

California 4/95

Nelson Van Jassel & others.

Red Bluff, Cal. Feb 28/59

Ask for the removal of some
Lacker Indⁿ Reservation, or the
removal of Agent Guizer, &c

Respectfully referred to the Comm^r
Indian Affairs.

Interior
March 30/59

Moskelly
clerk

Rec^d March 30/59

30 Land

Rec^d 30 Mich^g
Mr. Bailey

L. Thompson

To the Honorable Secretary of the Interior—

Greeting: The undersigned, being citizens of Tehama County, California, and residents of that portion of said county lying contiguous to the Some Lachee Indian Reservation, beg leave to state to your Honor, that we are aggrieved, in consequence of the location of said reservation in our immediate neighborhood, for the following reasons to wit:

First—That the Indians on said Reservation are few in number, and at peace with the whites, committing no further depredations than those of killing hogs and young calves.

Second—The lands occupied by said Reservation are among the best in our State, and capable of sustaining a valuable community of settlers, who would afford within themselves a much surer and better protection against such attacks, than any that has heretofore or is likely hereafter, to be extended to us by the General Government.

Third—In the establishment of the present system of reservations in California, it was the intention and belief of its projectors, that within three years the Indians would maintain themselves by their own labor, and that in our opinion they are now and have been for years able to support themselves, had they been allowed the privilege of working for wages in the neighborhood, where employment would have

been afforded them at remunerative prices, in the absence of such restraints.

Fourth— That by reference to a plat of said Reserve, it will be seen that it lies in such a shape as to extend its evil influences several miles further than it would if it all lay in a single body.

Fifth— That the Agent will not allow settlers to locate within one mile of the Reservation lines, which, from the peculiarity of their location, enables him to virtually occupy several fold the quantity of land designated in the survey, to the great detriment of all classes, and hindrance to the growth and prosperity of our country.

Sixth— That under the management of the present Agent, V. E. Geiger, and the worthless horde whom he employs, the establishment has become a disgrace and a nuisance.

Seventh— That Mr. Geiger, who, from his position as Agent, we are obliged, from force of circumstances, to admit into our houses, and into the presence of our families, has brought disgrace upon his office, by habitually living in a state of open adultery with a white prostitute, while the menials whom he keeps hovering around him, instead of endeavoring to elevate and improve the character and condition of the Indians, are dragging them down to a level with themselves by compelling the squaws, even in the presence of their Indian husbands, to sub-

mit to their lecherous and beastly desires; and further, that they have introduced among them diseases of the most loathsome character, with which the employees, hangers-on and Indians are and have for a long time been continually afflicted, and that much of the medicine furnished by Government for the use of the Indians has been used by the whites; and that by this disgraceful conduct on the part of the Agent and others, the establishment has been brought into bad repute and made a mockery and by-word in so much that it has earned and acquired the appellation of "the Government Hoop House", exerting in community a blighting influence against morality and good behaviour, and setting a frightful example before our children and young people.

In consideration of the above facts, and many more that we might enumerate, we earnestly ask that you will use the power vested in you, for the abatement of this moral leprosy, or at least, that it be removed beyond the pale of our thickly settled districts; or if such a course does not meet your approval, that you use means for the removal of the present incumbent, who, in addition to the vices above enumerated, is an habitual drunkard, and cause to be appointed in his stead a man of better habits and business capacity.

P. S. — If a petition be necessary to the furtherance of the above objects, we believe

we can forward to you the name of every respectable citizen of Tishama County who is not pecuniarily interested, as well as a large portion of those of Colusa County, which borders upon ours on the south.

H. C. Wilson

L. J. Freeman

L. C. Reed

John Freeman

Lewis Van Dassel

Wm. McCully

John King

Nelson Van Dassel

Ephraim Dennis

William H. Hill

J. W. Miller

State of California
Thama Township, Thama County

Feb 24th 1859.

Be it known that, personally
appeared before me Samuel Jenison a Justice
of the Peace, in and for said County and
Township aforesaid - Nelson Pentasull
William H. Hill and Ephraim Dennis -
Who being Citizens of Thama Township,
of lawful age, Who being duly sworn,
deposeth and said say upon their Oath
that the foregoing partition, in all matters
that are set forth they know to be true
from their own ^{belief and} personal Observation
Which they are ready to verify when
Called upon.

Signed. Nelson Van Zandt
William H. Hill

Ephraim Dennis

Sworn & Subscribed to this 24th day
of February A.D. 1859.

Samuel Jenison
Justice of the Peace.

State of California,

COUNTY OF

Shasta ss.

I hereby Certify, that *Samuel Fenison* Esq., before whom the within Instrument was made and executed, and who has thereunto subscribed his name, was, at the time of so doing, a *Justice of the Peace* in and for the County aforesaid, duly commissioned and sworn, and that his signature thereto is genuine. I further certify that the said *Affidavit* is made and executed in accordance with the laws of the State of California.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the seal of the *County Court* *Shasta* County aforesaid, at *Red Bluff* this *26th* day of *February* A.D. 1859.

J. M. Bishop Clerk,
Deputy Clerk.

