

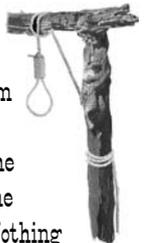


Carson City in 1876. A political banner hangs over the street for Democrat Samuel Tilden with Vice Presidential running mate Thomas Hendricks. As we know, Rutherford B. Hayes won the election. Until the Bush - Gore election in 2000, the Hayes election held the honors as the most fiercely disputed election in American history with what was considered a slim margin of 264,000 popular votes.

Chapter 3: Ormsby County - Carson City and vicinity

Of the early trappers and explorers, Kit Carson has left his name applied to the beautiful river that first greets the thirsty traveler from the East and points the way to the crossing of the Sierra, and of the early settlers, Ormsby leaves his name to the county. For many years the white strangers came and went, leaving but their tracks to tell of their passage. Some had

February [1859]. William Bilboa was shot and killed by Sam. Brown, the notorious desperado, in the streets at Carson City. Nothing was done with the murderer, although the act was a wanton





Steve Crandell Collection

There weren't many women around, but the ones that were there were in great demand. This is a wedding that took place in a camp along the Carson River in 1854.



July 1. Peter Fitzgerald, engineer of the Gould and Curry mine, had a street duel with Sam. Hamilton, a prize-ring sport. After the exchange, of numerous shots, Hamilton was fatally wounded.

tarried a few months, and a few localities in the valley were said to have been "settled," but the great emigration of 1849 — of preceding and later years was for California, and the beautiful valley of the Carson was still a wilderness.

In November, 1851, a party of men from the placer mines of California, seeking gold on the eastern slope, were attracted by the advantages offered for agriculture and trading purposes and located upon ground where now stands the city of Carson. These were Joseph and Frank Barnard, George Follensbee, A. J. Rolling, Frank and W. L. Hall. Killing an eagle on the spot, and preserving the stuffed skin as a trophy, which was used as a sign for their station, the place became known as Eagle Valley. This was the first settlement of the region under review. No government yet threw its protecting aegis over the county. The whole region was a part of Utah.

In 1857 the Mormons were summoned by Brigham Young to Salt Lake, which unreasonable and tyrannical behest the deluded and superstitious devotees of the Church obeyed, and their settlements in western Utah were abandoned or disposed of to any person offering any price. The same scenes and sacrifices enacted here were repeated wherever the Mormon Church had a "stake," in Utah, California or elsewhere. Those

of Eagle Valley went with the others, and the region was left with a new element. At this time a new man enters upon the scene. The following sketch of this person was published in the Carson Daily Index of March 20, 1881:—

Soon after a few Mormon families had ranches in Eagle Valley. As these people wore about to remove hence and return to Salt Lake, a man named John Mankin, whom the early settlers designate as an old pirate, mountaineer and frontiersman, purchased for a mere trifle the possessory right and became the owner or claimant of all the valley land lying between Nev-ers' Lane, extending to the hills north and south, and the now Prison Hot Springs. This man was a widower with four children, one a daughter named Mace, about twelve years old. With him lived also an Ute Indian boy named "Cap." They resided in a cabin then a little northwest of the present town site.

Mankin was a rough, passionate, illiterate fellow; given to quarreling with his neighbors. He was a splendid marksman with his rifle, which was his constant companion, and in his hands a dangerous weapon. His unpopularity caused some of the "boys" to plan a scare for him one night. Among the party were Jim Meniffee and Charles Wolfe. They might as well, as they discovered to their own fright, have attempted to catch a weasel asleep. They disappeared behind a log-fenced corral not an instant too soon to escape a bullet. Mankin was a broad-

The thin atmosphere seemed to carry healing to gunshot wounds, and therefore, to simply shoot your adversary through both lungs was a thing not likely to afford you any permanent satisfaction, for he would be nearly certain to be around looking for you within the month, and not with an opera glass, either.



Mark Twain, 1872

The Nevada State Prison (and Warm Springs on right) is located in Carson City. It is one of the oldest prisons still in operation in the United States. Established in 1862 when the Nevada Legislature purchased the Warm Springs Hotel and 20 acres of land for \$80,000, the prison has been in continuous operation since. Abraham Curry, who owned the hotel, was appointed as the first warden. Photo between 1862-1867.

