

Lone Band of Miwok Indians

Lone Band of Miwok Indians



December 5, 2008

Riverside Metropolitan Museum
Attn: Ennette Nusbaum-Morton, Director
3580 Mission Inn Avenue
Riverside, CA 92501

Dear Director Morton

The Lone Band of Miwok Indians, Heritage Cultural Committee has been in contact with the Curator of Anthropology, Maggie Wetherbee since January 2007 to repatriate a collection from your museum.

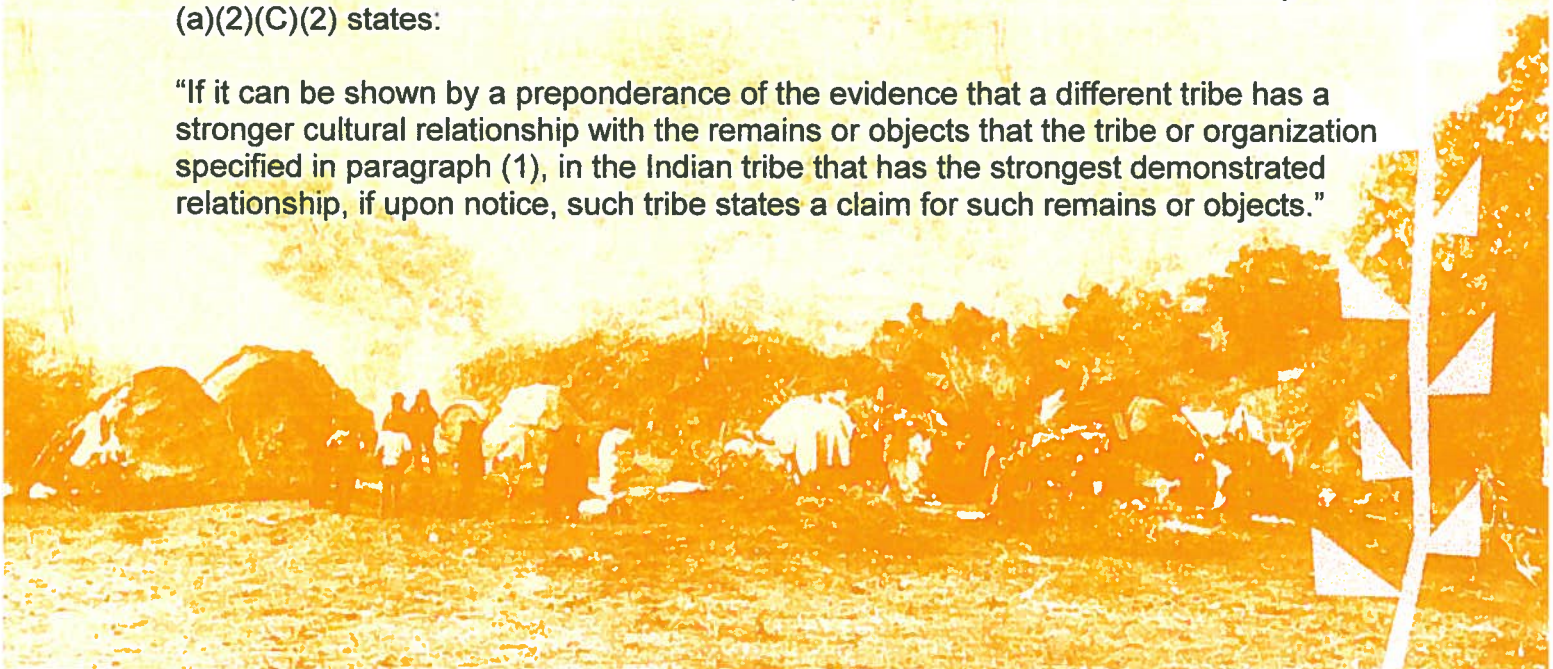
The collection in question is the Native American remains and funerary objects donated by Bessie Walker, wife of Dr. Paul Walker. The donations originated from Augustine Mound located in the Deer Creek-Cosumnes River area between Sloughhouse on Jackson Highway.

Sixteen skulls with mandibles, four skulls without mandibles, two partial skulls, three partial skeletons and ninety-one funerary objects are in the collection.

On April 16, 2007, we were preparing to come and pick up the remains when we were notified that Buena Vista Rancheria, a tribal membership of one adult, who is also the chairperson, was requesting possession of the collection. The museum contacted us that another tribe was showing interest in the collection. The Lone Band of Miwok Indians has a tribal membership of 550 adults.

The Lone Band of Miwok Indians would like to claim ownership of this collection by Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, Section 3. Ownership (a)(2)(C)(2) states:

"If it can be shown by a preponderance of the evidence that a different tribe has a stronger cultural relationship with the remains or objects than the tribe or organization specified in paragraph (1), in the Indian tribe that has the strongest demonstrated relationship, if upon notice, such tribe states a claim for such remains or objects."



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The lone Band has burial plots where we have repatriated remains in the past. They are located at the Camellia Cemetery on Jackson Highway 16 which is only six miles from where the remains originated from in Sloughhouse. This is the location where the collection should be repatriated.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at (209) 274-6753.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Douglas Denton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Douglas Denton, Chairperson
Heritage Cultural Committee

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April 8, 2009



Riverside Metropolitan Museum
Attn: Ennette Nusbaum-Morton, Director
3580 Mission Inn Avenue
Riverside, CA 92501

Dear Director Morton

I am writing in regards to your letter dated March 24, 2009 concerning the Riverside Metropolitan Museum repatriation of the Bessie Walker Collection.

The Lone Band of Miwok Indians feel our tribe has a greater cultural affiliation to the materials collected from the Augustine Mound. The tribe is only asking for Miwok human remains and associated funerary objects from the Augustine Mound.

Many Base Roll Members of our tribe were prehistorically from the Slough House, Cosumnes River area. Charlie Maximo a Base Roll Member lived on the Cosumnes River at Slough House 1840s-1870s.

In the Manuscript #42 from the Archaeological Archives of the Phoebe Hearst Museum of Anthropology at UC Berkeley shows Billy Joe, a Base Roll Member of our tribe as the informant for the name of the site, Augustine Mound (OO'LE-WAYMAH). Billy Joe was from Middle Cosumnes, his descendants are members of the tribe.

The Augustine Mound is located in the Plains Miwok territory. A major informant for the Plains Miwok Dictionary was Mabel Walloupe a Base Roll Member, her descendants are also members of the tribe.

On April 8, 2006 California State University, Long Beach, transferred possession of CA-SJO-17 human remains, burial associated artifacts and other cultural materials in accordance with the Federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act to Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi and Lone Band of Miwok Indians tribes.

The human remains, burial associated artifacts and other cultural materials of CA-SJO-17 were repatriated at Camellia Cemetery on Jackson Highway 16. The Cemetery is six miles from Slough House and this is were the Miwok items will be repatriated.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at 209-274-6753.

Sincerely,

Douglas Denton

Lone Band of Miwok Indians /Heritage/Cultural Committee Chairperson

