

**HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL
INVESTIGATIONS OF THE HI GOOD CABIN SITE,
CA-TEH-2105H**



TEHAMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

By Richard Burrill

Prepared for the Tehama County Museum
and
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Prepared by
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1. Archaeology 2. Tehama County 3. Ishi 4. Harmon A. Good

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DEDICATION

This report is dedicated to Norman Leininger of Vina, Tehama County, California, who succumbed on September 2, 2005.



Figure 1.
Norman Leininger during December 20, 2003, interview session
with the author. Photo by Chris Leininger.



Figure 2.
Vicinity of Hi Good Cabin site with early sheep camp.
Photograph taken by author on May 13, 2004.

ABSTRACT

The Hi Good Cabin site (CA-TEH-2105H) is located on a flat on the north side of a seasonal wash called Acorn Hollow approximately four miles northeast of Highway 99E and the community of Vina, Tehama County. Features on the flat include the remains of two early dwellings and one contemporary feed shed with windmill and corral complex.

The site underwent preliminary excavation during 2003-2004, and resumed in 2007-2008. A modest amount of data was recovered. Nevertheless, the work presented an opportunity to make historical and anthropological inquiries into the life-ways of early ranching and farming in Tehama County. Site-related research centered on five themes: technological development, social-economic organization, California trails history, multi-ethnic cultural issues, and environmental issues.

The Problem. Pioneer Harmon Augustus Good was living at his sheep camp operation in Acorn Hollow, with his ranch headquarters about 1 1/2 miles south, along the Deer Creek drainage. The sheep camp's operations were purportedly under Good's control from late 1866 until his murder in May, 1870. Does CA-TEH-2105H represent a part of Good's sheep operation with early cabin? Also, according to data collected in 1915 by University of California, Berkeley's anthropology professor Thomas T. Waterman, the site may be the locus of sightings of Ishi when he was about sixteen years old. Ishi was a native famed as among the last of the Yahi. The Ishi sightings occurred before and during the failed surrender negotiations called "The Five Bows."

Research goals included new understandings of early sheep operators, their land use, and the reliability of Ishi saga events. Special effort has been made to show the relevancy of recovered data to the needs of the present day.

Consider these early published references that help identify the location of Hi Good's sheep camp with rough cabin where Good was living at the time, during 1866-1870:

- In 1870, Simeon Moak (1923:32) wrote: "Good lived in Acorn Hollow at this time and had a fine ranch and garden on Deer Creek about one mile and a half south."

- Waterman (1918:58) wrote about the Five Bows presentation in 1870, "These are about five feet long, and so strong that Segraves cannot unbend them. "The whole party are taken down to Good's cabin; but he is away in Tehama."

- Daniel Delaney (1872) wrote: "They killed several and took two prisoners, two mahalas. These females were held as hostages at Good's camp for weeks, guarded by the Captain's Indian boy, whom he had raised, and who, for years, acted as his herder, and boy of all business."

- Dan Delaney (1872) wrote about Hi Good that he was ". . . odd in his selection of a home, locating it where nature assumed her simplest character, amid hill and plain, free from culture, unvarnished and unimproved, existing in native simplicity and grandeur."

- Simeon Moak (1923:32) wrote: "All went well until the spring of 1870. On the 27th of April Good . . . left on a prospecting trip When they started, Good told the Indian that he did not need to herd the sheep . . . and for him to stay about the camp and do the cooking."

- The "Yahi Territory" map in Theodora Kroeber's *Ishi In Two Worlds* (1961:44) shows Hi Good's place north of Deer Creek. She (1961:85) described "Hiram Good's place in Acorn Hollow."

- Thomas T. Waterman's research index card [p. 25] preserved at the Bancroft Library reads, in part, "Good was murdered by Indian boy 1/2 mile from cabin, dragged with lasso feet first and buried under some rocks."

- Journalist, teacher and public school principal Herbert H. Sauber (b. July 20, 1870 - d. Jan. 25, 1940), proclaimed that "Hi Good "was the Boone of the Sierra" (Sauber 1897). And "I found out nothing of his early history, when he came, or why he erected his rude cabin in that particular spot." (Underscore mine). Sauber (1897) also added, "Living alone on Dry Creek* within two miles of the black gorge which discharged the sullen waters of Mill Creek* into the broad Valley, he towered like a lone, but trusty sentinel."

* "Dry Creek" used here, invariably refers here to Acorn Hollow's seasonal wash. Also in the above, Sauber confused "Mill Creek" for Deer Creek.