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GARCIA KILLS THREE MORE REPUBLISHED 4.26.1934

NOVEMBER 1856

A posse of six men headed by Sheriff John Keating started for El Tucho. When they arrived there at dusk Keating and three men went in front of the house and Deputy Sheriff Joaquin De La Torre, Charles Layton and Jim Beckwith went to the rear. When Keating knocked at the front door the back door opened and out walked Garcia's wife with a young girl at her side. De La Torre said he wanted Garcia, and she stated he was not there. At that moment from behind her skirts jumped Garcia and he killed De La Torre instantly, and another shot dropped Layton and as Garcia grabbed Beckwith's horse he killed him. Garcia escaped into the night.

The killing of these five men within two days made a total of 11 who had died as a result of the Sanchez gold. The burial of these men in the Catholic cemetery at Monterey caused great excitement and Belcher's cause lost standing with the better class as everyone believed that he had hired Garcia to kill Wall and Williamson. All five men are buried near each other and the tomb stone over the grave of Tom Williamson can be seen today about 50 feet back of the tool house. It reads: "Murdered in Monterey County November 7, 1856."

James Wall, the brother of Isaac Wall, was a attorney in Salinas for many years, he having moved here when the county seat was changed from Monterey to Salinas in 1873.

Charles Layton was a young British soldier who had fought with the American army in Mexico and came to Monterey after the war with the famous 3rd artillery. He was keeper of the lighthouse which had just been erected at what is now Pacific Grove and loving a fight had gone with Sheriff Keating and his posse.

Beckwith was a recent arrival in Monterey and wanted to be in on the taking of such a famous murderer and cattle thief as Anastacia Garcia.

CONTINUED BELCHER-ROACH FEUD REPUBLISHED 4.27.1934

So far 11 men have been killed in the quest for the gold left by Jose Sanchez. In yesterday's chapter was told the cold blooded murder of Isaac Wall and Thomas Williamson on the upper Salinas river road and the next day the killing of three of the posse by Anastacio Garcia.

GARCIA HIDES IN LOS ANGELES

Anastacio Garcia after killing the five men went to Los Angeles and reorganized his "Manillas," stealing horses and cattle and selling them to the mines. In about a year letters began to arrive from Los Angeles to Garcia's wife who still lived at Tucho opposite Blanco on the river bank.

She came to Monterey with her children one day and made arrangements to go by boat to San Pedro. When she went aboard the boat Tom Clay, a school teacher, who afterward made a reputation for himself at Castroville, also sailed. By the time the boat reached San Pedro Mrs. Garcia had become friendly enough with Clay to ask him to get a team at a certain livery stables. At the same time showing him a letter with instructions to get to an adobe on La Brea Rancho which is now Beverly Hills section of Los Angeles.

Clay ask Mrs. Garcia to wait at the landing while he made arrangements for the team which would take several hours. Clay immediately got in touch with the Sheriff and when Mrs. Garcia saw her husband he was in the hands of officers taking him back to Monterey.

PROMISES TO LIBERATE GARCIA

On account of the feeling against Garcia for killing the men especially Isaac Wall and Tom Williamson, the feeling against him very intense. So he immediately got in touch with Bill Burns, who was Belcher's representative in Monterey while he was away. Garcia threatened to tell all he knew unless he was liberated. Burns, promised to bring a number of friends and let Garcia out of jail.

HANGED IN JAIL

That night several of his old friends and associates went to see him and being in collusion with the jailer, were admitted to his cell. Garcia was over joyed to see them, as he supposed that they were going to release him from prison. But his joy was only of momentary duration for they bound him with a lasso, throwing one end around a wooden beam in the old Colton Hall jail and the other end around his feet so that when they pulled on the rope it almost pulled his neck off, as they believed in the old adage "Dead men tell no tales."

The next day the jailer made his entry into the jail register, which is now at the Chief of police's office in Monterey. "Anastacio Garcia, charged with murder, found strangled in his cell this morning."

Garcia was the man who started Tiburcio Vasquez on his career of crime. Vasquez was but 14 years of age and was a frequenter of a fandango house where all the tough Californians hung out in Monterey. Vasquez was having a row with another Californian over a girl. Constable Hardimont was called and tried to separate the fighters. Both Vasquez and Garcia turned on Constable Hardimont and when they were through with him he had several knife thrusts in the heart. Both men were charged with the crime but were turned lose for lack of evidence.

MURDER OF BELCHER REPUBLISHED 4.28.1934

Lewis Belcher was a tall lithe man weighting over 200 pounds and knew no fear. All during the trouble with Roach when each with his gang of hired assasins was trying to get the drop on the other fellow, Belcher went every place while Roach kept in hiding.

To give an idea how he was hunted by his enemies, we will give two of the many stories of how he flirted with death every day. "Chevo" McDonald, an old time pioneer of Gilroy, who only died a few years ago, stated that when he arrived on a immigrant train from across the plains and had landed at San Joses in 1852. Belcher rode up to the train and tried to hire some of the grown men as a body guard as he was on his way from the mines to Monterey with gold dust. But the men all wanted to the gold mines so Belcher hired McDonald although he was but 16 years old. He and Belcher started toward Monterey and when near Uvas creek a mile or so past the present town of Gilroy, Belcher told McDonald that several times of late he had been shot at from the willows along the creek, which were several hundred yards wide at this time. In fact he had been shot in the leg and a horse killed under him. So they left the trail before they came in sight of the willows and cut across so that they reached them a half a mile below. Belcher told him to work up one side of the willows and he would go the other, because he said, "When in a fight beat the other fellow to it, never let him come to you because he'll have the drop on you."

So McDonald and Belcher separated and each worked along the edge of the willows. When near the road McDonald spotted two men standing holding rifles. So he let them have it, killing both of them. Hearing the report Belcher rode up, took a look at the men and said ,
"Your salary is raised from \$50 a month to \$100.

Another time Charles Edmundson, who was in a cattle buying partnership with Henry Miller, before he and Lux joined forces, went with Belcher to see some cattle on the San Francisquito Ranch above the Carmel valley. The team was very spirited and full of life. As they entered the heavy brush between Monterey and Carmel mission, Belcher told Edmundson: "Now any minute someone from behind these bushes is liable to take a crack at me and while they won't harm you this team will run away and as the country is so rough you are to be badly hurt, so the minute you hear a shot grab the lines as I don't want to see you hurt."

TO BE CONTINUED:

REFERENCE:

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