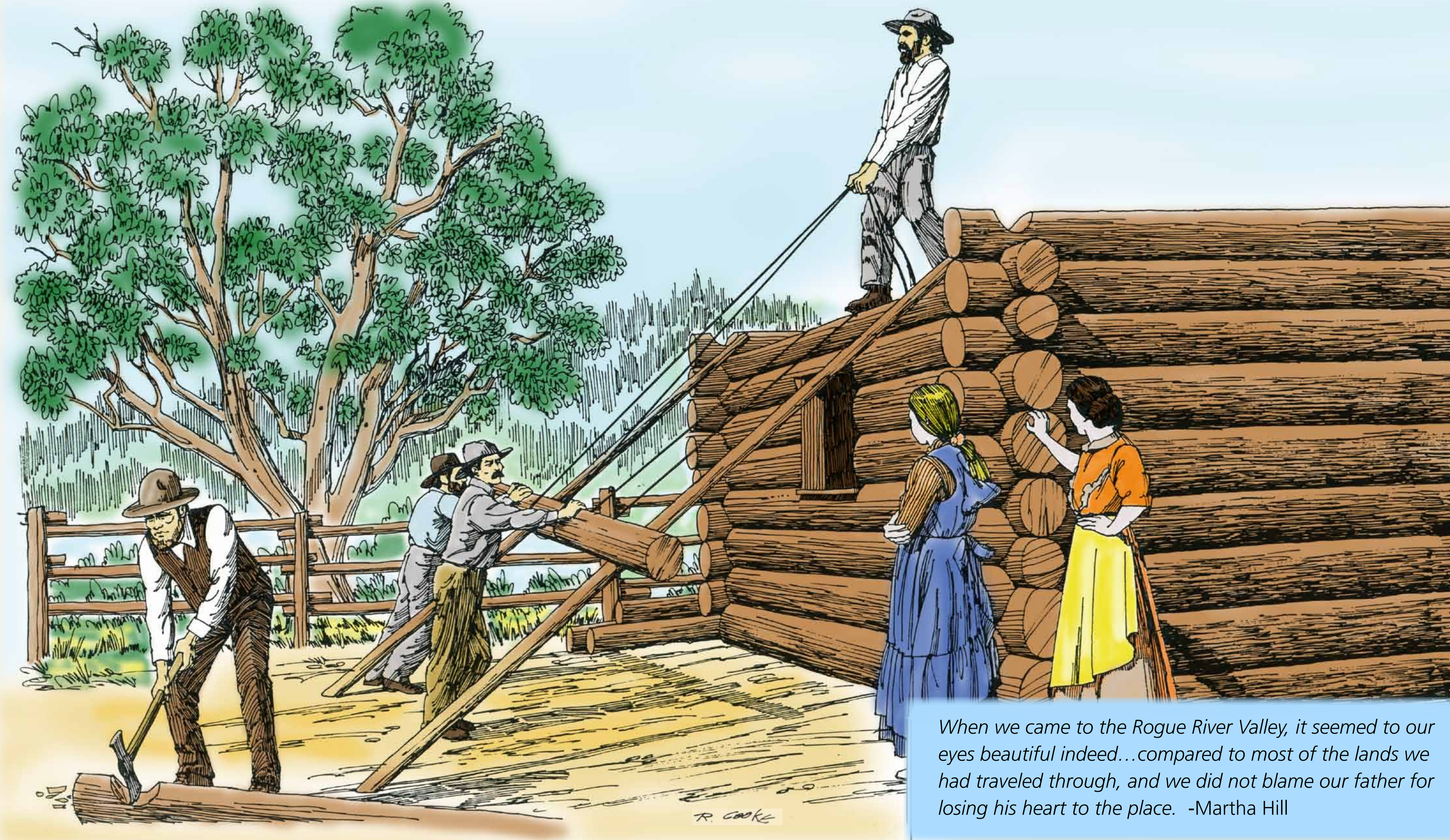


# Free Land—Claim it Quick!

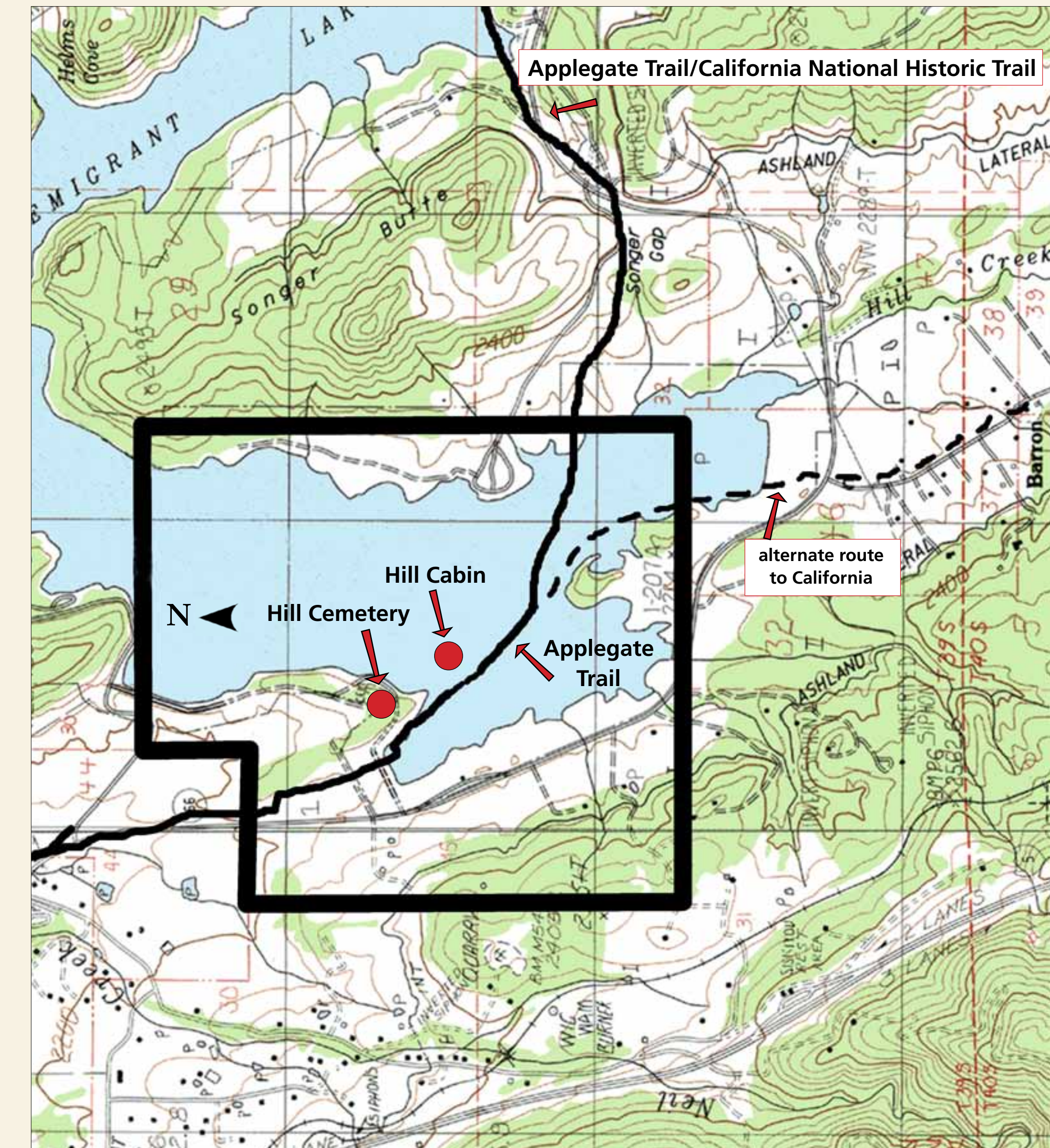


*When we came to the Rogue River Valley, it seemed to our eyes beautiful indeed...compared to most of the lands we had traveled through, and we did not blame our father for losing his heart to the place. -Martha Hill*

The Oregon Donation Land Act changed emigrants' lives. Congress passed the act in 1850 to encourage settlement of the West. Imagine! Pioneers could claim up to 320 acres per man for free! Married couples could secure a square mile of land—a wonderful incentive to emigrate or to reward those who had

already settled in Oregon. For five years people scrambled for lands. In 1851 Isaac Hill claimed 640 acres of land, then brought his family back from the East: wife Elizabeth and daughters Mary, Haseltine (Ann), and Martha. While the Applegate Trail had opened in 1846, with this new land deal emigrants

## ISAAC AND ELIZABETH HILL'S DONATION LAND CLAIM #45



The Hill property was sold in 1922 except for the two-acre cemetery plot. The Talent Irrigation District built a 110-foot tall dam in 1924. The Emigrant Lake reservoir most likely flooded the cabin.

poured into the Rogue Valley in 1852. By 1855 each Hill daughter had married; Mary to Patrick Dunn, Ann to James Russell, and Martha to Alvin Gillette. By the time the law expired on December 1, 1855, the deed was done! Over 9,000 settlers had filed on 2.6 million acres in the Pacific Northwest.