Langell Valley Cemeteries

By Todd Kepple, Klamath County Museum manager

It’s inspiring to think of how much work has been done over the years to preserve countless names, dates, and events in Klamath History. In addition to the many achievements of the Klamath County Historical Society, much has also been accomplished by organizations such as the Klamath Basin Genealogical Society, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Daughters of the American Colonists, the Cascade Civil War Society, the Shaw Historical Library, the Malin Historical Society, Collier Logging Museum – the list goes on and on. At the same time, it’s interesting that so much institutional memory can be lost with the passing of a generation.

This past summer members of the Klamath County Historical Society and staff from the Klamath County Museum picked up the pieces of some fascinating stories that were recorded in the Klamath Echoes series, published some 30 to 40 years ago, but which had been largely forgotten by the current generation of local historians.

Through a series of conversations, we became interested in two small pioneer cemeteries that were apparently located somewhere in Langell Valley. One cemetery contained the grave of Franklin Calavan, a teenager killed in a rangeland feud in 1882. The other cemetery was the final resting place of Ichabod Hall, a veteran of the War of 1812 who settled in the valley in 1869.

Photographs from both of these cemeteries had been published in the Echoes. Unfortunately, none of us at the museum had any idea where these two important cemeteries actually were!

After making a few phone calls to friends in Langell Valley, we were able to locate the cemeteries and visit them this fall. We take this opportunity now to document the current
status of these cemeteries, in the interest of making sure they won’t be forgotten. (We won’t disclose the precise location of the cemeteries in this article, because they’re on private land.)

The Hall Cemetery contains about a dozen graves that encircle an old juniper tree on private land in Langell Valley. Ichabod Hall’s grave is surrounded by a picket fence.

Ichabod Hall was nearly 80 years old when he settled with his family in Langell Valley. When he died in 1879, his grave was marked by a simple, crude piece of native stone. A half-century later, his story was all but forgotten.

Renowned local historian Buena Cobb Stone was the first person to “discover” the Ichabod Hall story. Stone was studying at Southern Oregon College in 1951 when she came across a brief article in the Dec. 26, 1878, Ashland Tidings newspaper. The article told of a veteran of the War of 1812 – the oldest resident in Langell Valley.

Stone immediately undertook a search for more information about Ichabod Hall. She placed advertisements in newspapers around the state seeking information from any family members who might still be living. She eventually made contact with several descendants of Hall.

In 1853 Stone visited the cemetery, which at that time was on public property commonly known as Taylor Grazing Land. A piece of native stone on Hall’s grave read as follows:

Hall, Ichabod  
Born Jan. 1791 in Virginia  
Died 8th of April 1872  
Age 88 yrs., 10 mo., 8 das.

Stone requested information about Hall from the U.S. Army, which provided the following reply:

“An investigation of the records available reveals one ICHABOD Hall, who rendered military service during the War of 1812, as a Private (Pvt) in Captain Stephen Roberts’ Company of Volunteer Riflemen, Major John M Felder’s Battalion, South Carolina Militia.”
Stone also arranged for the Army to provide a new military marker for Hall’s grave. The new marker was placed during a ceremony arranged by the Klamath County Historical Society in October 1958.

The grave of Ichabod Hall, a veteran of the War of 1812, is marked by a stone placed by the Klamath County Historical Society in 1958. War records show Hall’s first name a Kchabud.

The Hall cemetery – now located on private ranch land – contains about a dozen graves with some beautiful headstones, all clustered around an enormous juniper tree that is probably at least 250 years old, by this writer’s estimate. Among the graves is that of Christine Hall, a cute blonde-haired girl who died at the age of 4 in 1915. Her family moved out of the area soon after Christine’s death.

Turning to the story of Franklin Calavan, we knew his grave lay somewhere in Langell Valley. A photo of his headstone was also published in the Echoes series, and told us he was around 13 years of age when he was gunned down in the Laws-Calavan rangeland feud. We knew that two boys from the Laws side of the feud are buried in Linkville Cemetery, beneath a prominent headstone indicating they were “Killed by masked assassins.” The location of Franklin Calavan’s grave, however, remained a mystery – to museum staff, at least.

Again, a series of conversations and phone calls revealed the spot where the Calavan grave could be found in the “Westside” Cemetery on private land. The landowner permitted us to visit the small cemetery containing at least four graves, and possibly more.

Like the Hall Cemetery, the Westside Cemetery contains the grave of at least one small child – that of 3-year-old Jasper Fulkerson, who died of scarlet fever and diphtheria on Nov. 11, 1885.
Lichens are slowly growing across the face of the grave marker for Franklin Calavan who was killed in a rangeland feud in 1882.

A handful of local history buffs visited both cemeteries in mid-October of this year. Visiting graveyards is always interesting for those of us who love history. But walking among these old graves located in such remote and beautiful settings was truly moving. It’s not often that one has the opportunity to visit the grave of someone whose story extends all the way back to a war between America and Great Britain.

Now it falls to our generation to update our files, document what we know, and protect these tiny cemeteries that maintain our connection to a time when only the hardiest and luckiest of souls could hope to live long enough to see four score and ten years.

**Malin History: 100 years**

Prepared by Valeree Lane

The following account of the history of Malin is taken from the Klamath County Historical Society’s volume “Klamath Country History”. This history was written by Mildred Tofell in 1984.

Malin is a small city with a population of six hundred twelve that lies thirty miles southeast of Klamath Falls, just north of the Tulelake Basin. This is a very unique, progressive city with a colorful history that shows how ambitious settlers transformed an expanse of sagebrush that was overrun by jack rabbits into rich productive farm lands. Malin was named for a town in Czechoslovakia that produced many fruits and vegetables.

This area did not become a reality without a challenging, exciting past created by some ambitious, perservering and proud Czech ancestors. The ancestors of the Bohemian Colonization Club who came to settle in Malin in 1909 were originally from Central Europe. This group composed the three branches of Slavic people, the Czechs, the Moravians and the Slovaks. The term Bohemian referred to these three groups, with only the dialects separating them into their respective groups.
In 1910 a Bohemian agricultural magazine, “Hodspodar”, that was published in Omaha, Nebraska, started a Far West project. The first adventurous pioneers to respond to the challenge were Frank Zumpfe, Mr. Svoboda from Nebraska and Vac Vostricil from Oklahoma. The Czechs came to Malin mainly from Chicago, St. Louis, the Dakotas and Omaha. However, they came from various parts of the United States. Among the very first Bohemian settlers in Malin were John Honzik, William Halousek, Frank Paygr, Rudolph Klima, Alois Kalina, Frank Zumpfe, and Frank Klazuba. The Czechs were seeking freedom, a better life in a productive valley and a future for their children. These people came with a few possessions and little money, but they did have the basic ingredients for success: ambition, faith and perseverance.

Tracts of land were opened in the Malin area in 1908. In 1907 the Lakeside Land Company (W.C. Dalton) purchased 6,500 acres from the Carr interests. This tract lay between Adams Point and Bevans Point (Turkey Hill). This property is the site where many Czechs located. The average tract of land purchased by each settler was fifty acres. This land is now irrigated and is exceedingly prosperous.

These early rugged individuals must have visualized their future lives in the rich basin because they soon made down payments on their land and began to work. Much credit is given to J. Frank Adams and William C. Dalton who helped these early settlers with their financial affairs.

Now that farms were bought, hard work lay ahead. Men, women and children grubbed by hand enormous growths of sagebrush, piled it in high stacks, then burned it. With no buildings on these farms, some kind of housing had to be considered, so the men hauled lumber from Merrill. Furniture was not available so boxes were used for furniture, and hay in sacks served as beds. Farm equipment and barns were needed much more than luxuries.

These early farmers often worked on the railroad in Klamath Falls to make a little extra money. They would not return home for several weeks. In the meantime the wives and children took care of the farms. These early farms did not produce too well, and money was scarce for groceries, so people ate ducks, geese, blackbirds, jack rabbits and roasted grains. The jack rabbits became a menace so rabbit drives became common. Farmers would receive five cents per pair of rabbit ears as a bounty.

Shortly after the first Bohemians had settled, the Shasta View Irrigation District was formed. Three thousand, four hundred acres were included in this, most of which W.C. Dalton owned. The district was located between Bevin’s Point and Bryant Mountain. This irrigation project was completed in 1919. Directors of this district in 1919 were Charles Beardsley, Frank Lamplot, and John McNeal. M.M. Stastny was secretary for twenty-eight years, and was overseer of the construction project. Bonds were circulated for $100,000 to get the company in operation.

W.C. Dalton supervised the installation of the pumps for irrigation, the main canals and laterals for $20 per acre. During the Depression era of the thirties, financing further development of the canals and pumps to accommodate more farmers became more difficult. However, it did not take too long until these enterprising people had their irrigation district financially stable.

By 1916 about 6,000 acres south of Malin to Adams Point were opened for homesteads. In 1907, J. Frank Adams attracted to him a group of financially secure people who eventually would become stockholders in many business enterprises. Adams brought many Czech farmers to Malin because of his land holdings. This land sold for $35 to $40 an acre with one-fifth
down and the remainder for eight percent interest. A thirty dollar water charge was made to each purchaser.

The following is a list that is the order that these people bought their land from the Lakeside Land Company: Joseph Victorin, John Honzik, Frank Kramarik, Alois Kalina, Joseph Divisek, Joseph Kotera, Anton Polivka, Vaclav Rajnus, Joe Smidl, John Cacka, John Svrsic, John Becicka, Caclav Svobada, Mike Dobry, Anto Krupka, Joseph Victorin, Ignac Cacka, Charles Pechanek, Joseph Ottoman, Frank Kosar, Frank Paygr, Albert KROTOCHYL, Rudolf KOIMA, Vaclav Drazil, Joseph Micka, Joseph Pospisil, Joseph Kahout, J. VOKAL, Marie ZUMPFE, Joseph Krizo, Fred Dvorak, Anton Sindelar, B. HNIZDSA, Frank HALASZ, MALIN TOWNSITE COMPANY, 160 acres, Steve KUDR, Jacob STYESKAL, Vincent JELINEK, Joseph POTUCEK, W.E. BURISS, L.E. BURISS, Frank KLAZUBA, J. FRANK ADAMS, Wesley WOSTCHIL, Joseph Jez, John TOFELL, Joseph KLEM, Karel VAVRIKA, W.F. HASKINS, Anton MACEK, Anton PETRASEK, James HAJICK, Emmett LAHODA, Frank ADAMEK, Gus JONES, Frank Kozlik, Joseph SEMENECK, Mary KOPECKY, Ella HAUUSEK, John LOVELACE, Joseph CACKA, sybil MAINOUS, H.E. Wilson, and OLIVER MARTIN.

The first white child born in the MALIN area was Rudolph Paygr.

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**KCHS Programs for 2010**

March 25- **1910 on Main Street, Klamath Falls**
by Todd Kepple

April 22- **History of the Winema Hotel**
by Barbara Turk

May 27- **Collectable Ad Items from Early Klamath County**
by Avis Kielsmeier and David Mattos

June - **KCHS Tour**
July - **KCHS Picnic**

September 16- **Peter Lassen, Early Explorations**
by Ken Johnston

October 28- **John C. Fremont, Continued Stories**
by Cliff Ambers
Klamath County Historical Society

Meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of the month, with some exceptions. See schedule or call 883-4208. We meet at the Klamath County Museum meeting room, 1451 Main St., Klamath Falls, Spring St. entrance. For more information call the museum.

### KCHS Officers

Co-Presidents:
- Sue Fortune: 541-882-6041
- Carol Mattos: 541-884-4032

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### Dues

Dues are due at the end of each year. If you look on your mailing label, you will see an entry above your name. A date entered indicates you are paid through that year. Initials indicate you are receiving a complimentary issue or are a Life Member. If there is no entry, you either haven’t paid for a while or we are sending you a complimentary issue, hoping you will become a member.

### Membership Information

- Individual Member: $10.00/yr.
- Supporting Member: $25.00/yr.
- Life Member: $100.00

Make dues payable to:
Klamath County Historical Society
and mail to or drop off at:

Klamath County Museum
1451 Main Street
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

If you would like to be notified of meetings and other happenings by email, please send your address to klcohiso@yahoo.com

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