
T.36S., R.6W., W.M.

Overview Hugo, Oregon like most places has its Native American history, some known, most not.¹

1855 GLO Surveyed T.36S., R.6W., W.M was surveyed July - August 1855 (Atwood, Kay. 2008). This was just months before the 1855 Rogue River Indian War broke out October 9, 1855.¹

Atwood's GLO Surveyors Notes are in two parts; this is Part I of II. The following information on

GLO contract No. 54 is from *Chaining Oregon*.²

GLO Contract 54: July - August 1855

Gardner awarded Contract 54 to Wells Lake and George Hyde on **February 19**

[1855]. This important assignment included **areas west of the Oregon-California road in Douglas County and along the Rogue River** – townships that Ives and Hyde had recommended for survey, as well as the isolated, gold-rich Illinois Valley in southwestern Jackson County, an area now included in Josephine County.

On April 1 at Jacksonville, devout Episcopalian Well Lake vowed to execute **Contract 54** "well and faithfully as I shall answer to God at the great day."¹⁵ The next day, Lake, along with Thomas Payne, James Dickey, Joseph Addington, and Sewall Truax, started work. On **April 21**, more surveyors pledged their oaths at Oregon City: Josiah Case, Edward R. Shunk, and John D. Griffiths as chainman, and John J. McConnell, William W. Bixley, and Thomas J. Small as axeman.

GLO Surveyors: June - August 1855



Surveying south from Wolf Creek to Jumpoff Joe Creek and the Rogue River,

Lake and his men had been in the field a month when George Hyde arrived. Just a year after beginning his southern Oregon expedition with Butler Ives, George Hyde arrived in southern Oregon the first week in May. He worked in the vicinity of present-day Wolf Creek, while Wells Lake and his crew surveyed nearby.

Relations between Native residents and whites were becoming increasingly volatile and dangerous and Lake and Hyde, with their small survey parties in the Rogue country, feared they might be attacked. Certainly the dispossessed bands of Indians were desperate. They had suffered terribly over the winter months from severe cold and hunger and faced starvation, if they could not leave the Table Rock Reserve to find food.

On June 19, Wells Lake and his men finished subdividing T.35S.,R.7W. between Galice and present-day Merlin, Oregon. A haze of nervousness drifted over the country. "In consequence of the late Indian troubles," Lake wrote Gardner from camp on the Rogue, "we have been delayed in extending our surveys into Illinois Valley. The difficulty has been settled and the Indians taken on the reserve by Capt. Smith & Dr. Ambrose the agent. **We start over the mountains between R. River & Illinois Valley tomorrow morning.** During the Indian war, four white men and 5 or 6 Indians were killed. The Indians were ranging in the Mountains over which we are not to run.

Indian Troubles

Crossing the Rogue at Vannoy's Ferry about a mile above the mouth of the Applegate River, Lake and Hyde moved south toward the Oregon-California border. Through July and early August, they chained through the Illinois Valley

were, by 1855, over fifty families – Turners, Nemans, and Northcutts among them – had taken claims on the fertile plain. Lake and his crew plotted boundaries while

Hyde and his men subdivided the townships into sections. Outside the cultivated fields, the surveyors climbed higher into white and black oak, madrone, and Douglas fir forest. On south-facing slopes they clawed their way through

buckbrush, manzanita, and abundant poison oak that underlay the Ponderosa pine and cedar. Depending on the demands of their work, the crews shifted at times between the two deputy surveyors.



Surveyors' Half Chain

1. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. January 1, 2010. *Program Overview: Native Americans of Hugo, Oregon*. Hugo, OR.
2. Atwood, Kay. 2008. *Chaining Oregon: Surveying the Public Lands of the Pacific Northwest; 1851 - 1855*. The McDonald & Woodward Publishing Company. Pages 196 - 202. Blacksburg, Virginia.

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.

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Want more information?
Contact a member of the HNAT.

GLO Contract 54 Surveyors: 1855 (Part 1 of II)



Brochure NA-37A Of Hugo's
Native American Brochure
Series



On February 26, 1836 Burt's solar compass
was issued patent number 9428X.

October 2, 2011

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