

September 10, 2010

To: Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee Files

From: Karen Rose, Co-Project Leader
Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee
Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society



Mike Walker, Co-Project Leader
Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee
Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

Subject: Location On Applegate Trail When Martha Leland Crowley Died in 1846

I. ISSUE

The issue is the question surrounding the location where Martha Leland Crowley died along the Applegate Trail on October 18, 1846.

The following analysis and conclusion concerning the location where Martha Leland Crowley died in 1846 on the north side of Grave Creek Hills in the Rat Creek drainage (Map 1) along the Applegate Trail is based on the following:

1. 1855 GLO Survey For JA-16 Old Stage Road, T.34S., R.6W., WM
2. Measurements from the 1856 GLO Map, T.34S., R.6W., WM, and
3. Applicable Diaries, Journals and Reminiscences.

II. DATA

A. 1855 GLO Survey For JA-16 Old Stage Road, T.34S., R.6W., WM

1855 GLO Survey Notes for POI Page 605. Subdivisions of T. 34 S., R. 6 W. 89.46 W [West] on True Line between sections 11 & 14.

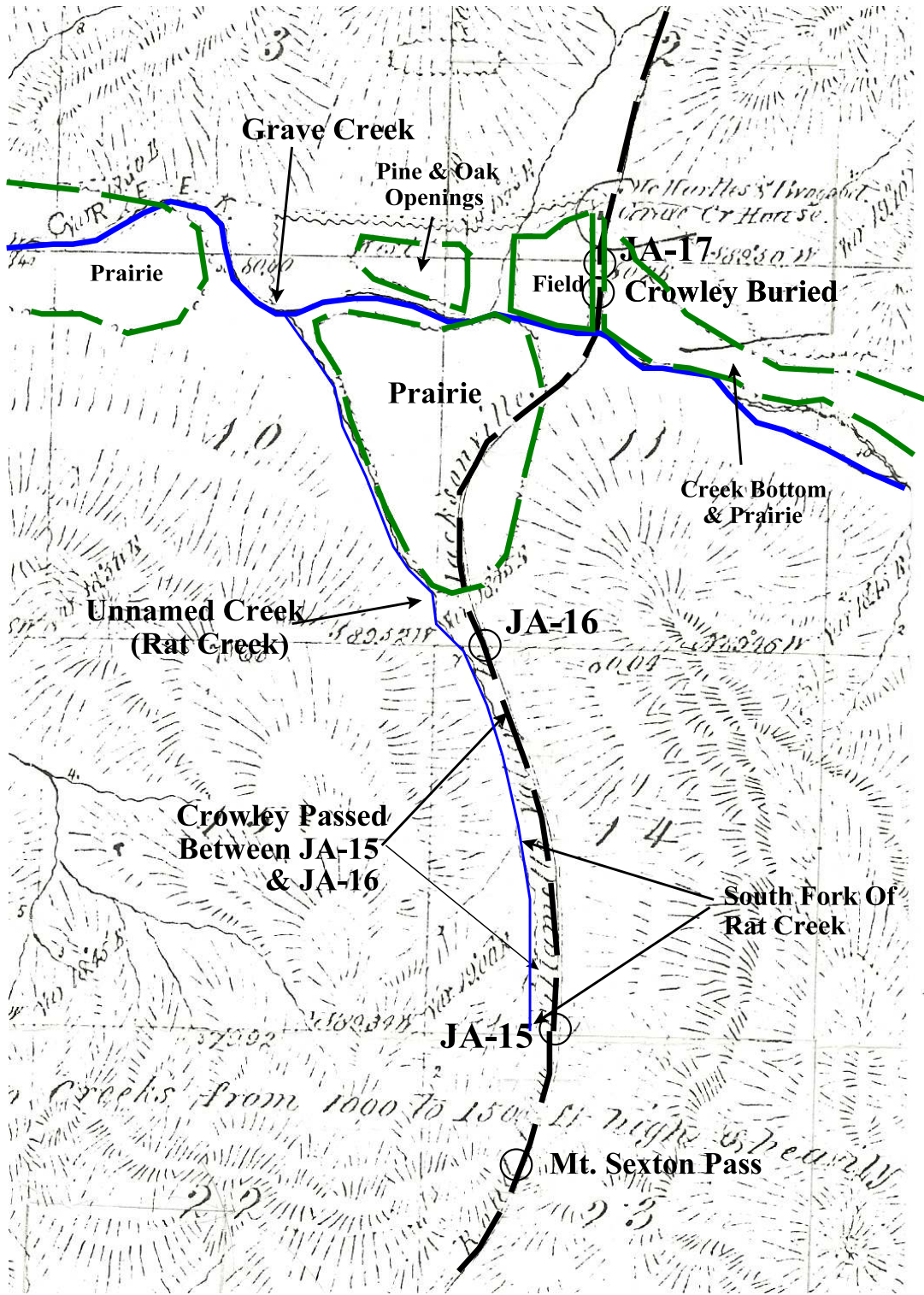
Chains

72.00 a Road c N30°W & S30°E [72 chains = 4,752']

77.50 Branch 7 Lks wide c. N20°W [77.50 chains = 5,115' - Rat Creek is 363' from *Trail*;
Rat Creek is 7 links = 55.44" wide]

80.04 To Section Corner [80.04 chains = 5,282.64' - 4,752 = JA-16 is 530.64' from corner]

This survey at JA-16 Old Stage Road places the road 363' from Rat Creek.



Map 1. Applegate Trail: 1855
 Base Map: 1856 General Land Office Map

B. 1856 GLO Map, T.34S., R.6W., WM

The Applegate Trail is approximately 2.3 miles long as measured on the 1856 GLO map, T.34S., R.6W., WM from the summit at Grave Creek Hills downhill to just north of Grave Creek where Martha Leland Crowley was buried (where the cross is today along side Sunny Valley Road).

The following are approximate milages.

- 0.00 Miles. Grave location of Martha Leland Crowley
- 0.86 Miles Southern Edge of the Prairie (*Trail* is 476' from Rat Creek - from map)
- 1.00 Miles JA-16 Old Stage Road (*Trail* is 363' from Rat Creek - from survey notes)
- 2.00 Miles JA-15 South Rat Creek
- 2.30 Miles Summit of Grave Creek Hills (today's Mt. Sexton Pass)

C. Diaries, Journals & Reminiscences



Photo 1. Looking North Into South Fork Of Rat Creek From I-5 Fill

Scott¹ Three days from here we struck the head of a small branch [South Fork of Rat Creek (Photo 1); it flows into Rat Creek after approximately ½ mile] running into Grave Creek which we followed down to its junction, through heavy timber and thick bushes. The road had been so poorly opened that the train was frequently compelled to stop and remove obstacles that ought to have been cleared away by the party in advance of us.

As we came down this branch Miss Leland Crowley died. The wagon in which the sick girl lay stopped while she was dying, and those behind could not pass. This made a breach in the train, as those in front still continued to advance without noticing that those in the rear were delayed.

Scott¹ When Miss Crowley was dead, the rear part of the train moved on again, and came into its place in the camp after dark.

Tolbert Carter² Soon a wagon appeared, with weeping and lamentation among its occupants. It was soon learned that an estimable young lady by the name of Crowley, who had been afflicted with typhoid fever, had died....When morning came we found we were a few hundred yards from a small stream....Two years afterward I passed that way, enroute to the California gold mines and, sorrowful to relate, the Indians had exhumed the body....[Later] the mother came to where I was stopping, to inquire if the reports were true.....I told her it was true.”

Pringle³ Monday, October 19 - Move one mile to a camp, having none last night, and spent the day burying Mr. Crowley's daughter, who died yesterday evening, age about 14 years. 1 mile.

Scott¹ The next morning we moved up a little, and crossed the main creek [Grave Creek], where we stopped to bury the dead girl.

III. ANALYSIS

Martha Leland Crowley died in the Rat Creek drainage along the Applegate Road on October 18, 1846. The only road measurement was recorded by Virgil Pringle the next day.

“Monday, October 19 - Move one mile to a camp, having none last night, and spent the day burying Mr. Crowley's daughter, who died yesterday evening, age about 14 years. 1 mile.”

Measurements from the 1856 GLO Map, T.34S., R.6W., WM indicate that 0.86 miles uphill from the location where Martha died was the southern edge of a prairie (Map 1). The assumption would normally be that camp for the wagon trail would have been in that prairie where the *Trail* opened up to camp. However, Pringle's diary indicates there was no camp on October 18, 1846. Therefore, it is assumed the members of the wagon train camped in single file along the *Trail* when it became too dark to travel, before they came to the open prairie.

In summary, the assumption is that the wagon train camped one mile from the location where Martha was buried. Coincidentally, measurements from the 1856 GLO Map, T.34S., R.6W., WM indicate that one mile uphill along the Applegate Trail from the location where Martha died is very close to today's modern 1855 GLO location of JA-16 Old Stage Road.

Tolbert Carter remembered that the camp's location the night of October 18, 1846 was a few hundred yards from a small stream.

“When morning came we found we were a few hundred yards from a small stream...”

The 1855 surveyed distance from the *Trail* to Rat Creek was 363'. This is closer to one hundred than two hundred yards. Nevertheless, for the present it is assumed that camp on October 18, 1846 was close to JA-16 prior to the wagon train reaching the prairie.

At this point there is still not an assumption specifically where Martha died uphill from the camp location at JA-16 as Scott's and Tolbert Carter's reminiscences indicate she died uphill from camp.

Scott: As we came down this branch Miss Leland Crowley died. The wagon in which the sick girl lay stopped while she was dying, and those behind could not pass. This made a breach in the train, as those in front still continued to advance without noticing that those

in the rear were delayed. When Miss Crowley was dead, the rear part of the train moved on again, and came into its place in the camp after dark.

Tolbert Carter: Soon a wagon appeared, with weeping and lamentation among its occupants. It was soon learned that an estimable young lady by the name of Crowley, who had been afflicted with typhoid fever, had died.....

According to the GLO map there is approximately 1.3 miles from the summit of Grave Creek Hills and JA-16 (Map 1). Scott indicates that while traveling down the small stream Miss Leland Crowley died. This suggests that the wagon train was traveling downhill along the branch rather than at the headwaters of the branch.

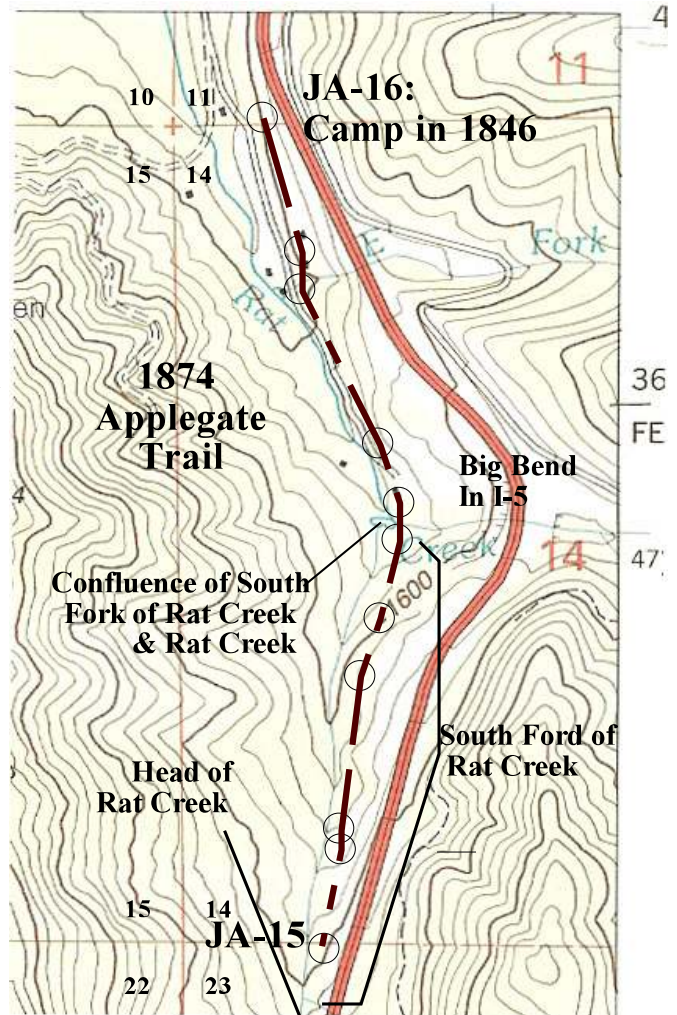
Scott: As we came down this branch Miss Leland Crowley died. The wagon in which the sick girl lay stopped while she was dying, and those behind could not pass.

Tolbert Carter was in the segment of the wagon train that was ahead of the Crowley wagon and continued on to camp in the dark without knowing the Crowley wagon had stopped behind them for Crowley to pass.

Tolbert Carter: Soon a wagon appeared, with weeping and lamentation among its occupants. It was soon learned that an estimable young lady by the name of Crowley, who had been afflicted with typhoid fever, had died.....

Somewhere along the 1.3 miles between the summit and JA-16 Crowley passed, but neither at the head of Rat Creek nor at the JA-16 camp (Map 2). Carter's statement that a wagon soon appeared might suggest that the location was closer to camp than further from it, but this is not confirmable.

Until better information is available it is assumed that Crowley passed in a location between JA-15 South Rat Creek and JA-16 Old Stage Road which are approximately 1 mile apart. One half-mile uphill from JA-16 is approximately the confluence of the South Fork of Rat Creek and Rat Creek.



Even though the wagon train was in heavy timber and thick bushes where other wagons could not pass the Crowley wagon after it stopped for Martha to pass, this confluence would have been a little flatter ground.

For simplicity, until other information becomes available, it is assumed that Martha Leland Crowley passed approximately 1.5 miles uphill along the *Trail* in the Rat Creek drainage from the location she was buried along the *Trail* just north of Grave Creek. This location, the confluence of the South Fork of Rat Creek and Rat Creek is on private property in the big bend of I-5 between the Sexton Mt. Summit and the Sunny Valley I-5 interchange.

IV CONCLUSION

Martha Leland Crowley passed late in the day October 18, 1846 approximately 1.5 miles uphill along the Applegate Trail in the Rat Creek drainage from the location she was buried along the *Trail* just north of Grave Creek. This location, the confluence of the South Fork of Rat Creek and Rat Creek is on private property in the big bend of I-5 between the Sexton Mt. Summit and the Sunny Valley I-5 interchange.

V. AUTHORS

Karen Rose is the Web Master for the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (*Hugo Neighborhood*). She is a member of the NW Chapter OCTA; Member of the Josephine County Historical Society; Co-Project Leader, Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee, *Hugo Neighborhood*, and Member of the Diaries, Journals & Reminiscences Sub-Committee, Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee. Karen has conducted comprehensive research of the diaries, journals and reminiscences applicable to the *Trail* in northern Josephine County.
<http://www.jeffnet.org/~hugo/diaries.htm>

Karen Rose, Co-Project Leader
Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee
Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society
575 Red Mountain Drive
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526
541-955-7057
Email: krose@jeffnet.org
Web Page: <http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/>

Mike Walker is the Education Chair for the *Hugo Neighborhood*. He is a member of the NW Chapter OCTA; NW Chapter OCTA Monitoring Coordinator, Hugo Region of Applegate Trail; Member of the Josephine County Historical Society; Co-Project Leader, Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee, *Hugo Neighborhood*; and Member Hugo General Land Office (GLO) Field Review Sub-Committee, Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee. He is the lead author of the 2007 *Assessment Of Proposed Pioneer Meadows Subdivision Containing Applegate Trail Resources*.

(<http://www.jeffnet.org/~hugo/applegat.htm>), and the lead author and/or contributing author of numerous articles on the *Trail* in northern Josephine County (<http://www.jeffnet.org/~hugo/applegat.htm>).

Mike Walker, Co-Project Leader
Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee
Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society
3388B Merlin Rd #195
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526
541-471-8271
Email: hugo@jeffnet.org
Web Page: <http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/>

VI. DISTRIBUTION

GLO Field Review SubCommittee
Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee
Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

Endnotes

1. Collins, James Lyton, *From Independence to Independence*, Levi Scott's authorized and approved, handwritten biography, circa 1880's. Roseburg: Unpublished type-scripted manuscript archived in Douglas County Historical Museum Reference Library, 1955[?]. Pages 192-194.

The following are different bibliographical entries for *From Independence to Independence* in endnote 1 above.

Collins, James Lyton, Edited and Amplified. July 1967. *Captian Levi Scott*. Unpublished manuscript. Sitka, AK.

The following reference is from the bibliography from *The South Road* by Charles George Davis.

Collins, James Lyton, *From Independence to Independence*, Levi Scott's authorized and approved, handwritten biography, circa 1880's. Roseburg: Unpublished type-scripted manuscript archived in Douglas County Historical Museum Reference Library, 1955[?].

The Trails West book "*Emigrant Trails West A Guide to The Applegate Trail, The South Road to Oregon*" references the book as:

Scott, Levi . " Capt. Levi Scott". Edited and Amplified by James Layton Collins.

Vira Cordano's book titled "*Levi Scott Oregon Trailblazer*" references the Collins edited book as:

"*From Independence to Independence*" An 1967 unpublised manuscript written from notes taken by James Layton Collins in interview with Levi Scott. etc. etc.

Emerson's "*The Applegate Trail in 1846*" book references this in his bibliography:

Scott, Levi. *From Independence to Independence*. Sitka, AL: unpublished manuscript by Jame Layton Collins, 1967.

2. 1846 – [In reminiscences about the 1846 journey via the Applegate Trail, Tolbert Carter recalled the death of Martha Leland Crowley at Grave Creek.]

From *South Road* by Charles George Davis the reference section states:

Carter, Tolbert. "Pioneer Days." *Transactions of the Thirty-Fourth annual Reunion of the Oregon Pioneer Association*. June 14, 1906. Portland: Oregon Historical Society, circe 1906.

3. Morgan, Dale Howell, edited. *Overland in 1846 – Diaries and Letters of The California-Oregon Trail*. 1963. Vol. I, Page 185 - Diary of Virgil Pringle and Notes - page 395. The Talisman Press, Georgetown, CA.