NOTES


3. S.S. Lawson to Commissioner of Indian Affairs Hiram Price, July 20, 1883 (NARS, RG75, SC31, LR #13581-1883). The Newtons were Southern California pioneers. Willis Newton (1840-1924) came from Texas in 1865, and eventually settled in Downey. His oldest son, William (1858-1927), farmed in Norwalk for many years. Another son, Jesse, lived in San Diego County, which may explain how the Newtons became aware of Lost Valley.

4. G. Wiley Wells (1840-1909) was a Civil War veteran who practiced law in Mississippi before being elected to Congress in 1875. In 1879 he moved to Los Angeles and formed a partnership with Anson Brunson (1834-1895). When the firm of Brunson & Wells dissolved, he formed the partnership of Wells, Van Dyke & Lee. His junior partner, Bradner Wells Lee, was also his nephew. For a brief biography, see J. M. Guinn, *Historical and Biographical Record of Southern California* (Chicago: Chapman Publishing Company, 1902), 553. Brunson & Wells were originally retained by Helen Hunt Jackson, who paid their fee out of her own pocket until the U.S. Attorney General agreed to appoint them. Wells continued to serve as Special Attorney for the Mission Indians until 1886. G. Wiley Wells to Secretary of the Interior L.Q.C. Lamar, August 18, 1885, National Archives and Records Service, Record Group 75 (Department of Indian Affairs), SC 31 (Mission Indians in California), Letters Received #19419-1885. Copy courtesy of Valerie Sherer Mathes.

5. All of the early Indian reservations in Southern California were created by Presidential Executive Order. The order of December 27, 1875, created nine reservations spread across the mountains of San Diego County. The order of May 15, 1876, created eight more reservations from the San Gorgonio Pass down to the lower end of the Coachella Valley. The June 1882 order set aside the Pechanga reservation. Some of the other dates listed here represent additions to the existing reservations.


10. There was a change from earlier years when the Register of the Government Land Office in Los Angeles told an Indian Agent: “[T]he location of an Indian family or families on land upon which a white man desires to settle is, in law, no more a bar to such settlement than would be presence of a stray sheep or cow.” Ames, Report of Special Agent John G. Ames (1873), 65-66.

11. The original Indian Homestead Law was enacted in 1875, and amended several times. It allowed Indians to make homestead entries of up to 160 acres just as the general law allowed.

12. The village of Cupa was originally considered to be outside the boundaries of the Warner Ranch, and in 1875 an executive order reservation was established there. But in 1880 the final survey of the ranch by the Federal Government took in the village, and the reservation was cancelled. From then on, conflicts between the Cupeño and the owner of the ranch, John Downey, only increased. For a general history of the ranch, see Hill, The History of Warner’s Ranch and its Environments.

13. William Berry Fain (1858-1929) had a nasty reputation and a foul mouth that earned him the nickname “Billy Profane.” Born in Tennessee, he followed his uncle, James C. Fain, to the area in the early 1880s and lived for a time on his ranch at Radec, between Temecula and Aguanga. But the two soon had a falling out, and in 1884 Fain did indeed shoot and kill his uncle. The killing was ruled self-defense, but there were always rumors that an Indian witness could have told a different story—it only he could have been found to testify. See the San Diego Sun, May 23, 1884. Lester Reed (whose family had their own troubles with Fain) repeats the old rumors in his Old-Timers of Southeastern California (Redlands: Citrograph Printing Co., 1967), 100. For sworn testimony of Fain threatening an Indian witness in another shooting incident, see the San Diego Sun, March 30, 1887. Early in 1883 Fain settled in the heart of the Cahuilla Indian village at San Ignacio, on what is now the Los Coyotes Indian Reservation. Jackson noted his presence in her Report (1883), 23 (though she mistakenly calls him Jim Fane). Further down the mountain, Chatham Helm had moved in on the San Ysidro village. Jackson gives some details in her 1883 article “Captain Pablo’s Story,” reprinted in Valerie Sherer Mathes and Phil Brigandi (eds.), A Call for Reform: The Southern California Indian Writings of Helen Hunt Jackson (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2015), 161-71. Fain and Helm carried on a long running feud, which the Union wrote up like something out of a dime novel in “The Faine [sic]-Helm Case,” The San Diego Union, April 5, 1890. Surprisingly, Fain served as Constable in the Warner Ranch area in 1889-90 though it was perhaps more in character that he used his office as an opportunity to further harass Chat Helm. Fain left the area for Arizona around 1891. But that didn’t end his scrapes with the law. In 1901 he was the object of a major manhunt after an accusation of being an accessory to murder. See “An Awful Tragedy,” [Yuma] Arizona Sentinel, February 13, 1901, “Fain Would Hide,” Los Angeles Times, February 27, 1901, and “Fain Gives Himself Up,” [Yuma] Arizona Sentinel, February 27, 1901. Once again, Fain seems to have dodged the rap. He remained in Arizona the rest of his life, occasionally visiting his old haunts in San Diego County. He died in 1929 (The San Diego Union, March 28, 1929). For an overview of his checkered career, see Phil Brigandi, “Backcountry Badman,” The High Country, 65 (Fall 2003), 18-22.

14. A recognizable phonetic transcription of Wiatava, the Cupeño name for Lost Valley. Wiat is