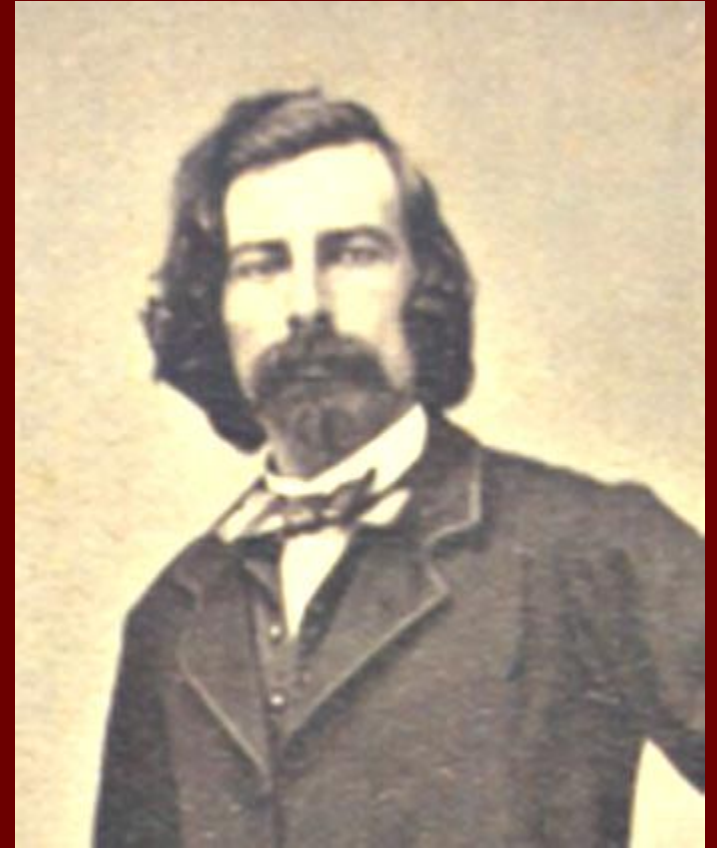


Joaquin Murieta is a **dime novel** about a **social bandit** that tell the story of **displaced Mexicans in California**, that is written by a **displaced Cherokee author**.

- Yellowbird, or John Rollin Ridge is the grandson of the Cherokee leader, Major Ridge, who lives in Georgia, where most Cherokees lived
 - Born 1827 to a Cherokee father and white mother
 - John Rollins Ridge's cousin is Elias Boudinot, first editor of the newspaper *Cherokee Phoenix*
 - When Ridge is 12, a group of Americans raid the house and stab his father to death, and the same night his cousin, Elias Boudinot is also killed
 - Moves to California in 1850 after killing a man in self defense



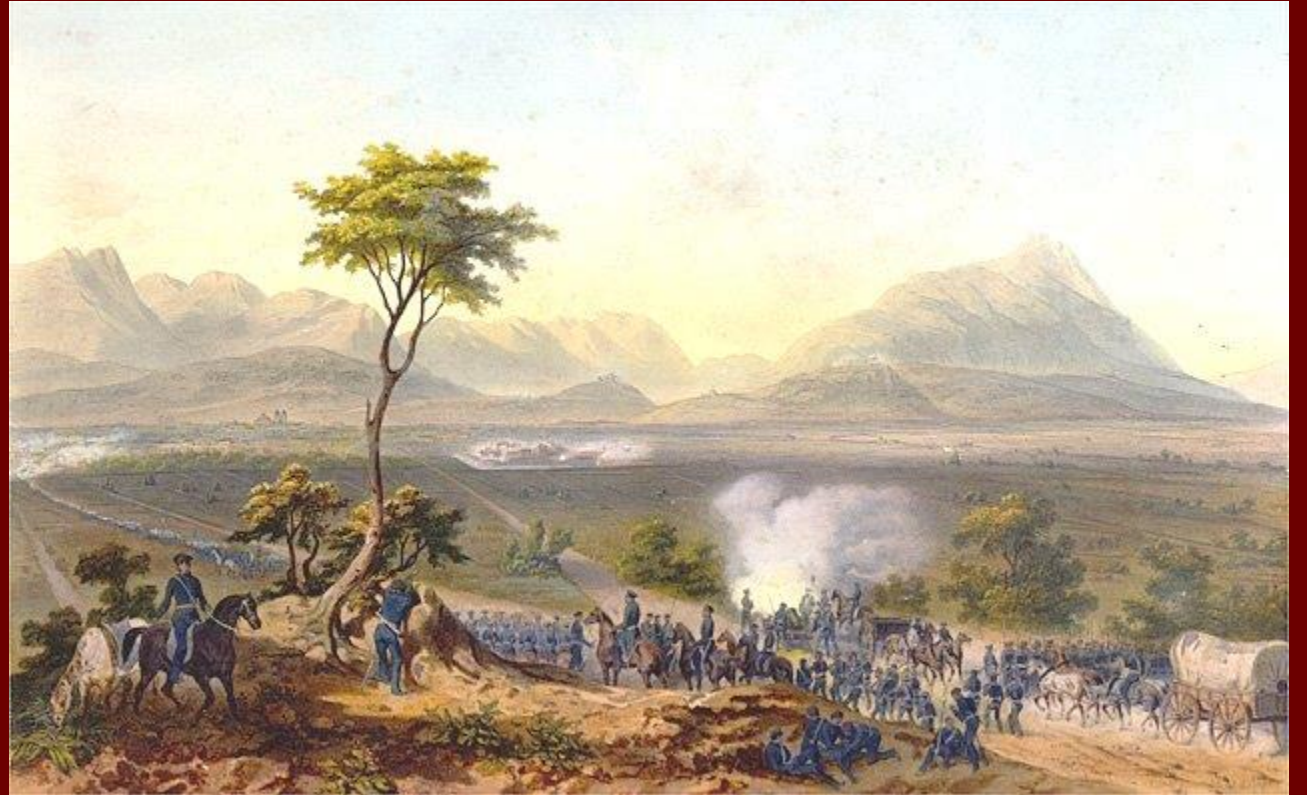
a bandit is a “peasant outlaw whom the lord and state regard as criminal, but who remains within peasant society, and is considered by their people as heroes, as champions, avengers, fighters for justice, perhaps even leaders of liberation, and in any case as men to be admired, helped and supported” (17)

-Eric Hosbawm “Social Banditry”



“If a thousand men were not to pay their tax bills this year, that would not be a violent and bloody measure, as it would be to pay them, and enable the State to commit violence and shed innocent blood. This is, in fact, the definition of a peaceable revolution, if any such is possible.”

–Henry David Thoreau



Mexican-American War (1846-1848)

- Sparked by US annexation of Texas
- Ends with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
- Mexico accepts loss of Texas and cedes California for \$15 million
- Establishes the Rio Grande as the northern border between Mexico and the US



**WILL BE
EXHIBITED**

FOR ONE DAY ONLY!

AT THE STOCKTON HOUSE!

THIS DAY, AUG. 12, FROM 9 A. M., UNTIL 6 P. M.

THE HEAD

Of the renowned Bandit!

JOAQUIN!

AND THE

HAND OF THREE FINGERED JACK!

THE NOTORIOUS ROBBER AND MURDERER.

"JOAQUIN" and "THREE-FINGERED JACK" were captured by the State Rangers, under the command of Capt. Harry Love, at the Arroyo Cantina, July 24th. No reasonable doubt can be entertained in regard to the identification of the head now on exhibition, as being that of the notorious robber, Joaquin Murietta, as it has been recognized by hundreds of persons who have formerly seen him.

1. “He had the confidence and respect of the whole community around him [...and had built a comfortably mining residence in which he had domiciled his heart’s treasure – a beautiful Sonorian girl” when a group of “lawless men” motivated by a “prejudice of colour” “having the brute power to do as they please” force Joaquin to leave his claim “as they would allow no Mexicans to work in that region” (9-10)
2. “a company of unprincipled Americans – shame that there should be such bearing the name! – saw his retreat, coveted his little home surrounded by its fertile tract of land, and drove him from it, with no other excuse than that he was ‘an infernal Mexican intruder’” (10)
3. “They listened to no explanation, but bound him to a tree, and publicly disgraced him with the lash. They then proceeded to the house of his half-brother and hung him without judge or jury. It was then that the character of Joaquin changed, suddenly and irrevocably. Wanton cruelty and the tyranny of prejudice had reached their climax. His soul swelled beyond its former boundaries, and the barriers of honour, rocked into atoms by the strong passion which shook his heart like an earthquake, crumbled around him. Then it was that he declared to a friend that he would live henceforth for revenge and that his path should be marked with blood” (12)

The Trail of Tears



“The following incident is but one among many which shows the extraordinary success that attended him, and would almost lead us to adopt the old Cherokee superstition that there were some men who bear charmed lives and whom nothing can kill but a silver bullet”
(139)

“Dime novels can be understood neither as forms of deception, manipulation, and social control nor as expressions of a genuine people’s culture, opposing and resisting the dominant culture. Rather they are best seen as a contested terrain, a field of cultural conflict where signs with wide appeal and resonance take on contradictory disguises and are spoken in contrary accents. Just as the signs of a dominant culture can be articulated in the accents of the people, so the signs of the culture of the working classes can be dispossessed in varieties of ventriloquism”

-Michael Denning *Mechanic Accents* 3

“should Jim Boyce
chance to read the
humble narrative of
mine, I beg him to
receive my warmest
congratulations” (91)

“The war with Mexico had been fought, and California belonged to the United States. **Disgusted with the conduct of his degenerate countrymen and fired with enthusiastic admiration of the American character,** the youthful Joaquin left his home with a buoyant heart and full of exhilarating spirit of adventure” (8)

“He spoke very good English and they could scarcely make out whether he was a Mexican or American [...] ‘Boys, that fellow is *Joaquin*; damn it, shoot him!’”

“It was the year which would close his short and tragical career with a crowning glory – a deed of daring and of power which would redeem with its refulgent light the darkness of his previous history and show him to aftertimes, not as a mere outlaw, committing petty depredations and robberies, but as a *hero* who has revenged his country’s wrongs and washed out her disgrace in the blood of her enemies” (80)