

# IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## REFERENCE SERIES

### NEW DRY CREEK DITCH COMPANY

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The Dry Creek Canal begins on the north bank of the Boise River in the southwest 1/4 of the southeast 1/4 of Section 24, T4N, R1E. It extends in a northwesterly direction through Sections 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 23, and 24, T4N, R1E, and thence across Sections 1 and 2, T4N, R1W.

The canal was surveyed in the spring of 1879 by Joe E. Wood, Alexander Rossi, and Mr. Maxon. Construction of the system began in March of 1879. The promoters and builders, John Hailey, Thomas Mann, John Jones Smith, and John Patterson, completed the canal by the first of June that year.

Articles of incorporation for the New Dry Creek Ditch Company, Ltd., were filed on March 8, 1879. At this time, the company filed notice of intent to appropriate and divert 2,000 inches of water under a four-inch pressure. When completed, the canal was ten feet wide, two feet deep, and four miles long, and irrigated 1,425 acres. In 1886, the canal was enlarged to twelve feet on the bottom, eighteen feet at the top and three feet in depth. It was also lengthened eight miles. After enlargement, capacity of the canal became 2,337 inches. Another enlargement in 1888 increased the capacity to 3,546 inches. By 1900, the canal had been extended to thirteen miles in length with eleven miles of laterals, and had cost an estimated \$10,000. It maintained enough water to irrigate the 3,000 acres which lay under the system. In 1902, the canal transmitted water to 2,433 cultivated acres. By 1905, 2,720 acres were under cultivation. In 1906, the canal received water rights (72, 83, 97) of 2,720 inches of water.

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