

THOMAS WHITLOCK - DEPUTY SHERIFF

Robbers Captured -- On Tuesday, Feb. 7th,[1882]the coast Line Stage was robbed in the southern part of Monterey County. On the 9th, one mare, 3 bridles and 1 saddle were stolen from the Peach Tree Ranch. On Saturday night 3 horses and 2 saddle were stolen from E.J. BREEN. Yesterday, about noon, Chas. AULL, Wells Fargo and Co.'s detective, L.C. DAVIS, Deputy Sheriff of Merced Co. and Thomas WHITLOCK, Deputy Sheriff of Fresno Co., brought into town the 2 robbers, Frank ROLFE and Jo HAMPTON; the highwaymen who stopped the stage near Chinese Camp, Tuolumne Co., just 3 weeks ago. The robbers have been pursued constantly since the robbery by G. McQUAD, Undersheriff of Tuolumne, A.J. MEANEY, Sheriff of Merced, and H.W. FRENCH, Deputy of Merced, until they entered Fresno Co., when the trail was lost, and the officers unable to trace them further, gave up the chase. On last Friday, word was sent to Deputy Sheriff WHITLOCK that the robbers were seen 4 miles east of Buchanan, Fresno Co., he at once telegraphed Capt. AULL, at Modesto, who had, however, got wind of his men and was on the move, arriving in Fresno city day before yesterday. Preparations being made, Detective AULL, in company with L.C. DAVIS and Thos. WHITLOCK, left Fresno city yesterday morning in pursuit of the robbers. They were informed that they had crossed the river Monday morning, and were traveling in this direction. They stopped at Wiggle Tail station last night, and this morning got into the wagon of Ezra PULLEN who was coming to Hollister. The officers passed the above named station about 30 minutes later, and in a short time came in sight to dash upon, then gradually, and without exciting any suspicion. Thus they traveled for many miles, until getting within 20 yards of them, when detective AULL ordered Mr. PULLEN to halt, and all hands up. At first it was thought to be a joke, but upon the second order it assumed a more serious aspect, and the order was obeyed. Mr. PULLEN, getting out and holding the horses, while the fire-arms, consisting of 2 revolvers, 1 shot gun, 2 knives and a rifle, were taken possession of. They all then started for this place arriving here yesterday morning having captured the highwaymen 250 miles from the scene of the robbery. The race was an exciting one, and was not without its dangers. Yesterday morning about 2 o'clock, when about 1 mile above MERCY's, on Little Panoche, the night being dark and showery, the buggy, team and all, were precipitated down a precipice over 12 feet high, completely demolishing the buggy and harness; Capt. AULL receiving a painful injury to his left knee, and Deputy WHITLOCK received injuries on the head, and right side. It was a very lucky escape. The officers are men of nerve and are deserving of the confidence of the law abiding people of the state, for having so persistently followed the law breakers, until captured. The prisoners will be taken to San Francisco today.

This appears to be an extract from a Newspaper article. I have not figured out which Thomas Whitlock this is but we do have one other reference to him that does give us some clues. In the *Ash Tree Echo* Vol.18:2 p.90 is mention of the Great Register of Fresno, California. This lists Thomas Whitlock, carpenter age 56 born New Jersey. Unfortunately no year is given so I have not been able to put a year of birth on this yet. There are also no Whitlocks living in Fresno Co., California showing in our census records either so no help there either. If anyone knows the origins of this Thomas Whitlock I would be pleased to learn more about him.

Sources: X236; X4847

Our thanks to Chuck Rockett for this item.