

EAGLE VALLEY NEWS

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Eagle Valley's Early History

As written by H. S. Daly, one of its first settlers

On the 29th day of September in the year 1862 an emigrant train that had crossed Snake River at Fort Hall and came down on the north side of that stream and re-crossed at what was afterwards called Brownlee Ferry, camped in Eagle Valley at the mouth of Main Eagle. These were no doubt the first white people that ever seen Eagle Valley.

This emigrant train was piloted by one Tim Goodell, an old-time frontiersman who had at one time been associated with Kit Carson, Maxwell, and other men of early western history. Tim was a New Yorker, well educated, but a squaw-man.

In spite of the many inducements offered by nature to locate here, the train moved on to Powder Valley where many of its members became residents of that new country, taking up land or mines.

On December 11, 1862, four prospectors, namely: Sam and George Glover, Wash Palmer and Tom Hood, stopped in Eagle Valley and built a cabin on the north bank of Powder River, a few hundred yards east of the mouth of Main Eagle.

About that time gold was discovered in the western hills of Pine Valley—Dutch Gulch was very rich. Mines were also found at Kooster and Eagle City (afterwards renamed Sparta) in what was known as Thorn Gulch. Maiden Gulch was very rich in places, as was likewise Shanghai Gulch. Sweet Betsy was particularly rich.

In February, 1863, the word came that gold had been found in fabulous quantities in Idaho and a mad rush was made from all parts of the world to that section. The Glover boys surveyed a trail from their place in Eagle Valley to Weiser, Idaho; put a bridge across Powder River and a ferry across Snake River one mile below the mouth of Connor Creek. Hundreds of pack trains came and went by that trail.

In July, 1863, John Daly, Lee Daly, Joe Daly, and John Daly, junior, camped in Eagle Valley on their way from the Pine Creek mines. My father was so taken with the Valley that he staked off a claim on Juniper Creek (now called Daly Creek). He then came on home to Powder Valley and we all moved over. In the meanwhile mother had disposed of our claim at Wingville for two yoke of oxen and a wagon, and three hundred dollars in greenbacks—the first paper money I had ever seen.

We built a double log cabin where the Glover Trail crossed Juniper Creek and went down into the beaver pond bottom, and cut and put up our feed for the coming winter.

I shocked the first hay ever put up in Eagle Valley, and also

have the distinction of shocking the first shock of hay ever put up in Powder Valley, this was done on August 27, 1862, at the mouth of Pine Creek where it runs into Salmon Creek. I was then nine years old. I also carried the first vegetables ever raised in Eastern Oregon to Auburn; going horse-back with one sack in front and one behind, taking turnips, cabbage, onions, peas and radishes.

In July, 1864, I carried the first vegetables ever raised in Eagle Valley to market, and many are the three and four horse pack loads I have taken over to Mormon Basin and Clark's Creek in '67, '68 and '69.

In December, '63, Tim Goodell came in and camped all winter in the Valley. That same month William Vaughn came in from the Mollala and built a cabin just under the sage bluff about a half mile east of Main Eagle, but sold out to J. E. Officer and Thompson in August, 1865, and moved back to the Mollala.

Will Thomas arrived here about the same time as Vaughn and built a cabin on Juniper (Daly) Creek near the mouth, but left the following May. George and Andy Wyland also came in December, '63, and built a cabin below Vaughn.

In August, 1864 Mr. and Mrs. D. S. Love came in from Mormon Basin. They moved into the Thomas cabin but later built a large house on the west side of Juniper Creek and were our nearest neighbors for six years. They were splendid people. Mrs. Love was one of the most refined and lovable women I ever met. She was liked by everyone for her many good qualities. They sold out to Frank Morgan in March, 1870, and moved to Goose Creek.

In November, 1864, one A. J. Tarter blowed into Eagle Valley. He was the first "hot air merchant" we had met, and he wasn't long in telling of his many exploits as a bush-whacker in Eastern Missouri. He worked for the Glover boys that winter and in the spring rented their place. He had his parents and others of the family come down from Indian Creek, Idaho. They included Mr. and Mrs. Dan Tarter, Robert, Nannie, Louisa, Jennie, Dan Jr., Florence and May. With them came George and James Holstein.

The Tartars lived on the Glover place until June, '66, when they moved to Eugene. They afterwards returned in August, 1868, and bought the old Vaughn place and were living there when I left Oregon, in '75.

In May 1865, Joseph Wood moved in and built a house across from the present townsite of New Bridge. The same year James Black built a cabin near where I. N. Young lived when I left there.

(Continued next week.)

A Letter From France.

Lesfontaines, France, Jan. 11, -19.

Well I guess the war is practically over, but I am still here and don't know how long they will hold us. We are stationed in a small town; drill five hours a day, and in the evenings sit around our billets and argue the question of when we will get home. I just received a letter a few days ago telling of brother Harry's death.

I was at the front in August, just three months from the time I entered service. Was in the fight about two months before the armistice was signed. Have had enough experience to last the rest of my life.

Pvt. Byron Thompson.
Co. E. 306th Inf., Am. E. F. France.

Camp Hunt, France, Dec. 31, -18.

Dear Mother:— I will drop you a line to let you know I am still alive and well. I have some time to get to write to you, but will try and tell you a few things I have seen in France. When we were out on the ocean one day I took sea sick, you should have seen us, about 50 of us with our heads over the side feeding the fish, and it got worse before we got there and we were all glad to see land after 12 days on the water. We landed at Brokenhead, England, went to Camp Winauldoun at Winchester, Eng. stayed there two days went to South Hampton, England, crossed the English Channel, and landed at La Havre, France, stayed there two days waded mud knee deep with a 60 lb. pack on our back, next day about 5:30 we left La Havre on the train, our coaches were box-cars, we traveled three days and landed in Camp Hunt

in the rain, and it has rained ever since. I haven't had any letters from you or received my Xmas package yet. I was in the hospital for five days but am all O. K. now altho a little deaf but don't suppose that will make any difference to you. I got out of guard tonight and I am glad as it's raining hard. I will try and bring you something from France. Well I must close, good bye and write soon.

Your son,
Oscar J. Hunnel,
3 Batt. F. A. R. K., A. P. O. 778, A. E. F. France.

A Wise Old Owl

Said Shiftless Sam: "It is easy enough to make money if you have money to make it with. I see chances every day to make money if I only had a little stake to start with, but a fellow that has no capital doesn't have a fair shake in this world."

Said the Wise Old Owl: "You never will have a stake until you start. Stop your spending and try saving. Pinch out a little of your earnings and start a bank account no matter how small; add to it. The longer you put it off, the longer opportunity will give you the cold shudder."

Which one was right, Sam or the Owl?

ad) EAGLE VALLEY STATE BANK

Card of Thanks.

We desire to express our thanks to the people of Eagle Valley, and especially the soldier boys and Rev. Johnson, for the kindness shown us during the illness and death of our son and brother.

Mrs. Louis Smith and family.

E. A. Benneshoff is in Baker this week.

Dairy Stock For Sale

Having rented my ranch for the coming year, I will offer at private sale until Feb. 22nd, at my place one mile east of Richland, the following: 10 Jersey grade cows, 4 fresh, 2 will calve in March, 1 yearling heifer, 1 Holstein grade bull, 3-yr-old. Will accept note with approved security

R. A. MASTERSON