

Table 2. California Indian Population: Prehistory to 1907

Date	Population ^a
Prehistory	310,000 - 705,000 ^b
1800	260,000
1834	210,000
1849	100,000
1852	85,000
1856	50,000
1860	35,000
1870	30,000
1880	20,500
1890	18,000
1900	15,500 - 20,000 ^c
1907	18,797

^aCook (1976, 1978); Merriam (1905); Mooney (1928); Powers (1976:416).

^bPowers (1976:416) estimated the size of the aboriginal populations of California at 705,000; Cook (1978) estimated it at 310,000. Most contemporary scholars would accept the higher figure, or one close to it.

^cMerriam (1905) gives a nadir population of 15,500; Cook (1976:70, 1978:91) gives one about 20,000 for the 1890-1900 decade.

The Tolowa themselves date the first massacre at 1853 and say between 450 and 600 people were killed (Heth 1976; Tolowa informant 1983). They date the second at 1854 and assert that some 150 Tolowa were killed (Tolowa informant, 1983). They call the third killing an actual battle between Tolowa and whites. Beckham (1971:134), citing Pfeiffer (1856), dates this at 1853 and says that 70 Tolowa were killed,⁴ a figure cited by the Tolowa themselves (Tolowa informant 1983).

The Tolowa were also subjected to two relocations during this same approximate period. The first occurred between 1852 and 1855 when they were taken to what they call the "Klamath Concentration Camp" (on the Klamath River); the second occurred in 1860 when they were removed to the Siletz Reservation (in western Oregon) as a result of the so called "Rogue River Indian War" (Tolowa informant 1983). Population losses from the relocations are unknown. However, relocations have typically been quite severe for Indian peoples, e.g., the Cherokee suffered huge population losses during the "Trail of Tears" of the 1830s (Thornton 1983). There is no reason to suspect that the Tolowa fared better in this regard than other removed Indian peoples.

Massacre at *Yontocket* (*Yahnk-tah-kut*)

The Massacre

Killings at the Tolowa villages are described also in tribal oral traditions (Heth 1976; Tolowa informant 1983). According to one recognized authority of Tolowa history, the massacre of *Yontocket* village was in reprisal for an alleged theft and coincided with a annual ceremony (Heth 1976:2). This was mentioned by Baumhoff above; it is described more fully by the Tolowa: