

Statement taken at Fort Churchill, Nevada. September 11, 1865

STATE OF NEVADA, Lyon county, Fort Churchill ss:

Franklin Campbell, being sworn, says: I reside at Walker River reservation, and have resided there off and on since 1st of April, 1862, first from 1st April, 1862, until first October 1863; then from first October, 1864, up to the present time; was absent from first October 1863, to first October, 1864. I have been acting as agent most of the time that I have been on the reservation.

The Walker River reservation is about sixty miles long by twelve miles wide, including the Walker lake, which takes up probably one-third of the reservation. I should think on the reservation there are about four thousand (4,000) acres of arable land, river bottom, fine loam soil; will produce well, or has produced well whenever cultivated. There is one board house on the reservation, say twenty five by fifteen feet, one story high; no finish inside, only cloth lining and paper. Should think at present prices such a house could be built for \$250 to \$300. This house was built, I think in spring of 1860, also an adobe stable. It could not have cost much, for it was built by the Indians under the superintendence of Warren Wasson, who was then the acting agent; so I have been informed. Those two are the only buildings on the reservation. There is no fencing, only corrals, small and insignificant. There has been no cultivation on the reservation.

At present there are about 500 to 600 Indians on the reservation, living in their usual wild way by hunting, fishing, and gathering seeds. At certain seasons of the year from 1,500 to 2,000 Indians gather on to the reservation to fish, and they naturally belong to the reservation. They resort to Walker river and lake every year to catch fish for food. I think the Indians at Walker river and lake, and the Indians at Upper Sink of Carson, can be domesticated together upon the Walker River reservation, and the Indians at Lower Sink of Carson, the Humboldt Indians and the Indians upon the Truckee and around Pyramid lake, can be domesticated together on the northern reservation on Truckee and Round Pyramid lake. A large number of Indians at Upper Sink of Carson are included in the 1,500 to 2,000 Indians that gather annually for fishing in Walker river and lake.

These Indians are known as the Pah-Ute Indians, though among themselves they have their clare names. Their localities, clothing, cloths, blankets, etc. I distributed for Mr. Lockhart, the agent to Indians at Lower Sink of Carson in fall of 1863, I believe about Christmas, about sixty single blankets, some white Mackinaw three-point blankets, and some red blankets, and twelve hundred (1,200) yards of calico, certainly one bale of hickory shirting, and I am not certain but two bales one bale of blue drilling between 500 and 700 yards, one bale of plaids, and I am not certain but

two bales, and one bale of double-width woolen blue cloth. The Indians present to whom these goods were distributed would number between 300 and 400. About the Lower Sink of Carson, and to a part of whom these goods were distributed, live some eight hundred (800) Indians, or that locality is the centre of about that number.

I know personally of no other distributions, except of some hats and overalls distributed to the boys in haying under Mr. Lockhart. At a time, though, while Mr. Lockhart was east, other clothing was distributed, in the fall of 1862 - about 150 shirts, about the same number of overalls, and about 600 yards of calico. These latter were distributed at the reservation house on Walker river. The reservation house on Walker River reservation is from this post by trail about twenty-five miles distant, and can be rode in four or five hours; by wagon road the distance is about thirty miles, and can be rode in from six to eight hours.

I learned from Mr. Lockhart, the whites present, and from the Indians, that a distribution of clothing was made by Mr. Lockhart to the Indians at Lower Sink of Carson. I have heard of no distribution of clothing since of consequence. The Indians at Walker river and lake have been peaceable and quiet ever since I have known them, except two that are now prisoners at the post on a charge of murder, and a half a dozen friends of theirs that have been disarmed. The Indians to whom I distributed goods at Lower Sink of Carson in 1863 had just previous taken money from the white inhabitants. They returned nearly all of the money at my request at the time I distributed the goods. Their excuse for taking the money was that the lands the whites were occupying were theirs, and the occupants ought to pay them something for the lands.

The reservation house at Walker river is about fifteen miles this side of the lake. From here to Upper Sink of Carson is twenty-six miles, and the Indians there, included with the Indians on Walker river and lake, will amount to two thousand (2,000) at least. There are now a few miners (white) working on the Walker river reservation. A toll-road runs across the reservation called the Wellington toll road, a continuation of the Big Trees road in California, on towards Austin, in this State. Two mules are the only live stock on the reservation belonging to the government.

I should speak of provisions distributed in winter of 1861-'62; I should think about one ton of flour was distributed, but I think the beeves were not purchased by government money. In winter of 1862-'63 five beeves were received from rancheros in pay for allowing their stock to graze on the reservation, which were killed and distributed to the Indians. From the best information I can get, there are about six hundred (600) Indians living around Pyramid Lake reservation. A man by the name of Gibson has been

acting agent there. Lockhart told Gibson he better leave there, as he had no means of paying or supporting him. Lockhart told me he said this to Gibson last spring. Lockhart went east in April last, I think, and has not been back since, as I have heard, I was on the Pyramid Lake reservation in February, 1864. There was no land fenced or cultivated on the reserve at that time that I saw, and from all information there was no fencing nor cultivation, and at that time there was no saw-mill built on the reserve, although I had heard talk of building one.

There is a house built on the reserve, or one was at that time built by Lockhart or his order: simply a board house; very small; I should say cost from \$175 to \$200. There was no other building at that time on the reserve. I should say the house on that reserve is about thirty-four miles from this post. From this post to that house on that reserve there is a good wagon road. The country is such that you can drive a buggy there in five or six hours. The house on reserve is thirteen or fourteen miles this side of Pyramid lake. There were thirty (30) head of cattle killed on the Walker River reservation and distributed to the Indians. I understood that they were procured from whites, who herded their stock on the reservation, in payment for herding their stock there. This was last winter.

The Indians catch, in Walker lake and river, annually from 150 to 200 tons of fish, I should think, and they gather seed from the bunch-grass. The natural resources or products of the reservation are not sufficient to support the Indians. Land must be cultivated and planted. I think there would be no difficulty in inducing the Indians to labor, and I believe in a short time a reservation could be made self-sustaining with proper management.

There have been purchased for the Walker River reservation, or brought on the it for use, a spade, a hoe, a few scythes, rakes, and forks, the latter for haying purposes in cutting and gathering the grasses that grow spontaneous and wild upon the reserve. I have cut and put up seventy (70) tons of hay on the reserve, but have done it at my own expense: had to hire money to get along with the work. No means had been furnished to do anything on the reserve last year. I had provisions for myself and interpreter, Richard Washington, an Indian, from Mr. Lockhart to July last; since then have taken care of ourselves. There has been no instruction to Indians, either adult or child. Most of them are clothed. They work and buy clothing. My opinion is that these Indians are not only susceptible of improvement, but would readily yield to teachers, and make great progress with proper tuition.

FRANKLIN CAMPBELL