

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

PIONEER CANAL (DITCH)

Number 524

1974

The Pioneer Canal begins on the north bank of the Boise River near the southeast corner of the northeast 1/4 of the northwest 1/4 of Section 14, T4N, R1W. It ran in a westerly direction through sections 8, 14, 15, 16, and 17 and terminated in Section 18, all in T4N, R1W. This ditch was constructed in the fall of 1864 and the spring of 1865 by B. F. Swalley, Loring A. Sevey, and John M. Ross. These men appropriated and diverted 2,000 inches of water under a four-inch pressure. The stockholders of the Pioneer Canal Company owned 1,441.01 acres of which 1,285.95 acres received irrigation water. The ditch underwent an enlargement around 1869 and by 1870 the majority of land under the system was cultivated.

In 1903, the capacity of this ditch was 38.5 second feet and it measured four miles in length with six miles of laterals. In 1906, the ditch received water right (49) of 1,286 inches.

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