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## Oregon & California (O & C) Railroad Grants Of Four Million Acres

**Railroad** The first transcontinental railroad was built in 1869. In 1866 Congress enacted legislation authorizing a grant of lands (about 4 million acres of forestland in western Oregon) to be conveyed to a railroad company to help finance construction of a railroad from Portland, Oregon to the California border. The O & C Railroad's first rail out of Portland was laid in 1869 and by 1872 it was completed to Roseburg. After a long hiatus due to shaky finances and high expenses, the first official train arrived in Grants Pass December 2, 1883. The Southern Pacific Railroad acquired control (i.e., 40-year lease) in 1884 and the railroad connected Oregon and California in 1887.<sup>1-5</sup>



**Chinese** Single Chinese laborers without families provided much of the back breaking toil to make the cuts for the O&C Railroad. Historically, it was the wish of these Chinese O & C railroad workers, like most Chinese, who came to this country for railroad construction, to be buried in their homeland. As far back as the Gold Rush and well into the 1930s and even later, literally tens of thousands of individuals who were buried in temporary graves throughout the west were regularly disinterred and the remains shipped back to the native villages. With the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882, which banned Chinese immigrants from entering the United States, Chinese populations began to dwindle.

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## O & C Railroad Grant No. 38 For 110,000 Acres: 1896

**1882** With S. S. Cook, under the firm name of E. J. Jeffery & Co., Edward James Jeffery built in 1882, the Grave Creek Tunnel (*History of Portland, Oregon*).

**1896 Oregon & California Railroad Patent** For a variety of reasons the final patents to the railroad for building the railroad were issued later than the work was completed. On March 17, 1896 the O & C Railroad Company was issued a railroad grant Patent No. 38 for 109,827.83 acres (July 25, 1866: Grant-RR O & C (14 Stat. 239)).<sup>4-8</sup> It would sell/grant to the PVC Association 40 acres of that patent three years later.

**Hugo Tombstone Quarry Section Of Applegate Trail** Railroad grant No. 38 included three parcels along the 1.5 mile stretch of the Applegate Trail from the Harris donation land claim to the PVC.

1. 40 acres administered by the Josephine County Sportsman Association (JCSA).<sup>6</sup>
2. 120 acre 1927 Squier homestead.<sup>6</sup>
3. 40 acres of what would become the PVC.<sup>6</sup>

**JCSA** The 40 acre Tax Lot 301 is a small part of the land managed by the JCSA.<sup>6, 9, 10 & 12</sup>

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1. Bureau of Governmental Research & Service, University of Oregon. 1968. *The Significance Of The O & C Forest Resource In Western Oregon*. OR.  
2. Southern Pacific Company. April 18, 1969. *History Of Southern Pacific In Oregon*. Letter to Josephine County Historical Society.  
3. Hugo Neighborhood. 2003. *Tunnel 9: 1883*. Hugo, OR.  
4. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), General Land Office (GLO) Records. 2007. Official Federal Land Records Site (<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>). Internet.  
5. Hugo Neighborhood. 2007. *Hugo Pioneers*. Map Of Federal Land Transfer in Hugo, Oregon. Hugo, OR.

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## Pleasant Valley Cemetery (PVC) Association's Forty Acres

**1927 Squire Homestead** On March 9, 1927 Edward Markham Squier was issued a 120 acre homestead patent in Hugo, Oregon (Patent No. 014565).<sup>4-5</sup> This was a late homestead entry after the O & C lands came back to the United States from the railroad. The evolved Applegate Trail went through this homestead.<sup>6, 11, & 13</sup>

**PVC Association**<sup>6-7, & 14</sup> The PVC Association was formally formed by 11 founders on May 30, 1896. One of its records document that the association was informally operating on the railroad land as early as May 30, 1892 a decade after the railroad arrived. It is speculated the cemetery started in the 1880s, and perhaps as early as the 1870s, as an informal railroad cemetery.

**Want more information?** Contact an officer of the *Hugo Neighborhood* on how you can become involved in your community's history and land use.

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6. Hugo Neighborhood. 2007. *Pioneers For Hugo Tombstone Quarry Section Of Applegate Trail: 1856 - 1927*. Map 20C, map of Hugo Quarry Section of Applegate Trail. Hugo, OR.

7. Hugo Neighborhood, Josephine County Historical Society, et. al. 2007. *Hugo Granite Tombstone Quarry Site: Preliminary Resource Assessment*. Two volumes. Hugo, OR.

8. Hugo Neighborhood, Josephine County Historical Society, et. al. 2007. *Assessment Of Proposed Pioneer Meadow Subdivision Containing Applegate Trail Resources*. Hugo, OR.

9. Josephine County Sportsman Association & Hugo Neighborhood. 2006. *Applegate Trail & Sportsman Park*. Hugo, OR.

10. Hugo Neighborhood. 2007. *Property Owners For JA Section 2 Along Applegate Trail, Hugo Tombstone Quarry Section: 2007*. Map 14A. Hugo, OR.

11. Hugo Neighborhood. 2007. *Property Owners For JA Section 3 Along Applegate Trail, Hugo Tombstone Quarry Section: 2007*. Map 14B. Hugo, OR.

12. Hugo Neighborhood, Josephine County Historical Society, et. al. *Josephine County Sportsman Park Along Applegate Trail*. Hugo, OR.

13. Hugo Neighborhood, Josephine County Historical Society, et. al. . 2007. *Squire: Hugo Pioneers*. Hugo, OR.

14. Hugo Neighborhood, Josephine County Historical Society, et. al. . 2007. *Pleasant Valley Cemetery Along Applegate Trail*. Hugo, 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](mailto:hugo@jeffnet.org)

Web Page: <http://jeffnet.org/~hugo/>

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### Josephine County Historical Society

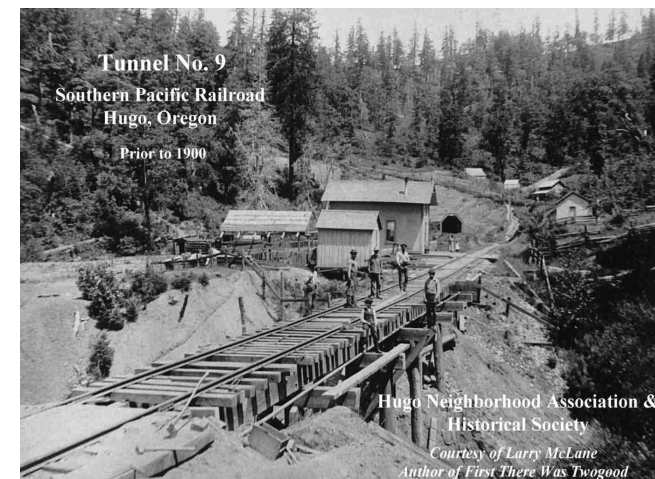
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# O & C RAILROAD

Brochure 51 in Hugo's Pioneers  
Brochure Series



*Part of the 1.5 mile Applegate Trail nomination to  
Federal Register of Historic Places*



*Tunnel No. 9: ca., 1900*

**May 12, 2008**

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