
VALLEY OF SAN JOAQUIN, CALIFORNIA,
Mercede Indian Reservation, January 9, 1852.

SIR: I herewith transmit a claim of B. Oscar Field against the Indians of the San Joaquin valley. The account is wholly informal, and I think the necessary facts are not fully made out according to the requisitions of the law; yet, as it was made by the party himself, who I shall not be able to see for some time, I transmit the claim for the consideration of the department.

Very respectfully, &c.,

ADAM JOHNSTON,
U. S. Indian Agent, Valley of San Joaquin, California.

MAY 5, 1850.

SIR: In the month of December, A. D. 1849, I went into the territory of the "Root Digger Indians," on King's river, in California, for the purpose of *mining*, and also with a view of establishing at some point on the river a ferry, in order to meet the wants of the large emigration then on the route from Los Angeles, and other places, to the mining districts in California; and finding the country possessed by these Indians, I called the chiefs together, viz: Pascall Antonio and San Francisco, who were the chiefs over the Indians inhabiting this portion of country, and I then stated to them my wishes and intentions of coming among them to *mine*, and also establish a ferry on King's river, in order to meet the demands of the numerous trains that were expected by that route. The chiefs above mentioned were pleased with the proposition, and promised me the protection of themselves and the Indians under them, in case I would come.

I then returned to Stockton, a distance of over two hundred miles, in order to purchase goods, provisions, boats, and other articles, neces-

S. Doc. 4.**237**

sary to carry out the enterprise; which I did, and then returned to King's river, and arrived there in about fifty days after my interview with the chiefs.

On my return I was met by the chiefs at the river with great apparent friendship, and by them conducted down the river about twelve miles to a point which they gave me, saying this was the place for the emigration to cross, and that here I could locate and establish a ferry. In return I gave them some presents, which they received with protestations of friendship and assurances of protection. Nothing occurred to disturb the friendship existing between us until the night of May 5, 1850, when the Indians came to my place, and entered my premises and forcibly carried away the following property, for which the said Indians are now indebted to me, to wit:

The Root Digger Indians

	To B. Oscar Field,	DR.
To forty-seven hundred dollars in gold dust, coin, and U. S. treasury notes.....		\$4,700 00
To two gold watches and other property, consisting of flour, pork, and other provisions, to wit: sugar, dried apples, teas, calicoes, and domestics.....		2,300 00
		<u>7,000 00</u>
Amounting in all to seven thousand dollars.....		<u>7,000 00</u>

B. OSCAR FIELD.

Col. ADAM JOHNSTON,
*Sub-agent of the Indians in California,
and in particular for the valley of the San Joaquin river.*

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, *Mariposa County:*

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 23d day of December, A. D. 1851.

ADAM JOHNSTON,
United States Indian Agent.

DECEMBER, 22, 1851.

You will take notice that I claim the foregoing account against the said "Root Digger Indians," who are under your charge, and also that I shall apply to the government of the United States for that amount and interest, to be paid out of any moneys that may be appropriated to said Indians; and I have now witnesses here to prove that they stole this property from me, and pray you to take proof of the same, as you are empowered to do, under the 17th and 18th sections of the last act of the United States Congress, approved June 30, 1834.

Respectfully, yours,

B. OSCAR FIELD.

Col. A. JOHNSTON,
Sub-Indian Agent, &c.

238

S. Doc. 4.

Joseph T. Hamm states that, about the 9th of May, 1850, he was present at Major B. Oscar Field's place, on King's river, in California, and there saw the "Root Digger" Indian chiefs, Antonio and San Francisco, who delivered to Major Field in presence of Lewis Thorp, who was interpreter, some of Major Field's wearing apparel and some other small articles, which they said were taken on the night of May 5, 1850, together with the other articles which are mentioned in the account of Major Field against the "Root Digger Indians," attached hereto.

JOSEPH T. HAMM.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 31st day of December, A. D. 1851.

ADAM JOHNSTON,
Indian Agent.

Lewis Thorp states that he was at Major Field's place, on King's river, in California, May 9, 1850, and that the chiefs of the "Root Digger Indians," Antonio and San Francisco, were there, and acted as interpreter on this occasion; and they gave up to Major Field some of his wearing apparel and a few other articles, which were taken with the articles named by Major Field in his foregoing account against said Indians, and taken by them on the night of May 5, A. D. 1850; and they said that these were all they could get of the other Indians at the time, as the rest had been taken off or destroyed by them.

Joseph T. Hamm was also present at the same time.

LEWIS THORP.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23d day of December, A. D. 1851.

ADAM JOHNSTON,
Indian Sub-agent, Valley of San Joaquin, California.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, *County of San Francisco:*

Before me, Frederick P. Tracy, a notary public in and for the county of San Francisco, duly appointed and dwelling in the city of San Francisco, on the thirty-first day of December, A. D. eighteen hundred and fifty-one, personally came Adam Johnston, known to me to be the person who, as United States Indian agent for the valley of San Joaquin, took the within affidavits, who, in my presence, subscribed the certificates of the taking of the same, as such officer as aforesaid, and acknowledged to me that, as such officer as aforesaid, he subscribed the same freely and voluntarily, for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

[SEAL.]

F. P. TRACY, *Notary Public.*

S. Doc. 4.

239

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, County of San Francisco:

I, John E. Addison, county clerk of said county, do certify that F. P. Tracy is a notary public in and for said county, duly qualified, as appears of record in my office.

Witness my hand and official seal this 31st day of December, 1851.

[SEAL.]

JOHN E. ADDISON, *Clerk.*

By JAS. D. GALBRAITH,
Deputy Clerk.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, County of San Francisco:

I, Frederick P. Tracy, a notary public in and for the county of San Francisco, duly appointed and dwelling in the city of San Francisco, hereby certify that I have this day diligently compared the foregoing papers with the originals, of which they purport to be copies, and that the same are true copies of the said several papers.

Witness my hand and seal of office this second day of January, A. D. eighteen hundred and fifty-two.

[SEAL.]

F. P. TRACY, *Notary Public.*
