

James Twogood & Stage Company

1852 James Twogood “filed for land claim #37 on May 1, 1852, in Jackson County. Later when Josephine County was laid out this area eventually became part of it. Thus, James Twogood, at age twenty-five, was the first land claimant of Josephine County and the founder of the Grave Creek Ranch and the original Leland.”¹ p. 2

1853 Military Road Brevet Major B. Alvord , United State Army, located and surveyed the 1853 Military Road from Myrtle Creek to Jacksonville, Oregon²⁻³ which became the overland road.

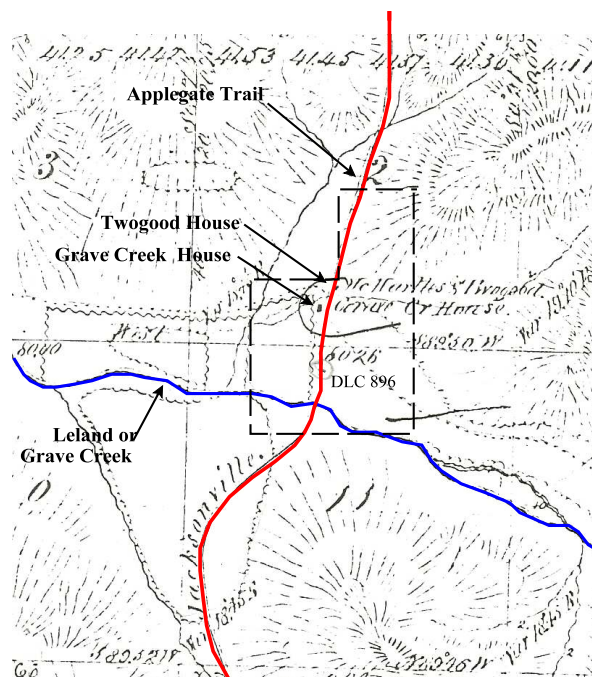
1853 Grave Creek Stage Station “On March 28, of 1855, McDonough became the first postmaster of the newly created Leland post office. Prior to the establishment of the post office, the Grave Creek Ranch was the overnight stopping place for the once a week mail carrier both south and northbound.”¹ p. 5

1853 Grave Creek Stage Station “The California Stage Company out of Sacramento, California, began negotiations with Harkness and Twogood for accommodations of their stage company personnel and horses. These accommodations were to include overnight lodging and meals for stage drivers, company hostler and facilities for the care of their horses. Meals and lodging for passengers was not contracted but was provided as a convenience to the passengers who wished them.”¹ p. 9

1856 General Land Office Map(GLO)⁴ The GLO map documents the Grave Creek house and the McHartles? (Harkness?) and Twogood house along the Applegate Trail.

Grave Creek Stage Station: c.a., 1853 - 18??

“The Grave Creek Ranch possessed the necessities required by the stage company and was ideally located halfway between Croxtons at Perkin’s Ferry (later to become Grants Pass) and Sam Levin’s Galesville near Quines Creek. Stage Company policy was to have their overnight or main stations approximately twelve to fourteen miles apart in mountainous country so as not to overwork their horses. The first mail and passenger stage to pass north through the Grave Creek Valley occurred in the later part of September of 1860.”¹ p. 9



1856 GLO Map & Grave Creek House

Twogood Donation Land Claim (DLC) 896

Stage Lines Connected Early Cities in southern Oregon at Canyonville, Galesville, Grave Creek, Grants Pass, Rock Point, and Jacksonville⁵⁻⁶

Hugo Region Stage Route “Stage Coach pass, the divide between Glendale and Wolf Creek, was very steep and a favorite point of operation by high-waymen. The divide between Wolf Creek and Grave Creek had a 22 percent grade, and like all other roads, was very narrow. From Grave Creek south the road skirted Sexton mountain, or Smith hill.”⁷

1866 James H. Twogood DLC⁸ James H. Twogood’s 159.25 acre DLC (No. 896) was patented August 7, 1866 (September 27, 1850: Oregon-Donation Act (grant) (99 Stat. 496). This was the same year that Twogood sold his 760 acre Grave Creek ranch, which included the DLC, to Samuel Harkness¹ p. 11

1883 The business of the stageline was greatly reduced after the O & C Railroad was built to Grants Pass in 1883.

1. McLane, Larry L. 1995. *First There Was Twogood*. Sexton Enterprises. Sunny Valley, OR.
2. Hugo Neighborhood. May 25, 2008 *Major B. Alvord’s Military Road: 1853*. Brochure 13A in Trapper’s Trail Series. Hugo, OR.
3. Hugo Neighborhood. May 25, 2008 *Military Road: 1853 (Louse Creek to Grave Creek)*. Brochure 13B in Trapper’s Trail Series. Hugo, OR.
4. General Surveyor Office of Oregon, General Land Office (GLO) Maps. 1856. T. 34S., R. 6W., WM. Surveyors Lake and Hyde.
5. Grants Pass Courier. April 3, 1935. *Golden Anniversary Edition, Political History Section*, Page 8. Grants Pass, OR.
6. Hugo Neighborhood. April 7, 2009. *Hugo’s Regional Stage Stations*. Brochure 1 in Stage Station Brochure Series. Hugo, OR.
7. Grants Pass Courier. April 3, 1935. *Golden Anniversary Edition, Pioneer Stories Section*, Page 1. Grants Pass, OR.
8. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), General Land Office (GLO) Records. 2007. Official Federal Land Records Site (<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>). Internet.

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. Send us your e-mail address if you want to know what we are doing.

Email: hugo@jeffnet.org

Web Page: <http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/>

Edited by Larry McLane, Karen Rose, & Mike Walker

HNA&HS Officers

Hal Anthony, Outreach Chair
3995 Russell Road
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Wayne McKy, Chair
6497 Hugo Road
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

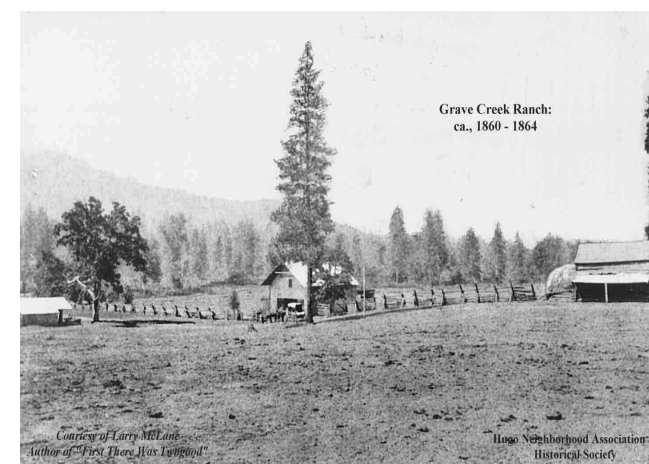
Mike Walker, Education Chair
3388B Merlin Rd #195
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Sexton Enterprises

Larry McLane
430 Beecher Road
Sunny Valley, Oregon 97497

Grave Creek Stage Station

Brochure 3 Of Stage Station
Brochure Series



Grave Creek Ranch: ca., 1860 - 1864
Courtesy of Larry McLane

August 29, 2009

**Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society**

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Brochure 3 of Stage Station Brochure Series

HNA & HS 2009 - 11

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