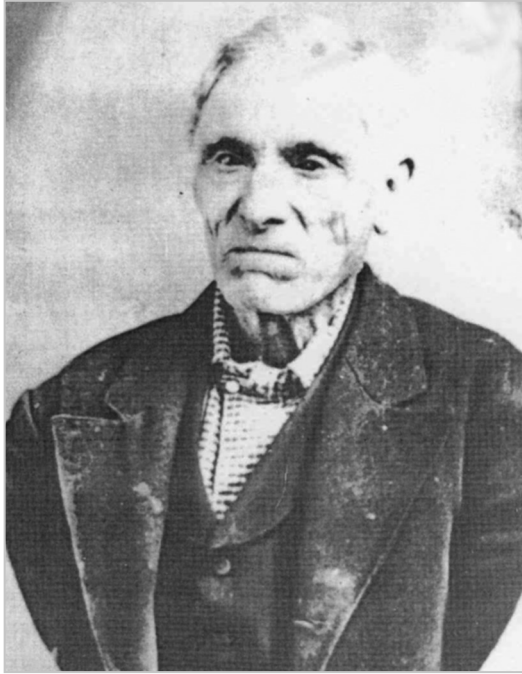




EMIGRANT TRAILS HALL OF FAME

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION



Biography

- Born: 1797, Illinois Territory
- Died: 1890, Malheur County, Oregon
- Married: Eda Ennis, 1817
- Trail pioneer and guide, militia officer, state legislator

Achievements

- A leader in the Applegate exploration party seeking an alternate southern route from Fort Hall to the Willamette Valley.
- Guided wagon companies of 1846-1847 into Southern Oregon.
- Founded Scottsburg, Oregon
- Served in Oregon Territorial Legislature
- Delegate to the 1857 Oregon Constitutional Convention.

Photo courtesy of Oregon Historical Society

Levi Scott

Levi Scott was born in the Illinois Territory and fought in the Black Hawk Wars in 1831-32 with the Illinois militia. He moved his family to Burlington, Iowa in 1834. In 1839 he was elected captain of 100 men serving in the state militia in the border dispute with Missouri.

After the death of his wife, Scott and his second son, John, joined an Oregon-bound wagon train in 1844 that was led by Nathaniel Ford. They left the Ford party at South Pass and followed the tracks of the 1843 wagons to the Columbia River. They crossed over the Cascade Mountains on the old Indian trail over Lolo Pass northwest of Mount Hood and reached Oregon City.

In June 1846 Levi and John joined the exploration party organized by Jesse and Lindsay Applegate to find a safer southern route from Fort Hall to the Willamette Valley. Traveling south from the Willamette Valley then east across northwest Nevada, they reached the established trail from Fort Hall to California along the Humboldt River. While Jesse went to Fort Hall to recruit emigrants to follow him to Oregon, Scott and another man found a viable wagon route across the Black Rock desert.

Scott led the wagon companies into southern Oregon and stayed with them until reaching the Willamette Valley. He returned to Fort Hall in 1847 and guided more emigrants over the new route. In February 1848 Scott led the military escort for Jesse Applegate's unsuccessful mission to California to request military assistance. Scott was the author of the waybill describing the Applegate Trail, published in April 1848 over Jesse Applegate's name.

Scott founded the town of Scottsburg, Oregon in 1850. He served in the Oregon Territorial Legislature from 1852 to 1855 and was a delegate to the Oregon Constitutional Convention in 1857.

Scott and James Layton Collins completed a memoir of Scott's life a year before his death. His trail experiences were excerpted and published in 2015 in *Wagons to the Willamette: Captain Levi Scott and the Southern Route to Oregon, 1844-1847*.