

The Search for Fountain Camp



Locating Washington Irving's October 20, 1832, Encampment in Oklahoma

By Carla Chlouber

On the skirts of this forest land, just on the edge of a prairie, we found traces of a Pawnee encampment of between one and two hundred lodges, showing that the party must have been numerous. The skull of a buffalo lay near the camp, and the moss which had gathered on it proved that the encampment was at least a year old. About half a mile off we encamped in a beautiful grove, watered by a fine spring and rivulet.¹

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With those three sentences, famed American writer Washington Irving described the location of his encampment in what is now Oklahoma on the night of October 20, 1832. Irving was part of an expedition organized by newly appointed Commissioner of Indian Affairs Henry Leavitt Ellsworth to look over the unexplored lands of the area before removal of the Eastern tribes to Indian Territory. The English naturalist Charles Joseph Latrobe and a young Swiss aristocrat, Count Albert-Alexandre de Pourtales, along with guides and a company of U.S. Rangers under the command of Captain Jesse Bean, also accompanied Ellsworth. Theirs was the first official United States expedition through the central part of Oklahoma.²

Historians have identified a few of the specific places where the party camped in Oklahoma, but have never pinpointed the location for the encampment on the night of October 20. In articles about Irving's trip, the location has been given variously as near Mehan, south of Irving's Castle, and northwest of Ripley, all in the same general area in Payne County but still several miles apart. And in no case has anyone located the exact spot that matches the physical description given by Irving and his companions. In fact, there apparently has been no serious effort to pinpoint the site of the encampment.

Although Irving's group followed no established trails, their vivid descriptions of rivers, streams, and other landmarks provide clues to the route they took. Irving, Latrobe, Ellsworth, and Pourtales all wrote accounts of their trip, although Ellsworth's and Pourtales' were not published until the twentieth century. Three members of the expedition—Irving, Ellsworth, and Pourtales—wrote specifically about the encampment on the night of October 20, and a comparison of the three accounts does indeed yield significant clues to the location of the camp.

The area of Payne County through which Irving traveled is still largely rural, consisting of farms and ranches and with no suburban developments, parking lots, superhighways, or other evidence of man's activities that would change the landscape radically. Except for county roads along the section lines, fences, and utility poles, much of the countryside would still be recognizable to Irving if he could return today. Irving and his companions noted specific landmarks that still exist and they can be used as clues to the location of the camp site. In addition, the direction of their travel and the time spent in traveling can help to narrow the possibilities

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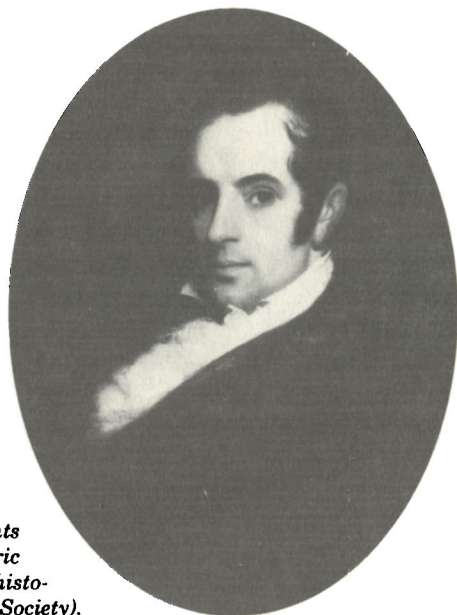
for the location. And finally, the descriptions of the campsite itself given by the members of the expedition can be used to find a location that matches those descriptions.

But what brought the New York-born, internationally acclaimed writer, Washington Irving, to the far western frontier that was Oklahoma in 1832? In that year Irving had returned from seventeen years abroad, eager to immerse himself in the sights and sounds of America. He believed that, because of his long absence, others accused him of a “want of affection” for his native land, and he wanted to prove his accusers wrong.³ During a tour of the Great Lakes with Latrobe and Pourtales (friends he had met on the trip back from England), he encountered Ellsworth, who invited the travelers to join him on his journey to the Far West. Irving would have a semi-official post as secretary to Ellsworth. They accepted the invitation, and in early September they left Cincinnati, Ohio, for the western frontier, arriving at Fort Gibson on October 8, 1832. On October 9 they departed from Fort Gibson, and on October 10 they left the trading post of August Pierre Chouteau and began their memorable journey through a land as yet untouched by civilization.⁴

The widely read book Irving wrote as a result of the trip, *A Tour on the Prairies*, proved to the world that Irving told the truth when he wrote, “I look round with delightful exultation upon my native land.”⁵ Published in 1835, *A Tour on the Prairies* is filled with wonder, joy, and a keen appreciation for the beauty of the landscape of Oklahoma before settlement. Even when he complained about the hardships of traveling through the Cross Timbers—the infamous “forests of cast iron”—Irving conveyed a sense of awe and excitement that made the experience an unforgettable one for anyone reading his account in *A Tour on the Prairies*.⁶

While Irving’s is the best-known description of that 1832 journey, three other published accounts also tell the story of the trip—a book consisting of Ellsworth’s journal written in the form of a long letter to his wife, published in 1937; a two-volume book written by Latrobe, *The Rambler in North America*, published in 1836; and a book published in 1968 based on the journal and letters of Count Pourtales.⁷ The written descriptions of the four diarists, taken together, provide more clues to the actual places they visited and camped than would Irving’s book alone. Thus, it is possible through a careful comparison of the four accounts to locate specific sites along the journey. Using only one of the books as a guide

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Washington Irving's 1832 encampments in Oklahoma, like similar early historic sites in the state, continue to interest historians (Courtesy Oklahoma Historical Society).

would not provide sufficient evidence for identifying a specific location.⁸

Historians seem to be in agreement about the general route Irving and his party took. The travelers left Fort Gibson on October 9, 1832, and proceeded along the Arkansas River until on October 15 they crossed it north of the junction of the Cimarron River (called the Red Fork at the time) and the Arkansas. They then took a west-by-southwesterly course paralleling the north bank of the Cimarron until they crossed that river on October 22. They then continued south and crossed the North Canadian River in central Oklahoma, with plans to continue on to the Red River before returning to Fort Gibson. However, cold weather and lack of food for the travelers and forage for their horses caused the group to change their plans, and on October 30, before they reached the Canadian River, they headed back to civilization, arriving at Fort Gibson on November 9, 1832.⁹

A few of the camp sites described by Irving were relatively easy to locate later because of specific characteristics of the landscape. For example, the "Camp of the Glen," where the group stayed on the night of October 15, was at Bear's Glen, now under the waters

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of Lake Keystone, but easily identifiable earlier because of Irving's detailed description of "a wild, rocky dell, bordered by two lofty ridges of limestone, which narrowed as we advanced, until they met and united: making almost an angle."¹⁰ However, many of the camp sites have not been located because of a lack of identifying information or changes in the landscape since the time of Irving's trip. The encampment on the night of October 20, when the group camped in what Irving described as "a beautiful grove, watered by a fine spring and rivulet," has generally been placed in the Mehan area southeast of Stillwater in eastern Payne County, but the specific location has never been identified.

George H. Shirk, in a 1967 article in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* entitled "A Tour on the Prairies along the Washington Irving Trail in Oklahoma," wrote that the location of the camp for the night of October 20 was "south of Irving's Castle," which was a landmark mentioned by Irving, Ellsworth, and Pourtales in their descriptions of the day's journey.¹¹ However, Shirk did not specifically identify the location of the camp, and it is extremely unlikely that the camp site was south of Irving's Castle, as the evidence will show. In an article about the centennial of Irving's tour written in 1932, Joseph B. Thoburn placed the encampment for October 20 "approximately where the railway station of Mehan is now located, on Stillwater Creek, a few miles above the mouth of that stream."¹² However, in a 1955 edition of *A Tour on the Prairies* with annotations by Thoburn and George C. Wells, a footnote indicates that the "camp on the evening of the 20th was possibly four or five miles northeast of the site of the present town of Ripley, in Payne County."¹³ A camp site northeast of Ripley would be virtually impossible, since the travelers would have had to reverse course after passing Irving's Castle in order to camp northeast of Ripley, and there is no indication that they did that. It seems more likely that the editors simply made a mistake and wrote "northeast" when they actually meant "northwest" (Mehan is four miles northwest of Ripley). A story in *Oklahoma Today* in 1958 included the statement, "One principal camp was east of Stillwater, near the village of Mehan."¹⁴

In fact, in 1932, when Oklahoma celebrated the centennial of Irving's tour, the consensus seemed to be that the encampment on the night of October 20 was near Mehan. As part of a statewide effort to commemorate the visit, Payne County schools joined with the Oklahoma Historical Society to place bronze plaques near the

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three sites in Payne County where Irving camped. Under the heading "Markers Are Being Made to Put on Irving Trail," the *Payne County News* carried the following story on October 21, 1932:

Three bronze plaques are being prepared in the industrial arts department of Oklahoma A. and M. college to mark the places in Payne County where Washington Irving visited 100 years ago. Plaques will be placed when the Oklahoma Historical Society holds its commemoration ceremony October 20, 21, and 22, at Yale, Mehan and I.X.L. school, 13 miles southwest of Stillwater.

Historians agree that the famous writer visited the three places on his tour of the prairies. The 100th anniversary of his trip will be celebrated in the various communities on approximately the exact dates of his visits.¹⁵

Officials erected the marker at Yale in a park and the one at Mehan "near the Mehan school."¹⁶ They placed the marker for Irving's third night in Payne County at the I.X.L. school, which is near Wild Horse Creek, where the Irving party camped the night of October 21.¹⁷ The school at Mehan then was called the Sooner Valley School, and actually stood a mile north of the town of Mehan.¹⁸ Abandoned many years ago, today no building remains. The fate of the bronze marker is unknown.

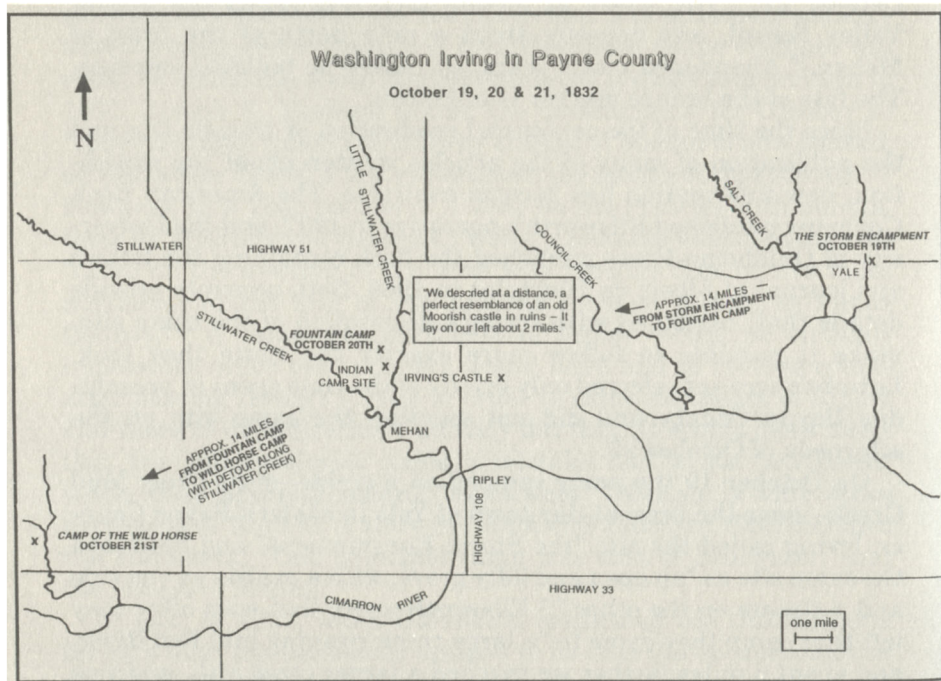
Since the time of the centennial celebration of Irving's trip and the publication of many of the articles written about the expedition, new information has become available. The American Book Company published Ellsworth's narrative in 1937, and the University of Oklahoma Press published the book containing the letters and journal of Albert de Pourtales in 1968. Both accounts provide details that, combined with Irving's description of the camp site, make it possible to follow more exactly the route they took. Latrobe's account referred only briefly to the time spent in present-day Payne County and did not mention the camp site on the afternoon of October 20.

On October 19 the party camped on a creek—most likely Mud Creek—near the present-day town of Yale in eastern Payne County. Irving called the site "the Storm Encampment" and described the camp site as "an open and lofty grove, with a prairie on one side and a stream on the other."¹⁹ Ellsworth wrote that soon after they left that camp they came to "a large creek running into Red River, and about 6 miles farther we reached a larger creek still, and was obliged to travel along the north side of it, 1/2 mile, before we could find a good ford."²⁰ The "large creek" would have been Salt Creek,

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about one and one-half miles west of Yale, and the “larger creek still” would have been Council Creek, six miles to the west. Council Creek follows an eastward course for almost two miles, although its general course is from the northwest to the southeast, as are those of almost all of the creeks that flow into the Cimarron from the area to the north of the river.

Much of Irving’s description of the landscape they passed through during the week after they crossed the Arkansas sounds the same, with frequent comments about the “undulating” prairies, the streams surrounded by “lofty groves” of trees, and the forests “skirting” those streams. Frequently, those almost generic descriptions could fit any number of places in the area. However, Irving remarked on one identifiable landmark in particular sighted by the travelers on October 20, and that landmark and the position of the party in relation to it can help to establish almost exactly where they were at that time and where they most likely



This map shows probable locations of Washington Irving’s encampments in Oklahoma on October 19, 20, and 21, 1832 (Courtesy the author).

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were when they stopped for that evening. That landmark is the one referred to as "Irving's Castle." Irving wrote:

Here one of the characteristic scenes of the Far West broke upon us. An immense extent of grassy, undulating, or, as it is termed, rolling country, with here and there a clump of trees, dimly seen in the distance like a ship at sea; the landscape deriving sublimity from its vastness and simplicity. To the southwest, on the summit of a hill, was a singular crest of broken rocks, resembling a ruined fortress. It reminded me of the ruin of some Moorish castle, crowning a height in the midst of a lonely Spanish landscape. To this hill we gave the name of Cliff Castle.²¹

Ellsworth reported that the party called it "Irving's Castle," and that is the name the rock formation is known by today.²² Another locally used name for the formation is "Castle Rock," oddly enough also the name given to it by Count Pourtales.²³ Irving's Castle is three miles south of Highway 51 on Highway 108 and one mile east in the southeast quarter of Section Five, Township Eighteen North, Range Four East. The landmark is not as visible today as in 1832. Early settlers removed some of the rocks to use in building a pond dam, and cedar trees have grown up around the outcropping, but it is still possible to imagine the outline of a ruined castle in the rocks that inspired Washington Irving's comments over 160 years ago.²⁴

Irving noted that the landmark was "to the southwest" when they sighted it. Ellsworth was even more specific. He wrote, "In the midst of our revellings this day, through the praries [*sic*], and while conversing upon the beauties of the landscape, we descried at a distance, a perfect resemblance of an old Moorish castle in ruins – It lay on our left about 2 miles, and near the bank of the Red Fork."²⁵

The group had been traveling in a direction that Irving described the day before as "a little to the south of west."²⁶ Ellsworth wrote that on the morning of October 20 they "left the camp at 9 and took a course West by South."²⁷ When the travelers passed Irving's Castle, then, they would have been approximately two miles to the north of the rock formation, heading in a direction slightly to the southwest.

For Irving's party to camp south of Irving's Castle, as Shirk suggested, the travelers would have had to turn sharply to the left after passing the landmark, and there is no reason to believe that happened. None of the diaries mentions such a change in course.

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In addition to the location of Irving's Castle, another clue to locating the camp site for the night of October 20 is the distance the group traveled from the camp on Mud Creek near Yale. Irving wrote, "Our day's journey had been about fourteen miles."²⁸ Ellsworth noted they had traveled thirteen miles.²⁹ Since the travelers were not following any established trails, they essentially cut across the country, crossing creeks at the closest ford they could find. Ellsworth wrote, "In pursuing a line by compass you may easily suppose, that we meet difficulties in passing creeks and ravines – Let a man start from Hartford a due west course, where no roads are made, and think what obstructions, he would meet with."³⁰ The camp site for the night of October 20, then, should be approximately thirteen or fourteen miles from the Yale camp site in a west-by-southwest direction.

The distance traveled the following day, as well, can help to establish the camp site for the night of October 20. On October 21 the group spent the night at what Irving called "The Camp of the Wild Horse," which was located "in a spacious grove of lofty oaks and walnuts, free from underwood, on the border of a brook."³¹ That brook, located four miles west of the intersection of highways 177 and 33, is now called Wild Horse Creek.³² Irving estimated the distance they had traveled that day at fifteen miles.³³ The distance from Mehan, where the travelers most likely crossed Stillwater Creek, to Wild Horse Creek is a little more than ten miles. The reason for assuming a crossing at Mehan is based on Irving's account of their trip on the morning of October 21. He wrote they had gone a short distance and then had to follow "a deep stream" (probably Stillwater Creek) for a couple of miles before finding a place where they could cross, and even then found the banks steep and crumbling.³⁴ Add a mile or two for the short distance they had traveled before reaching Stillwater Creek and then two miles to the slightly more than ten from Mehan to Wild Horse Creek, and the total is close to the fifteen miles Irving reported.

Another descriptive detail that is quite significant in helping to locate the October 20 camp site is the abandoned Pawnee camp mentioned by Irving. Irving noted the abandoned Indian camp was "about half a mile" from where they camped for the night. Pourtales also recorded that they established their camp near an abandoned Pawnee camp.³⁵ A survey of a six-square-mile area from Mehan to three miles north of Mehan finds only one area with evidence indicating the existence of an old Indian encampment.

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Because of the desirability of a site, Indians usually used a camp site repeatedly, and a concentration of arrowheads and flint chips indicates the location of such a camp site. A field approximately one and three-fourths miles north of Mehan has yielded numerous Indian artifacts and flint chips over the years, indicating that it was the probable site of an Indian encampment.³⁶

Finally, the description of the camp site itself, as given by Pourtales, provides more details that may help in locating the camp. He wrote:

In the evening we arrive at a charming spot at the side of a creek, but either through stupidity or bad luck our leaders make us go back to a very pretty campsite which had neither drinking water nor anything for our poor horses except a dried-up field. . . . At a few steps from our camp there was a very pretty little spring in the rock, which formed a natural staircase down to the little pond. Although the water was not sufficient for our needs and it upset everyone's stomach, the camp took its name from it and was called Fountain Camp.³⁷

Although Irving's and Pourtales' general descriptions of the camp and spring are in agreement, Irving's opinion of the camp site differed from that of Pourtales. Irving wrote that they "encamped in a beautiful grove, watered by a fine spring and rivulet."³⁸ Ellsworth did not describe the camp for that evening, writing only that they had traveled thirteen miles in five and one-half hours and stopped at 2:00 P.M.³⁹

A spring that matches the descriptions given by Irving and Pourtales, is located in the area to the west of Irving's Castle, and is approximately thirteen or fourteen miles southwest of Yale would be a strong candidate for the site of the October 20 encampment. There is such a spring, shown in Figure 1, which indicates the probable route of Irving's party and the probable locations of the three encampments in Payne County.

The group's route, passing approximately two miles north of Irving's Castle, and their west-by-southwesterly direction of travel are key considerations in locating the October 20 camp site. Also, it is virtually certain that they camped before reaching Stillwater Creek, since they crossed a large creek the next morning and there is no other large creek in the area. In addition, the camp would have been only a short distance east of Stillwater Creek, since Irving wrote, "We had not proceeded far on our morning's march, when we were checked by a deep stream."⁴⁰ It seems reasonable to conclude that the "charming spot at the side of a creek" to which

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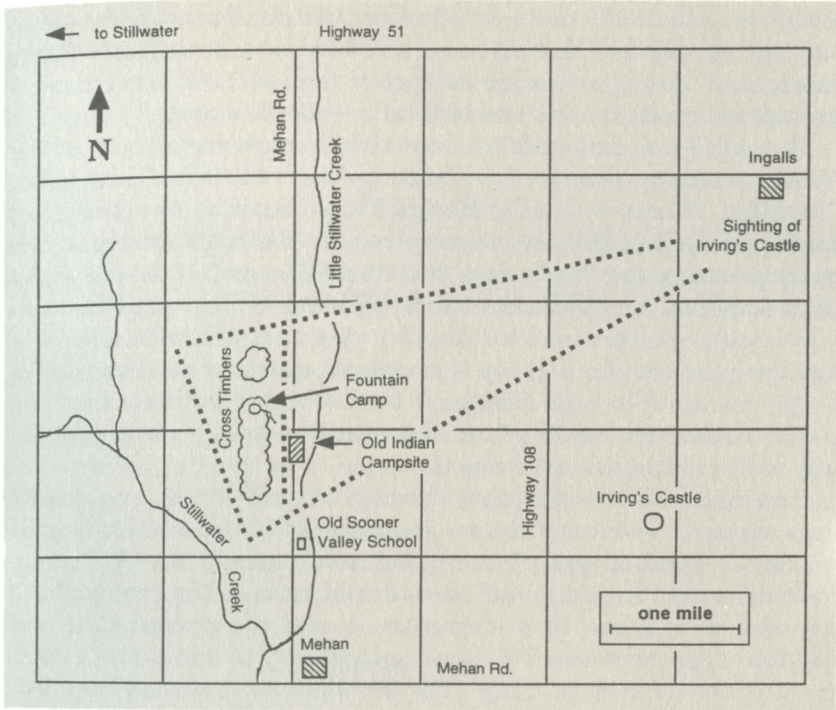
Pourtales referred (the one bypassed in favor of the spring, to his regret) was Little Stillwater Creek. The area that could contain the location of the camp site, then, is limited to an area bounded by Little Stillwater Creek on the east, Stillwater Creek on the west, a line on the north in line with the west-by-southwesterly direction of travel, and a point on the south at least one mile above the confluence of the Little Stillwater and Stillwater creeks. A site any farther south would have taken them back toward the east and almost to the Cimarron if they followed Stillwater Creek for two miles before crossing it, as Irving described their route the next day. The area between the two creeks and within the direction of travel results in a triangle a little more than one square mile in total area.

The topography of the land in eastern Payne County results in numerous springs. In fact, the State Mineral Survey done in the 1930s showed that Payne County had at least 285 major springs.⁴¹ Surveyors did not list many smaller ones. Based upon Pourtales' description of an inadequate water supply, it seems fair to conclude that the campsite was not at a major spring. In fact, the State Mineral Survey does not show any major springs in the Mehan area, nor does an earlier atlas from 1907.⁴²

At the base of the rocky ridge bordering the bottom lands of Little Stillwater Creek on the west are several springs, all in the triangular area in which Irving and his party must have camped. The old Indian campground one and three-fourths miles north of Mehan that has already been mentioned is within that area. Approximately one-half mile to the northwest of the old Indian camp ground is a spring that empties into a rivulet that flows through a grove of native pecan trees. The spring forms a round pool sheltered by a rock ledge at the head of a small, rocky canyon. The spring feeds a small stream, and during the past fifty years the spring has never been known to go dry.⁴³

Smaller, seasonal springs are near the one mentioned; another spring one-half mile to the south is farther upland and does not meet the description given by Irving or Pourtales. For at least one mile to the north, there are no springs that fit the descriptions given by Irving and Pourtales. For the travelers to have camped any farther north would have required a change in course to the northwest. There is no reason to believe they made that kind of change in the direction of their travel.

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This map shows the west-by-southwest direction Irving's party took on October 20, 1832, from the time they passed approximately two miles north of Irving's Castle until they stopped for the evening. Based on the miles traveled and their movements the next day, the area in which they could have camped is bounded by a line approximately one mile from Stillwater Creek on the west and about one-quarter mile from Little Stillwater Creek on the east. The spring (p. 142) that matches the description of "Fountain Camp" is close to the center of the area (Maps and photo, p. 142, courtesy the author).

Just to the west of the spring that forms a "little pond" (in the words of Pourtales) is a prairie that extends for about three-quarters of a mile to another ravine. The ravine would be the closest point to the west where another spring could be found, and both Irving and Ellsworth indicated they did not travel that far on October 20.

Thus, it seems very likely that the spring located two and one-third miles north of Mehan is the spring that Pourtales called Fountain Camp. It is the right distance from both the camp of the evening of October 19 and the camp of the evening of October 21,

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and it is in the right place. In addition, the physical appearance of the spring matches descriptions given by both Irving and Pourtales, and strong evidence indicates that an old Indian camp ground is approximately one-half mile from the spring.

It is, of course, impossible to say with absolute certainty that the spring located at this site (southeast quarter of Section Thirty-five, Township Nineteen North, Range Three East) is the spring of Fountain Camp, but no other place in the area matches the descriptions given by Irving and Pourtales and it is the right distance from the other camp sites. Because of the west-by-southwest course of the expedition on that day, the camp site also is in the line of march for a group that passed approximately two miles to the north of Irving's Castle. It seems highly unlikely that the party would have veered from that southwesterly course without any of the diarists mentioning it.

The route of Irving's party through Payne County represents only three days of a month-long journey, but that three-day period marked a time of great anticipation and excitement. The group looked forward to seeing buffalo and wild horses. They enjoyed the abundance of game they encountered, and the threat of an encounter with the feared Pawnees seemed only to add to the excitement of the adventure. Later, the travelers struggled as they tra-



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versed the Cross Timbers and suffered as they felt the effects of colder weather and lack of game for themselves and forage for their horses. By the time they arrived back at Fort Gibson on November 9, they were happy to end their tour on the prairies.

For a while, though, Oklahoma was paradise for Washington Irving and his friends. In fact, Ellsworth wrote that as they rode through the country near Irving's Castle on October 20, 1832, the group's physician, Dr. O Dwyer, commented, "Eden was here and not on the Euphrates."⁴⁴ Ellsworth's own opinion was that "the country today is truly delightful."⁴⁵ Washington Irving saw a "landscape deriving sublimity from its vastness and simplicity."⁴⁶

This sublime landscape still exists, and not only in imagination, memory, and the pages of books and journals written long ago. Irving's Castle still stands guard over the Cimarron River, and in the autumn the prairies of Payne County are still golden under the October sun. The evidence strongly suggests that on the edge of the Cross Timbers, "a beautiful grove, watered by a fine spring and rivulet" can still be seen, a place called Fountain Camp, where a distinguished group of travelers spent the night in Oklahoma more than 160 years ago.

ENDNOTES

* Carla Chlouber, a resident of Ripley, Oklahoma, received the B.A. in humanities and the M.A. in English, both from Oklahoma State University, Stillwater. She previously served as director of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society at Chadron State College, Nebraska, and currently is managing editor of agricultural publications at Oklahoma State University.

¹ Washington Irving, *A Tour on the Prairies*, ed. John Francis McDermott (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1956), 108–109.

² *Ibid.*, xxi-xxviii.

³ *Ibid.*, 5.

⁴ *Ibid.*, xxii-xxviii.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 8.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 125.

⁷ Henry Leavitt Ellsworth, *Washington Irving on the Prairie*, ed. Stanley T. Williams and Barbara D. Simpson (New York: American Book Company, 1937); Charles Joseph Latrobe, *The Rambler in North America* (Oklahoma City: The Harlow Publishing Company, 1955); Albert de Pourtales, *On the Western Tour with Washington Irving: The Journal and Letters of Count de Pourtales*, ed. George F. Spaulding and trans. Seymour Feiler (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1968).

⁸ In *The Western Journals of Washington Irving*, edited by John Francis McDermott (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1944), the editor wrote on page ix of the preface, "Statements of direction and reports of mileage by Irving, Ellsworth, and Latrobe are too contradictory, vague, or incomplete to permit positive reconstruction of their route." However, when the accounts do agree and descriptions are specific, it

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should be possible to identify at least those portions of the route for which there is sufficient evidence to do so. Irving's journals for the period of time from October 18 through October 30 (which includes the time spent in Payne County) are missing.

⁹ The accounts given by all the diarists on the tour agree on the general course as well, although Pourtales wrote that they passed the rock formation known as Irving's Castle on October 21 (Spaulding, *On the Western Tour with Washington Irving*, 62), while Irving and Ellsworth both described seeing it on October 20.

¹⁰ Irving, *A Tour on the Prairies*, 74. In 1960 the Oklahoma Historical Society passed a resolution requesting that the United States government set aside an area near Bear's Glen to serve as a historical park and memorial, saying that the site was "one of the few exact locations in Oklahoma that may be today designated with accuracy" as being visited by Irving's expedition. The Society desired that the inundation of the site by the Keystone Dam "not permit a complete loss to posterity of the historical aspects of this glen or canyon." "Minutes," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 38 (Spring, 1960): 231.

¹¹ George H. Shirk, "A Tour on the Prairies Along the Washington Irving Trail in Oklahoma," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 45 (Fall, 1967): 321-322.

¹² Joseph B. Thoburn, "Centennial of the Tour on the Prairies by Washington Irving (1832-1932)," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 10 (Fall, 1932): 431.

¹³ Washington Irving, *A Tour on the Prairies*, ed. Joseph B. Thoburn and George C. Wells (Oklahoma City: Harlow Publishing Corporation, 1955), 82.

¹⁴ Henry Carlton Jones, "The Washington Irving Trail," *Oklahoma Today* (Spring, 1960): 33.

¹⁵ *The Payne County (Oklahoma) News*, October 21, 1932.

¹⁶ B.B. Chapman, "Washington Irving on Wild Horse Creek: Marker Dedication, April 7, 1963," Special Collections, Edmon Low Library, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater. Under the leadership of B.B. Chapman, an Oklahoma State University history professor, the Payne County Historical Society and the Oklahoma Historical Society dedicated another marker on April 7, 1963, on the farm of Andrew Burton next to Wild Horse Creek and closer to the actual campsite. The bronze plaque at the I.X.L. school disappeared for many years, but in October, 1994, a Stillwater man found the plaque in a house he owned and turned it in to the City of Stillwater, which then donated it to the Washington Irving Trail Museum, southeast of Stillwater. The museum, dedicated on October 23, 1994, and located near Irving's October 20 campsite, is sponsored by the nonprofit Payne County and Central Oklahoma Museum Association.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ Interview with Glenna Retherford Lauderdale Welsh, Tulsa, Oklahoma, January 6, 1992. Mrs. Welsh attended the Sooner Valley School as a young girl.

¹⁹ Irving, *A Tour on the Prairies*, 102.

²⁰ Ellsworth, *Washington Irving on the Prairie*, 59.

²¹ Irving, *A Tour on the Prairies*, 106.

²² Ellsworth, *Washington Irving on the Prairie*, 62.

²³ *The (Oklahoma City) Daily Oklahoman*, December 19, 1994; Pourtales, *On the Western Tour with Washington Irving*, 62.

²⁴ *The Daily Oklahoman*, December 19, 1994.

²⁵ Ellsworth, *Washington Irving on the Prairie*, 62.

²⁶ Irving, *A Tour on the Prairies*, 101.

²⁷ Ellsworth, *Washington Irving on the Prairie*, 59.

²⁸ Irving, *A Tour on the Prairies*, 109.

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²⁹ Ellsworth, *Washington Irving on the Prairie*, 63.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, 86.

³¹ Irving, *A Tour on the Prairies*, 114.

³² Chapman, "Washington Irving on Wild Horse Creek."

³³ Irving, *A Tour on the Prairies*, 114.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, 111–112.

³⁵ Pourtales, *On the Western Tour with Washington Irving*, 61.

³⁶ Telephone interview with Robert Davis, Pawhuska, Oklahoma, January 21, 1995.

The site where numerous Indian artifacts have been found belonged to Davis' grandfather, Sam Patton.

³⁷ Pourtales, *On the Western Tour with Washington Irving*, 60, 61.

³⁸ Irving, *A Tour on the Prairies*, 109.

³⁹ Ellsworth, *Washington Irving on the Prairie*, 63.

⁴⁰ Irving, *A Tour on the Prairies*, 111.

⁴¹ Jack K. Van Nest, tabulator, State Mineral Survey (Norman: Oklahoma Geological Survey, 1937?).

⁴² *Atlas of Payne County* (Stillwater, Oklahoma: n.p., 1907).

⁴³ Personal knowledge of the author, whose parents, Arthur and Alyne Sweet, purchased the farm on which the spring is located in 1946.

⁴⁴ Ellsworth, *Washington Irving on the Prairie*, 61.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

⁴⁶ Irving, *A Tour on the Prairies*, 106.