

**[Lt. Henry L. Abbot, Topographical Engineers, traveled south via the Willamette and Rogue River valleys in 1855 to examine a route for a railroad to connect the communities along the Columbia River with those in the Sacramento Valley. He passed through the region in the midst of the Rogue River Indian War of 1855-56 and wrote:]**

November 2, 1855

Between Grave and Jump off Joe creeks the road passed over a steep and heavily timbered divide. The Indians had killed two men in charge of a pack train on this hill, and the half burned remains of their wagon and packs were still to be seen. Near this place Major Fitzgerald, 1<sup>st</sup> dragoons, had overtaken with a scouting party and killed several of the savages. At Jump off Joe creek, a man driving swine had been murdered, and a large number of his animals lay dead in the road. On leaving this creek, we passed through an undulating and fertile country, sometimes open and sometimes thinly covered with a growth of oak, sugar maple, and a little pine and hemlock. After traveling until nearly sun down, we encamped at a building which had been preserved from the general ruin by the heroism of a woman named Harris.

Abbot, Lieutenant Henry L., *Explorations For a Railroad Route From The Sacramento Valley to the Columbia River*, Vol. VI., Corps of Topographical Engineers, 1855.