

Letter from Monterey

Monterey, Nov. 19, 1855

Mr. Charles Layton, who was wounded in the attempt to capture Anastasio Garcia at Salinas last week has just died, after great bodily suffering. Your readers will recollect that, immediately after the murder of Messrs Wall and Williamson, Sheriff Keating, with a posse of 9 men, one of whom was Mr. Layton, started from this place for the Salinas, to arrest Garcia, who was suspected of the murder. Arriving at the destination, they surrounded the house where Garcia was, when they were fired upon from within the building. Joaquin de la Torre was killed on the spot. Mr. Beckwith was seriously wounded, and Layton received a pistol ball that took off the first joint of the index finger, and a second finger at the knuckle. It then struck the hilt of his pistol, and from there glanced transversely to the stomach. In the melee Layton, being ~~thus~~ wounded, sought the bush for safety, and although he bled copiously, he actually crawled on his hands and knees for about six miles, when he was found and brought to the Washington Hotel, in this place. Inflammatory symptoms soon became manifest and, after several days of intense suffering, death has finally closed the scene. This makes four valuable lives which have been sacrificed within a week in this community.

Mr. Layton leaves a wife and four small children who reside in Monterey, and are deeply sympathized with. He was universally beloved as a citizen and as a man. He had followed the flag of his country for over 16 years, and had been promoted for meritorious conduct in camp and field. Officers of the Army looked upon him as a model soldier.