

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, Oregon¹⁻² which became the overland road used by freighters and the stage companies.

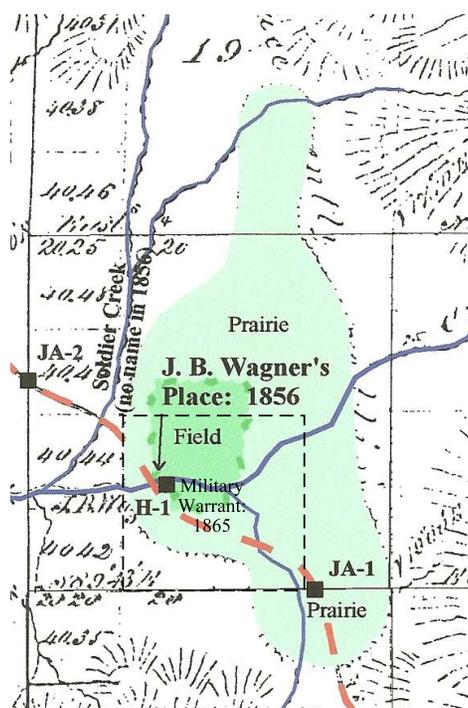
Hugo Region Stage Route “From Grave Creek south the road skirted Sexton mountain, or Smith hill, as it was called, then followed in general the present highway [Pacific Highway] to Pleasant Valley, when it veered southwest to Louse Creek, past the present Savage farm, and over the Louse creek hill, or Morris hill, as it was called a generation ago.”³

Louse Creek Stage Station: 1860 This stop known as the Louse Creek Stage Station was established in 1853, shortly after the Alvord survey of the Big Road. The station was run by Jacob Wagner who was killed by the Indians October 9, 1855. The station was reopened and under the operation of James McDonough that same year. The stage station was formally established in 1860⁴⁻⁵ where Louse Creek crosses Granite Hill Road (Jacksonville Route of Applegate Trail). In 1864 Louse Creek Station was closed when the road was moved to an easier grade over Merlin Hill (the route of present I-5) and the old station was bypassed.⁶

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. Grants Pass Courier. April 3, 1935. *Golden Anniversary Edition, Pioneer Stories Section*, Page 1. Grants Pass, OR.
4. Grants Pass Courier. April 3, 1935. *Golden Anniversary Edition, Political History Section*, Page 8. Grants Pass, OR.

Louse Creek Stage Station: 1853 - 1864

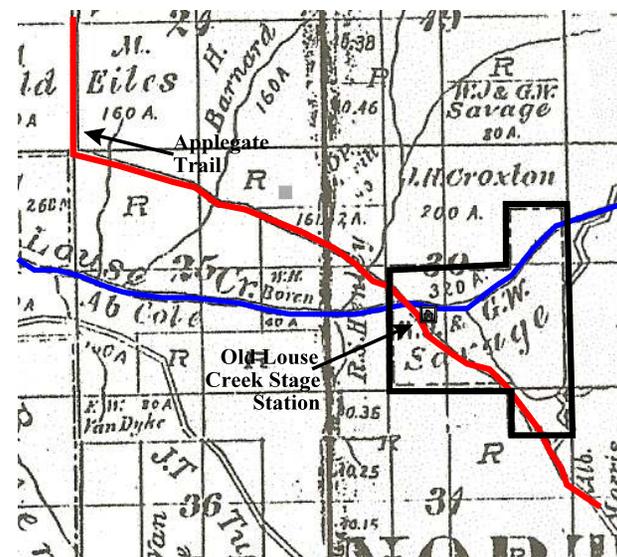
1865 James McDonough Located Military Warrant⁷ James McDonough's 160 acre military warrant (document No. 41488) was patented February 20, 1865 (March 3, 1855: Script Warrant Act of 1855). Nathan Hall was a private in Captain Goodalls Company Oregon Militia Rogue River War and as a veteran was given a warrant entitling him to 160 acres of public domain land for service in military engagements. He assigned (sold) his warrant to McDonough who “located” it.



Wagner's Place In 1856 on GLO Map

Wagner, Hall, McDonough, & Savage

1895 County Map⁸ By 1895 the 160 acre McDonough Military Warrant was part of the 320 acre Savage Ranch owned by W. L. and G. Savage on Louse Creek which is in today's Colonial Valley (i.e., mostly south half of Section 30, T.35S., R.5W.).



Savage Ranch: 1895

5. Hugo Neighborhood. April 7, 2009. Hugo's Regional Stage Stations. Brochure 1 in Stage Station Brochure Series. Hugo, OR.
6. Meier, Gary and Gloria. 1987. *Knights of the Whip, Stagecoach Days in Oregon*. Timeline Publishing Company. Bellevue, WA.
7. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), General Land Office (GLO) Records. 2007. Official Federal Land Records Site (<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>). Internet.
8. Koch, Joseph, Draughtsman. 1895 Official Josephine County, Oregon. Map. Scale 1 inch = 1 mile. Meston - Dygert Book M'F'G. Portland, 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.

Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee

Hugo is blessed with a rich heritage of historic roads, rough though they were. The *Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee* was formed to bring together all those who want to learn more about the early transportation in the area, from the casual admirer to the dedicated researcher. Its aim is to collect and record information about Hugo's emigrant trails, especially its two historic 1850s General Land Office mapped roads on the Applegate Trail, and to share this information (e.g., through *Hugo History Day*, talks, hikes, group visits, training exercises, workshops, publications, web sites, etc.).

Karen Rose, Co-Project Leader
Mike Walker, Co-Project Leader

Diaries, Journals & Reminiscences SubCommittee
General Land Office Field Survey SubCommittee

Hugo Neighborhood
3388B Merlin Rd # 195, Grants Pass, Oregon 97526
541-471-8271
Email: hugo@jeffnet.org
Web Page: <http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/>

Larry McLane
Sexton Enterprises
430 Beecher Road
Wolf Creek, Oregon 97497-9758
541-479-1955

Edited by Larry McLane, Karen Rose,
& Mike Walker

Louse Creek Stage Station

Brochure 2 Of Stage Station
Brochure Series



Louse Creek Stage Station: ca., 1865
Courtesy of Larry McLane

October 14, 2009

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

Sexton Enterprises