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## United States Exploring Expedition: 1838 - 1842 Part III of III

From 1838-1842, Captain Charles Wilkes and six ships circumnavigated the globe.<sup>1</sup>

The 1841 journey under Captain Wilkes from the Columbia River to the Sacramento River, including passage through the Rogue River Valley, was led by Lieutenant Emmons.<sup>2</sup>

Page 122<sup>2</sup>. September 24, 1841 *"The greater part of the day's journey was over undulating hills; and after making a distance of twenty-three miles, they encamped on [Ewing] Young's creek. This is a run of water, a few yards wide and a foot or less deep; it may be traced for a long distance by the trees which border it. They had now reached the country of the Klamet Indians, better known as the Rogues or Rascals, which name they have obtained from the hunters, for the many acts of villainy they have practiced. The place of encampment was only a short distance from where Dr. Bailey was defeated."*

**Young's Creek is Jumpoff Joe Creek.**

Page 308<sup>3</sup> *"That evening, when he set up camp at Young's Creek, Emmons made ready for the Indian attack which he felt, in his bones was sure to come. But Peale ignored the danger and examined mussel and snail shells in an old Indian camp, tasted the manna of sugar pines, and measured "large hares" or jackrabbits."*

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## Lieutenant George Emmons' Rogue Valley Observations: 1841

Page 309<sup>3</sup> *"Indians scuttled about during the evening, "telegraphing" each other with signal lights which suddenly flared, then winked out."*

Page 122<sup>2</sup>. *"On the 25<sup>th</sup> they continued their journey over a country resembling that traversed the day before, with the exception that the wood was not so thick ... In the afternoon they entered on the plains of Rogues' or Tootootutnas river, and encamped on its banks."*

Page 309<sup>3</sup> *"Ascending and descending burnt hills and dales interspersed with sugar-pine forests, Emmons saw fresh Indian signs everywhere. He also encountered another ambush site in the undulating country. But all of his men were on the qui vive as they dropped past "Joe's River" to reach the trough in the mountains carrying the clear, beautiful "Tootootunas" or Rogue River. Emmons estimated its size to the Willamette's at Jason Lee's mission. He forded the ninety yards of water and gravel without accident, the water coming only within two feet of the animals' backbones in midstream. On the far side, Emmons set up camp. . . ."*

*"Just as tents were being pitched on the Rogue River's bank, probably at the later site of Evans' Ferry or, perhaps, Vannoy's [Fort Vannoy] Crossing . . . two Indians got into camp. Emmons was annoyed by the breach of security but relieved to find them friends of Laframboise."*

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## Beautiful "Tootootunas" or Rogue River

Page 123<sup>2</sup>. *"On the 26<sup>th</sup>, they passed along the banks of the Rogues' river, which runs on in a westerly direction; upon it the Indians were seen spearing salmon from their canoes."*

*"A place was pointed out where a former party had been attacked and defeated with great loss, in consequence of the Indians being able to conceal themselves behind the rocks. Our party found no one to oppose their passage. In the afternoon they reached the forks, and took the southern one, which brought them to Turner's encampment, where his party were attacked and most of them massacred."*

***They had now reached the country of the Klamet Indians, better known as the Rogues or Rascals.***

Page 126<sup>2</sup>. *"On the 29<sup>th</sup>, they set out to ascend the Boundary Mountains, which separate Mexico from the United States."*

**More Information.** Contact an officer of the *Hugo Neighborhood*.

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1. Wilkes, Charles. 1845. *Narrative of the United States exploring expedition. During the years 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842.* With illustrations and maps. In five volumes ... Publisher: Philadelphia: Lea and Blanchard. The U.S. Congress sent an exploring expedition to the Pacific Ocean and South Seas from 1838-1842 to enhance the country's commerce and science, and to compete with famous British and French explorers. NOAA Central Library Call Number: Q115 .U48 1845, 5 vol.

2. Biobooks. 1958. *Columbia River to the Sacramento* By Charles Wilkes, U.S.N. Commander United States Exploring Expedition 1839 - 1842. Oakland 10, CA.

3. Dillon, Richard. 1975. *Siskiyou Trail, The Hudson's Bay Company Route to California.* McGraw-Hill Book Company.

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## 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. Make checks to the *Hugo Neighborhood* and send them to our Treasurer.

*Hugo Neighborhood Association*

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# UNITED STATES EXPLORING EXPEDITION THROUGH SOUTHERN OREGON: 1841

III of III



Brochure 7C in  
Trapper's Trail Series



*Lt. George Emmons*

May 25, 2008

**Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee**

**Hugo Neighborhood Association &  
Historical Society**