HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE TERRITORY NOW FORMING CROOK COUNTY FROM ITS EARLIEST SETTLEMENT UP TO 1884.

The first white men who ever came to live in that part of Oregon known now as Crook County, were Felix and Maria Scott, who crossed the Cascade mountains over the McKenzie Pass in 1852, bringing with them their team, wagons and a drove of cattle. They located on Hay Creek, and, it is said, lived in a cave in the cliffs of the Hay Creek canyon for a time, while they tended their cattle on the surrounding hills.

A short time afterward, Howard Maupin of Lane County, settled on Trout Creek, where he lived until his death, a few years since. Maupin encountered many perils from the Pinto Indians in those early days, but he was a man of great personal courage, and held his ground against the thieving and murderous savages. He was not, however, permitted to enjoy his wilderness home in peace until he slew Paulina, the war chief of the Pintos. He was a veteran of the Mexican war, and served under General Zachary Taylor. He was at the storming of Monterey and the battle of Buena Vista. Maupin was a typical Western pioneer, brave as a lion and the soul of gentlemanly honor.

Some time in the latter part of the sixties, Henry Coleman, also of Lane County, established himself on Hay Creek, near its junction with Trout Creek, and engaged in the cattle business. He acquired title to quite a large tract of land, and for several years followed the very profitable business of cattle raising. After many years of prosperity, through an unfortunate venture, he lost his once princely fortune, and afterward went back to his old home near Eugene, where he still lives.

In 1866 the first settlement in the Ochoco Valley was made by Wayne Claypool, William Smith, Ewen Johnson and Lon August, near the mouth of Mill Creek, and by Eliaha Barnes, Thomas M. James and Abraham Zoll, Ochoco Creek. Barney Prine also settled on the Ochocos in 1868, on the present site of Prineville, and after him the town took its name.

In 1869, John Luckey, John M. Toms, Anthony B. Wadell, Edward G. Connant, J. W. McDowell and J. R. Smotherly settled Prineville became a thriving business town, and increased rapidly in population. It was then, as now, the center of trade for almost a hundred miles around, and in fact, was the only business point south of The Dalles in what was then Wasco County.

Among the earliest settlers of this county may also be named Jerome La Pallette and Samuel M. Hindman, who took up a claim on Square Creek in about 1869. Hindman kept a station for several years, and still lives on the tract of land upon which he settled over 20 years ago.

Willow Creek was one of the earliest settled portions of Crook County. James B. Blakely, Perry Read, Can. Montgomery and S. G. Wood were among the first settlers there. Blakely was the first elected sheriff of Crook County, and served in that capacity two years. He is now a resident of Wasco County.

Williamson G. Allen, formerly of Lane County, settled on Hay Creek, on a tract of land which he afterward sold to Dr. D. M. Baldwin, of Oakland, Cal., who engaged in the sheep business on a large scale. Dr. Baldwin sold his interests to the Cartwrights and Van Housten, who organized the Baldwin Sheep and Land Company, now the most extensive concern of its kind in the state. Among other early settlers on Hay Creek were S. G. Thompson, the first judge of Crook County, and his two brothers, William and Huyper Thompson. William, or "Bou," as he was better known, was once editor of the Roseburg Plaindealer and afterwards editor of