

CHAPTER ONE
POINT OF DEPARTURE



Figure 3.

"Establishing the Baseline to Magnetic North"
Photo by author on 9/27/2003.

CHAPTER ONE

PROJECT HISTORY AND PERSONNEL

This work is a site report of a test excavation with modest data recovery, undertaken at CA-TEH-2105H in the Acorn Hollow region, Tehama County, approximately 1 1/2 miles north of the Deer Creek drainage that empties into the Sacramento River. Provided is the analysis of the data collected therein, mostly during eight Saturdays, in the fall 2003 and winter 2004. The principal reason why this excavation took place was to test more about the resolute Indian fighter, Harmon “Hi” Augustus Good (1836-1870) and Hi Good’s involvement in the demise of Ishi’s culture, the southerly band of Yana Indians —the Yahi— which in pre-contact times were never over 300 individuals in number (Kroeber 1925:341; Burrill 2001:7).

Such an investigation would also afford a closer look at the life-ways and culture history of early stages of farming and ranching in eastern Tehama County, involving twenty test questions (themes) set amongst five predetermined research subheadings: (1) Yahi/Yana history versus Indian Adversary Hi Good, (2) Social-economic Organization (3) California Trails Histories, and (4) Technologies Development and (5) Environmental Issues. These are addressed in this report’s Chapter 2 “Historical Background” and summarized in Chapter 9 “Summary, Conclusions, and Recommendations.”

The study area, CA-TEH-2105H, has a dramatic and unique history worthy of study about Ishi and Indian/settler relations. As with many other stories of the west, truth gets distorted. The facts versus fiction deserve to be defined. The study area with Hi Good’s camp with cabin is believed to have involved the Ishi story. Can we glean more insights about the resolute Indian adversary Hi Good and what impact he had on the demise of Ishi’s Yahi/Yana tribe? What new insights and lessons relevant to the present can a thorough scientific excavation produce?

According to UC Berkeley Professor Thomas Waterman, who wrote the original Ishi story in 1918, the Yahi’s Five Bows “formality of surrendering their bows” occurred one night in the spring of 1870 at William Seagraves’ cabin (in Twentymile Hollow). The Indians’ formal truce was their attempt to win the release of their three females who Hi Good had captured two weeks earlier. According to Waterman’s (1918:58) informant named William Seagraves, he knew that the Indian females hostages were down at Hi Good’s camp. So in the night, Seagraves escorted “The whole party . . . down to Good’s cabin” (See archival data, Ch. 3 “Earliest Published Accounts”).

At Good’s camp, Hi Good’s lone shepherd boy, Indian Ned, was assigned to guard the three prisoners. Negotiations would last for over two months, long enough for the females to have befriended Indian Ned. But their release never happened. Indian Ned was “coming of age” as a man, when one day he discovered that the three females had disappeared. Waterman (1918:58) wrote about Hi Good: “He handed over the three to a man named Carter, living about a mile from Acorn Hollow.” Indian Ned and likely the older Indians of the tribe, may have judged the disappearance of the three as a violation. Was this not the motive for killing Hi Good? According to Hi Good’s cohort, Robert Anderson, who wrote *Fighting the Mill Creek Indians* (1909:84), Hi Good was “. . . returning near Acorn Hollow, a brush-sided ravine that puts out from the hills less than a mile north of Deer Creek.” About Indian Ned, Anderson(1909:83) added: “I have never had a doubt that he was influenced by the older Indians to turn traitor against the man [Hi Good] who had given him a home.” So, influence by the older Indians, Ned likely used Hi Good’s Henry and killed Good outright (see obituaries, pages 243-244). Three days later, Good’s body was found, and Indian Ned confessed that he was involved in killing Hi Good. The youth was tied to a limb of an oak, the “hanging tree” (see Figures 110 & 111). In retaliation, Sandy Young shot Indian Ned. Moak (1923:33) wrote: “They cut him loose [from the oak], and he died.” Moak (1923:33) added, “His bones lay there for two years Two young students from Colusa came and took the skeleton away” (See Figures 153 & 154).

About October 1, 2001 - This is about the time when Frances Leininger (born in 1925) gave the author two red bricks from the legendary Hi Good cabin flat. But where exactly was the flat? To answer this, Frances introduced the author to Vina property owners Mike Hamilton and Fred Hamilton on whose property the cabin once stood.

December 8, 2001, First visit. The project's history advanced significantly on one sunny winter's day, December 8, 2001, when property owner Mike Hamilton first drove this researcher east of Highway 99E, out through Acorn Hollow, and to see first hand the purported Hi Good Cabin site of legend, oral history, and in early published documents (see Ch. 3).

Upon walking out on the flat, more of the brick scatter, all that was left of an early cabin structure with chimney, were readily discernible. The author conducted a taped interview of Mike Hamilton and his family's recollections. Mike had learned about Hi Good when a young man working for Frances Leininger's late husband, Clarence Leininger (1919-1981). Mike cleaned ditches for him. Clarence Leininger told Mike lots of stories about this region where he had been reared. Clarence talked of Hi Good and Robert Anderson and the Moak brothers. Mike was told how the road that crosses the Hi Good flat was "the lower end of the Moak Trail."

Mike Hamilton shared that he collected gun cartridges, and with an old friend, who had long since passed away. His friend had a metal detector. Mike said, "One day we were working along the base of this oak tree here, and I found a case, now in my collection." [Later I was shown his collection which included two .56 .46 caliber bottle-necked cartridges, brass head case fragments, and one broken slug, ammunition for the Spencer Repeating Rifle. Their collection numbers referenced in this report are: MH #1, MH #4 and MH #5 (See Figures 281, 284 and 285 on pages 403-406).]

Also introduced to this author that day was that the Lassen Emigrants' Trail had several spurs, with one that passed along his home drive way. Mike explained, "Where I live here at the house, that was the Deer Creek crossing of the Peter Lassen. There's an historical landmark there" (This was subsequently confirmed by this author as Trails West marker #L-61. It reads: "En route to Benton City, October 4, 1849" [and] ". . . high prices at Deer Creek." (See Figures 58 and 115 of this report).

January 10, 2003 - One year later, the permissions to undertake a minimal archaeological investigation were secured on January 10, 2003, from all three property owners of the Hi Good Cabin location in Section 21: Fred Hamilton Jr., Mike Hamilton and Susan Hamilton Junge.

January 26, 2002 - Copies of three rare photographs were provided by Vina historian Frances Leininger for the author's research and books about Ishi (See Figures 108, 109 & 110 on pages 178-179).

April 10, 2003 - A preliminary second survey of the Hi Good site was undertaken. This time the author was joined by Dr. Eric Ritter, Joe Molter (ethnobotanist specialist with BLM), Mike Hamilton, and Pat Haver (friend and laborer for Mike Hamilton). Some initial collecting was undertaken. Collected were: (1) one gaff for salmon fishing that had been modified to form barbs (see Fig. 315 on page 434) (2) one head of a shovel (320-414), which was recovered from the adjacent Acorn Hollow's seasonal wash, and (3) one curved metal piece (320-622) that looked like it fastened the bail to the side of a bucket.

Mike Hamilton also shared that there had been two structures in the flat, not one. Mike Hamilton: "There was a line cabin down there on the lower side [of the wash] that was moved to here, dad said, and they moved it to here, in about 1928." [Mike Hamilton's father was Fred W. Hamilton Sr., who died in 1994.]

Could our scientific excavation determine when the cabin was constructed? From where the bricks were manufactured and transported? How long the Hi Good Cabin was used before it was completely gone? These questions for testing ultimately became part of this author's Research Project Design.

May 15, 2003 - I showed Roger Anderson from Minnesota and Bob Price the Hi Good site. Found with a metal detector was one primer bullet (.32 Winchester center fire) cartridge. On that visitation, Mike Hamilton loaned to this researcher his eight armament pieces that he had collected earlier at the Hi Good Cabin flat area. Close up photos were taken of them all by Bob Price (See photos in Ch. 5, II. Historic Artifacts C. Personal Group).

September 27, 2003 - Marked the first day of field work with students at the Hi Good site. We drove east from Vina, off Hwy 99E, in ten vehicles. Mike Hamilton joined us. Dr. Ritter stated before the group, "As far as I know, this site has never been officially documented as an archaeological site." Susan Oilar with the Mendocino National Forest Ranger District took on the task to secure the site's trinomial. [CA-TEH-2105H]. The site report, when complete, is submitted to the California Historical Resources Information System.

The datum point was placed. Metal detectors were used to determine the perimeters and most promising spots for excavating the area based on metal objects observed. Pin flags were placed, keeping with a color coding system, where ferrous objects were located. Each blue pin flag, for example, denoted "Brick."

October 4, 2003 - Feather River College students assisted this researcher in excavating Feature 1 "depression," filled with debris 0-48" (See below, Ch. 6, Feature 1). Students took dimensions and mapped the corral, manger w/ windmill complex (subsequently designated Feature 8.). That afternoon, Mike Hamilton and Pat Haver took this author by vehicle one mile northeast of the study area up the Moak's Trail into Section 15, and was shown the pile of foundation stones of a nondescript, early residence simply called "Sheep Camp" by the Vina locals.

November 8, 2003 - More metal detecting survey work was undertaken without collecting; all four quadrants were surveyed with additional pin flagging of locations where historic metal objects were identified. The workers excavated and collected from Feature 1 (depression) finishing the day at a depth of 60-72."

January 19, 2004 - The Project Research Design document was initially provided by this researcher with the themes (questions) for testing (see list on pages 22 and 23).

February 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2004 - Four Saturdays of excavating and collecting took place. The fieldwork was conducted by an enthusiastic, cooperative, and responsive team of 32 students from Feather River College and Shasta College.

On February 14, Darrell Mullins announced that the Tehama County Museum's accession number for the Hi Good Cabin site collection would be "320." It was explained that the first artifact specimen number would be numbered 320-001. The next, 320-002 et cetera.

Excavated were 5 1/2 units, each 5' x 5', resulting in the collecting of approximately 624 catalogued artifact specimens inclusive of non-artifactual faunal remains.

* * * * *

September 11, 2004 through July 2006 - The Tehama County Museum opened to the public an exhibit of a sampling of the Hi Good cabin artifacts. The exhibit was titled, "Bricks, Buttons & Bullets: Archaeology of an Early Sheep Camp." It has since been taken down. Photos of the exhibit have been preserved on CD by the Tehama County Museum. The Tehama County Museum is the repository of the complete assemblage, field notes, forms, photographs, and other records of the project. Contact: Head Curator Darrell Mullins of Tehama County Museum Foundation, 275 C Street Tehama, CA 96090. Information: (530) 384-2595.

February 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2007 - Six more Saturdays of excavating at the Hi Good Cabin site were led by Dr. Eric Ritter.

Four new units were excavated: 1S3E, 2S6W (with Feature 9 assigned, another Ashy Deposit identified), 5N9E and 6N1E.

April 5, 12 and 26, 2008 - Three more Saturday field classes were held at the Hi Good Cabin site.

4 1/2 additional units were excavated: 4N9E, 2S5W, N1/2 of 3N9E and 8S28E (thereabouts), the latter of which was designated Feature 10 (concentrated trash deposit, inclusive of large metal containers).

PERSONNEL DURING 2003-2004

My sincere appreciation for their field work at the Hi Good Cabin site goes to: Feather River College's Anthro 106 archaeology students: Susan Ferguson, Georgia Miles, Janice Newton, Roberta Palmer, Woody Palmer, Michael Peters and Pat Roughan; and to Dr. Eric W. Ritter's Shasta College archaeology students: Joyce Abbott, Sherry Melton, Martin Spannaus, Steve Puderbaugh, Greg Lybarger, Wayne Jobe, Carol Powers, Fran Munro, John Brooks, Dick Laughlin, Patrice Laughlin, Brie Hinke, Kjersti Cochran, Marty Culver, Daniel Culver, Jay Thompson, Linda Rose, Tricia Wisner, Kendra Madsen, and Dr. Vicki Philbin.

Walk-ons who also assisted were: Lyman "Pete" Moak, Wyatt Moak, Jerry Waybright, Steven Schoonover, John Rudderow and Dale Wangberg.

Special thanks goes to: Ms. Joyce Abbott who did most of the methodical and tedious cataloging; Richard Silverman who helped identify segments of the old Moak's Trail trail head that traverses the site; and Susan Oilar who was given the task of writing the archaeological "site record" to secure the site's trinomial. Susan accomplished this! Our site number became CA-TEH-2105H. Thanks also to Mr. Ed Clewett for providing his excellent cartographer / surveying skills; and curatorial help from Darrell Mullins and Anita Clampet with the Tehama County Museum. Board Member Jim Stephens, of the Tehama County Museum, visited and gave everyone his encouragements. Without all these actions, the completion and quality of this monograph would not be what it has become.

Consultation and specimen identifications expertise, is appreciated from: Cliff Moffitt (retired U.S. Military locksmith in Susanville). Dr. Frank Bayham provided preliminary faunal analysis, undertaken June 4, 2006 inside the Physical Anthropology Archaeozoology lab on the CSU Chico campus. Firearms identifications by Jim Wages (gunsmithing expert at Lassen Community College, Susanville) and R. H. Chamberlain of Flournoy, CA were stupendous. My appreciation to "Cee Ann" Ranberg-Coombs of the Tehama County Assessor's Office who answered several questions and found the 1859 map of the Lassen Township 25N, R1W. Special thanks goes to Vina historian, Frances V. Leininger for all her support, photos, and local history, and to the several others who provided their significant oral histories as well (see Ch. 2 VII Oral Histories). They were: Mike Hamilton, Fred Hamilton, Joe Aggi, Norman Leininger, Ed Hamilton Little, John Aulabaugh, Dr. Louis Charles Olker Jr., Fred Wikoff, and Jeff Lerch (see Ch. 6 Feature 8).

Help with photographs came from four other individuals: Dr. Eric W. Ritter (the aerial BLM map photographs and b & w photos of features); Susan Ferguson, Bob Price, and Roger Anderson. Janice Newton drew several of the catalog artifact illustrations and provided several penciled rubbings of embossed bottle designs and maker's marks.

Local newspaper coverage came early from C. Jerome Crow. "Shasta course to research, excavate parts of Hiram Good." (2004, January 20) *Red Bluff Daily News.*, p. 7A; Steve Schoonover. (2004, March 7). "Hunting For Hi Good." *Chico's Enterprise Record*, p. A1, with same story reprinted with other additional photographs on (2004, March 8). See also "Archaeology class probes Vina Site" (2004, May) *Red Bluff Daily News.*, p. 1A.

Lastly, it was a high point in this researcher's involvement to arrive at the Tehama County Museum's Jubilee back on September 11, 2004, and to first witness the nicely prepared exhibit titled, "Bricks, Buttons & Bullets: Archaeology of an Early Sheep Camp." Special appreciation for its preparation goes to Darrell Mullins, Jim Stevenson, Pam Britting, Annette Chavez, and their consultation assistance from Adrienne Scott with the Anthropology Museum, California State University, Chico.

REPORT ORGANIZATION

Chapter 1 provides (below) instructions for retrieving a particular specimen from the site's Catalog (copied onto the CD that is placed in the envelope in the inside back cover of this report). The outline by which the artifacts are classified (listed) may be read on pages 11-13 titled, "Historic Artifacts Analysis Categories."

Chapter 2 contains three maps of this site, CA-TEH-2105H and the Background History.

Chapter 3 contains the earliest archival (published) accounts about Hi Good.

Chapter 4 reviews the methods used for conducting historical research, those methods applied when observing and collecting in the field, and those method applied in the laboratory.

Chapter 5 provides interpretations for the artifacts found (Note: The total count of specimen numbers assigned from collecting during 2003 and 2004, came to 627).

Chapters 6 contains the eight site features' interpretations.

Chapter 7 includes the artifact dating determinations.

Chapter 8 addresses the data that affirmed Hi Good's sheep camp with cabin findings.

Chapter 9 summarizes all of the data in reference to the original Project Research Design's twenty test questions. This researcher's recommendations for future research close out the report.

Returning to the site's features (Ch. 6), this researcher along with principal colleague Dr. Eric Ritter, on April 10, 2003, concurred that initially four features merited investigating. Feature 1 was a possible well site, which generically for this report is described as the "depression." The depression, when first observed, was filled with ranching refuse. In the beginning, this researcher was confident that its stratigraphy would reveal a chronology of events. Do we have an early hand dug well or root cellar or privy?

The visible brick scatter on the flat surface, when compared with the one-of-a-kind historic 1920 photograph of the purported Hi Good Cabin, suggested that this was the early cabin structure's collapsed chimney (Feature 2). Could we tell where the brick came from? Is there data that can tell us when the structure collapsed?

A second "brick phenomenon," a curiosity really, called the brick alignment that was observed exposed in the middle of the access road that traversed the flat was assigned Feature 3.

The ranch road that traverses the site was designated Feature 4. What was the history of this road? Could its use be determined by artifacts found in and along its course? While the 1985 quad-angle map for "Acorn Hollow" gave the road the status of a "4WD" road, owner Mike Hamilton asserted that his ranch road was the lower end of the "Moak Trail." Could the history behind its place name be determined?

Feature 5 was a collapsed structure observed on a subsequent visit to the site; several mill lumber boards that lay underneath the blue oak.

Two ashy deposits were observed in the course of excavating units 4N10E (Feature 6) and 6N2E E1/2 (Feature 7).

Lastly, this author assigned Feature 8 for the entire corral, feed shed, with windmill complex. One artifact, 320-412, a welded aluminum canteen of mysterious origin was collected in Feature 8.

Categories Outline —With 627 specimens assigned during 2003 and 2004, a "Categories Outline" instrument (see below) called the "Historic Artifacts Analysis Categories" was what this researcher followed to best group the artifacts by types, functions, and activities. The Categories Outline's five divisions are:

- A Kitchen Group
- B Personal Group
- C Architectural/Structural Group
- D Industrial Group).
- E Other

One Catalog —The Catalog (for the diagnostic prehistoric and historic artifacts) follows the “outline” (see below). The firearms/armaments are listed on pages 401-402 and repeated in the Catalog.

How to find a particular artifact —The “map” for finding any artifact from the Catalog is the outline (below) titled, “Historic Artifacts Analysis Categories.” For instance, to see whether there are any established button styles that were used by U.S. soldiers, read through the outline down to B. Personal Group. Then to 4. Clothing and Accoutrements. Then to b. Buttons & snaps. The respective page number is given in the Catalog.

Sample Entry

<u>Specimen Number</u>	<u>Horizontal Provenience</u>	<u>Depth</u>	<u>Description</u>
320-157 ¹	4N10 ²	0-6” ³	Button (metal) ⁴ w/ Sander’s shank Width 1/2”

Comments: This shank is called the two-piece Sander’s type. Its style dates to circa 1830-present (Atkison 2002:4.8). This is also the shank style exclusively used by the U.S. military (Adkison 2002:5.1).

Defining sections:

- 1 - The number #157, is the catalog number assigned to this particular artifact. Its preceding number, 320, is the museum’s accession number used for all of the Hi Good Cabin site collection (CA-TEH-2105H) available for study (by appointment) at the Tehama County Museum, Tehama, CA.
- 2 - 4N10E IS the 5’ x 5’ unit (square) from which this metal button artifact was excavated and collected. In this case, the button was found in the 5’ x 5’ square, 4 north and 10 east of the datum (20 feet north and 50 feet east from the datum.)
- 3 - 0-6” IS how deep (in inches) from the ground surface that the artifact was observed and collected, i. e., This button surface at which the button was found was no deeper than six inches b. s. (bottom surface).
- 4 - Provided is a brief description of what the artifact is interpreted to be (at this time), inclusive of what it appears to be made of, its type perhaps, its measurements, and sometimes with a qualification (indefinite, undiagnostic, undistinguished, unidentified). From Comments the fact that this button with shank was exclusively used by the U.S. military was provided. The source for this fact, Adkison 2002, is listed in this report’s Bibliography.

HISTORIC ARTIFACTS ANALYSIS CATEGORIES

<u>Subject/Type</u>	<u>Page Number(s)</u> (see Catalog)
A. KITCHEN GROUP	
1. Food Containers	
a. Tin cans	
b. Glass food containers (i.e. fruit jars, lids/ condiment bottles/mustard jars/etc.)	
c. Other	
2. Kitchenware	
a. Pots/pans/kettles	
b. Kitchen equipment (i.e. ladles/sifters/cleavers etc.).	
c. Iron cooking stove parts and Accessories	
d. Other	
3. Tableware	
a. Knives/forks/spoons	
b. Ceramic dishes/plates/bowls	
c. Ceramic drinking cups/bowls	
d. Ceramic serving plates/bowls	
e. Tin plates/cups/bowls	
f. Enamelware	
g. Drinking glasses (non-alcohol related)	
h. Glass pitchers/serving vessels	
i. Other	
4. Food Remains	
a. Faunal Remains	
b. Other	
B. PERSONAL GROUP	
1. Indulgences: Liquor and Drugs	
a. Whiskey/Whisky/hard liquor bottles	
b. Ale/beer cans or bottles	
c. Wine & champagne bottles	
d. Ceramic containers	
e. Liquor drinking glasses (shot glasses or wine glasses)	
f. Drugs	
g. Other	
2. Indulgences: Tobacco	
a. Tobacco tins/containers	
b. Smoking pipes	
c. Chewing tobacco/snuff & other containers	
d. Other	

-continued- PERSONAL GROUP

3. Health and Cosmetic
 - a. Medicine/Apothecary bottles
 - b. Soda/Mineral water bottles
 - c. Grooming (includes combs, shaving, hair tonic bottles)
 - d. Perfume bottles/vials
 - e. Mirrors
 - f. Other (Animal husbandry e.g. Vaccination bottles)

4. Clothing and Accoutrements
 - a. Ornamentation/jewelry
 - b. Buttons & snaps
 - c. Buckles (shirt snaps/suspenders)
 - d. Shoes/Boots
 - e. Other Clothing Parts (Eyelets/Grommets/Material)
 - f. Sewing
 - g. Other

5. Personal
 - a. Toys/Games
 - b. Medals/Souvenirs
 - c. Luggage/Trunks/Cases
 - d. Writing/ink containers
 - e. Money
 - f. Other (Includes watches/eye glasses/etc.)

6. Firearms (Armaments)
 - a. Guns/gun parts
 - b. Shells/Bullets
 - c. Lead shot
 - d. Black powder containers
 - e. Other

C. ARCHITECTURAL/STRUCTURAL GROUP

1. Construction Hardware
 - a. Hand wrought nails
 - b. Square/Cut nails
 - c. Round/Wire (modern) nails
 - d. Spikes/large Nails (6" and up)
 - e. Wood screws (machine screws)
 - f. Nuts/Bolts/Washers
 - g. Tacks/Staples
 - h. Wire (barbed, baling wire etc.)
 - i. Other

2. Construction Materials
 - a. Wood
 - b. Sheet tin/corrugated tin
 - c. Brick & Mortar
 - d. Canvas/eyelets
 - e. Window glass
 - f. Hinges/latches/doorknobs
 - g. Other

-continued - ARCHITECTURAL/STRUCTURAL GROUP

3. Furniture/Housewares
 - a. Lamps
 - b. Tables/Chairs, etc.
 - c. Appliances (Brooms/Fireplace Equip./Clocks/etc.
 - d. Other

D. INDUSTRIAL GROUP

1. Blacksmithing
 - a. Horse tack (harness buckles etc.)
 - b. Wagon/Buggy parts
 - c. Blacksmith tools (anvils etc.)
2. Tools and Machinery (Mining Related)
 - a. Tools (picks/shovels/mining pans/slucice parts/etc.)
 - b. Scales and Weights/assay equipment
 - c. Machinery (reduction equipment etc.)
 - d. Other
3. Tools and Machinery (Other)
 - a. Tools (hammers/saws/files/etc.)
 - b. Machinery
 - c. Other
4. General Industry
 - a. Chemical/poison containers
 - b. Paint/varnish containers
 - c. Other

E. OTHER

1. Metal
 - a. Tin
 - b. Iron
 - c. Lead
 - d. Other
2. Wood & Charcoal)
3. Glass
 - a. Bottle
 - b. Other
4. Ceramic
5. Rubber
6. Plastics/Bakelite/etc.
7. Other

