

Early Days In Southern Oregon Recalled By Story

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Editor's Note: The following story was written by Arlin A. Rodenberger, now of Tulelake. He is the grandson of Nathaniel Cain and John Dean mentioned in the story. The text is pointed out in the story and gives a splendid eye-witness account of the stirring times of the early days.

The cry of gold in California in the year of 1849 and the stampede of hundreds of fortune hunters and the eventual building of the West first followed the finding of Sutter's Mill. The shining metal for which men fight and die for in the year of 1849 led to men were arriving in California and the precious metal was being found at other places.

Gold was discovered near Yreka, California, in the year 1849 and shortly afterwards over the Sierran mountains in Southern Oregon.

Nathaniel Cain Dean of New York State was at this time serving with the First Louisiana Volunteers and, upon receiving his discharge, he with a comrade started a trek for what is then was the promised land. On foot and crossing the Isthmus of Panama, these two men boarded a small sailing boat and landed at the boom town of San Francisco.

Hearing of the Southern California gold strike they made their way on foot up the Sacramento Valley. They lived on the country, the game they shot, and the wild fruits and berries they gathered on the way.

It was when they reached the Yreka gold field that these two adventurers and prospectors learned of the Southern Oregon gold findings.

Hearing of the gold strike, they continued on and arrived at Jacksonville in the winter of 1850 and here they decided to settle in the beautiful valley of the Rogue River.

The county of Jackson at this



A. A. RODENBERGER

time comprised the counties of first in this part of the state. Southern Oregon, now known as Nathaniel Cain Dean, affectionately known as Baldy, applied for a homestead at the Willow Springs area. This place received United States patent No. 1.

(Continued On Next Page)

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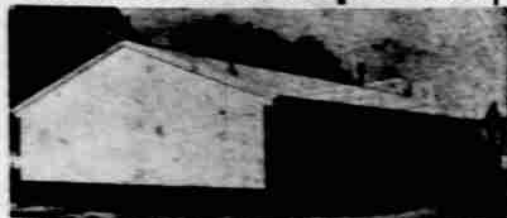
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