

Indian Massacre at Stone Lagoon.

The following letter from our young friend J. H. Wilson of Gold Bluff, explains the cause of the late Indian massacre at Stone Lagoon:

GOLD BLUFF, April 17, 1863.

MY DEAR GENT.—The monotonous routine of affairs along the coast here, being broken in upon the other day, by a pleasant little band of "Hoopas" and "Chololos." I send you the following account of their visit, knowing that you are generally interested in matters of that kind, in this section of country.

Some four years ago, the Indians living at the Stone Lagoon, about four miles below the mouth of Redwood Creek, moved from the beach side of the Lagoon over to the east side, where they built a remarkably nice little village. They broke up a good deal of land, cultivated it very well, and raised large, fine crops of potatoes, going out and working for white men, in order to obtain their seed. From their industry and general good behavior, the whites about here, were led to consider them the best set of Indians on the coast. Last Sunday morning, just after breakfast, two Indians from Redwood Creek, came up to our place, in the midst of a heavy rain storm, and informed us that a band of Hoopas and Chololos, (as they call the Humboldt Indians,) had just attacked the Ranch at Stone, killing nearly all the Indians, and burning the houses. The day before, two of our men had gone to Trinidad with some pack mules, intending to start back on Sunday, with their freight, and thinking that they would probably meet this band on the road, four of us took our rifles and started down. On reaching the Stone Lagoon we found that the Indians had told the truth, as the houses on the east side were still burning.

We could not find out, then, how many had been killed, as the only Indian living on the trail side, (commonly called "Stone Mike,") had gone over to the village in his canoe, as soon as the attacking party had left, to see what damage had been done, and had not returned. So, as it was getting late, we concluded to push on to Trinidad. We found the men there with the train, all safe; they having been detained by the rain. The next morning, Monday, we started back with the train, and saw nothing of the hostile band on the way. But on reaching Stone, we found that the facts were much worse than we had supposed. There had been some twenty-odd killed, and some ten or twelve badly wounded. In fact, not one

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This was undoubtedly the same band of Hoopas and Chololes that burned McDonald's house at Redwood Camp last summer, and against whom Col. Lippitt acted on the defensive, at the time he so gallantly took the field in person. When those hostile Indians were about last summer, the Stone Indians, and in fact all the others up and down the coast here, told the whites that they were camped in the vicinity, and warned them to be on their guard. One of the squaws who was wounded in this last affray says that some of the Hoopas told her that they knew the coast Indians had warned the whites last summer and put them on their guard, and they were making this attack in retaliation. The attacking party were thirty or forty in number, and all well armed with rifles and pistols. Some ten or twelve of them had regular Minnie muskets with bayonets. We saw some of the wounded who had been terribly shot with Minnie balls, and some who were wounded in five or six places with bayonets.

I have thought that perhaps you might be interested in hearing this account, as it shows that the devils are pretty well prepared for a summer campaign, if they are desirous of carrying on one. I also think it shows pretty conclusively, that the coast Indians are not in league with the hostile ones. In fact they are now very anxious to go out with the whites against them.

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