

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

MIDDLETON WATER COMPANY CANAL

Number 527

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The Middleton Water Company Canal begins on the north bank of the Boise River in the southwest 1/4 of the southeast 1/4 on Section 12, T4N, R1W. It runs southwesterly through T4N, R1W and across T4N, R2W. On August 26, 1876, settlers in the area incorporated under the name Middleton Canal Company. The purpose of the company centered on construction of a canal to supply water onto lands of stockholders. Initial work on the project began in the fall of 1877 and completion of the canal was accomplished in the spring of 1878. In 1877, the company acquired the right to appropriate and divert 6,400 inches of water under a four-inch pressure. On June 13, 1885, the company underwent a reorganization, and became reincorporated under the name of the Middleton Water Company. Like its predecessor, the chief function of the company was the operation and distribution of the canal's water to the stockholders.

By 1900, the canal extended fifteen miles in length and utilized an estimated flow during the irrigation season of 120 second feet. The cost of the works was placed at \$20,000 with the ownership divided into shares. Each share entitled its holder to ten inches of water to flow over a weir. The annual assessment amounted to 20¢ per acre and could be worked out at \$2 per day per man and \$4 per day per man and team. The system at that time irrigated 3,300 acres.

In 1903, the canal maintained a capacity of 593 second feet and measured fifteen miles in length with twelve miles of laterals. Waters of the company's ditches which united with the Middleton Mill Ditch were divided equally.

The stockholders of the company in 1905 owned 6,963.52 acres under the system. Out of this total, 5,704.5 acres received irrigation water. In 1906, the canal received water right (65) of 5,704 inches.

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