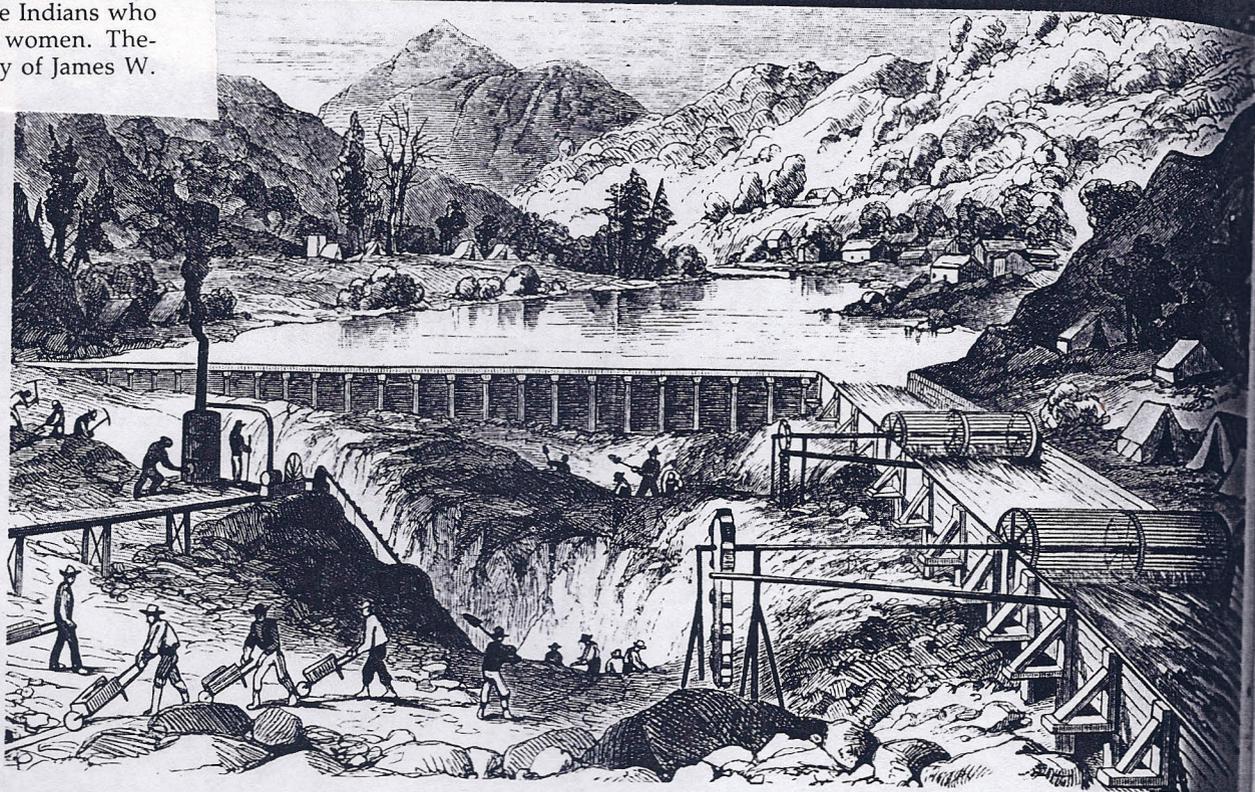


USGS Colfax 1938 quadrangle.

Murderers Bar [El Dorado]. On the Middle Fork of American River, near its junction with the North Fork. Shown on Trask's map, 1853, and on most early maps. There are numerous accounts of the origin of the name, the most plausible probably the one told by Theodore Hittell in his *History*, III (pp. 76 f.). In the fall of 1848 five Oregonians were killed by Indians after the prospectors had killed three Indians who had tried to protect their women. Therssa Gay (in her biography of James W.



Murderers Bar, El Dorado Co.

Marshall, chapter 13) gives a detailed account, which she has based on contemporary reports. The diggings proved to be very rich. According to an item from the *Sacramento Transcript*, April 26, 1850 (Bancroft Notes), 100 to 150 men made two ounces per day to the man. Banks of the *Buckeye Rovers* (p. 135) tells the story of a miner who gave up a claim to an old man who made 9 thousand dollars from it. An item in the *Pacific News*, October 19, 1850, repeated in the *California Courier*, October 22, even claims that one company took out 132 ounces in one day and between 70 and 115 ounces daily in ten days. Marryat (pp. 235 ff.) shudders at the name but gives a pleasing account of the peaceful camp in July, 1851. The decline began in 1858, when only 200 miners, including Chinese, were left. (*Sacramento Union*, October, 1858, in Hittell Clippings, p. 67½.) A prospectus of 1875 claims the total production of the bar at 2.5 million dollars. The place is still shown on the USGS Auburn 1944 quadrangle.