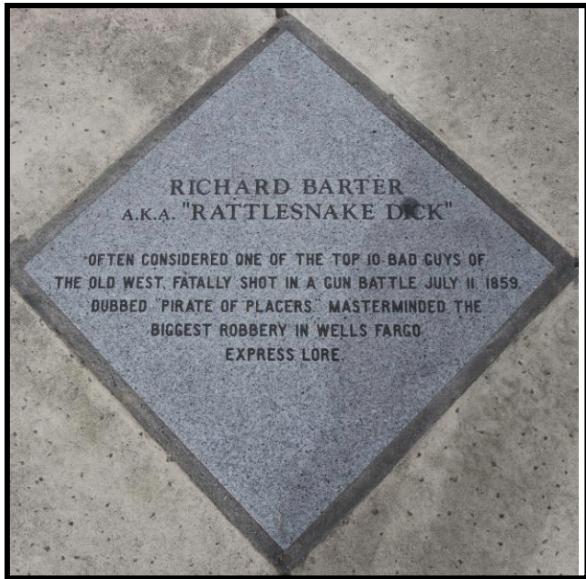


Richard Barter **Rattlesnake Dick**



Richard Barter
1833-1859

Barter was born in Quebec, Canada and came to California in 1850. He mine at Rattlesnake Bar and there received his nick name – Rattlesnake Dick. When he was twenty years old he was accused of horse stealing and although it now appears he was innocent, he was sent to San Quentin Prison for two years. After his release, suspicions followed him. The handsome Dick finally turned to the life of crime. He was involved in sluice robberies and stage coach robberies. In a hold up of a Wells Fargo Express Stage, he and his gang made away with \$40,000 and supposedly buried another \$40,000. Dick was caught and put in the Auburn jail but they escaped. Dick and his gang continued the life of crime.

On July 11, 1859, word circulated through Auburn that Dick and a companion had just passed through Old Town. A posse was quickly formed, Deputy Tax Collector George W. Martin, Under Sheriff George C. Johnston and Deputy Sheriff William M. Crutcher. A gunfight ensued (near what is now Raley's Shopping Center) and Martin was shot dead. Both Dick and his companion were wounded. The next morning a stage driver discovered Dick's body, with two bullets through his body and one through his head. It is believed that Dick committed suicide after being wounded.