

Transcription of Antonio B. Rabbeson's Testimony

In latter part of October 1855, with Bright, Tidd, Moses and others left Maloney's camp. In Connell's Prairie met a party of Indians- had a long conversation with them, several minutes talking with them, Among them were several that I knew personally- none that I knew the names of at that time- after we left Connell's Prairie came on $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to a mile struck a swamp, After we got in the swamp, 4 were in the swamp some 150 yards- 3 of us was at the edge of the swamp when we received a volley- when when the firing commenced I looked behind me to see if any one was killed. I discovered Mr. Miles off his horse. I rode back to assist Mr. Miles and assisted him across the swamp out of gun shot. While I was assisting Mr. Miles, holding his horse, three Indians stepped out. Two out of the three fired. I then rode on three of four miles, over took the balance of the company, and there found Mr. Moses he was wounded, and I believe dying at the time. Mr. Moses was left 100 to 150 yards off the road on the far edge of Finnell's Prairie. I did not see Mr. Moses after till he was brought in dead. I saw a wound somewhere about left breast. He told me at the time that he was shot through the back. Mr. Moses did not tell me when he received the wound. Mr. Moses was aware he was dying. I don't know how long I was in riding from swamp to where overtook Moses rode fast was left alone, Mr. Moses was 100 to 150 yards ahead of me when the volley was fired in the swamp

I took one of the Indians who came out to be Quiemuth – the other Leschi, prisoner at the bar, [the] third [I] did not know. Leschi was the one that fired, and fired towards me. I had been more or less acquainted with him for ten years – had seen him very frequently before that time. In Connell's Prairie we saw a party of Indians, among them Leschi. He said he supposed the Connell house was burned by accident. He said four Bostons were living at Lemmons Bottom, men who had claims there. Leschi was friendly. Some $\frac{3}{4}$ of mile from the swamp (there is more than one route by which the swamp can be reached. The wagon road is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, and the trail 300-400 yards) we traveled the road. It was a large party of Indians we met on the Prairie. Left Leschi on the Prairie. This swamp is in Pierce County. It was either the 30th or 31st of October 1855. The three Indians who were in the swamp were from 30 to 50 feet distant, so close that they didn't think it worthwhile to take sight—quite a number of guns fired after that—some on high ground. Heard no guns except around there. Knew Abram Benton Moses. Several days after I left him [I] saw his corpse. Left him 100 yards from the road on the prairie. From the place where I met the Indians on the prairie they would have to travel 100 yards to get to the trail. I believe the prisoner at the bar is the Indian I saw fire the gun. It was a short time after the first volley to the time [the] Indians stepped out and fired the first gun.