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## Oregon and California Stage Company

**1853 Military Road** Brevet Major B. Alvord, United State Army, located and surveyed the 1853 Military Road from Myrtle Creek to Jacksonville, Oregon.<sup>1-2</sup> The Alvord Survey became the overland road used by freighters and the Oregon and California Stage Company.

**1855 General Land Office (GLO) Surveys** The military road was the Jacksonville Road of the Applegate Trail as built when recorded by the GLO1855 surveys in Josephine County, Oregon.<sup>3</sup>

**Stage Lines Connected Early Cities** “In the early days when staging was the approved method for passenger travel between Oregon and California points, stage stations dotted the route from Portland to San Francisco. While the stages and passengers made the continuous trip, stopping only for meals, the jaded horses were exchanged for fresh stock at these designated stations, which in southern Oregon were located at Canyonville, Galesville, Grave Creek, Grants Pass [Louse Creek], Rock Point, and Jacksonville. . . “This route was used by all north and

south travel until the railroad was built through to connect the California extension.”<sup>4</sup> [in 1883 to Grants Pass, Oregon]

“Travelers paid the considerable sum of 15

cents per mile to ride in Concorde stages drawn over the mountainous Oregon-California stage route by six-horse teams.”<sup>5</sup>

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## Hugo’s Regional Stage Stations: 1857 - 1883

**Oregon and California Stage Company: 1860** “Before 1857 there was no regular stage line of passenger coaches in Oregon. In 1857 a daily stage from Portland to Salem was established. In 1859 a mail and passenger stage coach ran once a week between Portland and Eugene and from Eugene to Jacksonville. In 1860 the post office department ordered the mail to be carried once a week to Jacksonville and way points.”<sup>6</sup>

“In 1853 a consolidation of stage lines in California became the California Stage company and in 1860 it secured a contract for a daily overland mail from San Francisco to Portland. By June, 1860 this company was operating as far north as Oakland, Oregon. In October, 1860 by connection with the Oregon Stage company, at Corvallis, a thorough trip was made from Portland to Sacramento.”<sup>6</sup>

“The great flood of 1861-1862 carried out the bridges and for months the mails were interrupted. H. W. Corbett and Co. operated the line from 1866 to 1869, and Jessie D. Carr carried the mail until in 1870 the California and Oregon Coast Overland Mail Co., was organized and operated the stage line until after the railroad was completed.”<sup>6</sup>

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1. Hugo Neighborhood. May 25, 2008 *Major B. Alvord's Military Road: 1853*. Brochure 13A in Trapper's Trail Series. Hugo, OR.

2. Hugo Neighborhood. May 25, 2008 *Military Road: 1853 (Louse Creek to Grave Creek)*. Brochure 13B in Trapper's Trail Series. Hugo, OR.

3. General Surveyor Office of Oregon. *Subdivision Lines For 1856 Map (T.34., R. 6. W., Willamette Meridian)*. Field Notes. Surveyor Luke G Hyde. Contract February 19, 1855; Surveyed March 31, 1856; Hugo Neighborhood. 2006. *Hugo's Applegate Trail Field Notes*. Brochure 10A in Emigrant Trail Series. Hugo, OR.

4. Grants Pass Daily Courier. June 26, 2006. *Golden Anniversary Edition, Political History Section*, Page 8. Grants Pass, OR.

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## Hugo’s Two Stage Stations: Louse Creek & Grave Creek

**Grants Pass Oregon History** “Grants Pass may be the largest community in Josephine County, but it is by no means the oldest. People living in the area prior to 1865 had to go to Rock Point to get their mail. There was a stage station several miles north of present day Grants Pass, located on what we now call Granite Hill Road on the Oregon-California Road. Called the Louse Creek Station, it was run by Ebenezer Dimmick. Dimmick, Thomas Croxton (who was Dimmick's brother-in-law), and John Wheeler wanted a post office so that residents of the area would not have to go 17 miles to pick up their mail. The three men petitioned the [U. S.] Post Office Department for the establishment of a local post office. They did not think the name of Louse Creek would draw people to the area, so they decided to name it "Grant" in honor of Union General U.S. Grant. Croxton received his appointment as postmaster, but was told to select a new name because a Grant, Oregon already existed.”<sup>7</sup>

In 1864 the Louse Creek Stage section was abandoned because “About this same time, a new road was being built over the hill into the valley where Grants Pass is located today. The new road was eventually known as the old Merlin Road and generally ran the route of I-5 (i.e. Northwest Vine and Highland Avenues connecting with Monument Drive).”<sup>7</sup>

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5. Grants Pass Courier. April 3, 1935. *Monday's Make History, The First Nail*. . . *In the First Building*, by Gary Fixsen, Page 5B. Grants Pass, OR.

6. Grants Pass Courier. April 3, 1935. *Golden Anniversary Edition, Political History Section*, Page 8. Grants Pass, OR.

7. Joan Momsen Downloaded March 14, 2006. *Grants Pass, Oregon History*

## 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)

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## Hugo's Regional Stage Stations

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