

CALIFORNIA MILITARY DEPARTMENT HISTORICAL PROGRAM
North Highlands Annex, Joint Forces Headquarters
3900 Roseville Road
North Highlands, California 95660

The 1851 Treaty of Peace and Friendship Concluded Bidwell's Ranch, on Chico Creek, 1 August 1851

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The 1851 Treaty of Peace and Friendship

Concluded at Bidwell's Ranch, on Chico Creek, August 1, 1851

A treaty of peace and friendship made and concluded near Bidwell's Ranch, on Chico creek, between the United States Indian agent, O. M. Wozencraft, of the one part, and the chiefs, captains and head men of the following tribes, viz: Mi-chop-da, Es-kuin, Ho-lolu-pi, To-to, Su-nus, Che-no, Bat-si, Yut-duc, Sim-sawa, tribes, of the other part.

ARTICLE 1. The several tribes or bands above mentioned, do acknowledge the United States to be the sole and absolute sovereign of all the soil and territory ceded to them by a treaty of peace made between them and the republic of Mexico.

ARTICLE 2. The said tribes or bands acknowledge themselves, jointly and severally, under the exclusive jurisdiction authority and Protection of the United States, and hereby bind themselves hereafter to refrain from the commission of all acts of hostility and aggression towards the government or citizens thereof, and to live on terms of peace and friendship among themselves and with all other Indian tribes which are now or may come under the protection of the United States. And furthermore bind themselves to conform to and be governed by the laws and regulations of the Indian bureau, made and provided therefor by the Congress of the United States.

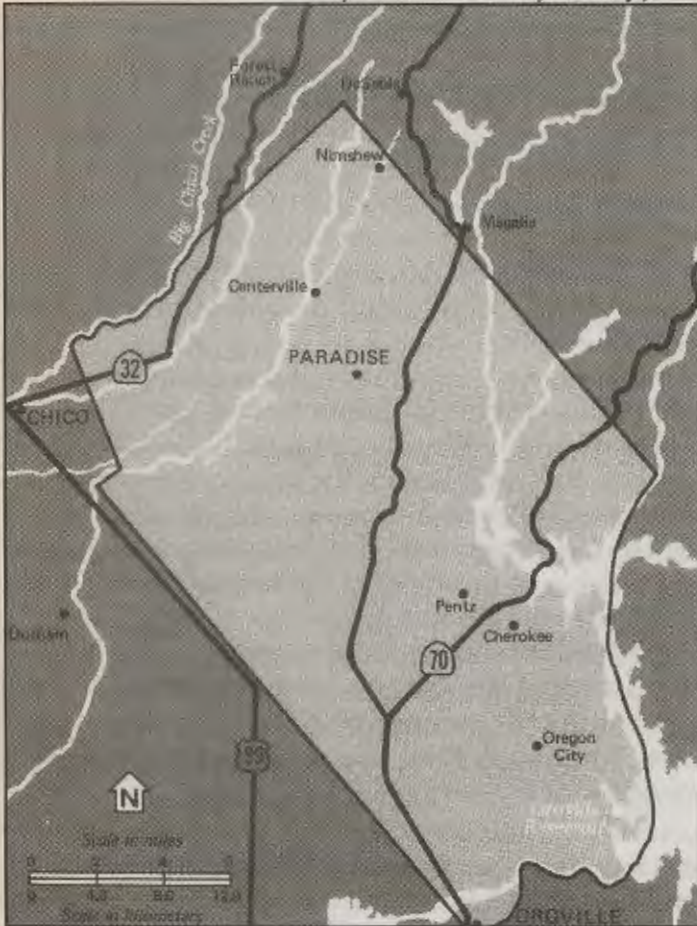
ARTICLE 3. To promote the settlement and improvement of said tribes or bands, it is hereby stipulated and agreed that the following district of country, in the State of California shall be and is hereby set apart for the sole use and occupancy of the aforesaid tribes of Indians, to wit: commencing at a point on Feather river, two miles above the town of Hamilton, and extending thence northwesterly to the northeast corner of Neal's Hensley's and Bidwell's grant to the northeast corner of the last named grant, thence northeasterly six miles, thence southeasterly parallel with the line extending from the beginning point to the north-

east corner of Bidwell's grant to Feather river, and thence down said river to the place of beginning. *Provided* That there is reserved to the government of the United States the right of way over any portion of said territory, and the right to establish and maintain any military post or posts, public building, school houses, houses for agents, teachers, and such others as they may deem necessary for their use or the protection of the Indians. The said tribes or bands, and each of them, hereby engage that they will never claim any other lands within the boundaries of the United States, nor ever disturb the people of the United States in the free use and enjoyment thereof.

ARTICLE 4. To aid the said tribes or bands in their subsistence while removing to and making their settlement upon the said reservation the United States, in addition to the few presents made them at this council, will furnish them, free of charge, with two hundred (200) head of beef-cattle, to average in weight five hundred (500) pounds each, seventy-five sacks of flour one hundred (100) pounds each, within the term of two years from the date of this treaty.

ARTICLE 5. As early as convenient after the ratification of this treaty by the President and Senate, in consideration of the premises, and with a sincere desire to encourage said tribes in acquiring the arts and habits of civilized life, the United States will also furnish them with the following articles, to be divided among them by the agent according to their respective numbers and wants, during each of the two years succeeding the said ratification viz: one pair strong pantaloons each Woman and girl, two thousand yards calico and five hundred yards brown sheeting, twenty pounds Scotch thread and one thousand needles, six dozen thimbles and two dozen pairs scissors one two and a half point Mackinaw blanket for each man and woman over fifteen (15) years of age, one thousand pounds iron, one hundred pounds steel; and in like

The Indians of Chico Rancheria by Dorothy J. Hill



Map of proposed Indian Reservation. Treaty negotiations with area Indians for a federal Indian reservation were conducted in good faith by Indian Agent Oliver Wozencraft in August 1851, but a California State Senate committee opposed any plan that would cede gold-bearing foothill lands to the Indians.

Although John Bidwell had helped to formulate the reservation plans, he secretly lobbied to have the treaty rejected. The U.S. Senate rejected the treaty in 1852, but authorized another 25,000-acre reservation at Nome Lackee, located between Thomes and Elder creeks, 20 miles west of Tehama.

manner in the first year for the permanent use of the said tribes, and as their joint property, viz: twenty-five brood mates and one stallion, one hundred milch cows and six bulls, four yoke work-cattle with yokes and chains, six work-mules or horses, twelve ploughs assorted sizes, seventy-five garden or corn hoes, twenty-live spades, four grindstones. The stock enumerated above and the product thereof; and no part or portion thereof shall be killed, exchanged, sold or otherwise parted with without the consent and direction of the agent.

ARTICLE 6. The United States will also employ and settle among said tribes, at or near their towns or settlements, one practical farmer, who shall superintend all agricultural operations, with two assistants, men of practical knowledge and industrious habits; one carpenter, one wheelwright, one blacksmith, one principal school-teacher, and as many assistant teachers as the President may deem proper to instruct said tribes in reading, writing, &c., and in the domestic arts upon the manual labor system; all the above-named workmen and teachers to be maintained and paid by the United States for the period of five years, and as long thereafter as the President shall deem advisable. The United States will also erect suitable school-houses, shops and dwelling for the accommodation of the school-teachers and mechanics above specified and for the protection of the public property.

In testimony whereof, the parties have hereunto signed their names and affixed their seals this first day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one.

O. M. WOZENCRAFT
United States Indian Agent

Gold Nugget Museum

502 Pearson Road
Paradise, CA 95969

(530) 872-8722

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