

Jacksonville Road (JR) Of Applegate Trail (*Trail*): 1864 Telegraph Line¹⁻²

Hugo's JA from Willamette Valley to Jacksonville (route of the Applegate Trail) is located in Josephine County, Oregon from Louse Creek in the south to Grave Creek in the north. There are 17 GLO surveyed points of interest (POI) along the JR in Hugo's area of interest.³ There many more like this *1864 Collins Telegraph Line At Mt. Sexton Pass POI* without a GLO survey.

MT. SEXTON PASS TRAIL SEGMENT

POI Name Mt. Sexton Pass ■ JA-14B.

POI ID Code OR-AT-00-34-06-23-n/a-JA-14B

1864 COLLINS TELEGRAPH LINE AT MT. SEXTON PASS

POI Name 1864 Collins Telegraph Line At Mt. Sexton Pass ■ JA-14D.

POI ID Code OR-AT-00-34-06-23-n/a-JA-14D.

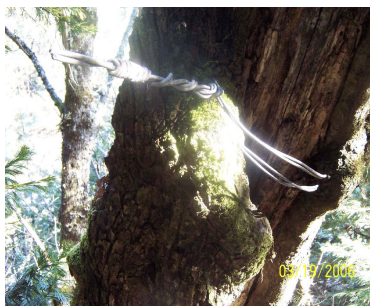
POI Located With GPS/Interpretative Sign No.

2006 Analysis Howard Banks, Insulator Expert⁴, feels that the road segment probably goes back to the Collins Telegraph Line in the 1860s when the line construction, in some places, went from tree to tree. He based this conclusion on some very old galvanized steel telegraph wire in an old maple tree along the road. The tree was rotted and deteriorated.

Trans-Atlantic Cable Project The Western Union Company began thinking about the unsuccessful Trans-Atlantic cable project after its successful transcontinental telegraph line had been built across the lower 48 in 1861. Many thought the Trans-Atlantic line would never be successful.

Galvanized Steel Telegraph Wire At Mt Sexton Pass: 1864

Western Union Company The Russian American Telegraph also known as the Western Union Telegraph Expedition and the Collins Overland Telegraph was a \$3,000,000 undertaking by the Western Union Telegraph Company to lay an telegraph line from San Francisco, California to Moscow, Russia. **Perry McDonough Collins** was the visionary behind the project which was an economic alternative to the Trans-Atlantic cable project. The route was intended to travel from California via Oregon, Washington Territory, the colony of British Columbia, and Russian Alaska, under the Bering Sea and across Siberia to Moscow, thus creating a line of communication with the rest of Europe.



Galvanized Steel Wire At Mt. Sexton Pass

stage line route from Sacramento, California to Portland, Oregon. The Western Union was in a hurry to build this line because if they got beat by a successful Trans-Atlantic cable line project, they would have to shut its own effort down. *It was a rush job and in some places the line went tree to tree. Telegraph companies used galvanized steel a lot in the 1860s - 1870s for telegraph wire.* In 1864, the Collins Line dream worked its way north through Southern Oregon. The project was abandoned in 1867 after a successful Trans-Atlantic line.

In Some Places Telegraph Line Went Tree To Tree

Stakeholders Oregon Highway Commission/Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).

OCTA Trail Classification Class ② Used Trail⁵

Coherence Rule Linear Uniformity. Yes
Corroborative Rule Confirming Evidence. Yes
Collateral Rule Physical/Topo Evidence. Yes
Correlation Rule Overall Agreement. Yes

Be Respectful *Do not trespass. The 1864 Collins Telegraph Line At Mt. Sexton Pass is located on public property.*

More Information Contact a member of the Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee.



Collins Line Insulator: CD 736

1. General Surveyor Office of Oregon. Subdivision Lines For 1856 Map (T.34., R. 6. W., Willamette Meridian). Field Notes. Surveyor Luke G Hyde. Contract February 19, 1855; Surveyed March 31, 1856; Hugo Neighborhood. 2006. *Hugo's Applegate Trail Field Notes*. Brochures 10A - 10D in Emigrant Trail Series. Hugo, OR.
2. Rose, Karen. 2006. Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee, Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. *Hugo's Applegate Trail Diaries, Journals & Reminiscences Project*. "Yellow Book Project" For Participants of the Diaries, Journals and Reminiscences Sub-Committee. Hugo, OR. Hugo Neighborhood. 2005 *Diaries & Journals*. Brochure 11 in Emigrant Trail Series. Hugo, OR; Hugo Neighborhood. 2006 *Diaries, Journals & Reminiscences Sub-Committee*. Brochure 11B in Emigrant Trail Series. Hugo, OR.
3. Hugo Neighborhood. 2009 *Hugo's Applegate Trail GLO Points of Interest*. Brochure 1 in Applegate Trail GLO Surveys Series. Hugo, OR.
4. Howard Banks. March 16, 2006. Interview. by Mike Walker. Banks is Publisher of Crown Jewels of the Wire & Expert on Insulators. Hugo, OR; Hugo Neighborhood & Crown Jewels Of The Wire. March 19, 2006. *Collins Line*. Brochure 5 in Insulator Series. Hugo, OR.
5. Office of National Trails Preservation & Oregon-California Trails Association (P.O. box 1019, Independence, MO, 64051-0519, 816-252-2276, octa@indepmo.org). July 2002, 4th edition. *Mapping Emigrants Trails MET Field Manual*.

Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee

Hugo is blessed with a rich heritage of historic roads, rough though they were. The *Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee* was formed to bring together all those who want to learn more about the early transportation in the area, from the casual admirer to the dedicated researcher. Its aim is to collect and record information about Hugo's emigrant trails, especially its two historic 1850s General Land Office mapped roads, and to share this information (e.g., through *Hugo History Day*, talks, hikes, group visits, training exercises, workshops, publications, web sites, etc.).

Karen Rose, Co-Project Leader
Mike Walker, Co-Project Leader

Diaries, Journals & Reminiscences SubCommittee

Karen Rose
Janet McKy
Kelly & Berneata Rarey
Glen Campbell
Norm Tieman
Joe & Leta Neiderheiser
Kristen Boyce
Kathy Burkey
Penny Shipley
Mike Walker

General Land Office Field Survey SubCommittee

Glen Campbell
Jim & Rene Ford
Joe Neiderheiser
Kelly Rarey
Mike Walker
Chris Wytcherley

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GLO Surveyed Points\JA14 Maple Creek\BROCHURE 18D JA14D 1864
Collins Telegraph Line 042110.wpd

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society's Mission

This information brochure is one of a series of documents published by the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (*Hugo Neighborhood*). It is designed to be shared with neighbors for the purpose of helping protect our rural quality of life by promoting an informed citizenry in decision-making. The *Hugo Neighborhood* is an informal nonprofit charitable and educational organization with a land use and history mission of promoting the social welfare of its neighbors.

Land Use & History

The *Hugo Neighborhood's* land use mission is to promote Oregon Statewide Goal 1 — Citizen Involvement, and to preserve, protect, and enhance the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors. It will act, if requested, as a technical resource assisting neighbors to represent themselves.

Its history mission is to educate, collect, preserve, interpret, and research its local history and to encourage public interest in the history of the Hugo area. Volunteer membership dues are \$10.00 annually per family and normally used for paper, ink, envelopes, publications and mailings.

Hugo Neighborhood

3388B Merlin Rd # 195, Grants Pass, Oregon 97526
541-471-8271
Email: hugo@jeffnet.org

Edited by Jean Boling, Kelly Rarey,
Karen Rose, & Mike Walker

JR Of Applegate Trail: 1864 Collins Telegraph Line At Mt. Sexton Pass



Brochure 18D of Applegate Trail GLO
Surveys Brochure Series



*Howard Banks Inspecting Galvanized Steel Telegraph Wire
At Mt. Sexton Pass's Applegate Trail*

April 21, 2010

**Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee
Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society
Josephine County Historical Society**