



KOYOODE TUKADU: PYRAMID LAKE PAIUTE KIT



◆ WE ARE ALL PEOPLE OF THIS EARTH

Joseph Reddiford Walker was a native to Tennessee. In the past, Walker was sheriff of Missouri County before he became a Santa Fe fur trader. Walker assisted Captain Benjamin Bonneville on his expedition to the west on July 24, 1833 with 60 men leaving from the Grand River to explore the desert area west of Salt Lake. They followed closely the route taken by Peter Ogden in 1828-1829 from the Great Salt Lake.

Walker's party was not successful with their beaver trapping attempts. Unaware that Ogden and his party had killed off most of the beaver in the area, they blamed their failure on the natives by claiming that they stole their traps.

When the party reached the Humboldt Sink they came across hundreds of natives. Unaware of the Paiute culture, Walker's party assumed the group to be a war party. For the first time the Paiutes had to face invasion by a people they did not understand.

It has been difficult to find a reliable source on this expedition. It is certain that a battle between the pioneers and the natives occurred, that over thirty Paiutes were killed, that Walker named the Humboldt Sink area as "Battle Lakes", and that no compromise was reached between the two parties. Reports say that throughout this expedition many natives were unnecessarily killed.

The Walker Expedition identified a route in the Paiute territory, inviting pioneers to pass through and settle on the Northern Paiute land. This assisted in the increasing tension that had been building between settlers and natives. Although Walkers' party was the first to have serious trouble with the Paiutes, the natives became labeled as hostile and were now targets. As time progressed, the people who were native to this land had to make many adjustments to the massive amounts of people settling in the west.

Joseph Walker