IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

CALEB LYON OF LYONSDALE
AND THE BOISE CLAIM

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        As a result of Governor Caleb Lyon's negotiation of two
treaties (Fort Boise, October 10, 1864 and Bruneau Valley, April
10, 1866) between the United States and the Boise and Bruneau
Shoshoni bands, these Indians have more than a century old land
claim against the United States, generally known as the Boise
claim. The attached articles explaining this situation appeared
in the Pacific Northwest Quarterly, October 1970, and in Idaho
Yesterdays, Winter 1969-1970. In addition, the following
resolution of the Boise and Bruneau Shoshoni, adopted in a
meeting of ninety-six of the claimants at which Corbin Harney
presided, applies to this situation:

Assembled in council at Boise, Idaho, October 25, 1974, the Boise
and Bruneau Shoshoni respectfully represent that:

    1.   On October 10, 1864, the governor of Idaho,
         representing the United States of America as
         superintendent of Indian affairs for Idaho, and the
         Boise Shoshoni Indian Nation signed the Treaty of Fort
         Boise, providing for cession to the United States of
         Boise Valley and surrounding lands thirty miles on each
         side of the river.
    2.   On April 10, 1866, the governor of Idaho and the
         Bruneau Shoshoni Nation concluded and signed a similar
         treaty providing for cession of the Owyhee mines and
         certain Snake and Bruneau river valley lands to the
         United States.
    3.   After more than a century, the United States Senate has
         not gotten around to ratifying these treaties.
    4.   The United States of America still has not obtained
         Indian title to the Boise and Bruneau lands of
         southwestern Idaho, although Caleb Lyon of Lyonsdale,
         governor and superintendent of Indian affairs for
         Idaho, solemnly promised us that this matter would be
         attended to.

Therefore, we urge that the Idaho congressional delegation take
whatever action may be necessary to correct this long standing
injustice.