Historical Myth a Month
Myth #137

Navigating a Tall Tale

b y Guy Rocha, former Nevada State Archivist

The story of the Reese River Navigation Company in central Nevada is an oft repeated tall tale very sho

Of nationwide scope was the stock promotion bubble of the Reese River Navigation Company... when t

So says *Pioneer Nevada* (1951), a creation of Reno's Thomas C. Wilson Advertis

The claim for the little riv *Sagesta Lyrica Club* (1878), and Lewis's *The Town That Died Laughing* (1955)

It's not known if John L. "Jerk" Taylor, editor of Virginia City's *Territorial Enterprise* (1946) and Austin's *Reese River Reveille* (1949-6

Thousands of gullible easterners dragged the old socks out from wherever they were hidden and peeled

Taylor also pointed out "that during the greater portion of the time it is necessary to grease the sides of t

Nevada native and history buff Myrtle E. Myles, writing in the *Reno Evening Gazette* on February 17, 1962, placed t

A contemporary version of the fable claims "Shares of the Reese River Navigation Company formed to f

To date no Reese River Navigation Company posters have been found. Nor is there any record of a co

From all indications, Mark Twain, Dan DeQuille, Sam Davis, Fred Hart and a host of Nevada's nineteent

Photo credit: Photo of Reese River flood near Austin, Nevada, 1910, courtesy of the Nevada Historical

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