

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

EUREKA CANAL NO. 1

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The Eureka Canal No. 1 begins on the south side of the Boise River in Section 23, T4N, R1W, and runs in a westerly direction for about six miles. The canal was constructed in the winter of 1863 by George Leggett, Frank Fulton, and Hugh Allen when they appropriated and diverted 5,000 inches under a four-inch pressure. In 1864, these men were mainly raising garden produce and using water from the river to irrigate their gardens. The canal was enlarged each year as more settlers moved into the area. The system of irrigation under the canal was most sub-irrigation.

The Eureka Water Company was incorporated on April 26, 1881. Eleven shares in the new company were issued to William Simpson (2 shares), William Frost (2 shares), Elijah Frost (2 shares), Houston Frost, George Goodrich, William Lewis, R. M. Brennan, and Adam Schindler (one share each). The company also claimed 10,000 inches of water. The headgate measured just under twelve feet with a depth of four feet. The canal was twelve feet across at the bottom.

In 1903, the canal had a capacity of 289.5 second feet and was six miles long with nine miles of laterals. At that time, the canal was watering 1,386 acres. By 1905, there were thirteen landowners under the canal who used water to irrigate 1,937 acres. In 1906, the canal received water right (13) to 1,666 inches of water.

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