

## Pleasant Valley Prairie

### 1865 Solomon Abraham Cash

**Entry** Solomon purchased 160 acres under Cash Entry No. 662 in Josephine County, Oregon. It was issued August 15, 1865 to Solomon Et. Al. Abraham.<sup>1-3</sup> This is the earliest cash entry sale in Hugo, except for the year before by Samuel Trimble. The 1865 Abraham Cash Entry would eventually become the site of the Pleasant Valley School close to the Neely children's graves.



**1895** An "E. F." Neely identified on the 1895 Josephine County map was the owner of almost 600 acres where the Neely children and Trimbles' graves are located adjacent to the northern boundary of today's Pleasant Valley Cemetery (PVC).<sup>4</sup>

**Pleasant Valley Prairie** Most of Solomon's purchase was also prime agricultural land identified as a prairie in the 1856 General Land Office Field survey notes.<sup>5</sup> The prairie later became known as the Pleasant Valley Prairie.

1. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), General Land Office (GLO) Records. 2007. Official Federal Land Records Site (<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>). Internet.

2. Hugo Neighborhood. 2007. *Hugo Pioneers*. Map Of Federal Land Transfer in Hugo, Oregon. Hugo, OR.

3. Hugo Neighborhood. 2007. *Abrahams: Hugo Pioneers*. Map Of Federal Land Transfer in Hugo, Oregon. Hugo, OR.

4. Koch, Joseph, Draughtsman. 1895 Official Josephine County, Oregon. Map. Scale 1 inch = 1 mile. Meston - Dygert Book M'F'G. Portland, OR.

5. 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.

6. Sexton, Charles, Clerk, PVCA. May 30, 1896. Minutes of Meeting At Which PVCA was formed. Hugo, OR.

7. USGS Quadrangle. Edition of 1904, reprinted 1923. Surveyed 1901 - 1902. Scale 1:125,000.

8. Metscher, Chas. F. 1932 *Metsker Map, Josephine County, Oregon*. Portland, OR; Metscher, Chas. F. 1955 *Metsker Map, Josephine County, Oregon*. Portland, OR.

## Pleasant Valley School: ca., 1890s - 1920s

### 1893 GLO Field Note: Applegate Trail JA-9 & Prairie<sup>5</sup>

Pleasant Valley ■ JA-9 54 Chains

#### Chains

43.50 *Enter Prairie & Bank bottom*

54.00 *Road to Jacksonville c NE & SW*

60.00 *leave Prairie & Enter trees NW&SE*

65.25 *to Jump off Jo branch 30 Lks wide C SW*

**1896** The PVC was adjacent to the school. The PVC Association was formally formed by 11 men on May 30, 1896.<sup>6</sup> The meeting took place in the Pleasant Valley School. The 11 founders of the PVCA read like a "Who's Who" for the Hugo-Merlin area:

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| . James Neely      | . C. D. Sexton     |
| . William Crow     | . James Wright     |
| . Joseph McCaslin  | . James McCaslin   |
| . T. Rowe          | . A. Cole          |
| . James Devaney    | . George McCormick |
| . Garrett Crockett |                    |

**1923 Pleasant Valley** is located at the south boundary of Solomon's cash entry.<sup>7</sup> The Pleasant Valley School's location was near the Neely home next to the Neely children's graves.<sup>7</sup>

**Pleasant Valley School** Not much is known about the Pleasant Valley School. One teacher was Esther (Ludwick) Hansen.

## Pleasant Valley Cemetery (PVC) & PVC Association

**July 31, 1928 Sexton Mt. Fire Brought Under Control** *Grants Pass Daily Courier*, July 31, 1928. A working hypothesis is that the school was burnt in this fire.

**1932 Pleasant Valley** is located next to the Pleasant Valley School's old location at the south boundary of Solomon's cash entry.<sup>8</sup>

**1955 Pleasant Valley** is located at the south boundary of Solomon's cash entry.<sup>8</sup>



*Pleasant Valley School Students With Teacher Esther Ludwick: ca., 1920s*  
Courtesy of Vern Ludwick

**Want more information?** Contact an officer of the *Hugo Neighborhood* on how you can become involved in your community's history and land use.

## 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.

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Brochure 57A in Hugo's Pioneers Brochure Series  
HNA & HS 2008 - 57A

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# PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL

Brochure 57A in Hugo's Pioneers Brochure Series



*Just north of the 1.5 mile Applegate Trail nomination  
to Federal Register of Historic Places*



*Pleasant Valley School Students With  
Teacher Esther Ludwick: 1929 - 1930  
Courtesy of Vern Ludwick*

**May 12, 2008**

**Hugo Neighborhood Association &  
Historical Society  
Josephine County Historical Society  
Rogue Advocates**