

Mastalow Slough

Overview Hugo, Oregon like most places has its Native American history, some known, most not. Hugo's first citizens or peoples were the Takelma Indians in the Rogue River Valley.¹



The confluence of the Applegate River and Rogue River was a site of importance to the Takelmans who resided in this vicinity. Frances (Harney) Johnson, a Takelman woman, visited this site in 1933 with ethnographer John Peabody Harrington.

She recalled events related to her mother's life at this location and the presence of Mastalow Slough, a "great long slough taking 1/4 mile from slough to river," on the north bank opposite the mouth of the Applegate (Harrington 1981[28]: 462; Beckham 1993: 29, 30). Frances Johnson recalled:

Mastal'ow was the name of a white man who had a ranch on north bank of Rogue River, across the Rogue River from the mouth of Applegate Creek. She [Frances] knows the name of this Mastalow's place in Tak[elma], but forgets. It was at the long slough at Mastalow's place that the French beaver hunters arrived, the 1st whites who came here.

This place is on same side of R[ogue] R[iver] as Tatemal, just a little upriver of Tatemal. The Frenchmen came to Tatemal town & no one was home there, all were picking camass. Then the French went to camp at Mastal'ow slough. It happened that Fr[ance's] mother ran away from home at the same time the frenchmen arrived here.



Salmon

1. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. January 1, 2010. Program Overview: Native Americans of Hugo, Oregon. Hugo, OR.

2. Harrington, John Peabody. 1981 The Papers of John Peabody Harrington in the National Anthropological Archives of the Smithsonian Institution 1907-1957. Reel number 28. Kraus International Publications. Millwood, New York

Takelma Indians Of Hugo

Fr[ance's] mother had been camping all winter with her father at various places in Sexton Mt., J[ump Off] j[oe] Cr[ee]k region, & at Grave C[ree]k Falls, & in sp[rin]g she got lonesome & ran away, & went alone towards R[ogue] river sleeping in hollow trees when the night came, & in morning saw the tent of the French at Mastalow's slough, & heard cow moo & roosters crow, & saw 2 Frenchmen with caps on, & knew they were not Ind[ian]s & she went from there to Temehuwan & talked to the people at Temehuwan (Harrington 1981[28]: 497).



Tatemal: "A town whites (Frenchmen) came to." "On a low bench near river . . . on north side of Rogue River." Upriver of Sumulkh."

"Is a piece of bottom land downriver from the end of Masterlows Slough (Harrington 1981: 497, 499, 460; Gray⁴ 1987: 84).

1827 Peter Skene Ogden⁵, a fur trader and explorer for the Hudson Bay Company, made the first documented exploration through northern Josephine County and the Rogue River. These are the French men Johnson's mother saw at Mastalow Slough. They crossed the Rogue River at one of the best fords on the river near where about a 1/4 century later the Vannoy Ferry was located.⁶



3. Beckham, Stephen Dow. September 30, 1993. *Takelman And Athapaskan Lifeways And History, Rogue River Corridor - Applegate River To Grave Creek: Investigations For Interpretive Programs*. Submitted to BLM Medford District. Heritage Research Associates, Inc. Eugene, OR.

Frenchmen Came To Tatemal Indian Village

Mastalow Slough: "used to be Ferry here, for Illinois road. Enast's is above Talkwalk." (Beckham 1993: 30).

1855 Illinois Valley Road - GLO Subdivisions⁷ West on True Line Between Sections 16 and 21, T.36S., R.6W., W.M. Page 127.

Chains

40.30 Set Sec Post [40.30 chains = 2,659.8 ']
48.00 Road from Van Noys to Willamette [48.00 chains = 3,168']
55.50 Van Noys Barn being South about 250 chs dist
59.50 Van Noys House Being South about 5 ch dist.

1856 GLO Map - T.36S., R.6W., W.M. The GLO Map plots the Mastalow Slough, Illinois Valley Road, Fort Vannoy Ferry, the Van Noys barn and house, and Johnson's identification of the great field. In 1855 the huge slough was over a mile long and over 400' wide in places.



Camas

4. Gray, Dennis J. (1987). The Takelmas and Their Athapaskan Neighbors: A New Ethnographic Synthesis for the Upper Rogue River Area of Southwestern Oregon. University of Oregon Anthropological Papers, No. 37. Eugene: Department of Anthropology, University of Oregon.

5. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. March 24, 2008. Ogden's 1827 Journey Through Northern Josephine County. Brochure 4 in Trapper's Trail Series. Hugo, OR

6. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society & Sexton Enterprises. April 1, 2010. IV Ford No. 1: Rogue River's Vannoy Creek Ford. Brochure 13A of Applegate Trail Fords Brochure Series. Hugo, OR.

7. General Surveyor Office of Oregon. 8th Standard Parallel, Township Lines, Subdivisions, & Meanders For 1856 Map (T.36., R. 6. W., Willamette Meridian). Field Notes. Surveyors Lake & Hyed. Contract 54 Awarded February 19, 1855; Surveyed March 31, 1856.

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 Jean Boling, Karen Rose, & Mike Walker

Hugo's Native American Team (HNAT) Hugo Neighborhood Association

Jean Boling, Member
Hugo Neighborhood &
Historic Sites Chair,
Josephine County Historical Society
214 NW Booth Street
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Janet McKy, Member
Hugo Neighborhood
6497 Hugo Road
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Wayne McKy, Member & Officer
Hugo Neighborhood
6497 Hugo Road
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Karen Rose, Member & Web Master
Hugo Neighborhood
575 Red Mountain Drive
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Mike Walker, Member & Officer
Hugo Neighborhood
3388B Merlin Rd #195
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

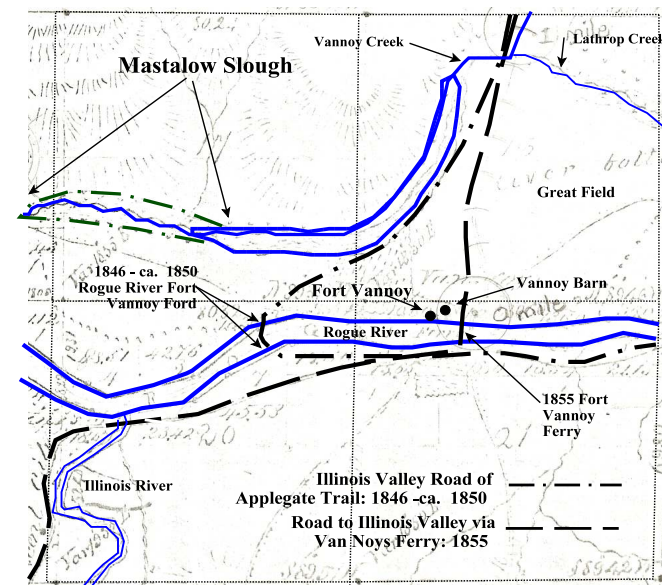
Want more information?
Contact an member of the HNAT.

Brochure NA-31 in Hugo's Native American Brochure Series
HNA&HS 2010 -NA-31
C:\Documents and Settings\mike\My
Documents\Genealogy\Native_Americans\Brochures\BROCHURE_NA31 Mastalow Slough 100511.wpd

Mastalow Slough



Brochure NA-31 Of Hugo's
Native American Brochure
Series



Mastalow Slough
1856 GLO Base Map

October 5, 2011

**Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society
Josephine County Historical Society**