

# Vandals seek Vainly of Joaquin Miller's Gold

THEY WORRY THE POET OF  
"THE HEIGHTS" BY DIGGING  
BENEATH HIS FUNERAL PYRE  
AND HIS MONUMENTS  
TO IDEAL MEN IN SEARCH  
FOR HIDDEN TREASURE

By R. Ellis Wales

THE sacred mounds, groves and monuments dedicated to muse and hero on "The Heights" by the hermit poet, Joaquin Miller, have been surrounded, attacked and mutilated by an organized band of pirates, who have been inspired with the belief that the treasure of the mountain poet was buried under and far below some one of the various granite and stone piles erected by Miller in commemoration of Moses, Browning, Fremont and others.

Cutting, slashing and breaking through the wire fences, picturesque hedges and romantic stone walls, the vandals have caused a shiver of apprehension to run down the back of the recluse. He is suffering anguish because of the excavations made in the sacred earth about and beneath his beloved stone piles, including his own funeral pyre. Ah, the outrage perpetrated right under the famous gum trees, whose every moan tells a poetic story and whose patiently planned growth outlines a gigantic cross on the velvet side of a ragged peak! Truly, as the poet says, the very heart of the trees has been bruised and the very hilltops quiver in their shame like ravaged women.

The simile is good, for while the poet has no consort of his own, the spirit feminine pervades the foliage and the grasses of the poet's Arcady. He calls the young trees his maidens, with their soft, tender skins, and from the number of them no one man could have such an extensive seraglio. Yet among these sylvan goddesses, whose tender and graceful limbs in their verdant drapery reach out in tender pleading toward pirate and wandering musalike, has come the vandal, the ravisher and the libertine, ruthlessly to break the delicate branches in a vulgar desire to obtain mere loot.

Joaquin Miller explored Alaska several years ago, and since his return he has had great difficulty in restraining the "tourists" and "city people," to whom he refers with scorn, who have sought admission to his estate, The Heights, far up in the hills behind Oakland. His extreme caution displayed when any one of the vulgar throng attempted to climb over his hedge or poke a head through the barbed wire fence worked a fearful spell of curiosity in the minds of many, and this, with the rumor that he returned from the Yukon gold fields well laden with nuggets and rare curios, is supposed to be respon-

sible for the depredations perpetrated on his famous grounds.

The funeral pyre evidently was the first object of attack by the rascals, and under the massive foundations of this, the future receptacle of the ashes of the poet, they bored skillfully and well, exploring and poking about under the great pile with the thoroughness of a groundhog. The massive stones in the base were displaced and cruel steel bars chipped the corners fearfully and destroyed the graceful contour foundation.

The evil done by these human moles was, in this instance, sacrilege, owing to the fact that the ashes of two of Miller's friends repose in the immense receptacle in the top of the pyre. Fortunately, they were not disturbed; the vandals had one virtue at least—they were not ghouls.

From this sacred spot they tramped through the lovely private cemetery, wherein repose the mortal remains of sweet Maud Miller, the daughter of the poet, and other loved ones, destroying flowers and foliage in their mad race for the illusive gold. They continued



MONUMENT TO JOAQUIN MILLER'S LOCATED IN FREMONT PARK ON THE MILLER ESTATE "THE HEIGHTS"

JOAQUIN MILLER, THE POET OF THE SIERRAS, ON "THE HEIGHTS," LOOKING TOWARD GOLDEN GATE AND RECITING ONE OF HIS POEMS.

PHOTOS COPYRIGHT 1910 BY R. ELLIS WALES

leaving gaping holes to greet the saddened eyes of the poet.

After failing to locate treasure in all these inviting places, one would think they might have abandoned their project, but not so. The stately tower erected in memory of John C. Fremont

suffered with its fellows, and the stone and rock rolling in picturesque confusion about its base were scattered about ruthlessly.

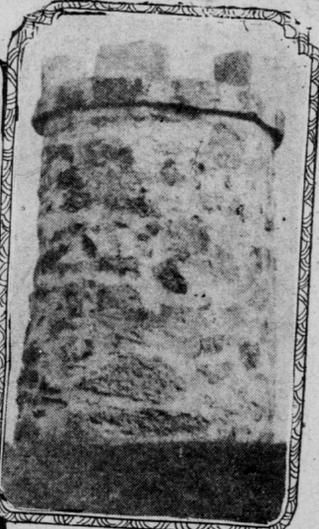
The glint of dawn peeping over the mountaintop warned the pirates of the approach of day and—Miller. To those who know the poet, who stands over six feet in his stocking feet and exposes a monumental chest, with brawny arms and muscular hands and who has a fighting record, it would seem that the vandals were wise in decamping quickly, which, too, suggests that they

were mighty foolish in their undertaking.

As Miller has no door to his little cottage and sleeps with his bed across its portals, free to the breezes of the Pacific and convenient to the visits of the throngs of winged muses that flutter about silently, he is quite ready at all times to whip out that brace of six-shooters and let fly. However, Morpheus has a claim with Calliope and Euterpe, and when the candle is snuffed out the poet of the Sierra sleeps with the soundness of common mortals. Hence the unobserved vandalism.



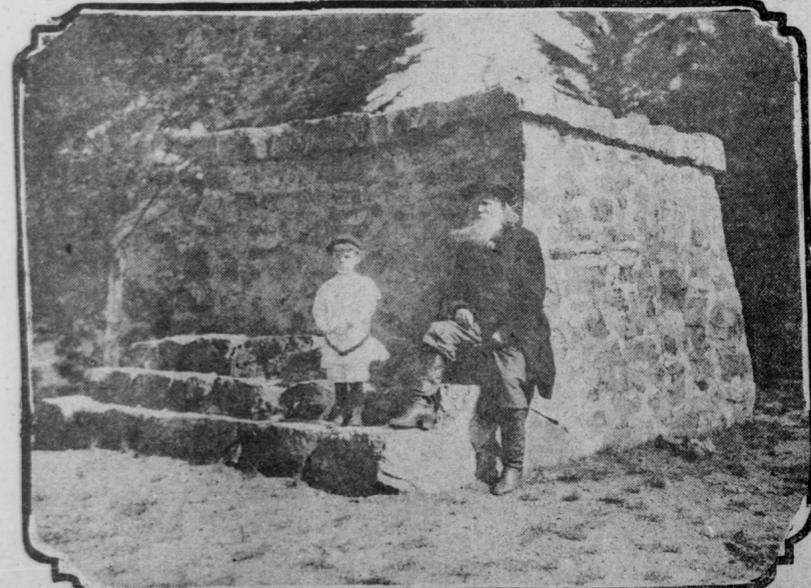
JOAQUIN MILLER AT THE FOOT OF HIS MONUMENT TO MOSES



MONUMENT TO BROWNING, ERECTED ON A PROMINENT HILL ON HIS ESTATE

to another hilltop, whereon is built the monument of Moses. Miller's idea of a law maker. Here they did not content themselves with burrowing, but, displacing stones in the sides of the immense pyramid, they chiseled their way to the innermost recesses, leaving ugly scars on its outward surface.

Again baffled, the marauders turned their attention to the stone monument to Browning, the poet most beloved of Miller. Here they had things easier, but contented themselves with digging downward from the top, breaking off portions of the battlement, whose conventional corners stand up like formidable teeth; and boring under its base.



THE BASE OF HIS FUNERAL PYRE WHERE HIS BODY IS TO BE CREMATED

## VIRTUES OF THE NEW AMERICAN BREAD

By Charles Cristadoro

TEN years ago last autumn the wheat farmers on the dry semiarid lands of the Dakota prairies, unable to raise ordinary wheats because of the scant rainfall and drought and other conditions, appealed to Secretary Wilson to find them a crop—a wheat crop if possible—that would fit their soil and the drought conditions that so often prevailed.

Secretary Wilson scoured Europe in his endeavor to supply the crying need of the farmers, who were at a loss as to what to grow upon their lands. Professor Carleton, cerealist of the department of agriculture, went abroad and found in the semiarid wheat lands of Russia the equivalent of the climatic conditions existing in the Dakotas. He found there a durum wheat, a hard, drought resisting wheat, that grew where the rainfall was slight and actually thrived under drought conditions, demanding a fierce, hot sunshine for days to mature it perfectly. It was a wheat as hard as flint, rich in natural sugar, producing flour of a color more creamlike than any yet milled, even golden colored because of the great amount of gluten it contained. It is this gluten which bears to flour the same relation and value as the red lean does to the roast of meat. Gluten, if separated from flour, presents itself in the form of a golden colored, gumlike substance.

So Professor Carleton brought home to Secretary Wilson samples of Russian durum wheats, the trip and seed costing in all \$10,000. Up to this date, inclusive of the crop harvested in September, 1909, that seed has produced nearly \$300,000,000 in crop values.

Both the hardness and gluten of this wheat turned American millers against

it for years. So each year millions and millions of bushels went abroad, much of it to France, whose bakers years ago learned only too well what durum flour meant when made into bread. During the last 10 years two hundred to three hundred million bushels of American grown durum wheat have passed by the kitchen doors of the housewives of this country en route to Europe, and much of the wheat went into the French bread that Americans ate in Paris and elsewhere and commended highly. Secretary Wilson has repeatedly declared that this wheat should be kept at home and used in the kitchens of this country.

A few years ago, to convince the American housewives of the superiority of durum bread, there were made by a prominent Washington baker, under the supervision of the United States government, 400 loaves of bread. Two hundred loaves were made from spring wheat flour and 200 loaves from durum spring wheat flour. The conditions of mixing and kneading were the same in each case. A loaf of each baking was sent to domestic scientists, bakers, chemists and millers throughout the country to the number of 200, and a request made for comparative criticism. Of all the replies received 74 per cent gave preference to the durum flour loaf.

Again, at the request of a prominent New York baking paper, an experienced and skilled New York baker was requested to make a thorough comparative test of the durum flour with spring wheat flour. He reported that it not only yielded 16 pounds more of bread dough to the barrel, but that the durum loaf was also superior in every way. The rich brown crust, because of the natural sugar in the flour, was remarkable. The durum flour loaf was moist and acceptable in every way after the other loaf had become stale and unpalatable.

House-keepers who have tried this flour, especially the granular form of durum flour made from the best of the wheat kernel, have found it not only a superb bread flour, but a cake flour as well. For gems, rolls, muffins and baking powder biscuits, for shortcakes, dumplings and potpies and for griddle cakes, no flour equals it.

Its granular form also permits of its being used as a breakfast cereal, yielding more nourishment and proving of a richer flavor, and being naturally sweeter than any breakfast cereal in the market, and at one-tenth to one-twentieth of the price. It is an economical proposition to dip out a cupful of breakfast cereal from one's durum flour barrel.

Year after year our northwestern farmers have produced this superb wheat, and, depending upon a foreign demand, the bulk of durum wheat has gone abroad. Unacquainted with the superior value of the flour, our American housewife has paid no attention to it. But the government has systematically encouraged the farmers to grow this wheat, until it is assuming an important position as part of our wheat crop.

The question has been how to bring the attention of American housewives to the value of this flour. North Dakota growing 25,000,000 to 30,000,000 bushels of this superb wheat, the government of that state issued a proclamation last autumn calling upon the people of the entire state (and incidentally the housewives of the entire country) to celebrate "durum bread day" by using no other than durum flour on that day, the object hoped for being that, once tried, the excellence of the flour will be manifest and a home demand created for it.

It is predicted that because of its adaptability to the semiarid, desert lands durum wheat will prove a most important factor in giving bread to the 200,000,000 of people that our country will need to feed in 1950.—Ladies' Home Journal.

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