



**Redbud Resource Group.**  
Native Minds Changing Lives.

# **California Indian Genocide**

## **Historical Artifacts Packet**

## Artifact 1: Young Native Girl



Unknown artist, print on paper: engraving, hand colored, 185?, Courtesy of The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Text Transcription: *Indienne Californienne du Sud 16 ans au prix d'une livre de poudre de chasse et une bouteille de brandy* [A sixteen year old Southern California Indian female at the price of a pound of gunpowder, and a bottle of brandy]

Some California Indian girls and women, like the young lady pictured here, sometimes lived with settler men. Sadly, many of these women faced sexual manipulation, coercion, rape, and sexual slavery at the hands of colonizers.



**Artifacts 2&3: War Bond and Expenditures** (The following 2 artifacts go together)



Bond of the State of California for War Indebtedness, 1853-1862. Ink on paper, 11.375 x 12 in.  
Collection of the Oakland Museum of California, Museum purchase.

Text Transcription: “BOND OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR WAR INDEBTEDNESS IN CONFORMITY WITH an Act authorizing the TREASURER OF THE STATE to issue Bonds for the payment of the expenses of certain Expeditions against the Indians, Approved May 3, 1852.”

These bonds were like paper money in different amounts. They had a distorted picture of an Indian man in the middle. President George Washington is pictured on the right side. Each coupon is signed by the Treasurer. “Paid” is handwritten across the main text of the band as well as on each coupon. The individual who redeemed these bonds was paid in full by the State of California to kill Indians.



“General Recapitulation of the Expenditures incurred by the State of California For the Subsistence and Pay of the Troops, composing of the different Military Expeditions, ordered out by the Governor, during the Years 1850-1859, For the Protection for the Lives and Property of her Citizens, and for the Suppression of Indian Hostilities within her Borders.”	
Expeditions Against the Indians	Amount
Mariposa and Monterey	259,372.31
First El Dorado	101,861.65
Second El Dorado	199,784.59
Los Angeles and Utah	96,184.60
Trinity, Klamath and Clear Lake	34,320.08
San Diego “Fitzgerald Volunteers”	22,581.00
Siskiyou “Volunteer Rangers”	14,987.00
Gila “Colorado Volunteers”	113,482.25
Amount paid in War Bonds by Paymasters	1,000.00
Shasta Expedition	4,068.64
Siskiyou Expedition	14,036.36
Klamath & Humboldt Expedition	99,096.65
San Bernardino Expedition	817.03
Klamath Expedition	6,190.07
Modoc Expedition	188,324.22
Tulare Expedition	12,732.23
Klamath & Humboldt Expedition	52,184.45
Pitt River Expedition	72,156.09
<b>Total amount paid by State of California</b>	<b>1,293,179.22</b>
<b>Total amount paid by US Congress</b>	<b>229,987.67</b>
Source: Comptroller of the State of California, <i>Expenditures for Military Expeditions against Indians, 1851-1859</i> , (Sacramento, The Comptroller), Secretary of State, California State Archives	

Source: Johnston-Dodds, K. (2002). Early California Laws and Policies Related to California Indians. CRB-02-014. <https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/IB.pdf>

It is impossible to determine the exact number of people who attacked California Indians. From 1850 to 1859, records show there were many “Expeditions against the Indians.” This cost a lot of money, as outlined in this table.





**Artifact 4: "Pioneer Practices"**



**TEXT EXCERPT:** *That extermination is only another name for the warfare already commenced in this country, is shown by the following extract from a letter written by one of an expedition at present ranging the Rogue river country. He says:*

*"During this period we have been searching about in the mountains, destroying villages, killing all the males we could find, and capturing women and children. We have killed about 30 altogether, and have 28 prisoners now in camp."*

*This system of singling out and deliberately destroying "all the males," is on the plan of indiscriminate massacre. We may treat these things with strong disfavor, but by such process, and by this barbarous practice, do our pioneers prepare the way for settlement and civilization.*

## Artifact 5: Miners with Native Children



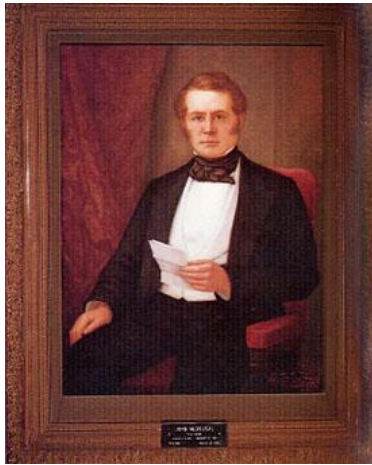
*Untitled (Two Miners Being Outfitted For the High Sierra), c.1856. Half plate ambrotype and leather case, 5 x 6 in. Collection of the Oakland Museum of California, History Guild Purchase.*

This picture shows two miners on mules, getting ready for their journey into the High Sierra mountains to mine for gold. The man on the right is writing something, maybe the costs of the miners' supplies. Next to him, a blacksmith holds his tools, while two small Indian boys tend to the mules. Both miners carry large pistols holstered to their belts.





## Artifact 6: State of the State Address



### **John McDougal, 2nd Governor of California**

**Jan. 7, 1852**

*“The Indian tribes within our borders have been the source of much annoyance, and this must continue to be the case so long as they reside in proximity to the whites. The policy which it is the duty of Government to pursue in relation to this unfortunate race of beings, is one which should be well considered. The last effort which was made by our Government, was the policy strongly recommended by President Jackson of removing them to some isolated position, distant from all contact with the whites. The number within our limits has been estimated at two hundred thousand. Our best policy,*

*and perhaps that of the General Government, would be to remove them beyond the confines of the State. Much expense has been already incurred, and we may reasonably apprehend, until some effectual means of separation are adopted, that constant difficulties with them, involving the State and General Government in great expense, will continue to occur. I would call you attention to the fact, that since the last adjournment of the Legislature, several expeditions for the suppression of Indian hostilities, have been called out, under the authority of the State Government; and under an Act passed at your last session, the bonds of the State, to defray the expenses thereby incurred, have been issued. This debt should be discharged by the General Government, whose duty it is, and was, to afford us that protection which, under the circumstances, we were compelled to provide for ourselves. No adequate means has been heretofore afforded us for that purpose, and the State has been, therefore, constrained to take the matter into her own hands, or submit, while awaiting the inefficient action of the General Government, to the hostile incursions of these savage tribes, and the indiscriminate murder of her exposed frontier citizens. This subject should be promptly and earnestly urged upon Congress, and the payment of this indebtedness insisted upon.”*

**Modern-day translation:** The Indian tribes living close to us have caused many problems. These issues will continue as long as they live near the white settlers. We need to think carefully about how we deal with this “unfortunate race of beings.” A past idea, suggested by President Jackson, was to move them far away from white people. There are estimated to be about 200,000 Indians within our borders. The best plan might be to move them out of the state. This would save money and avoid future conflicts.



Since the last time our leaders met, there have been some missions against the Native Americans. We spent money on these missions and now owe money. The national government should pay this debt. They should have protected us, but they didn't. So, our state had to act on its own to keep our people safe from “these savage tribes.” We need to tell the national leaders in Congress about this and ask them to pay back the money.

## References

Unknown Artist (185?). *Indienne Californienne du Sud 16 ans au prix d'une livre de poudre de chasse et une bouteille de brandy.* The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Oakland Museum of California. (1853-1862). *Bond of the State of California for War Indebtedness.* [Ink on paper, 11.375 x 12 in.]. Oakland Museum of California.

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Unknown Photographer. (1856). *Untitled (Two Miners Being Outfitted For the High Sierra).* The Oakland Museum of California.

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