



The Untold Indian Wars

- 1860s - Indian-white relations were marked by hostility.
- May 1860 - Pyramid Lake- Paiutes from surrounding areas met at Pyramid Lake to figure out the best way to deal with the influx of whites.
- Numaga, an Indian Chief, tried to keep the relationship peaceful, but a group of Paiutes attacked a stage station, murdering all of the inhabitants.
- In retaliation, Major Ormsby, leading a group of volunteers and enlisted men, went to Pyramid Lake. The Indians took control of the fight and slaughtered the make shift “army” including Major Ormsby.
- June 1860 - A second battle at Pyramid Lake.
- This resulted in a victory for the whites, which left the Paiutes “in a famished and homeless state.”
- 1860s - Paradise Valley- Farmers and ranchers were hard hit by the raids of predatory bands and the many battles that ensued. Fighting slowed settlement and agricultural development and the fighting only ended when the Indians were subdued in 1867.
- 1860s - Users of the Noble’s route were subjected to raids by bands of Paiutes.
- March 14, 1865 - In retaliation to the raids on the Noble’s route, emigrants, a U.S. Calvary division raided an Indian camp on Winnemucca Lake and slaughtered 29 people: including many women and children.
- This did nothing to quell the hostilities and ultimately ended in the death of the leader of the campaign, Captain McDermit in August 1865.
- 1865 - Captain Sou, the Chief of a friendly Paiute band assisted the Calvary in tracking Black Rock Tom, the leader of many of the attacks.
- Captain Sour and the Calvary tracked Black Rock Tom and his band to Paiute Creek where they were able to kill or capture most of Black Rock Tom’s group. Black Rock Tom was able to escape, but was killed at a later date at Big Meadows.
- January 12, 1866 - Fish Creek Battle- This was the last major battle in the Black Rock Desert. Victory for the Calvary, in which most of the Indians were killed and a few survivors were captured.