Located in the Santa Ana Mountains of Orange County California, The Black Star Canyon Village (CA-ORA-132) is popularly associated with the event of the “Battle of Black Star Canyon”, in which an ambiguous group of Native Americans were accused of stealing horses and were subsequently killed in 1831 by American fur trappers. Although the massacre was a significant historical event, the site also contains the remains of an extensive late prehistorical village. The interpretations by local historians and archaeologists have dichotomously characterized the village as “a wild colonial frontier site” and as “a limited resource exploitation local”, however the material and social histories of indigenous communities, past and present, are ossified while legacies of Spanish, Mexican and American colonial society are both solidified and continued. This paper seeks to complicate the disunion the modern characterizations of the Black Star village by exploring how protohistoric and colonial era materialities of the mountain afforded local and non-local indigenous practices of social and economic autonomy during the transition from the protohistoric into the eras of colonialism. In addition to analyses of historical, lithic and ceramic assemblages, the research is focused on a collaborative approach incorporating the perspectives of the descendental indigenous communities.