Prairie City was once home to a Civil War camp

By Cheryl Hoefler
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PRAIRIE CITY — Once upon a time — for a short time — there was a Civil War military post just south of present-day Prairie City.

Camp Logan, occupied by the First Oregon Volunteers and later by the U.S. Army, was established in 1865 to protect settlers in the John Day Valley. It was among a handful of other such camps connected by The Dalles Military Road, which ran from Boise to The Dalles.

Camp Logan had a headquarters, storehouse, blacksmith shop, stable, mule shed, hospital, cookhouse with mess hall, two officers' quarters and, later, a cemetery. It usually housed 100-200 men and nearly as many horses and mules.

The military post was part of the Department of Columbia, which included the state of Oregon and the territories of Washington and Idaho. The territory of Alaska was added in 1870. Camp Logan was named in memory of William Logan, who was a United States Indian Agent at Warm Springs Reservation in the 1860s.

Cheryl Hoefler/Go! Magazine
A Civil War military post named Camp Logan was located outside of present-day Prairie City.

After the Civil War, Camp Logan was manned by the U.S. Cavalry. It continued to operate until 1869.

The fort was located 6 miles south of Prairie City, in the shadow of Strawberry Mountain, which was then called Logan Butte. Strawberry Creek — then known as Indian or Logan Creek — runs through the site.

TO GET THERE

From Prairie City, travel south on Bridge Street, which becomes Strawberry Road/County Road 60. Note that the paved road becomes gravel the last couple of miles. At about 5.5 miles from town, at a bend in the roadway, travelers will see an informational sign created by 2007 Grant Union High School graduate Jamison Soupir of Prairie City.