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BURIED TREASURE AT CITY OF ROCKS

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Concerning the oft-repeated tale of stolen gold buried at City of Rocks, southeast of Oakley, the following is found in Idaho: A Guide in Word and Picture (New York: Oxford University Press, 1950), 254:

Near Oakley occurred a robbery that has since become well known. Upon the narrows at the head of Raft River another lone bandit robbed the stage and escaped, though an alarm was later sounded in Strevell and a posse started in pursuit. They tracked the robber to the City of Rocks, and he was there captured and sentenced to jail; but though officials of the insurance company that protected this route often visited him in jail, he persistently refused to tell where he had hidden the gold. A cattle thief later occupied a cell with this robber, and after an inquisition by officials the later confided in the former, declaring that upon his release he would return and recover the plunder. But the robber was stricken with consumption and died. Though he never divulged the spot, it has been assumed that the gold, estimated at \$150,000 must have been hidden in the rocks of the city; and many persons have explored her and some still explore.

An article in the Twin Falls Times-News, October 18, 1964, yields the following information:

The Treasure rock [at City of Rocks] seemed to bring the most comment from the group after it was learned that it was here the two stage bandits, who robbed the old stage station some one-half mile away, were caught after hiding a huge amount of gold somewhere between that particular rock and Strevell, a small town on the Utah, Idaho line.

Little other substantial information is available concerning the legend, and it is quite possible that the robbery in question is an exaggerated version of an earlier theft, or a combination of several elements from different hold-ups; such evolution of buried treasure tales is not uncommon.

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