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the STANDLEY family:
"A Small Touch of Mendocino County"

compiled by
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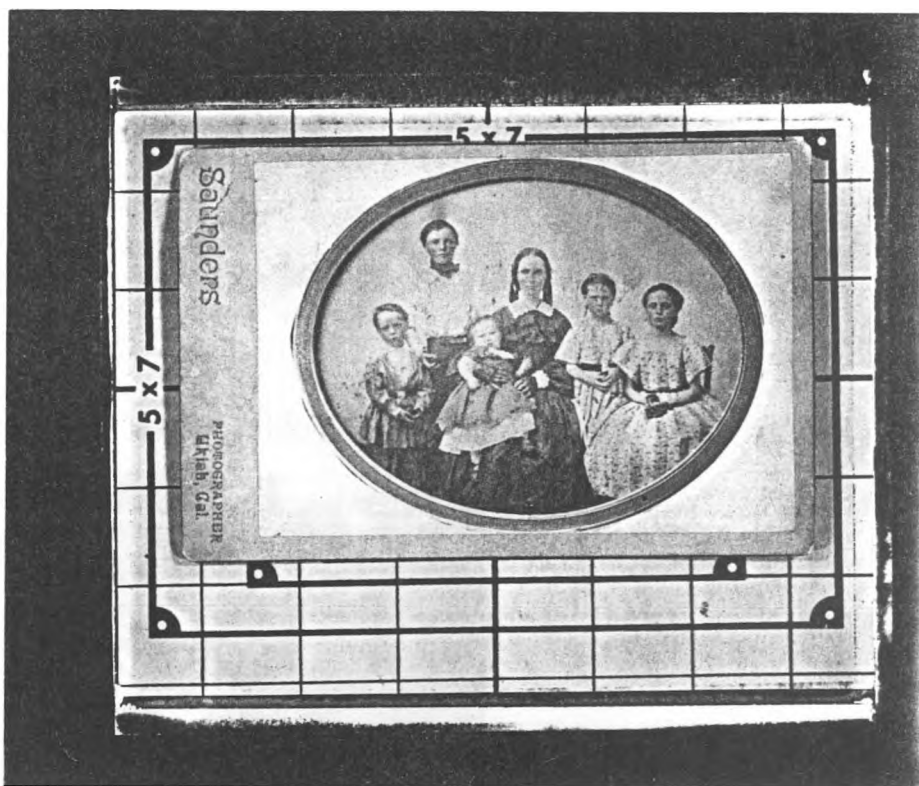
Doug
Koskinen
6-19-1991



Hugh Standley
Celia (Peters) Standley



Jack and Nettie
Standley



Sarah (Murray) Standley
 Jack, Burnett, William, Mary
 Bond, and Barbara



Hugh and Celia Standley
 Nora, Nettie, Annie & Lillie



William Murray Standley
daughter, Alma Standley

photographys
from
Nancy (Standley) Sauers
Collection

Standley Family

Also, in 1850, Harrison Standley who had spent 20 months of the last two years in St. Joesph, Andrew County, Missouri where he had followed teaming left his parents and crossed the plains to California arriving in Hangtown on August 13 resting a short time, he brought a team and engaged in teaming, which he followed until September 1852. (History of Mendocino County, biography of Harrison Standley, 1880)

In 1853, Harrison Standley again started across the plains to California in April, brining his family, and coming in a company of 23 with 3 births on route, one being his daughter Cynthia. They arrived in Sacramento in August. After spending a short time, they continued to Petaluma, Sonoma County where he built a house, and settled down near where the "Revere House" now stands. He engaged in draying, which he followed until 1858. (History of Mendocino County, biography of Harrison Standley, 1880)

Along with Harrison Standley & Family were William Shelton, his wife Isabel and son, James Knox Polk Shelton aged 3; T. B. Southwood, his wife Mary Ann "Polly" (Shelton) Southwood and family; Thomas Clinton Murry and family; Alexander (James) Burke, his wife Susan Shelton (relationship unknown, native of North Carolina) and their eight children. ("The Willits News", March 25, 1981 and "History of Mendocino County", 1880, page 744)

In 1858, Harrison Standley and family came to Ukiah, Mendocino County, where he established a store, the first store in that town. The first bill of goods received by Mr. Standley was on April 12, 1958.

In 1859, Harrison Standley ended his period associated with his store in the summer. From the begining he sold \$33,000 worth of goods. In the summer, he built the "Ukiah House" which he opened about September 1 and conducted his business until November 1860.

In 1870, Harrison Standley was elected Justice of the Peace for Sanel Township and served one year. (History of Mendocino County by Aurelius Carpenter, 1914)

The 1870 Census of Mendocino County, California conducted on June 28, 1870 revealed the following:

J. M. Standley (age 25, born in Missouri) was living in the Sanel township as a school teach, personal effects worth \$100 and real estate valued at \$500. He was residing with W. A. Hagan (age 37, born in Missouri), his wife Sarah (age 18, born in Missouri) and their children, Felz (age 6, female) and W. E. Hagan (age 4, male).

William Standley (age 57) living in Sanel township with personal effects valued at \$8,700. His occupation was listed as farmer and his wife Elizabeth (age 56) as horse keeper. Three children were listed Cynthia, age 16, John W., age 14 and Rachel, age 12; later two attending school. Also listed was eleven year old Lizzie Cornel, born in California and 21 year old male, E. Southword, born in Missouri.

Hugh Standley (age 23) was living in the Sanel Township with his wife, Celia (age 17). Their occupations were listed as sheep herder and horse keeper respectively. Two female children both born in California were listed, Armiee, age 1 and Nancy, age 6.

L. R. Standley (age 34) was living in Ukiah with personal effects valued at \$4,000. His occupation was listed as farmer and his 28 year old wife Sarah E. was listed as housekeeper. Six children were listed, Burnett, age 11, Barbara, age 9, Mary B., age 7 (all attending school), Thomas Clinton, age 5, William M., age 1, and Amos, age 1 month.

February 1874 - Mrs. Strong and her husband lived on a farm of 160 acres, situated north of Sherwood Valley a few miles, and distant about 37 miles from Ukiah. Adjoining them were two men, partners, named Gieger and Alexander. Sometime previous to the murder of Mrs. Strong, her husband had been arrested for killing a steer, and through the exertions of these men and the testimony they gave, he was sent to State Prison. Their intention seemed to be to drive the Strongs away from their ranch, but Mrs. Strong was not to be driven in that way, and after her husband was sent to San Quentin she remained on the place and looked after her interests as best she could. Gieger and Alexander did all in their power to aggravate and annoy her, even to openly driving their stock upon her place. She would mount a horse, and with the assistance of a dog, drive the stock off, when they would meet her and use all manner of language towards her. so matters continued till about the first of February, 1874. The last time she was seen alive, Ed. Saunders, a stage driver, was given an order for a bag of flour by her, about the last day of January. The next day on his return trip he brought the flour, but found her not at home. At the end of four or five days, not seeing her about as usual, he gave the alarm and the neighbors began to search for her. About a week after her disappearance Gieger swore out a warrant to her arrest for killing sheep, and sent a constable to the neighborhood to search for her in his official capacity. When he had done this, knowing that she was missing from home, suspicion began to rest upon Gieger and Alexander of murdering her. On the 16th of February, J. M. Standley, Deputy Sheriff, was sent there to investigate and work up the matter. The entire community was now thoroughly aroused, and a band of Indians were brought down from Cahto to help in the search. At length her horse was found in a deep ravine, shot through the head, and that fixed the fact almost to a certainty that she had been foully dealt with as well. The search began now with renewed vigor and every gorge and canyon were thoroughly explored. At last her haircomb was found in a most dark and gruesome spot in the very darkest recesses of the almost midnight forest, close at hand a babbling brook sang its merry melody to the eternal stillness of the mountain glade, but in times of freshets from the winter's rains or the melting snow, it is a mountain torrent rushing down the steep descent with a tumultuous roar that well dissembles a stream of mightier proportions, and just here a shelving rock caused it to leap far out and strike the earth below with redoubled fury, until a large basin was burrowed out to a depth of several feet. After the horrid deed was done:

"I took the dreary body up,
 And cast it in a stream -
 A sluggish water, black as ink
 The depth was so extreme: -

Down went the corse with a hollow plunge,
 And vanished in the pool;
 Anon I cleansed my bloody hands
 And washed my forehead cool.

Heavily I rose up, as soon
 As light was in the sky,
 And sought the black accursed pool
 With a wild misgiving eye,
 And I saw the dead in the river bed,
 For the faithless stream was dry."

And so it was in this case, or so nearly so, that the dress was seen floating on the top of the water. It was found that the body had been put into this hole, sunk with a pile of heavy rocks on top of it, but the rush of the waters had removed the stones, and the water had then passed away leaving the dead body revealed. The body was found February 22d, Standley at once arrested Gieger and Alexander, and rushed them off to jail in Ukiah, followed by a score of men who would doubtless have given the murderers their just deserts and saved the county all expense. But they were lodged safely in jail, and there remained till their trial. This was had on a change of venue in Sonoma county. They were tried separately, Gieger coming first. The jury returned a verdict of guilty, and he was sentenced to State prison for life, but he had friends who assisted him and he escape from the jail in Santa Rosa, and has never since been heard from. A technical point was raised then to the effect that there was no evidence to prove that Alexander was in collusion in the murder, and the same testimony could not be used for his conviction, which point was sustained by the Court, and Alexander was released from custody. To the credit of the good people of Mendocino county, be it here recorded, that as soon as it was known that Mrs. Strong had been murdered, a petition for the release of her husband was signed by every man in the county who had an opportunity to do so. (History of Mendocino County by Lyman L. Palmer, 1880)

March 14, 1874 - Mendocino Dispatch & Democrat reported that "J. M. Standley, our well know and favorably known heretofore deputy sheriff, leaves today for Sherwood Valley, where he means to make a temporary abiding place, on a sheep ranch. We wish him success. One reason for his leaving is the passage of the new salary bill through the Legislature, which Sheriff Chalfant says necessitates his curtailing expenses.

March 8, 1878 - Page Standley died at Gresham, Multnomah, Oregon at the age of 77. During his life, he had living in Howard, Clay, Clinton (1820 to 1838) and Buchanan County (1840), Missouri; Grayson County, Texas in 1845, Multnomah County, Oregon in 1860 and Polk County, Oregon in 1870. He had served in the military as a private in Company H, 6th U.S. Infantry from June 15, 1826 to February 28, 1827. He was born in Campbell, Tennessee to Harris and Rachel Standley on February 24, 1801. His body was buried in Douglas Cemetery, Gresham, Oregon. (MM/E)

April 19, 1879 - Doc Standley of Sherwood Valley was in town this week, having delivered a band of sheep to Mr. Kent. Mr. Standley announced himself in this issue of the Beacon as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for sheriff of Mendocino County. (Fort Bragg Advocate & News)

October 15, 1879 - The Mendocino County communities were thrown into a state of excitement hitherto unparalleled by occurrence of a shocking calamity. Two of the communities most esteemed citizens were atrociously murdered and a third wounded within four miles of Mendocino, their comrades narrowly escaping death. Particulars of the sad affair are as follows: "(On October 10, the outlaws set up camp on the Big River, four miles east of Mendocino City. Doc Wheeler rode out of town several times to the camp to keep them posted. They killed a steer that belonged to the Mendocino Lumber Company and hung it up to cure, burying the entrails nearby. Three days later.....October 13, 1879.....)..... Constable William Host, while coming through Big river woods, accidentally discovered the entrails of a beef which had been recently buried with the evident design of concealing the killing of the animal. He returned to town and reported the suspicious circumstances to the Mendocino Lumber Company, to whom the creature was supposed to belong. Next day he and Thomas Dollard and William Wright went to the place to investigate the matter, and following some tracks about a quarter of a mile, found four men encamped in the thick woods about four miles east of here, near a spring, eating their breakfast. The stolen beef was hung up, undergoing the process of jerking or curing, and their rifles were stacked up by a tree. Their white hands and high-heeled boots indicated that they did not make their living by hard work. The two parties entered into conversation but Host did not then attempt the arrest of the thieves, having as yet no warrant, and not considering his party of sufficient force, giving as an excuse for their visit, that they were looking for a place to locate a tie camp. The investigating party then returned to town, swore out a warrant, and with further assistance, started in the afternoon to arrest the men, but on their arrival found the camp deserted of every vestige of the outlaws. On Wednesday (October 15, 1879) morning, Host

went out again with a posse comitatus, consisting of J. J. Morrow, A. Yell, E. W. Potter, James Nichols, C. Galbraith, Thomas Dollard, and William Wright. After following the ridge from the camp previously found for about a mile, they saw below them, in a rough ravine, the remains of a camp-fire. Descending the hill, Wright and Yell, who were in advice, the others following closely, stooped to feel the ashes, to ascertain if they were still warm; Wright exclaimed, 'They must have stopped here last night,' when suddenly, without a moment's warning, a volley was fired upon the party by the outlaws lying in ambush on the opposite hill a few yards above them. Wright immediately fell backward having received a shot in the back of the neck, ranging downward; Dollard was struck in the upper part of the thigh, but fired a shot in return. Nichols was shot in the left shoulder, and another ball perforated Galbraith's coat. The outlaws kept up a rapid fire, and hit Dollard twice more, which prostrated him, and he gradually rolled to the bottom of the ravine, when he pulled off his coat and crawled under a log in the creek, where he lay groaning. Yell, Potter and Galbraith shot several times, but the murderers kept themselves almost entirely concealed, only some portion of the bodies of one or two appearing, and it is not yet known whether any shots took effect on them or not. Host, Potter, Yell and Morrow finally gained a cover, where they remained till succor came. They are convinced that their assailants numbered eight or nine, as the shots came very rapidly and from several directions in front. In the meantime Galbraith and Nichols gained their horses and returned full-speed to town with the rightful news. Constable Nelson immediately organized another posse, and also engaged teams with bedding to bring in the wounded. Upon their arrival at the scene of conflict, (Russian Gulch) they found Dollard already a corpse, and Wright helpless and speechless, and evidently near his dissolution. With considerable difficulty they carried them up the steep acclivity to the wagons, and returned with them to town, giving up further pursuit of the desperadoes for the time being. Wright was taken to Carlson's hotel and cared for. As the two men were brought in, and the body of Dollard was laid out in a room over the post office, a mute expression of sorrow was visible on every countenance. An inquest was immediately held, Justice Smith acting as Coroner, on the deceased, at which the jury returned the following verdict: 'We the jury impaneled to inquire into the cause of the death of Thomas Dollard, do find as follows: That the name of the deceased with Thomas Dollard, a native of Ellsworth, Maine; that he died on the 15th day of October, 1879, about four miles east of Mendocino, in Mendocino County, California; that he came to his death by means of hemorrhage from three gun-shot wounds, caused by rifles fired by several parties unknown to us.' A public meeting was held and a committee of safety numbering twenty-one was appointed to act in the emergency and organize a determined pursuit of the outlaws. (Doc John Wheeler

attended this meeting and had the gall to deliver a speech, advising the citizens not to pursue the murderers, as it was too dangerous. Wheeler managed to have himself appointed to the committee. Suspicion soon fastened on the smooth-talking dentist, however. Deputy Sheriff Jerry Donohoe arrived in town that evening, and one of his possemen recognized Wheeler as a former San Quentin convict.) William Wright died on Wednesday evening about seven o'clock, having remained unconscious nearly all the time since his fatal wounding in the morning. Subsequent examination showed that he had received a second shot through the side near the heart. The inquest on his body, held on Thursday morning (October 16, 1879) was substantially the same as in the case of Dollard. This town and vicinity is thoroughly aroused, and two separate parties well armed and equipped, left here Wednesday evening in search of the guilty parties. Caspar mill and woods ceased work Thursday, and a large party from there joined in the hunt. On Thursday evening word was brought that three of the outlaws had been seen on the prairie back of Little River, and that two had obtained breakfast and supper at the house of a settler on that day. The same day, a man named Carmichael, reported that while riding toward Mendocino on the Ukiah road, about three miles out, he saw a man by the roadside, who threatened him with a rifle, but seeing him unarmed, slunk off into the woods. One man was arrested in Little River that night on suspicion, but after examination was released. Nearly the whole of the circumstances go to show that there are but four men who have perpetrated these crimes, and they are undoubtedly the same who were found by Host and the deceased on Tuesday. The description, as given by Host, is; one about five feet ten inches in height, dark complexion, short dark hair and moustache, face unshaven for a week or two, weight about one hundred and fifty-five pounds, age about twenty-six years; one about five feet eight inches high, heavy set, complexion dark, short hair, black moustache, otherwised clean shaved, dark eyes, about thirty-two years; the third, five feet eight inches high, light complexion, big moustache and goatee, blue yes, weight one hundred and sixty, age thirty-five, and the fourth, five feet eleven inches, sandy complexion, blue eyes, big moustache and goatee, heavy set, about one hundred and seventy-five pounds, age about forty-five years. An armed force is now scouring the prairie near where they were last seen. The funeral of the murdered men was held on Friday (October 17, 1879), at 1 p.m. Mr Dollard was an officer and member in high standing of Mendocino Lodge, No. 179, F. and A. M., and was buried according to the rites and ceremonies of that order. Mr Wright, though not a member of any secret society, was attended to his grave by the Odd Fellows as a mark of respect. (On October 17, 1879, at Little Lake, Doc Standley received a message from Sheriff James R. Moor, asking him to join his posse in the search for the Mendocino Outlaws. Standley saddled his horse at once and set out for the scene of the murder. And so began one of the most

relentless, extraordinary manhunts ever undertaken by a California peace officer.) ((History of Mendocino County, California) and ("Badge and Buckshot" by John Boessenecker, University of Oklahoma Press, 1988)

In the early part of the following week, Dr. J. F. Wheeler, a resident of Mendocino City, was arrested for complicity in the affair. The clue that led to his arrest was the finding of a tin cup and a frying-pan in the camp said to have been purchased by Wheeler recently....(and hoofprints found at the camp were made by a horse with a broken shoe and matched those from a horse Wheeler had rented at a local livery stable. He was arrested and brought to jail in Ukiah.) Wheeler had gone to Mendocino City some time before and started into business as a dentist, but finally developed into a regular practicing physician. He was a married man, of pleasing address and suave manners, and soon managed to have quite a number of friends in the place, and was doing quite a thriving business. Nothing was known of his past life, and, California like, nothing was asked. He was, apparently, a gentleman now, and that was all that was asked or required. The truth was, however, that he was an ex-convict, having served his time in San Quentin for his connection with a stage robbery some years ago. It was developed shortly after Wheeler's arrest that he was a grand moving spirit in the enterprise. In August previous John Billings received a letter from Wheeler, as follows: - "I have here, in Mendocino county, a rich claim, worth about \$15,000; it can be worked in about two weeks if I have good men. The claim is the Sheriff of Mendocino county. I have one good man with me. Come yourself and bring any one you know and can depend on" The good man he referred to was H. E. Brown. About the 10th of September Billings arrived at Mendocino City, bringing with him Samuel Carr, an old ex-convict, who had been sentenced to the State Prison for life from San Francisco for killing a man in the "Thunderbolt" saloon, but who had been pardoned on the condition that he leave the State and never return. There was also with them a young man named George Gaunce, heretofore to criminal fame unknown. As the plan was to rob the Sheriff when he was making his annual round collecting the taxes, and as it would yet be some time before he would come on his trip, the gang concluded to rendezvous in that vicinity, but, of course, not at the hotels or elsewhere where they would be seen much by the people. For sometime their rendezvous was at a cabin owned by A. B. Courtwright, in the mountains east of Westport. While here Wheeler supplied the necessities of life, and also purchased a lot of ammunition and fire-arms for their use. About two weeks before the murders the gang moved their quarters down to within a few miles of Mendocino City, and were vigorously engaged in jerking beef and in other ways preparing for the journey they soon expected to take. While here they were in daily communication with Wheeler, who advised them never to surrender if an attempt

was made to arrest them, but to shoot, and how well they followed his advice the story of their attempted arrest sets forth. One of the gang, Samuel Carr, was overtaken and arrested at a cabin in Long valley on the morning of October 22nd, while cooking his breakfast. He was tired, sick and footsore, and without arms, and he had thrown his rifle away. He turned State's evidence, and hence was used as a witness for the people, and narrated all the details of plans, etc., with evident truthfulness. (Carr had fallen behind his partners, and they had abandoned him. In a spirit of revenge he agreed to turn state's evidence and testify against the others. Standley and Moore sent Carr to Ukiah, under guard of two constables. They spent the next two days searching the back country between Westport and Ten Mile River. Finally a messenger told them that the three outlaws had been spotted on foot near Dutch Charley's, between Cahto and Ten Mile. Standley and the posse rushed to the area, forming an ambush at Uncle Tommy Damien's cabin, where they waited in vain for the outlaws until the next day. By now at least a hundred men, encouraged by a reward of five hundred dollars each offered by the governor, were scouring the rugged hills and redwood forests for the fugitives. Al Courtright was picked up and brought to Ukiah. In exchange for his freedom he admitted harboring the outlaws and give full descriptions of them. Doc Standley received a report that the three killers, Brown, Billings, and Gaunce, were heading north toward the South Fork of the Eel River. Standley sent word to Laytonville for twenty-two-year-old Andy Bowman to join the posse with pack animals. Andy, an expert hunter, and his brother Boag met up with Doc's posse, which included Mart and Old Jim Frost, who were taking a respite from the Little Lake Vendetta. Mart, fresh from presiding at the lynching of his nephew Elijah and two other young rowdies in Willits, was evidently anxious for a little more deadly work.) On October 29th, the posse who were scouring the mountains divided into two parties, one, under the direction of Sheriff Moore, started towards (Sam Pearce's ranch) Piercy's ranch on Rattlesnake creek, in which direction the outlaws were heading, and the other, under J. M. Standley (with the Bowman brothers and Calib Wilson), remained on their track, closely pursuing them. During the day Standley's party suddenly came upon them near the mouth of Rattlesnake creek. Each party discovered the other about the same time, and after ordering the outlaws to surrender their pursuers began firing, but with no particular result, except that they fled and left their camp equipage behind, escaping with only their arms and a few rounds of ammunition. (Returning to the outlaws' camp, Doc found that they had captured virtually all of their supplies, including blankets, clothing, twenty pounds of jerked meat, thirty pounds of flour, five hundred rounds of ammunition, and two six-shooters. Doc's clothes had become badly torn from twelve days of riding and crawling through heavy brush, and he donned a pair of captured pants, plus a coat and overcoat. Then he carefully examined the

tracks left by the fugitives. Said Doc later: "I found that the tracks differed greatly, one of them being made by a small-heeled boot, the heel projecting under the foot. Another was a little larger, having a square toe and round, flat heel. The third was still larger and longer, and having two large round-headed tacks, running diagonally across one heel, the other heel having a large tack at its front edge next to the center." The gang then changed their course from north to east, and at breakfast on the morning of October 30th at William Rae's, near Blue Rock. They were then heading for Trinity county, north of Round valley. They were next heard from in the Mad river country in that county, where a posse from Round Valley came upon them in camp in a deep gulch. This was in the night, and the posse decided to divide, and one part remain above and the other go below, and thus be ready to trap them in the morning, but daylight found the birds flown, and they had evidently passed very near to their pursuers. They were next heard of at Petit Johns', in Tehama county. It was known ahead that they were coming that way, and Petit Johns expected to arrest them, and for that purpose had asked a neighbor to come to his house that day, as he expected them to pass about noon. They came, however, in the morning before they were expected, and they found Johns by himself. They called for breakfast, and were provided with the meal. Johns' wife placed the plates all on one side of the table, so that all were in a row, and when they came in and sat down they left their guns setting just outside the door. The woman then went off to the barn, expecting her husband to open up a fusilade upon them and probably kill one or more of them. The old man seemed anxious enough to do something of the kind but he felt that he was taking too great chances. He went into an adjoining room twice and came out again after a time, his courage evidently failing him. He went into the room a third time, when Billings' suspicions were aroused, and drawing his revolver and placing it on the table said that if he came in the room again from that room he would shoot him in his tracks. Johns, fortunately for him, passed out through another door. At one place they had stopped in a roofless and deserted cabin to spend the night. Presently they were aware that their pursuers were on their track, and close at hand; so they rushed out into the bushes and hid. Standley, it is said by Gaunce, came near losing his life here. He rode up to the house and looked over into it, and then started on up the canyon, but a (Andy Bowman's pack mule) mule he had for packing refused to follow him and he was obliged to turn back for it twice, and he then changed his course. Had he come right on he would have come upon them in their ambush; and as he was recognized as the leader of the posse by the gang, it was well known to them that if he were killed the posse would break up, or at least be so demoralized that they could get a good start. Billings seemed determined to shoot anyway, but was persuaded to desist as his man was too far off; but that mule,

fortunately, did not let him get close enough for Billings to carry his purpose into execution. (History of Mendocino County, California) ("Badge of Buckshot" by John Boessenecker, University of Oklahoma Press, 1988)

November 1, 1879 (Saturday) - The Mendocino Beacon reported "The Wheeler Examination, Latest Reports from the Pursuers" The examination of Wheeler was concluded last Tuesday; the testimony in the case disclosed the formation of a cool and deep laid plan, on the part of Wheeler and confederates, to bag a large amount of coin this fall, at the time the Sheriff makes his regular trip for the collection of taxes. As the original intention was robbery, and not murder, the killing of Dollard and Wright was wholly unnecessary; and as it frustrated the plan that had been formed, it can only be accounted for on the ground that the outlaws intended to and all the party who accompanied the Constable, and according to Jones, they thought this had been accomplished. To say that this whole affair from beginning to end, is something unprecedented in the history of Mendocino county scarcely expresses the enormity of the crime. These men it seems, were determined to hold their ground at all hazards, until their object should have been accomplished, and it was only by prompt measures and speedy pursuit that they were forced to abandon their original plot. The examination was attended with close interest throughout; the testimony of A. B. Courtwright covers the whole ground and that of other witnesses is corroborative, both in point of time and circumstances; following is synopsis: "I have known Wheeler some 20 years; know H. E. Brown, Geo. Leonard, alias Gauntt, and J. Brown, alias Billings; saw Brown frequently at Westport; there was a young lady taken sick, and he told me that he telegraphed for Dr. Wheeler to come and see her. Wheeler came up about the middle of last August on Barnard's stage; he told me he was going up to Westport, to see a young lady who was sick, it was in the evening, I was busy feeding horses, and told him, I would come up on Duncan's stage that evening and see him. I stayed with them that night, went away next morning, and left Wheeler there. I saw no more at that time; one the following week I went up to Westport again and saw Brown. He told me he had a long talk with Dr. Wheeler, and they had entered into arrangements to rob the Tax-Collector this fall, and he said, that Wheeler had sent to Bodie, for these parties to come over. I saw him again, and he took me out, and read a letter he had received from Wheeler stating the parties had come and wanted him to come down immediately. Brown wanted me to join them, but I told them I wouldn't have any thing to do with it. I went back to work threshing, and stayed a week or more. When I next saw Brown, he forced me to agree to bring the boys up some provisions from Big River. Wheeler sent up two ten dollar gold notes, and I bought tobacco, and Winchester cartridges and provisions, with the money. The next time I went home, the boys were all at my house. They told me to give out in

Westport, that they had gone to Nevada. I made them leave the cabin, and they afterward camped on the hill next (to) my cabin. I have not been home much, having been working for other parties. Wheeler had several conversations with Brown, Billings and Gauntz, and told me not to talk, or I would be considered in with them. He sent for me, and I came down and stayed at his house one night. He said to me "mum is the work," and I told him I did not want any connection with the affair. Previous to this Wheeler said he was to watch the papers, and tell the boys when to make the attempt." The arguments of counsel were made Tuesday, and the prisoner was bound over to answer to the charges of murder before the Grand Jury, by Justice Smith. Wheeler was taken to Ukiah Wednesday morning, by Alf Nelson, John Flannagan and J. C. Ford. THE CHASE. The pursuit of Brown, Billings, and Gauntz by the tracking party who left here on the 18th of October, has been close and persistent. They returned here last Tuesday, having become nearly exhausted for want of food and sleep. They said that Moore was out with his party near Hollow Tree Prairie on Monday, and Standley and his men were also in pursuit, as well as Henry DeVilbiss and Bruce Markle. The men were tracked through Westport, up the county road, and were seen by Dutch Charlie at his place, four miles north of Jackson Valley; they broke into his house, and took flour and cloths. The trackers obtained fresh supplies here, and started back the same day to renew the search. - Wednesday morning the following dispatch, which had been received at Kibesillah, was repeated over the wires. "Legget Valley, Oct. 28th. - We attacked the outlaws at the mouth of Rattlesnake creek; they ran through brush and trees; we fired seven shots at them, saw no dead men on the battle ground; they ran down the river. We captured 250 rounds of ammunition, four coats and camp equipage. Send this message to trackers, and Moore's party at Sam Pierces, have all houses guarded; they have no provisions and only three magazines of ammunition. Markie and comp'y command three miles below where we routed them, think they will go down the river; or due west, we got Brown's boots, sixshooter and bowie knife; have Dutch Charlie's house guarded. Standley & Co." A later report states that Standley's part came upon the men about dusk Tuesday night as they were building their camp fire; that Standley called to them to throw up their hands, and they answered with a volley, firing sixteen shots at their pursuers, but without effect. They are now completely surrounded, and their capture is but a question of time, as they are without food, and all houses in the vicinity are carefully guarded."

November 8, 1879 - The Mendocino Beacon reported the Samuel Carr, charged with the murder of Dollard and Wright, was examined before Justice Corder on Friday last, and committed to jail without bail, to await the action of the Grand Jury. THE CHASE - We had hoped to be enabled to announce in this issue the capture of Brown, Billings and Gauntz, the fugitive

murderers and outlaws, but though many rumors are rife, of encounters with them, and their death or surrender, we are not yet in receipt of any reliable information upon which to base a correct account of the pursuit. The tracking party from Mendocino City, Bunner, Foster, Cortes, Sheppard and Helmke, who commenced the search, and were chiefly instrumental in the capture of Jones, and in posting the Sheriff's party what routes to take to head off the outlaws, continued the pursuit until last Saturday, when, finding that a strong party from Round Valley, Constable Montague, with Dunlap, the Lovell boys, and others, accompanied by Constable Hereford of Trinity county and posse, had struck in on the track twelve hours ahead of them they with the exception of Sheppard, returned home, as their horses were fagged, and they thought enough were then in the field to accomplish the desired object. The latest dispatch says: "Ed. Morrison just returned from Moore's pursuing party; reports outlaws now intrenched on Mad River; fourteen men in pursuit. It is the opinion of Morrison that the murderers are now in possession of the posse dead or alive." There is a report that the men have been captured by the Round Valley boys, but it lacks authentication."

On November 8th, they were at Last Chance Hollow, west of Red Bluff. On November 10th, they crossed the Sacramento river above Red Bluff. Here all traces of them were lost by the pursuing party, and the chase for the time abandoned. The pursuers traveled over one thousand miles in this most wonderful man chase, and the most of the time on foot, and some of the time through soft, wet snow. The following description of their journeyings will convey an adequate idea of the great amount of traveling they did. From Big river north to Blue Rock; thence east, up Mad river to the three forks of the river; thence up the north fork of the main divide between Mad river and the south fork of Trinity river; thence south to the Yolo Bolles; thence across the Yolo Bolles; thence east to the foot-hills on Cold creek; (Petit Johns lives here); thence south to the Red Banks. Here the posse divided, Donohoe and Shepherd going south to Paskenta, thence south to Newville; thence south to Stony creek, thence north to Elk Grove; thence north to Paskenta, thence east to Red Bluff; thence south to Tehama; thence north to Cold creek; thence south to Mount St. John; thence east to Willows; thence home, having lost all traces and given up the chase. After the separation Moore and Standley went from Red Bank to Vale's Gulch; thence to Red Bluff; thence down the Sacramento river to Tehama; crossed the Sacramento river and went to Vina; (at this time the outlaws were on the railroad between the two pursuing parties); thence to Tehama; thence up the Sacramento river to Blossom's ranch; thence east to the foot-hills of the Sierra Nevada mountains; thence south along the foot-hills a distance of fifteen miles; thence back to Tehama; thence to Thomas' creek; thence south-east to Newville, near Stony creek; thence up Stony creek to Bear

valley; thence east to Willows; thence east to Colusa; thence to Williams', and thence to Ukiah. This was the end of the first chase, and all parties were now in Ukiah; and it was thought that the gang had eluded the vigilance of the officers. But Standley had his ears always open to catch stray reports that would lead to anything like a clue. (The manhunt had been a severe strain on the county treasury, but Doc found a spare two hundred dollars and with Moore and Donohoe set off again. Donohoe took the train to Nevada to spread the word that the outlaws might try to cross the Sierra...Doc Standley visited San Quentin to see what he could learn about Brown and Billings. Moore went to Oakland to pick up points on Gaunce. Both officers found that Hal Brown had a brother-in-law, Fred Striker, living in Butte County. As this was very near the spot where the trail had been lost and lay in the direction the outlaws had been fleeing, Standley and Moore departed immediately for Oroville. Here they learned that Striker lived in Nimshew, in the mountains, some fifteen miles northeast of Chico. The two lawmen boarded a stagecoach to Helltown and then walked the remaining seven miles to Nimshew, arriving late on the night of December 3rd. Making inquiries, they learned that three men matching the killers' descriptions had been in town nineteen days earlier. The officers spent the next day searching Nimshew and discovered that Fred Striker had recently bought a Winchester rifle. At eleven o'clock that night a local man informed Standley that he had seen Striker's son riding toward an old cabin owned by a man named McClellan and located a mile from town. The boy appeared to be carrying a loaf of bread in a sack.) On the morning of December 5th, Sheriff Moore, J. M. Standley, C. A. White (Formerly of Mendocino County, White was a fearless young man and a dead shot. Eight years later he killed Wylackie John Wathen in one of the North Coast's most-celebrated shootings), of Nimshew, and a Chico stage-driver named Messer (supplied Doc with a Winchester and Moore with a shotgun, as the officers had been armed only with six shooters), surrounded a cabin on Butte creek (McClellan's cabin was situated in a deep canyon that ran from Nimshew to Butte Creek. The canyon walls were covered with a thick growth of chaparral. It was raining heavily...). About one hundred yards from the cabin the men took their positions so as to command the place; White above the cabin, Standley near the ravine, Moore commanding the ravine in one direction, and Messer in the other direction. White and Standley had Winchester rifles, and the others had shot-guns loaded with buck-shot. After they had waited a few moments Billings came out with a gun and ax, evidently intending to chop some wood to cook their breakfast with, as this was very soon after daylight in the morning. When about seven feet from the cabin Standley called to him to throw up his arms. Instead, however, he sprang back into the cabin, where upon Standley fired, the ball striking him in the shoulder. On hearing the firing Gaunce and Brown dashed into the brush, White

discharging four shots at them as they ran. He then turned and saw Billings trying to get his gun leveled at him. When Billings saw that he was discovered he ran into the cabin again, but came immediately out. White then fired, the ball striking Billings in the knee, bringing him partially to the ground. While in this position Billings again tried to aim and fire at White, who continued to shoot at him till he fell dead. He fell about thirty feet from the cabin face downward with his gun under him. He only gasped once after he was reached by the officers. His body was carried into the cabin and a Coroner sent for, and an inquest held, after which Sheriff Moore started for Ukiah with the body. By this time it was night again, but the officers (Doc Standley and Clarence White) started out into the dark, using a lantern to show them the trail. About one hundred yards from the cabin the trail divided, one of the parties, Gaunce, going southwest down the creek, and the other, Brown, had gone up the creek. After pursuing Brown perhaps a mile and a half, they concluded that as he was lame, he could not elude them so well as Gaunce, so they returned and started out on the trail of the last named. They followed the tracks down Butte creek three or four miles, and then the trail made a square turn and led them to within a very few rods of town where it was lost. It was now about midnight, and the pursuers had been at work fully twenty-four hours with an hour's sleep or respite, hence they went to the hotel and retired. In the morning the irrepressible Standley was out bright and early, and as eager for any new clues as he ever had been. He soon learned that a gentleman had lost a buggy robe during the night, and rightly guessed that Gaunce had taken it for a blanket, and that he had spent the night close by. The buggy stood in a shed adjoining a vacant cabin, and naturally enough they searched that building first, in one of the room there was an old cupboard, and stowed away behind that, they found the culprit, who was worn out, exhausted, and broken down in spirit as well as body, Standley took him in a buggy and drove to Chico, where he overtook Moore, and turned Gaunce over to him to bring to Ukiah. We will now return to Brown (set off like a bloodhound) and follow him through the devious windings of his path from his escape from the cabin to his arrest, for be it here recorded that all the gang were finally brought to Ukiah and lodged in jail. After leaving the cabin where Billings was shot he went up Butte creek, on into Conchow valley; thence due east, up the slope of the Sierras to the snow line; here he stopped all night with an Indian; thence, starting on the morning of **December 8th**, he crossed the north fork of the Feather river, staying all night at Last Chance; he then crossed French creek to the Mountain House, on the road from Oroville to Susanville; thence on the main road to Bidwell's Bar; here he took to the shrubby foot-hills and traveled to Wyandotte; he then turned towards Rice's crossing, on the Yba river, and thence to the vicinity of Bidwell's Bar. On the evening of **December 10th**, Standley and White arrived at the last-named place on horse-

back and in the morning scoured the country, warning everybody to look out for Brown. Sheriff Sprague of Yuba county joined them at this time. Some time during the day the officers met two men - Thatcher and Ryan (John Boessenecker say it was George Thatcher and Thomas Moran) - who had Brown in charge, they having apprehended him about a mile ahead of the officers. (Doc rode up to the wagon and said cheerily, "Hello Hal!" "...damn it, Doc! Won't you ever quit?" the outlaw chief exclaimed. Then, recognizing his overcoat that Standley had captured at Rattlesnake Creek and was still wearing, Brown said, "Give me my coat. I am nearly froze!") Standley arrested Brown and returned to Ukiah with him at once. And so was ended one of the greatest man-hunting expeditions on record, and it is doubtful if indeed it can be excelled in all the annals of crime. No one can begin to have a just appreciation of its magnitude, and what they were called upon to undergo and endure until he has traveled over those chemessal mountains, going through places where scarce a grizzly bear would attempt to force his way. Let any one take a map of the State, and trace out the route traversed, and he will be amazed. Great credit is due to all who were in any way connected with the pursuit, but to J. M. Standley, Sheriff Moore and Jerry Donohoe, the burden of the honor falls due to their untiring energy and determined zeal. The last named was on the road sixty-one days. When Standley arrived at Ukiah with the last of the outlaws, great excitement prevailed, and the stage was surrounded with a great crowd of eager spectators, desirous both of getting a glimpse of the captive and of paying a just tribute to the captor. Upon Standley's arrival at Little Lake quite an ovation was tendered him. Anvils were fired, Rev. A. O. Ross delivered a speech of welcome, and the grand rejoicing was fittingly closed with a dance.

On the night of November 30th, Wheeler, in company with James Anthony, made his escape from the jail by the aid of a false key made of Babbitt metal. The guard of the jail had stepped out for a few moments, not thinking but that his prisoners were safe under lock and key, and when he came back the birds had flown. They went to a livery stable and appropriated two horses to their use, and fled northward toward the mountains, but were both captured near Calpella not having gotten a dozen miles away. They were successful jail-breakers, but not so much of a success in eluding recapture in the muddy, rainy days of mid-winter. (History of Mendocino County, California) ("Badge of Buckshot" by John Boessenecker, University of Oklahoma Press, 1988)

December 29, 1879 (Saturday) - The Mendocino Beacon reported "How Brown was Caught" J. M. Standly arrived in Ukiah last Sunday at noon, with H. E. Brown, the last of the band of outlaws to be arrested, and a crowd quickly gathered about the stage to congratulate Standly on the successful result of his long hunt and to view the prisoner, who rode in on the

outside front seat though with heavy shackles on his legs. Brown was asked to take his hat off, which he did, and enabled the crowd to get a look at him. He was then taken into the jail, and his irons removed. Mr. Standly furnishes us with the following particulars of his capture: "From the cabin near Nimshe, where the outlaws were surprised, and Billings was killed, Brown struck out through the woods towards the Sierra Nevada Mountains, intending to cross the mountains into Nevada; but at the first pass where he attempted this, he found the snow getting deeper as he climbed and he gave it up when he found the snow to be over 12 inches deep, and turned back along the sides of the mountain traveling south and west. He was tracked from cabin to cabin by his relentless pursuers Doc Standly and C. A. White. At one cabin, the next day after the shooting, he picked up a hat, and the next day was discovered by a Portugese miner and friend, dressing himself in a complete outfit of clothing belonging to the miner's partner. The miner leveled his revolved at him, and made him relinquish the clothes; upon their asking him where he was from, he said "Stockton," at the same time feigning to be crazy. The took hold of him and started to town to give him up as an escaped maniac, but Brown suddenly struck one of them a heavy blow under the ear, and made his escape. Wednesday night he stayed at Bidwell's Bar, and at daylight struck out for Rice's Crossing on the Yuba River. Standly was close on his track, however, and had sent word right and left to be on the look-out for him. Brown left the road soon after noon, and took to the brush. Standly and White separated, and commenced beating up on each side to intercept him. White met a miner named Thatcher on horseback, and asked him to overtake Brown if possible; soon after Thatcher, while telling a mining comrade, Moran, of the near vicinity of the outlaw, saw Brown coming up; the two stopped him and held him until Standly came up, about ten minutes later. Brown had been protesting to Thatcher and Moran that he was not the man they wanted, but as soon as he saw Standly, he hailed him with; my G-d, Standly, will you never let up on me." The place where he was caught is near Bengor, in Butte County.

Also reported, "People vs John F. Wheeler - Grand jury having found an indictment against him for the murder of Wm. Wright, the case was ordered transmitted to the District Court.

People vs John F. Wheeler - Grand jury having found indictment against him for murder of Thomas Dollard, the case was ordered transferred to the District Court. People vs Samuel Carr, et al. - Grand jury having reported an indictment against Samuel Carr, John Billings, Geo. Gauntz and H. E. Brown for murder of Wm. Wright, the case ordered transferred to District Court for trial. People vs Samuel Carr, et al. - Grand jury having reported indictment against Samuel Carr, John Billings, George Gauntz and H. E. Brown for murder of Thomas Dollard, the case was ordered to the District Court for trial."

1880 Census Mendocino County, California revealed the following:

Harrison Standley age 66, born in Tennessee, his wife Elizabeth, 65, born in North Carolina, his daughter Cynthia Gattrell, 26, born in Wyoming, his grandson Franki J. Gattrell, age 1, born in California, his brother-in-law George Stephens, 50 born in New Hampshire. They were living in Saul Township.

Jermiah Standley age 34, born in Missouri, his wife Sarah 28, born in Missouri, his daughter Minnie age 9, born in California, son Harry age 7, born in California, daughter Nellie age 5, born in California. They were living in the Little Lake Township.

John Standley age 24, born in California, his wife Kittie Standley age 24, born in Illinois, his step daughter Lizzie McCain age 12, born in California, his step son Gullin McCain age 10, born in California, his son Perry Standley age 3, born in California, his daughter Mayble Standley age 8/12 months, born in California, his mother-in-law Elmir Fast, age 46 born in Indiana and John Vondagriff age 47, born in Missouri and not relative. They were living in the Saul Township.

Louis B. Standley age 43, born in Missouri, his wife Sarah E. age 37, born in Missouri, his son Burnett S. age 21, born in California, his son Thomas Harrison Clinton age 14, born in California, his son William M. age 12, born in California, his son Amos V. age 10, born in California, his son Louis R. age 8, born in California, Barbara Haas (no relationship) age 19, Frank Haas (her son) age 1, Henry Haas (H) age 22. They were living in Saul Township.

February 20, 1880 - Ukiah Dispatch & Democrat reported that the 1880 grand and trial jurors drawn by the Board of Supervisors at last session included H. Standley of Sanel and H. D. DeVilbiss of Ten Mile.

Mendocino Outlaws

In April 1880, Wheeler, Brown and Gaunce had their trials, Carr, the main witness for the poeple, giving the most of the foregoing facts concerning the intentions and movements of the gang up to the time of the shooting, and Wheeler's complicity with them. Judge J. G. Pressly, of Sonoma county, was on the bench. Following is the text of the sentence of

Wheeler: "John F. Wheeler, you have been charged with the highest crime known to human as well as divine law, and of this charge, after a fair and full trial, you have been convicted by a jury of your countrymen, sworn to try the case and to render a verdict in accordance with the proof. You have been very ably defended; your counsel have been persistent; have, with pertinacity and skill, contested every point made against you. The same laws which you have broken gave you the means of presenting anything in the way of defense or exculpation that would tend to establish your innocence or extenuate your acts. After hearing all that you have offered in your defense, a jury of intelligent and unbiased men have found you guilty and another proof of circumstances which divests your crime of the glamour which surrounds a bold and daring robbery and murder, is that you remained in the background, and had your work done by confederates. If the circumstances detailed by witnesses are true, and the jury have found them to be so, you were the master spirit in one of the most diabolical conspiracies which has, perhaps, ever been entered into within the limits of this county. A man who had not harmed you was to have been robbed, and the funds intrusted to him by virtue of his office, taken away and divided among you and your subordinates in crime. In order to carry out your nefarious purpose you compassed the death of any citizen who might attempt to interfere with your plans. The result was the death of an estimable citizen of this county - a young man in the prime of life and vigor of manhood, cut down without a moment's warning, and that by men under your command, cowardly secreting themselves and shooting from ambush. The fate which has at last overtaken you, is but the just deserts of the act, shown by the testimony to have been done by you. Your present condition is but another proof of the truth of the scripture which says that 'the way of the transgressor is hard' I do not desire to harrow up your feelings, or inflict more pain upon you than my duty, as one of the ministers of justice, requires me to do. I will not prolong this, to me, painful scene, further than to advise you to prepare to meet the awful fate which will surely overtake you. I have endeavored to give you a fair trial. I am not now aware of any errors committed by me to your prejudice. I am glad to know that if I have committed any and if you have been deprived of rights, there is a tribunal to which you may take your case if you so desire. I hope no human being will ever, by any mistake of mine, be ushered into the presence of the Great Judge, who will finally award to everyone the just deserts of his deeds, and that without possibility of error. I think you need not look to any power short of Omnipotence for pardon of the crime of which you have been convicted. I advise you to dismiss from your mind all hope of human aid, and look alone to Him who, 'though your sins be as scarlet, can make them as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, can make them white as wool.' Your sentence and the judgement of the Court is that you be, by the Sheriff of

Mendocino county, on Friday, July 2, 1880, hanged by the neck until you are dead, and may God have mercy on your soul" (History of Mendocino County, California)

April 23, 1880 - Ukiah Dispatch & Democrat reported that Doc Standley has just received from John E. Moore, of Stockton, ten full blooded Durham calves, about one month old. He now proposes to dispose of his graded stock and raise only the finest of Durham cattle. It is a move in the right direction, and we trust that the farmers of this county will follow his example. It is a fact, long established, that good stock always pays the best.

May 7, 1880 - Ukiah Dispatch & Democrat reported this letter to the editors - Will you do us the favor to allow us at the earnest request of scores of Democrats of Mendocino County, to present through the columns of your paper, the name of J. M. Standley for the nomination by the Democratic Party for sheriff. Mr. Standley has grown up from childhood among us, and his name has become a household word throughout the county. He served on several occasions years ago, as Deputy Sheriff, and the county never had a more efficient one. He is a starved Democrat, acquainted with every voter in the county, and if he obtains the nomination from the Democratic Convention, we believe, will give strength to the ticket. Hundreds of Democrats.

May 14, 1880 - Ukiah Dispatch & Democrat reported that the Trial of John F. Wheeler, member of the Mendocino Outlaws started May 7, 1880, 10 a.m., Honorable J. G. Pressley presiding. Members sitting on the jury included W. C. Phagan, W. G. Gibson, G. H. Hopper, J. G. Phillips, E. Edwards, E. C. Fonchee, D. L. Spencer, M. Corbett, T. E. Rawlees, James Pickerel, L. F. Long and S. Carner. (Not all the article is readable) Some of the testimonies presented were from Dr. T. H. Smith, who has been a surgeon for the past two years in Mendocino County. He knew Wright, saw him after he had been wounded, about 10 or 11 am. He was sent for and saw him in Mendocino Woods, he was shot, three wounds, left side, neck and left arm and one in his back. The doctor examined the wounds and found them to be fatal. He died about 6 p.m. that day in Mendocino City, he had died of the wounds. J. M. Standley testified that he knew Billings, he was dead, died in Butte County, near Nimshe, he was fired at, we were attempting to arrest him, passed through the cabin in which he was stopped and saw him lying on the ground about 30 feet from the cabin, turned him over, and he was dead, found no letter on the body or in the cabin, had a broke knife and an empty purse in his pocket, was in camp on Rattlesnake Creek, found some articles there, camp equipage, arms, clothes, meat, etc., did not find letter. The defense asked that this testimony be stricken out as irrevleant and immaterial, which was denied.

The city of Ukiah was thrown into a fever of excitement, on Saturday morning, May 15th, by the report that John F. Wheeler, one of the outlaws had committed suicide. In an almost incredible space of time hundreds of people congregated on the outside of the jail, and in the hall-ways leading to it, anxious to gain the latest information from within. The door to the Sheriff's office was locked, and only a few were admitted, and when any of those who were fortunate enough to gain an entrance would retire, they were plied with all the manner of questions as to the condition of the condemned man. The interest seemed to abate but little until death ensued, when most of the people silently betook themselves to their homes there to meditate over the drama just ended. At half-past seven o'clock, on Saturday morning, the guard on duty in the jail spoke to Wheeler, who answered that he was all right, and half an hour after, on being spoken to, he made no response. A few minutes later one of the other prisoners looked into the cell and remarked: "The Doctor is lying flat on his back, with his mouth wide open and sound asleep." No notice was taken of this announcement by the authorities, as it had been customary for Wheeler to remain up late at night reading and writing, and to sleep in the morning. At about a quarter to ten, his wife called to see him, and on going to his cell to bring him out, he was found stretched upon his bed in a somatose state. He was at once removed to the Sheriff's office and placed upon a mattress, where Drs. Dozier, Mason and King did everything in their power to resuscitate him, but without avail, and at 6:50 p.m., he breathed his last. The shackles were at once removed from his ankles and the body placed in the hall-way, where, after being enconffined, it remained until buried on Sunday afternoon. It was visited twice by Mrs. Wheeler while there, once that evening, and again the next morning. On both occasions she manifested great affection for him, and appeared completely broken down with grief. During the time Wheeler was lying in the Sheriff's office, under the influence of the narcotic, two of his confederates - Brown and Gaunce - manifested a great deal of interest, by getting up to the grating between the jail and office a number of times, and peering into the room where Wheeler was lying. But the body was in a corner of the office beyond their vision, and they were unable to catch even a glimpse of the face of their late chief. On searching the cell lately occupied by the deceased, the Sheriff found two packages of letters, a coat, in the lining of which, just over the right shoulder, had been secreted the fatal drug; five bottles, two of which contained a solution of chloral hydrate, two compound spirits of lavender, and the other cologne; a small satchel, a small lance-shaped knife, a photograph of his wife, and some books and magazines. The bottles containing chloral hydrate were found secreted in his pillow. On the back of the photograph, in Wheeler's handwriting, were the words, "Whoe little duckie is this?" Wheeler had spent a good portion of Friday afternoon and night in writing letters

to relatives and friends. Previous to taking the posison he had dressed himself with scrupulous care, and in his letter to his wife requested that he be buried just as found, with the picture of his wife upon his breast, which was done. Dr. Mason, County Coroner, held an inquest of Sunday, May 16th. morning, the jury consisting of C. S. Paine, Jule Brown, W. F. Whitney, O. H. P. Brown, E. B. Metzger, J. Blackie, L. A. Cole, Fred DeCamp, and J. Ginochio. After viewing the remains, the jury retired to the Superior court-room, where Drs. King and Dozier testified that death resulted from morphia poisoning. Sheriff Donohoe and Under-Sheriff Potter were examined as to the discovery of Wheeler in an inanimate condition and the contents of his cell, when the jurty returned the following verdict: - "We, the jury impaneled to inquire into the circumstances of the death of John F. Wheeler, find that the deceased was aged about forty years; that he was under sentence of death for the complicity in the murder of William Wright; and that he died by his own hand, by morphine poison, taken with suicidal intent, and that said death occurred on Saturday, May 15, 1880 about about seven o'clock, p.m." (History of Mendocino County, California)

May 22, 1880 - The Mendocino Beacon reported "The End - Wheeler escapes the gallows by suicide" The death of John F. Wheeler, self inflicted, by the use of a deadly drug, following so closely after his final conviction and sentance of death, end his remarkable speech declaring his innocence, is a sensational ending to a career of crime, and a tacit acknowledgement of the truth of the charges which he so persistently denied to the last. The particulars, which we gather from eye witnesses, are as follows: Mrs. Wheeler visited the sheriffs office about 9:30 on Saturday morning, and requested to see her husband; Under Sheriff Potter went to the door of the cell in which Wheeler was confined and called him; receiving no answer he looked more closely at him, and saw that he was insensible, and had almost the appearance of a corpse. Dr. Mason was summoned, and immediately said that he was poisoned; other physicians came, and they used their united efforts to free him from its effects; a stomach pump was vigorously used but the poison had already entered his system, and only temporary relief was obtained. He was laid on a mattress in the Sheriff's Office and efforts to revive him were continued during the day, but he spoke not a word nore made any sign of consciousness except a heavy breathing at long intervals; this grew fainter and fainter until at 6:30 p.m., no further sign of life could be perceived. It was ascertained that he had taken morphine, both internally and by injection; a paper which had evidently contained the drug was found in the lining of his coat, and a small knife blade, which was probably used by him to inject the poison into his body, was found in his bed. Deceased left five letters, an outline of three of which is given below: Wheelers letters. One is addressed to his wife, in terms of endearment, calling her his angel, pet, his soul,

his all, dearer to him than his heart's blood; hoped that he had been kind to her, and imploring pardon of her for any wrong he might have done her; he begged her to bear up under her trouble, that he would soon join Wright and Dollard, who know he was innocent. He wanted to be buried as then dressed, with her picture on his heart, and closes in these words; "now thy dear lips I kiss in the spirit, so alas, farewell; good bye, dear angel, good bye on earth; yours in death -" The second, to his counsel, thanking them for the moral courage displayed by them in his defense; none could have done better; knew that he was convicted on false evidence; his ghost would haunt Carr and others; he hoped the evidence of the fiend Carr would not be fatal to Gaunce; invoked blessing on friends at Mendocino and curses on his enemies; he would die like a philosopher, with a heart full of love for friends and his county. He then moralizes as follows: A true wife is the greatest boon from God to man; there is but one honest man in twenty, nine out of ten are ungrateful, half are traitors; but one in fifty is truly brave; sisters are kinder than brothers; hell is but a figure of speech to large brains, a reality to small ones; men are not to be trusted who don't like music; there is no reasonable proof of a future life; sensitive men have a rough road on earth; I believe in evolution and progression; it is hard that the innocent and the harmless should have to suffer. Show this to my wife, and publish it if you wish. Wheeler." The third is addressed to a lady friend, thanking her for kindness shown his wife during his trial and imprisonment. Our informant states that he had passed the preceding evening in writing letters, and in conversation with his fellow prisoners; he seemed cheerful and played several airs on his violin, which had hitherto solaced many hours of his confinement in the jail. The last tune played is said to have been "Home, Sweet Home;" it is supposed he took the morphine about 11 o'clock on Friday night. The discovery of his last act was a complete surprise to the officers of the jail, though it appears from subsequent details that it must have been his settled conviction to take his own life should the worst come; he had frequently declared that he should never hang; thus ended the life of the ruling spirit of one of the most infamous conspiracies ever brought to light. A postmortem examination and inquest was held Sunday morning about 10 o'clock, by which the above facts were substantiated. The funeral was held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock and the body was buried in the Potter's Field beside that of Billings, Wheeler's confederate in crime."

Also reported at the Board of Supervisors Meeting, the claims were allowed for expenses incurred in the capture of the Mendocino outlaws included J. M. Standley, \$150.00; R. M. Hildreth, \$7.00. It was ordered that all claims of persons who assisted to capture Jno. F. Wheeler and James Anthony, persons who escaped from jail, be rejected.

July 9, 1880 - Ukiah Disptach & Democrat reported at Willitsville, on July 2nd, a son of J. M. Standley fell backwards and struck his right hand against a post cutting it quite severely.

In this week's issue, Mr. J. M. Standley, of Sherwood Valley, announced himself as a candidate for sheriff, subject to the decision of the Democratic County Convention. Mr. Standley is well and favorably known throughout the county, and if nominated will be elected by an overwhelming majority.

July 23, 1880 - Democratic Convention Central Committee meeting was held by J. T. Rogers, Chairman. Members present included T. J. Rogers, L. H. Seawell, J. W. McAbee, J. A. Knox, W. Day, J. M. Standley, A. Montgomery, John Flannagan, and G. S. Spaulding. H. W. DeVilbiss and J. K. Chambers were absented. The meeting was called to order for arrangements for primaries and designating time for the convention and accepted the retirement of J. M. Standley, himself a candidate for sheriff. (Ukiah Democrat & Dispatch, July 30, 1880)

August 10, 1880 - Mary E. Shelton wrote a letter dated this date to Mr. C. B. Bagley from Mendocino City. (original letter is in the custody of the Mason County Historical Society, Shelton, Washington) "Uncle and Aunt Standley didn't want me to take the agency at all. They are old fogys. Aunt said I had better go home to my father. I laughed at her and said "The idea of anyone of my age to look to my poor old father for support, when I have supported myself for the last 11 years. I told her I didn't care. What these old goies thought of me as a traveling agent because I am a woman. I have been treated with respect."

September 4, 1880 - J. M. Standley of Sherwood Valley was unanimously and enthusiastically declared the nominee at the Mendocino County Democratic Convention held at the court house. (Ukiah Democrat & Dispatch, September 10, 1880)

January 27, 1882 (Friday) - Mendocino Dispatch & Democrat reported "ANOTHER BEAR HUNT. Sherwood Valley, Jan. 21st. To the Editors of the Dispatch and Democrat: Having read in your paper, with great interest, the account of a hunt near Cotta Neva, under the direction of Mr. Bowman, and thinking a report of a similar affair in Sherwood, which has just ended, might prove equally pleasant reading - not so much from its success, but from its variety of incidents - I have concluded to give it to your readers. A few days since a party, consisting of J. M. Standley, Walter Maxwell, A. W. Shefton, Jr., William Clay and E. Shelton, started into the dense forests for which this locality is noted, and proceeded in a westerly direction for a distance of about ten miles, when camp was made on the headwaters of Smith's fork of Ten-mile river, between the South and Middle forks of that stream. The next morning at daybreak found the entire party marching down into the deep, frosty cañon of South fork, with the hounds in advance. On arriving at the stream "Old Jack" sounded his bugle, summoning the entire pack to assist him in working out the track of a bear that had been amusing himself during the night in fishing for salmon. The track was very cold, and in many places followed the bed of the stream, which made it extremely difficult to scent, but down, down the stream for many weary miles the dogs were followed until about two o'clock, when they left the bottom of the cañon and led the party up the side of a mountain and across a ridge, when they passed out of hearing. At this point it was found necessary to send the horses back to camp and proceed on foot in search of the lost hounds. Shefton and Clay kindly consented to return with the horses, while Standley (who had for four years been trying to bring Maxwell and a bear face to face). Maxwell and Shelton, followed in the wake of the fleeing bear. Up and down the mountain side, across cañons, over ridges, through brush, over logs - in fact, through the roughest kind of country known to man - the party followed the supposed direction taken by the pack until about five o'clock, and still no dogs could be heard. A consultation was then held, and as the distance in camp was about seven miles, and Maxwell (who, by the way is a school teacher and a good debater) being somewhat tired, persuaded the other to turn their faces toward camp, arguing that a bear that would not make to a tree in an eight hour chase was not worth any further exertion. The route to camp lay across a deep cañon and over a high ridge, and every step of the way covered with either fallen redwood trees, windfalls or dense underbrush; but they were compelled to traverse it as fast as possible, as they were without food or blankets, and a cold night rapidly coming on. So down the steep mountain side they pushed, Standley and Shelton in the lead and Maxwell plodding wearily along behind, every little while saying: "Don't go so fast, Boys; I'm getting tired. How far is it to camp now, boys?" They finally reached the bottom of the cañon, and refreshing themselves with a drink of cool water from the creek, commenced the ascent of the next

mountain, the side of which was almost perpendicular. M. again fell behind and was soon lost to sight, although when called by those in advance would feebly respond, "Yes, I'm coming." When Standley and Shelton reached the first knoll they made a halt to rest and permit their weary companion to overtake them, which he did in about twenty minutes, completely jaded. Another start was made, Standley in the lead and Shelton pulling M along by means of a stick reaching from one to the other and by this way the next half mile was made in very good time; but all at once M's dignity asserted itself, and dopping his end of the stick declared that he would not be pulled along by any man. The next quarter was traversed very slowly, and when a halt was made M. was about forty yards behind, and lying upon the ground and feebly articulating: "I'm gone up; let's camp," and there he expressed a determination to remain for the night. Darkness was fast approaching and unless greater speed was made during the remainder of the journey, the party was certain to spend a night in the redwoods without blankets and in an almost famished condition, which is a situation anything but pleasant in contemplate by those who have had experience of that kind. None but those who have experienced it can understand how utterly lonely and desolate is a man's situation who finds himself enveloped by darkness in the redwoods far from road or human habitation. By depicting the horrors of the situation and threats of leaving him in the woods, M. was finally induced in permit his companions to trail him along by means of no sticks, and it would seem that so assisted a man though he was half dead, ought to be able to travel a few miles without wasting a great deal of his vital forces; but not so, with M. for in getting over a large redwood but a short distance from the last resting place, he managed to get his legs across it, but the fleshy portion of his body settled down upon the log and stuck there and not withstanding the terrors of a cold night in a wilderness, surrounded by wild beasts was graphically portrayed to him, he remained obligate and would not move. He soon showed signs of drowsiness, and finding that a longer delay would imperil their own chances for reaching camp, his companions bade him good-bye and pushed on. After proceeding about fifty yards they halted and listened, thinking that possibly he might realize his situation and follow them, but no pleading voice or advancing footsteps fell upon their ears, and while they had many misgivings in their abandoning him, yet self-preservation and the fact that that was the only possible way left to rescue their worn-out companion, they decided to push on and reach camp themselves, if possible, and return with animals. With this humane thought in view they proceeded as rapidly as the contour of the country would permit, reaching the desired haven - a distance of about three miles from the spot where they had last seen M. at half past seven, weary, and very much torn and bruised with the brush through which they has passed. After refreshing themselves with a good lunch and hot coffee, three

horses were saddled, and with a supply of provisions for the lost man and a pickle jar with the bottom knocked out and a candle stuck in the neck for a lantern, the return and search for M. was commenced. With considerable difficulty the searching party at last reached a point within two hundred yards of the place where their weary companion had been left, when further progress with the animals was barred by the steepness of the mountain side. After dismounting, they commenced hallowing and were pleased to hear a prompt and anxious response. With some difficulty the remainder of the distance was made on foot and M. was found where he had been left. He saluted the boys with: "By golly, boys, I'm glad to see you. Your absence did not bother me at first, for I took a good nap, sleeping soundly until awakened with the cold. I then built a fire, and as I became warm, began to realize my situation, and wondered if I would ever again see Sherwood and my wife and little one, and I can assure you I am awful glad to see you." After voraciously disposing of a goodly supply of bread and meat and a pint of coffee (you can imagine how he would eat, having been without anything since daybreak, and in the meantime traveled over mountains and through chemisal brush for a distance of twenty miles), they started on their return to camp, which was reached at 11 p.m., all present and accounted for except two dogs. After M. had again refreshed himself with another, hearty supper, and all hands had enjoyed themselves with a good laugh at his expense, disgusted with himself and bear hunting, he rolled himself up in his blanket to dream of redwood logs, windmills, thick forests, steep mountains, brush, and other pleasant things incidednt to bear hunting. Thus ended their first day's hunt. A little incident occurred on the first night in camp which is probably worth reocrding. After making camp a party started out to bell some hogs at a corral about a quarter of a mile away, and on reaching the place it was discovered that the all-important bell had been forgotten and young Sefton volunteered to return to camp after it. Not returning within a reasonable time, and concluding that he had become lost in the darkness a searching party was started out, and in response to repeated calls his voice was heard in a northerly direction. He had missed his way, but had made the discovery and was returning when found. Had he become frightened and persisted in the course which he had taken, he would probably have brought up in Kibesiliah, a second hungry and worn-out Maxwell. The next morning all were up at break of day, ready for the morning meal and the day's sport, except M., and it required no little urging to get him up and dressed and at the table. He had apparently loss wit interest in the chase, and when Standley said: "Walter, don't be discouraged; the darkest hour is just before day. You must remember that enjoyment belongs to those who show themselves worthy," he responded, with a very sad look, "Boys, I'll go if I can ride a horse" The horse was soon prepared, and all, except Sefton, who was left to keep camp, started down the caflon in the direction of the Foster cabin.

When they had got within three hundred yards of the stream at the foot of the mountain, old "Joe" gave tongue to a warm track, and the entire pack was turned loose - seven in all - followed closely by young Clay, at which, M. straightened up in his saddle and he claimed: "By golly, boys, ain't that nice music?" The remainder of the party followed after, but were soon blockaded by fallen redwoods. The river was then crossed and further program on that side was also stopped by a deep ravine which put into the main river. They then climbed the side of the hill some distance and listened for the course of the bounds, which was found to be still up the stream, first on one side then on the other for about a mile, and finally out of the cañon and over a ridge, after which the sound was lost to all save Clay, who had kept close enough to the pack to note the change in the paving of the dogs as Bruin took to a tree. By proceeding to the ridge where the last sounds from the dogs had been heard the welcome sound of a tree bark and a prearranged yell from Clay was heard, and after persistent and hard work for about an hour, Mr. M. had the pleasure of seeing a yearling black bear wicking to a large first tree. The bear and M. eyed each other for minutes, when M. blushed and Bruin looked ashamed and turned his head away. M. was all excitement, and brought his gun to his shoulder to test his nerve, and announced himself as all right; but it was noted by the others that the gun shook considerably, occasioned, doubtless, by the excitement of the chase, and not, as has been suggested by some from the fact that he stood face to face with a veritable bear, which, if only wounded, in the conflict soon to take place, might prove a dangerous adversary. It was suggested, in order to be prudent, it might be well to rest for a few minutes before firing, which M. did, and in the meantime Standley and Clay took up a position at the root of the tree. At a given word M. drew sight upon the bear and fired, which only caused the animal to smile and ascend farther into the tree. Again the rifle cracked, and still Bruin maintained his position. By the time M. had become somewhat accustomed to the situation, and when next the report of his rifle was heard the bear let go his hold and fell to the ground among the dogs and was soon dispatched. The party immediately commenced preparations to dress his bearship, when M. modestly inquired if it could not be taken to camp as it was, so that he could send it to a taxidermist for mineral preservation. As this was not feasible, the skinning was proceeded with, and just as it was completed a noise was heard some forty yards above them, and on turning their heads a larger bear was seen climbing down a large redwood tree, and M. immediately opened fire, only causing the bear to climb to the very top of the tree. In looking at her ascend, a third bear was discovered perched upon a limb far up the same tree. Shooting then commenced from every member of the party, which soon brought the old bear to the ground badly wounded, and the third (a yearling) was instantly killed, having been shot through the brain. The

lively yelling of the dogs as they went down the cañon fighting the wounded bear, seemed to cheer the very soul of M., and he declared that it was the happiest moment of his life. The old bear soon took to another tree, and while Standley and Clay went to dispatch her Maxwell gave his attention to dressing the young one just killed. This ended the second and last day's hunt which resulted in the killing of a family of three bears - an old brown bear and two yearlings, one a jet black and the other of a cinnamon color. The two young ones were carried to camp while the old one was left where she was killed. The next morning M. chartered an Indian to carry his bear home and it was a very pleasant sight to see him and his Indian as they set out for the valley. I would like to tell you of the appearance of that gay cavalier and his Indian on their arrival in Sherwood valley and the description he gave to his wife of the hunt, but I have already taken too much space, and will only refer you to his companions for the particulars. A Subscriber."

February 3, 1882 - Ukiah Democrat & Dispatch reported that an ejectment suit in which Harrison Standley was plaintiff and George Stevens defendant, was tried in the Superior Court, last week, which resulted in a verdict for the defendant. The suit was important in that the land in controversy is with the boundaries of land claimed by Standley and has been used by him for years as a sheep range. Stevens filed a homestead upon it in the Land Office in San Francisco about two years ago, and has built a cabin, made fences and otherwise improved the property since that time, claiming a right to do so under the homestead laws of the United States. Following is the text of Judge McGarvey's decision, which was filed on the 28th ult: Plaintiff brings this action to recover possession of one hundred and sixty acres of land. The evidence shows it to be included within a much larger tract claimed by plaintiff to be in his actual possession by virtue of an inclosure, and which he claims to have used for pastoring stock for many years. It appears that L. R. Standley held the whole, in controversy, under a lease from the plaintiff; that while he so held it he induced the defendant to enter upon the land for the purpose of locating a homestead under the laws of the United States; that L. R. Standley pointed out to the defendant the land described in the complaint, and the defendant entered it as a homestead on the 25th day of April, 1880, and has been in the possession thereof ever since. It is claimed by the defendant's counsel that the defendant went upon said land and made homestead entry at the United States Land office with consent of plaintiff. This I do not believe, from the evidence, to be correct. I have no doubt but defendant entered into an agreement with L. R. Standley, by which agreement defendant was to remain on the land until he could obtain title from the government, then he was to convey the title to L. R. Standley upon the latter paying all the expenses, and paying the defendant one hundred dollars. Now, if the plaintiff had the possession of the land at the time he let it to L. R. Standley, it does seem to me there would be but little difficulty in disposing of this case, for there is no principle better settled than that a tenant cannot and will not be permitted to question his landlord's title, and any person that enters upon the leased premises, by permission of the tenant, is in no better position than was the tenant; nor does it seem to make any difference for what purpose the party may have gone on the land, he would have been stopped from questioning the landlord's title. The possession of a tenant is always the possession of his landlord, none can an adverse claimant who gets into possession of land, by tampering with the tenant, resist the landlord's claim where the tenant could not. (Taylor's Landlord and Tenant, See 507.) It is a well settled rule that neither the tenant or anyone claiming under him or admitted to possession by him could dispute the landlord's title. (Knight vs. Smith, 4 M. & M., 347, and Smith's Land and Tenant, p. 295, note). This brings us to the question as to whether the land in dispute

was in the possession of the plaintiff at the time he let the same to L. R. Standley. If he was, it seems to me that would settle the case in plaintiff's favor; if he was not, the he had nothing to lease to L. R. Standley for it will not be seriously contended that a man could lease as tract of land to which he had neither title, possession or right of possession. Again, I would say that if the plaintiff was in actual possession of the land, and it was government land, and the quality amounts to many hundred acres, and it was such land as might be taken as a homestead, yet the defendant would not be permitted, under the law as emunciated by the Supreme Court of the United States, and very recently by the Supreme Court of our own State, in initiate a homestead by entering upon the possessions of plaintiff against his consent. Had the plaintiff at the time of the ouster complained of such possession as will enable him to maintain this action? If he had it must have been by virtue of the larger tract of land having been inclosed so as to have reduced it to his dominion and control. It seems to me that on the northwest and south it was inclosed by fences and natural barriers, such as would be decined sufficient in law. This brings us to the eastern boundary of the larger tract which includes the land in controversy. It is claimed by plaintiff that the river forms his eastern boundary. At the time defendant entered the river was bankfull of water, and was a sufficient barrier in prevent stock of any kind from passing and repassing, and if the river had remained, as it was at the time of defendant's entry, I should not hesitate about ordering judgment for the plaintiff; but the evidence shows that during the summer and fall months there is but little water in the river, and is on obstruction whatever to stock of all kinds passing and repassing at pleasure. I am of the opinion that when the possession depends upon an enclosure, and a natural barrier is relied on, that such barrier must be of a permanent and lasting nature, and that the river was not such an obstruction as the law contemplates. I think the defendant is entitled to judgement, and it is so ordered. The case will undoubtedly to the Supreme Court for final adjudication.

February 17, 1882 - Ukiah Democrat & Dispatch reported that Will Standley, the 13 year old son of Ramey Standley, of Sanel township, received a painful though not dangerous wound in his left hand, on Friday morning last (February 10). Will and two other boys of about his own age met in front of the Odd Fellows' Hall, in Ukiah, and entered into a discussion of the merits of a pistol belonging to one of them. While in the hands of young Standley, the pistol was accidentally discharged, the ball passing through the palm of his left hand but fortunately injuring none of the bones. In addition to the bullet wound, the hand is badly powered-burnt, which causes it to be very painful. The injured member was dressed by Dr. Dozier, and is doing quite well. It is a matter of congratulations that the wound was no worse, and if it has

the effect to stop indiscriminate carrying of firearms by boys ranging in age from 10 to 20 years, this accident will prove a blessing in disguise, and we trust it will.

November 17, 1882 - Mendocino Dispatch & Democrat reported that J. M. Standley was elected Sheriff over M. T. Smith by a vote of 1,487 to 901.

March 2, 1883 - Mendocino Dispatch & Democrat reported that "Hancock", a four year old stallion of the Pilot Stock, property of Harrison Standley, will make his first season this year. He is a most promising young horse, having already taken county premiums as the best yearling, two-year old and three year old.

March 9, 1883 - Mendocino Dispatch & Democrat reported that Sheriff Standley has received two bloodhound pups, by express, last Sunday - a male and female - and he is now looking forward to the time then they will aid him to free his ranch of wild animals and the county of criminals.

March 24, 1883 - Sheriff Standley was in town Thursday on his return to Ukiah from Westport where he had been to recover two stolen horses. We learn that two horses were stolen from the ranch of Hon. Speaker LaRue, in Yolo County, by two fellows who then came across into this country with their booty. They swapped off one of the horses with John Remsted on the Hesser road (now known as the Low Gap Road) about eight miles this side of Ukiah, and the other, a fine animal, with Neils Jensen, the livery man in Westport, who paid them \$100 a boot. They made their way back into Lake County near Kelseyville got into a quarrel between themselves, and one killed the other. Two or three days later the body was found and near it the horse they got from Jensen was discovered roaming about with a saddle on. It appears that after the killing the survivor wrote to his victim's parents in Baltimore and confessed what he had done. They communicated with the authorities and thus the thing became known. A son and nephew of Mr. LaRue came over and, accompanied by Sheriff Standley, proceeded to Westport and recovered the horse there, and on their way back the other one from Remsted. Jensen's horse is said to be in Lake County and the murderer, who is yet at large, probably has Remsted's. (Fort Bragg Advocate & News, 100 years ago, March 24, 1883 - date unknown)

August 3, 1883 (Friday) - Mendocino Dispatch & Democrat reported that Sheriff Standley returned from Samedrin last Monday evening, where he had been in company with a party of Sacramentans enjoying a deer hunt. Each one killed his deer, but "Doc" captured six as his share of the sport.

August 17, 1883 - Mendocino Dispatch & Democrat reported "CAUGHT HIS MAN" On Thursday afternoon, August 9th, Sheriff

Standley received a telegram from Sheriff Brown, of Humboldt county, instructing him to arrest one Wm. Forsythe, who had murdered a Chinaman at Rhonerville. A reward of \$300 was offered for his capture and lodgment in any jail in the State. On Thursday night Forsythe arrived at Willits, in Little Lake valley, but before twenty-four hours had rolled away Standley was on his trail, and on Sunday morning, before the break of day, the murderer was prisoner, his capture having been effected while he was in bed at the residences of Eugene McPeak. Forsythe confesses that he killed the Chinaman, but claims the act was done in self-defense. It appears that the Chinaman had been doing Forsythe's washing for him, and had a bill against him for \$1.50, which he had endeavored to collect the day before he was killed. A dispute was the consequence of the effort, and hard words followed. The charge is, that Forsythe struck his victim on the head with a wheelspoke, killing him almost instantly, the blow having been dealt when the Chinaman was unaware of Forsythe's immediate presences. Forsythe claims that the Chinaman was watching for him, and had his hand on a pistol, in his hip pocket, when he struck him.

August 22, 1884 - Ukiah Democrat & Dispatch reported that a trip to Cloverdale by the editors last Sunday has revealed to them that Harrison Standley and his son Rama are engaged in erecting a comfortable two story residences on the home farm.

J. M. Standley, renominated for Sheriff, has made one of the very best officers the county has ever had in that position, as everybody knew he would be from the qualities he has displaced when serving as Deputy Sheriff, and in the ever memorable hunt after the noted Mendocino Outlaws. By faithful services he has earned a re-election, and the taxpayers will not be slow to award it to him.

January 30, 1886 - Day before yesterday morning, three miles north of Cloverdale, Sonoma County, California an attempt was made by one man to rob the south bound Ukiah stage. Sheriff Standley happened to be aboard with three prisoners, and order the driver, Hank Shaw not to stop which he coolly obeyed, when the robber fire one shot without effect. On arrival at Cloverdale, Standley immediately started a party in pursuit, made up of the following named persons: P. Shelford, Andy Allen, Sam Allen, William Fraser, and H. Groshong. They succeeded in getting ahead of the highway man on the Lakeport Road and caught him, arriving in Ukiah the with their prisoner at noon yesterday. He made a full confession, giving his name as John Martin, an English sailor aged 25 years, said his only objective was money being entirely impecunious had no intention of hurting anyone, and only fired to scare them.

November 2, 1886 - William Standley was elected Justice of the Peace for Ten Mile Township. (History of Mendocino County, Aurelius O. Carpenter, 1914)

December 10, 1886 - Harrison Standley died in Hopland, Mendocino County, California at the age of 72 years, 6 months, and 25 days. His body was buried in the Standley Plot, corner of Cedar and Camellia, Russian River Cemetery, Ukiah, California. His biography in the History of Mendocino County, (@1880, Ally Bowen & Co., Publishers) read "When three years of age, he, with his parents, moved to Howard county, Missouri, where they resided on a farm for sixteen years. They then moved to Clinton county, where they resided for five years; then to Andrew county, where they resided until 1850, he living twenty months of the last two years in St. Joseph, where he followed teaming.....then leaving his parents, crossed the plains to California, arriving at Hangtown August 13th of the above-mentioned year. After resting for a short time, he brought a team and engaged in teaming, which he followed until September 1852. He then returned via Panama, to Missouri, where he remained until April 1853, when he again started across the plains for California, bringing his family, and coming in company with twenty-three, all told, on the start, with an increase on the road of three by birth, making twenty six in all. They arrived at Sacramento in August. After spending a short time ther he proceeded to Petaluma, Sonoma County, where he built a house and settled down near where the "Revere House" now stands. He engaged in draying which he followed until 1858, when he came to Ukiah, Mendocino county, and established a store - the first store in the town having suspended. The first bill of goods received by Standley was on April 12, 1858. He conducted this business until September, 1859, during which time he sold \$33,000 worth of goods. During the summer of 1859 he built the "Ukiah House," which he opened about September 1st of that year. This he conducted until November 1860, when he traded it for the "Fountain House,"

located on the old road leading from Ukiah to Cloverdale, which he still owns. He has about fifteen hundred acres of land in connection with the house, which he has stocked with cattle, sheep and horses. Mr. Standley is of English descent; height, six feet three inches; always enjoyed hunting, such as bear and deer. His father died at the age of one hundred and fifteen years, and his mother at the age of seventy-seven; in her prime, she could stand with her feet in a half-bushel measure and shoulder three bushels of wheat.

December 10, 1886 - Rachel Emma (Standley) Fairbanks won a divorce from Thomas J. Fairbanks in her favor, Humbolt County. He would remarry on November 27, 1895 to Mrs. Mary Inghram, a widow, native of Missouri and resident of Oakland and aged 51. They would be married in Garberville by P. W. Coady.

June 24, 1887 - Mendocino Dispatch Democrat reported that school trustees elected within the county included J. M. Standley for Sanel and J. W. Standley for Sherwood Valley.

In 1888, Jeremiah "Doc" Standley was reelected sheriff of Mendocino County. He would serve until 1892. His political career ended with the protection of the Chinese at Fort Bragg, Mendocino County, California.

November 15, 1889 (Friday) - Mendocino Dispatch & Democrat reported that Sheriff Standley and Gardri Gibson started out last Monday on the annual tax collecting tour. We would like to insure them a kind and generous welcome from the people of the county, but we are afraid we would overreach ourselves doing so, and instead will ask that as much forbearance as possible be exhibited toward them. It ain't their fault that taxes are high.

July 28, 1890 (Monday) - Sheriff Standley and party returned from a three week hunt. Doc is a little disfigured, but he is still in the ring. (Mendocino Dispatch & Democrat, Friday, August 1, 1890)

August 15, 1890 - Editorial Note. "The people of Marin county want Standley to come down there and run for Sheriff; but Mendocino county can't spare him. When the San Quentin officials have any more escape convicts to catch; Mendocino county will loan them its crack sheriff to do the catching. Sheriff Standley has so thoroughly rid Mendocino county of cut-throats and sesperadoes that he is compelled to go into other sections of the State to run some down occasionally to keep himself in good practice."

Sheriff Standley returned home yesterday. He brought with him a fine Winchester rifle and belt of cartridges which he captured from the escaped San Quentin convicts. He will keep them as mementoes of the chase.

Sheriff Standley took two insane persons, Mrs. Horton and James Hansen to Agnews last Friday.

District Deputy Grand Matrol paid an official visit to Rose Chapter, O. E. S. of Ukiah. Among the local Kingsley Chapter present was Mrs. J. M. Standley.

(Mendocino Dispatch & Democrat, August 15, 1890)

December 11, 1891 - Mendocino Dispatch & Democrat, Editorial Notes, "Sleuth hound Standley is not more alliterative than it is suggestive. Stage robbing has become quite a resource of revenues to us up-in-this county. The robbers never get anything, and Sheriff Standley always, "ropes" in a thousand or fifteen hundred dollars in rewards on everyone of them."

June 26, 1891 - Mendocino Dispatch & Democrat reported that the Standley Ranch, south of Hoplan was sold by J. M. Standley, administrator of the estate of Harrison Standley, deceased last Saturday for \$12,120 to Mrs. Cooper of Santa Rosa.

May 13, 1892 - Mendocino Dispatch & Democrat reported that John Wiley Standley, of San Francisco, spent portions of Tuesday and Wednesday in Ukiah. John is now employee of the Omnibus Street Railroad Company, of San Francisco and doing fine.

October 24, 1896 - Valentine Roller and wife (Emma Standley Roller) have purchased the Rio Dell Hotel of John H. Brown. It was built in 1870. (Suzie Baker Foundation, Humboldt Room, Humboldt County Library)

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(Mendocino Dispatch & Democrat, August 15, 1890)

October 17, 1890 (Friday) - Mendocino Dispatch & Democrat reported "ANOTHER STAGE ROBBERY. Clever Capture of the Robber by Sheriff Standley. The Ukiah and Willits stage line seems to have become the favorite prey of stage robbers in Mendocino county, the stages on this line having been "held up" several times during the past few years. The latest occurrence of this kind happened last Sunday morning about 8 o'clock, on "Robber's Ridge," five miles south of Willits. The ridge takes its name from the frequency of stage robberies occurring in that particular locality a number of years ago. On Sunday morning, driver McDaniels started from Willits for Ukiah at the usual hour. There were no passengers on the stage. When spinning along through the woods on the ridge previously spoken of a lone highwayman well masked, stepped out from behind a tree and ordered McDaniels to halt. A pistol pointed directly at him was a pretty strong species of persuasion for Mac and he complied with the robber's request. He also responded to the order to throw out Wells, Fargo & Co's express box, and after doing this the robber ordered him to throw out the mail sacks. McDaniels informed him that the sacks were on the "boot" at the back of the stage and that he could get them there if he wanted them. The robber proceeded to the rear of the stage and began cutting the straps holding the sacks in. He had got pretty well along with his work when McDaniels who had resurrected an old pistol, turned around, raised himself up and took a shot at him; the bullet missed him and immediately the robber opened fire and shot at Mac., the bullet entering the stage; he pulled a second time but the pistol snapped. In the meantime the horses, becoming frightened at the shooting, galloped off and the robber jumped behind a tree. Reaching Angle's ranch, a couple of miles distant, the stage met Alex Montgomery and McDaniels informed him of the robbery. Alex immediately left with a couple of other men to the scene of the affray. Arriving there they found that the robber had smashed the lock on Wells, Fargo & Co's box and opened it, and had cut open most of this mail pouches. After a hurried examination of the state of affairs the party started in hot pursuit of the robber. Upon arrival of the stage in Ukiah just before noon, McDaniels related his adventure and in a very short time, shotgun messenger Ward, constable Carothers and Buck Montgomery started for Robber's Ridge and they were soon followed by Sheriff Standley. Upon his arrival at the scene of the affair, Sheriff Standley took a careful survey of the situation, and soon came to the conclusion that the highwayman was from San Francisco. Doc went to Willits and ascertained that a man who had come up on the stage with McDaniels on Saturday, had stopped over night at Crossley & Wells Hotel and had left early in the morning, saying that he had some business in the valley and would return soon as he wished to take stage north in the evening. Monday morning Standley came down to Ukiah and disappointed the people here by returning without his man. After dinner however, he quietly slid out of town on the train for San

Francisco, and almost before he was missed from our streets, Under Sheriff Weldon, received the following telegram from Cloverdale. "Got my man. Sure case." Standley. Sheriff Standley found a man answering the description of the person who stopped over night at the hotel at Willits, standing on the platform at the Cloverdale station ready to get on the train just as it pulled in from Ukiah. He had his ticket purchased for San Francisco. Standley nabbed him, and in a few minutes had him aboard the freight train for Ukiah. The prisoner made a full confession. He said his name was G. W. Cummings, that he was 21 years of age, and that he lived in San Francisco. After the disappearance of the stage after the shooting, he says he knocked open the express box and cut open the mail sacks securing from the former about \$11 and from the latter about \$86, all of which was found on his person, besides \$40 which he claimed was his own. He then divested himself of his mask and suit of clothes and tramped through the hills, arriving at Ukiah about 5 o'clock in the evening. He passed through town on a back street and entered the county road south of Isbell's flour mill, and continued on to Cloverdale. He was just twenty-six hours walking from Willits to Cloverdale and robbing the stage, and as eighteen miles of the journey was through the mountains he may be put down as a second Black Bart for walking. A member of our citizens visited the prisoner after he was placed in jail and he talked freely with them all, telling them the particulars of his stage robbing exploit. He did not seem to care in the least about his position, and his manner indicates that he is a pretty tough customer. He laughingly remarked to one of his visitors: "I made a mistake and got into the wrong county; I didn't know Standley was Sheriff here." On Tuesday Under Sheriff Weldon took the prisoner to San Francisco and turned him over to the United States authorities. He will be tried in the United States District Court for robbing the mail and as the Federal Courts deal very severely with such customers, Mr. Cummings will stand a pretty good show of receiving a life sentence."

May 8, 1891 (Friday) - Mendocino Dispatch & Democrat reported "AN IMPORTANT SALE. The Standley ranch, comprising 1970 acres of land, will be sold at public auction in front of the Court House in Ukiah on Saturday, June 20th. The land is situated three miles south of Hopland and ten miles north of Cloverdale on the line of the S.F. & N.P., Railroad--Fountain station being on the premises. The new Highland Springs and Squaw Rock wagon road, now in course of construction, connects with the railroad on this land. There are 200 acres of rich bottom land in the tract, 1000 acres of low rolling hills unexcelled for fruit land, and 700 acres of splendid grazing land. There are six living springs of water on the place, and Russian river runs through the entire ranch on the west side. There are good improvements on the property, and there is probably no tract of land in the county more suitable to be cut up into small tracts. The land must be sold to settle up the estate of Harrison Standley."

July 31, 1891 (Friday) - Mendocino Dispatch & Democrat reported "DANGEROUS CROOKS. Last January two men named Morgan and Hayes were tried in the superior Court here on the charge of having robbed a Chinaman at Gualala. Owing to the lack of evidence the jury found them not guilty. Sheriff Standley and District Attorney White were both convinced of their guilt however. In fact, Standley, who had been watching their movements for some time, was so impressed with the appearance of the men, and Margan especially, that he concluded to keep an yey on them after they left the county. A few months ago he lost track of them and recently began to look up the whereabouts of Morgan, who was the leader. As a result of his labors, he has located Mr. Morgan in Folsom Prison, having been sent to that place for 6 years from San Francisco last spring for burglary. Sheriff Standley has also discovered that Morgan was sent to San Quentin for threee years from San Diego in 1887 under the name of G. W. Woods. He had not been out of San Quentin many months before he came to Mendocino county in company with Hayes. Morgan and Hayes were arrested for an attempted burglary at Westport shortly before the Gualala affair, but no evidence could be found to convict them. After their acquittal in the Gualala scrape, Hayes confessed to certain parties that he and Morgan were the persons who attempted the Westport robbery. Our vigilant Sheriff kept so close a watch of their movements while they were here, and made it so hot for them, that they wisely struck out for pastures new. Morgan is a notorious crook, and had it not been for the warm reception given him here last winter, he and Hayes would no doubt had "busted" and robbed many a safe in Mendocino county."

June 26, 1891 - Mendocino Dispatch & Democrat reported that the Standley Ranch, south of Hopland was sold by J. M. Standley, administrator of the estate of Harrison Standley, deceased last Saturday for \$12,120 to Mrs. Cooper of Santa Rosa.

December 11, 1891 - Mendocino Dispatch & Democrat, Editorial Notes, "Sleuth hound Standley is not more alliterative than it is suggestive. Stage robbing has become quite a resource of revenues to us up-in-this county. The robbers never get anything, and Sheriff Standley always, "ropes" in a thousand or fifteen hundred dollars in rewards on everyone of them."

November 13, 1891 (Friday) - Mendocino Dispatch & Democrat reported "A MENDOCINO EX-SUPERVISOR IN TROUBLE" Henry Haas was booked at the Central Police Station yesterday afternoon by Captain Jules Callundan, of Morse's Patrol, on a charge of forgery. Haas came here a year and a half ago from Tulare, and needing money borrowed \$2,500 from the San Francisco Savings Union by representing himself as James D. Blair, of Tulare. He gave as security deeds of trust. Feeling that he had struck a rick lead, he went to the bank a few days later and obtained \$500 more from Cashier Lovell White of the same security. He spent the money gambling and might have been thousands of miles away from here had he not thought that he was safe from the detective. The forgery was not discovered until about a month ago, when a statement was sent to Blair, which included the \$3,000 loan. He at once denied the transaction and pronounced the deeds given in trust as forgeries. Captain Callundan took the case to hand and ran Haas down on California street yesterday afternoon. When arrested he had but \$30 on him. Haas admitted that he had obtained the money but declined to say what he had done with it. He is about thirty-four of age and is married - S.F. Examiner. It is generally believed in Ukiah that the injudicious gentleman refered to above is ex-Supervisor Haas of Mendocino county who left here several years ago. Since the above was put in type we have received the San Francisco Post which states that Haas was formerly a Supervisor of Mendocino county. It also states that Haas says he lost the money at horse racing and gambling. Sometime since Haas' wife, who is living on the coast of this county, commenced an action for divorce against him."

(Henry Haas' wife, the former Barbara Standley)

November 29, 1891 (Friday) - Mendocino Dispatch & Democrat reported "STAGE ROBBERY. The down stage from Willits to Ukiah was held up by a masked highwayman on the famous Robber's Ridge, about six miles south of Willits, last Sunday morning. The robber secured Wells Fargo & Co's box, but the mail was unmolested. Charles Lambert was driving the stage, and there were no passengers aboard. The robber disguised himself with a cloth mask and a long linen duster. He also wore some calico over his pants, and had his feet wrapped in gunnysacks. After the driver threw out the box the robber ordered him to drive on. Meeting Mr. Lawhead a couple of miles down the road he informed him of the robbery and the latter carried the news to Willits. Driver Lambert brought the news to Ukiah, and Sheriff Standley was soon on his way to the scene of the occurrence. He found the remains of a small camp fire a short distance from where the robbery took place, and not far off Wells Fargo & Co's box smashed open. Near the camp fire were some ribs of mutten which had been cooked and eaten, and following up this clue Standley went to Willits and found that a stranger had bought some ribs of mutten from the butcher shop there the day before. The man who bought the meat was a medium height, rather stem, and had a short full beard, apparently of several weeks' growth. Owing to the fact that the ground was frozen, and where not frozen it was very dry, no tracks of the robber could be discovered. The box contained nothing of any value, Express Agent Rogers of Willits, had intended to send down \$500 in coin, but for some reason was unable to do so, and postponed the shipment until the next day."

December 11, 1891 (Friday) - Mendocino Disptach & Democrat reported "HE CONFESSES. The Willits Stage Robber Tells the Story of his Crime. He Proves to be a Son of Joaquin Miller, the "Poet of the Sierras" --- Clever Detective Work. It is nearly a month now since the stage between Willits and Ukiah was held up by a masked highwayman. The Dispatch-Democrat has from week to week given its readers such information of the crime as has come to light except such portions, which, if made public might hamper the officers of the law in capturing the criminal, and securing the evidence for his conviction. We said last week that at the proper time we would give our readers the full particulars of the affair. In order to do this we will "begin at the beginning" and relate the story of the robbery and capture as it occurred. On the morning of November 15th last, at 8 o'clock, eighteen miles north of this place, while Charles Lambert, the driver of the overland stage was slowly making his way up the grade on his way to Ukiah, he was suddenly confronted by a masked man carrying a Ballard rifle. Without a word the man pointed the rifle at Lambert, and after eyeing him from head to foot, cried out in a firm tone: Halt!" "Why, you are joking," said Lambert, not fully convinced that the man really meant to rob him, his hands meanwhile pulling unsteadily on the reins. HE MEANT BUSINESS.

"No, I'm not joking; I mean business," said the masked man.

"Stop, and throw out that box."

Lambert speedily complied.

"Now throw out the mail bags."

"But they're down on the inside," replied the driver.

"Well, get down and get them out."

The Ballard rifle was "looking at him," and Mr. Lambert did not care to fool with it under the circumstances. He leaped to the ground, and started to reach around for the mail sacks. But as the wagon was on a steep incline, and the horses kept backing, he said:

"You'll either have to block the wheels, or let me drive to a level place."

"All right," said the masked man, "drive on a little ways!" Lambert leaped back to his seat on the coach. As he reached the crest of what is known as "Robber's Ridge," a couple of rods further on, and realized that the top of the coach protected his head, while there was a turn and a down grade in front of him, he plied the whip to his restless horses and soon got a good distance away, much to his relief. The unknown robber did not shoot at him, nor did he cry out for him to stop. Arriving in Ukiah, Lambert notified Sheriff Standley, who immediately started for the scene of the robbery. Before starting, however, he ascertained from Lambert that the robber was a tall man and that his disguise was a long mask of cheap blue calico, a drab duster, and that he wore heavy shoes known as "dagoes." Upon arriving at the scene of the robbery Standley found some foot tracks of the robber, but as the ground was very dry and hard he found great difficulty in following them, and soon darkness came upon him, and he proceeded to Willits. Some other parties took up the search for the box the next day and found it some distance from where the robbery took place. It had been chopped open. At Willits Standley learned that three strange men had been seen a few days before at that place. Two were elderly men and in search of work, while the third, who was a young man, did not ask for work, and apparently did not care whether he had it or not. The latter was an athletic young fellow, with a springy step, smooth face, and with semi-blond hair. Sheriff Standley also learned another thing that started him to thinking, and confirmed him in the belief that he was on the right trail. He found the farm house of John Rupe, a mile north of Willits, had been broken into and robbed on November 13th, two days before the stage had been stopped, and that a Ballard rifle, a blue calico dress, a drab colored duster, a butcher knife, and one or two other things had been stolen. Standley studied the matter over and concluded to strike south and see if he could find any clue to a man answering the description of this blonde young man, and without any delay he came back to Ukiah, arriving here at 3 o'clock Monday morning. From here he went to Hopland and after some inquiry he learned that a man named Joe McKay, answering the description of the suspected robber had worked for three weeks for Henry Willard cutting wood, and had left