

# IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## REFERENCE SERIES

### JOHN STANLEY AND STANLEY BASIN

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Originally from North Carolina, where he served as captain of a company of volunteers (Thirty-first Regiment) from November 27, 1861 to August 2, 1862, John Stanley left his Confederate Army duties to join that summer's Salmon River gold rush. In search of new mining possibilities, he led a company of mostly Confederate prospectors from Warrens, July 4, 1863, through mountain country to Bear Valley and Stanley Basin, where they found some modest placers. Then he took some of them on past Alturas Lake to Monumental Creek and Atlanta Basin, where they noticed much more promising prospects. They preferred to keep their Atlanta discovery secret when they reached Idaho City early in August after a month's trip through difficult country, but a wild rush, August 8, responded to rumors of their find. It got nowhere, and no follow up to Stanley Basin came until April 1864. Miners who searched for gold around Stanley early in 1864 found little of interest, and discoveries that proved worthwhile did not come until 1867. John Stanley, however, did not participate in that later mining venture.

**(This information has not been edited.)**