

## Route of Alexander Ross, 1824

Number 86

July, 1990

(Route of Alexander Ross south of Ross' Hole, 14 April to 5 November 1824)

Ross reached Ross' Hole (T1N and T2N, R19W) on the Dillon sheet, 11 Mar 24, having crossed a ridge to avoid a canyon, and camped near the later town of Sula. His east branch is the east fork of the Bitterroot; his south branch (very small) is Camp Creek, which US 93 ascends southbound.

- April 9: He moved two miles south of his 26 day camp in Ross' Hole.
- 14: He ascended Camp Creek (south up US 93) to a camp in T1S, R19W, 1 ½ miles below Gibbon's Pass.
- 15: He crossed Gibbon's pass to Prairie Creek (the small creek which he identified as a source of the Missouri) which flows into Trail Creek. Trail Creek and the North Fork of the Big Hole lead to his "principal branch of the Missouri" which "Beyond the grand prairie" is the Big Hole. The Grand Prairie is a valley now known as the Big Hole, and the river is named for this valley. On the Dillon sheet it is the big white area from T1S to T6S in R15W and R16W. Five miles southeast, seven miles south, and six miles southeast brought him to a camp in T2S, R17W.
- 17: His extensive flat and Grand Prairie is Big Hole. His camp for April 17-18 is southwest of Wisdom in T3S, R15W, on Big Hole River, reached after ten additional miles southeast.
- 20: The small fork from the east is Warm Springs Creek and Bull Creek which join above the Big Hole. His camp, ten miles further southeast, is near Jackson, in T5S, R15W.
- 24: He crossed a "little mountain" (Big Hole Pass) in T6S, R13W. His "principal" branch of the Missouri is Grasshopper Creek. His camp, after two miles southeast, six miles east, and two miles northeast, and two miles east by south, was where

Michael Bourdon camped 20 April 1822 in T6S, R13W, on Divide Creek.

- 25: To allow him to go something like 2 miles southeast before leaving Grasshopper Creek to head southwest toward Horse Prairie Creek the next day, he must have camped northwest of Bannock on Grasshopper Creek after going ten miles southeast into T7S, R12W, presumably at or near the mouth of Taylor Creek.
- 26: His middle fork of the Missouri is Horse Prairie Creek. It goes into the Beaverhead which is more of the Middle Fork of the Missouri, heading in Red Rock Creek just north of the Continental Divide from Henry's Lake. Because Ross (and Lewis and Clark, too) used Lemhi Pass, they spoke of Horse Prairie Creek as the Middle Fork, and as the extreme source of the Missouri, although it is an unimportant side stream except for being the route of the main Blackfoot road which they followed west. The junction where the forks unite ten miles from "This place" (which place is just about two miles west of East Bannock) is the entrance of Grasshopper Creek into the Beaverhead above Dillon Creek is noted by Lewis and Clark as Shoshoni Cove or Wheel Prairie, and was called Horse Prairie later because that is where Lewis and Clark got their horses from the Shoshoni. Two miles southeast and ten more miles southwest got him to a camp in T9S, R13W. He is under estimating his distances here. His "real Peagan road" is the main Blackfoot trail to Lemhi Pass.
- 27: Two miles southwest to a better campground (which he passed again on October 30) south of the corner of T9S, R10S, R13W, and R14W.
- 29: He crossed Lemhi Pass and went down Agency Creek instead of the regular route. His "considerble streamlet of water" is agency Creek. After going two miles southwest and six miles west from his previous camp, he crossed Lemhi Pass and descended twelve miles to Lemhi Valley to a camp near Tendoy, in T19N, R24E. His mileage estimates here are pretty accurate. He notes Finnan MacDonald's battleground of 1823, but did not pass there (although he said he did on page 238 of the Fur Hunters) because he went down Agency Creek instead. From here through May 9 the route is plain.
- May 2: He camped in T20N, R23E, after going nine miles northwest. He reached a point closer to Baker.

- 5: He crossed just south of the Salmon airport and camped about at Williams' Creek in T20N, R21E, after going six miles southwest.
- 7: He camped in one of the flats in T19N, R21E, probably south of Birch Creek, after moving seven miles southwest up the Salmon. There are farms in those bends now. (Dubois sheet)
- 8: He camped near the line between T18N and T17N, R21E, after moving eighteen miles southwest.
- 9: His East Fork is the Pahsimeroi. He camped near Ellis, T16N, R20E. His course and distance (12 miles south by west) has been pretty accurate for several days. (Challis sheet)
- 10: His three explorers went just about up the Lemhi-Custer county line onto Table Mountain and headed for upper Morgan Creek. That is why he got on the wild goose chase to Panther Creek a little later. But they did not get over Table Mountain.
- 11: He camped in T15N, R21E not far below May, after moving six miles southeast up the Pahsimeroi. (Dubois sheet).
- 12: The three knobs are the three buttes between Arco and Blackfoot on Idaho Falls. Just about everybody refers to them regularly. They are a little past Little Lost River. His "This" site (John Day's Grave) is in T8N, R28E (or possibly T7N) on the Idaho Falls sheet, on Uncle Ike Creek, sometimes called Pass Creek but not to be confused with two other Pass Creeks in that part of the world. His distance of twenty miles from where he stopped to John Day's grave is somewhat short, as are many of his distances. He went up toward the Donkey Hills and then came back down the Pahsimeroi. He camped south of May, nine miles from the Salmon, in T14N, R21E or R22E.
- 13: He camped on the Salmon in R20E, T15N, after moving nine miles north (actually northwest).
- 14: His two explorers up the Salmon got past Bayhorse Creek to Centennial Flat before

- coming back to report the country unpromising. (See October 5).
- 15: This entry is important because it shows Michael Bourdon came to Challis in 1822 from Big Lost River via US 93A, and thought of floating down the Salmon from there. The trappers' usual road to the left is US 93A which Bourdon used. The two rivers from the west are Challis Creek and Garden Creek. If Ross had gone up Challis Creek and headed down Yankee Fork, instead of up Morgan Creek to Panther Creek, he would have been on a route that would have saved him trouble later. Bourdon must have trapped out Challis or Garden Creek. Canoe Point is in the valley around Challis: Warm Springs Creek and either Garden or Challis Creek are the streams on the opposite side of the Salmon. His memory failed him a little in describing this in the Fur Hunters. His journal has the course of the Salmon accurate at Canoe Point, and his description is good. After going up the Salmon two miles west, six miles southwest, and two miles south, Ross camped near Challis Creek in T14N, R19E.
- 16: The explorers went up Morgan Creek and crossed onto upper Panther Creek. Ross decided to follow Panther Creek to the Salmon and then descend to the Snake, but soon he found the route discouraging and gave up that course.
- 18: Ross had to go up Morgan Creek in order to backtrack and go the right number of miles in the right direction. He camped in T16N, R19E, after going ten miles northwest.
- 19: Ross went nine miles further north up Morgan Creek to a camp in T17N, R19E, not far below the Panther Creek summit.
- 20: Ross crossed to Panther Creek and camped in T20N (Elk City sheet) quite a way down the stream, but above Deep Creek, which his advance explorers reported farther downstream.
- 22: The explorers must be talking about Deep Creek and Napias Creek--the latter especially. The river which flows north above the forks is lower Panther Creek.
- 24: "River Bad Luck" is Panther Creek.

- 25: He camped at Morgan Creek, T17N, R19E, near his camp of May 19. (Challis sheet) Spanish River is Green River; three petit knobs are the Three Buttes.
- 26: He returned to Canoe Point.
- 28: He went up Warm Springs Creek along US 93A; Goddin's River is Big Lost River, the "Creek of hot water" is Warm Springs Creek. The ranges he alludes to as "Serrated" are the Pahsimeroi on the east and Lone Pine and Anderson peaks on the west. He must have climbed a hill to avoid the deep gorge on US 93A on Warm Springs Creek; that hill is the height of land he reached "by gradual ascent." He camped on Antelope Flat in some willows northwest of Willow Creek summit, probably in T11N, R20 or 21E, after a fifteen-mile trip south by east.
- 29: He crossed Willow Creek summit (Dubois sheet) which divides the Salmon and Snake (meaning Big Lost River or Goddin's River), and camped in a bog on Thousand Springs Creek or possibly Willow Creek, near Dickey in any of four townships (T9 or 10N, R21 or 22E), but most likely in T10N, R21E on upper Thousand Springs Creek, after moving ten miles south.
- 30: He moved four miles east to a spring, probably Freighter spring in T10N, R22E. The high hill would be Mount Borah at Freighter Spring; if he stayed at the spring shown three miles northwest of Freighter Spring, his high hill would be Dickey Peak. His reference to the knobs is to the three buttes between Arco and Blackfoot. Ross learned of the Trail Creek route to Ketchum from his Snake guide, but since it did not sound very promising for trapping, he decided to head for Little Lost River and the upper Snake.
- 31: His eastern course was nearly north at the start, through Doublespring Pass. There is no alternate for this route. He got onto the upper Pahsimeroi in a lot less than twenty miles if he went by Horseheaven Pass as well, which would have been his direct route, and would have been generally east. This is the only route which puts him on the head of the Pahsimeroi, his east fork. It's odd he did not relate his position to his trip near there on May 12, instead of his more distant camp May 13. His camp, after a twenty-mile trip east, was close to the corner of T10N, R25E. His entry on June 5 confirms this location.

- June 1: He crossed to Little Lost River south of the Donkey Hills. His summit would be in T10N, R24-1/2E, at almost 8,000 feet. The meandering stream would be Corral Creek. His course (east 4, southeast 4) got him to a camp on Corral Creek in T10N, R25E. His entry on June 5 confirms this location.
- 2: The mountain ahead which divided the stream has to be Hawley Mountain, elevation 9735, in T9N, R26E. Ross ought to have come down the west side to have a shorter route, but his directions match the longer, east side route. If the others went ten miles extra, they must have been looking for beaver over by Bell Mountain ranger station in T10N, R27E, where some swamps are shown. After going seven miles east, seven miles southeast, and eleven miles south, he camped (Idaho Falls sheet) at Uncle Ike Creek in T8N, R28E at or near Donald Mackenzie's 1819-1820 winter camp where John Day's grave is. He may have been quite a ways (several miles) up the creek to be able to see the big butte past Howe Peak.
- 5: He camped south of his June 1 Corral Creek Camp, and west of Hawley Mountain in T9N, R25 or 26E, on Wet Creek. (Dubois sheet)
- 7: He went up Wet Creek and reached the head of Pass Creek (on the Butte-Custer County line) at an early hour. Pass Creek is the fork leading to Goddin's (Big Lost) River. Sixteen miles southwest took him down through Pass Creek gorge into Lost River valley where he camped near Leslie, T6N, R25E.
- 11: His ten-mile trip northwest ought to have taken him to a campground not much above Mackay, T7N, R24E. His remark that Donald Mackenzie went no farther up Lost River is important. (Idaho Falls sheet)
- 12: A trip fifteen miles northwest took him back close to his camp of May 30. His camp ought to be near the big bend of Lost River below Mount Borah and Leatherman Peak in T8 or 9N, R22E. This would put his previous camp about at Mackay. (Dubois sheet)
- 13: His course change fits a location for his previous day's camp at the bend. His camp after 9 miles southwest travel ought to be near the west edge to T8N, R21E. (Hailey sheet) His distances June 16 suggest this camp was about four miles farther up.

- 14: His Three Forks of Goodin's River are the North Fork of Big Lost River, the East Fork of Big Lost River, and Summit Creek, which he ascended. Kane Creek may be substituted for the East Fork. The four men he sent up the northwest fork (the modern North Fork) crossed to the East Fork of the Salmon. (see October 5) Ten miles south (actually more west than south) took him to a camp at the forks.
- 16: His "S or main fork" is Summit Creek; he crossed to Trail Creek to come down to Wood River, which is his River Malade. His camp is at Ketchum. He has Summit Creek and Trail Creek running the wrong direction, but there is no alternative route. His description of Trail Creek is pretty good. Wood River (Malade) is only slightly SE and NW: here is another clear example of disorientation. It corresponds fairly well with his misdirection of Trail Creek. Note the correction in the date (1818) for naming the Malad: in the Fur Hunters, pp. 276-277, he has it in 1824, and takes credit for the name. His ten miles down Trail Creek is pretty accurate. His eight or ten miles up Big Lost River to the summit is about right for a camp (June 14) at the junction of Kane Creek, Summit Creek, and the North Fork.
- 18: The description of the modern east fork of the Salmon by the four explorers is pretty good. Ross' notion of the head of the Boise (south fork), the Wood, and the Salmon (east fork) in the same mountain is not bad, if we take a reasonably broad view.
- 21: Their camp probably was a little north of Hailey, after a trip nine miles south by east. His mileages, which are extremely accurate here, would put him about a mile north of Hailey.
- 24: His camp (center of T1S, R18E) is at the base of Timmerman Hill about two miles west of the junction of US 93 (which he followed down from Ketchum) and State 68, which he took to Fairfield. His reference to Donald Mackenzie in 1820 establishes Mackenzie's route as running from Arco past Craters of the Moon to Carey and then to the southern part of Wood River Valley via Silver Creek. His course should read south by east, 10 miles, then southwest 5 miles, instead of south by west ten and southeast 5. His directions here are incompatible with his directions on June 16.
- 29: His five-mile trip to Camas Creek (his "large fork" from the west) is accurate; his nine miles up Camas Creek brought him to a camp at the mouth of Willow Creek

- (his "small branch" on the north) in the middle of T1S, R16E. His description of his camp as at the entrance of Camas Prairie (of the Snakes to distinguish it from the Camas Prairie of the Nez Perce around Grangeville) is accurate and is an interesting early use of the name.
- 30: His four-mile trip northwest up Camas Creek (his west fork) should have gotten him slightly past Elk Creek into T1S, R15E.
- July 2: His eight-mile trip west to a large creek on the northwest got him to Soldier Creek south of Fairfield in T1S, R14E.
- 3: He went up Soldier Creek six miles northwest, and then took the Wardrop Creek road three miles to Crouch summit. Ten miles northwest down Little Smokey (his source of Reid's River and also his Cascade fork) got him to Big Smoky, which is his other fork from the east, or his middle fork. His camp at the forks is at Big Smoky guard station in T3N, R13E.
- 4: His description is accurate.
- 5: His main branch (Elk fork) of Reid's River is still regarded as the south fork of the Boise. The upper part, coming off Ross Peak, now is known as Ross Fork. His description is accurate. Eight miles west brought him about to T23N, R12E for his camp.
- 6: His fork Blanche, judging by his directions and location, has to be Skelton Creek. He camped almost on the Elmore-Camas county line in T3N, R12E. His description still is accurate. He had to retrace a mile and to cut over to Skelton Creek to dodge the south fork gorge; his course of one mile north, two miles northwest, four miles southwest, and one mile north corresponds pretty well to the Skelton Creek route.
- 7: His eight miles west (underestimated) took him to Featherville, and his six miles south took him about to Price's plunge. He camped near the line between T2N and T3N, R10E, and near Grouse Creek.
- 8: The hard southwest turn of the south fork is at the mouth of Lime Creek, in T1N, R10E. Twelve miles south is a little short in distance, but he probably

- overestimated his six miles south of Featherville for his camp the day before. His topography is clear and accurate here. His total mileage for July 6 to 8 is pretty good.
- 10: He had trouble getting over the rim rock (his "cut rocks") to Little Camas Prairie--a name still in use. It is interesting his names survived for Camas Prairie and Little Camas Prairie, but this probably is because they are descriptive. His "commencement of the Dalles" of the south fork is accurate. He must have camped in Little Camas reservoir, T1S, R9E. His ten-mile trip (south four miles, southwest four miles, south two miles) includes a lot of wandering, or is over estimated. He knew his location as one day west of Fairfield from his men who had come the direct route with Donald Mackenzie in 1820, only four years earlier.
- 12: He crossed a hill to Dixie and another to the high flat on upper Long Tom Creek. Ten miles west would place his camp near the high bluff above the south fork in T1S, R7E.
- 13: He could not stay above the river because of the side canyons and a bad stretch under Danskin Peak. So he crossed a hill to Syrup Creek and another, possibly, to Willow Creek. Ten miles west brought him to a camp in T1N, R6E.
- 14: He cut south 7 miles from Willow Creek (which could have taken him down a canyon to the south fork) and struck Ditto Creek, after which he followed the regular trail that Donald Mackenzie and about everyone used to get to Boise. This is the later Oregon Trail. Four miles north along this route, followed by thirteen more northwest got him to the Boise River just below Diversion Dam. Although the route would not be so good, his mileages in the valley suggest that he went farther down Willow Creek and then cut south down Indian Creek instead of using the Ditto Creek route. His course directions favor Ditto Creek. The hill he saw is the cinder cone in T2S, R4E. His camp is in T2N, R3E.
- 17: Nine miles northwest along the river took him to a camp somewhere in Boise, probably in T4N, R2E. He should have reached the northwest part of town.
- 18: Some of the Boise beaver ponds may have been in Cottonwood, Hull's, Crane, and Stewart's gulches.

- 19: Ten miles more northwest got him very close to Star, or at least as far as the Emmett highway. His camp was in T4N, R2W. Peiem seems to have come over from Caldwell to meet him. Perhaps they fished for salmon anywhere along the river.
- 20: The Snake and Cayuse camps were close to Caldwell --presumably lower Canyon Hill, which he apparently does not think worth mentioning. Willow Creek (barely west of Middleton) might have made a good campground, although it might be short on their mileage. His course now is due west rather than northwest ten miles. His camp is in T4N, R3W.
- 24: Ten more miles west took him to a camp near the west edge of T4N, R4W, but probably not quite as close to the site of Donald Mackenzie's 1819 post as his journal suggests. His camp may have been not far west of Sand Hollow gulch.
- 26: By going three miles west and three miles south, he reached Snake River in Arena Valley directly west of Wilder and about four miles below Homedale, in T4N, R5W. The traditional Indian convention around the mouth of the Boise may have kept him from camping there, as well as from trapping in the area.
- 27: Ten miles north (a distance no doubt underestimated, since he needed more than the sixteen mile he recorded to get from his camp of July 26 north to the Payette) must have taken him past the channels of the Boise to a camp at least as far as T6N, R6W or R6W, not far from the later site of Fort Boise--although to reach the Payette in six miles the next day, his camp should have been in T7N.
- 28: After going six miles north to the Payette, which he ought to have reached near Fruitland since he was going upstream on it, ten miles southeast up the Payette should have taken him above Big Willow Creek to a camp east of New Plymouth in T7N, R4W.
- 30: Ten miles farther southeast upstream took him to a point west of Emmett in T7N, R3W, or T6N, R2W, near Leatha.
- August 1: His directions (southeast nine miles; east by south, five miles) do not follow the river too well for August 1 and 2, but he had to be following it. His camp after fourteen

- miles brought him near the head of the valley (T7N, R1W) just below Black Canyon Dam.
- 2: His course (east by south, four miles; east, two miles; southeast, four miles) somewhat matches the bends of the river, although his directions are off. His camp, after ten miles, was at Montour, two miles above the mouth of Squaw Creek.
  - 4: Although he says he went back to the forks, he ought to have gone east of the hill west of Montour, and then straight north to Squaw Creek, and up it. His advance party looked at Payette Canyon below Horseshoe Bend, and since Squaw Creek ran in more open country, they decided to go up it. They already were above Black Canyon. They got (in twelve miles north) past the canyon of the Squaw Creek, to the upper valley that Ola is in, but they were a few miles south of Ola in T9N, R1E. There is a great obsidian outcrop on Timber Butte just east of their camp, which Ross refers to. (Baker sheet)
  - 7: His north branch of the Payette is Squaw Creek. Ten more miles north got him north of Ola to the top of T10N, R1E, or possibly a little farther.
  - 9: His additional six miles north on Squaw Creek brought him far enough (halfway between the second and third forks of Squaw Creek) that he could just about take the present road from Squaw Creek to upper Crane Creek. His courses match better for the stream opposite and north of the third fork of Squaw Creek, but his distance is a little short for this. In any case, Black Fox Creek is Crane Creek. His course over the top, (southwest five miles) and on Crane Creek (north three miles) brought him to a camp in T12N, R1W.
  - 10: His course (east ten miles; north four miles) really is peculiar, but he may have been in beaver country that way. He must have ascended a headwater of Crane Creek (which could have taken most of ten miles, anyway) and then gone north along the ridge to the upper south fork of the Little Weiser (his Cherry Creek), which he camped on after four miles in T13N, R1E. He probably needed a rest after doing that. Any of three streams going from the east (in T12N, R1W) into Crane Creek would have done, but the one farthest north (coming from T13N) matches his directions the best. The one farthest south fits the country the best.

- 12: Eight miles north took him down the Little Weiser (his Cherry Creek) to a camp in Indian Valley about at the northern boundary of T14N, R1W, a mile above the bend of the Little Weiser to the southwest. From here, his men explored north to the Weiser through Council Valley, and on to its canyon north of Fruitvale.
- 16: Another mile north (actually northwest) followed by seven miles (actually nearer twelve) southwest took him to a camp below Cambridge at the forks of the Weiser in T14N, R3W.
- 18: One league south down the Weiser took him through the canyon from Upper Valley (just south of Cambridge) to Middle Valley north of Midvale--and still in T14N, R3W.
- 20: He took US 95 to avoid the bad canyon of the Weiser, and came eighteen miles south to a camp on Mann's Creek in T11N, R4W. The small mountain is Midvale Hill--the highway grade.
- 23: He came directly south down Mann's Creek, and headed across to the Payette, which he reached at his camp site of July 28. (Boise sheet) Yet his estimate of fifteen miles south seems considerably short--as are some of his other guesses of distance in this area when he was in easy country.
- 24: From his camp of July 28, he returned to his camp of July 30.
- 25: He returned to his camp of July 20, but over a decidedly indirect route. After going up the Payette to his camp of August 1, below Black Canyon, he went up Sand Gulch (east of Emmett) which offered an easy approach to upper Willow Creek, avoiding Freezeout Hill. Then he descended Willow Creek to the Boise near Middleton, putting in an estimated thirty miles getting to a point about twelve miles directly south of his starting camp. He had a good direct route by way of Little Freezeout (the present railway route), but perhaps he did not realize where he was going--or perhaps he wanted to examine upper Willow Creek, or even needed to return to the site near Black Canyon.
- 28: He camped on Indian Creek in T1N, R5E, at his mid-day point for July 14. (Hailey sheet)

- 29: He moved fast to get back to his July 12 site.
- 30: Reaching his July 10 campsite on Little Camas Prairie, he is about to return via Donald Mackenzie's 1820 route.
- 31: Twelve miles southeast over Cat Creek Summit on State 68 took him into T1S, R11E, where he camped in the west end of Camas Prairie.

September 2: Fourteen miles east by south to his camp of July 2 may have been an understatement--at least it is more than 24 miles from Little Camas Prairie to his camp south of Fairfield. His description of the singular aspect of Camas Creek, which goes underground at times, applies to the stretch south of Hill City in T2S, R12E. This shows on the modern map.

- 4: Same as June 29.
- 7: Three miles down Wood River from Camas Creek took him to a point west of Magic City in the reservoir, just about at the intersection of T1S and T2S, R17E and R18E.
- 9: Presumably the party "frightened by rocks" had trouble with the lava by Shoshone Ice Caves.
- 11: Same as June 24. His seven miles distant is accurate, but his direction should be three miles north and four miles east, rather than seven miles north.
- 13: His south fork of the Malad is Little Wood River, which Donald Mackenzie trapped in 1818. His description of the Big Wood and Little Wood is accurate. The falls is where the Interstate crosses Malad Gorge west of Tuttle.
- 14: Same as June 21 (north of Hailey).
- 15: Same as June 16 (Ketchum).
- 16: His camp is at the mouth of the north fork of Wood River in T5N, R17E. His description is accurate.

- 17: His courses (northwest, southwest, and west) somewhat follow Wood River above the north fork but they do not remotely match his mileage (6, 4, and 2). His mileage is overestimated for a change: he went 22 miles from the north fork to the town of Galena, while it is only 24 miles from Ketchum to Galena City at the base of the grade.
- 18: This entry marks his discovery of Stanley Basin. He continued up Wood River to Horse Creek which he followed up a mile to a point that his trail ascended another mile to his Governor's Punchbowl. Then he crossed to Rainbow Creek. (A later highway grade also leaves Horse Creek where he did, but contours to another summit (Galena Summit) two miles southwest of his crossing. He followed a much shorter and slightly lower route. Mount Simpson (e. 9,483) is almost a mile north of Galena Peak (e. 9,225), and is about a mile from his Governor's Punchbowl. Proceeding west and north of Pole Creek, he camped on Taylor Creek, which he followed a day later to Salmon River. His course and distance (six miles west and four miles north) correspond reasonably well with that rather difficult terrain.
- 19: On his way to a narrow Salmon River passage just above Redfish Lake's outlet, he got a glimpse of Pettit Lake. That is better than present highway traffic can do. His fourteen miles distance is more reasonable than his September 20 mileage of ten miles north and eight miles west to Stanley. If his apparently imaginary eight miles west is omitted, his distance corresponds pretty well with geography there.
- 20: His west fork has to be Valley Creek, and his bear's ploughed field is at Stanley. His camp has to be at Stanley, and he eventually referred to Valley Creek as Bear River.
- 26: Alexander River is Marsh Creek, and its exploration constitutes his party's discovery of Salmon River's middle fork. Beaver Creek and Cope Horn Creek were noticed north of Marsh Creek.
- October 1: His distance to the boiling fountain--which is northeast, but mostly east--of fifteen miles is a trifle high, but not bad considering his Stanley Basin estimates. The boiling fountain is a hot springs just above Sunbeam Dam. It is called Sunbeam hot springs on the map. The "Dreadful bad place" is described accurately. His camp is

- in T11N, R14E.
- 2: His description is accurate. His Indian guide might have saved him trouble by going up Yankee Fork and taking the stage road to Challis (Canoe Point). Gloomy Fork is Yankee Fork. Woody Creek is State Creek. He must have missed Warm Springs Creek while out hill climbing. Eighteen miles northeast got him to a camp in the sharp bend just above Clayton ranger station, T11N, R17E.
  - 3: The good-looking little river on the left is Squaw Creek, and his camp is at Clayton ranger station. Three miles northeast is a reasonable distance, and both days (October 2 and 3) check out pretty well this way. He still is in T11N, R17E.
  - 4: Beaver Creek is Squaw Creek.
  - 5: Nine miles to the east fork of the Salmon (his south branch) is very reasonable as an estimate. He was going almost straight east, not east by south as he claims. Nine more miles northeast took him to Centennial flat or else Germain Basin (they adjoin) just above Bayhorse Creek in T12N, R19E.
  - 6: His course should have been northwest eight and then north six instead of the converse. His fourteen miles to Canoe Point are a little over estimated, but he is not too far off--unless Canoe Point is up at Challis Creek (a reasonable possibility) instead of at Challis (Garden Creek). It could be about anywhere in that valley, as long as it is on the Salmon River by a side stream. Actually, there is a gulch opposite Challis which comes in from the east opposite Garden Creek from the west, and the intersection forms a cross matching the four cardinal points of the compass, just as he described it on page 242 of the Fur Hunters. No doubt we ought to prefer Challis as the site for Canoe Point; it fits his other distances best also.
  - 8: Same as May 13.
  - 9: Same as May 11, at Pahsimeroi.
  - 10: Twenty miles southeast ought to have gotten him to Big Creek--his little river--above Patterson in T13N, R24E. (Dubois sheet)

- 13: Eight miles west would have found him some grass in the numerous springs in T13N, R22E, or R23E.
- 18: His camp June 1 is a reasonable distance--perhaps twelve to sixteen miles, depending upon exactly where he was when he started and finished. Neither camp is identified too precisely, since he may have worked south as well as west the day before, and we do not know how far he was from the camp of June 1 when he stopped. His camp October 18 ought to have been in T10N, R24E, or probably R25E.
- 19: His eight miles east should have put him northwest of Bell Mountain ranger station on Little Lost River, T10N, R26E.
- 20: His better grass had better be up Little River (his Muddy River) but we cannot say where, since we do not know how far he went that day or on October 24 when he got to the foot of the mountain at Club Canyon.
- 24: He moved northwest to the southern end of Club Canyon in T11N (possibly T12N) R26E.
- 25: His northwest course is correct. Twelve miles took him up the main fork of Little Lost and down Lake Creek between Flatiron and Portland mountain. The summit is about as high as Galena, and he ought to have complained. He was on an established route, though, so he was not worried about the country. His camp should have been in T14N, R25E, on the south edge.
- 26: Six miles north down Timber Creek took him to the north side of T14N, R26E.
- 27: Eighteen miles northeast across the Lemhi (near Leadore) and up Canyon Creek took him up State 29 almost to Bannock Pass. He camped in T17N, R27E.
- 28: Eight miles got him quite a ways down Horse Prairie Creek on Montana 324 almost to the middle of T11S, R14W. He could easily see his April 27 camp.
- 30: Ten miles northeast to the camp of April 27 locates his camp of October 28, while six miles northeast from there places his camp for October 30 on Bloody Dick

Creek just onto the Dillon sheet in T9S, R14W, or R15W--in any case about on the line between them.

31: He camped just west of Selway Mountain on upper Bloody Dick Creek.

November 1: His course (nearly north) and distance of fifteen miles to Warm Sprigs Creek is accurate.

3: Twenty-four miles northwest should have gotten him further across Big Hole than it did. His camp is in T3S or T2S, R16W.

4: He camped on Trail Creek below Gibbon's Pass.

5: He crossed Gibbon's Pass and reached Ross' Hole, on the east fork of the Bitterroot.

7: He camped in Bitterroot Valley on US 93, at his campsite of March 8.

9: Here he is going down US 93 through Bitterroot Valley. He stayed on US 93 past Missoula to Ravili, and then took US 10A to Flathead House and Spokane House.

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