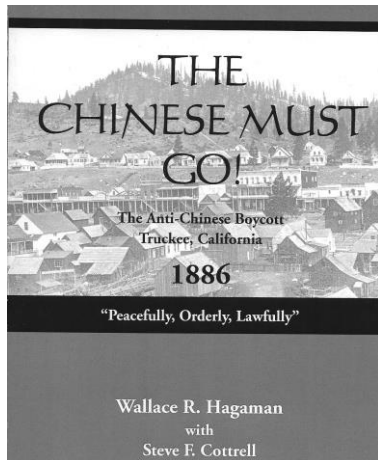


# The Chinese Must Go! The Anti-Chinese Boycott, Truckee, California 1886,

by Wallace R. Hagaman and Steve F. Cottrell, The Cowboy Press, Nevada City, CA 2004



The book can be purchased from World Cat online or from Amazon Books etc. 62 pages

## INTRODUCTION

Insidious discrimination against the Chinese was evident from their first arrival in California. They were easy “targets.” Their culture, appearance, language and customs were vastly different to the other miners who arrived in Northern California. They did not assimilate into the “melting pot” and were easily identified as “different.” This made it easy for them to become scapegoats and be exploited during difficult times. They were not often depicted in a favorable light and were frequently demonized as pagans and an inferior race.

While there were individual businessmen, doctors, and others who attained a degree of respect in the community, the majority of them remained faceless and nameless. There was little appreciation for their culture.

As early as the 1850s, California communities enacted anti-Chinese ordinances regulating where they could live and work. The anti-Chinese movement took on various faces over the ensuing decades. Prejudicial legislation, violence, arson and intimidation were not uncommon. During the last half of the nineteenth century these practices intensified throughout California as the anti-Chinese movement gained momentum.

In 1886, after a history of utilizing the “conventional” methods, (as mentioned above), the citizens of Truckee, California eschewed the use of violence and undertook to drive the Chinese out of their community using a “lawful” nonviolent method. It was unique for the time. This account is primarily based on the regular articles that appeared in the *Truckee Republican* between November 1885 and February 1886, covering the Truckee boycott from its inception to conclusion. Some later follow-up items, as well as supporting articles from other newspapers, are also included.