



BLACK ROCK DESERT  
HIGH ROCK CANYON  
EMIGRANT TRAILS



NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

## LASSEN-CLAPPER MURDER SITE

### The Interpretation of Lassen-Clapper Murder Site: “History Mystery”

The goal with the Lassen-Clapper Murder site kit is to intrigue people with the mystery surrounding the still unsolved murders of Peter Lassen and Edward Clapper. This goal will be achieved with a myriad of different interpretation tools. In heightening visitor’s imagination and interest, we hope that visitors will leave the area with a new found fondness and willingness to conserve the area for future use. We have, once again, used the principles of Tread Lightly and Leave No Trace to invite and encourage visitors to leave the site as it was when they arrived.

The way in which we chose to interpret the theme “History Mystery” is with detective kit, which will be utilized primarily by the younger population. The kit will include a pair of binoculars, a magnifying glass, and an investigative report for the “Black Rock Police Detective”. The investigative report is laminated and will be able to be cleaned and reused at every visit. It contains space for the visitor to find “evidence” with their tools and record it on the sheet. The sheet also contains space for the visitor to record who they think committed the crime. The binoculars and magnifying glass will engage visitors and make them feel as if they can help look for clues and help solve the ongoing mystery.

Another tool that will be utilized in the interpretation of the Lassen-Clapper site will be a few “take home” copies of “The Black Rock Review” newspaper that was created specifically for the site.



Interpretation



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This paper contains articles about the history of the murders, the escape of Lemerich Wyatt, a “Who done it?” page, the reburial of Clapper, Hardin City, forensic anthropology, other professions involved in the case, and an interview with Peggy McGuckian. The paper also includes maps of the murder site, pictures of the facial reconstruction, working photos at the site, and a “fun page” complete with a mystery decoder game, crossword, and word search. Available to be clipped out of the paper is a detective card to go along with the detective kit mentioned above. A detective notebook will be included as an insert in the paper which will include blank paper and will serve as a place for the visitors to write their thoughts or questions.

An overall theme that has been developed for every kit is the usage of the Apple-gate – Lassen trail by the emigrants. To interpret this theme, an Emigrant game has been developed. This game consists of two “spinner game boards”, an emigrant facts sheet, and an answer sheet. The visitor will be able to imagine how long it would have taken them to reach their destination through a variety of conditions. There are six different outcomes for each spinner board, which could lead to numerous outcomes of the game.

The last way in which we plan to interpret the Lassen-Clapper Murder site, is with the use of a word search game. This will be helpful in engaging a younger population, while still helping them to understand the major concepts of the site. These games are laminated and will be able to be cleaned and reused at each visit.



Interpretation