

Here one gets the feeling from this testimony that raiding parties were permissible as long as they were not carried out against one's "own" Native Americans. The more depositions one reads the clearer is the picture of a vicious cycle of revenge, essentially uncontrolled ethnic cleansing.

The testimony of settler and one-time reservation employee William Frazier provided further description of the "unofficial" raiding parties. According to Mr. Frazier, the raiding party he belonged to killed Native Americans in earnest and without hesitation once all the men got set in ambush. And once started, the genocide process was very difficult to understand and even harder to stop.

Unlike some other depositions in which the settler glossed over the unseemly graphic details, Frazier was not shy about spelling out his own role, clearly and without hesitation.

We started on an expedition across Eel River, in the mountains between Round Valley and Long Valley. We left Long Valley in the evening. And traveled in the night before we saw the fire of an Indian rancherie [sic]. Which rancherie we surrounded when day was breaking. And waited until near sun up before we attacked and killed twenty, consisting of bucks, squaws and children. And also took two squaws and one child prisoners. Those killed were all killed in about three minutes. I took the prisoners to White & Simpson's Rancho, where there are some friendly Indians, and delivered them up to White & Simpson, who promised to take care of them. We found in this rancheria no signs of any depredation having been committed by these Indians. At White & Simpson's I procured an interpreter, through whom the two squaws said that they had lived on beef and horse meat for some time. We used no threats or promises to induce them to say so. They said that they had heard the Indians say that they had been killing stock longer than any white men knew anything about and that they intended to kill all the stock in the valley. They assigned no cause for killing the stock, and we could not induce them to do so. About a week afterward we went out on another expedition into the same section of country. On the first night we found two wounded Indians and one old squaw, all of which we killed. On our return home we found another rancheria, which we approached within fifteen feet before the Indians observed us. They then broke for the brush and we surprised them and killed thirteen bucks and two squaws. The rest escaped. Therefore I do not know how many there were in the rancheria. We took no prisoners. We found in this camp the carcasses of two horses. One of these horses belonged to Mr. Lambert. The other was not recognized. Mr. Lambert recognized his by the brand on the hide and color. We then went home.¹¹⁸

Frazier, who has just voluntarily confessed to murdering twenty men, women, and children in an apparently wanton slaughter, has also coolly related how his group then went out and murdered two wounded and one elderly

118. Deposition of William Frazier to Assemblyman Joseph B. Lamar, Storms Hotel, Round Valley, Feb. 27, 1860, *Appendix, Senate Journal* 1860 P.B. Botts, State Printer, pp. 61–62 at California State Archives, 1020 "O" St., 4th Floor, Sacramento, CA.