
Hudson Bay Company Trappers & Jedediah Smith: 1828

Southern Oregon's mountainous terrain limited early transportation to walking, horseback, and pack animals. In 1828 the Hudson Bay Company sent McLeod south from Fort Vancouver to assist Jedediah Smith.¹

*"In September of 1828 McLeod was sent to the Buenaventura (Sacramento) River, and also to assist in the recovery of the goods of Jedediah Smith, taken by Indians on July 14, 1828 near the mouth of the Umpqua, when 15 members of Smith's party of 19 men were killed."*¹

In 1828 the Hudson Bay Company sent McLeod south from Fort Vancouver to assist Jedediah Smith.

*"McLeod assisted by Thomas McKay and accompanied by Smith left Vancouver on September 6th. Two days later he met Michel La Framboise who had been sent ahead to scout out the situation. The massacre site was reached October 21st, and most of Smith's horses and furs recovered. McLeod's base camp on the Umpqua River was reached on November 22nd."*¹

*"On December 1st, McLeod, instead of continuing on to California, began a return trip to Vancouver where he arrived December 14th. He was severely censured by McLoughlin for this unscheduled return."*¹

1. Klamath Echoes, 1976. Applegate II, "West of the Cascades". Sanctioned by Klamath County Historical Society. Klamath Falls, OR.

Trapper's Trail Documented: 1829 - 1830

*"Again, and for the last time McLeod and his party headed southward toward California in January, 1829. Some claim he traveled down the coast on a route approximating Jedediah Smith's northward trek (History of Siskiyou County, California). Further, he is supposed to have traveled to a point south of present Stockton, California."*¹

1829 "McLeod's return northward is the route with which this history is vitally concerned, since it is our first documented record of use of the California-Oregon Trail through the Rogue and Umpqua River Valleys which in part became the later Applegate Trail "West of the Cascades."

*"McLeod's return northward is the route with which this history is vitally concerned, since it is our first documented record of use of the California-Oregon Trail through the Rogue and Umpqua River Valleys which in part became the later Applegate Trail "West of the Cascades." McLeod probably left the Sacramento Valley by a route, previously mentioned, south of Pitt River. Turning northward in Fall River Valley, he passed east of Mt. Shasta, via the Military Pass of later years. While near the headwaters of present McCloud River in December, 1829 he lost his horses in a fierce snowstorm and was forced to cache his furs and equipment. He eventually arrived at Vancouver on February 13, 1830 by a route that later was approximated by the Pacific Highway, Old 99, or present Interstate 5."*¹

More Information

*"The original Hudson's Bay Company Trail led southward from Thomas McKay's farm near present day Scapoose on the Columbia River near Portland. . . ."*¹

*"Continuing southward the trail passed the present towns of Oakland and Sutherlin to possibly reach the Umpqua River at the mouth of Calapooya Creek, the supposed site of McLeod's "Umpqua Old Fort." From this point south the fur trail to California varies but little from the Pacific Highway, Old 99, or new Interstate 5."*¹

*"This trail, with slight variations, continued in use by Hudson's Bay Company parties until 1843 when Michel La Framboise led the last expedition over it. . . ."*¹

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*"McLeod's ill-fated journey northward during the winter of 1829-1830 thus becomes our first known documented use of the Applegate Trail as described in our Parts I and II, Applegate Trail History. Furthermore, McLeod's journal of this trip is supposed to rest in the archives of the Hudson's Bay Company files, but are unavailable to this writer."*¹

Want more information? Contact an officer of the *Hugo Neighborhood* on how you can become involved.

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. Make checks to the *Hugo Neighborhood* and send them to our Treasurer.

Hugo Neighborhood Association

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HUDSON BAY COMPANY TRAPPERS: 1820s

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Brochure 3B in
Trapper's Trail Series



Fort Vancouver

Courtesy of Hudson's Bay Company Archives,
Provincial Archives of Manitoba

May 24, 2008

Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee

Hugo Neighborhood Association &
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Brochure 3B in Trapper's Trail Brochure Series -
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