

"Wars - rumors of war"

Find the following note, of these days, to see how it sounds at this distance of time.

"Utah Depredation"

The following letter was received by Mr Wilson (B. D.) Jan. 15, 1851 from Gov. H. Smith, an emigrant on his way to the mines on the Julia route.

"Cotton Wood Grove, San Francisco rancho,
I write in haste to let you know there is a band of Catawo Indians concealed in a canon near the foot of the big hill in this valley - perhaps some 20 or 30 on a stealing expedition. They are known to be of the Walker band. A small party might surprise and pick them up before they do much mischief. They fired on a small party of ox hunters, but without injury - except fright: and chased them some two miles firing at them all the time, and finally captured one and took him in, and on being recognized by the chief as an acquaintance at Little Salt Lake, he was released under an injunction ^{not} to let the Mexicans know any thing of their location. One of my steers was butchered, and the other in a corral - so I am entirely destitute of a team. I got the young man, who had been taken prisoner, to return with my son in the morning yesterday, to demand my cattle. They got no satisfaction, but were ordered to leave and take a particular direction. I could not raise a party sufficient to make a proper demand, and from necessity have to submit. The probability is that all these have been killed. We are in a pleasant valley, and must seek our fortune here, as further travelling is at an end."

A memorandum on the letter from James McManis says: - "The Indian Chief Walker, with thirty warriors, are camped six miles from the Mission of San Felipe - their purpose to steal horses."
(This would be about 30 miles from Los Angeles.)

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June 17, 1851

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10 The above letter was (as usual) handed to me. I dispatched it immediately to Capt. Lovell, at the rancho of Chino. A company of 47 natives and Americans were raised in the City and provisioned for five days - armed with U.S. muskets. They went as far as the neighborhood of Gov. Smith's Camp, scoured the country and examined all the canons. A portion of them desired to follow an Indian trail they found, but the Deputy Sheriff would not agree. They wanted also to pass over to the Cajon Pass, but he refused consent, fearing that the horses were not sufficient.

"On Thursday, January 23^d, a party of Indians carried off 70 of the best horses (gentle) of Don José Maria Sugo, of the rancho of San Bernardino. With the aid of friendly Indians near him, he raised horses enough to mount a party of his neighbors: who started in pursuit.

"On the 27th news came into town - that the rancho of Tejon had been attacked. Ten muskets & 20 rounds of cartridges were sent to its relief, by order of the Court of Sessions. It appears that these Indians are from the Woodlump river (and, probably some from the Sacramento), who are supposed to be actuated by revenge for their tribes slaughtered recently above by the State troops. They were first seen amongst the cattle grazing near the houses of French - evidently designing to carry them off. A small party went to defend the cattle and, in a skirmish, killed some of the Indians - then retiring to the houses. The Indians were re-inforced and came to the houses, 150 strong: some forty of them are said to have been killed in the battle that ensued. They retreated, carrying off their dead. When my informant left, a good many emigrants then there, expected to leave within a few days: the occupants of the rancho would then be a very small party for defence. The Indians, it is said, have threatened to destroy the rancho and declare that no emigrants shall pass this road. The friendly Indians in the vicinity, it is thought, will be faithful, if they see the Americans well-armed: otherwise, more treachery.

"It is thought they have carried off all Mr. H. Dalton's cattle, which he was obliged to leave at the Four Creeks in coral, his employes being found, at that point, not to have horses to go further. Mr. Dalton has left Los Angeles with a few men, to endeavor to get his cattle through."

MARCH 31.]

SIR: I have which has just most respectable of incursions present season.

Under the good, and take of your Excellency.

The representation of the facts of them in too promptly offered.

My own interest less than fifty the lives and earnestly rec subject.

As I am the favor to seem proper

To His Excellency Gov

To Maj. Gen

SIR: Indians are Southern people to aid in re