

Chapter 1 : Full text of "The Sheep eater campaign: Idaho"

As a result, military troops under Captain Bernard were dispatched from Boise Barracks on May 31, , effectively beginning the Sheepeaters Campaign, Idaho's last Indian war. As troops marched north to Challis an incident on the South Fork of the Salmon River changed Capt. Bernard's orders.

Foreword For several years this office has been compiling information in relation to the Indian Wars of the late seventies. In the latter part of , I secured from Col. Colonel Brown has performed that very important service and his article will appear as a part of the report of this Department, and is probably the first and only authentic statement that has been compiled of the Sheep eater Campaign. Colonel Brown has fortified himself with excerpts from military reports and from the diaries of himself ana several officers and one private participating in this campaign, and the thanks of this depart- ment and the State of Idaho should be extended to him for his efforts in clarifying and recording the facts involving the campaign of I should perhaps here note that the original manuscript from which this article is printed will be filed with the Historical Society, and, as shown by this article, it is the intention of Colonel Brown to file in the permanent archives of the Depart- ment copies of the diaries made by himself. If Colonel Brown has in any way hesitated about giving 4 FOREWORD every historical fact of value in connection with the Sheep eater Campaign, it may be noted that such hesitation was probably prompted by a desire to eliminate himself from the facts re- corded. From this report Colonel Brown has deleted the following: Brown was on foot during the entire skirmish, and was first man to enter the Indian camp. The Sheep eater Campaign By Col. Recently the War Department has officially recognized this as a campaign and Army Regulations have been amended ac- cordingly. The writer, then a second lieutenant of the First U. The Sheepeaters were a small band of renegade Bannocks, Shoshones, and Weisers, who derived their name from the fact that they subsisted largely on mountain sheep. They were strong, active, and capable of enduring great hardships, but they were not reservation Indians. After the Bannock War of , the Sheepeaters were joined by a few hostiles, who, eluding the U. Troops, sought refuge in that region of high timbered mountains. This section, on account of heavy snows, is particularly inaccessible for troops except from about the middle of July to the last of September. Source Records Used Before proceeding to describe the military features of the campaign, the writer desires to invite attention and give credit to an entertaining description of it published in the July- August, , issue of The Journal of the Military Service Insti- tution by a participant. Since then the writer has received considerable data from official War Depart- ment records, and diaries kept at the time, notably those of Captains R. Forse, First Cavalry, and Mr. Edgar Hoffner, formerly a private in Co. What follows is taken from the above sources as well as from my personal diary. Memory of events which have taken place nearly half a century ago is so unreliable that recourse is had to it but seldom. About May 1st, , Brig. Howard, then com- manding the Department of the Columbia, with headquarters at Vancouver Barracks, received the following telegram: Indian Agent at Lemhi states that a murder of five Chinamen in Febru- ary last in northern Idaho, occurred at Oro Grande now Casto on Loon Creek, eighty miles northeast of Boise, and, it is supposed, was done by Indians; probably some of the hostiles of last summer, who have been winter- ing with the Sheepeaters on the Middle Fork of the Salmon. The Division Commander directs that a detachment be sent out from Boise as soon as the trail can be traveled, and ascertain who the murderers were; and, if Indians, to apprehend them, and bring them into Boise. Pursuant to the above instructions, Capt. Ber- nard and 2nd Lt. Pitcher with 56 men of Co. Cavalry, left Boise Barracks May 31st, They were to proceed to Challis, and, if information warranted it, were to operate from that point. At the instance of Gen. Muhlenberg, consisting of Co. C and a detachment of Co. Infantry, with directions to operate toward Challis and form junction with Bernard as soon as practicable. Bernard, being the senior and experienced in Indian cam- paigning, would command all forces in the field. He, like Bernard, had a pack train of six packers, 34 packs, David R. Pring as medical officer. Indian Scouts Enlisted In connection with the above, Gen. Howard was authorized to enlist twenty Umatilla Indian Scouts. At- tached to the Scout com- pany were seven enlisted men, mounted, and a pack train of about 20 packs and four packers, with John Corliss as chief packer. The scouts were paid for use of but one horse and equip- ment each, but they brought

with them a total of 40 ponies. This command was organized and equipped in time to leave the Agency July 7th, and were instructed to form junction with the other troops as soon as possible. At this date it may be remarked that Catley had, after repeated efforts June 16th, when he found a mile of snow five to eight feet deep and returned and again June 26th when he was again turned back by deep snows, finally succeeded in getting through. He lost many mules laden with rations, and was at times thirty-six to seventy-two hours without food. He scouted the country northeast as far as Myers Cove on Camas Creek, along the middle fork of Salmon and the Loon Creek country see map, was now heading slightly west of north. All these commands were hunting for Indians, whose whereabouts, still undiscovered, were probably along Big Creek, between what is now known as Vinegar Hill and Soldier Bar. Neither command was in communication with either of the others. He then re-traced his steps to Calvin R. White was the first settler in Little Salmon Meadows, now known as New Meadows; was the postmaster there and carried the mail on the route to Warrens. In addition to serving as guide for us in, it is understood that he performed similar services for United States Troops in and Shaplish with several scouts was sent to return through Council Valley to Crooked River to investigate reports. Farrow on July 23d sent Bernard a dispatch stating that he had turned his command about and was now heading for Crooked River, in belief that the Indians were there. The hostile Indians, over strong, are near the mouth of Crooked River. They have crossed most of their stock to the Oregon side of the river. Farrow then marched southeast to Long Valley to investigate indications of hostiles reported there. During this time several extensive side scouts were made. L, First Cavalry, the writer formed part of the command of Capt. Drum, Second Infantry, then operating against Banocks. August 4th we received, through courier from Bernard took action promptly, sending word for the post surgeon at Boise Barracks to meet him on the South Fork of Salmon River, and for supplies to be sent to the mouth of Loon Creek on the Middle Fork. The force of Indians not large, though well posted at the mouth of Big Creek, a stream that flows from the west, emptying into the Middle Salmon thirty miles below the mouth of Loon Creek. I will get Farrow and go down South Salmon, to a point where I ordered Catley to meet me, when we will cross over to the Indian position. With a view of giving some idea of the skirmish which Capt. Bernard denominates a defeat, I will insert a few extracts from Lieut. Having marched into the Big Creek country Big Creek is a large tributary of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, I found fresh Indian signs, which led me down Big Creek through a deep and rocky canyon, and the signs becoming fresher, I was obliged to follow their trail which I believe to be the only way through that country, or give up the pursuit. The result was that on the 29th day of July my command struck an ambuscade, from which, after determining that it was impossible to do anything, the Indians being lodged in a point of rocks across the creek, where they had so fortified themselves that their exact location could not be discovered, I ordered a retreat. The first intimation I had of their presence was a few words spoken by one of their number, which was immediately followed by a volley. Privates Doyle, 2nd, and Holm, of Company C, 2nd Infantry, were seriously wounded, but gotten out from under fire and carried about two miles back up the creek, to a point which I selected as one that could be held, where I met the pack-train coming down the creek. Here I camped, and the next morning, putting the wounded men upon hand litters, I moved up a ridge which I thought would lead me into the mountains somewhere near the route I had traveled to Big Creek. In this I was mistaken. It proved to be an impracticable route, and, being encumbered by the wounded men, I was unable to take and hold the points ahead of me, although the Indians were endeavoring to reach them first. They secured a high rocky point ahead of me, and I fell back to a similar point, the wounded and the pack-train arriving there at the same time. There were then Indians ahead and behind. I ordered the pack-train unloaded, and the men to take such cover as they could find in the rocks and behind the cargo, and hold the position if the Indians attempted to approach. The wind was high, and the terrible roaring of smoke and flame seemed to approach us from every direction. First Sergeant John A. Sullivan, Company C, Second Infantry, then took a party of men and worked bravely and hard to get a space burned off around us large enough to prevent the fire from reaching our position. This effort, and the fact that the wind seemed to shift just as we were in the greatest danger, alone saved the command. That night, after the moon had got down, we moved down the side of the mountain, which was so precipitous that it was impossible to bring more than a very small portion of our baggage with us. Officers and men threw away the greater part of their effects, and I

ordered most of the public property abandoned, so that the train might be as lightly loaded as possible with what was absolutely necessary. Some of this was lost in descending the mountain by rolling and straying of the mules. At daylight we were ascending a ridge running parallel to the one we left, and which was found a fair route. As I had not a sufficient command to establish and hold a camp to take care of my wounded men, and being crippled in every way by the loss of supplies, animals, equipage and clothing, I took up my march for Camp Howard, to which point it will be necessary to return and refit, if the command is to keep the field. I shall order the purchase of sufficient rations at Warrens to last to Camp Howard, and continue my march in that direction as rapidly as the jaded animals and men can travel; at present both are exhausted from fatigue. No ammunition fell into the hands of the Indians. The Retreat Arrested This rear movement of Lieutenant Catley was promptly arrested by an officer sent from Lapwai by Colonel Wheaton, the instant the report of this defeat and run was made known to him. Captain Forse, First Cavalry, with twenty -five men of his company, was dispatched to rein- force and turn him toward, and not from, this small body of Indians. The following dispatch will indicate my action under the circumstances of these reports: Vancouver Barracks, August 24, Department Commander directs you send the following to Bernard. Indians have been encouraged by apparent misconduct of Catley. Possibly he may redeem himself under your eye; but his precipitate retreat before inferior numbers is astounding. Think he will aid you materially. Must leave details to your discretion. Those Indians must be defeated, or trouble will extend. There were a few return shots fired. The strength of the enemy by count was given at from ten to twenty-seven. Analysis of the Defeat The writer, on August 18th, visited and examined the hostile position on the south bank of Big Creek and at an elevation considerably above the trail, which was on the opposite north bank.

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A band of approximately Western Shoshone, Turakina, or Tukuaduku , were known as the Sheepeaters because their diet consisted of the Rocky Mountain Sheep. They were not a sedentary tribe, instead moving throughout the Payette, Salmon, Boise, Challis, Sawtooth, and Beaverhead Forests to follow the game. They camped only in the winter, but the location varied widely. The campaign against the Sheepeaters primarily took place in central Idaho. As with many other disputes with Indians, the troubles with white man started when gold was discovered in the Boise Basin in and in the Yankee Fork of the Salmon River. That location, and another gold camp on Panther Creek, were right in the middle of Sheepeater winter camps. By , Leesburg on Panther Creek had 7, prospectors hunting for gold. Leading up to the war the Sheepeaters were accused of stealing horses from settlers in Indian Valley and during the pursuit killing three of the settlers near present day Cascade. In August , they were accused of killing two prospectors in an ambush at Pearsall Creek, five miles from Cascade. By February of the Sheepeaters were accused of the murders of five Chinese miners at Orogrande, the murders at Loon Creek, and finally the murders of two ranchers in the South Fork of the Salmon River in May. However, later it was proven that Indians had nothing to do with the attack. Howard dispatched 76 men including scouts and freighters from Boise to Challis to investigate the matter. The troops were all heading toward Payette Lake, near present day McCall. They had a difficult time of it traveling through six foot snow drifts and fast running streams. They became separated from their pack train for several days. Some provisions were lost, but in ten days they arrived at Orogrande. Much of the town had been burned. The troops waited an additional five days for their supply train, which arrived on June A week later, the troops went to search for sign of Indians. Throughout the campaign, the troops faced difficulty with travelling through the rough terrain. The first segment of the campaign, from May 31 to September 8, was through the Salmon River dubbed the "River of No Return" because it was barely navigable. They traveled up the Middle Fork of the Salmon for several weeks enduring all sorts of severe weather. They lost some animals, ammunition, and much of their supplies. Five men contracted mountain fever and were sent home to recuperate. Fortunately, it was summer and game was plenty. Scouts observed sign of Indians on July Unfortunately, Lieutenant Catley did not pay heed to the warning. He was leading his command up the canyon when Indians opened fire from all sides. Two men were seriously wounded, but were able to reach shelter. Shortly afterward, Catley commanded his men to retreat since the Indians had the high ground. The soldiers regrouped about two miles away from the spot and camped for the night. The next morning the soldiers tried to locate a more defensible position but were somewhat encumbered by the two wounded men who had been put on litters. The Indians set fire to the base of a mountain where the soldiers were camped. First Sergeant John A. The Indians left during the night. This battle took place at a spot later named Vinegar Hill. The soldiers had gotten themselves trapped on the steep cliffs and had to leave much of their gear and supplies behind. Because of this, Catley decided to return to Camp Howard to re-outfit themselves. They headed back in August. Farrow, who was pursuing some Indians, which turned out to be a gang of horse thieves. Bernard sent word for additional troops and supplies to join him at South Fork of the Salmon. Farrow and his Umatilla scouts plus two platoons joined him at the North Payette River near the hot springs. The larger company marched for several days and passed through country that the Indians had previously burned. They also lost several more pack animals and many provisions. Meals were scant for a few days until the resupply train caught up with Catley and about 40 men on August The combined force passed campsites that appeared to be still in use. Indian fish traps were found in a creek. Indian sign was plentiful. The force reached the area where Catley had been attacked. Umatilla scouts who had gone on ahead had not returned and a soldier was dispatched to discover their whereabouts. The Umatilla scouts had discovered the Sheepeaters a few miles in advance. The soldiers spurred their horses on but upon reaching the Indian village they discovered all the occupants had left. The Umatilla scouts took what goods they wanted and the soldiers burned the rest. Catley and his men headed back toward Camp Howard as they were desperately short of supplies. The rest of the

command split up in search of the Indians. By August 20, a Sheepeater raiding party of ten to fifteen Indians attacked the troops as they rode on a train at Soldier Bar on Big Creek. As soon as the men were spread out on a precipitous mountain the Indians opened fire. At the same time they fired on the men guarding the animals and provisions. Those who defended the train included Corporal Charles B. Hardin along with six troopers and the chief packer, James Barnes. They managed to successfully drive the Sheepeaters off with only one casualty, Private Harry Eagan. The Indians retreated after nightfall. But the soldiers continued to follow their tracks. Many more animals gave out from sheer exhaustion. They lost two dozen more horses that strayed off during the night. Many men had to go on foot until the horses were found toward the end of the next day. Finally the soldiers had to return to Camp Howard for supplies. Food was running low and the soldiers missed several meals. The Umatillas stayed behind to engage the hostiles. On September 17, the soldiers set out again. They came upon an Indian camp right away, but there was no one there since the Indians had been warned. They were able to take an Indian woman and two of her children captive. A third ran away. He appeared to be a war chief. He promised to bring in the rest of the warriors that were harassing the whites. Farrow told him that no harm would come to those who had not killed anyone. It took some days, but by October 1 the campaign ended once Lieutenants W. Brown and Edward S. Farrow, along with a group of twenty Umatilla scouts, negotiated the surrender of 51 men, women, and children. The prisoners were taken to the Vancouver Barracks in Washington State. The troops went back to Boise after marching 1, miles through mostly unmapped territory. They were resettled on the Fort Hall Reservation. A few small bands remained in the area having eluded the army and continued to live their mountain life unmolested in its ancient pattern for another decade or two.

The Sheepeater Indians In identifying the different groups of Shoshoni Indians who lived in the Snake River country, one of the most common early mistakes was to regard them as consumers of distinctive foods and to name them for whatever they happened to be eating at the moment. Some of them did specialize more than others in certain foods, but they all had to have a fair variety in order to survive. Depending upon where they were at a given time, a Shoshoni group might subsist upon a particular food: Moreover, mounted bands of Shoshoni buffalo hunters, when accosted by white explorers or travelers, proudly referred to themselves as buffalo hunters. More humble Shoshoni groups engaged in hunting rabbits likewise called themselves rabbit eaters, while the very same individuals, if found out gathering seeds or pine nuts became the seed eaters or the pine nut eaters, as the circumstances of the occasion determined. Since any given Shoshoni family or group usually went through several seasonal food-gathering phases, they might in the course of a year have been designated as several different kinds of eaters. This system had some merit for accuracy in designating the various people who might be in a particular place such as Salmon Falls, or a pine nut area , but it did not accommodate bands or groups at all, since the groups were transient and thus capable of having altogether too many names ending in "eater" to be of much value for identification. Some Shoshoni groups had become proficient at hunting mountain sheep in parts of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, and were referred to as sheep eaters. They actually called themselves big game eaters, but since their kind of big game proved to be mountain sheep, their name in English was corrupted into sheep eater. But the sheep eaters of the Salmon River Mountains, when they camped on the Salmon to fish, turned into salmon eaters. One of these Salmon River sheep eater and salmon eater bands gained widespread fame at the beginning of the 19th century because it was the band to which Sacajawea belonged: Other central Salmon River groups, though, continued their skillful and highly-respected mountain sheep hunting, and were known as the Sheepeaters on through the 19th century. Until the end of the Bannock War of , the sheepeaters lived relatively unmolested in their Salmon River mountain wilderness. Their skin products were highly praised by other Indians and by the white fur traders. As the gold prospectors moved into their country and ruined their fishing, many of them joined their relatives among the Lemhi Indians for living and protection. They lived as peaceful villagers under the leadership of trusted headmen; they shared cultural inventory and social traditions with all other Idaho Shoshoni in the early days.

Chapter 3 : The Sheepeater campaign, Idaho, | Open Library

THE SHEEPEATER CAMPAIGN IDAHO by Col. W. C. Brown, U. S. A. Retired sc \$ > c^ h> *The Sheepeater Campaign Reprinted from the TENTH BIENNIAL REPORT Idaho Historical Society It was his command which successfully ended the Sheepeater Campaign.*

In , Indian hostilities broke out again in southern Idaho during the Bannock War. As military troops closed in on tribes an unknown number of Indians took refuge with the Northern Shoshone Tukudika band in the rugged mountains of Central Idaho. This last holdout band of Indians provided an opportunity for whites to blame the Tukudika, or Sheepeater Indians for every incident, murder, and every cow or horse missing or stolen. It was an idea pursued by the fearful and the unscrupulous, particularly those who recognized profits can be made in war. When ranches were raided in Indian Valley in the summer of , renegade Indians were blamed. Two ranchers had been found dead on the river. Warren resident, Norman B. Willey sent the following report to the Idaho Statesman: There are a few others living thereabouts, miners and farmers, but communication was not very frequent since high water commenced, his place being on the east side of the river. He was not seen for some time and the few who passed his house supposed he was away at work on an irrigation ditch. Finally, during the last week a few neighbors visited his house and found it in confusion with no signs of having been occupied for a long lime. A further search resulted in finding his dead body, and that of another man named Peter Dorsey, who was temporarily stopping with him, in the ravine near the river. They had been shot apparently while at work in the field by the house and carried or dragged away to avoid observation. They were not scalped or otherwise mutilated. It was evidently the work of Indians, as their moccasin sic tracts were everywhere visible in and around the house and the ploughed sic field, and also on the trail by which they came and went. They took away three horses, also blankets, flour and provisions, and two good guns and several hundred cartridges. It was a small party-three or perhaps four. The ranch is situated at the mouth of a creek called Elk Creek. At its head, some twelve miles from the river, is a pass and an ancient trail leads across on to another large stream called Big Creek, which flows eastward, and is supposed to empty into the Middle Fork of the Salmon below Loon Creek. It is by this route that the marauders came and returned. The snow was, and is yet deep on the mountains, but this year it is unusually solid, and at that time men and even horses could pass over it without difficulty. Those who live on the South Fork in that vicinity have all moved into town, and the night before last, and yesterday morning signal fires and smokes were reported to have been seen on the mountain on that side! No pack trains have yet arrived here and grub is scarce, and there is no feed for stock anyway from the immediate vicinity of the Salmon river, so that nothing by the way of pursuit can be attempted yet, but the knowledge that they have been and probably are still near us is rather disquieting. The deed was done between the 19th and 23rd of April!" signed N. Willey June 7, issue. Henry Catley with a detachment of 60 men and a pack train carrying supplies left Fort Howard near Grangeville, Idaho for a campaign against the Northern Shoshone Indians in the mountains of Central Idaho. He was later joined by Lieut. Farrow and his Umatilla scouts. As snow fell through the trees, the small band surrendered their homeland. Your role in protecting archaeological sites: Wilderness Archaeologists are currently working to preserve, protect and understand the prehistory of the ancient people who lived in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. As this prehistory is discovered and understood, they will share it with the public through educational monographs and other publications. You can help this effort by leaving artifacts where they lie and informing Forest Service Wilderness managers of your discovery. Take pride in our American heritage. Take nothing but photographs.

Chapter 4 : The Chamberlain Basin & Stonebraker Ranch

The Sheepeater Indian War of was the last Indian war fought in the Pacific Northwest portion of the United States; it took place primarily in central Idaho. A band of approximately Shoshone people, the Tukudeka, were known as the Sheepeaters because of their proficiency in hunting Rocky Mountain sheep.

They were processed by Judith Nielsen immediately upon receipt. In conversations with Jess Taylor he related a few facts: He was also in charge of the ammunition train, consisting of two mules, during the Sheepeater Campaign of . He found the wilderness of Idaho to his liking and settled in the Big Creek area about , and in patented a homestead on 65 acres. He built a cabin on Big Creek, a major drainage of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, about 30 miles from the confluence of the Middle Fork and the Main Salmon, where he lived alone for 50 years, occasionally acting as guide to hunting parties. In he was named predatory animal hunter by the Forest Service, a job he held for many years. He had a particular dislike for the cougars in the area and killed over 1, in his lifetime, thus earning his name "Cougar Dave. Jess Taylor met Dave Lewis in the fall of , and purchased his ranch the following year. At the age of 93 he left his ranch alone, with his pack horses. He died of pneumonia shortly after reaching the town of Cascade. In the University of Idaho bought the Taylor Ranch for use as a wilderness research station. Included are correspondence, photographs and newspaper clippings, some about Lewis, others about things of interest to him. Two relics of the Sheepeater Campaign, a fork and the shoe of a mule, were returned to the Taylor Ranch in December . The material was divided into two sections, those items concerning David Lewis and those items of a later date. The material was then separated by type, and the folders placed in alphabetical order. The first item in the first series is the agreement between Lewis and Taylor for the purchase of the property, which includes a legal description of the land. The correspondence includes a list of provisions purchased by Lewis in , page two of a letter from Frederick Weyerhaeuser thanking Lewis for his hospitality, letters appointing him hunter of predatory game for the Forest Service, plus letters from hunters who refer to him as "Uncle Dave. Some of the newspaper clippings make mention of Cougar Dave, but many are simply interesting items he saved and have no relation to him or the Big Creek area. The photographs include pictures of Lewis and his dogs, and the area around his cabin. The scrapbook contains correspondence, photographs, and newspaper clippings. Added, in , was the UI Taylor Ranch property file.

Chapter 5 : The Sheepeater campaign, Idaho, (edition) | Open Library

The Sheepeater campaign, Idaho [W C Brown] -- This account gives detailed information on the campaign and the Indians, and is especially valuable for the description of exploration of the Upper Salmon River Country.

Antimony had been noticed in that country years before anyone succeeded in identifying commercial gold and silver there. A Thunder Mountain lode which no one could develop and some Chamberlain Basin placers had been investigated as early as or Nothing came from that activity. Finally James Reardon and L. Johnson brought a small discovery party to Big Creek as early as they could prospect in In June, they found an eleven-hundred foot outcrop of a system of parallel veins about sixty feet wide. A year later, on June 15, , they organized the Alton mining district, and that summer a hundred and fifty miners located about a hundred claims. They found silver ore described by Norman B. Simondi, a Weiser assayer, created a lot of interest when he reported a 2,ounce silver sample in August. A ton of ore from these exploratory holes, packed out to a railroad at a cost of eight dollars, provided a favorable test yield of ounces of silver later in Their ore, distributed in small stringers through a broad zone or lode, could yield flattering assays from selected samples, but averaged only a dollar or two a ton. A large low-grade lode of that kind eventually could be worked profitably by twentieth-century methods where good transportation was available. Elk Summit offered no such attraction. Gradual expansion of mining possibilities around Alton " both in the immediate vicinity as well as around Big Creek " came during two decades or more of prospecting there. Following some preliminary work by John Osborn in , a modest excitement attracted interest on Sugar Creek in Then James Hand located a Beaver Creek claim on August 18, , which he retained for half a century. A more promising find brought more miners to Smith and Government creeks near Alton in A Topeka firm acquired this property in and eventually drove about 2, feet of development tunnels in a lode two hundred feet wide. It is an enormous porphyry dyke of free milling quartz that stands out boldly like a huge cathedral. Measurements taken show the ledge to be feet at the widest and 60 feet at the narrowest part. The ledge can be easily traced for over three mile. Assays of the croppings of this ledge made by Mr. But his Logan and Fall creeks prospects proved disappointing. By , about feet of development tunnels demonstrated an absence of ore as evaluated in such a remote area , but after some additional effort at development, George Lauffer and Joe Davis relocated this abandoned property in Nothing but negative information came from all that effort. North of Big Creek, Richard Hunter reported an unexpectedly successful placer operation: In the Chamberlain basin, strikes showing phenomenal values have been made by the Briggs brothers, of Ohio, and a quartet of lucky prospectors from Utah. The Ohio boys located a placer claim on the top of a mountain and worked like Trojans for two weeks to the intense glee of the old rock smashers. Copper also created excitement in A somewhat more successful effort attended another nearby discovery of A five-stamp mill, brought there in , produced a six or seven thousand dollar yield by In addition, a fourth Alton lode discovery on Government and Logan creeks filled in some mining territory between the and segments. Also in , D. Goldman located claims along a ridge between Government and Logan creeks, but they had low grade ore at best. Some may have gone as high as four dollar a ton higher up and two dollars at greater depth, but their average ran lower. Development of this series of four mining areas along a single northeast and southwest mineral zone showed that a large lode extended close to four miles in length and one to three hundred feet in width. Yet almost no production could be managed at such a difficult location. Farther down Big Creek, other lodes had more of a chance for development. Logan City later Edwardsburg began with a saloon, store, butcher shop, and a house on Big Creek flat that summer, and a four-stamp mill arrived in Sulphide ores, requiring a cyanide process, continued to present a problem which accounted for so long a delay and such a small production. Edwards also held additional claims twelve miles farther down Big Creek, where a 2,foot lode was developed. Friar, superintendent for the Pueblo Mining company, with properties in the Big Creek district, was in Meadows the latter part of last week on his return from a conference with the president of his company at Salt Lake city. Friar stated that a mill had been purchased and would be installed this summer, and that another mill would be put in as soon as the road into the district was completed. Friar has the bridge across the south fork of the

Salmon almost ready for the steel work. He states that they are having the same trouble in the upper country that is being experienced all over Idaho, and that is the difficulty in getting men to do the work. This road means much to that promising mining district and its completion will no doubt be followed by substantial improvement on several rich properties.

Chapter 6 : Bibliography of Idaho history - Wikipedia

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This perfectly tillered bow, the relationship and balance of each bow limb to pull uniformly, is a perfect example of the type used in the northwestern Plains and eastern Plateau. Its pull weight would be estimated to be about 40 pounds. Only a few similar examples exist, some made from elk antler are even more rare. The bow retains its original multi-strand, twisted sinew string, again demonstrating a high degree of skill in its making. Few aboriginal arrows exhibit such care in manufacture. The well-fitted points are of native manufacture, and the short cropped fletching would give uniform and speedy flight. More than an ordinarily adaptable group, they had Mountain Shoshoni origins that helped them resist pressure to move to a distant Indian reservation in an unfamiliar area. Their ancestors had a tradition of hunting mountain sheep in a wilderness that few other people could penetrate. Many of them preserved their customs and continued to occupy their mountain strongholds in Wyoming, as well as in Idaho, for two decades after mining and ranching commenced in more accessible areas. More than other Shoshoni peoples, they succeeded in avoiding removal to reservations. Other Northern Shoshoni people who inhabited reservations after had a much less satisfactory time. Some Mountain Shoshoni adopted more of a Plains way of life and added long buffalo hunts to their migratory pattern. These included a Lemhi Valley group that ranged into Montana. In addition, a Weiser group farther west occupied a smaller Idaho area. Fur hunters based in Montreal and Saint Louis came to the area with guns. These affected Plains Shoshoni more than their mountain neighbors. But after , when miners and ranchers suddenly rushed into some of their lands, Eagle Eye and his Weiser Shoshoni had to meet serious new challenges. Eagle-from-the-Light and his important lower Salmon Nez Perce band a village led by White Bird after Eagle-from-the-light retired to Montana in resisted mining expansion into their territory. By , a Boise Basin gold rush brought a worse threat to all Shoshoni of that area. Most army efforts during the Snake War, for instance, focused on finding Shoshoni to fight; but, generally, Northern Paiute and Northern Shoshoni vanished when miners or military showed up. In fact, from early fur trade days. More importantly, in , Eagle Eye was reportedly killed during the Bannock conflict. Gradually, he and his extended family underwent a remarkable cultural change that few other Northern Shoshoni could match. A few Nez Perce refugees joined them in an isolated, nonreservation community that lasted until a little after Eagle Eye, who survived there until , emerged as a highly respected Shoshoni leader who succeeded, largely because he got so little publicity. His descendantsâ€”well educated and capable of operating in a new culture as well as in their traditional waysâ€”finally moved to Fort Hall and became reservation leaders. Many Northern Shoshoni gained prominence through their success in developing large mounted bands that impressed early trappers and settlers by their size and power. Other Northern Shoshoni, particularly Mountain Shoshoni, chose a less spectacular way of life. Their variety of cultural experiences gave them an importance that most of their neighbors could not duplicate. Most Northern Shoshoni managed to elude that kind of military pursuit. Reservation authorities compiled a poor record in their attempts to force an alien culture upon their Shoshoni and Bannock residents. Other aspects of unacceptable reservation administration have been identified as well. Living on their own land, they decided what they wanted to do without having to give up their old ways. Andy Johnson, for example, retained his marvelous ability to tell Shoshoni folk tales while he served as a ditch rider for some lower Boise farmers, men who did not undermine his cultural values. In their transition from hunting, fishing, and camas or bitterroot harvesting to a close association with local settlers in their homeland, the Weiscers made lasting friendships and gained protection often denied to reservation bands. His success in overcoming a long period of hostility from miners and ranchers came partly from his good fortune in finding people who would accept him after more than a decade of conflict. Their arrangement would have been difficult to manage for large Shoshoni bands during that era, but they demonstrated the advantages of a less rigid solution to Indian problems of survival in a region dominated by hostile settlers. Liljeblad for that

expedition. Sites were located, including a major Pacific Northwest obsidian source for prehistoric tools that had remained unknown to archaeologists.

Chapter 7 : Sheepeater Indian War - Wikipedia

The Sheepeater campaign, Idaho, by Brown, W. C., , Shorey Book Store edition, Microform in English - 1st ed. of facsim. reprint.

The Big Creek Cannon: Koeppen After the close of the Sheepeater War in the fall of , Indian hostilities ceased, and the U. With time, signs of the trails, camps and skirmish sites returned to nature, so that today evidence is difficult to find, and then only to the hardy wilderness explorer. For many years rumors and stories have persisted concerning a cannon, more specifically a mountain howitzer, abandoned in the field by the soldiers. The fact that the mountain howitzer could be disassembled and carried by mules, and was available to soldiers at the time, leads to interesting speculation as to the validity of these tales. Over the years stories have been told of people finding the lost cannon, refusing to divulge its location, and taking it to the grave with them. One story concerns two brothers who saw the gun, took a photograph of it which has since disappeared , and told the tale later in life calling it the "Big Creek Cannon. Still more rumors of a cannon lying in a meadow in the headwaters of Disappointment Creek to the north. Another story that there were actually two cannons rather than one. Usually these stories are secondhand and sometimes third hand. Some stories, obviously false, place the cannon far from where the soldiers traveled. Is there any evidence that these stories have any foundation in reality? Do any of these accounts mention anything about a mountain howitzer in the possession of the troops? An examination of the writings of the overall field commander Captain Reuben F. Hardin, all participants, should prove clues to this possibility. Unfortunately for the cannon stories, none of these men ever mention a cannon in the possession of any body of troops in the campaign. In fact there are numerous times when such mention would be appropriate, especially of an item as prestigious as a howitzer, yet nothing is said. William Carey Brown, who accompanied Lt. Farrow, wrote one of the most thorough accounts of the campaign Brown Farrow had twenty Umatilla Indian scouts along with seven enlisted men, four packers and twenty pack animals Brown Hoffner stated that when the troops left the Boise Barracks they and thirty pack mules, which carried "blankets, clothing, rations, and ammunition. While along the Middle Fork numerous written accounts describe pack animals having to jump high logs over the trail Hoffner One of these streams, Loon Creek, was bridged by cutting and falling trees across the water Hoffner The horses could swim the creek but the heavily laden mules could not, so the soldiers carried the gear and provisions across the logs. It should have been noteworthy if a heavy cannon was carried across logs bridging raging waters. When he fled in the middle of the night, much equipment Catley None of these items are connected to, or provide evidence of a mountain howitzer. In contrast, during investigations into the Red River War in Texas, archarologists found primers, priming wire, and lead shot associated with a cannon present in the battle Cruse During the Vinegar Hill, Soldier Bar, and Big Creek surveys Koeppen , extensive searches were made of likely areas for the cannon to be hidden, all with negative results. In addition, although numerous artifacts were discovered at Soldier Bar related to the Sheepeater Campaign, none of them as at Vinegar Hill provided clues of a cannon being present. Since some of the cannon stories feature a gun placed in a cave or rock shelter, rocky areas on Vinegar Hill, Soldier Bar, and between Taylor Ranch and Soldier Bar were examined during the surveys. So until such a time that more evidence comes to light, the stories of the "Big Creek Cannon" while tantalizing, must be considered only legends. Brown, William Carey Journal of Lieut. Brown, 1st Cavalry, commencing July 1, Brett Battles of the Red River War: Forse, Albert Gallatin Diary of Lt. Gillihan,, Cathy Personal letters to Michael H. Brown Collection, Boulder, Colorado. Lewis, David Feb.

Chapter 8 : The Big Creek Cannon

The Sheepeater Campaign. Idaho by Col. W. C. Brown, U.S.A. Retired. Provenance: Private collection, Davenport, WA. We gladly combine shipping on all purchases.

Chapter 9 : The Sheepeater Indian War of

DOWNLOAD PDF THE SHEEPEATER CAMPAIGN, IDAHO, 1879

The Sheepeater Indian War of was the last Indian war fought in the Pacific Northwest portion of the United States. A band of approximately Western Shoshone, (Turakina, or Tukuaduku), were known as the Sheepeaters because their diet consisted of the Rocky Mountain Sheep.