

A Plea for Help

Driving some 600 head of cattle and 50 horses, Samuel Addison Bishop, his wife, and several hired hands arrived in the Owens Valley on August 22, 1861 from Fort Tejon in the Tehachapi Mountains. Bishop and his wife were some of the very first white settlers in the valley. Bishop established a homestead he named San Francis Ranch, along the creek which still bears his name (and for whom the town of Bishop is also named). Bishop set up a market to sell beef to the miners and business owners in Aurora.

Bishop was one of the ranchers who lost cattle to the starving Native Americans in the awful winter of 1861-1862. Already having contacts at Fort Tejon, Bishop and other ranchers pleaded with the Army to come and "subdue" the starving Paiutes.

