

The Daily Examiner.

The Inyo Earthquake [of March 26th] Terrible Scenes – Probably 30 Killed and One Hundred Wounded Shocks Continuing on Thursday – Etc – Etc.

April 1, 1872
The San Francisco *Examiner*

VISALIA, March 30. – From Colonel Whipple, who has just arrived by stage from Lone Pine, we learn the following particulars of the terrible earthquake which visited that section on the 26th instant: About half-past two A.M, the inhabitants of Lone Pine were awakened by a loud explosion, followed by a terrible upheaval and shaking of the earth from south to north.

IN AN INSTANT THE WHOLE TOWN WAS IN RUINS, not a building being let standing. Colonel Whipple, who was in the second story of an adobe house, states that he had just time to jump from his bed and get to the doorway, when the house appeared to crumble to pieces beneath him, and he was buried among the ruins. He succeeded in extricating himself from the debris, suffering from several painful but not dangerous wounds. The scene which ensued beggars description. Screams and groans rent the air in all directions.

NEARLY THE WHOLE POPULACE OF THE TOW WAS BURIED BENEATH THE RUINS

Cries for help and screams of pain from the wounded filled the air, while from the ruins those who escaped were calling for help to rescue fathers, brothers, wives and children, which were agonizing to hear. The first shock was followed in quick succession by three others.

OVER THREE HUNDRED DISTINCT SHOCKS were felt between half-past two o'clock and sunrise; in fact the earth was in a constant shake and tremble for over three hours. A chasm was opened extending thirty-five miles down the valley, ranging from three inches to forty feet in width. Rocks were torn from their places and rolled down into the valley. Everywhere through the valley are seen evidences of the terrible convulsion of nature.

LIST OF THE KILLED

Jules Madelon, aged 45 years, native of France
George Jocelyn, aged 40 years, native of California
Louisa Muntninger, infant
Alice Mayson, aged 10 years, California
Francisco Lopez, 35 years, Mexico
Jose Maria Ravilla, 50 years, Mexico
J. Montarin, 60 years, France
Miss Lucy, 35, Islands
Lorenza Mesa, 64, Mexico
John D. Yesela, 42, Chili

Antonio Montoye, 26, Mexico
Maria Cordok Terracon, 22, Mexico
Dolores Tarrason, 8, California
Louisa Tarracon, 7, California
Antone Terrascon, infant, California
Philomel Henriques, 4, California
Alberto Henriques, 2, California
Tolinasday Tapito, 60, Chili
Mr. Gray, 42 years, Texas
Ignacio Cordova, 47 years, Mexico

INJURED

F. Austin Baddie,
Thos. Gardner,
Mr. Burkhardt,
Mrs. Burkhardt,
Mr. McCall,
Miss McCall
R. A. Loomis
D. P. Carter
Miss Timburt
Mrs. N. Reddy
C. Cohn
Mrs. Jose Aline
Mrs. Califf
Miss Califf
Colonel Whipple
J. Mankind Burton
James Jourle
G. Prancierro
M. E. Culiup and three children
T. B. Larrien
F. Murphy
Andrew Lumas
P. Corvantas
S. Munez
L Parca
J Cordoba
R. Tarracon

CERRO GORDO WAS BADLY DAMAGED
many buildings cracked, and some few thrown down – no persons badly injured.

SWANSEA WAS ALSO TOTALLY DESTROYED:

building all down to the ground, and furnaces all thrown down. Col. Tregallas, of the Swansea works, was killed. No other casualty reported as yet. The Superintendent of the Swansea Company sent twenty men to Lone Pine, and sixteen were sent from Cerro Gordo, to assist in extricating the bodies from the ruins.

LONE PINE THE CENTRE OF COMMOTION

All accounts agree in placing Lone Pine over the centre of commotion. Before each shock an explosion could be heard which sounded immediately beneath the feet. Over six hundred distinct shock were felt within fifty-eight hours after the first.

DESTITUTION

There is much destitution among the inhabitants of Lone Pine and vicinity, many having lost all but life. Col. Whipple was selected to proceed to San Francisco for the purpose of procuring aid fro the destitute.

CONTINUED SHOCKS

Several distinct shocks were felt in this city last night, and are still coming from the southeast. Persons anticipate finding of immense chasms in the mountains east of us as soon as the snow disappears enough to admit of investigation. In the vicinity of Mount Whitney residents describe the explosion as of a park of heavy artillery fired immediately beneath their feet, which run along the mountain range, north and south, until lost in the distance. Rumors of a volcano in active operation being seen from the summit of Greenhood mountain, sixty miles southeast of here, are in circulation, but their authenticity is considered at least dubious. The Indians in that vicinity have all left, fearing the recurrence of a general convulsion of nature, which, according to tradition, occurred there some hundreds of years ago, and created what is now known as Owens River Valley, but what was before a chain of mountains.

VISALIA, March 30. – We learn the following additional particulars of the great earthquake in Owens River Valley, from private letters received here this evening:

At Independence, one man was killed, and many persons more or less injured. The buildings were all badly strained and cracked, and chimneys and walls thrown down. Goods were pitched from the shelves in stores, and everything breakable dashed to pieces.

Some few buildings were prostrated at Fort Independence. A child was killed, and several persons wounded. Walls and chimneys were thrown down.

ADOBE AND BRICK BUILDINGS DESTROYED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY

The Exchange Hotel, Court House, Harris & Rhine's store and John Broder's residence were among the larger buildings totally destroyed at Independence. It is estimated that over 200 buildings were thrown down in all. Not one adobe or brick building is supposed to have escaped destruction, throughout the whole county of Inyo.

ONE THOUSAND DISTINCT SHOCKS

Up to Wednesday morning fully one thousand distinct shocks were felt. At Tibbet's Ranch, fifteen miles above Independence, about forty acres of ground sank about seven feet below the surface of the surrounding country.

Big Owens Lake has risen four feet since the first shock.

Owens River ran over its banks, depositing shoals of fish on shore; afterward it receded. For a distance of three or four miles, through Lone Pine, the earth is cracked. One side remained stationary, while the other sank seven or eight feet, leaving a wall of earth extending over three miles in length where formerly was a level plain. Innumerable cracks were made throughout the valley.

Kern and Owens Rivers turned and ran up stream for several minutes, leaving their beds dry; finally they returned with largely increased volumes of water.

In the store of Cohen & Brother, at Lone Pine, one brother who succeeded in escaping from the building before it fell was badly injured, while the other was buried beneath the ruins, but was rescued uninjured.

FIRE

A fire broke out in the wreck of the store of Mr. Loomis, under which was a large quantity of powder, but many persons worked manfully to subdue the flames at the peril of their lives, and finally succeeded in extinguishing the fire and getting it to a place of safety.

Some of the shocks were preceded by a deafening report, as though the mountains were being rent in two, while others were accompanied by a low, continuous rumble, as of a train of cars running underground. None of the sufferers ever experienced anything so frightful in all their earthquake experience.

CONTINUED SHOCKS

At the latest accounts (Thursday morning) the explosions and heavings still continue, though not so violently.

THE VOLCANO

A gentleman from Independence asserts that the smoke and ashes from a volcano could be distinctly seen from that town, and that word had been brought there that lava was running down the sides of the mountain. This is considered unreliable here, but we give it for what it is worth.

The most correct estimates place the number of killed at less than thirty, while the wounded will probably foot up a hundred.

AID FOR THE DESTITUTE

Subscriptions of money, food and building materials are earnestly solicited for the sufferers.

Since 3 o'clock P.M. over five hundred dollars have been collected on the streets of this city. A public meeting is called for this evening for the purpose of further aiding the movement for relief. Subscriptions are to be sent to F. H. Burroughs, Chairman of the Relief Committee, Lone Pine.

Colonel Whipple himself is a severe sufferer, both financially and bodily, and will proceed to San Francisco by Monday's train, for the purpose of enlisting the sympathies of that city in their behalf.