



IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
REFERENCE SERIES

GOLD RUSH ROUTE, BROWNLEE TO PLACERVILLE

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Shortly after Tim Goodale's cutoff was extended from upper Weiser (around later Salubria and Cambridge) to John Brownlee's Snake River ferry in 1862, a gold rush to Boise Basin brought more traffic that way. Later in 1862, eager miners tried out a much more direct route to upper Payette valley than Goodale's road via lower Weiser and Payette. Old Indian trails via Crane Creek and upper Willow Creek gave them access to upper Payette valley a little north of Pickett's corral (a major early landmark close to Black Canyon) where they connected with another Payette gold rush route that came from Burnt River and Old's ferry. Both routes then proceeded up to Horseshoe Bend and Harris Creek to Placerville. When John Brownlee spent more time mining in Boise Basin than tending to his ferry, that route lost its popularity, and by late 1864, Brownlee's ferry was abandoned altogether. So his upper Weiser route to upper Payette valley also fell into disuse after less than two years service as a gold rush trail.

(This information has not been edited.)