
The Pacific Railroad Survey: 1855

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Chapter V. Narrative and Itinerary continued — Routes of detached parties in charge of Lieut. Abbot. Part of this chapter is the route from the Willamette Valley south to Sacramento, including the passage through the Rogue River Valley

General Report. The following is from Chapter V of Part 1.

Page 105. “*My whole party, including Lieutenant Cook, myself, and the scientific corps, consists of 28 men, of which 10 are Mexican packers, and perfectly unreliable in case of an attack. Many in the party are unarmed. I think there are only five rifles in the whole command.*”

Page 106. “*October 22. [1855] — Today we left Oregon City, . . .*”

1. Abbot, Henry L. *Report of Lieut. Henry L. Abbot, Corps of Topographical Engineers, upon Explorations for a Railroad Route from the Sacramento River to the Columbia River, made by Lieut. R. S. Williamson, Corps of Topographical Engineers, assisted by Lieut. Henry L. Abbot, Corps of Topographical Engineers, 1855.* United States War Department. *Reports of explorations and surveys, to ascertain the most practicable and economical route for a railroad from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean. Made under the direction of the Secretary of War, in 1853-4.* House of Representatives Exec. Doc. No. 91, 33rd Congress, 2d Session. Nicholson, Washington, 1856.

The Pacific Railroad Survey: Part 1, Chapter V - The Rogue River Valley

Page 107. “*October 30. — We learned, upon good authority, that the reports from Rogue river had not exaggerated the Indian disturbances there. None but strong parties could pass through the valley, and most of the houses north of the river were burned.*”

Page 107. “*October 31. — We continued our course up the valley of the South Umpqua river, and encamped with the volunteers near the northern entrance of the Umpqua canon, at Canonville, which consists only of one house and a barn.*”

Pages 107 - 108. “*November 1. — This morning we followed the volunteers through the canon, a difficult pass through the Umpqua mountains. . . . We had hardly left the canon when we began to see traces of the Indian devastations. Blackened and smoking runs, surrounded by the carcasses of domestic animals, marked the places where, but a few days before, the settlers had lived.*”

Page 108. “*November 2. — . . . Wolf and Grave creeks are separated by high and steep hills, covered with thick timber and underbrush. On reaching Wolf creek we found Captain Smith in camp, near a house surrounded by a small stockade. . . . 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.*”

Lt. Henry Abbot

Page 108. November 2 continued. “*Near this place Major Fitzgerald, 1st 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. After her husband had been murdered and her daughter wounded, she had made a desperate and successful defense by shooting at the savages from between the crevices of the log house. The traces of her bullets upon the trees, which had shielded the Indians, and the marks of the tragedy within the dwelling, were plainly visible. Soon after dark a small party under the command of Lieut. Allaton, 1st cavalry, arrived with the wounded and encamped. Captain Smith, with a few men, passed us on his way to Fort Lane. The length of our day’s march was about fourteen miles.*”

Page 109. “*November 3. — Today we traveled about twenty-five miles to Fort Lane, crossing Rogue river at Evans’ ferry. His house, and others south of the river, were now protected by a few soldiers.. . . The land appeared to be rich and valuable. The hills were thinly covered with oak, pine, and other kinds of trees.*”

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 by preserving, protecting, and enhancing the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors. It will act, as 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. Make checks to the *Hugo Neighborhood* and send them to our Treasurer.

Hugo Neighborhood Association

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PACIFIC RAILROAD SURVEY: 1855



Draft Brochure 15B in
Trapper's Trail Series



Rogue River Valley



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