



IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
REFERENCE SERIES

SITE OF RAMSAY CROOKS 1811 CANOE DISASTER

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While he was prospecting for Snake River fine gold on his ranch below Milner July 24, 1938, Clifford Starrey noticed a deposit of old muskets, traps, and other fur trade equipment that had been submerged there for a century or more. After most of these relics were donated to the Idaho State Historical Society, July 11, 1949, they were identified as typical of equipment imported for use by John Jacob Astor's Pacific Fur Company after 1810. Later North West Company (a Montreal firm), Hudson's Bay Company, or other companies based in Saint Louis, would have employed somewhat different artifacts. Their location next to a rock that matched one that smashed Ramsay Crooks canoe, October 18, 1811, indicates that those rusty remnants came from his Astorian party that ran into a series of disasters there. Wilson Price Hunt's journal and Washington Irving's *Astoria* document that fiasco, which occurred several miles above Caldron Linn--an important recognizable natural feature along Snake River near there. Located only a few feet from a point where a survey line separates Section 25 from Section 26 in Township 10 South, Range 20 East, Boise Meridian, that lava rock with its rough edges has unusual historic interest.

Information Provided By: Arthur Mitchell and Cal Perkins

(This information has not been edited.)