Electronic Supplement to  
Revisiting the 1872 Owens Valley, California, Earthquake  
by Susan E. Hough and Kate Hutton

Toppozada et al. (1981) presents a summary of macroseismic effects of the 26 March 1872 Owens Valley earthquake gleaned from an extensive archival search of historical newspapers and other sources. We revisit accounts and assign the Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) values shown below. Each entry gives, respectively: County (or state, if outside California), town, longitude, latitude, MMI (MMI assignment of Toppozada et al.; L = "light," S = "severe," H = "heavy," N = "not felt"), brief summary of effects on which MMI assignments are based. We do not include accounts from Toppozada et al. (1981) for which a location or a MMI value cannot be determined; nor do we include accounts of stopped clocks. A small number of accounts not included in Toppozada et al. are included, with references, at the end of the list.

Alameda, Brooklyn, -122.250 37.790, 3.5 (S), "severe"  
Alameda, Oakland, -122.270 37.804, 3.0 (S), slight, "tolerably severe"  
Alamed, Oakland Wharf, -122.670 37.793, 4.0 (S), "quite severe"  
Alamed, Pleasanton, -121.874 37.663, 2.0 (L), "slight"  
Alameda, San Leandro, -122.155 37.725, 3.0 (4-5), "not all awakened"  
Alpine, Monitor, -119.620 38.680, 4.0 (5), furniture rattled, "everybody waked up"  
Alpine, Silver Mountain, -119.758 38.567, 3.5 (4-5), windows rattled, "houses rocked"  
Alpine, Woodford's -119.821 38.778, 3.5 (4-5), same as Silver Mountain  
Almador, Jackson, -120.773 38.349, 5.5 (5-6) all awakened, broke dishes, rattled windows  
Almador, Sutter Creek, -120.801 38.393, 3.5 (5), nearly all awakened  
Butte, Bangor, -121.404 39.389, 3.0 (3), "not very severe"  
Butte, Chico, -121.836 39.729, 5.0 (5-6), Chico, "aroused many," cracked plaster  
Butte, Clipper Mills, -121.156 39.533, 4.0 (5), "severe," some ran outside  
Butte, Forbestown, -121.266 39.517, 4.5 (5-6) cracked walls, rattled furniture/dishes  
Butte, Mountain House, -121.210 37.070, 4.0 (5), "severe," one person ran out  
Butte, Oroville, -121.555 39.514, 4.5 (5-6), "woke sleepers," cracked walls  
Calaveras, Copperopolis, -120.641 37.981, 4.0 (5), "severe," some leapt from beds  
Calaveras, Milton, -120.851 38.032, 4.0 (6), considerable excitement, "quite severe"  
Calaveras, Mokelumne Hill, -120.705 38.300, 5.5 (6) most awakened, door bells rang, slight damage to store fronts  
Calaveras, San Andreas, -120.679 38.196, 4.0 (5), frightened many, some ran out  
Calaveras, Vallecito, -120.473 38.090, 4.0 (5), "rocked house like a cradle," windows rattled  
Colusa, Colusa, -122.008 39.214, 4.5 (5), cracked (plaster?) ceilings, several ran out  
Contra Costa, Antioc, -121.685 38.005, 4.5 (5), doors swung, "no material damage"  
Contra Costa, Martinez, -122.131 38.019, 3.0 (L) Martinez, "slight"  
Contra Costa, Pacheco, -122.074 37.984, 3.5 (4.0), awakened a few people  
El Dorado, El Dorado, -120.847 39.517, 5.5 (5-6), one bldg seriously damaged, others slightly damaged  
El Dorado, Placerville, -120.798 38.730, 5.5 (6), some plaster fell  
El Dorado, Salmon Falls, -121.057 38.758, 4.0 (5), "quite severe"  
Fresno, Big Dry Creek, -119.670 36.686, 3.5 (5), awakened people, scared some  
Fresno, Fresno, -119.771 36.748, 3.5 (5), people awakened  
Inyo, Belmont, -117.760 36.526, 7.0 (9), a few stone cabins thrown down  
Inyo, Big Pine, -118.289 37.165, 8.5 (9), some buildings throwed down  
Inyo, Bishop Creek, -118.394 37.364, 8.0 (9) Bishop Creek, chimneys collapsed*  
Inyo, Camp Independence, -118.24 36.83, 8.5 (9), All adobe buildings partly destroyed Inyo, Cerro Gordo, -117.823 36.585, 8.0 (9), a few dry stone walls fell, some cabins, 2 chimneys threw down  
Inyo, Deep Springs, -117.984 37.372, 8.0 (8), one stone house throwed down  
Inyo, Hooiwe, -117.975 36.147, 8.0 (8), stone barn throwed down  
Inyo, Independence, -118.199 36.803, 9.0 (9+), every brick/stone bldg wholly or partially destroyed, frame bldgs wrenched  
Inyo, Little Lake, -117.906 35.937, 8.0 (8), stable walls collapsed  
Inyo, Nine miles S. of Little Lake, -117.906 35.806, 7.0 (8), "wagons tossed like feathers"  
Inyo, Lone Pine, -118.062 36.606, 9.0 (9+), every stone/ado bldg leveled, two frame houses shaken down  
Inyo, Olancha, -118.006 36.282, 7.0 (7), adobe was badly cracked  
Inyo, Swansea, -117.903 36.525, 8.0 (9+), smoke stack shaken down  
Kern, Bakersfield, -119.018 35.373, 5.0 (5-6), glass/dishes broken, no damage to buildings  
Kern, Fort Tejon, -118.906 34.877, 3.5 (5), felt by most, lasted ~3 minutes  
Kern, Havilah, -118.518 35.518, 6.5 (7), some buildings badly cracked  
Kern, Indian Wells, -117.872 35.665 7.0 (7), adobe house badly cracked, damage to gable
Kern, Linns Valley, -118.716 35.709, 4.0 (6+), people ran outside, new springs formed
Kern, Mountain Valley, -118.203 37.386, 4.0 (6+), some ran outside, rock falls
Los Angeles, Los Angeles, -118.243 34.052, 4.5 (5-6), some ran out, beds shifted, plaster cracked
Los Angeles, San Pedro, -118.291 33.735, 3.0 (F), felt
Los Angeles, Wilmington, -118.262 33.780, 3.0 (F), felt
Madera, Chowchilla, -120.259 37.123, 4.0 (5-6), all awakened, trees swayed
Mariposa, Bear Valley, -120.118 37.569, 4.5 (5-6), "severe"
Mariposa, Hites Cove, -119.848 37.641, 3.5 (S), "severe"
Mariposa, Hornitos, -120.237 37.502, 4.5 (6-), some plaster cracked
Mariposa, Mariposa, -119.965 37.485, 4.0 (6) all awakened, most ran out
Mariposa, Princeton, -120.039 37.592, 4.0 (S), severe
Mariposa, Yosemite Valley, -119.630 37.750, 5.0 (?), glass/bottles smashed, trees swayed, rock falls
Merced, Snelling, -120.436 37.519, 7.0 (7), some walls cracked, 1-2 chimneys displaced
Merced, Blind Spring, -118.500 37.600, 8.0 (9+), brick buildings thrown down
Mono, Benton, -119.476 37.819, 7.0 (7), chimney of mill thrown down
Mono, Mono Lake, -119.121 37.958, 4.0 (6+) Mono Lake, "pretty good shake"
Monterey, Salinas, -121.654 36.678, 3.5 (5), "inhabitants roused," "very heavy"
Napa, Napa, -120.892 38.297, 5.0 (6), felt by those awake, stopped clocks, no damage
Nevada, Grass Valley, -121.060 39.220, 5.5 (7), some walls cracked, 1-2 chimneys displaced
Nevada, Greenhorn, -121.070 39.200, 4.0 (5), rattled windows, people awakened
Nevada, Nevada City, -121.015 39.262, 5.5 (6), bottles thrown down, a few panes broke, doorbells rang
Nevada, Truckee, -120.182 39.328, 4.0 (S), very heavy
Orange, Anaheim, -117.916 33.835, 4.0 (5), buildings violently shaken, water in tanks sloshed
Orange, San Juan Capistrano, -117.661 33.501, 3.0 (F), felt
Placer, Alta, -120.810 39.207, 4.0 (S), "sensibly and generally felt"
Placer, Auburn, -121.076 38.897, 3.0 (4-5), some awakened, windows clattered, "felt by but a few"
Placer, Blue Canyon, -120.710 39.257, 3.5 (S), "severe"
Placer, Dutch Flat, -120.837 39.206, 4.0 (S), "sensibly and generally felt"
Placer, Emigrant Gap, -120.292 38.892, 4.0 (5), "heavy"
Placer, Forest Hill, -120.235 39.791, 4.0 (S), "heavy"
Placer, Summit, -120.339 39.312, 3.5 (F), "heavy"
Plumas, Quincy, -120.946 39.937, 3.5 (F?), "right smart"
Sacramento, Folsom, -121.175 38.678, 2.5 (5+), very few awakened, not great damage
Sacramento, Galt, -121.300 38.255, 4.0 (S), "very severe"
Sacramento, Sacramento, -121.493 38.582, 5.0 (6), church bells rung, crockery smashed, plaster fell
San Bernardino, Camp Cady, -115.343 34.956, 6.0 (6+), furniture upset, everything inside tumbled about
San Bernardino, Desert Spring, -116.589 34.946, 7.0 (8?), some old adobe barracks thrown down, heavy wagons moved
San Francisco, San Francisco, -122.418 37.775, 2.5, woke < 1/10 of people
San Joaquin, Bantas, -121.370 37.754, 2.5, woke < 1/10 of people
San Joaquin, Stockton, -121.290 37.958, 5.0 (6), woke nearly all, moved furniture on castors, rang door bells
San Luis Obispo, San Luis Obispo, -120.659 35.283, 3.5 (5), people awakened
San Mateo, Half Moon Bay, -122.428 37.464, 3.5 (5) people awakened
San Mateo, Redwood City, -122.380 37.255, 3.5 (H), "heavy"
Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, -119.697 34.421, 4.0 (?), all awakened, no damage, water slopped
Santa Clara, San Jose, -121.894 37.339, 3.5 (S), people awakened, no items displaced
Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, -122.030 36.974, 3.5 (S), slight but long, many awakened
Santa Cruz, Watsonville, -121.756 36.910, 4.0 (5), people awakened, objects rattled
Sierra, Downieville, -120.826 39.449, 4.0 (H), as heavy as any ever experienced
Sierra, Redwood City, -122.235 37.485, 3.0 (4), felt by those awake
San Diego, Las Flores, -117.451 33.286, 3.5 (S), severely felt
San Francisco, San Francisco, -122.418 37.775, 2.5, woke < 1/10 of people
San Joaquin, Stockton, -121.290 37.958, 5.0 (6), woke nearly all, moved furniture on castors, rang door bells
Santa Cruz, Watsonville, -121.756 36.910, 4.0 (5), people awakened, objects rattled
Santa Cruz, Watsonville, -122.030 36.974, 3.5 (S), slight but long, many awakened
Santa Cruz, Watsonville, -121.756 36.910, 4.0 (5), people awakened, objects rattled
Santa Cruz, Watsonville, -122.030 36.974, 3.5 (S), slight but long, many awakened
San Francisco, San Francisco, -122.418 37.775, 2.5, woke < 1/10 of people
San Joaquin, Stockton, -121.290 37.958, 5.0 (6), woke nearly all, moved furniture on castors, rang door bells
San Luis Obispo, San Luis Obispo, -120.659 35.283, 3.5 (5), people awakened
San Mateo, Half Moon Bay, -122.428 37.464, 3.5 (5) people awakened
San Mateo, Pescadero, -122.380 37.255, 3.5 (H), "heavy"
San Mateo, Redwood City, -122.235 37.485, 3.0 (4), felt by those awake
San Mateo, San Mateo, -122.324 37.563, 3.5 (F), "distinct"
Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, -119.697 34.421, 4.0, all awakened, no damage, water slopped
Santa Clara, San Jose, -121.894 37.339, 3.5 (S), people awakened, no items displaced
Santa Clara, Santa Clara, -121.954 37.354, 4.0 (5), general consternation
Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, -122.030 36.974, 3.5 (S), slight but long, many awakened
Santa Cruz, Watsonville, -121.756 36.910, 4.0 (5), people awakened, objects rattled
Sierra, Downieville, -120.826 39.449, 4.0 (H), as heavy as any ever experienced
Sierra, Sierra Valley, -120.306 39.752, 4.0 (5), people awakened, "crockery danced"
Solano, Dixon, -121.822 38.445, 3.5 (S), people awakened
Solano, Suisun, -120.039 38.238, 3.5 (4), people awakened
Solano, Vallejo, -122.256 38.104, 4.0 (S), rattled dishes
Sonoma, Healdsburg, -122.868 38.611, 1.0 (N), not felt
Sonoma, Petaluma, -122.636 38.330, 3.0 (4), felt by those awake, "severe"
Sonoma, Santa Rosa, -122.713 38.441, 2.5 (4), felt by a few people
Stanislaus, Hill's Ferry, -120.979 37.349, 3.5 (H), "heavy"
Stanislaus, Modesto, -120.996 37.639, 4.0 (6+), many frightened, fissures in ground
Sutter, Yuba City, -121.616 39.141, 3.5 (S), people awakened, crockery rattled
Tehama, Red Bluff, -122.235 40.179, 4.0 (5) Red Bluff, people awakened, water slopped, "crockery danced"
Tehama, Tehama, -122.122 40.027, 2.5 (L), slightly felt
Tulare, Porterville, -119.016 36.065, 6.0 (7), chimney knocked down
Tulare, Vandalia, -119.008 36.040, 6.5 (7), three chimneys toppled
Tulare, Visalia, -119.291 36.330, 6.5 (7), brick building cracked, damage to gable, goods thrown down
Tulare, White River, -118.842 35.811, 5.0 (5+), "like riding stage coach," some damage
Toulumne, Buchanan, -120.188 37.915, 3.5 (5), people awakened
Toulumne, Columbia, -120.400 38.036, 4.0 (4-5), people frightened
Toulumne, Sonora, -120.381 37.984, 5.0 (6), suspended objects swung, a few light objects fell, a few brick bldgs slightly cracked
Ventura, San Buena Ventura, -119.292 34.278, 4.5 (5-6), "plastering disturbed," some ran out
Yolo, Woodland, -121.772 38.679, 3.5 (5), doors/windows rattled, people awakened, "nothing more"
Yuba, Brown's Valley, -121.193 36.731, 3.5 (S), "severe"
Yuba, Challenge Mills, -121.223 39.488, 3.5 (S), "severe"
Yuba, Marysville, -121.590 39.146, 5.0 (6), crockery fell, some plaster fell, water skoshed
Yuba, Wheatland, -121.422 39.010, 3.5 (H), "heavy"
(Nevada), Aurora, -118.899 38.287, 4.5 (S-6), some buildings cracked, "no damage done"
(Nevada), Austin, -117.069 39.493, 3.5 (5), people frightened, no damage
(Nevada), Carson City, -119.766 39.164, 4.0 (5), "violent"
(Nevada), Elko, -119.762 40.833, 4.0 (6-7), dish fell, dishes rattled
(Nevada), Eureka, -115.960 39.513, 4.5 (5-6), crockery broken, people awakened
(Nevada), Gold Hill, -119.656 39.291, 3.5 (L), light earthquake lasting about a minute
(Nevada), Hamilton, -115.486 39.253, 5.0 (6), Hamilton, people awakened, mirrors/dishes fell
(Nevada), Reno, -119.813 39.530, 3.0 (3?), light shocks felt
(Nevada), Sweetwater, -119.170, 38.460, 2.5 (L), very slight
(Nevada), Unionville, -118.120 40.446, 4.5 (5), awakened several people, a few dishes broken
(Nevada), Virginia City, -119.649 39.310, 3.5 (L), light shock lasting a minute
(Nevada), Wadsworth, -119.284 39.634, 3.5 (H), "heavy"
(Nevada), Wellington, -119.375 38.756, 2.5 (L), very slight

**Additional accounts**

Inyo, Independence, -118.199, 36.803, 10(?)?, glass lamp thrown in air (Inyo Independent, 6 Apr. 1872)
Inyo, Manzanar, -118.080 36.74, 8.0, sod walls collapsed, front adobe room collapsed (Johnston, 1941)
Inyo, Owensville, -118.362 37.389, 6.5, heavy objects moved (Clark, 1972)
Tulare, Tulare, -119.346 36.207, 6.5, damage to gable (New York Times, 4 Apr. 1872)

**References**


Johnston, P., Inyo's roaring cataclysm, Westways Magazine, May, 1941


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