

Ford must go. McDuffie recommended that the Mendocino reservation agent be removed.²¹

Another incident needed Carlin's energy. Carlin hurried north some fifty miles in April 1860 to investigate an alleged Indian attack. Arriving at Shelter Cove, the scene of the incident, the Regulars heard one story from local stockmen and quite another from the Indians. According to the stockmen, who had notified the Mendocino reservation of the attack, an Indian leader had haughtily ordered one of their number to remove cattle and horses from grazing lands adjacent to the Indian settlement. Sensing danger, the herder withdrew temporarily, obtained weapons for protection, and headed for the Indian village. There he was surrounded by Indians who severely wounded him with arrows. Only the timely intervention of other herdsmen saved him. They chased off the attacking Indians, killing one in the process.

The Indians, who lived in Shelter Cove because mussels were available, told another version. They said that the whites had demanded women, a demand their spokesman rejected. Lending heavy credence to the Indians' claim was the absence of dead livestock and the awful reality of six dead Indians, all scalped by whites.

With little legal authority, Carlin sought a peaceful solution. He got the stockmen to agree that Indians could continue to live at Shelter Cove without molestation. In their turn, the Indians promised peace and friendship with all persons "passing through their country." Carlin remained in the area an extra couple of days to assure

²¹ J. Y. McDuffie to Mackall, Feb. 17, 1860; Carlin to McCall, Feb. 29, Mar. 6, and Apr. 3, 1860; Carlin to Dr. Ames, Mar. 2, Apr. 6 and 9, 1860, RG393.

himself that calm prevailed. He placed blame for difficulty on the "misconduct of the whites." Returning to Fort Bragg, Carlin reported to military authorities that Mendocino reservation Indians suffered from poor food and bad medical care. He recommended dismissal of most of the reservation employees, including the medical officer, Dr. Ames.²²

Carlin saw a way out of his frustration: his years of service qualified him for recruiting duty. He applied for that duty and received official orders to report for recruiting service in the eastern states. Like Major Johnson, Carlin used military procedures to escape unpleasantness in California.²³

Lieutenant Dillon took command of Fort Bragg on May 8, 1860, leaving the Round Valley detachment in charge of one of the "intelligent and trustworthy" sergeants. Aware of the notoriety accorded Dr. Ames by Army officers, Dillon requested that a military doctor be sent to the coastside post. He objected to being forced to trust the health of his command to the "incompetent and otherwise disqualified" local doctor. The department sent Assistant Surgeon Pascal A. Quinan to Fort Bragg in June.²⁴

Dillon checked the Round Valley situation. He found an increased number of Indians on the Nome Cult reservation and ascribed the change to better management. Surprisingly, he described Indian Office employees in Round

²² Carlin to Ford, Apr. 14, 1860; and Carlin to Mackall, Apr. 25, 1860; and Carlin to Hamilton and Oliver, Apr. 25, 1860, RG393.

²³ Carlin to Mackall, Mar. 27, 29 and May 3, 1860, RG393; PR, Ft. Bragg, Apr. 1860, M617, R138.

²⁴ Carlin to Mackall, Mar. 27, 1860; and Dillon to Surgeon Charles McCormick, May 17, 1860, RG393; PR, Ft. Bragg, May and June 1860, M617, R138.