

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

DAVIS CANAL

Number 532

1974

1. The Davis Canal originated on the south side of the Boise River in the northwest 1/4 of Section 9, T3N, R2E, and extended fifty-two miles in a westerly direction to and upon fractional parts of Sections 5, 6, 31, and 32 in T3N, R2E. The canal was located and constructed by George R. Breidenstein in 1886. Breidenstein built the canal ten feet wide at the bottom, twelve feet wide on top, and two feet deep with a uniform grade of about one inch to the rod. The headgate measured twenty-two feet in width and eighteen feet in depth. Its capacity when built ran near 220 second feet of water. Beginning in 1888, Thomas Davis began buying the land under this canal. By 1905, he owned all the land serviced by this canal, a total of 650 acres. Of this, all but fifty acres were irrigated. In 1903, the State Engineer listed the canal's capacity at 136 second feet. Two miles of lateral ditches connected to the main canal. In 1906, the Davis Canal received water right (94) of 670 inches.

2. The Davis private ditch utilizes the headgate of the Davis Canal, Thomas Davis built the ditch in 1890 to irrigate twenty-five acres located on part of the old Government Hay Reserve. The ditch was one-half mile long. Nearly 700 feet of this distance utilized a flume to aid in the diversion. The remainder of the ditch measured two feet on the bottom and was eighteen inches in depth. The capacity of the ditch was two second feet. In 1906, the Davis private ditch received water right (119) of 27 inches.

Publications--450 N. 4th Street, Boise, ID 83702--208-334-3428