

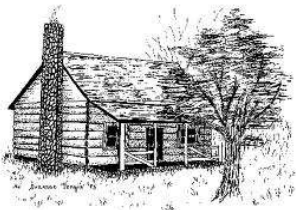
Origin of Name: Fort Vannoy

Overview Hugo, Oregon like most places has its Native American history, some known, most not. This brochure is part of Hugo's Native American Brochure Series.¹



Beckham's Notes On Fort Vannoy² are in two parts; this is Part I of II.

Origin Of Name² "This site secured its name from the settlement of James and Margaret Vannoy in T36S, R6W, Section 21, NW1/4, W.M. James N. Vannoy was born in 1815 in Wilkes County, North Carolina. He emigrated overland to Oregon in 1851 and settled this property on August 14, 1852. He married his wife Margaret on February 12, 1854, in Jackson County, Oregon. The Vannoys secured patent to this land on November 19, 1879 (Genealogical



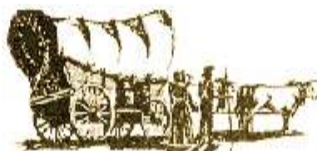
Forum of Portland, Oregon 1962:75). The site secured its name when warfare commenced between miners, settlers, and Indians in the Rogue River Valley on October 8, 1855 [October 9, 1855]. Refugees fled from along the river corridor near Evans Creek westward to the Vannoy Ferry. The Vannoy house was hastily fortified and over the next several months companies of the Oregon Volunteers used this site as a headquarters and staging area for their operations north into the Umpqua Mountains, west into the Rogue River canyon, and southwest into the Illinois River Valley (Beckham 1971; Victor 1894)."

Nature Of Fort Vannoy - House Was Fortified

Nature Of The Fort² "The Vannoy Donation Land Claim was the location of a ferry crossing the Rogue River. Some accounts claim that Vannoy began operations of a ferry at this site in the fall of 1851 upon his arrival in Oregon. As early settlers without access to lumber produced at a sawmill, it is likely that the Vannoys erected hewn-log buildings on this claim similar to those on the Birdseye farm near the town of Rogue River, Oregon. The Birdseye house, single-story, hewn-log, stood from 1853 until its destruction by fire about 1989, overlooking the Rogue River. The Vannoy house, which doubled as the fort, was undoubtedly similar to this building."

"Lewis A. McArthur was clear in his assessment that Fort Vannoy was "no fort:"

"Fort Vannoy was in no sense a fortification, but a headquarters camp for the volunteers of the 1855-56 Indian War. It was probably established in late October or November, 1855. The exact location cannot be determined, because there are no marks remaining. There was a group of log houses, and possibly some defense, such as log breastworks or a low stockade hastily constructed. The word fort seems to have been used for any place where the settlers gathered for mutual protection rather than for a place fortified."



Fort Vannoy was important because it was used for headquarters as well as for settlers' refuge" (McArthur 1974: 289)."

Headquarters Of Southern Battalion, Oregon Volunteers

Headquarters "For Vannoy served as a headquarters for the Southern Battalion, Oregon Volunteers, in October-December, 1855, and into the spring of 1856. The volunteers had established their first headquarters at Camp Stewart on Bear Creek in the Rogue Valley (Hamilton 1965). When the Indians fled westward into the canyon and Coast Range, the Volunteers followed them and found Vannoy's Ferry a good, central location. The muster rolls for companies of volunteer soldiers confirm that Fort Vannoy was a place of assembly. On November 10, 1855, several companies entered service against the Indians at this site:"



"Company E, 2nd Regiment, Oregon Mounted Volunteers, 119 men"

"Company F, 2nd Regiment, Oregon Mounted Volunteers, 73 men"

"Company G, 2nd Regiment, Oregon Mounted Volunteers, 89 men"

The Vannoy house was hastily fortified and over the next several months companies of the Oregon Volunteers used this site as a headquarters and staging area

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

2. 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.

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

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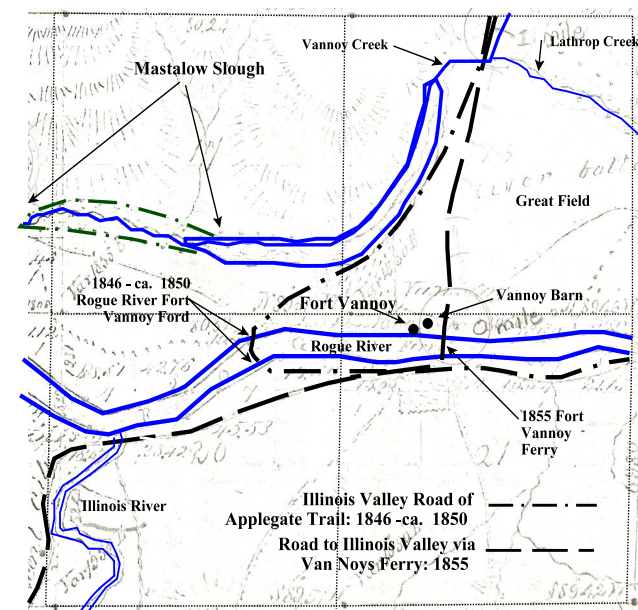
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Contact a member of the HNAT.

Brochure NA-32A in Hugo's Native American Brochure Series
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Beckham's Notes On Fort Vannoy (Part I of II)



Brochure NA-32A Of Hugo's
Native American Brochure
Series



Fort Vannoy Region : 1855
1856 GLO Base Map

October 5, 2011

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