

DEC. 2, 1851

" THE TOCSIN OF WAR SOUNDS
WE MOMENTARILY EXPECT TO BE
ATTACKED BY THE INDIANS - --
THE TOWN OF SAN DIEGO'S
PROCLAIMED UNDER MARTIAL LAW

Dec. 2, 1851 T. Whaley to Mother & Sister

"Outbreak of Indians - Martial Law ... etc.

San Diego, December 2nd 1851.

Dear Mother & Sister,

I have only a moment to say a word, the
rest of your service. We must certainly expect to be attacked
by the Indians who under their great chief Antonio Varro and
surrounding by the thousands in the Dec 18. The town of San Diego
is proclaimed under martial law. Every man is enrolled as
soldier. There are but a handful of men numbering not quite
a hundred. Nearly several parties have gone out to fight and
this morning thirteen more leave all of whom will be under the com-
mand of Maj. Fitzgerald, U.S.A. The party is supplied with am-
munition and rations for thirty days. They are to set out on the
defensive like improvements arrive from the north. There are only
thirty five of us left to protect the town and as it is necessary to
keep a good night patrol every turn to stand guard comes rather
a frequently. I chose rather to remain here to look after our in-
terests while my partner Mrs. Abraham has gone out, besides I
have contributed fifty dollars in cash and some few things
towards getting up the expedition. Our numbers are thinned but
we feel strong and resolute ready to resist any attack. We
trust that the disturbances may soon be quelled though they have
long been contemplated by the Indians in consequence of the heavy
taxes levied upon them. The rancheros are the men who will suffer
most in the loss of horses and cattle. The first attack the Indians
made was upon the ranch of J. D. Thomas, member of our State Legislature
burning his house, stealing every thing belonging to him and murdering a
man in his employ. Four men have been murdered upon the Delta

and from more Americans from this place at the Springs of the Agua Caliente
who had gone there for their health. It is hardly thought the Mexicans will
attack us, even though they may, when they know how feeble we are.
This outbreak is of great detriment to us as it not only detours business from
us but prevents Mr. Johnston from proceeding to the lower country to make
collections of the debts of Villa Rica. We have already received more than
one half the amount due to us which has nearly enabled us to pay off
what we owe in San Francisco. I hope times will soon be better. The
Americans are sending their families to Europe for better protection. I
do not apprehend any danger of you the least alarm. I am well
and with a brace of my throat, and have a horse ready to saddle
at any moment. I have received no letters from San Francisco
since last writing. I remain in care to-day when I hope to receive news.
I have not time to write more. Will send you a package if it
is possible to get one. (Yours affectionately)

Wm. H. Murray

Received from Sylvester Jan 24/52
Amount by Miss Loring

Mrs Rachel C. Halsey
Care S. M. Page Esq
116 Broadway
New York

Letter : Thos. Whaley to Mother & Sister

Subject : Indian Uprising, Antonio Garra, Fitzgeralds Volunteers

San Diego, December 2nd 1851

Dear Mother & Sister,

I have only a moment to say a word. The tocsin of war Sounds. We momentarily expect to be attacked by the indians who under their great chief Antonio Garra are Swarming by the thousands in the South. The town of San Diego is proclaimed under martial law. Every man is enrolled a Soldier. We are but a handful of men numbering not quite a hundred. Already several parties have gone out to fight and this morning thirteen more leave all of whom will be under the command of Maj. Fitzgerald , U.S.A. The party is supplied with ammunition and rations for thirty days. They are to act only on the defensive till reinforcements arrive from the north. There are only thirty five of us left to protect the town and as it is necessary to keep a good night patrol my turn to Stand guard comes rather frequently. I chose rather to remain here to look after our interests while my partner Mr. Franklin has gone out. besides I have contributed fifty dollars in cash and Some few things towards getting up the expedition. Our numbers are Small but we feel Strong and resolute ready to resist any attack. We trust that the disturbances may soon be quelled though they have long been contemplated by the indians in consequence of the heavy taxes levied upon them. The rancheros are the ones who will suffer most in the loss of horses and cattle. The first attack the indians made was upon the ranch of J.J. Warner, member of our State legislature burning his house, Stealing everything belonging to him and murdering a man in his employ. Four men have been murdered upon the Gila and four more Americans

Letter: Thos. Whaley to Mother & Sister (cont.)

Subject : Indian Uprising, Antonio Garra, Fitzgerald's Volunteers from this place at the Springs of the Agua Caliente who had gone there for their health. It is hardly thought the indians will attack this town though they may when they know how feeble we are. This outbreak is of great detriment to us as it not only destroys business here but has prevented Mr. Franklin from proceeding to the lower country to make collections of the debts of Dillon & Co. We have already received more than one half the amount due to us which has nearly enabled us to pay off what we owe in San Francisco. I hope times will soon be better. The rancheros are Sending their families to town for better protection. I do not apprehend any danger or feel the least allarm. I am well armed with a brace of Six Shooters and have a horse ready to saddle at any moment. I have received no letters from San Francisco Since last writing. A Steamer is due today when I hope to receive Some. I have not time to write more.

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