





INDIAN WARS | CIVIL WAR 1843-1916

"A HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF CAN NOT STAND."  
-ABRAHAM LINCOLN, JUNE 16, 1858, ADDRESS TO THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

## SPANISH-AMERICAN AND MEXICAN WARS

Many Oregonians served during the Spanish-American War, particularly in the Philippine Islands. After President William McKinley called for volunteers in April 1898, Oregon mustered a complete regiment of infantry, designated the Second Oregon. The regiment mobilized at Irvington Park in Portland, which took the name Camp McKinley. There it trained under Colonel Owen Summers until it was ordered to San Francisco for departure to the Philippines on May 25, 1898. Oregon troops participated in several engagements, including the occupation of Manila. The soldiers stayed on after the Spanish surrender to serve during the prolonged Philippine insurrection, including the battle of Malabon in March 1899. More than 1,600 Oregonians participated in the fighting. Of these, 13 were killed in action, four died of wounds, three were missing in action, and two died from accidents. Disease claimed the lives of 43 Oregonians and 84 suffered wounds in action.

In 1916 and 1917 Oregon National Guard soldiers saw service along the Mexican border as the United States mounted an armed expedition to Mexico to end raids into U.S. territory by Mexican leader Pancho Villa. An Oregon National Guard recruitment card extolled the service as an opportunity of a lifetime. Recruits could get military training under “real war conditions, with the minimum of personal danger.” Oregon men from 18 to 45 years of age qualified for service. They would earn from \$15 to \$45 per month “with all the necessities of life furnished, including medical attention - the pay is for your luxuries....” The reader was encouraged to “look this card over, but don’t overlook it.” After all, “you will get a free trip of nearly 2,000 miles to Southern California.” Who could resist?

General John J. “Blackjack” Pershing led American forces before drawing the assignment of building the American Expeditionary Force in preparation for the American entry into World War I the next year. The Mexican border duty consisted of constant patrols and drilling but led to no real action for the Oregon troops. However, officials credited their service along the border as having “effectively restrained Mexican raiders from action against American ranches and settlements.”

Credit: Oregon State Archives – Web Exhibit “Oregon Before WWI”

Top photo: General John J. “Blackjack” Pershing in Mexico, 1916.  
Bottom photo: U.S. Army in Mexico, 1916.

## CAYUSE INDIAN WAR

Cold winds swept across the Columbia Plateau. In November 1847, they heralded the onset of the winter of discontent. Too long had the Cayuse Indians suffered from new diseases and the failed ministrations of Dr. Marcus Whitman. In their culture a shaman or curer who failed was subject to death. This doctor, a strapping, determined white man had come into their lands uninvited. The mission he and his wife established worked like a magnet to draw emigrants. Each year the wagon trains descended the Blue Mountains and, like the grasshoppers that swept across the countryside, they heralded discomfiting changes. Smallpox, measles, fevers, death, and mourning came in their wake.

On November 29, 1847, a band of Cayuse men, fed by fear and resentment, fell upon the missionary station. In a matter of hours they murdered Marcus and Narcissa Whitman and a dozen others. Two more died subsequently of exposure and 47, many orphaned children of emigrants, were taken captive. The Spaldings fled Lapwai and skirted the Cayuse homeland in their dash to safety. Panic swept through the Willamette settlements. Initially the settlers thought the tribes of the Columbia Plateau might drive through the Gorge and attempt to murder them, too.

Peter Skene Ogden wanted to ransom the hostages taken by the Cayuse. The Provisional Legislature faced its greatest test. While Peter Skene Ogden of the Hudson’s Bay Company was rushing east with 16 men to try to ransom the hostages, Governor Abernethy called for “immediate and prompt action.” The legislature authorized raising companies of volunteers to go to war against the Cayuse Tribe. It entrusted command to Colonel Cornelius Gilliam and named a committee to negotiate with the Hudson’s Bay Company for loans of arms, ammunition, and supplies to mount the campaign. The government wrestled with two approaches: one, to send peace commissioners to try to persuade the Cayuse to turn over the perpetrators; and, two, to wage a war of retribution. In short order it did both. Governor Abernethy appointed a peace commission - Joel Palmer, Henry A.G. Lee, and Robert Newell. Gilliam, who did not approve of the commission, set out in January 1848 with more than 500 volunteers.

The Cayuse War became, at times, a war of nerves. The peace commissioners and friendly Indians tried to end hostilities and get the Cayuse to turn over the killers of those at the Whitman station. Gilliam and his forces, eager for action, provoked conflicts with both friendly and hostile Indians. In March, having persuaded the Cayuse to surrender five men, the military brought them to Oregon City. They were charged, tried, and hanged in 1850. The guilt of the five Indians and the jurisdiction of the court were not fully established. Controversy swirled for decades after this trial - the first culminating in capital punishment following legal proceedings in the Oregon Territory.

Credit: Oregon Blue Book Online



## INDIAN WARS

Camas lilies bloomed in such profusion that meadows looked like lakes amid the forests. The tarweed seeds ripened and the women set the fires. Armed with beaters and funnel-shaped baskets, they began the annual cycle of gathering. Acorns ripened, matured, and fell from the oaks. Their flour, when leached of tannic acid, provided a nutritious gruel or bread when baked on flat stones near the fires. Salmon surged up the rivers. Eels clung to the rocks as they ascended the rapids. Deer and elk browsed on the nutritious plants in the foothills. Flecks of gold glistened in the crystal-clear water of the streambeds.

This was the setting when, during the winter of 1851-52, packers on the trail to California discovered the placer mines of southwestern Oregon. Within weeks a reckless population, most of them hardened miners from California, surged over the Siskiyou or stepped off the gangplanks of ships putting in at Crescent City, Port Orford, Umpqua City, or Scottsburg. The rush was on. It meant quick riches for those who found the right pothole in bedrock filled with nuggets or the fortunate miners whose riffle boxes captured the fine particles of gold that glistened in the black sand. For the Indians of the Rogue River country it meant that all they had known and their very lives were at stake.

The causes of conflict erupted everywhere. The Donation Land Act became law in 1850. Years passed before treaties, negotiated in 1853 and 1854, were ratified. Some, such as those of Anson Dart or the Willamette Valley Treaty Commission of 1851, never gained Senate approval. In spite of the promises of superintendents of Indian affairs Dart and Palmer, the white people poured in. Dispossession ruled. The miners drove the Takelma, Shasta, Chetco, Shasta Costa, Mikonotunne, Tututni, Galice Creeks and Cow Creeks from their villages. Located on old stream terraces, the Indian homes were prime locations for placer deposits.

The hungry newcomers hunted the game, decimating the deer and elk populations. The Territorial Legislature in 1854 prohibited sale of ammunition or guns to Indians, deepening their disadvantage. The miners and residents of Jacksonville, Canyonville, Kerbyville, and Gold Beach liked bacon and ham. They let hogs run wild, catching them in baited traps. The hogs ate the acorns, a primary subsistence food for the Indians.

Some whites banded together in the mid-1850s as “exterminators” to kill Native Americans in southern Oregon. This included aggression against Takelma Indians camped near Lower Table Rock.

Mining debris poured down the Illinois, Rogue, South Coquille and South Umpqua Rivers. The salmon runs diminished; the eels died. Crayfish, fresh water mussels and trout choked on the flood of mud. Starvation threatened. The

claimants of Donation Lands fenced their fields with split-rail fences and built log cabins. They worked with a will to stop Indian field burning. The Indian women found it impossible to harvest tarweed seeds and the blackberries that formerly regenerated with the annual fires did not grow back. The settlers turned under the fields of camas lilies, and their cattle and horses grazed off the blue-flowering plants.

The mining districts--whether in the Rogue River country or the Blue Mountains of northeastern Oregon--caused major ecological disruption. The rush for quick wealth through mineral exploitation unraveled nature's ways and long-established human subsistence activities. Then came the “exterminators”--unprincipled men who believed only dead Indians were good Indians. They formed volunteer companies and perpetrated massacres against the Chetco Indians in 1853, the Lower Coquille Indians in 1854, and in wanton aggression against Takelma Indians camped near the Table Rock Reservation in 1855.

Frederick M. Smith, sub-Indian agent at Port Orford, in 1854 addressed the attacks on the Indians in his district. They were ravaged by hunger, dispossession of their villages, onset of new and fatal diseases, and overt murders. Reporting the massacre of the Lower Coquille Indians, he wrote: “Bold, brave, courageous men to attack a friendly and defenseless tribe of Indians; to burn, roast, and shoot sixteen of their number, and all on suspicion that they were about to rise and drive from their country three hundred white men!” Smith's lament, the mourning cries of the Indian women, the death rituals of rubbing the hair with pitch, and the inexorable course of hunger, attack, and death precipitated the conflicts known as the Rogue River Wars. The troubles seethed between 1852 and 1856. Finally the U.S. Army had sufficient forces to mount a campaign in 1855-56 to destroy the Indians' ability to resist.

Joel Palmer negotiated treaties in 1855 with Native Americans living in eastern Oregon.

Vanquished by the combined operations of the Oregon Volunteers and Army regulars, the Indians of the Rogue and Umpqua Valleys and the southwestern Oregon coast were then removed to the Siletz and Grand Ronde reservations. Forced marches through winter snows or over the rocky headlands and through the sand dunes of coastal Oregon became trails of tears for hundreds driven to the distant reservations. Other survivors were herded aboard the Columbia, a side-wheel steamer, which removed them from Port Orford to the Columbia and lower Willamette River area. Then they had to walk the muddy trail to the reservations.

The myth of independence was shattered by the actions of Oregon's frontier

residents. For their “services rendered” in the conflicts of 1853, the volunteers billed the federal government for \$107,287, and they were the primary cause of the hostilities. When the conflicts ended in 1856, they worked for years to gain settlement. Finally in 1890 Congress passed the Oregon Indian Depredation Claims Act. Aged pioneers filed affidavits to claim reimbursement for lost pillows, ricks of hay, rail fences, and beans and bacon during the conflicts of the 1850s. A dependent generation's elders once again tapped the federal treasury for support.

Troubles with the tribes erupted anew in the 1850s on the Columbia Plateau. In 1855 Superintendent Joel Palmer and Governor Isaac I. Stevens of Washington Territory summoned the Indians of the eastern plateau to the Walla Walla Treaty Council. In a matter of days they hammered out agreements, ceding lands but reserving others with the Nez Perce, Cayuse, Umatilla, and Yakima. Subsequently Palmer met the Wasco, Wishram, and Warm Springs (or Tenino) at The Dalles and entered into a treaty with them. All of these agreements were noteworthy for enumerating rights. The tribes, who had engaged in traditional subsistence activities from time immemorial, reserved rights to fish “at usual and accustomed grounds and stations,” to erect fish-processing sheds for drying their catch, and to hunt, gather, and graze livestock on unenclosed lands.

While Congress was considering the treaties, the Bureau of Indian Affairs began urging the Indians to remove to their new reservations and take up an agrarian lifestyle. Few wanted to engage in such backbreaking labor or give up fishing, hunting, and gathering. The pressure was on. Emigrants arrived every fall and settlement spread east from The Dalles. Pioneer cabins lined the shores of the Gorge, threatening to disrupt the Indian fisheries. Then came gold discoveries on the Fraser and Thompson rivers in British Columbia and in the Colville district on the north-central plateau. The influx of miners led to an eruption of troubles and, in time, to the Yakima Indian War of 1855-58. The forces of the U.S. Army, supplemented by companies of Oregon Volunteers, defeated the hostile bands.

The 1850s were a wrenching time of transition. Steadily the Indian numbers diminished, their food sources destroyed and their lands appropriated. These were terrible times for the region's native peoples.

Credit: Oregon Blue Book Online

## C.E.S. WOOD

SOLDIER, ATTORNEY AND WRITER

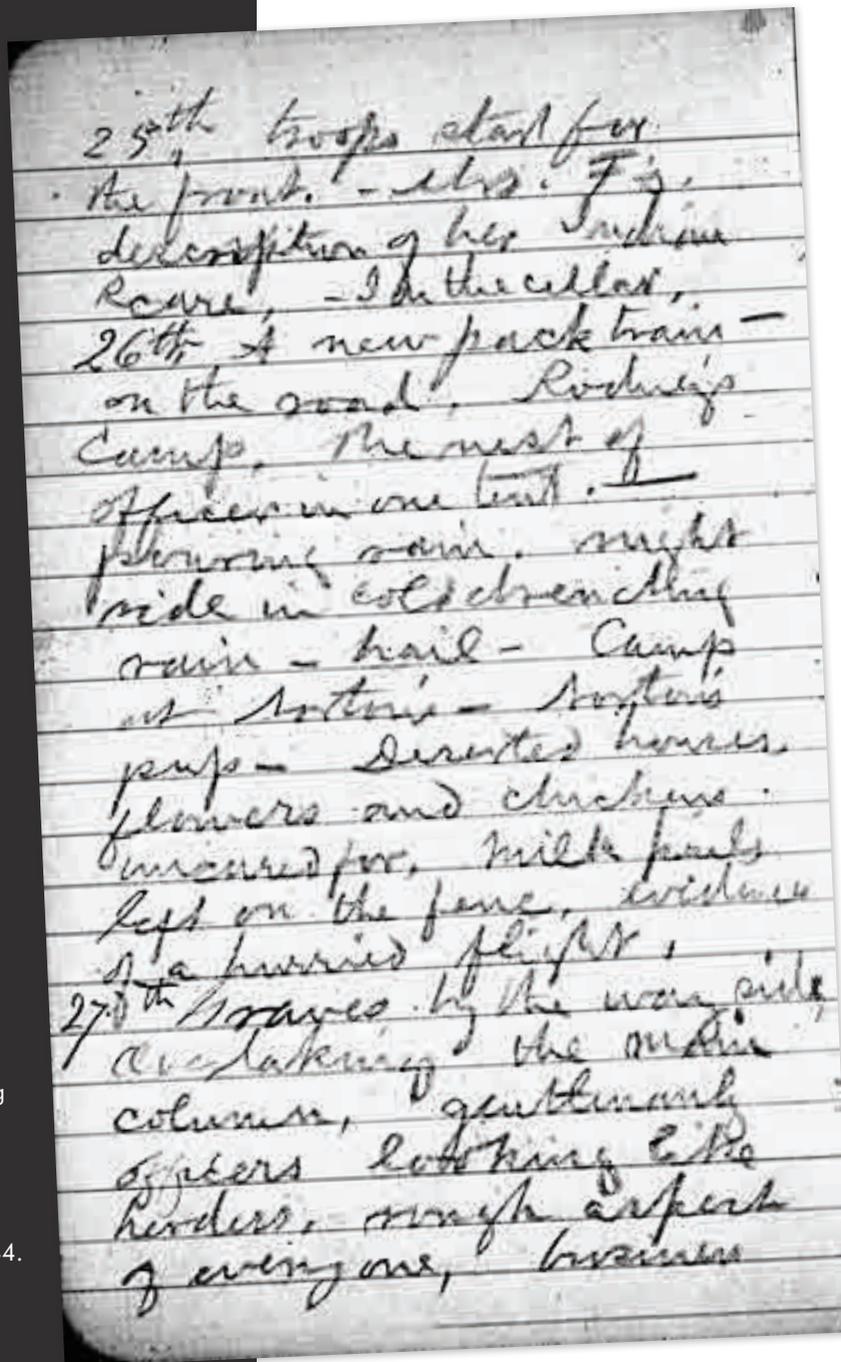
Charles Erskine Scott Wood was born in Erie, Pennsylvania on February 20, 1852 to William and Rose Mary Wood. He graduated from West Point Military Academy in 1874 and served as an army lieutenant. Wood fought in both the Nez Perce War in 1877 and the Bannock-Paiute War in 1878. It was in this capacity that he experienced the southeastern Oregon desert, described as a "lean and stricken land," that was to have a deep influence on him. While still in the military, he began contributing articles to periodicals. He also attended Columbia University and by 1883 he had collected a Ph.D. and a law degree.

The next year Wood left military service after he was admitted to the Oregon bar. He began a law practice in Portland that would span 35 years. Instrumental in founding the library and art museum, he became a leading figure in Portland's cultural scene. Meanwhile, he wrote both poetry and prose. His *Poet in the Desert* became a literary success soon after it was published in 1915. Ironically, while Wood was an avowed social anarchist, he served as attorney for one of eastern Oregon's biggest land monopolies. He argued a major land claim related to the old military wagon roads across Oregon and won a million dollar law fee.

Wood spent the last 25 years of his life with his second wife, poet Sara Bard Field, in Los Gatos, California, retreat that they called "The Cats." Here he authored works that brought him national recognition. Among them was his satirical drama *Heavenly Discourse*, published in 1927, which soon became a bestseller.

Wood was a fascinating and polished personality, as at ease in a banker's drawing room as he was at a gathering of Wobblies. He drew friends from contrasting corners of society, including such well-known figures as Chief Joseph, Mark Twain, Emma Goldman, Ansel Adams, Robinson Jeffers, Clarence Darrow, Child Hassam, Margaret Sanger, and John Steinbeck.

Wood died in Los Gatos, California on January 22, 1944.



While still in the military, C.E.S. Woods began contributing articles to periodicals. Here are some handwritten notes from his time of service.



# ROGUE RIVER INDIAN WAR

## WARS AND BATTLES, 1855-56

The Rogue River War erupted in October 1855, when a swarm of men from Jacksonville, a mining town in the Rogue River valley of southwestern Oregon Territory, massacred at least 28 Indians encamped in the vicinity of the Table Rock Reservation.



Hoxie Simmons, a Rogue River Indian, c. 1870.

This, and several subsequent attacks on Rogue River valley natives were intended to spark a war that would employ miners, unable to mine owing to a long dry spell, as paramilitary “volunteers.” Acquiring more land from the Indians was not a factor.

Leaders of the southwestern Oregon Indian people had already inked treaties relinquishing the lion’s share of their homelands. The Rogue River tribes had endured the aggression of Oregon Trail and California Gold Rush immigrants, and had put up stiff resistance

to them in the early 1850s. The U.S. Army inflicted numerous punitive assaults against the Rogue River natives, beginning in 1851.

## BACKGROUND: THE ROGUE RIVER TREATY - 1853

The accord of 1853 was signed near the Table Rocks of the southwest Oregon Territory. The treaty was initially signed with an X

mark by Chief Sam, known as Ko-Ko-Ha-Wah, meaning “wealthy,” and four other chiefs of the so-called Rogue River Indian Tribe\* along with General Joseph Lane and others representing the United States.

The result was a vast tract of land, reckoned at more than two million acres fit for settlement, ceded to the federal government. The selling price was \$60,000 — minus \$15,000 to be paid to settlers for miscellaneous expenses incurred prior to the treaty.

The document was the first in the Oregon Territory (present-day Oregon and Washington) to be ratified by the U.S. Senate, when it was approved in April 1854. President Franklin Pierce signed the treaty in 1855.

In addition to supposedly securing an end to hostilities between natives and settlers, the treaty established a temporary reservation situated around the Table Rocks. The people were impoverished by their removal to the reservation: It wrenched the traditional tribal economy and social system into disarray.

## HOSTILITIES RESUME - 1855

Joel Palmer, Oregon Superintendent of Indian Affairs; and General John E. Wool, the U.S. Army commander on the Pacific Coast, actually opposed the new hostilities. But General Lane, the territorial delegate in Washington and a heavyweight in the ruling Democratic party, asserted himself in favor of war, and anticipated receiving swift remuneration for war claims.

Indian people who chose to fight, led by Tecumtum (Chief John) of the Etch-ka-taw-wah band, took refuge in the Coast Range. They effectively repelled assaults, most notably in the Battle of Hungry Hill at the end of October 1855. Others chose to place themselves under the protection of regular troops at Fort Lane, commanded by Captain Andrew Smith. They were removed in January 1856, to the Grand Ronde Reservation in northwestern Oregon.

In February 1856, the natives in the mountains brought the fight down the Rogue River to the Pacific Coast, apparently to buy time

to find food following a harsh winter. They nearly cleared the coast of non-natives, but in May they came under attack from two directions. Regular army troops moved north along the coast from Crescent City, California, and met little opposition. Most of the combatants submitted to that unit’s commander, apparently because they believed that the army would protect them from more predatory volunteer troops.

The volunteers, meanwhile, came down the Rogue toward the coast, and at Big Meadow attacked natives who had already submitted to the regulars.

The followers of Tecumtum put up their final resistance at Big Bend on the river, where they nearly overcame regular troops who were guarding a prisoner-of-war camp.

In 1856, in a ghostly reminiscence of the Cherokees’ Trail of Tears, between 900 and 1,000 natives were compelled to relocate to the Siletz and Grand Ronde reservations west of present-day Salem, Oregon. Some were obliged to trudge up the coast to their new domicile, the Coast Reservation, on the central coast. There was fierce resistance to the removal because people thought they would be allowed to stay at Table Rock.

Credit: US HISTORY.COM

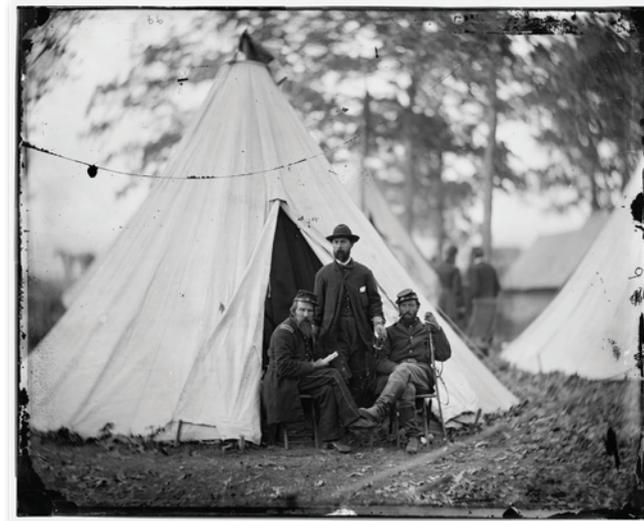
# The Rogue River tribes had endured the aggression of Oregon Trail and California Gold Rush immigrants.



# CIVIL WAR IN OREGON

The plunge to Civil War exploded on April 12, 1861, in the bombardment of Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor. When it became apparent the conflict would not be short, the Army began removing regular soldiers from the District of Oregon.

With most regular army troops withdrawn from the Pacific Northwest for service in the war's eastern theatres, Oregon and the Washington and Idaho territories were without sufficient troops to guard Indian reservations from trespassing miners, escort immigrant wagon trains, and protect settlers and traders from Indian raiders in eastern Oregon and southern Idaho. Oregon officials were also



concerned about possible conflicts between pro-Union and pro-Confederate supporters.

As a result, the commander of the United States Army's Department of the Pacific, Brigadier General George Wright asked Oregon Governor John Whiteaker to recruit an Oregon cavalry regiment. At the same time, Wright asked Henry M. McGill, Washington Territory's acting Governor, to raise an infantry regiment in Washington. Both recruiting efforts were successful. The Washington infantry regiment was formed on 18 October 1861, and the 1st Oregon Cavalry was activated a month later on November 21.

The Army abandoned Fort Umpqua in 1862. The First Oregon Volunteer Cavalry and the First Washington Territory Infantry went to central Oregon. During the Civil War, Oregon raised six companies of cavalry. Known officially as the First Oregon Cavalry, they served until June 1865. The initial enlistment period for six of the seven Oregon cavalry companies and five of ten Washington infantry companies expired in the fall of 1864. As a result, Brigadier General Benjamin Alvord, the Army's senior commander in Oregon, asked Oregon's new Governor Addison C. Gibbs to raise a new infantry regiment and recruit backfills for the expected cavalry vacancies.

Secessionist sympathizers surfaced in Oregon. The Knights of the Golden Circle, an anti-Union group, reportedly plotted the seizure of Fort Vancouver, military headquarters on the Columbia River. They did not act. When pro-Confederate partisans raised their flag in Jacksonville, they faced opposition and backed down.

The Long Tom Rebellion was perhaps the most noteworthy outbreak of secessionist feeling. Emboldened by the assassination of President Lincoln, Philip Henry Mulkey walked the streets of Eugene on May 6, 1865, shouting: "Hurrah for Jeff Davis, and damn the man that won't!"

The First Oregon Volunteer Infantry arrested Mulkey, who promptly grabbed a glass of water and toasted Jeff Davis, the Confederate president. A pro-Union mob, wanting to lynch Mulkey, broke down the jail door. Mulkey slashed one of the men with a hidden knife. Mulkey's supporters from the Long Tom district were ready to fight, but the infantry slipped Mulkey out of town under an armed guard, loaded him on a steamboat, and sent him off to three months in jail at Fort Vancouver. Mulkey sued for \$10,000 for false arrest. After 14 court appearances over a two-year period, he settled for \$200.

For many of the soldiers, the Civil War in Oregon was a monotonous, numbing assignment. In their monthly post returns, officers recorded desertions, suicides, and bouts in the brig because of drunkenness and misbehavior. The Indians were quiet on the Siletz and Grand Ronde Reservations. The rain was predictable and depressing. "Nothing transpired of importance," recorded Royal A. Bensell, a soldier at Fort Yamhill. Too many days brought that refrain in his Civil War diary.

Gold discoveries in the Blue Mountains drew thousands of miners. Conflicts with Native Americans brought troops to the region. East of the Cascades the troops had active engagement. Gold discoveries at Canyon City and other diggings on the headwaters of the John Day River and in the Powder River country on the eastern slopes of the Blue Mountains had drawn thousands of miners. The Northern Paiute, disrupted in their seasonal round and tempted by the easy pickings of clothing, food, and horses, embarked on raids and conflicts that demanded military

intervention. The Oregon Volunteer Infantry and Cavalry established Camp Watson (1864) after placing troops at temporary stations: Dahlgren, Currey, Gibbs, Henderson, and Maury. The forces engaged in lengthy and often fruitless explorations searching for the elusive Indians.

Realizing that the problems east of the Cascades were of long duration, the U.S. Army established Fort Klamath (1863), Camp Warner (1866), and Fort Harney (1867). During the summer of 1864 Captains John M. Drake and George B. Curry and Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Drew led troops on sweeps through southeastern Oregon, northern Nevada, and southwestern Idaho. They had little success in finding the "enemy." "These tribes can be gathered upon a

reservation, controlled, subsisted for a short time, and afterwards be made to subsist themselves," commented the superintendent of Indian affairs, "for one-tenth the cost of supporting military forces in pursuit of them." In time that happened. The Klamath Reservation and the short-lived Malheur Reservation included various bands of Northern Paiute. The Civil War in Oregon mostly involved guarding reservations or pursuing native peoples who were masters of escape in their own homelands.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1856 had embarked on its mission to attempt to transform Indian tribes into the mainstream culture in one generation. It founded its work upon an agrarian economy regardless of the terrain, elevation, or traditional subsistence patterns of the tribes. Oregon's reservations were Siletz, Grand Ronde, Warm Springs, Umatilla, Klamath, and Malheur. The tribes retained but a fraction of their aboriginal lands. The Nez

**Emboldened by the assassination of President Lincoln, Philip Henry Mulkey walked the streets of Eugene on May 6, 1865, shouting: "Hurrah for Jeff Davis, and damn the man that won't!" The First Oregon Volunteer Infantry arrested Mulkey.**





Perce, whose 1855 treaty reserved their aboriginal lands in northeastern Oregon, were beset by trespassers who, in 1877, provoked the Nez Perce War and the exodus of Chief Joseph's band. These Indians orchestrated a brilliant retreat through the Pacific Northwest, for months eluding the U.S. Army. When they finally surrendered, the government confined them first in Oklahoma and after 1885 on the Colville Reservation in Washington.

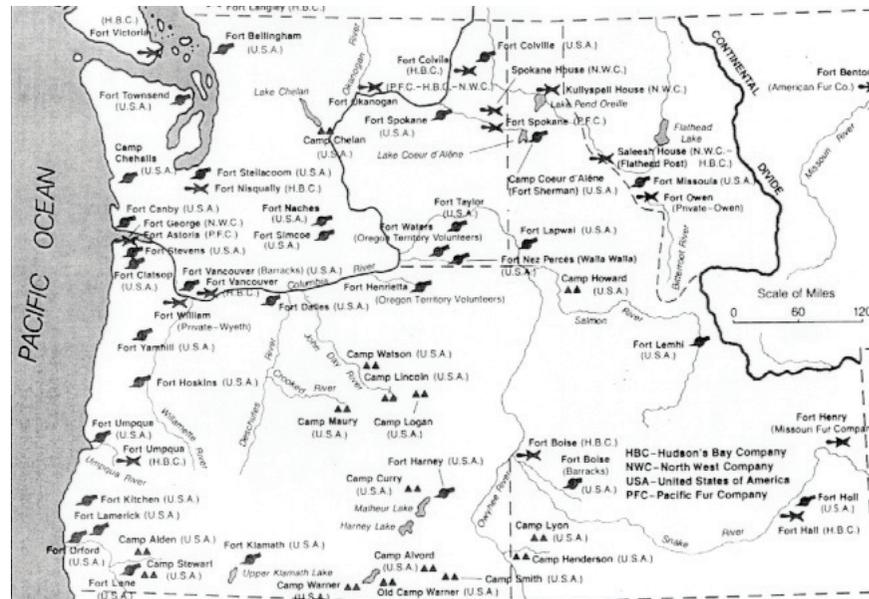
Indian agents, subagents, farmers, teachers, and doctors--all in the employ of the federal government--mounted the programs. They created farms and insisted, in spite of the weather, that Indians raise wheat in the boggy soil along the Oregon coast. Hundreds died in this ill-fated experiment. They also attempted to compel the Klamath and Warm Springs tribes to become farmers. The setting for their farms was amenable to gathering root crops or berries but not to cereal or vegetable crop production. Terrible hardship ensued.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs focused particular energy on younger Indians. It shuttled them into day schools and reservation boarding schools. The goal was to grab the brightest and nurture them in English and "civilized" life ways so they might become a new generation of leaders. In 1879 Captain James Wilkinson of the U.S. Army opened the Indian Training School in Forest Grove. When local opposition mounted against the presence of "savages" in the town, the BIA moved the school to an onion field five miles from Salem. Chemawa Indian School, founded in 1881, remains the oldest Indian boarding school in the United States. Its purpose was to insulate young people from the language, religion, and culture of their elders and compel them to adapt to a new way of life. In many respects the federal program achieved its purpose.

In 1887 the General Allotment Act launched a major assault on tribalism. The law, extended over the next few years to Oregon reservations, provided for dividing up

the tribal estate into individual allotments of 80 to 160 acres. The plan was for each Indian to receive a tract, farm it, master English and, after the passage of 25 years, gain certification as "competent." The Indian then became a citizen of the United States, received title to the allotment, and could pay taxes on the land! The program fostered a dramatic loss in Indian lands and created a nightmare of checkerboard ownerships within reservations.

Credit: The Oregon Blue Book Online



The total loss of life in the Union forces during the four years of war was 359,528, and of the many thousands discharged from the services as disabled or otherwise unfit, a large number died in consequence of injuries or disease incurred in the army. The estimate of 500,000 in all may be taken as approximately correct. The same number is given as that of the Southern losses, which of course fell upon a much smaller population.

## OREGON'S FIRST REGIMENTS IN THE CIVIL WAR

### FIRST REGIMENT, OREGON CAVALRY ACTIVE APRIL 1862 – NOVEMBER 1866

Oregon commissioned Thomas R. Cornelius in November 1861 as colonel and ordered him to raise ten companies of cavalry troops. The First Regiment, Oregon Cavalry was initially (companies A through F) organized and mustered into the army in Oregon from February to April 1862. In May 1862. They were sent into the Washington Territory to the Walla Walla country to protect immigrants and miners along the Salmon River. The 1st Oregon occupied Fort Walla Walla and sent out various expeditions to fight the Snake Indians and other threats. Hence, the regiment was rarely intact as a single unit for much of the war. Several companies scattered to other frontier forts, including Fort Vancouver and Fort Dalles

In January 1863, the remaining portion of the regiment (companies G, H, I, K, and M) were authorized and activated for duty. Companies G and H served at Camp Watson on Rock Creek; Company I was at Fort Klamath, Company K at Fort Dalles and Companies L and M at Fort Boles in Idaho Territory. The battalion came together for several skirmishes in the Harney Lake Valley and other locations with local Indians.

January 1865, Col. Reuben F. Maury, 1st Oregon Cavalry, assumed command of the Federal District of Oregon. The 1st Oregon Cavalry mustered out November 20, 1866.

### 1ST OREGON VOLUNTEER INFANTRY ACTIVE NOVEMBER 1864 – JULY 1867

The first companies of the 1st Oregon Volunteer Infantry Regiment were officially activated on November 11, 1864. By June 1865, the regiment reached ten full-strength companies. Three senior officers from the 1st Oregon Cavalry were promoted and placed in charge of the new infantry regiment.

While some detachments of the 1st Oregon Volunteer Infantry Regiment occasionally skirmished with hostile Indian bands, the regiment's main duties were much more mundane. Most companies spent their time in garrison duty at small posts in eastern Oregon, southeast Washington, and southern Idaho. On July 19, 1867 Captain Sprague and the men of Company I were the last members of the 1st Oregon Volunteer Infantry Regiment to be mustered out of the Army.





# JAMES KNOX POLK BARRINGTON

UNION ARMY

James Barrington entered the Army on August 22, 1863 to fight in the Civil War for the Union. He entered as a private with A Company, 9th Ohio Cavalry. He was captured by the Confederates and taken to a prison camp in Macon, Georgia and held for two months.

James Barrington served until July 19, 1865 and was honorably discharged as a Corporal at Lexington, North Carolina.

After his discharge he and his wife moved to Arizona and raised cattle. Later the Barrington's moved with their six children to Bandon, Oregon. James Barrington died at the age of 89 and was buried in Bandon.



The war expenditure of the Federal government has been estimated at \$3,400,000,000, not including the very large sums devoted to the pensions of widows, and disabled men. In 1879 an estimate made of all Federal war expenses up to that date, including pension charges, interest on loans, showed a total of \$6,190,000,000 (Dewey, Financial History of the United States).



## MARK ABLE AND CHARLES GENNETTE

### GENERATIONS OF SOLDIERS

Mark Able of Salem was 17 years old in 1944 and serving aboard the *USS Samar*, which was a repair ship. A Seaman 2nd Class working in the ship's watch shop, "I got in at the end of the war, so I wasn't in any battles."

The fighting in World War II ended while *Samar* was en route to the western Pacific, where she arrived in September 1945. Sent on to Chinese waters, *Samar* served for several months at Shanghai before transferring to Tsingtao in March 1946.

While Able's naval career was brief, his great-grandfather's military duty as a member of the Union Army during the Civil War was not.

"He didn't speak, read or write much English, and he didn't want to. He was a simple and quiet man," Able said.

Born to French Canadians, Charles Gennette, settled in Malone, N.Y. He joined 95th New York Volunteers in 1862 and would later take part in 15 battles, which included the Mud March, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorville, Gettysburg, Wilderness Battle, and Appomattox.

Known as the "Warren Rifles," the 95th was mustered into service in March 1862 and saw their first duty in the defenses of Washington DC. They were later involved in the reconstruction of the wharves and

building a railroad to Fredericksburg.

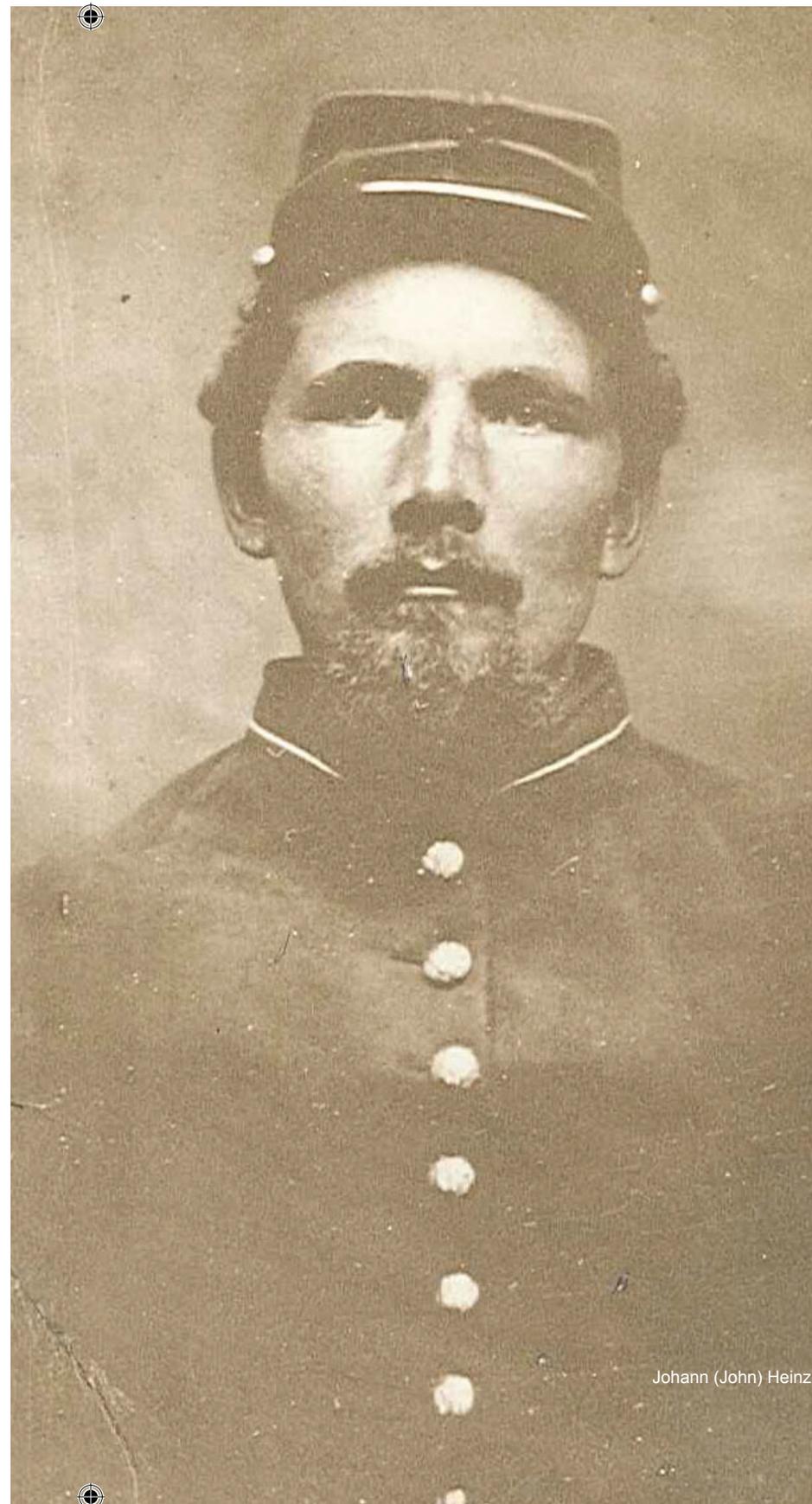
Able said his grandfather and the 95th were fully engaged in the three-day battle at Gettysburg in July 1863. Pvt. Gennette was later wounded in 1864 and treated at Point Lookout Hospital in southern Maryland. "After his medical discharge to convalesce, he returned home and then rejoined the 95th," Able said.

With Gennette's 95th now under the command of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, the regiment became part of the force that slowed the Confederate Army's advance during the spring and summer of 1864. The Appomattox campaign battles (March 29-April 9, 1865) eventually forced the South to retreat.

With more than one-quarter of his army captured, Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox on April 9. Gennette and the 95th were present with other regiments during the surrender.

"He never had any problems with the Confederates," Able said. "Grandpa felt the soldiers were all Americans with a difference of opinion."

Able said after the war, Gennette spent his life as a woodsman in New York state. "When he died in 1942 he was listed as that state's last surviving Union soldier."



Johann (John) Heinz

## JOHANN (JOHN) HEINZ

UNION ARMY

Johann (John) Heinz was born September 7, 1839 in Duensbach, Wuerttemberg, Germany. He came to America in 1861 with several friends and relatives and settled in Wisconsin. John volunteered to join the Union Army in September 16, 1861 at Fond du Lac, WI. A private with Company K, 1st Regiment, Wisconsin Infantry, he entered the service as a strong healthy man, but he became ill in early 1862, spending time in a Kentucky hospital and was plagued with illnesses off an on during his three years of service. He was discharged in October 1864.

On March 8, 1865, John married Louisa Hangartner, a widow, in Lomira, Wisconsin. He worked as clerk of Auburn Township in Fond du Lac County and often had to travel. On one trip he nearly died of pneumonia and exposure. In 1875, following his brother who had already moved, John moved his family to Silverton, OR. There they purchased 160 acres that adjoined his brother's property. John was well educated in both German and English and was an avid reader. Frequently, his children and neighbor children would gather at his fireside and he would spend hours reading, story telling and relating experiences of the Civil War.



## THE MODOC WAR

The Modoc War, or Modoc Campaign (also known as the Lava Beds War), was an armed conflict between the Native American Modoc tribe and the United States Army in southern Oregon and northern California from July 6, 1872 – June 4, 1873. A band of 53 Native American warriors battled between 400 to 700 U.S. infantry and cavalry. In the end, 57 soldiers had been killed and 46 more wounded in the battle. The Modoc War was the last of the Indian Wars to occur in California or Oregon.

### TREATY WITH THE UNITED STATES

A clash of cultures and the loss of the natives' land and lifestyle was the root cause of the war. The specific events go back to 1852, when Modoc Indians killed 65 white settlers in a wagon train at Bloody Point. In retaliation 41 Modocs were killed at a peace parley by California militia led by one "Jump Off" Joe McAlester. Hostilities continued until 1864, when the United States and the Klamath, Modoc, and Snake (Yahooskin band) tribes signed a treaty establishing the Klamath Reservation. Under the treaty terms, the Modoc, with Old Chief Schonchin as their leader, gave up their lands in the Lost River, Tule Lake and Lower Klamath Lake regions, and moved to a reservation in the Upper Klamath Valley.

### MISTREATMENT BY THE KLAMATH

Shortly after the Modocs started building their homes, they ran into more trouble; long-time rivals, the Klamaths began to mistreat them until Captain Jack and his followers finally left the reservation and returned to Lost River in 1870. During the months that Captain Jack had been on the reservation a number of settlers had taken up land in the Lost River region.

### RETURN TO LOST RIVER

On April 12, the Commission of Indian Affairs in Washington requested T. B. Odeneal, Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Washington, to move Captain Jack and his Modocs to the reservation if practicable and to see they were not maltreated by the Klamath. On May 14, Odeneal, carrying out his instructions, sent Ivan D. Applegate and L. S. Dyer to arrange for a council with Captain Jack, which Jack refused. On July 6, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in Washington directed Superintendent Odeneal to move Captain Jack and his band to the Klamath Reservation, peacefully if possible, but forcibly if necessary.

### BATTLE OF LOST RIVER

Wishing to avoid conflict, Captain Jack agreed to go to the reservation, but the situation became tense when demanded he disarm. As the rest of the Modoc were following his lead, it is believed that the Modoc warrior Scarfaced Charley and Lieutenant Frazier A. Boutelle, of company B, 1st Cavalry, got into a verbal argument, pulled their revolvers and shot at each other, both missing their target. The Modoc scrambled to regain their recently cast aside weapons, and fought a short battle before fleeing towards the border of California.

Retreating from the battlefield on Lost River to the Lava Beds south of Tule Lake, a small band of Modoc under the leadership of Hooker Jim, killed 18 settlers on the afternoon of November 29 and morning of November 30. Upon finding the evidence of this attack Joe McAlester and his militiamen decided to pursue the main body of Modoc towards the Lava Beds.

### FORTIFYING THE STRONGHOLD

Captain Jack had boasted that in the event of war, he and his band could successfully defend themselves in the lava beds on the south shore of Tule Lake, known today as Captain Jack's Stronghold. The Modoc took advantage of the lava ridges, cracks,





depressions, and caves, all such natural features being ideal from the standpoint of defense. At the time the Modoc occupied the Stronghold, Tule Lake bounded the Stronghold on the north and served as a source of water.

On December 3, "Jump Off" Joe and his militia band reached the outskirts of the Stronghold and they were ambushed. They attempted to take shelter in the creek bed but were quickly overcome and all 23 men were killed.

By January 15, the U. S. Army had 400 troops in the field near the Lava Beds. The greatest concentration of troops was at Van Bromer's ranch, 12 miles west of the Stronghold.

#### FIRST BATTLE OF THE STRONGHOLD

On the morning of January 17, troops advanced on the Stronghold. Hindered by fog, the soldiers never saw a single Modoc. The Modoc's spiritual leader, Curley Headed Doctor has performed ceremonies to raise the fog, according to legend. The Modoc, occupying excellent positions, repulsed troops advancing from the west and east. A general retreat of troops was ordered at the end of the day. In the attack the U.S. Army lost 35 men killed and 5 officers and 20 enlisted men wounded. Under Captain Jack's command there were in all approximately 150 Modoc including women and children. Of that number there were only 53 warriors. The Modoc suffered no casualties in the fighting.

#### NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PEACE COMMISSION

On April 5, Captain Jack requested a meeting with Alfred B. Meacham. Accompanied by John Fairchild and Judge Roseborough, Frank and Toby Riddle serving as interpreters, Meacham met Captain Jack at the peace tent that had been erected on a flat area about one mile east of Gillem's Camp. Captain Jack requested that the lava beds be given to them as

a reservation. The meeting ended with no agreement. After Meacham returned to camp a message was sent to Captain Jack, asking that he meet the commission at the peace tent on April 8. While delivering this message, Toby Riddle, a Modoc woman, wife of Frank Riddle, a white settler, learned of the Modoc's plan to kill the peace commissioners.

On April 8, just as the commissioners were starting for the peace tent, a message was received from the signal tower on the bluff above Gillem's Camp. The message stated that the lookout on the tower had seen five Modocs at the peace tent and about 20 armed Modocs hiding among the rocks nearby. The commissioners agreed to remain in camp. In spite of warnings of planned attack by the Modoc, Rev. Thomas insisted on arranging a date for another meeting with Captain Jack. On April 10, a message was sent asking that Captain Jack meet the commissioners at the peace tent on the following morning.

#### MURDER AT THE PEACE TENT

On the morning of April 11, the commissioners, General Canby, Alfred B. Meacham, Rev. E. Thomas, and L. S. Dyer, with Frank and Toby Riddle as interpreters, met with Boston Charley, Bogus Charley, Captain Jack, John Schonchin, Black Jim, and

A Modoc Brave on the War Path.  
Photo credit: The Bancroft Library,  
University of California, Berkeley.

Far Left: Chief Kintpuash Modoc  
"Captain Jack", Modoc Tribe,  
1837-1873



From left to right: Curly Head, Captian Jack, General Jefferson, Hooker Jim, General Canby, Boston Charlie





Indians were driven from their caves and crevices in the more open lava beds by pushing troops between their stronghold and the water supply in Tule Lake. On April 26, 1873, an expedition of some eighty men and friendly Indian scouts, led by Captain Evan Thomas, failed to find the Indians, but the Indians found them instead, ambushing the white force while they were eating their noonday lunch almost in sight of the military camp on Tule Lake.



Hooker Jim. After some talk, during which it became evident that the Modoc were armed, General Canby informed Captain Jack that the commission could not meet his terms until orders came from Washington. In an angry mood John Schonchin demanded Hot Creek for a reservation. Captain Jack got up and walked away a few steps. Two Modocs armed with rifles, ran forward from where they had been hiding among the rocks. Captain Jack turned giving the signal to fire. The first shot from Captain Jack's revolver killed General Canby. Reverend Thomas fell mortally wounded. Meacham fell seriously wounded. Dyer and Riddle escaped by running. Had not Toby Riddle cried out, "The soldiers are coming!" Meacham would no doubt have been killed.

All efforts for peace ended when the Modocs carried out their plans to kill the commissioner. A cross marks the place where General Canby and Reverend Thomas fell victims to the Modoc.

#### SECOND BATTLE OF THE STRONGHOLD

The U.S. Army made preparations to attack the Stronghold. On April 15 a general attack began. After the fighting along the shoreline of Tule Lake on the afternoon and night of April 16, the Modocs defending the Stronghold realized that their water supply had been cut off by the troops commanding the shoreline.

On April 17, before the troops had received the order to charge the Stronghold, the Modoc escaped through a crevice left unguarded during a movement of troops from one position to another. During the fighting at the Stronghold, April 15-17, casualties included one officer and six enlisted men killed, and 13 enlisted men wounded. The only Modoc casualties were two boys, reported to have been killed when a cannon ball, which they were attempting to open with an axe, exploded. Several Modoc women were reported to have died from sickness.

#### BATTLE OF SAND BUTTE

On April 26, Captain Evan Thomas commanding five

officers, 66 troops and 14 Warm Spring Scouts left Gillem's camp on a reconnaissance of the lava beds to locate the Modoc. While eating lunch at the base of Sand Butte (now Hadin Butte), in a flat area surrounded by ridges, Captain Thomas and his party were attacked by 22 Modoc led by Scarfaced Charley. Some of the troops fled in disorder. Those who remained to fight were either killed or wounded. Casualties included four officers killed and two wounded, one dying within a few days, and 13 enlisted men killed and 16 wounded.

Following the massacre, many called for Col. Gillem to be removed. On May 2, the new commander of the Department of the Columbia, Brigadier General Jefferson C. Davis relieved Gillem of command, and assumed control of the army in the field.

#### BATTLE OF DRY LAKE

At first light on May 10, the Modoc attacked an Army encampment at Dry Lake. The troops charged, routing the Modoc. Casualties among the Army included five men killed, two of whom were Warm Spring Scouts, and 12 men wounded. The Modoc reported five warriors killed. Among the five was Ellen's Man, a prominent Modoc. That was the first defeat of the Modocs in battle. The death of Ellen's Man caused dissension among the Modoc, who began to split apart. A group led by Hooker Jim surrendered to the Army and agreed to help them capture Captain Jack, and in return were granted amnesty for the murder of the settlers at Tule Lake and the murder of General Canby's commission. Captain Jack was captured in Langell's valley, June 4.

#### AFTER THE WAR

With the capture of Captain Jack, General Davis made preparations to execute the leaders of Jack's band. Execution was prevented by orders from the War Department. The orders were that the Indians would be held for trial. On July 4, Captain Jack and his band arrived as prisoners of



war at Fort Klamath.

Captain Jack, John Schonchin, Black Jim, Boston Charley, Brancho (Barncho) and Slolux were immediately put on trial for the murder of members of the Peace Commission. The six Modoc were found guilty, and on July 8 they were sentenced to die.

On September 10, President Ulysses S. Grant approved the death sentence for Captain Jack, John Schonchin, Black Jim and Boston Charley; Brancho and Slolux were committed to life imprisonment on Alcatraz. President Grant also ordered that the remainder of Captain Jack's band be held as prisoners of war.

On October 3, 1873, Captain Jack, John Schonchin, Black Jim, and Boston Charley were hanged at Fort Klamath. The remainder of the band of Modoc Indians, consisting of 39 men, 64 women, and 60 children, as prisoners of war were sent to the Quapaw Agency in Indian Territory (Oklahoma). In 1909, members of the Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma were allowed to return to the Klamath Reservation, if they so desired. {29 moved}

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This photo, taken shortly after the defeat of the Modoc Indians, shows some of the officers involved in the 1872-1873 conflict between the Modocs and the U.S. Army. (Oregon Historical Society Catalog Number: OrHi 401 Date: 1873)

