

Applegate Trail Grave Creek Project



**Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee
Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society**

Josephine County Historical Society

July 30, 2012

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The Applegate Trail Grave Creek Project is the combination of previous Applegate Trail (*Trail*) inventory work by the Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee (HETC) for GLO and DLC surveyed *Trail* sites, other ongoing ideas for *Trail* inventories, new inventory information for a 1,060' segment of *Trail* at north Sexton Mountain Pass, and a new idea for placing a Northwest Chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association (NWOCTA) carsonite marker at the evolved *Trail* location on the Applegate Trail Interpretive Center Museum property.

1. GLO and DLC Surveyed *Trail* Sites: JA-15 South Rat Creek, JA-20 Old Stage Road, and JA21 Grave Creek Road
2. Other Ongoing Ideas for *Trail*: Martha Leland Crowley Died In Rat Creek, Location Of Applegate Trail in Upper Rat Creek, 1874 County Road Survey In Rat Creek, McMichael's House/Light Homestead House Wagon Train Camp At Grave Creek: 1846, Martha Leland Crowley Grave: 1846, Grave Creek Ford: 1846 - 1855, Grave Creek Bridge: ca., 1881 - 1890, Grave Creek Bridge: 1920 - 2012
3. New Inventory Information at North Sexton Pass: 1,060' Segment of "Applegate Trail I North Sexton Pass I-5 East: I", *Telegraph Lines & Applegate Trail At Smith Hill Pass Paper*, and Anchor Rod & Postal Telegraph Pole At 1,060' Segment Of *Trail*
4. New idea by Joe Neiderheiser, Member of the HETC, of placing a NWOCTA carsonite marker at the evolved *Trail* location on the Applegate Trail Interpretive Center Museum property (i.e., JR Of Applegate Trail: Grave Creek Road Evolved (JA-17I))



*Photo 1. Roger & Phil (l to r)
At Archeology Project Site*



*Photo 2. Looking From Trail Site JA-17B
Toward Possible Ford At Grave Creek*

Joe Neiderheiser was the catalyst for a surge of renewed energy by the HETC in looking at the Applegate Trail inventories we have in Grave Creek and others that would be valuable (i.e., Applegate Trail Grave Creek Project). On June 28, 2012 he had scheduled some preliminary *Trail* work (i.e., *JR Of Applegate Trail: Grave Creek Road Evolved: ca., 1881 - 1890 (JA-17J)*) at the Applegate Trail Interpretive Center Museum for his church group. Two other members of the HETC, Jim and Rene Ford, participated in the outing.



Photo 3. Roger & Joe At JA-17B

Jim and Rene talked with Roger Russell and his brother-in-law Phil Thompson in the field North of Grave Creek and West Sunny Valley Road. Roger Russell is part owner and caretaker of the property where JA 17B is located (Photo 2). Roger's grandfather was Richard Helm. Roger's uncle lives in the house closest to this location. Roger is related to the first pioneers to locate in Sunny Valley and Leland.

Roger and Phil were conducting a private archeology project on Roger's property (Photo 1). Roger inherited this property along with his siblings from his father. Jim explained that we wanted to place a metal survey marker in his field at ground level indicating the location of the Applegate Trail. Once he understood what

we wanted to do he was excited about the idea and indicated that at some future date we could place a carsonite marker at the fence line to show the public where the trail crossed the property.

Joe used his GPS and the HETC's March 16, 2010 coordinates to locate the JA-17B *Trail* site (http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/BROCHURE%2021B%20JA%20GLO%20Grave%20Creek%20Road_JA17%20031610.pdf) on the ground where the survey cap should be placed. Roger's brother-in-law was sweeping the field with a metal detector and managed to find an old metal pulley block almost on top of the spot where the metal cap was placed (Photo 3 & Photo 4).

Roger Russell gave the HETC permission to come back and explore the property and look for where the trail crossed Grave Creek. Call Roger before entering property.

Roger Russell
1455 E Jones Creek Road
Grants Pass OR 97526
541-471-8875



Photo 4. Leta, Roger, & Jim

Minutes of the field trip were developed by Jim and Rene Ford and Joe and Leta Neiderheiser.

This draft Applegate Trail Grave Creek Project description and potential outline (next page) is the HETC's to review, and edit as its members like.

The GLO Field Review Subcommittee, HETC, also needs to get together to review work done on JA-17B and other on-going trail work. For example, back in 2010 we have different calculations for JA-17B that the GLO Subcommittee needs to review for consensus (i.e., at this point we do not have final office work or field work completed to support the agreement standards we have with NWOCTA for placing carsonite markers). There is also the on-going issue of Betty Gaustad and Larry McLane supporting Davis' position (i.e., Davis, Charles George. 2000; 2001. *The South Road: And the Route Across Southern Oregon*, page 186. Emigrants West. North Plains) that the original Applegate Trail is in the same location as today's Sunny Valley Road.

"The road became the main road to California and was paved some years later. The remains of Miss Martha Leland Crowley still lie under the pavement, one-fourth mile north of the covered bridge and the Sunny Valley Interpretive Center." (Davis, page 186).

First There Was Twogood Joe is reviewing Larry McLane's book, *First There Was Twogood*, for information applicable to the Applegate Trail Grave Creek Project (McLane, Larry L. 1995. *First There Was Twogood*. Sexton Enterprises. Sunny Valley, OR). This is a great idea and an opportunity the HETC rarely has available as there are no other history documents that provide the comprehensive detail and clues that can be used in its Applegate Trail mapping and marking program (especially see Section One - Grave Creek or Old Leland; pages 1 - 69).

- Alvord & Applegate survey 1853 survey map (page 3)
- Major event of late 1854 and early 1855 was the construction of a new two story wayside inn (hotel) on the west side of the Applegate Trail (Emigrant Road). . . (page 4)
- Lake and Hyde survey maps of March 1856 (page 5).
- Five thousand dollars was spent on the first wagon road of 1855 in the Grave Creek Hills alone. (page 7)
- The Lake and Hyde survey map and field notes of 1856 do not indicate or show any public facility on the east side of the road opposite Ft. Leland. They only show the Grave Creek House or Leland Creek House #1 and cultivated fields on the west side of the road and Jimmie and Barney's cabin on the east side of the road. (page 10)
- The year of 1866 would bring about one of the last acts that Jimmie would perform as a landowner in Josephine County. A petition was drawn up to create a new road from Jump-Off-Joe Creek bridge to intersect the road being traveled through Grants Pass in Jackson County. (page 10)
- Roger Russell's grandfather was Richard Helm who purchased the site of the original Grave Creek House in 1926 (page 21).
- J.S.W. Smith. Homestead at Mt. Sexton Pass. (pages 26 -27)
- 1881. *Clearing log jams in creek to keep them from washing away the bridge* (page 32)
- 1903. *January 23, Grave Creek Bridge gone from high water and one telephone pole* (page 34)
- 1903. *March 13, water extremely high. Stage could not get over Grave Creek* (page 34)

- Map I. Locality of Grave Creek or Old Leland (page 38)
- Map II. Old Leland or Fort Leland 1851 - 1855 (page 39)
- 1916 Photo of Crowley Oak (page 41)
- Photo of Grave Creek Ranch (page 43)

Josephine County Historical Resources Inventory (Atwood, Kay. 1983 - 1984. *Josephine County Historical Resources Inventory*. Developed for the Josephine County Planning Office. Volume I. Grants Pass, OR).

Edward Light, was working in the northern Josephine County area as a bridge builder and in 1890 was responsible for the construction of the Grave Creek and Jump Off Joe Creek bridges [Location of bridge Grave Creek Bridge is unknown.]

1874 Josephine County Road Survey In 1874 Josephine County established the first county road. It documents a bridge over Jumpoff Joe Creek, but does not identify such for Grave Creek. The 1874 survey does identify Grave Creek and a slough just south of Grave Creek.

1920 Grave Creek Covered Bridge The present day 105-foot Howe truss Grave Creek Covered Bridge was built April 1920 as part of project to pave the Pacific Highway in Oregon.

**Points of Interest (POIs) for Applegate Trail (Trail) Brochure Series,
Including Surveyed General Land Office (GLO) POIs
Hugo Neighborhood Association Web Page**
(<http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/inventorybrochures.htm>)

Outline

Rat Creek

- 19A - South Rat Creek JA-15A
- 19B - 1,060' Segment of "Applegate Trail I (ATI) For North Sexton Pass I-5 East" (JA-15B)
- 19C - 1,300' Segment of "Applegate Trail II (ATII) For North Sexton Pass I-5 East" (JA-15C)
- 19D - 1,853' Segment of "Applegate Trail III (ATIII) For North Sexton Pass I-5 East (JA-15D)
- 19E - Post At Wagon Road North Sexton Pass I-5 East (JA-15E)
- 19F - Culvert At "Applegate Trail III (ATIII) For North Sexton Pass I-5 East" (JA-15F)
- 19G - 1940 Right-of-Way Map, Sexton Mt. Section, Pacific Highway (JA-15G)
- 19H - Location Of Applegate Trail in Upper Rat Creek JA-15H
- 19I - 1874 County Road Survey In Rat Creek (JA-15I)
- 19J - *Telegraph Lines & Applegate Trail At Smith Hill Pass* Paper: 2012 (JA-15J)
- 19K - Anchor Rod & Postal Telegraph Pole At 1,060' Segment Of *Trail* (JA-15K)

- 20A - Old Stage Road JA-16A
- 20B - Martha Leland Crowley Died In Rat Creek: October 18, 1846 (JA-16B)
- 20C - Wagon Train Camp At Rat Creek: October 18, 1846 (JA-16C)
- 20D - 1874 County Survey In Rat Creek (JA-16D)
- 20E - McMichael's House/Light Homestead House (JA-16E)

Grave Creek

- 21A - JR Of Applegate Trail: Grave Creek Road (JA-17A) - Diaries
- 21B - JR Of Applegate Trail: Grave Creek Road (JA-17B) - GLO Surveys
- 21BA - JR Of Applegate Trail: Grave Creek Road (JA-17BA) - GLO Surveys
- 21C - JR Of Applegate Trail: Twogood DLC Survey (JA-17C)
- 21D - JR Of Applegate Trail: Twogood DLC Survey (JA-17D)
- 21E - Wagon Train Camp At Grave Creek: October 19, 1846 (JA-17E)
- 21F - Martha Leland Crowley Grave: October 19, 1846 (JA-17F)
- 21G - Grave Creek Ford: 1846 - 1855 (JA-17G)
- 21H - Grave Creek Bridge: ca., 1881 - 1890 (JA-17H)
- 21I - Grave Creek Bridge: 1920 - 2012 (JA-17I)
- 21J - JR Of Applegate Trail: Grave Creek Road Evolved: ca., 1881 - 1890 (JA-17J)
- 21K - Property Owner Artifacts Found Near Applegate Trail Site "Grave Creek Road JA-17B" (JA-17K)

Salmon Creek

- 22 JR Of Applegate Trail: Salmon Creek JA-18A