

Memory, History, and Healing: The Maidu Trail of Tears

Adin White¹

¹*Anthropology Department, California State University, Chico, Chico, CA, United States*

Abstract: This paper analyzes the forced migration of many tribes during the mid-19th century, focusing on the collapse of the “Nome Lackee” Reservation and its impact on Indigenous peoples in Northern California. The research draws on archival documents to detail the harrowing mismanagement, violence, and neglect that preceded the failure of the reservation system and the displacement of hundreds of Native people. The paper connects these historical events to the contemporary Nome Cult Walk, an annual event that retraces the path from Chico to Round Valley. This walk commemorates the forced removals and honors the survival and resilience of the tribes. The research supports Dr. Jesse Dizard’s larger film project on the Nome Cult Walk, providing historical context and helping to frame the ongoing efforts of Indigenous communities to remember and heal from past injustices.