since been extensively engaged in sheepraising. The general supposition is that the crime was committed by parties who expected to obtain possession of his money, knowing that he had many men in his employ, and being such a distance from town they probably thought he kept a large sum of money in his house. We are informed by his nephew, the son of I. G. Wickersham, that he kept a bank account in Petaluma, also in Healdsburg, and he thought that he always paid his employees by check. Coroner King, accompanied by Mr. F. Wickersham of Petaluma, passed through this city on the 6:20 train en route for the scene of the tragedy. They were joined by Sheriff Bishop, who informed the reporter before his departure that it was rumored that the Chinaman employed as cook on the ranch had disappeared, and it was suspected that he committed the deed.

- Sonoma Democrat, January 22, 1886

Probably Not a Murder, After All.

SANTA ROSA, January 22d.-- The news received here Thursday evening of the murder of Mr. and Mrs. Wickersham, on their ranch, twenty-five miles north of Healdsburg, awakened a feeling of horror and indignation in the minds of people in a radius of fifty miles. Sheriff Bishop, of this city, and Coroner King, of Petaluma, took the first north-bound train for the scene of the tragedy, promising that they would forward to the anxious and horror-stricken citizens here a full and true account of the affair as early as possible. Up to 1 P. M. today nothing had been heard from them directly, but the air is full of unsatisfactory and contradictory reports. A man on horseback arrived here about 11 A. M. today from near that locality, and says that Wickersham, who had been for a long time in low health, died suddenly, while sitting in his chair, from hemorrhage of the lungs. His wife, who had previously dispatched the Chinaman for the doctor, after finding that her husband was dead, threw a blanket over him, and started for the neighbors, fainting on the way. The parties who first reported the tragedy arrived several hours afterward, and finding no one but the dead man in the house, supposed it was a double murder, and laid the crime on the Chinaman. This latter report is what is now accepted until we get the report of the Coroner and Sheriff.

STILL IN DOUBT.

SANTA ROSA, January 22d.-- Sheriff Bishop returned this afternoon. He was unable to get across Dry Creek, but several others, including the Coroner, swam their horses and crossed over. It will be to-morrow before they can be heard from. It is still a matter of doubt whether Wickersham was murdered or died of hemorrhage. The former account is rather the belief in all sections, as the report came direct from Skaggs Springs to Geyserville by telegraph. Skaggs Springs got the news from a neighbor of Wickersham. The wires from Skaggs Springs are down, so we can hear no more from that source. Many credit the rumor that he died of hemorrhage, he being subject to that trouble, but that account is not quite as well founded as the other.

- Sacramento Record-Union, January 23, 1886

TRAGIC NEWS!

A Diabolical Deed-Two of Petaluma's Former Most Esteemed Citizens Supposed to have Been Murdered.

About three o'clock p. m. Thursday, the citizens of Petaluma were shocked by the receipt of a telephone from Skaggs' Springs

to I. G. Wickersham, announcing that his nephew, J. C. Wickersham, had been found murdered on his mountain ranch, about twenty miles west of Cloverdale. The news was carried from mouth to mouth, and soon the horror was the theme of conversation on every hand. Following the telephone came a dispatch to Coroner King similar in import, but with the additional information that it was supposed that Mrs. Wickersham, who is a sister of the wife of I. G. Wickersham of this city, was also murdered. This but intensified the excitement, and added to the gloom of our people.

As it was near time for the up-train, Fred Wickersham, Coroner King and Marshal Blume got ready and started for the scene of the tragedy.

The down-train Saturday morning brought tidings that but lent density to the general gloom.

The news came in the shape of a letter from Fred Wickersham to his father [see Daily Alta California, January 24]

All the positive information we have at the present writing in regard to the tragedy, is derived through J. E. Jewell, who has a ranch adjoining Wickersham's. He states that on Wednesday evening some Indians who had a camp about half a mile from Wickersham's house, and were cutting wood, came to his place, three miles distant, and expressed a fear that something was wrong, as they had not seen anybody about the Wickersham house since Sunday. It being a stormy night, Mr. Jewell did not go over until the next morning. Arriving at the house, there was no signs of life. Passing through the front room he saw nothing, but upon entering the kitchen he found Mr. Wickersham sitting in a chair near the stove with a blanket spread over him, and the floor beneath him saturated in blood. Raising the blanket he beheld J. C. Wickersham ghastly in death. Horrified he made no further search or investigation, but mounting his horse rode swiftly to Skagg's, about fourteen miles distant, and telephoned the tragic news. This is all that is absolutely known as yet.

There is little doubt that Mrs. Wickersham has suffered the fate of her husband, but of this there is not positive certainty. The family had a Chinese cook, and as he was not seen by Mr. Jewell, it is naturally thought that he did the deed--but this is only surmise.

We await with anxiety further particulars.

[In the passage about the murders in Argus editor Cassidy's 1888 "An Illustrated History of Sonoma County" (pg. 272) he claims to transcribe the above article but adds/changes details mainly lifted from the San Francisco Chronicle, January 26. There he states there were four Indians cutting wood and has Jewell stating, "...I rode over early the next morning and got as far as to the barn, when I looked over the picket fence and determined to go and get the two Indians who had been to see me to accompany me to the house. They were encamped some 300 yards away. I asked them again when they had seen Wickersham, and they replied 10 a. m. Monday, but not since. They said they had gone down to the house, and fearful of approaching it, they had stood afar off and halloed for Wickersham, but without an answer. Taking the two Indians with me I attempted to open the door of the sitting room, but found it locked. The window was down and I pulled out the sash. The Indians suggested that I should come round to the dining-room. I did so. The door did not yield. I went to the window, pulled aside the blind, and there my eyes fell upon the rigid form of my old friend — a blanket about his head and his feet in a pool of blood. I was horror-stricken. I left the spot immediately, knowing that the foulest of foul crimes had been committed, and I hastened to Skaggs' Springs to give the alarm."]

- Petaluma Argus, January 23, 1886

AN ATROCIOUS CRIME

Brutal Murder of the Wickershams.

A CHINAMAN'S DEED.

The Husband Killed While at Supper.

THE WIFE THEN OUTRAGED

And Shot through the Heart--No Trace Discovered of the Criminal.

CLOVERDALE, January 22—It was 12:30 o'clock when the searching party returned to Cloverdale, but such was the interest excited by the murder that dozens of people were standing on the street corners waiting for news from the expected force of citizens. The party succeeded with much difficulty in reaching the scene of the murder. They immediately proceeded to Wickersham's house, which was alone and deserted. On entering the dining-room the sight that met their eyes was horrible, Wickersham being found lying back in a chair, and a pool of blood oozing from a wound in his breast and saturating the floor with streams of gore. The dead man was lying back in his chair, and before him on the table was a napkin. On the table was spread the supper of the dead man. The searching party carried Wickersham to another room and proceeded to search for the wounds. The wound in the breast was inflicted by a shotgun, and was direct through the left lung. Another wound was found through the head. Both were sufficient to cause death. On entering the kitchen, a shotgun was discovered lying on the floor, with both barrels discharged. On a table in the room were two empty cartridges, showing that four shots had been fired. The shots were evidently fired by a short person, for against the door leading to the dining-room were the powder blasts of the gun. This points toward the Chinaman. In a corner of the kitchen was found an apron, on which were blood marks. This was the apron worn by the Chinaman.

The party then proceeded to search for the woman, the wife of Wickersham. In passing through the dining room again a diary of Wickersham's was found on the floor. It was regularly kept, the hours of the day and their occurrences being noted. It was dated up to Monday morning. This shows that the crime was committed on that day. The party also observed that a lamp was on the supper table, which is evidence that the deed was done in the night.

A search was then made for the body of the wife of Wickersham. After ransacking the outhouses the upstairs was visited. In the bedroom the searching party met with a sight which caused all to shudder with horror. On the bed the body of the woman was discovered, with a sheet thrown over her. It was removed and the woman was found to be tied hand and foot. The bed was covered with blood, which dripped down on the floor. Her nose was broken and her teeth protruded as if struck by a blow.

Then it dawned on the minds of those who had come to learn the mystery of the sad tragedy that the object of the fiend who had perpetrated the dual crime was the outrage of the woman. An examination by the searching party revealed that this was the explanation of affairs. Those who saw the woman and her tied and cruel position, with her mutilated face say that they never saw such a brutal and outrageous sight. On the woman was found her rings and gold watch and chain. On Wickersham's person was also found his watch and money in his pocket. This shows that the object of the fiendish criminal was not robbery.

One of the most curious things discovered was a piece of cake, which had been placed by the murderer, after accomplishing his diabolical designs, on the pillow beside the dead woman. It is said that this is a custom of the Chinese to exorcise evil spirits from the bodies of the dead. The room of the heathen was then visited, and from papers there gathered it was discovered that the name of the cook, who is supposed to be the murderer, was Ah Tai. This Chinaman was in the habit of keeping a diary, which was found in the room. In this note-book it was learned that he had been in the employ of Wickersham for three months. A number of letters from Chinese friends in San Francisco, and a quantity of papers giving accounts of the transactions of the Chinese cook were also discovered in the room. The personal effects of the Chinaman were found all untouched. A bottle of whisky, a pipe, some money, a number of trinkets and miscellaneous articles were all one after another unearthed, which goes to show that the Chinaman in his flight did not stop to take any of his property.

After visiting the entire building and making a complete search, the party then divided and searched the neighboring lands and canyons for traces of the murderer, but after several hours of fruitless investigation the search was abandoned and the party returned to the ranch to take charge of the bodies.

At 3 o'clock in the afternoon Coroner King of Petaluma, and Dr. Swicher of Healdsburg, arrived at the ranch, having made a journey on horseback of thirty miles. They examined the body of the woman and confirmed the conclusions of the others that she had been foully outraged and then murdered by being shot in the breast, through the heart. An inquest was immediately held under the direction of Coroner King, with the following jury: S. Scott, W. Frazer, A. J. Seules, C. Martin, George Skaggs, A. P. Crigler, James F. Hoadley, A. B. Cook and George B. Baer. After examining all the evidence which has been mentioned the jury gave the verdict that Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Wickersham came to their death from gunshot wounds inflicted by unknown hands, the evidence pointing towards a Chinese cook in the employ of the deceased.

The searching party from Cloverdale then returned to their homes, some of them remaining to watch the bodies of the dead man and woman. The bodies will be brought from the scene of the tragedy to-day and taken to Healdsburg for interment.

When the news was brought to Cloverdale confirming the first accounts of the murder great sorrow was shown by the many friends of the deceased who had awaited for the return of the searching party from their mountain journey. It is thought that the Chinaman who took the early morning train from Cloverdale on Tuesday morning is the Chinese cook of the Wickershams, who is supposed to be the murderer. It is also believed that if he arrived in San Francisco he took the China steamer Rio de Janiero which sailed on Wednesday for Hongkong.

Very little doubt is had in Cloverdale and vicinity that the Chinese cook, Ah Tai, committed the fiendish and desperate murder and outrage. The sentiment against the Chinese runs high in consequence of this act of heathen brutality, and the Chinese during yesterday kept in close quarters. The case is still surrounded by great mystery, and is the only topic of conversation. Rewards will be offered for the apprehension of Ah Tai, and the greatest efforts will be made to secure his capture. Chinese cooks will find great difficulty in securing employment in this section of the country hereafter.

WHAT FRIENDS SAY.

Some Interesting Facts About the Wickersham Family.

Owing to the scanty information obtainable regarding the particulars of the Wickersham tragedy, a CHRONICLE reporter interviewed J. Seawall and J. A. Deino, both of Healdsburg, who had arrived in this city yesterday and who were acquainted with the Wickershams. When speaking upon the subject, Mr. Seawall said:

"The most contrary rumors were current last night in Healdsburg concerning the affair. It was about 2 o'clock in the afternoon that the information was first made public, and then the statement was that Jesse Wickersham had his throat cut and that his wife was lying dead beside him, and the double murder was attributed to the Chinaman. There was a great deal of indignation, and several parties determined to start to the scene and, if possible, avenge the outrage."

When the gentlemen were shown the dispatch in which it was stated that Wickersham had died of hemorrhage and that the

wife had sent the Chinaman for a doctor, and that she herself had started for a neighbors', they shook their heads incredulously. "This statement does not hold water," they both said. "Wickersham's place is thirty miles west of Healdsburg, and the nearest neighbors to them is Jewell. Now, the road by which the Chinaman would have to pass to go either to Healdsburg or Cloverdale runs by Jewell's, and it is very certain that if Mrs. Wickersham sent the Chinaman for a doctor she would tell him first to drop into Jewell's and tell him of her trouble. Jewell's is but two miles from Wickersham's. The road is a graded one and runs on the top of the ridge. Wickersham's place is a little off the road, some 100 yards or so, in a decievity [sic] as it were. Now if that Chinaman had been sent for a doctor it is very sure that he did not call in either Cloverdale or Healdsburg. Now come to that part of the telegram in which it is stated that Mrs. Wickersham when she discovered that her husband was dead started for her neighbor's and fainted by the roadside. That neighbor was Jewell. She could not have fainted on the road to his house, for she would undoubtedly have been discovered by him when he went over from his place on Thursday morning to Wickersham's. The supposition is that the death of Wickersham occurred between Sunday and Wednesday. Mrs. Wickersham's faint could not last all that time. Where is she? Where is the Chinaman? There is not a doubt in my mind that Wickersham and his wife have met with foul play. About Wickersham being poorly--that is true. He is a weakly man--unable to ride and unable to look after the rancho properly, but I never heard him complain about his lungs.

"Yes, I knew both parties extremely well. I stayed with the Wickershams last September. They were an affectionate couple and much attached to each other. Mrs. Wickersham is about 40 years of age. She has the best of reputations, and is much admired all the country round for her kind and generous disposition. The Wickershams are pretty well off. His ranch is worth something like \$12,000, and besides that he has a good deal of stock, horses, cattle and sheep. They never kept a Chinaman before to my knowledge, in fact they always had a white assistant, but I suppose, from there not being any mention made of one, they did not have one. The man that they did have went to Oregon, and I remember Wickersham telling me that it was his intention to hire another one. He could hardly have been murdered for the sake of any money that he might have about the house, because in all our transactions I used to be given a check on the bank, Wickersham often telling me that he had strong objections to keeping money in the house. It is a singular case throughout, but I think the only solution that I can give you of the mystery is that the Wickershams have been murdered by the Chinaman."

Arresting Chinamen on Suspicion.

All the Chinese who come down on the steamer from Point Tiberon Thursday night were arrested at the request of the Cloverdale authorities. S. P. Weston arrived in this city yesterday from Petaluma and stated that the suspected murderer was not among the prisoners. The Mongols were then released from custody.

- San Francisco Chronicle, January 23, 1886

THE CHINESE MUST GO.

The time has arrived when the people of this city and vicinity should compel the Chinese to leave. All the leading towns of the State have already organized and State convention has been called to meet in San Jose, February 4th. Sonoma is entitled to twelve delegates, and we trust will be represented. The delegates must be selected from our best citizens and not be men of mushroom growth or who are not known as thoroughly reliable, honest and straightforward. No hoodlum should be selected...

...The tragedy that occurred in the northwest portion of this county on Monday last, where two of our most highly respected citizens, man and wife, were murdered in cold blood by a Chinese fiend, has done much to increase the bitterness against a race that are most wicked and inhuman. It only proves the assertion that they have neither conscience, mercy or human feeling and think no more of murdering a human being than they do killing a pig. They are monsters in human form, cunning and educated therefore more dangerous and vile. Let us get rid of them and at once.

- Daily Republican, January 23, 1886

THE SONOMA TRAGEDY.

Murder of Mr. and Mrs. Wickersham by a Chinese Servant.

DISCOVERY OF THE REMAINS.

A Cold-Blooded and Dastardly Crime— The Husband and Wife Killed with a Shotgun— Escape of the Assassin—On His Trail.

Petaluma, January 23d.— The reports of the morning papers are not confirmed by Marshal Blume and others who have arrived from the scene of the murder. Marshal Blume, Fred Wickersham, son of I. G. Wickersham, Elliott Jewell, Mr. Truitt and Mr. Skaggs first arrived at the ranch, eight hours in advance of any other parties. The position of the bodies and the circumstances show that Mr. Wickersham and wife had commenced their supper. The warm biscuit was on the table and in the stove and but little was eaten. The fried potatoes on Mrs. Wickersham's plate and the cake and pie were untouched. The guns stood in a corner close to or in the kitchen. The Chinaman fired through a partly open door, and out of sight of Mrs. Wickersham, who sat opposite her husband, killing him instantly. His plate and food were overturned in his lap. Mrs. Wickersham jumped up, turning over the chair, dropping her napkin on the floor, and ran to her bedroom. The Chinaman followed, and tied her until he could reload the gun, when he fired both barrels, the charge

PASSING THROUGH HER BODY

Under the arms. Two empty cartridges were in the shotgun, and two empty ones on the stove that had evidently been removed from the gun when it was loaded. He took a few things from his trunk, leaving a Chinese memorandum book and several full bottles of whisky. He cut a convenient piece from the clothesline in the kitchen with which to tie his victim. No money except a few odd coins as keepsakes were found. Her watch, pencil and breastpin were found. The theory that the act might have been done by some one else will not stand, for no one else could enter the room and pass through to the gun without being noticed and stopped. Mr. Wickersham kept a daily memorandum, and the last entry was on Sunday evening, as his habit was to write just after supper.

The Chinaman is well known in Cloverdale, where he picked hops for the past season. A Chinaman who knows the murderer and who used to work for Mr. Wickersham was engaged to assist in identifying and tracing the murderer, but after Mr. Blume left Cloverdale some persons indiscreetly arrested him. The murderer talked of leaving Mr. Wickersham at one time. When asked why, he said, "Bosse velly good, but lady too muchee talke!"

The remains were expected this evening on a special train, but owing to the immense amount of rain, they have not arrived at Healdsburg. A skiff will be placed on a wagon and the remains will be secured to ropes and so ferried over the torrents. The funeral arrangements were made for Monday at 10 A. M., but it is uncertain now when it will be. This information is reliable. Marshal Blume deserves much credit for persevering when others failed entirely, and he was first to arrive on the ground.

- Daily Alta California, January 24, 1886

Another Account.

Cloverdale, January 23d. — The crime must have been committed between 5 and 6 P. M. Everything points to this. The murdered man had made up his diary until Monday morning, and in all probability he started out over the range, as stated in the Alta yesterday, to look at his flocks. During his absence Mrs. Wickersham set the table out for supper, as was her custom, made all ready for the evening meal, and then went up stairs to the bedroom to change her dress. Then the Chinaman followed her, overpowered her, outraged her and beat and shot her to death. Shortly after he had completed his terrible work, Mr. Wickersham came in through the door opening on the porch, and taking his seat near the table, called to his wife to come down and eat supper. This was the signal for which the Chinaman was waiting, and stealthily opening the door leading from the kitchen

HE SHOT THE OLD MAN,

Who was half facing the door. The powder stains on the wall indicate that the shot was fired in this manner. Then entering the room till he faced Mr. Wickersham, the Chinaman fired the other barrel, and hastily throwing a blanket over the corpse fled from the house, probably taking one of the guns, of which there were several in the tool-house, to protect him from mountain lions, of which he had often expressed his fear. The murderer did not wait to rifle Mr. Wickersham's pockets. He was probably afraid to touch the bloody corpse, and contented himself with stealing some money that was in a drawer upstairs. He knew the trail over the mountains to Cloverdale, and he knew that the train left Cloverdale at 5:30 in the morning. It was probably about 6 o'clock when he fled from the farmhouse. The weather was fine and clear and the moon rose early. He had been over the trail once before, and found but little trouble making his way to Cloverdale, a distance of eighteen miles, in time to catch the train. Probably

HE THREW HIS GUN AWAY

Before he went into the town. He had two creeks to swim and several fords to make, but the spectacle of a damp Chinaman would not be liable to attract attention. He had a little time to wait for the train, however, and the railroad men noticed him. He was particularly remarked by the train boy, who gave a description of him which tallied exactly with that given by Mr. Weston, who knows him well. The Chinaman reached San Francisco about nine o'clock on Tuesday morning, and since then no trace has been seen of him. It was not until Wednesday, late, that the police in San Francisco were notified of the murder and asked to arrest all Chinese on the Donahue line. This delay was inevitable, as Mr. Elliott Jewell did not discover the body until Wednesday, and then he had a long ride to Skaggs' Springs, the nearest telegraph station, before he could give information.

- Daily Alta California, January 24, 1886

The News Too True.

Petaluma, January 23d.— I. G. Wickersham of this place to-day received the following letter from his son, who had visited the scene of the murder:

CLOVERDALE, Saturday morning, 1 A.M.— My Dear Father: Blume and I have just arrived here after an eight-hour ride. We

found the dispatch too true. Uncle Jesse and auntie are no more. We got to the ranch at 9 o'clock Friday morning, and went immediately to the house. Jesse sat in his accustomed place at the table, with a table cloth wrapped around his head, and five buckshot wounds back of his ear and a charge of the same in his side. Auntie was found in her bedroom in a horrible condition. I have made all arrangements to have them taken to Healdsburg to-day (Saturday), and will have them placed in plain boxes for shipment, unless otherwise ordered by you, and they will be down on the 4 o'clock train. Meet us at the depot with all necessary preparations, without doubt the Chinese cook committed the act, as he has not been seen this week. He fired the fatal shot while standing about seven feet from Jesse, through a crack in the door. Will be with you this evening and will explain further. Break this as gently as possible to mother. I have everything of value belonging to them with me. He was killed Monday evening at the supper table. Must go to bed and catch a few hours' sleep. Blume is doing everything possible to catch the Chinaman. Good-by. Fred.

- Daily Alta California, January 24, 1886

Tracing the Murderer.

Detective Cox learned to-day that a Chinaman, fairly answering the descriptions of the murderer, went to the steamship Yaquina, at Folsom-street wharf, on Thursday, and seemed very anxious to secure passage. He was nervous and excited until he found that the price for a ticket was within his means. He immediately went aboard the steamer and remained there until she sailed. The officers stated that he was dressed in new clothes throughout, even to the bundles he carried. It is thought very probable that he is the man wanted. The Western Union Telegraph lines are down between here and Yaquina Bay, but the officers will telegraph to Corvallis, Oregon, and by sending the dispatch over the steamship company's line from there they can intercept the Chinaman until he can be identified or proved to be the wrong man. He was particularly noticed, as he was the only Chinaman that ever took passage on the ship. It has been ascertained at the Registration Office of the Custom House that no Chinaman answering the description of Ah Tai obtained a certificate for passage on the Rio de Janeiro.

WHAT THE LOCAL POLICE ARE DOING.

The watch here for Ah Tai, the murderer, has so far proved fruitless. All the Chinatown dens have been thoroughly ransacked, and the incoming and outgoing boats and trains so closely watched that there is but one chance of his having escaped via San Francisco. That one chance is that he may have walked all night after committing the crime, and reaching Cloverdale in time for the morning train, he could have connected here with the steamer Rio de Janeiro, for China. This is hardly probable, however, as the Custom House officer who looks after the departing Chinese at the gang plank has no description, that tallies at all with that of Ah Tai. The description which the local police are working is as follows : Ah Tai, age 40, height 5 feet 8 inches, weight 140 pounds, stoutly and squarely built, square, fiat, short face, few scattering hairs on each side of upper lip, light complexion, white spots on the pupil of right eye, nose flat, with large, thin nostrils, wrinkled forehead, scar on neck or face, short upper lip that displays projecting upper teeth when laughing, always smiles in conversation, speaks good English, walks slowly, and with head bent forward. When last seen he was attired in a brown blouse, blue overalls, tucked into his boottops, a green silk sash holding up his trousers, and a lowcrowned soft round hat.

- Daily Alta California, January 24, 1886

A Pointer.

The Enterprise says; A party from Cloverdale states that last Friday week Wickersham's Chinaman came to town (Cloverdale) and held a conference with Shaw's cook (a Chinaman), which finally resulted in Shaw's Chinaman getting on behind Wickersham's, on a mule, and riding out of town a piece. He also says that Wickersham's Chinaman collected all moneys coming to him that day.

- Daily Democrat, January 24, 1886

THE WICKERSHAM MURDER.

Marshal Blume's Thrilling Story of His Investigation.

HOW THE FOUL DEED WAS DONE.

The Deep Design of the Murderer and Its Careful Carrying Out— His Motive Revenge for Merited Rebuke —Intense Excitement Against the Chinese.

Petaluma, January 24th.— The remains of Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Wickersham arrived this afterternoon. The funeral will take place to-morrow, under the auspices of the Masonic Order, of which Mr. Wickersham was a member, from St. John's Church, Rev. Mr. Watts rector. Business will be suspended. The excitement is intense, and knots of men are thickly scattered about discussing the Chinaman.

MARSHAL BLUME'S STORY.

What He Found In the Home of the Murdered Wickershams.

Marshal Blume, of Petaluma came to this city last evening and was closeted for some time with Chief Crowley and Captain Lees. As soon as this interview was ended he came into the outer office and talked freely with the members of the press about his trip from Cloverdale, and of the thorough search for details of this atrocious murder. He received the first news as he was taking some prisoners to the Town Hall of Petaluma. As soon as he heard that Jesse Wickersham had been murdered, he turned the prisoners over to his deputy and telegraphed Sheriff Gilbert of Santa Rosa to meet him at the train, which he did. They were accompanied by Mr. Fred Wickersham and the Coroner. From Cloverdale the parties separated, some taking a light wagon, while the Coroner and he chose saddle horses. After a long ride they reached the place and entered. This was about 2 p. m. on Thursday. The house is a plain structure of one story, with four rooms. It had not been entered or searched until his arrival, although the hellish deed had taken place on the evening of Monday. The first that was known of the murder came from some Indians that were employed in cutting wood for Mr. Wickersham. They worked about one mile from the house and on a steep hillside, whence a good view of the house was had.

MR. WICKERSHAM LAST SEEN.

They saw Mr. Wickersham about noon of Monday walking about the place, but on Tuesday they saw no smoke from the chimney nor any signs of life. Some time on Wednesday their provisions ran low, and as they obtained their supplies from the house, one of them quit work and went there. He tried one or two doors, but they were fastened, and an ominous silence prevailed. Finally one of the doors was found to be unlocked, but the Indian had become so alarmed as to refuse to go farther, so he returned to his companions and told his story. They all quit work, and after a short talk went to the ranch of Mr. Jewell, some five or six miles off, which was the nearest inhabited place, and when he was notified he came back with them. The moment he opened the door one of the Indians saw a pool of blood at the feet of the murdered man, and called Jewell's attention to it. Without waiting to investigate the matter Jewell went to his ranch, took his wife, and they went to Skaggs' Springs and gave the alarm. A brief telephone despatch from this place was the one that reached Marshal Blume. When his party arrived at the house on Thursday, they proceeded to make a thorough search. The main facts have already appeared in the Alta, but the following resume will not be amiss: The body of Mr. Wickersham was found in his chair, setting at his accustomed place at the table. His head was thrown forward to the left, and a tablecloth was wrapped once or twice about his neck and thrown over his head. The only wound he received was in the head on the right side behind the ear, although the assassin must have shot at him twice, as two empty shells were found on the table, and two were left discharged in the gun.

THE DEADLY SHOT.

The gun was used for duck and geese shooting, and the shells carried full charges of heavy shot, but the first statement that buckshot was used is incorrect. It stood always in the corner of the kitchen, close to the door of the dining-room, and from some marks in the door, it was evident that it was partially closed, so that Mrs. Wickersham could not see the fatal deed. As soon, however, as she heard the shot and saw her husband mortally wounded, she must have sprang from her seat, for her chair was overturned, her napkin was thrown to one side, and some food on her plate was scattered to the floor. She rushed to her room, where her lifeless body was discovered by the Blume party. She was kneeling by the bed with her arms and hands tied so tightly with a piece of clothes line as to cut into the skin. This piece of rope matched a piece that was found in the Chinaman's room, and was freshly cut. She was found to have received both charges in her right side, making a hole large enough to thrust the whole hand in, and upon the autopsy it was shown that several shots had pierced the heart. There were marks of violence about her person, notably, in the head and face, showing that though of slight frame, she had resisted until the deadly shots were fired.

A MOCKERY OF THE DEAD.

The bed was little rumpled, the pillows were in position and not a foot from her corpse rested a plate with five pieces of cake. The murderer had evidently taken this from the supper table after finishing his work of double murder and placed it there in cool derision of the hapless victims. There was no evidence that the house had been rifled, as her jewelry was left in its accustomed place in a bureau drawer, and a collection of foreign coins that she had been collecting for many years was untouched. A gold watch and chain, a handsome opera-glass and other trinkets were untouched. The only article that showed any signs of overhauling was a chest belonging to the Chinese cook. This was open and some articles of clothing had been taken out as if for wearing, but on second thoughts had been folded and laid across his bed. A photograph was left, several letters and three bottles of good whisky, which was at once sampled by the wet and exhausted Coroner and Marshal Blume. As soon as the examination was finished the Coroner held an inquest, and the bodies were conveyed to Skaggs' Springs, thence to Cloverdale.

THE CAUSE OF THE MURDER.

The excitement created by the dastardly deed has grown stronger with each recital, and the mystery surrounding the movements of Ah Ti has served only to heighten the horrible story. There was so much method in his cruel deed as to give rise to but one theory — revenge for some fancied injury. It has been learned by Mr. Blume that for some time Mrs. Wickersham was annoyed by Ti's actions whenever her husband was absent, and the result was that she used to retire to her room and lock the door. Not long ago he made so much trouble that she complained of him to her husband, and he gave Ti a severe tongue-lashing, but used no violence. This affair is thought to have rankled in his heart, and, as he was in the habit of drinking

heavily and, suffering from sullen fits of anger, he took the first chance to wreak his vengeance on the helpless victim.

- Daily Alta California, January 25, 1886

HUSBAND AND WIFE FOUND MURDERED

CLOVERDALE, Cal., Jan. 24. -- Details reached here yesterday of the murder of Jesse C. Wickersham, a prominent farmer, and his wife at their ranch about 20 miles from this town...Strong circumstantial evidence points to a Chinese cook, Ah Kai, employed by the couple, who has disappeared. The murder was evidently committed on Monday night. It is believed the Chinaman took an early train on Tuesday at Cloverdale for San Francisco, and embarked on the steamer Rio de Janeiro, which sailed for Hong-Kong on Wednesday. The discovery of the crime was made on Thursday, but, owing to the bad condition of the roads, caused by the recent storm, no reliable information could be obtained earlier.

- New York Times, January 25, 1886

THE AWFUL TRAGEDY.

The indignation in this city over the terrible murder of Jesse C. Wickersham and wife is still on the increase. When the rumor arrived Saturday evening that An Tai, the Chinaman, had been captured in San Francisco and that he would be brought to this city, the subject of lynching the brute was freely discussed. It is doubtful however if he will ever be allowed to pass Petaluma should his capture be effected.

Constable Truitt in making a few corrections to the reports of the tragedy says: "The murder was discovered Thursday morning by Mr. Jewell, through the Indians. At 4:40 P. M. the same day I received a telegram from George Skaggs, via Geyserville. I immediately notified Sheriff Bishop at Santa Rosa and Coroner King at Petaluma. Bishop, King, Marshal Blume and Fred Wickersham arrived on the evening train, and left town at 8 o'clock that night, accompanied by Blume, Wickersham and Sime Martin, the party being all on horseback. They rode twelve miles to Boards, and were piloted from there to Skaggs' Hot Springs by George Skaggs and Sime Martin, without whom we could not have got through, even by swimming the creek in the canyon, as we did. We remained at Skaggs' Springs till morning, reached Monet's at 6 A. M. and Wickersham's at 7. While Blume was examining the range I approached Wickersham's remains. First I removed a blanket which enveloped him, the unwrapped a table cloth and towel and napkin from his head. There was a nickel watch in his pocket, but no coin. The wounds were made with buckshot, one charge entering the head and the other the side, ranging upwards into the heart. Searching for Mrs. Wickersham, I found her in a chamber bound with cords to the rails of the bed. Examined the remains with Dr. J. R. Swisher, and found evidence of violence. Apparently while bound and while the Chinaman was wrapping the corpse in the next room, she partly freed herself. Discovering this, the fiend ended her life by shooting her with the shotgun twice, once with quail shot and once with buck-shot in the same place, through the heart. There was no jewelry on her person. A lady's gold watch and chain and pin were found in the bureau. There was evidence of money having been abstracted from a portmanteau.

"After the inquest and the bodies had been dressed, Coroner King, Dr. Swisher and myself started for home. Left Swisher at Hendricks' ranch, he having lost his horses the night before. At Hot Spring creek we were compelled to swim our horses, and on the road Coroner King's horse fell and injured his rider severely. Had he not been full of bravery and endurance he could not have made this, one of the hardest trips of my experience..."

- Daily Republican, January 25, 1886

THE TERRIBLE TRAGEDY.

The bodies of Captain Jesse C. Wickersham and wife were brought into Healdsburg Sunday morning on a wagon. In consequence of the bad weather and swollen streams great difficulty was experienced in bringing them in. People gathered at every settlement along the roadside to get a sight of the sad procession. The remains were taken to Petaluma the same day on a car, and at all the stations along the road there were crowds of people as they passed. At Petaluma the crowd was very large. The bodies were taken to Blackburn's undertaking establishment and prepared for burial, and the funeral took place Monday morning, the ceremonies being conducted by the Masons.

Marshal Blume stated that there were some inaccuracies in the published reports of the tragedy. After giving the particulars of the visit to the ranch, and the finding of the bodies, he said that when they reached the house the body of Mrs. Wickersham had not been found, and gave the following account of the finding and the scene that presented itself: A search was made of the house, and her remains were found in the bed-room tied near the foot of the bed. She had been bound with a clothes-line, which ran across from one side of the bed to the other, and over her chest, around her arms, which were tied behind, and the rope was also tied tightly about her wrists. She was kneeling on the floor at the foot of the bed, where she had evidently got in struggling to free herself. The face was resting in the bedclothing. In this position she was evidently shot, as there were no

traces of blood on the bed or bedclothing, but a large pool on the door, which had flowed from the right side, where there was a hole as large as one's fist. It looked as though two charges had been fired at once. The clothing was burned about the wound. It is strange to say that the bed was found in good order, the covers being turned half back and the pillows straightened out. The Chinaman must have made the bed after having accomplished his purpose, possibly to leave the impression that no outrage had been committed. On a pillow nearest the corpse was a plate on which were five pieces of cake. In the center of the bed was also found a small bunch of keys. In her bureau drawer was her watch and gold pin, opera glasses, trinkets of jewelry and other things. A small sack of odd coins was also found. It was the habit of Mr. Wickersham," proceeded Mr. Blume, "to keep \$40 or \$50 about the house, and not a dollar was discovered, which goes to prove that Ah Tai did not forget to take the money with him."

Blume was asked where he found Mr. Wickersham, and replied as follows;

"He was sitting at the table as though he had fallen asleep. His head had dropped over to the left side slightly and the chin was resting on his breast. A charge of shot had entered behind his left ear and another penetrated his side. His feet were crossed under the table. The plate was upset in his lap. The plate of his wife, which was opposite, had potatoes on it and was undisturbed. There was a piece of pie at each place. The chair which had been occupied by Mrs. Wickersham was overturned. None of the trunks found in the house had been disturbed save the chest of the Chinaman. In the Chinaman's room there were some underclothes and a few aprons. A pair of pants were on the floor and a Chinese coat on the bed in the room occupied by Ah Tai. In this room was also found a piece of clothesline freshly cut, which matched that with which the woman was tied. A shotgun was found in the corner, between the door of the dining-room and that of the Chinaman's room. Two empty shells were on the kitchen table and two in the gun. The shot was fired from the kitchen through the half-opened door of the dining room. The door was powderburned, and several shots were in it. From the location of the shots in this door it is certain that the person who did the firing was short of stature. The weapon used was a No. 12 double-barreled Moore's gun."

The Marshal said further that he had heard that the Chinaman had killed a man in Sacramento.

It is stated that Ah Tai confided his secret to some of his countrymen in San Francisco, after his arrival there, and sought their assistance to get out of the country. A Chinaman who overheard the conversation reported the same to Consul Bee, and he to Chief of Police Crowley. A tintype of the Chinaman found in his box was obtained, and diligent search is being made for him, but it is feared that he left on the last steamer that sailed for Hongkong. The following is a full description of Ah Tai: He is about 40 years old and five feet three inches in height, with a white spot upon the pupil of the right eye and a scar upon his neck or face. His complexion is of a light yellow, with a square face, wide across the cheek bones, his forehead being lighter and broad, with a few wrinkles. His nose is flat, with large, thin nostrils, and upon each side of the upper lip, which is short, showing protruding teeth, there are a few straggling hairs. He is stout and square built, with a short neck, and walks slowly with his head bent forward. He speaks good English and smiles while talking, and when last seen wore a brown Chinese coat, a pair of overalls stuck into a pair of American boots, a green sash about his waist, and wore a soft low-crowned felt hat.

- Daily Democrat, January 26, 1886

A CHINAMAN WHIPPED.

At Guerneville Sunday night, a Chinaman, who is familiarly known by the name of Jim Mahoney, was severely beaten by four Italians, who were considerably under the effects of poor whisky.

- Daily Democrat, January 26, 1886

A CHAT WITH JEWELL

The Man Who Gave the Alarm of the Murder

J. E. Jewell who was the first to give information of the murder, was seen yesterday in Petaluma, whither he had come to attend the funeral.

"I knew the Wickershams well," began Mr. Jewell. "You know their ranch is but two miles from mine, and we were continually over at each other's places. I saw him on New Year's Day and the Sunday and Monday after that, but not since. Wickersham was not a sickly man; he could ride about and do light work. When he first came to the farm he was in a very sickly condition. I think he came first, built his home, and was then joined by his wife.

"The first intimation I received of the murder was on Wednesday night. Two of the Indians who had been working cutting wood for Wickersham came to me and said: 'You see Wickersham?' 'No,' I answered. 'I no see,' was the reply. Then they asked for some tobacco, which I gave them, when they again queried, 'Where Wickersham?' and then again, 'You come Wickersham?' I pacified them by saying that I would go over the next day. I rode over early next morning and got as far as to the barn, when I

looked over the picket and determined to go and get the two Indians who had been to see me to accompany me to the house. They were encamped some 300 yards away. I asked them again when they had last seen Wickersham and they replied 10 A.M. Monday, but not since. They said they had gone down to the house, and fearful of approaching it, they had stood afar off and hallooed for Wickersham, but without an answer.

"It was about 5:30 o'clock the previous evening the Indians had come to me, and I had already made up my mind something was wrong--possibly a murder. Taking the two Indians with me, I attempted to open the door of the sitting-room but found it locked. The window was down and I pulled out the sash. The Indians then suggested that I should come round to the dining-room. I did so. The door did not yield. I went to the window, pulled aside the blind, and there my eyes fell upon the rigid form of my old friend--a blanket about his head and his feet in a pool of blood. I was horror-stricken. I left the spot immediately, knowing that the foulest of foul crimes had been committed, and I hastened to Skaggs' Springs to give the alarm."

- San Francisco Chronicle, January 26, 1886

THE SONOMA CRIME.

Impressive Funeral of the Wickershams.

MOURNING IN PETALUMA.

Strong Anti-Chinese Sentiment Aroused--Search for the Murderer.

There was a Sunday stillness in the town of Petaluma yesterday. The stores, saloons, and even banks were closed. Conversation was carried on in undertones, but underneath that sorrow lurked a revengeful spirit, which displayed itself by frequent gesture and ill-guarded remark against the race from whom came the murderer that laid low in a foul and bloody death their esteemed town people. There were no Chinese to be seen on the streets. Their dingy washhouses were closed. There were incessant arrivals from all the county round, either by wagon, buggy, buckboards, on horseback or on foot. Petaluma seemed to be the great sojourning place for pilgrims, whither they were going to hold some solemn service. Scattered about the sidewalks, pinned to fences, thrown in at doorways, were notices, with mourning borders, stating that the burial of Brother and Mrs. J. C. Wickersham would take place at 10 A.M. from St. John's Episcopal Church.

The house occupied by I. G. Wickersham and family is a pleasantly situated two-storied house in the center of large grounds. It was here the bodies of the murdered victims were brought after they had been placed in the coffins at the undertaking rooms. The only covering of the corpses from the rancho to Healdsburg were ordinary blankets and when they arrived at the last-named place they had been put into boxes and in them brought to Petaluma. The crowd that awaited the arrival of the bodies at that depot on Sunday night was a large one, and when the rude coffins were placed upon two express wagons, the citizens forming about escorted the remains to the undertaker's. From those who had seen the bodies it was learned that the face of Mr. Wickersham had undergone no change, but that Mrs. Wickersham's face was much discolored. After the undertaker had completed his duties the corpses were removed at 6 P.M. Sunday in their coffins to the house of I. G. Wickersham, where they were placed in the library.

From early in the morning the house was besieged with visitors...

- San Francisco Chronicle, January 26, 1886

FRED WICKERSHAM'S STORY.

He Denies That the Dead Lady Was Outraged.

Fred Wickersham, cousin of the deceased who accompanied Marshal Blume to the ranch, was seen yesterday in Petaluma and said: "It was about 4:45 o'clock on Thursday night when we heard of the murder, and I immediately left for Healdsburg. There I met Blume and also Sam Martin and R. K. Truitt. We soon mounted and pushed for the ranch. We stopped three hours at Skaggs' Springs; then took Skaggs with us as a guide and got to the ranch at 9 o'clock in the morning.

"While we were unsaddling at the barn, Truitt ran down to the house and got in through the front door. Blume and I followed. We immediately began looking for Mrs. Wickersham. We first went into the spare bedroom, but she was not there. I then went into her own bedroom and found her kneeling on the floor, with her face on the bed. There was no evidence that a struggle had taken place. Mrs. Wickersham was accustomed to wear a small lace cap on her head, and even that was there. Her hair was not even untied. It is plain to us that Wickersham was shot first. Mrs. Wickersham then fled to her room for safety, and apparently she was followed by the Chinaman, who tied her up so that she should not escape while he loaded his gun. The statements that have been made in the papers concerning foul outrages are not true, nor are they kind."

"Ye," said Mr. Wickersham Sr., "our feelings can better be imagined than described, but it makes the pangs of regret the keener when such reports are spread. It is bad enough, God knows, without making the facts worse."

- San Francisco Chronicle, January 26, 1886

WORK OF THE POLICE.

Still in Doubt Whether Ah Ti Sailed for China.

Chief Crowley, Captain Lees and Detectives Cox and Glennon are devoting their best energies in an endeavor to find a clue to the whereabouts of Ah Ti, the suspected murderer of the Wickershams. They feel confident that if he is in this city they will be able to unearth him, but the indications are that he sailed on Wednesday afternoon on the steamer Rio de Janeiro.

Captain Lees stated last night that he was endeavoring to obtain information on that point, and if he ascertains that Ah Tai has sailed for China, a cablegram will be sent to the authorities at the three ports at which the steamer calls, asking for the apprehension of the fugitive. If he is on the steamer and continues on to either Yokohama, Hongkong or Shanghai, a cablegram can be sent from San Francisco to either New York or Boston, and thence to the transatlantic stations in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Miquelon. After crossing the ocean...[description of how cablegram could reach Asia]...

- San Francisco Chronicle, January 26, 1886

Anti-Chinese Meeting

Pursuant to notice, a large and enthusiastic anti-Chinese meeting was held at the Petaluma Theatre last Monday night...Public sentiment here against the Chinese is strong, and the general feeling is that they must leave...

- Petaluma Courier, January 27, 1886

A Terrible Crime.

One of the most dastardly crimes ever heard of in this or any other county of the State was committed on the ranch of Capt. Jesse C. Wickersham on the headwaters of Dry creek and near the northern boundary line of Sonoma county. From many circumstances it is thought the double murder of Captain Wickersham and his wife was committed some time in the evening of last Monday week. On Wednesday an Indian who had been at work on some part of the ranch chopping wood, went over to the ranch occupied by Elliott Jewell and informed him that he thought there was something wrong on the Wickersham ranch as they had not seen the captain or his wife... [Jewell entered house, went to Skagg's Springs] ...and telephoned the result to relatives in this city. The news spread like wild fire and created a profound sensation...

...[Friday morning inquest] Seated in an arm-chair beside the table, with his head leaning over to the left, and the left arm dangling, was the corpse of the murdered husband. It had not been moved, and was evidently in the exact position in which it remained when the fatal shot was fired.

An examination showed that a load of shot--afterward ascertained to have been double B goose shot--had struck the deceased...[summary of Sarah wounds by mistake]...Beneath the chair on which the body rested were two pools of blood, the clothing worn by the deceased also being saturated. About the neck was twisted a large linen tablecloth, and underneath it several napkins. These were almost as thoroughly soaked with blood as if they had been dipped into a bucket filled with it. From the corners and here and there on the edge only could it be told what the original color of the articles were. From the snowy whiteness of these spots, still stiff with starch, it was evident that the tablecloth was taken from the drawer in which the linen was kept for the express purpose of absorbing the blood...

...Not the slightest indication of any disturbing element was found anywhere in the room except the course. Dishes of meat, bread, fruit, jelly and other articles looked exactly as if those who had partaken of the meal had quietly risen from the table. The fact that a lamp, with the oil all burned out of it, was in the middle of the table, indicates that the last meal the couple sat down to was dinner, it being their custom to dine about 5 o'clock. The room was about twelve by fourteen feet, and the small table on which the meal was spread stood near the centre. The husband's seat was on the side toward the kitchen, and so sitting the door communicating with the kitchen was at his back and a little to the right. The wife's chair was directly opposite, facing the kitchen door. The soiled plate, with knife and fork crossed upon it, and an empty teacup that had been used during the course of the meal, showed that Mrs. Wickersham had taken at least part of that last dinner with her husband. Just to the right of her plate were two pie-plates with a piece of apple-pie and a fork on each, as if it was about to be served. Besides the plate of the husband was a full cup of tea. A neighbor who had often eaten at the house said it was Mr. Wickersham's habit always to take his tea with his dessert. All these circumstances point to the conclusion that the wound that killed the husband had been inflicted just at the close of the first course, and when the Chinese cook was about to be summoned to remove the plates. The kitchen door on both sides was painted white. On the kitchen side, about four feet from the floor, were marks of powder burn

almost as large as a man's hand. The gun from which the shot was fired that ended the life of the owner of the house was evidently held close against the door, and in that position the muzzle would have been only about five feet from the body of the unsuspecting victim. All present came to the conclusion that the murderer had certainly opened the door only a few inches, thus being able to level his gun on the husband without allowing it to project beyond the edge, while the door screened him from the wife's view. The instrument of death was a No. 12 breech-loading shotgun belonging to the murdered man. It always stood in the kitchen, and was found there by Mr. Fred Wickersham and the officers on their arrival. Beside the gun on the table was two empty shells, and two other empty shells were taken from the gun.

While the physician was conducting an examination of the corpse of Mrs. Wickersham in the bedroom, the reporter interviewed Mr. J. E. Jewell, the man who first brought the news of the fearful crime to Skaggs Springs. His home is two miles from the Wickersham ranch...[Jewell entered house through back door, looked hurriedly at other parts of the house]...

With F. A. Wickersham and Marshal Blume, Mr. Jewell returned to the scene of the murder, on Friday. It was then the body of Mrs. Wickersham was first found. The remains were in the bedroom, tied with about ten yards of clothesline rope to the bed. The rope had been passed around each arm several times, pinning them behind the body; then, by fastening the rope across the chest and around the headboard, the suffering woman was made fast. In the death agony the lady threw herself off the bed, and, though still tied, was found half kneeling, half lying across the edge of it. The face was swollen and bruised, the appearance ghastly in the extreme, the terrified expression depicting something of the intense suffering and agony endured before death ended the ordeal... [autopsy description]... In the struggle that preceded death the cords that bound the helpless woman's arms cut deep in the flesh.

The orderly appearance of the house showed that after the double crime was committed it was not generally plundered or ransacked. In a bureau drawer was found a gold watch belonging to the deceased husband, gold-rimmed spectacles, gold bracelets, and one or two articles of jewelry belonging to Mrs. Wickersham. A small satchel, however, in which the rancher was known to sometimes keep money, was found open, and its only contents, when taken charge of by Fred A., the nephew, was few old and curious coins. No one present was able to state whether there was much or little money in the house before the deed was committed. The family lived very quietly, and remained generally pretty close at home, and none of the neighbors knew much about their domestic affairs. Louis Smith knew that the deceased did sometimes keep money in the house. At one time last fall Mr. Wickersham paid Smith \$100 at the house. The payment was not expected by Smith on that day, and no especial time had been set for it. At another time the deceased wished to settle with Smith, but could not do so, as he said "He had nothing less than a twenty."

...[biographical details]...

The ranch on which the murder took place comprises about 2,000 acres and is well stocked. The estate of the deceased is estimated by the nephew to be worth about \$50,000.

No one who was on the spot and saw the circumstances surrounding the murder doubted for an instant that the perpetrator of it was Ah Tai, the Chinese cook, who had been on the ranch about three months. Nothing definite has been seen or heard of him since the Indians who went to Mr. Jewell's saw him about the yard on Monday last.

With the exceptions of the Indians temporarily employed, the Chinaman was the only person on the ranch besides Mr. and Mrs. Wickersham. The deceased husband devoted his ranch to sheep raising, and hired help only during busy times. Not being of a robust constitution he did not ride over his range, but every few weeks engaged Mr. Louis Smith of Sonoma county to do that work for him. Mr. Smith was at the ranch three months ago when the Chinaman first arrived, and has frequently been there since. He describes Tai as light-complexioned, heavy set fellow, with round shoulders' height about 5 feet 4 inches, and about 28 years old; speaks good English, and has the appearance of always grinning, was not sullen-looking, and was regarded by Mr. Smith as a good Chinaman, as the Chinese go. The most prominent feature of Tai was two very long teeth in the front of his mouth. These projected considerably, and lapped over each other. He always dressed in overalls and blouse of brown ducking. On the day of his arrival at the ranch he showed Mr. Smith a tintype of himself, but the gentleman failed to see any resemblance between the picture and the alleged original. The picture Marshal Blume now has, and hopes by means of it to identify the wretch should he be caught. The matter of identification, however, will be easy enough, for there are several persons, Mr. Smith among them, who could readily identify him. The posse under Marshal Blume searched the valleys and the mountains in the vicinity of the house on Friday, but found no trace of the fugitive...[presumption that Ah Tai escaped to China]...

In his hasty departure Tai took none of his personal effects with him; the chest in which his things were kept was undisturbed. Besides some Chinese clothing, a few trivial articles of no value was all the chest contained. What money he had he took with him. Mr. Louis Smith is the reporter's authority that the Chinaman got along nicely at the ranch and said he liked the place. When last asked how he was getting on he said all right, but he did not know how long he would remain. He was hired in Cloverdale, but Mr. Smith nor anyone else whom the reporter saw knew of Tai's having been in that town recently.

Marshal Blume returned from the city last night and reports: That after a full investigation the police are satisfied that Ah Tai, the murder of Captain Jesse Wickersham sailed on the steamer for China last Wednesday...

HORRIBLE!

An Atrocious Double Murder Committed by a Chinaman.

Jesse Wickersham and his Wife Brutally Murdered after a Hellish Outrage had been Perpetrated upon the Helpless Woman.

Jesse Wickersham and his wife, Sarah Wickersham, were murdered on Monday evening of last week under circumstances the most diabolical. The Wickershams were occupying their mountain ranch, thirty miles north-west of Healdsburg in the neighborhood of Skagg's Springs, for the purpose of recovering their health. The Indians employed on the place were the first to miss them, and upon looking into the dining room saw Mr. Wickersham sitting in his chair dead. Immediately

VAGUE RUMORS

Began to circulate, but nothing definite was known till a party consisting of R. K. Truitt, Charles Cook, Deputy Sheriff Crigler and James Hoadley went to Wickershams' on Friday. On entering the dining room a

HORRIBLE SIGHT

Met their gaze. Wickersham was found lying back in a chair, and a pool of blood oozing from a wound in his breast and saturating the floor with streams of gore. The dead man was lying back in his chair and before him on the table was a napkin. On the table was spread the supper of the dead man. The searching party carried Wickersham to another room and proceeded to search for the wounds. The wound in the breast was inflicted by a shotgun, and was direct through the left lung. Another wound was found through the head. Both were sufficient to cause death. On entering the kitchen a shotgun was discovered lying on the floor, with both barrels discharged. On a table in the room were two empty cartridges, showing that four shots had been fired. The shots were evidently fired by a short person, for against the door leading to the dining-room were the powder blasts of the gun. This pointed to the Chinaman. In a corner of the kitchen was found an apron, on which were blood-marks. This was the apron worn by the Chinaman.

THE SEARCH CONTINUED.

The party then proceeded to search for the woman, the wife of Wickersham. In passing through the dining-room again a diary of Wickersham's was found on the floor. It was regularly kept, the hours of the day and their occurrences being noted. It was dated up to Monday morning. This shows that the crime was committed on that day. The party also observed that a lamp was on the supper table, which is evidence that the deed was done in the night.

A search was then made for the body of the wife of Wickersham. After ransacking the out-houses the bed room was visited, where the the searching party met with a sight which caused all to shudder with horror. Leaning against the bed the mutilated body of the woman was discovered, with a sheet thrown over her. It was removed and the woman was found to be tied hand and foot. The bed was covered with blood, which dripped down on the floor. Her nose was broken and her teeth protruded as if struck by a blow.

THE MURDERER.

Then it dawned on the minds of those who had come to learn the mystery of the sad tragedy that the object of the fiend who had perpetrated the dual crime was the outrage of the woman. An examination of the searching party revealed that this was the explanation of affairs. Those who saw the woman and her tied and cruel position, with her mutilated face, say that they never saw such a brutal and outrageous sight. On the woman was found her rings and gold watch and chain. On Wickersham's person was also found his watch and money in his pocket. This shows that the object of the fiendish criminal was not robbery. Later accounts state that all Wickersham's money was taken except some foreign coins.

A SUPERSTITION.

One of the most curious things discovered was a piece of cake, which had been placed by the murderer after accomplishing his diabolical designs on the pillow beside the dead woman. It is said that this is a custom of the Chinese to exorcise evil spirits from the bodies of the dead. The room of the Chinese was then visited, and from papers there gathered it was discovered that the name of the cook who is supposed to be the murderer was Ah Tai. This Chinaman was in the habit of keeping a diary, which was found in his room. In this note-book it was learned that he had been in the employ of Wickersham for three months. A number of letters from Chinese friends in San Francisco, and a quantity of papers giving accounts of transactions of the Chinese cook, were also discovered in the room. The personal effects of the Chinaman were found all untouched. A bottle of whisky, a pipe, some money, a number of trinkets and miscellaneous articles were all one after the other unearthed, which goes to show that the Chinaman in his flight did not stop to take any of his property. Trustworthy accounts say that he did take away all his valuables.

SEARCH FOR THE MURDERER.

After visiting the entire building and making a complete search the party then divided and searched the neighboring lands and canyons for traces of the murderer, but after several hours of fruitless investigation the search was abandoned and the party

returned to the ranch to take charge of the bodies.

CORONER'S JURY.

At 3 o'clock in the afternoon Coroner King of Petaluma and Dr. Swisher of Healdsburg arrived at the ranch, having made a journey on horseback of thirty miles. They examined the body of the woman and confirmed the conclusions of the others that she had been foully outraged and then murdered by being shot in the breast through the heart. An inquest was immediately held under the direction of Coroner King with the following jury: S. Scot, W. Frazer, A. J. Soules, C. Martin, George Skaggs, A. P. Crigler, James F. Hoadley, A. B. Cook and George B. Baer. After examining all the evidence which has been mentioned the jury, gave the verdict that Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Wickersham came to their death from gunshot wounds, inflicted by unknown hands, all evidence pointing towards a Chinese cook in the employ of deceased.

DISPOSING OF THE BODIES.

The bodies were brought to Healdsburg on Sunday and were boxed up and sent Petaluma where they were interred. Great sorrow was shown here and the corpses were attended to the depot by a large impromptu gathering. It is thought that the Chinaman who took the early morning train from Cloverdale on Tuesday morning is the Chinese cook of the Wickershams, who is supposed to be the murderer. It is also believed that he arrived in San Francisco, and took the China steamer Rio de Janeiro, which sailed on Wednesday for Hongkong. Very little doubt is had that the Chinese cook, Ah Tai, committed the fiendish and desperate murder and outrage.

- Russian River Flag, January 27 1886

ANG CHI TUCK.

How the Murderer of the Wickershams Escaped.

He Confesses His Crime to Darnig Hing Ling, and Sails for Hongkong under the Name of Aug Ah Suang.

Ah Ti, whose proper name is Ang Chi Tuck (more properly pronounced Dong Chi Tuck), after murdering the Wickershams found his way into Cloverdale, which he reached at 4 A. M. Tuesday, and proceeded straight to the house of his uncle, who lived in the rear of Gee Sing's laundry. He was travel-stained and tired, and his sudden appearance created astonishment among the washermen, but not giving them any satisfaction he passed through the house, awoke his uncle, had a conversation with him and left without the knowledge of the laundrymen. He then went to the railroad station and took the early morning train for San Francisco, hoping to catch the City of Rio de Janeiro, which was advertised to sail that day at 2 P.M.

HOW THE TICKET WAS PROCURED.

The murderer first asked the cook of the Hop Wo Benevolent Association to procure him a ticket to China. He was told to go to the Ning Yung Company, but the latter had sold all their tickets. The Chinese Consulate was then applied to, but they were also without tickets, so the Ning Yung President was given an order by the Consulate for a ticket on the Pacific Mail Company. Here, by means of the official stamped paper, a ticket was obtained bearing the name Ang Ah Suang. When this man, who was no other than Ah Ti, went aboard the vessel, and, having no Consular certificate, he was examined on Wednesday, and the following description was entered on the book kept for that purpose: Ang Ah Suang, aged 35; 5 feet 2 inches; scar on left eyebrow; residence, Sacramento; came to the United States for the first time in 1871.

A LAUNDRY ALARMED.

When Ah Ti fled his uncle's home on Tuesday morning he left his relative in tears and despair. This was noticed by the other Chinese in the laundry, who gave him no peace until he confessed that his nephew had murdered his employer. The Chinamen were alarmed. They argued that trouble would surely come on them as accomplices, and, after holding a consultation, they determined to send Ah, Kum, who was doing nothing at the time, and inform the Ning Yung President of the crime, to whose company he belonged. Ah Kum fulfilled his mission, but when an effort was made to arrest the fugitive the steamer was sailing through the Golden Gate.

TRACING THE MURDERER,

After the vessel had sailed the Ning Yung President was closely examined by the Consul-General and Consul Bee, when he promised his assistance toward the discovery of the murderer. What assisted in tracing Ah Ti to the steamer was the circumstance that by the Rio de Janeiro the Consulate had purchased forty tickets at half-price for poor and disabled returning Chinamen, which it had distributed among the Six Companies, and it was for one of these tickets that the murderer had had applied on Tuesday morning, and which he managed to procure through the Consulate, and which finally identified him.

ACTION OF THE CHINESE

On Monday night the principal Chinese merchants met at the Consulate with the six Presidents, and authorized the Consul-General to spare no expense in the capture of the murderer, saying that they were willing and anxious to place any sum

in his hands for cablegrams, and that every care should be taken that there was no miscarriage of justice.

From early last evening till 11 o'clock at night the alleged uncle of Ah Ti was closeted with Captain Lees, from whom was obtained the following statement:

Darng Hin Ling says: "I am not the real uncle, but Ang Tai Tuck calls me so because I bear the same surname."

Ling says that between 4 and 5 A.M. Tuesday, January 19th, a knock came to his door in the rear of the Gee Sing laundry. I didn't know who it was; did not recognize the voice. I was told I was wanted at the Gee Sing laundry. I objected, saying it was dark and cold. I was then told it was important. I then got up and went to the laundry and asked what was wanted; was told that my nephew wanted to see me and was in rear yard.

THE FLIGHT OF AH TAI.

"I there saw Ang Tai Tuck. I asked him what is the business so early. Ti replied, 'I am going away to the city.' I asked him again, 'What is so important that takes you to the city, Ti?' He replied, 'I have killed in all two persons.'

"Tai Tuck then started and ran away without giving me time to ask another question. I suppose he was anxious to catch the cars. It was then about 5 A.M. and the station was some distance from the laundry, and the train started at 5:10 A.M.

"I went back to the laundry and told them what Tai Tuck had told me, and I said this killing persons won't do. What shall we do about it? And we concluded that the two persons must be his employers, and we determined to send Wong Ah Kum on the next train to the city to notify the President of our company what Ang Tai Tuck had told us, so that the President would see that he was arrested for his crime.

HOW HE WILL BE CAPTURED

[...speculation on arrest at Yokohama...]

- Oakland Tribune, January 27 1886

THE WICKERSHAM MURDER.

Conclusive Proof That the Assassin Sailed for China.

HE CONFESSES TO HIS UNCLE.

One Thousand Dollars Reward Offered By Chinese Merchants for the Capture of the Murderer— How Ah Tai Effected His Escape.

Developments have arisen in connection with the terrible Wickersham tragedy which conclusively fix the identity of the murderer in the person of the Chinese cook employed on the ranch, who has heretofore been known as Ah Tai, but whose real name is Ang Tai Duck. This result was brought about by the information furnished to the police last Monday of the Chinaman who called on Lee Cum Wah, President of the Ning Yung Company, early Wednesday morning, and related a story of having overheard a conversation of the murderer relative to his crime. Steps were immediately taken to find this man, and yesterday morning he was taken to police headquarters, where the Chiefs of the Department, the Chinese Consul-General, Consul Bee and the Presidents of the Chinese Six Companies and the Ning Yang Company were assembled to listen to his statement. After giving his name as Ah Kum and saying that he was a laundryman employed at a Cloverdale washhouse, where Ang Tai Duck was working when Mr. Wickersham engaged him as cook, the Chinaman made the following translated statement:

THE MURDERER'S MORNING VISIT.

"About 4 o'clock Tuesday morning (some ten hours subsequent to the murder) Ah Sing, my boss, Wong War Fah, his son, Ye Chuey Wong, Ah Mow and myself were seated in the laundry talking, when some one knocked at the door. I opened it and saw Ang Tai Duck. He was all covered with mud and looked very much frightened and troubled. We asked him what was the matter and what brought him there at that time of the night, but he refused to say anything until he saw his uncle, Ong Hin Lung. Lung lived in a house back of the washhouse, and we called him. When he came in Duck took him out into the rear yard, where they remained talking for a long time. At last the uncle came back alone. He was crying and seemed to be in great distress. The rest of us suspected something at once and asked Lung what the trouble was, and what his nephew had done. He replied that Duck had committed a great crime; he had murdered his boss. We then asked where Duck was, and the uncle answered that he had gone off on the train. We told Lung that he should have kept him, as we might all get into trouble when the police learned of the murder. The uncle replied, 'That is so; but it is too late now. He has cone off on the train to San Francisco.' After talking the matter over, it was decided that I should go to San Francisco on the next train (the evening train of Tuesday, the 19th) to tell Lee Cum Wah, the President of the Ning Yung Company, of the murder, so as to have Duck arrested.

UNFORTUNATE DELAYS.

"I did come to the city, as directed, but being a stranger I first went to the house of my uncle, Wong Yock Thuen, at 835 Dupont

street. My uncle was not at home and I had to wait until midnight before he came in. I told him about the murder and asked him to go with me to see Lee Cum Wah, but he said it was then too late, as everybody would be gone to bed. He said he would go with me next morning, though, and I consented. We did go between 8 and 9 o'clock on Wednesday morning, but found the President still in bed. We sent a servant to tell him he was wanted on a very important matter, and he dressed himself and came down at once. When we told him of the murder, and the suspicion that the murderer might sail on that day at 10 o'clock for China, he started off at once to inform the Consul-General and ascertain if Duck had bought a ticket, but in his excitement he forgot to tell me and my uncle to await his return. After he went away we thought we had done all that was required of us, and returned home to my uncle's house."

THE POLICE ARRIVE TOO LATE.

The ensuing circumstances were then related by Lee Cum Wah. Upon telling Ah Kum's story to the Consul-General, the latter immediately had Consul Bee telephone to the Chief of Police to send some officers to meet him at the steamer, while Cum Wah returned to get Ah Kum and his uncle. He found them gone, however, and sent a porter after them. The uncle came, and the President told him to go to the steamer with Consul Bee and identify the murderer. The uncle, however, did not know Duck, and he was sent off in great haste after Ah Kum, as there only remained twenty-five minutes before the steamer sailed. Kum finally arrived with his uncle and the President, but it was then too late, as the steamer had just swung out into the stream. In the meantime, however, Detectives Cox and Glennon, who had been sent down by Chief Crowley, had made a hasty search with lanterns through the darkened steerage of the ship, but as they had no description of Duck with them they did not meet with any success. Their only hope was to find somebody who knew him and would point him out. Consul Bee and the officers were thus engaged when the gong sounded the warning for every one not a passenger to go ashore. When the recital of these connecting circumstances had been concluded, Ah Kum was further questioned as to the appearance of the murderer. He replied that he had only caught a glimpse of Duck's face when he came to the laundry at Cloverdale, but had known him slightly a short time previous to his engagement with Mr. Wickersham. Tintype pictures of Duck and three other Chinamen were then shown to Kum, and he picked out Duck's from among the rest without hesitation.

THE MURDER IN THE CITY.

How He Secured his Ticket for China--An Expensive Cablegram.

Another important link in the chain of evidence tending to establish Ang Tai Duck as the murderer, is furnished by Lai Ah Lee, a porter in the employ of the Hop Wo Company, of which Duck is a member. Lee says that on Tuesday morning a Chinaman, who looked as though he had just come from the country, called him to the door of the company's office and asked for a ticket to China. He said he was in a great hurry and must get away by the steamer sailing the next day. He proffered \$25 to the porter in payment for the ticket. It was found, however, that the company's tickets had all been sold, so the President gave the fellow an order for one on the Consul-General. Here again was a disappointment, and the Chinaman was compelled to take an order from the Consul-General on the Pacific Mail Company which he presented at the dock. This time he secured his ticket, but did not take out a return certificate. The ticket he obtained is known as the "Poor man's ticket," and is sold at half rates, through a special agreement between the Consul-General and the steamship company. Owing to the Chinaman's neglect in securing a return certificate, the Customs officials took a description of him, which corresponds exactly with the one furnished to the police of Ang Tai Duck. As there were but four passengers on the Rio de Janeiro with those tickets, the identification of the murderer at Yokohama will be much easier than if all of the seventy-three Chinese passengers had to be examined. In a few days a cablegram will be prepared and sent to the principal ports in the Orient, though it is now considered certain that the murderer will be stopped at Yokohama. If by some possibility, however, he should escape to China, all hope need not be abandoned, as Chinese Consul-Generals are invested with authority to extradite Chinamen for capital offences, and the present official in this city proposes to act promptly in this matter and secure the return of Ang Tai Duck, without expense to the State or the county of Sonoma, in which the crime was committed. Notwithstanding this offer of assistance, Chief Crowley is considerably embarrassed in his movements, owing to the legal restrictions, which prevent him from spending money for the capture of a murderer whose crime was committed in another county. I. G. Wickersham, the uncle of the murdered man, arrived in this city yesterday morning, and when he was made aware of this phase of affairs, he at once volunteered to defray all the expenses for telegraphing, even if they amounted to \$500. Not long after this offer was made the Chief received the still more pleasing information that a large number of Chinese merchants had held a meeting Monday night, at which \$1,000 was subscribed to be used towards defraying the expenses incurred in searching for the criminal. A certified check for that amount accompanied the information. The Chief thinks, however, that a still greater sum will be required, as the most of the \$1,000 will be consumed in telegraphing. It cost all of that amount in the Pratt case. A subject of much comment yesterday was the discovery of the fact that most of the Chinese residents in this city were aware of the occurrence of the murder long before the police were notified. It seems also, that placards containing particulars of the tragedy were posted about in conspicuous places in Chinatown at least twentyfour hours before the news reached this city by telegraph. An effort was made by an Alta reporter last evening to obtain the source of their information, but all inquiry proved fruitless.

DUCK'S "UNCLE."

the Statement of the Chinaman to Whom the Murderer Confessed.

For several days Captain Lees and his men have known that Darnng Hin Lung, the so-called uncle of the murderer, and to whom the latter confessed the morning after the crime, was in the city, but have been unable to locate him. In fact, Lung was one of the ten Chinese arrested on the Tiburon boat on its first arrival after the news of the murder was received here. He was discharged with the others, and failed to make his identity known, and the police did not succeed in capturing him until last night. Then he was taken to Chief Crowley's office, and, encouraged by the President of the Six Companies, and with the aid

of an interpreter, he made the following statement: "I have known Ang Tai Duck about seven years. For a number of these I did not see him, and our acquaintance was renewed when he went to Hopland to pick hops some six months ago. When he was through with that work he loafed about Cloverdale for a few days before getting a situation with the Wickershams. I am not the real uncle of Ang Tai Duck, but he calls me so because I bear the same surname. I keep the Gee Shin Laundry in Cloverdale. Between 4 and 5 A.M. of Tuesday, January 19th, there was a knock at my door in the rear of the laundry. I didn't know who it was, nor did I recognize the voice that called me. I was told I was wanted at the laundry, but objected to getting up because it was dark and cold. I was then told that it was an important matter. Then I got up and went to the laundry, and asked what was wanted. I was told by Wong Ah Ping, one of the laundrymen, that my nephew wanted to see me, and was waiting for me in the back yard. On going out there saw Ang Tai Duck; I asked him: "What is your business at this early hour?" He replied: "I am going away to the city." I asked him again: "What important business takes you to the city?" In reply he said: "I have killed two persons and must go." With this he started and ran away, without giving me time to ask any further questions. I suppose he was anxious to catch the cars, as it was then about 5 A.M. and the station was some distance from the laundry, and the train left at 5:10. I went back to the laundry, and told the men what Ang Tai Duck had told me, and I said: "This killing persons won't do. What shall we do about this?" After talking the matter over we concluded that the two persons must be his employers, and we determined to send Wong Ah Kum to the city by the next train to notify the President of our company, so that Duck could be arrested for the crime he told me of. I remained at Cloverdale till Thursday afternoon, the 21st, and not having heard of the arrest or from Wong Ah Kum I concluded to come to the city and see what had been done in the matter of punishing Duck. When I got to the dock where the ferry boat landed I was arrested with nine others, taken to the station house and kept there all night, and until about 12 M. next day, when we were all let out. I went direct to Sum Lee Lung, 761 Clay street, and asked him if Tai Duck was there. He said: "We don't know Ang Tai Duck, but a person named Dar Ng Sang has gone back" (meaning by gone back that he had gone to China). I then told Sam Lee Lung that Tai Duck had killed some persons. They said that they understood the President had been told about it, and had attended to it. I went and got some dinner and walked about and went to room with Ah Cheong, a friend, at the northwest corner of Clay and Dupont streets. I have remained there ever since."

- Daily Alta California, January 27 1886

THE WICKERSHAM MURDER.

The detectives are now in possession of information which fixes conclusively the identity of the murderer of the Wickershams in the person of the Chinese cook. The name of the murderer has been ascertained to be Ang Tai Duck instead of Ah Tai, and he undoubtedly sailed on the Rio de Janeiro for China last Wednesday.

Ah Kum, a Cloverdale laundryman, says that Duck came to his house about 4 o'clock Tuesday morning (about ten hours subsequent to the murder) and confessed to his uncle that he had murdered his boss. He left on the morning train for San Francisco, with the intention of sailing for China. Ah Kum became alarmed at the thoughts of the violence that might be used when the murder was discovered, and went to San Francisco on the next train for the purpose of informing the President of the Ning Yung Company to which Duck belongs. He visited the President Wednesday morning, but it was too late to intercept the murderer, who had boarded the steamer and was out in the stream.

The Chinese merchants of San Francisco held a meeting Monday evening and a reward of \$1,000 was offered for the arrest of the murderer. It is asserted that placards containing particulars of the tragedy were posted in Chinatown in San Francisco 24 hours before the officers were notified.

I. G. Wickersham and Marshal Blume came up from Petaluma Wednesday morning and filed two affidavits with Judge Jackson Temple acting as magistrate. The affidavits set forth the particulars of the murder so far as known, showing that Ang Tai Duck is a fugitive from justice and that he is now on his way to China. These affidavits, together with copies of the complaint and the warrant of arrest will be forwarded to Governor Stoneman. As the Rio de Janeiro will stop at Yokohama, the vessel will be searched at that point and the murderer detained if found. There is no extradition treaty existing between the United States and Japan, but no fears are entertained but that the Mikado will deliver the prisoner to our authorities through courtesy upon an application from the Governor. Mr. Wickersham says that the Chinese Consul-General has assured him that the murderer will be returned to this state. [sic, sic, sic]

A report was in circulation Wednesday morning that the Chinese merchants of this city had offered a reward for the arrest of Ang Tai Duck. Upon inquiry in Chinatown it was found to be true, although the amount offered could not be ascertained. This is evidently a movement to prevent, if possible, the anti-Chinese feeling from arising in this city.

- Daily Republican, January 27 1886

THE SONOMA COUNTY HORROR.

A Despatch Sent to Washington Asking for Co-operation.

The translation of murderer Ang Tai Duck's diary is well under way, and its contents prove the owner to have been educated

far above his coolie employment. It is filled with notes of the sayings of philosophers and sages, interspersed with numerous original comments, but nothing having any bearing on the crime. The only new step in the case yesterday was the sending of the following despatch to Senator Stanford:

San Francisco, January 27th. Senator Leland Stanford, Washington, D. C: J. C. Wickersham and wife were murdered in Sonoma county, in this State, on the 13th inst, by a Chinaman named Ang Tai Duck, who sailed on the steamer; Rio de Janeiro on the 20th inst. for Yokohama under the name of Ang Ah Song. Please request Secretary Bayard to request the Japanese Government to surrender him to our Government. The Chinese Consul-General at this place will join in the request. This is the most horrible murder that has ever been committed in this State. It is necessary that action be taken at once, as it will take some time to prepare papers. If you want a description of the Chinaman we will send it you.

P. Crowley,
Chief of Police.

If this appeal does not result in the request for aid being granted, the Chief will proceed as in the Pratt case, by sending a request from the Governor and State requisition papers in the event of Duck's arrest.

- Alta California, January 28 1886

Ah ti, the Murderer.

The following seems to be well authenticated facts in reference to Ah Ti and his escape on the outgoing steamer for China on Wednesday of last week: On Tuesday morning at four o'clock, or about ten hours after the murder of Captain J. C. Wickersham and wife, Ah Ti, appeared at the wash house of his uncle in Cloverdale. He was mud bedraggled and much excite, and wished to talk privately with his uncle. The latter went out and talked with Ah Ti, who told him that he had killed his employers. It was then near the time of the departure of the down-train, and Ah Ti, rushed off to get aboard. The uncle reported to the hands in the wash house what had been told him, and they at once took alarm at the evil consequences that were likely to be visited upon them, and one of their number took the down evening train, and early Wednesday morning informed the President of the Chinese Company to which Ah Ti belonged. The latter immediately informed Consul Bee, and he in turn reported to the police, and in company with two of the latter repaired to the dock of the out-going steamer to intercept the murderer. In the confusion and excitement, the Cloverdale Chinaman who had given the information and who could have indentified [sic] Ah Ti, could not be found, and the murderer escaped. Telegraphic dispatches have been sent, and there is little doubt that Ah Ti will be caught at Yokohama. It thus appears that ten hours after the murder it was known by the Chinese in Cloverdale, and that within about forty hours, or about twenty-four hours before J. E. Jewell first saw the murdered man, Consul Bee and the police were at the San Francisco dock trying to intercept the self-confessed murderer.

- Petaluma Argus, January 30, 1886

Anti-Chinese Meeting.

On Monday evening the Petaluma Theater was filled to overflowing with the bone and sinew of this community, who had been called together to give expression on the Chinese question, and they spoke in no uncertain tone...

...The evening was spent in a general discussion of the Chinese evil and the best way to avert it. Great unanimity prevailed and such practical suggestions were made, and assented to as would lead to the conclusion that the matter was in good hands, and that the report which is to be made to the Citizens Meeting on Wednesday evening February 3, 1886, at the theater, will be of a character to satisfy the minds of all reasonable and thinking people.

Public Opinion is KING in the United States, and the King has decreed that the Chinese evil must be abated. All who stand in the way of a legal movement leading in this direction had better stand aside!

- Petaluma Argus, January 30, 1886

THE DUAL TRAGEDY.

...An inquest was immediately held under the direction of Coroner King...All surrounding circumstances clearly pointed to the missing Chinese cook, Ah Ti, as the perpetrator of the deed, and the statement of the Indians taken in conjunction with the fact that the diary of Captain Wickersham was written up to Sunday evening, indicated that the fiendish deed was perpetrated at the time the unsuspecting victims had taken their places at the table for their Monday evening meal. The biscuits were on the table and the stove, and were but little eaten. Fried potatoes were on Mrs. Wickersham's plate, and the cake and pie were untouched. The gun stood in a corner, close to or in the kitchen. The Chinaman fired through the partly open kitchen door,

where he was evidently out of sight of Mrs. Wickersham, who sat opposite her husband. The shot evidently killed the Captain instantly. His plate and food were overturned in his lap. Mrs. Wickersham jumped up, turning over her chair, dropping her napkin on the floor, and ran to her bedroom. Having reloaded the gun he fired both charges at her, the shot passing through her body under the arms. Two empty cartridges found on the stove had evidently been removed from the gun when it was reloaded after the shooting of the Captain. The Chinese cook took a few things from his trunk, leaving a Chinese memorandum book and several bottles of whisky. Marshal Blum also found in the Chinaman's trunk a melanotype of a group of four Chinamen, conspicuous among who was Ah Ti, the missing cook. So far as known the murderer got about \$80 in coin, but left Mrs. Wickersham's gold watch and other jewelry, together with some odd pieces of coin.

After examining all the evidence which has been mentioned, the jury gave the verdict that Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Wickersham came to their deaths from gunshot wounds inflicted by unknown hands, the evidence pointing towards a Chinese cook in the employ of the deceased...

- Petaluma Argus, January 30, 1886

THE WICKERSHAM TRAGEDY.

WICKERSHAM ASSASSINATED WHILE AT SUPPER.

HIS WIFE OUTRAGED. AND SHOT DEAD.

THE CHINESE COOK IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE MURDERER.

RELIABLE INFORMATION AT LAST

The Remains Taken to Petaluma and Buried there-Additional Interesting Particulars of the Affair—Search for the Murderer -Full Description. Etc.

The following is the account telegraphed from Healdsburg to the Chronicle Saturday morning:

[Reprint of article from Jan. 23 San Francisco Chronicle shown above]

The citizens throughout the whole county are very much excited and anxious, and many are the theories, rumors, etc. in circulation. Many claim that it was not a Chinese trick, and others say that the tying part of it is strictly Italian, Many advance the theory that the deed was done by some one who purposely left evidence pointing toward the Chinaman as the perpetrator of the crime. The question is asked, if this is the case, where is the Chinaman? Those who uphold the theory think the tragedy will turn out to be triple murder, and that the Chinaman was also made way with, and the body secreted. Conductor Moul, who runs on the early morning train from Cloverdale, says that Tuesday morning a Chinaman took passage with him for the city, having boarded the cars while in the shed. The conductor's attention as was also that of the newsboy's was called to the coolie on account of his peculiar manner and appearance. He had the appearance of having walked some distance through mud and water, and was badly travel stained. His actions indicated that he was anxious to find some one, or not to be found. The newsboy had quite a lengthy confab with the heathen, and finally sold him some cigarettes. Mr. Moul's description of the party exactly coincides with that of the Chinaman employed on the ranch of Mr. Wickersham, being short in stature, with blue overalls and blouse. This similarity of wearing apparel would not be insufficient evidence, as most of the Chinamen adopt the same style of dress, but the convincing mark of identity is that the Mongolian had a mole on his cheek of the same shape and size of the one said to have been on Ah Tai. A dispatch received here Saturday afternoon stated that the party had been arrested at San Francisco. A later one stated that it was the wrong man. [This section first appeared in the Jan. 24 Daily Democrat]

[Reprint of article from Jan. 26 Daily Democrat shown above]

- Sonoma Democrat, January 30 1886

Not Quite So Bad.

Fred Wickersham, the cousin of the murdered man, who was one of the party that visited the ranch and saw the bodies as they were left by the murderer, denies that the body of Mrs. Wickersham was violated. He says: There was no evidence that a struggle had taken place. Mrs. Wickersham was accustomed to wear a small lace cap on her head, and even that was not disturbed. Her hair was not even untied. It is plain to us that Wickersham was shot first. Mrs. Wickersham then fled to her room for safety, and apparently she was followed by the Chinaman, who tied her up so she could not escape while he loaded his gun. The statements that have been made in the papers concerning foul outrages are not true, nor are they kind.

- Sonoma Democrat, January 30 1886

A Sensation Spoiled.

Tuesday night about 8 o'clock a Chinaman applied for food at the residence of Mr. Dutton, on the Sebastopol road about one mile from Santa Rosa. The request was complied with, and Mr. Dutton asked him where he was from, and where he was going. The Mongolian replied that he was from Sebastopol, and wanted to go to Santa Rosa, and inquired how far it was from there. On being told it was only a mile he seemed highly pleased, and hastily dispatched the balance of his repast. Mr. Dutton thought nothing strange of the circumstance until he happened to think that it was not customary for Chinamen to travel alone after dark, as they are very timid in that respect. Combining that idea with the present excitement over the murder of the Wickershams, he thought that perhaps there might be something more than appeared on the surface. He therefore informed Sheriff Bishop of the affair Wednesday morning, and Mr. Bishop coincided with Mr. Dutton in his opinion that possibly there was something more than appeared at first sight. A thorough search was made of the Chinese quarters without disclosing the strange Chinaman. The Sheriff told some of the more intelligent ones that the best thing they could do was to give him up. They promised they would, if he was there, but as yet they had not produced their man. Great excitement has prevailed among the Chinese population of Santa Rosa for the last few days, who congregate at the different wash-houses and Chinese stores in large numbers. While standing on the plaza Wednesday afternoon we noticed over forty of them all stringing out of a den like a lot of sheep. A few of the smartest ones among them, appreciating the present state of affairs, and the anti-Chinese movements in the various towns in the county, are doing all they can to avert the final issue. Events which have transpired in San Francisco show conclusively that the murderer of the Wickershams sailed for China on the last steamer. The story above narrated would have been sensational enough a few days ago, but amounts to nothing now, so far as an attempt to connect it with the Wickersham murder is made.

- Sonoma Democrat, January 30 1886

The Chinese Must Go.

The bitter feeling against the Chinese, aroused and intensified by the murder of the Wickershams, is finding expression. The people of Petaluma turned out Monday night, 2000 strong, in mass meeting, to consider what should be done. Professor Burnett acted as Chairman, and addresses were made by Hon. M.E. C. Munday, J. H. McNabb and others. A proposition was made to give the Chinese notice to leave within a given time. A committee of ten was appointed to consider what should be done, and report within ten days. The same evening a mass meeting was held at Cloverdale, at which nearly 1000 persons were present. C. H. Cooley acted as Chairman, and G. B. Baer as Secretary. The Chairman stated the object of the meeting, and the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That we, in convention assembled, in sympathy with other towns in this state, and in view of the atrocious crime committed in our midst, feel keenly the importance of using all legal means to rid ourselves of the presence of this dangerous element.

Resolved, That the Chinese element now in this town is detrimental to the best interests of the community, and that each and every person now employing Chinese should be requested to discharge them, and that all persons now renting or leasing property to Chinamen should be requested to cease doing the same, and that all and everyone cease to patronize them in any manner whatever, and, further, we herewith solemnly pledge ourselves to boycott and have no further dealings with any person or persons who, under any circumstances, patronize, employ or trade with, or in any way deal with such Chinamen.

A committee of fifteen taxpayers was appointed to notify the Chinese to leave within forty-eight hours, and proceeded at once to discharge their duty. The Chinese are preparing to leave. Great excitement prevails at Healdsburg. A public meeting has been called, and a general disposition is shown to boycott the Chinese and those who patronize them.

- Sonoma Democrat, January 30 1886

MURDEROUS MONGOL.

En Route to China But will be Intercepted.

AN ABSOLUTELY CORRECT STATEMENT

Of the Wickersham Murder, Obtained from a Reliable Source.

As announced in last week's [Healdsburg] ENTERPRISE, a party consisting of Marshal Blume, Fred Wickersham of Petaluma, and Constable Truitt of Healdsburg started on Thursday evening for the scene of the brutal murder... Constable Truitt was the first to enter the premises, the others following. On entering the dining room a horrible sight met their gaze. Wickersham was found lying back in a chair, and a pool of blood oozing from a wound in his breast and saturating the floor with streams of gore. The dead man was lying back in his chair and before him on the table was a napkin. On the table was spread the supper of the dead man. An examination by Mr. Truitt revealed the fact that deceased had been shot twice, once in the right side and again

in the right side of the head.

Theories were then advanced as to the whereabouts of Mrs. Wickersham. Some saying that she could not be in the house, as a previous cursory search had been made. However, Mr. Truitt walked through the parlor into a bedroom, and at the first glance called out to the others "she is here!" Entering they were met with a sight which caused their blood to congeal almost in their veins. Kneeling on the front side and at the foot of the bed was the mutilated body of Mrs. Wickersham, her position indicating her desperate efforts to free herself. Her hands were tied, tightly, behind her body, and her feet had become entangled in a rope, which gave rise to the report that they had been tied, also. Her wounds were both in the right side, the shot ranging upwards. Marks on her person were plainly enough visible to discover her terrible fate and denote her struggle with the fiendish author of the crime. In the reports given in other papers, mention has been made of jewelry found on the body; such is not the case. Setting on a chair, near the remains, was a small portmanteau, containing coins, and in the bureau drawer, her watch and chain, and other jewelry, but none on the body. Either of the four wounds upon Mr. or Mrs. Wickersham would have caused death.

A diary of Wickersham's was found in the drawer of a table. It was regularly kept, the hours of the day and their occurrences being noted. It was dated up to Monday morning. This shows that the crime was committed on that day. The party also observed that a lamp was on the supper table, which is evidence that the deed was done in the night.

One of the most curious things discovered was a piece of cake, which had been placed by the murder on the pillow beside the dead woman. It is said that this is a custom of the Chinese to exorcise evil spirits from the bodies of the dead. The room of the Chinaman was then visited and from papers there gathered it was discovered that the name of the cook who is supposed to be the murderer was Ah Tai. This Chinaman was in the habit of keeping a diary, which was found in his room. In this note-book it was learned that he had been in the employ of Wickersham for three months. A number of letters from Chinese friends in San Francisco, and a quantity of papers giving accounts of transactions of the Chinese cook, were also discovered in the room. The personal effects of the Chinaman were found all untouched. A bottle of whisky, a pipe, some money, a number of trinkets and miscellaneous articles were all one after the other unearthed, which goes to show that the Chinaman in his flight did not stop to take any of his property. He even left behind a fine suit of clothes.

On entering the kitchen a shotgun was discovered lying on the floor, with both barrels discharged. On a table in the room were two empty cartridges, showing that four shots had been fired. The shots were evidently fired by a short person, for against the door leading to the dining-room were the powder blasts of the gun. This pointed to the Chinaman. In a corner of the kitchen was found an apron, on which were blood-marks. This was the apron worn by the Chinaman.

At 3 o'clock in the after-noon Coroner King of Petaluma and Dr. Swisher of Healdsburg arrived at the ranch, having made a journey on horseback of thirty miles. The latter performed an autopsy, by direction of the Coroner. They examined the body of the woman and confirmed the conclusions of the others that she had been foully outraged and then murdered by being shot in the breast through the heart. An inquest was immediately held...

...It is known that the Chinaman who took the early morning train from Cloverdale on Tuesday morning is the Chinese cook of the Wickershams, who is known to be the murderer. It is also known that he arrived in San Francisco, and took the China steamer Rio de Janeiro, which sailed on Wednesday for Hongkong.

A Chinaman from Cloverdale, the uncle of the murderer, has made a statement which absolutely places the guilt on the cook. He says his nephew came to Cloverdale early Tuesday morning, and says: I asked him "What is the business so early?" Tai replied "I go away to the city." I asked him again, "What is so important that takes you to the city?" Tai Duck replied, "I have killed in all two persons." Tai Duck then started and ran away without giving me time to ask another question. I suppose he was anxious to catch the cars. It was then about 5 A. M. and the station was some distance from the laundry and the train started at 5:10 A. M. I went back to the laundry and told them what Tai Duck had told me, and said: "This killing persons won't do; what shall we do about it?" and we concluded that the two persons must be his employers."

The Chinese Companies have subscribed a thousand dollars to defray expenses of apprehending and bringing back the murder.

The culprit will doubtless be brought back and meet the fate which justice demands and he so richly merits.

The above account is absolutely correct, we having obtained it directly from Constable Truitt, in person. -- Enterprise.

NO PATRONAGE FOR THE CHINESE

The People on Wednesday Night Provided for the Settlement of the Coolie Problem in Healdsburg and Neighborhood.

The anti-Chinese mass meeting at Truitt's Theater on last Wednesday night [Jan. 27] early filled that immense hall with a packed audience of calm and determined men. To proceed peaceably, cautiously and effectually was the apparent purpose of all those present...the object of the assemblage to be to devise ways and means whereby the community can be effectually rid of the Coolie pestilence that now curses the land. It was resolved to effect a permanent organization...

...The speaker gave a vivid life-like description on degradation of labor when brought into contact with the degrading economies of a barbarous race. He pictured the young man just from the East applying to one of our well-to-do farmers for a job. He is inspected with a supercilious sense of superiority and is offered work on the same terms and conditions upon which the heathen can be procured. The necessities of the young man compel him to accept the degrading terms, procure his blankets, get to the woodshed, barn or open field for a sleeping place and for society to the Coolies themselves. And then people wonder that the country is filled up with tramps...

- Russian River Flag, February 3, 1886

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Jewell of Castle Rock ranch were down this week. Mr. Jewell has returned to his ranch and Mrs. Jewell will visit relatives in this vicinity for a few weeks.

- Petaluma Argus, February 6, 1886

THE FUGITIVE MURDERER.

SAN FRANCISCO, February 11th.--The end of the international proceedings designed to capture the murderer of the Wickershams is not yet. To-day Mr. Mozeley, of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, received the following telegram from the agent of the company at Yokohama:

American Government has withdrawn request. Under the circumstances Japanese Government won't arrest. CENTER.

He sent this to the police headquarters, and on receipt of it Chief Crowley forwarded this telegram:

Hon. Leland Stanford, Washington, D. C.: Agent of Pacific Mail here received following telegram from agent at Yokohama: "Mozeley, San Francisco: American Government has withdrawn request. Under the circumstances Japanese Government won't arrest. Center." At the time of sending the steamer had not yet arrived. Is it true? If so, have Secretary Bayard make a demand on English authorities at Hongkong under Article 10 of the treaty between America and Great Britain. I will cable description to them. Answer. P. Crowley, Chief of Police.

- Sacramento Record-Union, February 12 1886

ONG TIA DUCK.

Supposed Capture of the Wickersham Murderer.

A Chinaman Arrested at Madera Under Suspicious Circumstances

A dispatch was received yesterday afternoon from Fresno stating that a Chinaman was arrested on Saturday night at Madera on suspicion of being the murderer of the Wickershams. He had been there but a few days and came to Madera very mysteriously. He was first seen at the Columbia ranch about fourteen days ago, during the high water, having waded some distance to reach the ranch. He stayed only long enough to get warm and then went on to Madera. He had several hundred dollars, and it is said [he] had a steamer ticket for Hongkong. His description answers that given of the murderer. The San Francisco police scout the idea of the prisoner being Ong Tai Duck, but Consul Bee says there is a possibility that the murderer did not sail on the Rio Janeiro for Japan, because the vessel was delayed 24 hours in starting, owing to the rough weather outside, and he thinks it possible that the murderer became terrified at the delay and consequent chance of arrest, and slipped ashore. Ong Tai Duck can be easily identified, as he has a black mark under his eye.

On hearing of the telegraphic report, Chief of Police Crowley, of San Francisco, telegraphed to Thomas A. Ripperdam, the Deputy Sheriff who arrested the Chinaman, asking if the report that he had captured Aug Tai Duck was true. In response to this telegram, the following answer was received:

MADERA, Cal., February 15, 1886

P. Crowley, Chief of Police of San Francisco: I think I have arrested the right man. THOS. RIPPERDAM.

- Oakland Tribune, February 15, 1886

...I. G. Wickersham, of Petaluma, uncle of the murdered Captain Wickersham, received a dispatch from Fresno from Deputy Sheriff Ripperdam, telling of the capture. He wired a response and received the following in return:

"FRESNO, February 14, 1886. Suits the description exactly which was published. Height, 5 feet 2 inches; white spot in pupil of right eye; aged 40. He is a perfect stranger in this part of the country, and is said to have purchased a ticket for the China steamer. His actions seem very strange. T. A. Ripperdam."

S. P. Weston, a young man who knew the suspected murderer when at the Wickersham ranch, started for Fresno yesterday for the purpose of identification.

Chief Crowley received a letter from Mr. Wickersham this morning, announcing his doubt as to the identity of the Chinaman who sailed on the steamer and requesting that no further expense of international proceedings leading to the suspected man's capture be incurred...

- Sacramento Record-Union, February 16 1886

ANG TAI DUCK.

The Madera Chinaman Cannot Be Identified as the Murderer.

A press despatch received last night from Fresno states that when Mr. S. P. Weston, of Petaluma, arrived there he failed to identify the arrested Chinaman as Ang Tai Duck, though the man answered the description very closely. The manner in which the Chinaman arrived in Fresno, his suspicious actions, and the fact that he had a certificate allowing his departure for Hongkong, justified his arrest. When the Chinaman was taken into custody he was armed with a large pistol, and tore up several papers. A brief telegram to the same effect was received by Captain Lees last night.

Quite a stir was created in police circles here by the receipt of the telegram from Fresno announcing that Deputy Sheriff Ripperdam had arrested Ang Tai Duck, the murderer of the Wickersham family. Little confidence, however, was placed in the report, and Chief Crowley and his assistants were still inclined to the belief that Duck sailed on the Rio de Janeiro. The Custom House records show that Duck left without securing a return certificate, and the description given of him on the book is considered unmistakable. The Madera arrest was looked upon by the police authorities here, as a case of mistaken identity. A letter from I. G. Wickersham, at Cloverdale, was received by Chief Crowley yesterday, in which the former says he does not believe Ang Tai Duck is on board the Rio and expresses the desire that no more money for telegraphing should be expended on his account until the news of Duck's arrest has been received.

- Daily Alta California, February 16 1886

Ang Tai Duck.

The doubts and fears regarding the action of the Japanese government in the capture of Ang Tai Duck, the Chinese who murdered Jesse Wickersham and his wife in Sonoma county on the 17th ult., and then fled on the steamer Rio de Janeiro, were dispelled yesterday morning when Agent Mosley of the Pacific Mail Company received the following welcome cablegram from the company's representative at Yokohama: "Murderer arrested by the Japanese government."

The cablegram was immediately forwarded to the local authorities, and they were naturally elated over the capture, as it is due to their efforts that the fugitive was overhauled on his way to the Flowery Kingdom.

There still remains a possibility that Ang Tai Duck may escape through some complication arising out of the international negotiations necessary for his return, but the police hope for the best. --Chronicle.

- Daily Republican, February 17 1886

The Wickersham Murderer.

SAN FRANCISCO, February 17th.—Detective Christopher Cox will sail for Yokohama on Saturday to bring back to this country Ang Tai Duck, suspected of having murdered the Wickershams in Sonoma county. An accurate description of the Chinaman has been furnished, but while all who have given attention to the case feel certain that the man arrested at Yokohama is the one sought for it has been proved that identification by description is little to be relied upon, and that only one who has seen and knows the Wickersham servant is capable of making a positive identification. This proof was found in the case of the Chinaman arrested at Madera, whose description, even to the white eye and marks on the face, tallied exactly with that sent out by the Chief of Police. Hence it is feared that some technicality founded on the inability of Detective Cox to swear to the identity of the Chinaman arrested at Yokohama will lead to his release. It is therefore the desire of Chief of Police Crowley that S. P. Weston, of Petaluma, who knows Ang Tai Duck well, and who was at once enabled to swear that the Madera Chinaman

was not the man, go to Yokohama with Detective Cox. so that there may be no chance of failure of justice. Whether Mr. Weston will go or not will depend upon the relatives of the murdered people, as the police have no funds with which to pay his expenses.

- Sacramento Daily Union, February 18 1886

Cox Takes a Companion.

Round trip tickets, costing \$350 apiece, were purchased yesterday for Detective Chris. Cox and S. P. Weston, who sail by the steamer Belgic tomorrow afternoon, to bring back Ang Tai Duck, the murderer of the Wickershams. Weston goes along to identify the fugitive.

- Alta California, February 20, 1886

CAUSE OF THE CHINESE AGITATION.

The movement against the Chinese was never mere general, or conducted in better spirit, than it is te-day. It gathered fresh impetus first in the territories, and, although of slower growth in California, it is rapidly engaging the attention of the people of the entire state. Sacramento city took the lead, and established a good precedent, which is being followed in every direction. In former movements demagogues as well as well-meaning, but ill-advised men, put themselves in front, and seriously injured a good cause by intemperate harangues and resolutions and bad advice to others. The result was a resort to violence against Chinamen in many instances, and the frequent indulgence direful threats. The people of California, while regretting this mistaken course, did not falter in their opposition to Chinese immigration, but great harm was done in the older states whose people were not affected as ours were by contact with the Chinese, and who were slow to realize and appreciate the evils resulting therefrom. The wild harangues indulged in here, the intemperate resolves, the personal violence to Chinamen, offended the moral sense of these people, and made them rather our enemies than friends. Under the circumstances it is surprising that we have done as well as we have in procuring legislation against Chinese immigration. Our representatives in Congress had a hard task before them, made doubly difficult by foolish acts here. The present agitation is upon a different basis entirely. It is in the hands of good and discreet men, thanks to the good example of Sacramento, and everything is being done in an orderly and lawful manner. The leaders are actuated by the highest motives. They know, by actual contact and experience, that the existence of the Chinese in California is a curse, and that the prosperity and happiness, welfare and safety of the people imperatively demand their removal. But they propose to bring about this result by lawful and peaceable methods. They are not prompted by hatred of the Chinese as individuals, but by the belief that sound public policy demands their removal. They regret the hardships to which individuals are subjected, but appreciate the fact that it is unavoidable. Hence the word passes along the line that "the Chinese must go," but that they must go peaceably, and with as little hardship as the nature of the case will permit. In some few cases, where communities were smarting under outrages of which the Wickersham murders are an example, they have been made to leave on short notice; but the general sense is that sufficient time be given them to close up their affairs; and die plan generally adopted is to withdraw patronage from them. They are not selfsupporting anywhere. They cannot live if the whites refuse to patronize them; and hence, an effectual way for any community to get rid of them is to buy nothing of them and give them nothing to do. The necessity of these measures is deplored by every good man. It is a harshness of treatment against which the better feelings rebel, and one which nothing but the sternest necessity will justify, but it seems to be unavoidable. It is forced upon us. We went to Congress almost in a solid body, and implored its assistance. We petitioned, we implored, we reasoned; we did everything a people could do to be saved from farther Chinese immigration, and to have arrested the evil consequences resulting from their presence here. We did not ask for the expulsion of those already in the country and who chose to remain. We only begged that a law should be enacted which would prevent a farther augmentation of their numbers. If we could be assured that the farther influx should be stopped, we were willing to trust to time to relieve, the State entirely of their presence by death and by return to their native country. After years of struggle and delay. Congress did pass a restriction act which was not all that we desired, but with which we were disposed to be content. Immediately the troubled waters became calm, the people trusting in the efficiency of the law; but unfortunately its enforcement was in the hands of those who had more sympathy for the Chinese than for us, and they proceeded at once to nullify its provisions, and succeeded in making it practically worthless. The present agitation is due to this fact. Had the restriction act been enforced, there would have been no further trouble. Gradually the Chinese would have been reduced in numbers, and as gradually their places would have been taken by white men, and there would not have been any disturbance in the labor supply of the State. But the bad faith of those who administered the law, the utter worthlessness of the restriction act as they have interpreted it, the frauds perpetrated by which incoming Chinese are landed with impunity, have disgusted the people, and destroyed confidence in efficient relief from that source; and they have taken the matter into their own hands, and resolved that the Chinese shall go or starve. We trust that Congress will speedily enact an efficient law which will be able to withstand the Chinaphobist sharps on the bench. We believe that such a law would be stringently enforced by the present administration, and that the people would soon be content to let the law take its course. Until this is done, the agitation will continue, and boycotting will be the order of the day.

- Sonoma Democrat, February 20, 1886

The officers did not leave on the last China steamer after Ang Tai Duck now under arrest in Yokohama, simply because Secretary Bayard refuses to take any action in the matter. The Chinese Consul General of San Francisco has telegraphed his own government to hold the criminal, but the chances for his return are now very slim. Before the last election the Democrats cried themselves hoarse over what they would do when they got in power. Well, they captured a forgerer [sic] through the intervention of the Japanese government but refuse to ask the same assistance in apprehending this pig-tailed beast.

- Daily Republican, February 22 1886

ANG TAI DUCK.

The Government Machinery Working Very Slowly for His Extradition.

The following letter and enclosure, relative to the arrest of Ang Tai Duck, the fugitive murderer of the Wickershams, were received from Washington yesterday by Chief of Police Crowley:

United States Senate, Washington, February 19, 1886.)

Mr. P. Crowley, Chief of Police, San Francisco, Ca! — My Dear Sir: Enclosed I forward you a communication from the Department of State in regard to the extradition of Ang Tai Duck. Respectfully, Leland Stanford.

Secretary Bayard's letter.

Department of State, Washington, February 17, 1886.)

Hon. Leland Stanford, United States Senate Chamber — Sir: I have the honor to hand you herewith a telegraphic despatch, addressed to me to-day by P. Crowley, Chief of Police of San Francisco, in relation to the extradition of Ang Tai Duck, a Chinese subject, accused of murder, which is sought from Japan. It appears that the man has been arrested at Yokohama, and that papers to justify the charge have been forwarded to Japan. It is asked if it is necessary for the Federal Government to do any more, and if so, that it take the necessary steps.

There being no extradition treaty between the United States and Japan, this Government, when the question was first mooted some weeks ago, exhausted all its power under international comity by asking if Japan would be willing to give up the alleged murderer to the agents of the State of California for trial. The Japanese Government answered that the culprit being a Chinese subject, he could not be given up in the absence of a treaty.

Since then, at Mr. Crowley's request, application has been made to the British Government to have the fugitive arrested at Hongkong and held for extradition under Article X of the treaty of 1812 with Great Britain.

It would appear from the present telegram the Japanese authorities have found a way out of the difficulty raised by the culprit's nationality, and are prepared to surrender him. There is, in the absence of a treaty, no occasion for the intervention of agents of the Federal Government in the transaction. The man is to be delivered, if at all, only to an agent of the State of California. It would be different were the proceeding to take place at Hongkong, for there, under the treaty, the Chinese Consul could be instructed to act, and even to receive the prisoner, if surrendered, and send him to the United States in charge of a specially-appointed agent, for delivery to the authorities of California. I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant, T. F. Bayard

- Daily Alta California, February 26 1886

STANFORD AND THE CHINESE.

Senator Stanford is reported as saying that the recent outbreaks on the Pacific Coast have created a good deal of sympathy in Washington for the Chinese, and, he is afraid, have injured our chances somewhat for getting the desired measures through Congress. This is just the effect that everybody who is not a jackass knew the idiotic conduct of the hotheads would have. We sometimes think that Consul Bee must be using Chinese gold to get up a few outrages, knowing as he does that no more effectual means could be employed to bring the anti-Chinese movement into contempt and to defeat attempts at unfriendly legislation. It would certainly be a very shrewd thing for him to do, and he is sharp enough to know it. There are plenty of men who cannot see an inch beyond their noses. They think that all that is necessary to get rid of the Chinese is to get a crowd together and drive them out. A cunning man with a great display of zeal can easily lead such men into the commission of lawless acts. Bee can easily find such leaders if he has a mind to, and will pay them, and cause as easily make cats' paws of the poor dupes who imagine they are settling the Chinese question by abuse, when they are really defeating the object they have in view.

Mr. Stanford made the following astonishing statement to the interviewer: "I opposed the Chinese coming into our country when I was Governor, and believed then that this trouble would come." We do not remember anything the Governor did to

discourage Chinese immigration, but what he says may be true. At any rate we are not prepared to contradict him, but the surprising thing is that, while holding such views, Mr. Stanford should for the sake of personal gain, bring these people here by the shipload to build his railroads. How he could do this, while believing that trouble would come we do not understand, nor can such a course be reconciled with patriotism or good citizenship. Stanford, Huntington, Hopkins and Crocker are responsible in a great measure for the trouble that is now upon us. They flooded the state with Chinese for the sake of their cheap labor, and treated with indifference, if not with contempt, the protests of the people against their course. They have never ceased to give them employment, and have thus made themselves responsible largely for the army of white tramps in California today. They are giving employment to thousands of Chinese at this time. On the California and Oregon railroad alone they now have from 800 to 1000 of these people, while there are hundreds of white men out of employment, and begging the railroad for work. The Butte Record says that Stanford's enormous vineyard at Vina is run almost entirely by Chinamen, while white laborers apply there in vain for employment. Mr. Stanford must have been misrepresented by the interviewer, for his whole course proves him to have been a firm friend of the Chinese. It was not a great many years ago when Mr. Stanford supported a candidate for Governor who planted himself upon the doctrine of the "universal fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man," and boldly declared that the Chinese had as good a right to come to this country as a Dutchman or an Irishman.

We have a singular spectacle at Washington — a United States Senator championing the anti-Chinese cause, who has always befriended those people and who gives them employment at this very time in preference to men of his own race and blood. What must be thought of such a champion in Washington! Is it possible for his brother Senators to have confidence in his sincerity or respect for his recommendations or suggestions? They cannot. It is impossible. They are obliged to regard his course as insincere and simply a concession to popular sentiment. What influence, then, can such a man, with such a record, have upon the body of which he is a member? It is most unfortunate that the anti-Chinese cause has to be championed by such an advocate, for the clash between his practice and his professions is calculated to do us more harm than the foolish acts of a few crack-brained zealots who think they can settle the Chinese question by violence. The people of California, while counseling moderation, should unite in one monster petition to our distinguished Senator to put himself in accord with popular sentiment before he ruins their cause by assuming to champion it. Let him discharge the Chinamen who are at work on his railroads and in his vineyards and put white men in their places. Then he will be in a position to speak and act for the people, but not till then.

- Sonoma Democrat, February 27, 1886

Sebastopol Anti-Chinese League.

The Anti-Chinese League of Sebastopol has 168 members, and is pushing things along. One difficulty experienced is that many of the Chinese are willing to bid adieu to Sebastopol, but are prevented from following the impulse of their hearts through a lack of funds. One gentleman who discharged his Chinaman said that after the latter had paid his debts, he had but 75 cents wherewith to emigrate.

- Sonoma Democrat, February 27, 1886

Hoodlum Jim's Opinion.

Our reporter questioned the Chinaman, Hoodlum Jim, Saturday to ascertain his views on the anti-Chinese movement. Be it known that Jim speaks pure American as fluently as many whites, and has been raised in our city from a boy. The reporter asked Jim if he was getting ready to go. He said: "No, you bet I ain't, and they cannot drive me, nor any of my people away from here. It is against the law, and we intend to stay." The reporter asked him what he should do if he could not find employment, and had to fast two or three days out of the week. He replied that if they were reduced to want, and could not find anything to do, the county would have to take care of them one way or another. He said the only good this movement was doing among the Chinese in this city, was to get rid of the scum of the race, and the others were glad of it, but the better class would stay here, just the same.

- Sonoma Democrat, February 27, 1886

The Wickersham Murderer.

The Japan Gazette has the following information regarding the arrest in Yokohama of Ang Tai Duck, the murderer of Jesse C. Wickersham and wife:

"On the arrival of the City of Rio de Janeiro on the morning of the 5th inst. the police proceeded on board, and after a careful search, arrested a Chinaman on suspicion of being implicated in the murder of two Americans in the United States. We understand that his appearance tallies very closely with the description sent to the Japanese authorities. To add to the

suspicion, a letter has been found amongst his effects which mentions a name corresponding in part to the name of the murderer. The prisoner is said to be very reticent, and refuses to reply to the inquiries [sic] put to him.

- Daily Republican, March 11 1886

Ang Tai Duck.

Chief of Police Crowley of San Francisco has received authentic news from Washington of the arrest in Hongkong of Ang Tai Duck, the murderer of the Wickershams. As soon as the papers necessary for the extradition of the murderer arrives from Washington, which it is thought will be before the sailing of the Oceanic on April 3d, an officer will be sent to bring him back to answer the charge of one of the worst crimes ever committed in this county.

- Daily Republican, March 25 1886

ANG TAI DUCK.

When the City of Rio de Janeiro, having on board the fugitive murderer, Ang Tai Duck, approached Yokohama, she was boarded by a tug, which had awaited her arrival three days and four nights. The crew and passengers were passed in file before the officials, and Duck was easily recognized, his appearance tallying exactly with the telegraphic description. When lodged in jail at Yokohama, he attempted to starve himself, but after three or four days abstinence his resolution failed, and he made up for lost time. The last lingering doubt as to his identity was dispelled by the exhibition at the steamer's offices of a photograph of Dock taken at Hongkong. Detective Cox, and S. P. Weston of Petaluma, leave by the Oceanic on Saturday to bring back the murderer.

- Alta California, April 3, 1886

Chief of Police Crowley, of San Francisco, through Governor Stoneman, has received the extradition papers in the case of Ang Tai Duck, the Wickersham murderer, who is at present under arrest at Hongkong. The papers include the statement of the crime and various depositions as taken before Judge Jackson Temple, of this county, and are supplemented by a warrant, signed by Secretary of State Bayard and President Cleveland, addressed to the Government of Her Britannic Majesty at Hongkong, and requesting that the prisoner be turned over to detective Chris. Cox, the agent of the United States and the state of California, appointed for that purpose. Cox expects to sail for Hongkong on the next steamer, the Oceanic, next Saturday. S. P. Weston, of Petaluma, who knows the fugitive, will go with Cox for the purpose of identification.

- Sonoma Democrat, April 3, 1886

Ang Tai Duck to Return.

San Francisco, April 3.—Detective Cox and S. P. Weston of Petaluma sailed on the steamer Oceanic this afternoon for Hong Kong to bring back Ang Tai Duck, the murderer of the Wickershams. It is expected that they will return in the early part of June.

- San Jose Herald, April 3, 1886

Ang Tai Duck Confesses.

San Francisco, April 6.—The evening Post this afternoon publishes a statement that Ang Tai Duck, the murderer of Jesse C. Wickersham and wife near Cloverdale, who escaped on the steamer Rio de Janeiro to China, made a confession while on board the steamer to the Chinese quartermaster that he had committed the crime. The quartermaster will be called as a witness when the case comes to trial.

- San Jose Herald, April 5, 1886

Ang Tai Duck's Starvation Tactics.

Captain Searle, of the steamer 'City of New York,' which arrived Saturday from the Orient, reported to Captain Lees that the Japanese authorities had placed Ang Tai Duck, the Wickersham murderer, in his charge to take to Hong-kong. On the trip Duck tried to starve himself to death, until Captain Searle told him he would be turned loose in Hongkong and not be sent back to California. Duck then made up for lost time, and developed an astonishing appetite, but upon his arrival he discovered that the Captain had deceived him, and at once resumed his old tactics.

- Alta California, April 18, 1886

Ang Tai Duck Again

The ocean steamer City of New York arrived at San Francisco Saturday. She was the vessel upon which the murderer of the Wickershams was conveyed from Yokohama to Hongkong. The purser states that after the Yokohama authorities had decided to hold him he was brought on board the vessel in irons, and upon the vessel's arrival at Hongkong, given over to the British authorities. Upon the trip Duck maintained a sullen silence, and denied all knowledge of the Wickersham family. For two or three days he refused food for the apparent purpose of starving himself to death, however, got the better of his suicidal intent, and before the arrival of the vessel in Hongkong on the 13th of March, he ate heartily. There is no doubt among the ship's officers but that the Chinaman in custody is Ang Tai Duck, as his description tallied exactly in all particulars with that received by cable. American Consul Withers in Hongkong took charge of America's interests in the safe custody of the mongol, and the officers are confident that the detectives will find their man upon their arrival.

- Daily Democrat, April 20, 1886

Ang Tai Duck Hangs Himself.

San Francisco, April 28.—The steamer Belgic arrived this morning with Hong Kong dates to April 3d and Yokohama dates to April 13th.

The advices received this morning by the steamer Belgic from Hong Kong say that the Chinaman, Ang Tai Duck, who so foully murdered Captain and Mrs. Wickersham of Sonoma county, Cal., some four months ago, and who afterward escaped to China, committed suicide in Victoria Jail, Hong Kong, on the night of March 29th by hanging himself to a peg in the wall of his cell.

An inquest was held on the body in Hong Kong jail. The first witness was Dr. Ayers, colonial surgeon, who testified that the deceased had never complained of ill health and there was nothing to indicate that he was insane. There was a deep indenture around the throat cutting into the windpipe made by the cord which had been wound round the neck and by which the body had been suspended. Thomas Roalf, turnkey, stated that while on his rounds in the jail at 1:30 a.m. he found the prisoner who was confined in a cell with two others, hanging by a cord to the gate about six feet from the ground. The two other prisoners were asleep. The jury returned a verdict of suicide, adding that they considered the deceased, in view of the charge against, him, should have been kept under more constant supervision.

- San Jose Herald, April 28, 1886

Ang Tai Duck.

There was considerable feeling in our community on Wednesday when the news came that Ang Tai Duck had hanged himself in the jail at Hongkong. It had been hoped that he would be returned and compelled to endure the punishment meted out for such cases. The carelessness of the jail officials is to be condemned, especially since the deed was committed five days before our officers started from San Francisco for the purpose of bringing him back, and no notice sent. The only consolation in the whole matter is that he is dead. The expense of apprehending the villain was very heavy and has been born by I. G. Wickersham, of Petaluma.

- Daily Republican, April 29, 1886

Should Be Satisfied.

The suicide in Hong Kong of the Chinaman who murdered the Wickersham family is said to have caused much dissatisfaction among the San Francisco officers. He hanged himself, and that is all that would have been done to him if brought back to

California. He didn't care to wait. The San Francisco officers should try to be satisfied.

- San Jose Herald, April 29, 1886

Sam P. Weston writes from Yokohama, April 23d, that they had no official information of the suicide of Ang Tai Duck, and consequently officer Cox and himself would go on to Hongkong.

- Petaluma Argus, May 15, 1886

State Boycott Notes.

There is a great deal of feeling in Cloverdale over the employment of a Chinaman by Mr. Prescott of the firm of Prescott, Scott & Co., of this city. The citizens of Cloverdale ask that a boycott be placed on Mr. Prescott. There has been considerable ill-feeling in Cloverdale since the murder of the Wickershams by Ang Tai Duck, and they do not seem disposed, to allow a Chinaman within hearing distance. J. P. Pierce of the Pacific Manufacturing Company is the only man in Felton who employs Chinese, and he refuses to discharge them. James Dougherty of the Santa Clara Valley Manufacturing Company has agreed to discharge all his Chinamen.

- Alta California, May 29 1886

Chris. Cox Returns.

Detective Chris. Cox, who was sent to Hongkong to bring back Ang Tai Duck, the fugitive murderer of the Wickersham family, returned yesterday by the steamer City of Sydney, He was minus his prisoner, of course, but was much improved by the long rest and recreation connected with the voyage. His story of Duck's suicide in the Hongkong jail was substantially the same as that which has already been published.

- Alta California, June 2 1886

Sam Weston got back from his ocean voyage this morning. He looks as if the trip had agreed with him.

- Petaluma Courier, June 2 1886

Sam P. Weston has returned from China. Mr. Weston is positive that the Chinaman who committed suicide at Hongkong was Ang Tai Duck. The dead chinaman left only forty dollars, and Mr. Weston is of the opinion that he only realized about seventy dollars from the murder, though he expected to find several thousand.

- Petaluma Argus, June 5, 1886

Senate.

The following bills were introduced... by Hinshaw, to appropriate \$2,030.85 for I. G. Wickersham, for moneys expended in the extradition of Ang Tai Duck, who murdered the Wickerhams near Healdsburg.

- Alta California, February 18 1887