

# EAST OREGON HERALD.

BURNS, HARNEY COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1889.

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## HARNEY VALLEY

Harney Valley is a beautiful valley in Eastern Oregon in Harney county, between 118 and 120 degrees West Longitude from Greenwich and between 43 and 44 degrees North Latitude, about 3,500 feet above the level of the sea, with an area of about 2,500 square miles, containing 1,600,000 acres of land.

This valley is nestled in a broken chain of mountains on the north-east, south and west with the highest peaks of the Blue mountains on the north and the Steen mountains on the south, towering up into the realms of perpetual snow. This valley has

AN ABUNDANCE of water supplied by the Silves and Blitzen rivers and their tributaries, and other smaller streams, all of which have their outlets in the Malheur and Harney lakes.

These two lakes have no outlets. These two lakes are connected by an artificial channel and are on a level with each other, to the contrary notwithstanding, as you will observe by the maps giving the geography of this region.

These two lakes cover an area of about 150 square miles and are NEAR THE CENTER of the valley. Their shores are low, but they have never been known to overflow. The low shores of these lakes accounts for the shallowness of the wells in this valley, which are from eight to twenty feet deep. Irrigation is

NOT NECESSARY to raise crops and gardens. The soil here contains all the properties necessary to make a successful grain growing country. Small fruit and shrubbery, and berries of nearly all kinds can be successfully raised here.

VACANT LAND as level as your floor in bodies of thousands of acres, is here to be taken and is just as good as any that is occupied. Home seekers in Oregon cannot do better elsewhere.

This Eden will not long remain in an unsettled state, but in a few short years this land will be all taken, the golden opportunities now offered will be improved.

The climate is salubrious and will compare favorably with any other part of the "Inland Empire." Burns and Harney are the principal towns and in fact are the only towns in the Harney valley. These towns are about fifteen miles apart in the northern portion of the valley. Both towns have an

IMMENSE TERRITORY adjacent, adapted to both farming and stock-raising. The town of Burns has two newspapers. The principal stock men in this valley are Messrs. Peter French, J. S. Devine and the L. F. Co. These parties are all said to be millionaires and their wealth is variously estimated from one to fifty millions.

The L. F. Company have lately consolidated their stock and land interests here with Mr. Jno. Devine, and are partners as "Lux, Miller, Mason & Devine" and are known on this coast as the Pacific Live Stock Association, which is perhaps the strongest on this coast if not the strongest in the world. Their dominions extend from Grant county, Or., to the southern confines of California. They can travel hundreds of miles from here in a southerly direction and camp every night on their free-holds. Peter French Esq. is administrator to the Dr. Glenn estate of California, Mr. French's wife being heiress of that estate.

Two established surveys FOR RAILROADS have been made through Harney valley by the Oregon Pacific R. R. Co. and the N. P. R. R. Co.

With the advent of railroad facilities this year to Harney valley and with the advent of the electric telegraph to our midst, we will ask for no more, for these are the requisites for modern civilization and the "evolution theory" of development will naturally follow. I have received letters of inquiry regarding this region and having lately travelled over a good portion of it, I send you the above as the best means of imparting the information desired through the columns of your valuable paper. More anon. H. B. H.

## THE HISTORY OF CAMP WRIGHT

Several weeks since while visiting the Devine ranch at Wright's Point we were shown the remains of old Camp Wright, the grave of a soldier before it pointed out, and the tall grease-wood grown all over the grounds told us many years had passed since the soldiers threw up the embankments and the American colors floated above the surrounding swamps.

Who commanded at Camp Wright? Who named it? How many companies garrisoned it? How long ago since soldiers were there? Why were they there? To fight Indians? What Indians? Why fight them? Who was the

dead man? Was he killed or did he die from a natural cause?—were the questions that rapidly followed each other while gazing upon the evident remains of a part of the past history of Harney valley.

Point Wright towering high above the surrounding country like the sphinx that grimly guards the secrets of the Nile, stood mute and untouched by any appeals made by inquirers of 1889. Some one remembered that one of the soldiers of Camp Wright had come into the country a couple of months since.

Upon returning to Burns, we interviewed the old soldier and gleaned a reply to nearly every question, to which we have added information hitherto obtained from Mrs. Stenger, Mr. McGowan, Mrs. Whiting, Mr. Fitzgerald and several others.

General Harney in 1853 while escorting emigrants through this valley had a brush with the Indians, and the valley was named in his honor—by whom we have not yet learned.

In the spring of 1865 Gen. Wright went down before Crescent City, Cal., with the ill-fated Brother Jonathan, and in the fall of 1865, Capt. L. L. Williams of Co. "H," 1st Oregon Infantry, in command of parts of three companies stationed on the grounds since August of that year, near the present site of J. S. Devine's residence, named the camp in honor of the deceased soldier, also, the point of head-land he called, "Point Wright"

In September, 1865, there was a fight between the Indians, Harney Valley Piutes, and a part of the force under Capt. Williams, between Camp Wright and Harney lake, wounding a soldier named Smith in the foot, and another named Griffin, who in after years were died from the effects of the injury. That same evening the Indians set fire to the tall grass [a man named Keiger describes the grass of the valley "high enough for me to reach up and tie over my head as I ride through it on horseback" and Capt. Williams and his men had to take refuge on a grease wood knoll—somewhere about the Buccaroo house of the Devine ranch of to-day. En passant, two old time shot guns were found in the willows in that vicinity, a couple of years since.

At about the same time Lieut. Applegate of Co. "H," in command of a part of Capt. Williams' force, was returning from Camp Curry, (where W. C. Cecil's place now is), to Camp Wright, were that evening attacked by the Indians at some fortifications thrown up on what is now the Widow McGee's ranch and called for fun after one of the company, Fort Drellenger. And again, the next morning, about eight miles south of the present town of Burns, the Indians shooting from the point of the rimrock west of the cove.

The Piutes of Harney valley were under command of a chief whose name is pronounced much like Wahweveh, the brother of old chief Paulina whom Howard Mauldin an old Mexican soldier killed on Crooked river in 1867; he burned Camp Wright some time afterward, and died years ago at Steen mountain. The Malheur chief Egan was also in command of the turbulent reds. The defunct town south of Burns was named in honor of his memory.

Regarding the lone grave now in front of the remains of old Camp Wright the man's name is forgotten, but he was known among the soldiers as "Reddy" (on account of his hair), was from the state of New York, and was noted among his comrades as a great singer. One dark night in February, 1866, while in camp on the Blitzen "Reddy" was called up for his turn to guard the pack mules in charge of Pack-Master Mace McCoy, and had not mounted guard five minutes when he received an arrow in the arm, and a second in the heart. Mace McCoy, said to be the finest mountaineer in the country, and the first settler in Diamond valley, with John Mulkey bore the dead soldier three days on pack mules to with John Mulkey bore the dead soldier three days on pack mules to bury him at Camp Wright, where he has lain undisturbed the past 23 years, his loss of life and his grave unknown to friends and relations "back East."

ADDITIONAL NOTES. The winter of 67-68 the Indians surrendered to Gen. Crook on the site of the old Malheur agency. Mace McCoy, a cousin to Wm. M. Page late of this county, went from here to Arizona with Gen. Crook and came back in 1873. He now resides in Waitsburg, Wash.

1863 to 1873—C. M. Lockwood from Michigan, located in Jackson county, Or., a government contractor for military posts on the frontier, and said to be a fine-looking liberal, noble-hearted man, is the first man that did more than merely pass through the country. He it was that built the present road

leading from Canyon City through the town of Burns. When he died in Salt Lake City, he was a very wealthy man, whom no poor man envied, since he had always been known as the poor man's friend.

1865—John Craven, a native of Ray county, Missouri, came to Oregon in 1864, enlisted in Eugene City, in 1864-65, in the 1st Oregon Volunteer Infantry, Co. "H," Capt. L. L. Williams in command; and in August, 1865, came with his Company, to Camp Wright, at the age of seventeen years. Mr. C. is not only the only Camp Wright soldier in Harney county, but the oldest resident of the Harney country.

1867—A man named Walker carried the first mail, on horseback, from Canyon City to Camp Harney, taking lots of chances on his life.

1872—Stille Riddle, John Boone, and the Smyth family, now of Happy valley, and John Chapman, came in with stock.

1873—J. S. Miller, J. Cooksey, T. Prather and the Venators brought cattle and horses into the valley. Frank McLeod (a former subscriber to THE HERALD, in Livingstone, Montana) Jas. Sheppard, and the Currys brought in stock; and Maurice Fitzgerald, one of the U. S. soldiers stationed at Camp Harney; still a citizen of the valley.

1874—P. F. Stenger and Thos. Whiting brought stock in from Douglas county, Oregon. P. F. Stenger establishing his camp at what is known as the Sod house on the Blitzen, afterward moving to the present Peter Clemens ranch, where Riddle & Boone had camped two years before, and Whiting at Rock Point the present site of Burns.

Mail route from Canyon City via Camp Harney to Fort McDermitt, Nevada, was established and the mail carried by Doc. Anderson, an old Kentuckian, still with us.

1878—The Smyths, father and son, were killed by Indians, at the close of the trouble with the Piutes and Bannocs. The Bannoc warfare ceased. The first merchandise store and saloon put by a man named Josephson, and kept where the Burns hotel now stands.

1879—Wm. Curry bought and moved Josephson stock to where the Levens Bros. ranch is located. Daniel Wheeler was the first Justice of the Peace.

1779-80—The military Post at Camp Harney was abandoned. Large stockmen began buying out the smaller dealers.

1881—P. M. Curry, now of Lakeview, Or. came here. Egan Postoffice was established. 1882—Geo. McGowan, the Martins and A. O. Bedell located.

1882—McGowan & Martin opened a general merchandizing store in Egan and the next year P. F. Stenger bought out Martin's interest and moved the store to the site of the present town of Burns.

1883—Geo. McGowan named the new postoffice in the McGowan & Stenger store "Burns," in honor of the famous poet of his native land, Robert Burns, Scotland's favorite bard.

1885—The first newspaper, a 6-column, patent-outside, was established by Horace Dillard. 1887—THE EAST OREGON HERALD, a 7-column, patent-inside, newspaper plant was established by D. L. Grace.

1888—In May THE HERALD was enlarged to an "all-at-home-print," making it the first and only newspaper ever printed complete in the Harney country. It spends the money it makes, in keeping up with and ahead of the advance of Harney country. Only \$2.50 a year. N. Brown began the erection of the first Grist and Merchantile Mill in the valley.

1889—The creation of Harney County was obtained with following officials: Judge, T. J. Shields; Clerk, W. E. Grace; Treasurer, T. H. Roberts; Commissioners, Lytle Howard; T. B. James; Surveyor, W. R. Gradon; Sheriff, A. A. Cowling; Assessor, W. E. Alberson; School Superintendent L. B. Baker.

P. F. Stenger obtained the first daily mail, and erected the first cosely and elegant family residence in the county.

The United States in Land Office for Harney District was established in Burns with J. B. Huntington, register, and Harrison Kelly, received.

1877—Abner Robbins now of Drewsey, used to ride on pack horses among the Indians, long before any white men lived here.

—To keep posted  
—Read THE HERALD.  
—Costs only \$2.50 a year.  
—For local news read THE HERALD.  
—For county news read THE HERALD.  
—For Land Office news read THE HERALD.

## BURNS ADVERTISEMENTS.

### GENERAL MERCHANDISING.

COME ONE!! 1889 COME ALL!!  
AND SEE THE NEW GOODS WE ARE RECEIVING DAILY.  
No Trouble to Show Goods.

WE HAVE THE LARGEST STOCK OF  
DRY-GOODS, GROCERIES, CLOTHING,  
BOOTS, SHOES, FANCY GOODS, HARDWARE, ETC.

## HARNEY VALLEY.

Look!! Look!! Look!!

—Just received Three Tons of Sugar, which we sell very cheap.  
—We have 500 bbls. of best Roller Flour, which we will sell at \$7.50 per bbl.  
—Come and see our Large Stock of Calico, Gingham, Muslin, and all kinds of Dry-Goods.  
—We sell Bleached and Unbleached Muslin for 8 cents; Calico, 6 cents; Gingham, 10 cents; Chertons, 12 cents; and all Other Goods of Every Description and Quality and Style, in like proportion, but

GIVE US A CALL AND BE CONVINCED

THAT WE CARRY THE LARGEST STOCK AND ASSORTMENT OF GOODS IN THE VALLEY.

## J. Durkheimer & Co.

LAKEVIEW ADVERTISEMENT.

### General Blacksmith & Wagon-maker.

H. R. SCHLAGEL - - - LAKEVIEW, OREGON.

Prepared to do all kinds of work in the blacksmith line. Horse Shoeing at \$2.00 per head

BUGGIES, WAGONS, ETC.,  
MADE TO ORDER WITH NEATNESS, AND OF GOOD QUALITY.  
ALL WORK WARRANTED.

### DREWSEY ADVERTISEMENT.

## THE DREWSEY SALOON.

DICKSON & SULLIVAN - - - PROPRIETORS.

Lou. J. Bosenberg, Mixologist.

Everything in our line of the Best. Liquors—Whiskies, Brandies, Wines, Fancy Drinks, etc., Cigars, etc., always on hand when you call on "Uncle Dick," at Drewsey, Harney county, Or.

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C. A. SNOW & CO. - - - WASHINGTON, D. C.

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## Houses and Cottages

D. S. HOPKINS, ARCHITECT.

Grand Rapids, Mich.

Will furnish Designs of Houses, Cottages, and Mansions costing from \$300 up to any figure wanted. If you mean to build, send \$1 to my address, and I will mail you a portfolio of 25 designs of dwellings, like the one on file in EAST OREGON HERALD office, with full plan of each, full size details, complete specifications, and list of materials, all very full and complete, as any ordinary carpenter or builder will have no trouble in going ahead and completing the work. And if you do not find just what you want, write me what changes you desire made, and I will accommodate you. Or leave Orders with THE HERALD. You will find it as cheap to erect a handsome house as to waste material on an un-  
sightly building. Will aid you in re-constructing your present building. 41-44

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