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Joaquin Murieta, Famous "Mexican Robin Hood" of Gold Rush California (1906)

Charles Elmer Upton

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Joaquin Murieta, Famous "Mexican Robin Hood" of Gold Rush California (1906) Charles Elmer Upton A lifelong resident of California, local historian Charles Elmer Upton (1872 - 1926) knew and interviewed many of the old pioneers of California and gives first-hand accounts of California history.

Joaquin Murrieta Carrillo (1829 – 1853), also called the Mexican Robin Hood or the Robin Hood of El Dorado, was a famous figure in California during the California Gold Rush of the 1850s. Depending on the point of view, he was considered as either an infamous bandit or a Mexican patriot.

Murrieta reportedly went to California in 1849 to seek his fortune in the California Gold Rush. He encountered racism in the extreme competition of the rough mining camps. While mining for gold, he and his wife supposedly were attacked by American miners jealous of his success.

Murieta and his band attacked settlers and wagon trains in California. The gang is believed to have killed up to 28 Chinese and 13 Anglo-Americans. By 1853, the California state legislature considered Murrieta enough of a criminal to list him as one of the so-called "Five Joaquins" on a bill passed in May 1853. The legislature authorized hiring for three months a company of 20 California Rangers, veterans of the Mexican-American War, to hunt down "Joaquin Botellier, Joaquin Carrillo, Joaquin Muriata, Joaquin Ocomorenia, and Joaquin Valenzuela," and their banded associates.

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