

## Granite Creek Station Massacre

“On approximately [March 25, 1865,] an Indian walked into the Granite Creek station on the edge of the Black Rock desert and asked for Lucius Arcularius. One of the four white men there, a visitor named Waldron, picked up a gun, put it up to the Indian’s face, and told him to look down the barrel. When the Indian obeyed, the white man pulled the trigger.

“A few days later burning revenge swept down upon the station and its three occupants—A. Curry, C. Creele, and A. Simmons. The April 15 issue of Unionville’s *Humboldt Register* newspaper told of the hatred the red avengers brought with them....

“ ‘The whole front of the corral is bespattered with lead of the bullets fired from the house. By appearances, the fight is supposed to have lasted about half-a-day. Curry was killed by a shot through a loop-hole—a body found in the house having been recognized by persons acquainted with him. The legs, from below the knees, were missing.

“ ‘The Indians must have exhausted their ammunition, for they fired long missiles before leaving, made from the screw ends of wagon bolts, cut about an inch long and partially smoothed. Two of these were found—one in a bellows near the house, the other planted two inches deep in wood. Near the lodging place of the latter was a blood stain, and it is supposed the missile killed a dog belonging to the place—a savage animal, intolerant of Indians. His skin was tanned, but left on the ground.

“ ‘The Indians gained possession of a store-house, adjoining the dwelling, by tearing out a wall. This enabled them to reach the roof, and then it is supposed that Creele and Simmons resorted to flight—taking that desperate chance in preference to burning. Creele struck out across the flat towards Hot Springs. The flat is of alkali, very wet, and the tracks are left plain. Three Indians, two on horses and one on a mule, pursued and captured him. Brought him back to the house; and all the indications attest that he was burned to death. A portion of the skull, a jawbone, and some small pieces of bone were found; the other portions of the body having been reduced to ashes. At the point where the arms would be, were large rocks piled up, everything indicating that he had been weighted down; and then a large pile of sawed lumber was built up over him—stubs of the lumber still remaining when these marks were found—and the poor fellow thus burnt up.

“ ‘Simmons took the road leading to Deep Hole Station. He ran about 30 or forty rods, and there the mark of a pool of blood denotes that he fared not quite so badly—having been shot down. The body was dragged off a short distance, and much mutilated. The remains of all the men, such as were found, were buried by this party on the 9<sup>th</sup>.’

“The Granite Creek Station attack was the beginning of a series of Indian raids and military retaliations which took the lives of many people during the next ten months. The 1865 and 1866 reports do not provide comprehensive information regarding the identity of the Indian tribes involved in the engagements or the organization of the bands. Most early historians concluded that the war parties were made up of Paiutes, Bannocks (whom the Paiutes called their cousins), and possibly some Shoshoni.”

Wheeler, Sessions S. "The Nevada Desert." *Google Books*. Caxton Press, n.d. Web. 10 Nov. 2014.