



OSBORNE RUSSELL
ENCOUNTERS WITH HOSTILE INDIANS
A DOCUMENTED TRIP TO A EUTAW INDIAN VILLAGE
A MONTH WITH "WANT A SHEEP"
1834 - 1841



**OREGON-CALIFORNIA
TRAILS ASSOCIATION**

PARTING OF THE WAYS



OCTA 2011 ROCK SPRINGS, WY

Copyright, © 2011 by Fred Gowans
Published by
Mountain Grizzly Publications
133 East 1600 North
Orem, Utah 84057

Printed by Brigham Young University
Provo, Utah 84602

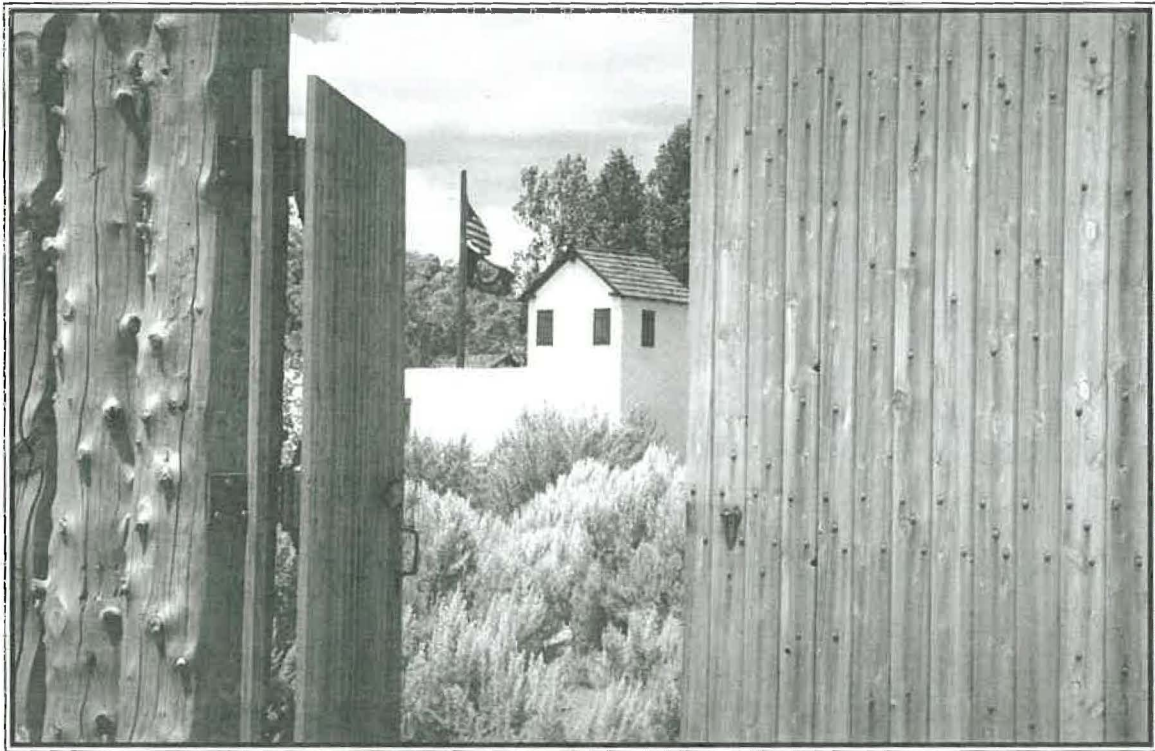
All right reserved

Gowans, Fred R. 1936-
Osborne Russell....

Book design and layout - Ben Bean
Illustrations - Stuart Heimdal
Photos - Fred R. Gowans



MOUNTAIN
GRIZZLY
PUBLICATIONS



OSBORNE RUSSELL



Mountain Men and the Fur Trade, Vol. 1-10

LeRoy R. Hafen (ed.)

Vol. 2

1965

pp. 305 - 316

Osborne Russell's Journal of a Trapper

Aubrey L. Haines (ed.)

Portland, Oregon

1955

Journal of a Trapper or Nine Years in the Rocky Mountains, 1834 - 1843

L. A. York (ed.)

Boise, Idaho

1914 (Second edition - 1921)

Born:

Bowdoinham, Maine, June 12, 1814 (One of nine children)

Parents - George G. and Eleanor Power Russell

Ran away from home at 16 to become a sailor - Finding that this was a "harsh Career" he deserted and went to work for the Northwest Trapping and Trading Company in present day Wisconsin and Minnesota

1834

On April 19, 1834 he went to work for the Columbia River Fishing and Trading Company at \$250 dollars for eighteen months - Left Independence, Missouri on April 28, 1834 with Nathaniel J. Wyeth's expedition to the Columbia River - Arrived at the 1834 Rendezvous site on Hams Fork of the Green River delivering supplies ordered by the Rocky Mountain Fur Company but were not excepted (Nathaniel Wyeth's race with William Sublette to the 1834 Rendezvous)) - Establishment of Fort Hall on the Snake River by Wyeth to sell supplies - Russell was one of eleven men left to build and garrison Fort Hall under the direction of Robert Evans - Russell called the Fort "*The most lonely and dreary place I think I ever saw*" - Russell learned the Shoshone (Snake) Indian language from the Shoshone who traded at the Fort - Some of the ex-Rocky Mountain Fur Company trappers (Hired by the American Fur Company at the close of the 1834 Rendezvous) seeking employment at Fort Hall became Russell's teachers during the fall and winter of 1834 - 1835

1835

Spring hunt: Under the direction of Joseph Gale, who Russell learned to dislike, he was appointed as a camp keeper - Cache Valley - Bear Lake - Salt River - Blackfoot River -

Fall hunt: Yellowstone Plateau - Head waters of the Missouri River - Swan Valley - Pierre's Hole - Teton Pass - Jackson Hole - Lamar River - Upper Madison River - September 8, 1835 met fourteen ex-Rocky Mountain Fur Company men including Kit Carson and Joe Meek who saved them from being killed by a force of eighty Blackfoot Indians - Losing the majority of their horses and mules Gale ordered Russell to return to Fort Hall and obtain horses - Russell became lost and spent 20 days trying to reach the Fort and upon his arrival, with his enlistment expired, he took his discharge from the Columbia River Fishing and Trading Company - Leaving Fort Hall he traveled up the Portneuf River to Mutton Hill where he spent the winter with fifteen men who also had left the Company

1836

In February Russell joined Jim Bridger on Blackfoot River for the *Spring hunt* - *His apprenticeship was over* and he was at last a full fledged trapper - Attended the 1836 Rendezvous on Horse Creek arriving on June 28, 1836 - Met Marcus Whitman and Henry Spaulding and their wives - *Fall hunt:* Left the Rendezvous in July traveling through Jackson Hole and crossing over Two Ocean Pass to the upper Yellowstone River and around Yellowstone Lake - North boundary of present Yellowstone Park - Down Yellowstone River and into Blackfoot country where several men were either killed or wounded

1837

Spring hunt: Wind River plains and mountains - Horse Creek and the 1837 Rendezvous - A bloody misunderstanding took place at the Rendezvous with the Bannock Indians which lasted three days prior to the arrival of the supply train - After the Rendezvous Russell had his horse shot and killed by a Blackfoot Indian hunting party en-route to the fall hunt *Fall hunt:* Jackson Hole - Yellowstone Lake - East and north of present day Yellowstone Park - Yellowstone River - South into Crow country where they were robbed of their supplies and horses - Marched afoot to Fort Williams arriving on November 18, 1837 sick and destitute receiving horrible treatment from those in charge at the Fort

1838

Spring hunt: Left for the Yellowstone River in late February - Gallatin Valley and reaching the Madison River on June 1st - On the Madison River the trappers found several signs of a Blackfoot trail that showed evidence of Smallpox and upon finding the Indian encampment killed more - At Henry's Lake another Blackfoot encampment with Smallpox was found but mercy was shown and after trading goods the trappers moved on - Snake River Valley - Teton Pass - Arriving at the Rendezvous on Wind River on July 5th - There was talk about this being the last summer Rendezvous in the mountains that the American Fur Company would hold - After the Rendezvous (Russell's last Rendezvous) both sides of the Teton Range were trapped during the *Fall hunt* - Because of the events at the 1838 Rendezvous and the lack of interest Russell went independent using Fort Hall as his center of operation

1839

Spring hunt: Yellowstone country - August, 1839, Russell and his two companions encountered Blackfoot Indians on Pelican Creek near Yellowstone Lake losing all their furs and almost their lives while returning to Fort Hall - "left the place heaping curses on the Blackfoot nation"

1840

Russell hunted and trapper around Fort Hall until October 1, 1840

From October 1st, 1840 to April 7th 1841 the story of Russell's travels and historic events are taken in detail from his journal and are found in the following text

On August 23rd 1842 Osborne Russell departed from Fort Hall with a Oregon bound wagon train headed by Elijah White arriving at Willamette Falls, Oregon in September of 1842 - Russell died at Placerville, California, August 26th 1892



HOSTILE CONFRONTATIONS WITH INDIANS



Novr. 5th [1834] Some White hunters arrived at the Fort who had been defeated by the Blackfeet Indians on Ham's Fork of Green River. One of them had his arm broken by a Fusee ball but by the salutary relief which he obtained from the Fort he was soon enabled to return to his avocations.

May 11th [1835] Here we met with Mr. Bridger and his party who informed us that the country around and below was much infested with Blackfeet. they had had several skirmishes with them in which they had lost a number of horses and traps and one young man had been wounded in the shoulder by a ball from a fusee. [1]

May 31st [1835] On arriving at the Fort we learned that Capt. Thing had started in April with 12 men for the purpose of establishing a trading post on a branch of Salmon river: but had been defeated by the Blackfeet with the total loss of his outfit excepting his men and horses.

June 24th [1835] Crossed the mountain 12 mls. East course and descended into the south W. Extremity of a valley called Pierre's hole where we staid the next day. This valley lies North & south in an oblong form abt. 30 mls long and 10 wide surrounded except on the Nth. by wild and rugged Mountains; the East range resembles Mountains piled on Mountains and capped with three spiral peaks which pierce the cloud. These peaks bear the French name of Tetons or Teats - The Snake Indians call them the hoary headed Fathers. This is a beautiful valley consisting of a Smooth plain intersected by small streams and thickly clothed with grass and herbage and abounds with Buffalo Elk Deer Antelope etc 27th We traveled to the north end f the valley and encamped on one of the numerous branches which unite at the Northern extremity and forms a stream called Pierre's fork which discharges its waters into Henry's fork of Snake River. The stream on Which we encamped flows directly from the central Teton and is narrowly skirted with Cottonwood trees closely intermingled with underbrush on both sides. We were encamped on the South side on a place partially clear of brush under the shade of the large Cottonwoods 28th abt 9 oclk AM we were aroused by an alarm of "Indians" we ran to our horses. All was confusion each one trying to catch his horses. We succeeded in driving them into Camp where we caught all but 6 which escaped into the Prarie: in the meantime the Indians appeared before or camp in the number of 60 of which 15 or 20 were mounted on horse back & the remainder on foot - all being entirely naked armed with fusees, bows, arrows etc They immediately caught the horses which had escaped from us and commenced riding to and fro within gunshot of our Camp with all the speed their horses were capable overproducing without shooting a single gun for about 20 minutes brandishing their war weapons and yelling at the top of their voices; Some had Scalps suspended on small poles which they waved in the air. Others had pieces of scarlet cloth with one end fastened round head while the others trailed after them. After Securing my horses I took my gun examined the priming set the breech on the ground and hand on the Muzzle with my arms folded gazing at the novelty of this scene for some minutes

quite unconscious of danger until the whistling of balls about my ears gave me to understand that these were something more than mere picture of imagination and gave me assurance that these living Centaurs were a little more dangerous than those I had been accustomed to see portrayed on canvass

The first gun was fired by on of our party which was taken as a signal for attack On both sides but the well directed fir from our rifles soon compelled them to retire from the front and take to the brush behind us: where they had the advantage until 7 or 8 of our men glided into the brush and concealing themselves until their left wing approached within about 30 ft of them before they shot a gun they then raised and attacked them in the flank the Indians did not stop to return the fire, but retreated thro. the brush as fast as possible dragging their wounded along with them and leaving their dead on the spot. In the meantime myself and the remainder of our party were closely engaged with the center and right. I took the advantage of a large tree which stood near the edge of the brush between the Indians and our horses: They approached until the smoke of our guns met. I kept a large German horse pistol loaded by me in case they should make a charge when my gun was empty. When I first stationed myself at the tree I placed a hat on some twigs which grew at the foot of it and would put it in motion by Kicking the twig with my foot in order that they might shoot at the hat and give me a better chance at their heads but I soon found out this sport was no joke for the poor horses behind me were killed and wounded by the balls intended for me. The Indians stood the fight for about 2 hours then retreated thru the bush with a dismal lamentation. We then began to look about to find what damage they had done us: One of our comrades was found under the side of an old root wounded by balls in 3 places in the right and one in the left leg below the knee no bones having been broken. Another had received a slight would in the groin. We lost 3 horses killed on the spot and several more wounded but not so bad as to be unable to travel.

Towards night some of our men followed down the stream about a mile and found the place where they had stopped and laid their wounded comrades on the ground in a circle the blood was still standing congealed in 9 were they had apparently been dressing the wound. 29th staid at the same place fearing no further attempt by the same party of Indians 30th Travelled up the main branch abt. 10 mls. July 1st Traveled to the SE extremity of the valley and encamped for the night Our wounded comrade suffered very much in riding altho. everything was done which lay in our power to ease his suffering: A pallet was made upon the best gaited horse belonging to the party for him to ride on and one man appointed to lead the animal 2nd Crossed the Teton mountain in an east direction - about 15 mls. The ascent was very steep and rugged covered with tall pines but the descent was somewhat smoother. [2]

Sept^r 9th [1835].....we had been encamped about an hour when fourteen white Trappers came to us in full gallop they were of Mr. Bridger' party who was encamped at Henry's Lake about 20 mls in a direction and expected to arrive at the Madison the next day his partyconsisted of 60 white men and about 20 flathead Indians. The trappers remained with us during the night telling Mountain "Yarns" and the news from the States. Early next morning 8 of them started down the stream to set Traps on the main Fork but returned in about an hour closely pursued by about 80 Blackfeet. We immediately secured

our horses in a yard previously made for the purpose and prepared ourselves for battle. In the meantime the Indians had gained the bluffs and commenced shooting into the camp from both sides. The bluff on the East side was very steep and rock covered with tall pines the foot approaching within 40 yds of us. On the west the bluffs were covered with thick groves of quaking aspens; from these heights they poured fusée balls without mercy or even damage except killing our animals who were exposed to their fire. In the meantime we concealed ourselves in the thicket around the camp to await a nearer approach, but they were too much afraid of our rifles to come near enough for us (to) use Ammunition - We lay almost silently about 3 hours when finding they could not arouse us to action by their long shots they commenced setting fire to the dry grass and rubbish with which we were surrounded: the wind blowing brisk from the South in a few moments the fire was converted into one circle of flame and smoke which united over our heads. This was the most horrid position I was ever placed in death seemed almost inevitable but we did not despair but all hands began immediately to remove the rubbish around the encampment and setting fire to it to act against the flames that were hovering over our heads: this plan proved successful beyond our expectations Scarce half an hour had elapsed when the fire had passed around us and driven our enemies from their position. At length we saw an Indian whom we supposed to be the chief standing on a high point of rock and give the signal for retiring which was done by taking hold of the opposite corners of his robe lifting it up and striking it 3 times on the ground. The cracking of guns then ceased and the party moved off in silence. They had killed two horses and one mule on the spot and five more were badly wounded. It was about 4 o'clock in the afternoon when firing ceased. [3]

Sept 13th [1835] We left the Madison Fork with Mr Bridger's Camp and ascended a small branch in a West direction thro. The mountains about 20 Mls. and encamped on the divide. After we had encamped a Frenchman started down the mountain to set his traps for Beaver contrary to the advice and persuasion of his comrades he had gone but a few miles when he was fired upon by a party of Blackfeet killed and scalped [4]

May 5th [1836].....crossed a low mountain about 8 Mls and fell on to Blackfoot this we ascended two days and hunted until the 5th of May when three of our party were waylaid and fired upon by a party of Blackfeet whilst ascending the stream thro. a Kanyon one of them was slightly wounded in the side by a fusée ball and all escaped to the Camp reported the Indians to be about 25 in number [5]

Sept. 8th [1836] The next day we moved down the stream to its junction with Clarks fork within about 3 Mls of the Yellowstone On the following morning two men went to set traps down on the river and as they were hunting along the brushy banks for places to set a party of sixty Blackfeet surrounded them drove them into the river and shot after them as they were swimming across on their horses One by the name of Howell was shot by two fusée balls thro. the chest the other escaped unhurt. Howell rode within half a mile of camp fell and was brought in on a litter he lived about 20 hours and expired in the greatest agony imaginable - about an hour after he was brought in 20 Whites and Delawares sent to scour the brush along the river and fight the Blackfeet Having found them they drove them on to an Island and fought them till dark. The loss on our side during

the battle was a Nes percey Indian killed and one White slightly wounded in the shoulder. The Blackfeet who were fortified on the Island drew off in the night secreting their dead and carrying off their wounded [6]

Jan'y 29th [1837] We were riding carelessly along with our rifles lying carelessly before us on our saddles When we came to a deep narrow gulch made by the water running from the hills in the Spring Season when behold! The earth seemed teeming with naked Savages A quick volley of fuses a shower of balls and a cloud of smoke clearly bespoke their nation tribe manners and customs and mode of warfare; a ball broke the right arm of one man and he dropped his rifle which a savage immediately caught up and shot after us as we wheeled and scampered away out of their guns. There was about 80 Indians who had secreted themselves until we rode with 15 feet of them They got a rifle clear gain and we had one man wounded and lost a Rifle so they had so much the advantage and we were obliged to go to Camp and study out some plan to get even as buy the two or three last skirmishes we had fell in this rebt. A few days afterwards a party of 20 men immediately mounted and set off and arrived at the place just as they had entered the timber - they ran into some old rotten Indian forts formed of small piles in a conical shape The whites immediately surrounded and opened fire upon them which was kept up until darkness and the severity of the weather compelled them to retire We had one man wounded slightly thro. the hip and one Delaware was shot by a poisoned ball in the leg which lodged under the knee cap he lived four days and expired. On examining the battle ground next day we found that three or four at least had been killed and put under the Ice in the river seven or 8 had been badly wounded which they dragged away on trains to their village. We found that the old forts were not bullet proof in any place our rifle balls had whistled thro. them nearly every shot had blood and brains lay scattered about in side on the shattered fragments of rotten wood. [7]

June 2nd [1838].....We crossed this fork and traveled up on the West side about 15 Mls on a trail made by a village of Blackfeet which had passed up 3 or 4 days previous. They were to all appearances occasionally dying of the small Pox which has made terrible havoc among the Blackfeet during the last winter. To day we passed an Indian lodge standing in the prairie near the river which contained 9 dead bodies 3rd Continued up the stream on their trail until 10 o'clock a.m. when Mr. Bridger having Charge of the Camp tried to avoid them by taking into the mountain but the Majority of the men remonstrated so hard against trying to avoid a village of Blackfeet which did not contain more than 3 times our numbers that he altered his course and turned back towards the Madison and encamped about two Ms from the river on a small spring branch This branch runs thro a ridge in a narrow passage in the rocks a hundred feet perpendicular on both sides about a quarter of a MI. from the Madison The next morning as we were passing over the ridge around this place we discovered the village about 3 Mls above use on the river We immediately drove into this Canyon with the Camp and prepared for battle our leader was no military commander therefore no orders were given after the company property was secured about 15 men mounted horses and started for the Village in order to commence a skirmish. The village was situated on the West bank of the river about 30 rods behind it arouse a bench of land 100 ft high running parallel with the river and gradually

ascending to the westward until it terminated in a high range of mountains about 2 Mls distant. While our men were approaching the village I took a telescope and ascended the highest point of rock which over hung the camp to view the manoeuvre. They rode within a short distance of the edge of the bench, then dismounted and crept to the edge and opened a fire on the village which was the first the Indians knew of our being in the country. They fired 3 or 4 round each before the Indians had time to mount their horses and ascent the bluff one hundred and fifty yards above them. The whites then mounted their horses and retreated towards the Camp before about 5 times their numbers a running fire was kept up on both sides untill our men reached the Camp when the Indians took possession of an elevated point formed of broken rocks about 300 paces distant on the south side of the Camp from which they kept shooting at intervals for about 2 hours without doing any damage when one of them called out in the flathead tongue and Said that we were not men but women and had better dress ourselves as such for we had bantered them to fight and then crept into the rocks like women. An Old Iroquois trapper who had been an experienced warrior trained on the shores of Lake Superior understanding this harangue turned to the Whites about him and made a speech in imperfect English nearly as follows "My friends you see dat Ingun talk? He not talk good he talk berry bad He say you me all same like squaw, dat no good, spose you go wid me I make him no talk dat way" On saying this he stripped himself entirely naked throwing his powder horn and bullet pouch over his right shoulder and taking his rifle in his hand began to dance and utter the shrill war cry of his Nation. 20 of us who stood around and near him cheered the sound which had been the death warrant of so many whites during the Old French war He started and we followed amid a shower of balls: the distance as I said before was about 300 yards up a smooth and gradual ascent to the rocks where the Blackfeet had secreted themselves to the number of 150. The object of our leader was to make an open charge and drive them from their position which we effected without loss under an incessant storm of fusee balls. When we reached the rocks we stopped to breath about half a minute not having yet discharged a single gun. We then mounted over the piles of granite and attacked them muzzle to muzzle Altho 7 or 8 times our number they retreated from rock to rock like hunted rats among the ruins of an old building whilst we followed close as their heels loading and shooting until we drove them entirely in the plains where their horses were tied. They carried off their dead with the exception of two and threw them into the river They then placed their wounded on horses and started slowly towards their village with a mournful cry We then packed our animals and followed them with the Camp within a quarter of a Mile of their village where we stopped for the night. During the night they moved the Village up about 3 Mls further. Next morning we ascended the bench intending to pass with the camp by the village we soon found however that they had formed a line of mounted warriors from the river to the thick pines which grew on the mountain about 30 of us concluded to try the bravery of those cavaliers on the field leaving the remainder of the camp to bring up the rear we rode into a thicket under cover of the Camp out of their sight and turned into a deep ravine we approached nearly to the top of the bank where we conduced to rest our horses a moment and then Charge their line in front near the left wing we were close enough to hear them talking as they pranced back and forward on the bench above us after tightening our girths and examining our arms we put each of us 4 or 5 bullets in our mouths and mounted

without noise - Our leader (the same old Iroquois) Sallied forth with a horrid yell and we followed the Indians were so much surprised with such a sudden attack that they made no resistance whatever but wheeled and took toward the village as fast as their horses could carry them whilst we pursued close at their heels until within about 300 yards of there lodges where we made a halt and stopped untill the Camp had passed then rode quietly away to our own party. [8]

June 7th [1838] The next day(June 6th) we left the Madison and traveled in a South direction over an undulating plain about 15 Mls and encamped at Henrys Lake. This lake is about 30 Mls in circumference surrounded by forests of pine except on the SE side where there is a small prairie about one Mile wide and two long terminating almost to a point to the two extremities. Here we discovered another village of Blackfeet of about 15 lodges who were encamped on our route at the SE side of the Lake. The next morning we concluded to move camp to the village and smite it without leaving one to tell their fate - but when within about 2 miles of the village we met six of them coming to us unarmed who invited us in the most humble and submissive manner to their village to smoke and trade. This proceeding conquered the braves in our camp. For we were ashamed to think of fighting a few poor Indians nearly swindled to skeletons by the small pox and approaching us without arms. We stopped however and traded with them for sometime and then started on our journey encamping at night in the edge of the pine woods [9]

June 26th [1839].....made up a party of 4 for the purpose of trapping in the Yellowstone and Wind river mountains

Aug 28th [1839] We were about a half a mile from the Lake on a stream running in to it in a SW direction thro. A prairie bottom about a quarter of a mile wide.....After eating a few minutes I arose and kindled a fire filled my tobacco pipe and sat down to smoke My comrade whose name was White was still sleeping. Presently I cast my eyes towards the horses which were feeding in the Valley and discovered the heads of some Indians who were gliding around under the bench within 30 steps of me I jumped to my rifle aroused White and looking towards my powder horn and bullet pouch it was already in the hands of an Indian and we were completely surrounded We cocked our rifles and started thro. Their ranks into the woods which seemed to be completely filled with Blackfeet who rent the air with their horrid yells. On presenting our rifles they opened a space about 20 ft wide thro. Which we plunged about the fourth jump and arrow struck White on the right hip joint I hastily told him to pull it out and (as) I spoke another arrow struck me in the same place about but they did not retard our progress At length another arrow striking thro. My right leg above the knee benumbed the flesh so that I fell with my breast across a log. The Indian who shot me was within 8 ft and made a Spring towards me with his uplifted battle axe: I made a leap and avoided the blow and kept hopping from log to log thro. A shower of arrows which flew around us like hail, lodging in the pines and logs. After we had passed them about 10 paces we wheeled about and took (aim) at them They then began to dodge behind the trees and shoot their guns we then ran and hopped about 50 yards further in the logs and bushes and made a stand - I was very faint from the loss of blood and we set down among the logs determined to kill the two foremost when they

came up and then die like men we rested our rifles across a log White aiming at the foremost and Myself at the second I whispered to him that when they turned their eyes towards us to pull (the) trigger. About 20 of them passed by us within 15 feet without casting a glance towards us another file came around on the opposite side within 20 or 30 paces closing with the first few rods beyond us and all turning to the right and next minute were out of our sight among the bushes they were all well armed with fuses, bows & battle axes We sat still until the rustling among the bushes had died away then arose and after looking carefully around us White asked in a whisper how far it was to the lake I replied pointing to the SE about a quarter of a mile I was nearly fainting from the loss of blood and the want of water We hobbled along 40 or 50 rods and I was obliged to sit down a few minutes then go a little further and rest again. We managed in this way until we reached the bank of the lake Our next object was to obtain some of the water as the bank was very steep and high. White had been perfectly calm and deliberate until now his conversation became wild hurried and despairing he "I cannot go down to that water for I am wounded all over I shall die" I told him to sit down while I crawled down and brought some in my hat This I effected with a great deal of difficulty. We then hobbled along the border of the Lake for a mile and a half when it grew dark and we stopped. We could still hear the shouting of the Savages over their booty. We stopped under a large pine near the lake and I told White I could go no further. "Oh said he let us go up into the pines and find a spring" I replied there was no spring within a Mile of us which I knew to be a fact. Well said he "if you stop here I shall make a fire" Make as much as you please I replied angrily This is a poor time now to undertake to frighten me into measures. I then started to the water crawling on my hands and one knee and returned in about an hour with some in my hat. While I was at this he had kindled a small fire and taking a draught of water from the hat he exclaimed "Oh dear we shall die here, we shall never get out of these mountains" Well said I if you persist in thing so you will die but I can crawl from this place upon my hands and one knee and kill 2 or 3 Elk and make a shelter of he Skins dry the meat until we get able to travel. In this manner I persuaded him that we were not in half so bad a situation as I expected for on examining I found only a slight wound from an arrow on his hip bone but he was not so much to blame as he was young man who had been brot up in Missouri the pet of the family and had never done or learned much of anything but horseracing and gambling whilst under the care of his parents (if care it can be called). I Pulled off an old piece of a coat made of Blanket as he was entirely without clothing except his hat and shirt. Set myself in a leaning position against a tree ever and anon gathering such leaves and rubbish as I could reach without altering the position of My body to keep up a little fire in this manner miserably spent the night. The next morning Aug 29th I could not arise without assistance When White procure me a couple of sticks for crutches by the help of which I hobbled to a small grove of pines about 60 yds distant. We had scarcely entered the grove when we heard a dog barking and Indians singing and talking. The sound seemed to be approaching us. They at length came near to where we were to the number of 60 then commenced shooting at a large band of elk that was swimming in the lake killed 4 of them dragged them to shore and butchered them which occupied about 3 hours. They then packed the meat in small bundles on their backs and traveled up along the rocky shore about a mile and encamped. We then left our hiding place crept into the thick pines about

50 yds distant and started in the direction of our encampment in the hope of finding our comrades My leg was very much swelled and painful but I managed to get along slowly on my crutches by Whites carrying my rifle when we were within about 60 rods of he encampment we discovered the Canadian hunting round among the trees as thou he was looking for a trail we approached him within 30 ft before he saw us and he was so much agitated by fear that he knew not whether to run or stand still. On being asked where Elbridge was he said they came to there Camp the night before at sunset the Indians pursued them into the wood where they separated and he saw him no more. At the encampment I found a sac of salt - everything else the Indians had carried away or cut to pieces They had built 7 large Conical forts near the spot from which we supposed their number to have been 70 or 80 part of whom had returned to their village with the horses and plunder.....We then had the Teton mountain to cross which look like a laborious undertaking as it was steep and the top covered with snow. We arrived at the summit however with a great deal of difficulty before sunset and after resting a few moments traveled down about a mile on the other side and stopped for the night.....It was now 90 Mls to Fort Hall and we expected to see little or no game on the route but we determined to travel it in 3 days we lay down and shivered with the cold till daylight then arose and again pursed our journey towards the fork of Snake river where we arrived sun about an hour high forded the river which was nearly swimming and encamped.....we discovered a half bred encamped in the valley who furnished us with horses and went with us to the fort where we arrived about sun an hour high being naked hungry wounded sleepy and fatigued. Here again I entered a trading post after being defeted by the Indians but the treatment was quite different from that which I had received at Laramays fork in 1837 when I had been defeated by the Crows. [10]





HOSTILE CONFRONTATIONS WITH INDIANS

1834 - 1839

November 5th 1834 - Ham's Fork

May 11th 1835 - Gardner's Fork [1]

May 31st 1835 - Salmon River

June 24th 1835 - Pierre's Fork [2]

September 9th 1835 - Madison River [3]

September 13th 1835 - Stinking River [4]

May 5th 1836 - Blackfoot River [5]

September 8th 1836 - Junction of Clark's Fork and Yellowstone River [6]

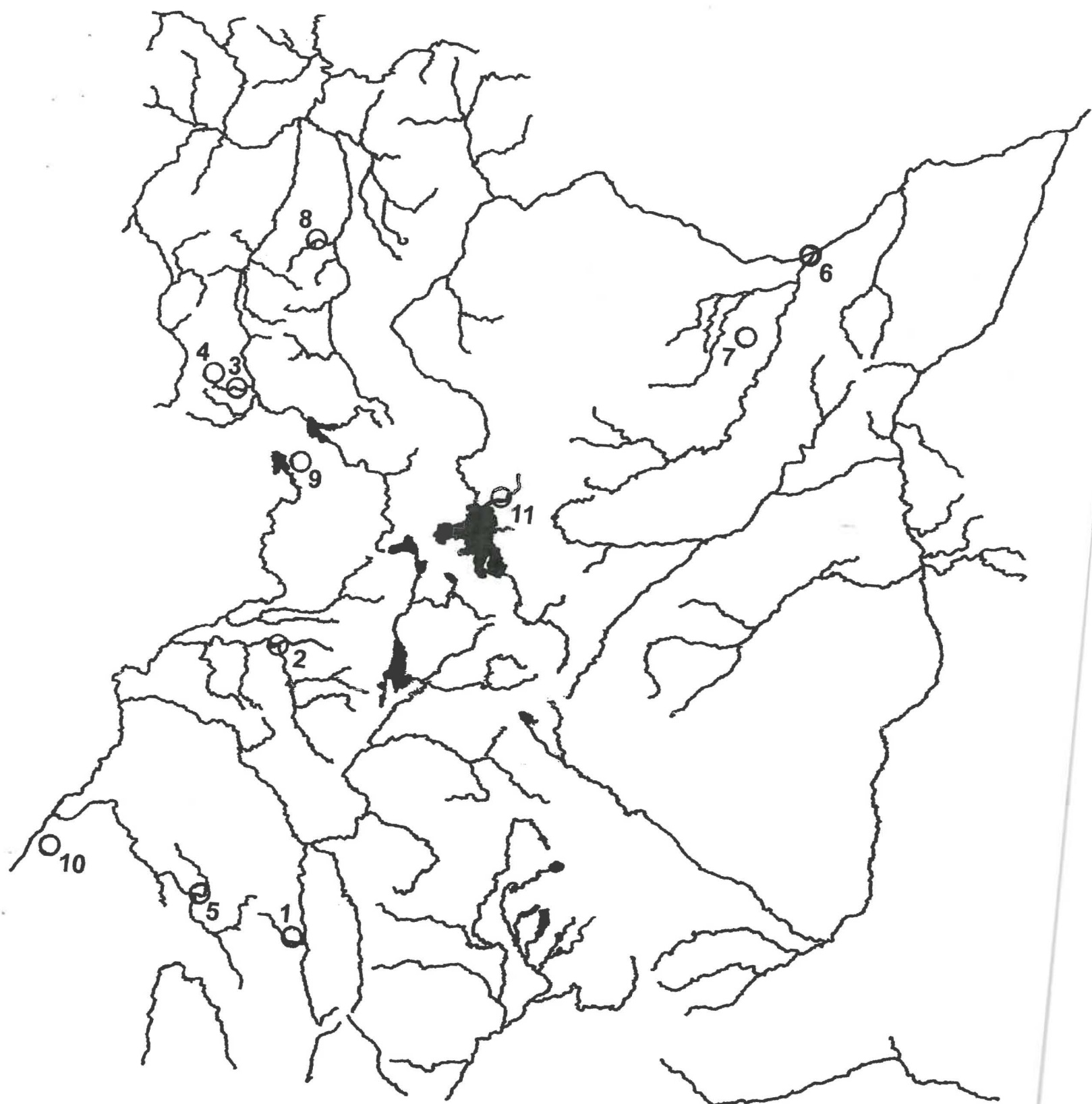
January 29th - 1837 - Between Rocky Fork and Clark's Fork [7]

June 1st - 5th 1838 - Madison River [8]

June 7th 1838 - Henry's Lake [9]

June 26th 1839 - Fort Hall [10]

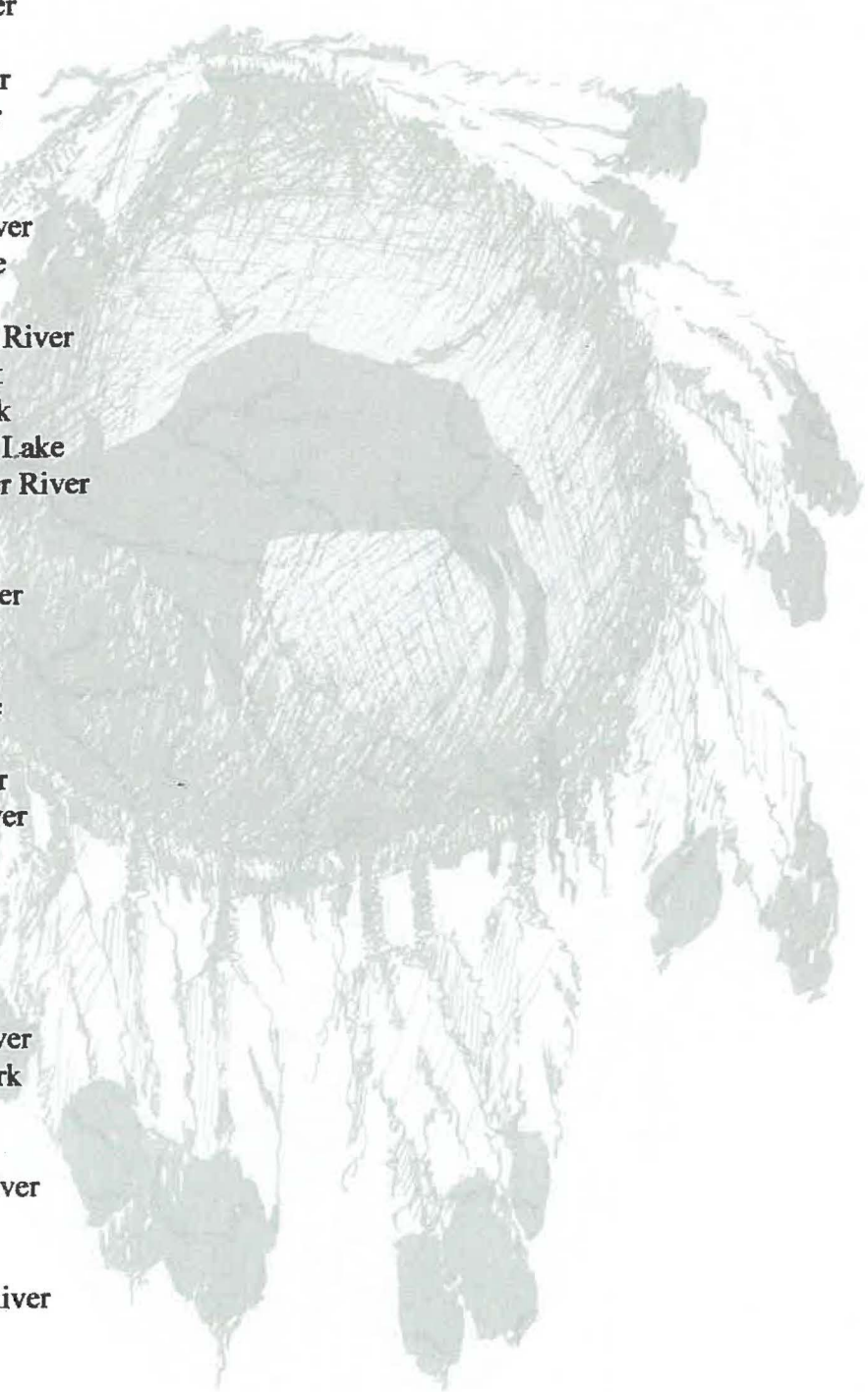
August 27th 1839 - Pelican Creek [11]

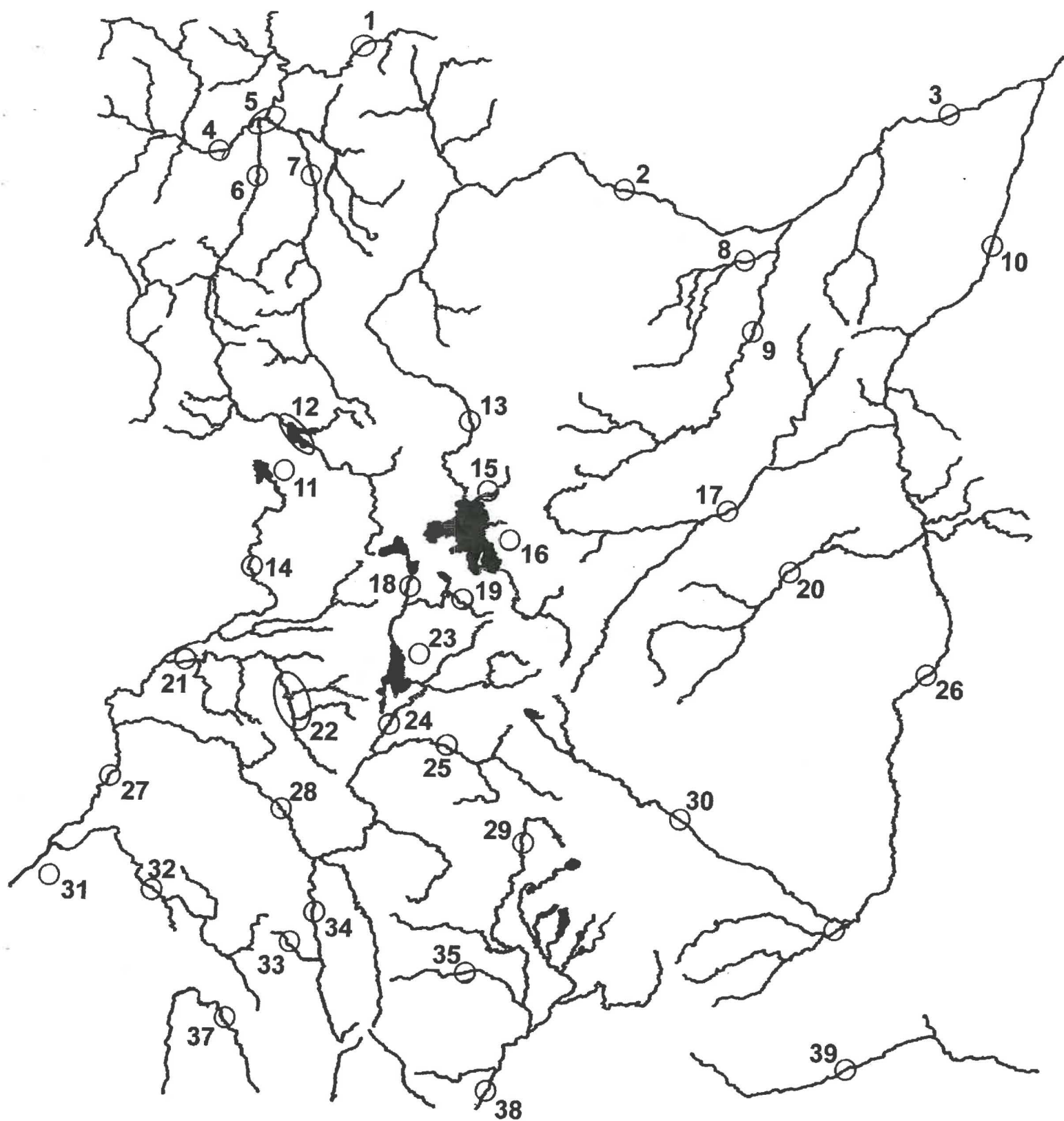


HOSTILE CONFRONTATIONS WITH INDIANS

1834 - 1839

1. Missouri River
2. Yellowstone River
3. Yellowstone River
4. Jefferson River
5. Three Forks
6. Madison River
7. Gallatin River
8. Rocky Fork
9. Clark's Fork
10. Big Horn River
11. Henry's Lake
12. Burnt Hole
13. Yellowstone River
14. Henry's Fork
15. Pelican Creek
16. Yellowstone Lake
17. Stinkingwater River
18. Lewis River
19. Snake River
20. Greybull River
21. Teton River
22. Pierre's Hole
23. Jackson Lake
24. Snake River
25. Hoback River
26. Big Horn River
27. Snake River
28. Snake River
29. Green River
30. Wind River
31. Fort Hall
32. Blackfoot River
33. Gardner's Fork
34. Salt River
35. Horse Creek
36. Popo Agie River
37. Bear River
38. Green River
39. Sweetwater River





JOURNAL OF A TRAPPER

OCTOBER 1, 1840 - APRIL 7, 1841



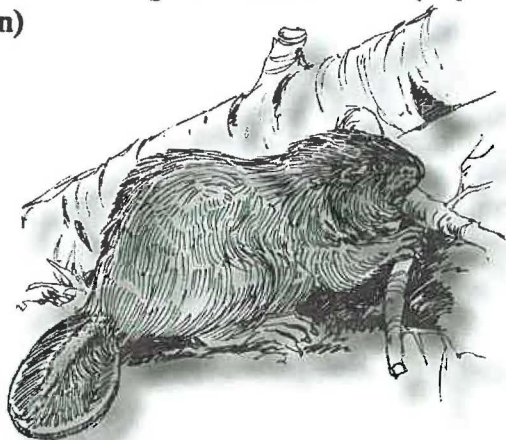
On the first of Octr. I again left the Fort with a Frenchman who had an Indian wife and two children and was going on the Green river to pass the winter there. We traveled up Portneuf about 15 miles where we stopped the next day and hunted antelope and the day following we traveled up the stream about 20 Mls when after staying 10 days we went to the Soda Springs on Bear river here we concluded to spend a month on Bar river traveling slowly hunting Beaver and Antelope as the latter is the only game in this part of the country. Beaver also were getting very scarce. On the 15th of Novr. the snow began to fall and my comrade started with his family across the mountain to Green river and I returned towards the fort....I followed Bear River down to Cache Valley where I found 20 lodges of Snake Indians and staid with them several days. They had a considerable number of Beaver Skins but I had nothing to trade for them. They told me if I would go to the Fort and get some goods return and spend the winter with them they would trade their Furs with me....I arrived at the Fort on the 23rd of Novr....I returned to Cache Valley accompanied by a half breed On arriving at the Village I found several Frenchmen and half breed trappers encamped with the Snakes. One Frenchman having an Indian wife [Flathead] and child invited me to pass the winter in his lodge and as he had a small family and large lodge I accepted the invitation.... We staid in this valley until the 15th of Decr. when it was unanimously agreed on to go to the Salt Lake and there spend the remainder of the winter. The next day we traveled across the Valley in a SW direction. Then took into a narrow defile which led us thro. the mountain in to the valley on the East borders of the lake. The day following we moved along the valley in a South Direction and encamped on a small branch close by the foot of the mountain.....18th I arose about an hour before daylight took my rifle and ascended the Mountain on foot to hunt sheep.....After climbing about half a mile I sat down on a rock to wait for daylight and when it came I discovered a band of about 100 rams within about 80 yds of me I shot and killed one the others ran about 50 yds further and stopped.....20th Decr. we moved along the borders of the Lake about 10 Mls. and encamped on a considerable stream running into it called "Weaver's river" At this place the Valley is about 10 Mls wide intersected with numerous Springs of salt and fresh hot and cold water which rise at the foot of the Mountain and run thro. the Valley into the river and Lake.....On the 3rd [January, 1841] we moved Camp up the stream to the foot of the mountain where the stream forks The right is called Weavers fork and the left Ogden's both coming thro. the mountain in a deep narrow cut.....On the 10th [January] I started to hunt Elk by myself intending to stop out 2 or 3 nights I traveled up Weavers fork in a SE direction thro the mountains The route was very difficult and in many places difficult traveling over high points of rocks and around huge precipices on a trail just wide enough for a single horse to walk in, in about 10 Mls I came into a smooth plain 5 or 6 Mls in circumference just as the Sun was setting here....I saddled my horse [January 11th] and started in a North direction over high rolling hills covered with Scrubby oaks quaking asp and maples for about 10 Mls where I came into a smooth valley about 20 Mls in circumference called "Ogden hole" with the fork of the same name running thro it. Here the snow was about 15 inches deep

on a level.....Towards night the weather cleared up and I discovered a band of about 100 Elk on the hill among the Shrubbery. I approached and killed a very fat old doe which I butchered and packed the meat and skin on my horse to an open spring about a quarter of a mile distant where I found plenty of dry wood and stopped for the night.....I awoke it was still snowing and after eating breakfast I packed the Meat on my horse and started on foot leading him by the bridle Knowing it was impossible to follow down this Stream with a horse to the plains I kept along the foot of the Mountain in a Nth. direction for about 2 Mls. then turning to the left into a steep ravine began to ascend..... I reached the Summit in about 3 hours.....We staid at this place during the remainder of January..... The 3d day of Feby. I took a trip up the mountain to hunt Sheep I ascended a spur with my horse sometimes riding and then walking until near the top where I found a level bench where the wind had blown the snow off. I fastened my horse with a long cord and took along the side of the mountain among the broken crags to see what the chance was for supper just as the sun was sinking below the dark green water of the Salt Lake.....I was upwards of 6,000 ft above the level of the lake, below me was a dark abyss silent as the night of Death I set and smoked my pipe for about an hour and then laid down and slept until near daylight-My Chief object in Sleeping at this place was to take a view of the lake when the Sun arose in the Morning. This range of mountains lies nearly Nth & South and approached the Lake irregularly within from 3 to 10 Mls. About 8 Mls from the SE shore stands an Island about 25 Mls long and six wide having the appearance of a low Mountain extending Nth & South and rising 3 or 400 ft Above the water To the Nth [W] of this about 8 Mls. rises another Island apparently half the size of the first. Nth of these about six Mls. and about half way between rises another about 6 Mls. in circumference which appears to be a mass of basaltic rock with a few scrubby Cedars Standing about in the Cliffs the other appear to be clothed with grass and wild Sage but no wood except a few bushed near to the western horizon arose a small white peak just appearing above the water. Which I supposed to be the mountain near the west Shore. On the Nth. Side a high Promontory about Six Mls wide and 10 long projects into the lake covered with grass and scattering Cedars On the South Shore rises a vast pile of huge rough mountains; which I could faintly discern thro, the dense blue atmosphere.....Feby 24th I left the Camp with a determination to go to the Eutaw village at the SE extremity of the Lake to trade furs I traveled along the foot of the Mountain about 10 Mls when I stopped and deposited in the ground such articles as I did not wish to take with me The next day [February, 25th] I traveled along the foot of the Mountain South about 30 Mls and encamped on a small spring branch which runs in a distance of 4 Mls from the mountain to the lake. This is a beautiful and fertile Valley intersected by large numbers of fine springs which flow from the mountain to the Lake and could with little labour and expense [be] made to irrigate the whole Valley. The following day [February, 26th] I traveled about 15 Mls along the lake when a valley opened to my view stretching to the SE about 40 Mls and upwards of 15 Mls wide At the farther extremity of this valley lies Trimpannah or Eutaw lake composed of fresh water about 60 Mls in circumference The outlet of it is a stream about 30 Yds wide which after cutting this valley thro the middle empties into the Salt Lake. I left the Lake and traveled up this Valley over smooth ground which the snow had long since deserted and the green grass and herbage were fast supplying its place After crossing several small streams which intersected this vale I

arrived at the Village rode up to a lodge and asked of a young Indian who met me where Want a Sheep's lodge was but before he could reply a tall Indian very dark complected with a thin visage and a keen piercing eye having his Buffaloe robe thrown carelessly over his left shoulder gathered in folds around his waist and loosely held by his left hand stepped forth and answered in the Snake tongue "I am Want a Sheep", follow me' at the same time turning round and directing his course to a large white lodge. I rode to the door dismounted and followed him in he immediately ordered my horses to be unsaddled and turned loose to feed whilst their loads were carefully arranged in the lodge.....I was asked the news, where travelling for what whom and how I replied to these several inquires in the Snake tongue which was understood by all in the lodge. He then gave me an extract of all he had seen heard and done for 10 years past.....I passed the time as pleasantly at this place as ever I did among Indians in the daytime I rode about the Valley hunting water fowl who rend the air at this season of the year with their cries and at night the Old Chief would amuse me with traditionary tales mixed with the grossest superstition some of which were not unlike the manners of Ancient Israelites. There seems to be a happiness in ignorance which knowledge and Science destroys here is a nation of people contented and happy they have fine horses and lodges and are very partial to the rifles of the white man If a Eutaw has 8 or 10 good horses a rifle and ammunition he is contented if he fetches a deer at night from the hunt joy beams in the faces of his wife and children and if he returns empty a frown is not seen in the countenances of his companions. The Buffalo have long since left the shores of these Lakes and the hostile blackfeet have not left a footprint here for many years.....The Old Chief told me he could recollect the time when the Buffaloe passed from the main land to the island without swimming and that the depth of the waters was yearly increasing. After obtaining all the furs I could from the Eutaws I started towards Fort Hall on the 27th of March and traveled along the borders of the Lake about 25 Mls.....The shores of the Lake was swarming with waterfowls of every species that inhabits inland lakes. The next day I went on to Weavers river April 1st I left Wavers river and traveled along the [shore] to the NE extremity of the lake about 25 Mls. The next day I went on to Bear river and struck it about 15 Mls below Cache Valley and twelve Mls from the mouth There I found my winter Comrades and staid one night and then pursued my journey towards Fort Hall where I arrived on the 7th of April.....

L. A. York editor. The 1914 and 1921 editions appeared under the title of *Journal of a Trapper, or Nine years in the Rocky Mountains: 1834-1843*

Osborne Russell's Journal of a Trapper. (ed. Aubrey L. Haines) Oregon Historical Society, 1955 (Published for the Oregon Historical Society by the Champoege Press: Reed College, Portland, Oregon)



OSBORNE RUSSELL'S NARRATIVE OF HIS TRIP TO THE EUTAW VILLAGE SOUTH OF SALT LAKE



(dates-mileage-rivers-camps locations-modern day names-geography)

Fort Hall - Leaves October 1st 1840

October 1st - 15 miles - camped

October 2nd - Hunted

October 3rd - 20 miles - camped

October 4th-13th - Hunted

October 14th - [? miles] [date of arrival ?]- traveled to Soda Springs - [decided to hunt Bear River slowly for one month -[distance traveled on Bear River ?]

November 15th - starts return to Fort Hall - Travels down the Bear River to Cache

Valley - [location ?][probably Cub River] - discovers Snake Indian encampment

Leaves Snake Indian camp to return to Fort Hall]- arrives at Fort Hall on November 23rd - [date of return and arrival to Snake Indian camp ?]

December 15th - decide to leave for Salt Lake to spend winter

December 16th - leave [Cub Creek] for Salt Lake - travels SW through a narrow defile to the east borders of Salt Lake and camped [camp location ?]

December 17th - moved south [? Miles] camped on small branch close to the foot of the mountains [Willard, Utah]

December 18th - Hunted sheep

December 20th - moved along the borders of the Lake about 10 miles - camped on Weaver River - valley 10 miles wide

December 25th - Christmas dinner

January 1st 1841 - weather cold - streams frozen

January 3rd - moved camp to the Fork of Ogden and Weaver Rivers

January 10th - left the camp at the Fork of the Ogden and Weaver Rivers and headed up the Weaver River in a SE direction for about 10 miles and arrived in a Smooth plain an camped [Mountain Green, Utah]

January 11th - headed north and in abut 10 miles arrived in a Smooth Valley called "Ogden's Hole" where the Ogden River forked - camped

January 12th - because of the depth of the snow he could not take his horse down the canyon to the camp so he continued northward for about 2 miles and turned left into a steep ravine - it took 3 hours to reach the summit - reached the valley camp about dark

January 12th - February 3rd - spent time reading and hunting elk in the valley timber

February 3rd - went to the mountains to hunt sheep

February 4th - Reason for remaining in the mountains was to view the lake as the sun rose in the morning - described the Lake and Islands - hunted sheep

February 5th - "the Wolverine"

February 15th - weather moderates

February 23rd - ground bare about the mountains

February 24th - decided to go and trade furs at the Eutaw Village at the SE extremity of the Lake - traveled about 10 miles along the foot of the mountain

February 25th - traveled about 30 miles along the foot of the mountains - camped on a small stream which runs 4 miles from the mountain to the Lake - several streams - irrigation

February 26th - traveled about 15 miles when a valley opened to the SE 40 miles long and upwards of 15 miles wide - at the farther extremity of this lies Trimpannah or Eutaw Lake - 60 miles in circumference - left the Lake traveling up the Valley crossing several small streams and arriving at the Eutaw Village - [area of Draper, Utah] - "Want a Sheep"

February 26th - March 27th - camped with Eutaw Indians

March 27th - started for Fort Hall - traveled along the border of the Lake about 25 miles

March 28th - went to Weaver River

April 1st - left Weaver River and traveled along the Lake to the NE extremity about 25 miles

April 2nd - traveled to a point 12 miles above the mouth of Bear River and 15 miles below Cache Valley - met winters comrades and camped with them

April 3rd - left for Fort Hall

April 7th - arrived at Fort Hall



Miles - Dates - Geographic Locations - Camp locations
Recorded by Osborne Russell
October 1, 1840 - April 7, 1841
See maps for locations

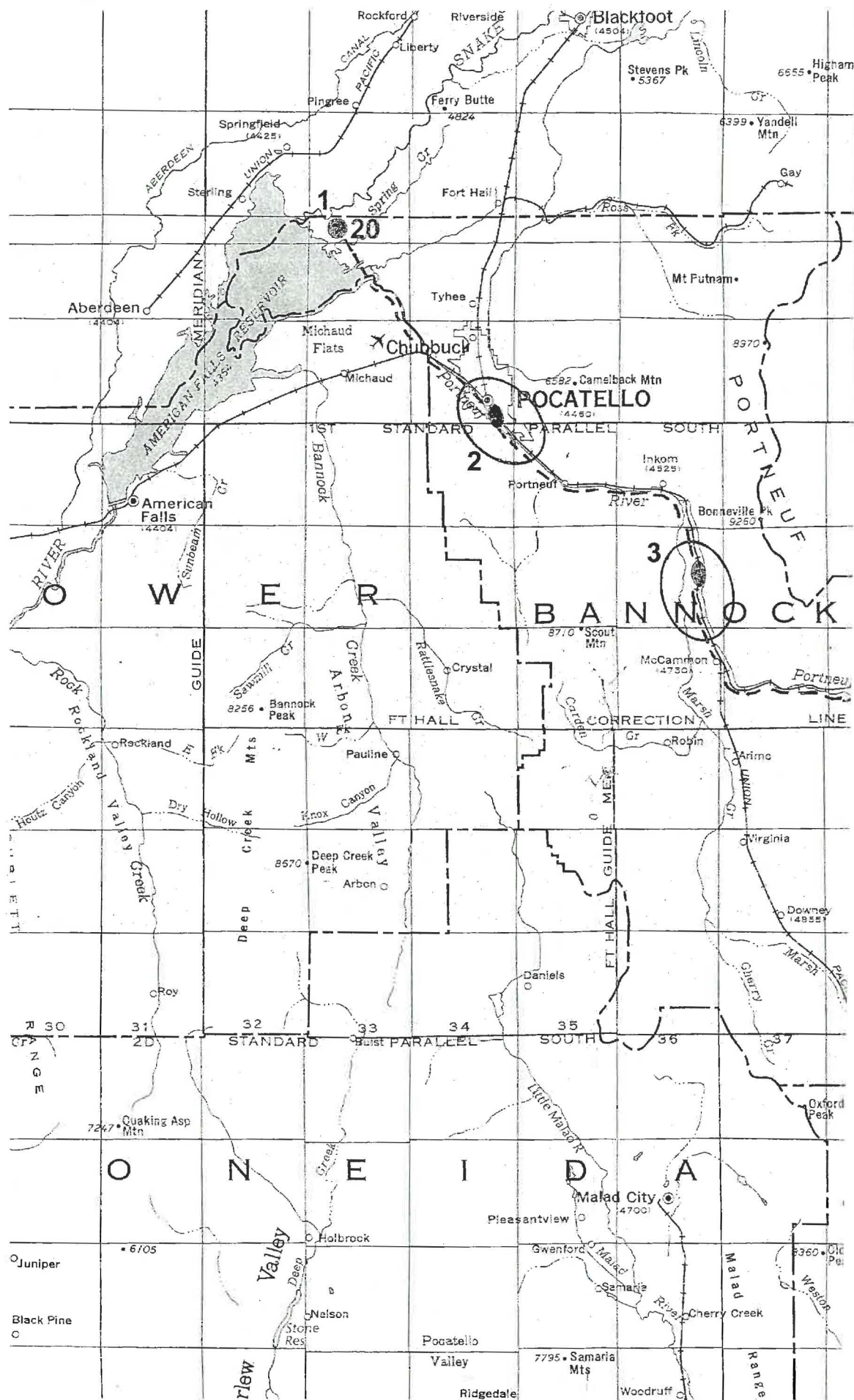


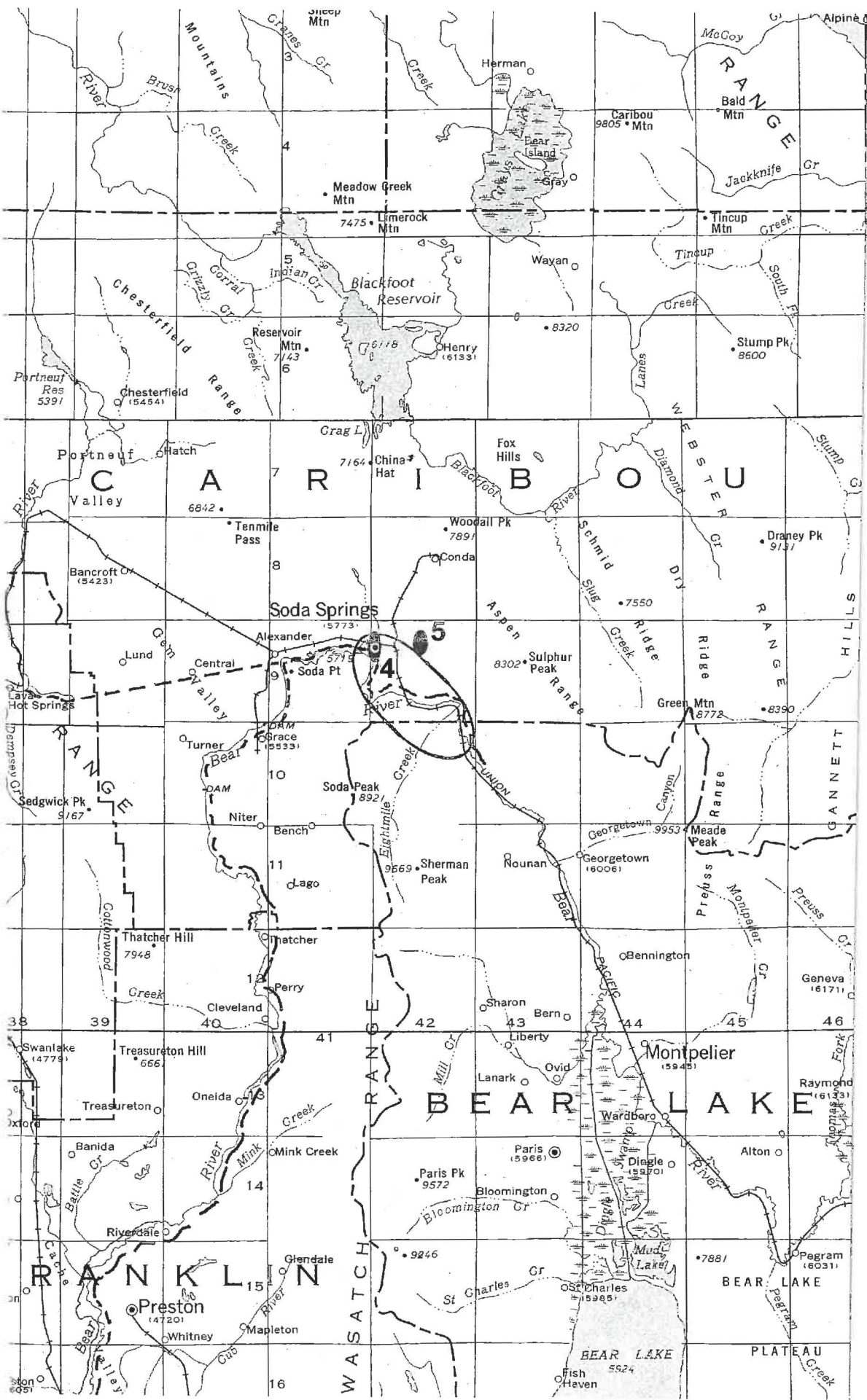
1. Fort Hall
2. October 1, 1840 - About 15 miles - Camped
2. October 2, 1840 - Hunted
3. October 3, 1840 - About 20 miles (Stayed 10 days)
4. October 14, 1840 - Left for Soda Springs - Hunted - (Spends one month)
5. November 15, 1840 - Went to Cache Valley
5. December 15, 1840 - Decided to move to Salt Lake - Camped
6. December 16, 1840 - Left for Salt Lake - Camped on east border of Salt Lake
7. December 17, 1840 - Traveled near the base of the mountain -Camped
[Today's Willard, Utah]
7. December 18, 1840 - Hunted Sheep
8. December 20, 1840 - About 10 miles - Camped on Weaver River
[Today's Weber River]
8. December 25, 1840 - Christmas dinner on Weaver River
8. January 1, 1841 - Cold - Streams frozen
9. January 3, 1841 - Moved camp to the Fork of Weaver and Ogden Rivers
- Hunted
10. January 10, 1841 - About 10 miles -Traveled up Weaver River to a
smooth plain [Today's Mountain Green] - Camped
11. January 11, 1841 - About 10 miles - Ogden Hole - Camped
12. January 12, 1841 - About 2 miles - Ascended the mountain -
Took 3 hours to climb to the summit - Returned to camp [Forks]
9. January 12 to 30, 1841 - Stay at the camp at the Forks
9. February 3, 1841 - Hunted Sheep - Camped on the mountain
9. February 4, 1841 - Viewed the Lake and Islands as the sun was raising -
Hunted Ewes - Camped
9. February 5, 1841 - "Wolverine" - returned to camp
9. February 15, 1841 - Weather moderate - Rain - Camped
9. February 23, 1841 - Ground bare around mountain - Camped
13. February 24, 1841 - About 10 miles, Left camp to trade with Eutaw
Indians at the SE extremity of the Lake - Camped
14. February 25, 1841 - About 30 miles - Traveled south along the foot of
the mountain and camped on a small spring branch which runs 4

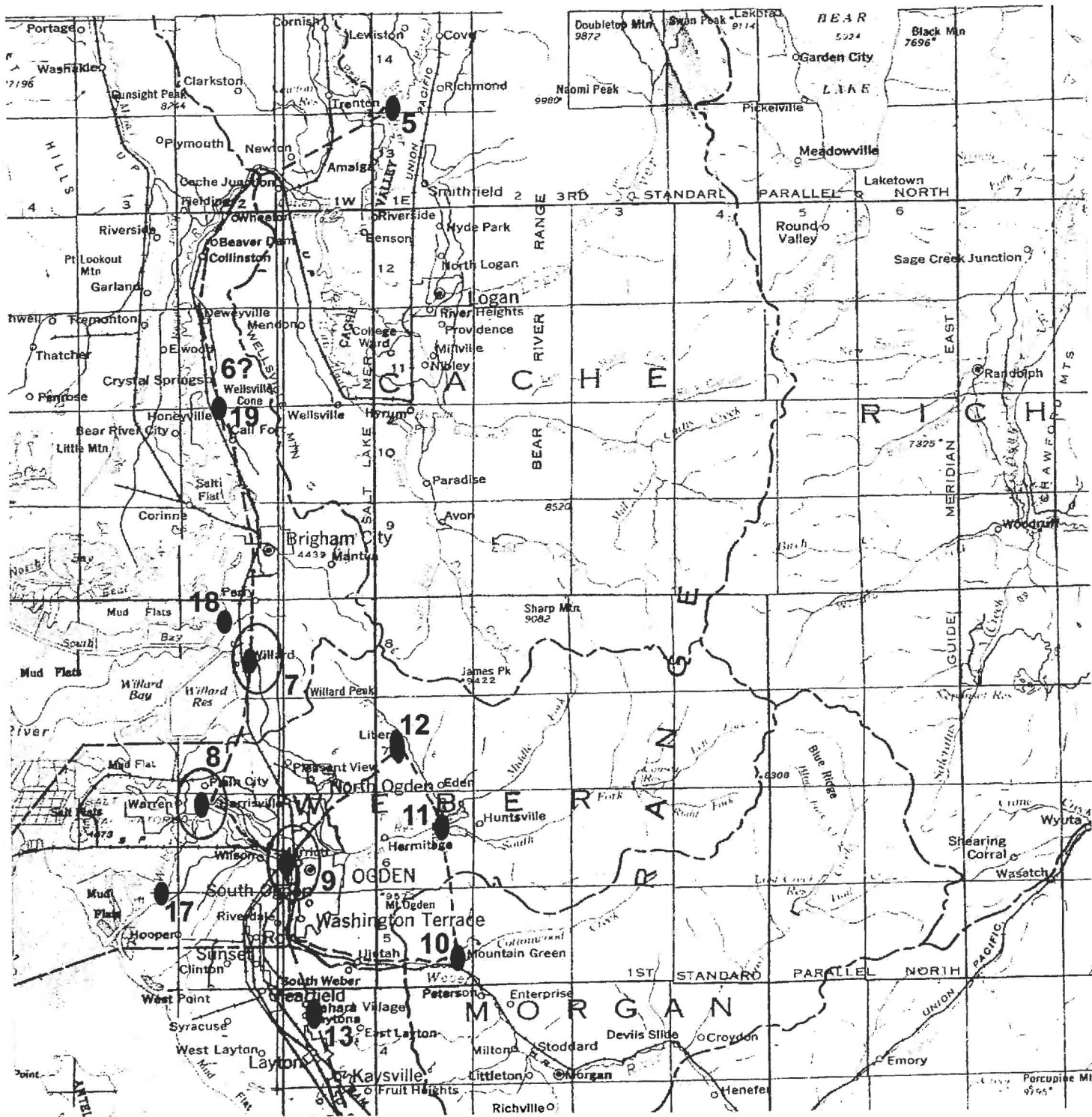
miles from the mountains to the Lake [Russell records that the land would be excellent for growing crops because of the large amount of fine springs which flow from the mountains to the Lake

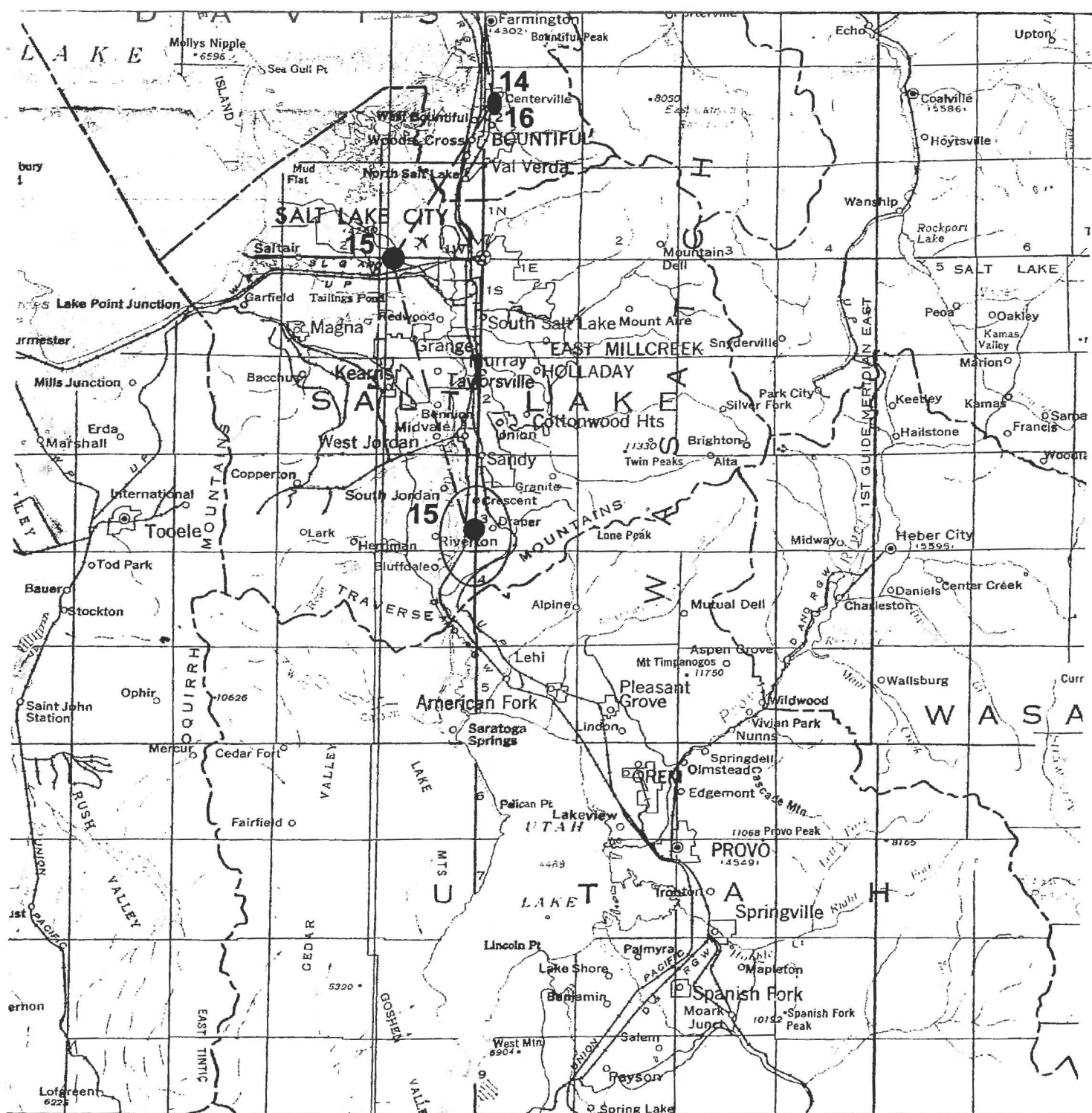
15. February 26, 1841 - About 15 miles - Traveled along the Lake and viewed a valley 40 miles running to the SE and 15 miles wide - Left the Lake and crossed several small streams and arrived at the Village
15. Eutaw Village
16. March 27, 1841 - About 25 miles - Left village for Fort Hall - Camped
17. March 28, 1814 - Traveled to Weaver River - Camped
18. April 1, 1841 - About 25 miles - Left the Weaver River - Went to the NE extremity of the Lake - Camped
19. April 2, 1841 - Went to Bear River - Found my winter companions and camped
20. April 3, 1841 - Left for Fort Hall arriving on April 7, 1841











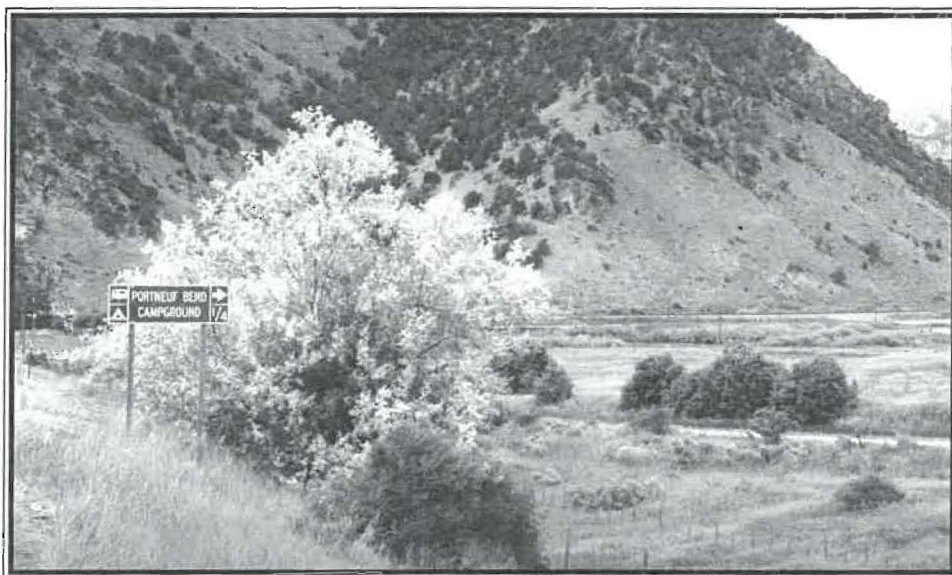
HISTORICAL SITES ALONG THE TRAIL

October 1, 1840 - April 7, 1841

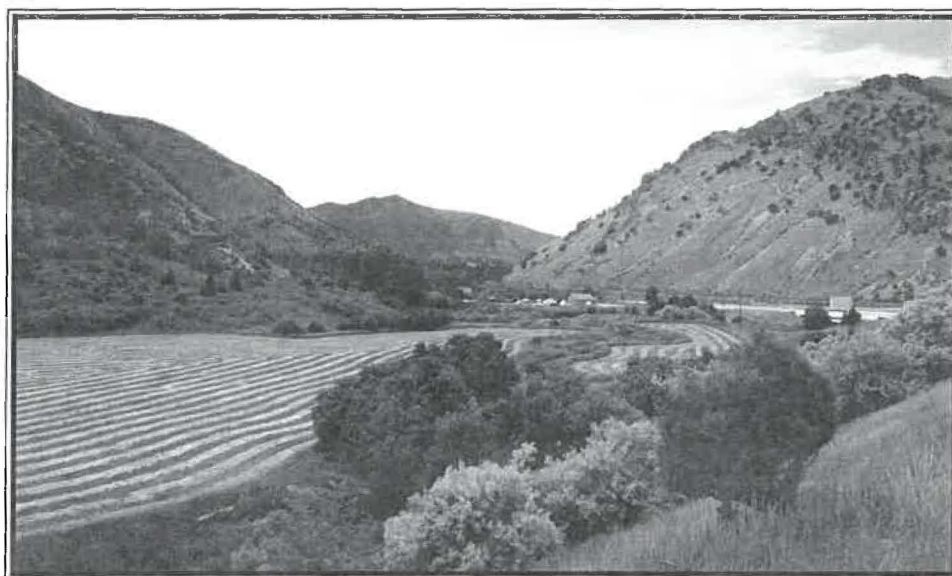
1. Fort Hall [*Looking North West*]
2. Portneuf River Bend [Lava Hot Springs] [*Looking West*]
3. Mountains East of Lava Hot Springs and Portneuf River Bend [*Looking West*]
4. Mountains East of Lava Hot Springs and Portneuf River Bend [*Looking West*]
5. Mountains East Of Lava Hot Springs and Portneuf River Bend [*Looking West*]
6. Summit Of Mountains East of Lava Hot Springs and Portneuf River Bend Looking Towards Sheep Rock [*Soda Point Mountain*] and Soda Springs [*Looking East*]
7. One of the Many Springs Still Visible At Today Soda Springs [*Looking North West*]
8. [*Looking West*] At Sheep Rock and the Alexander Reservoir Covering the Bear River
9. The Bear River Flowing To the [*North West*] Just Before It Turns to the [*South*] Passing Sheep Rock
10. The Bear River Flowing Around Sheep Rock and Turning to the South [*Looking South West*]
11. Looking [*East*] At Sheep Rock and the Bear River As It Flows to the South [*Looking East*]
12. The Site Of Osborne Russell's Encampment With the Snake Indians On Cub Creek [*Looking East*]
13. The Wasatch Range East of Willard, Utah and Site Of One Of Russell's Many Hunting Trips [*Looking East*]



1.

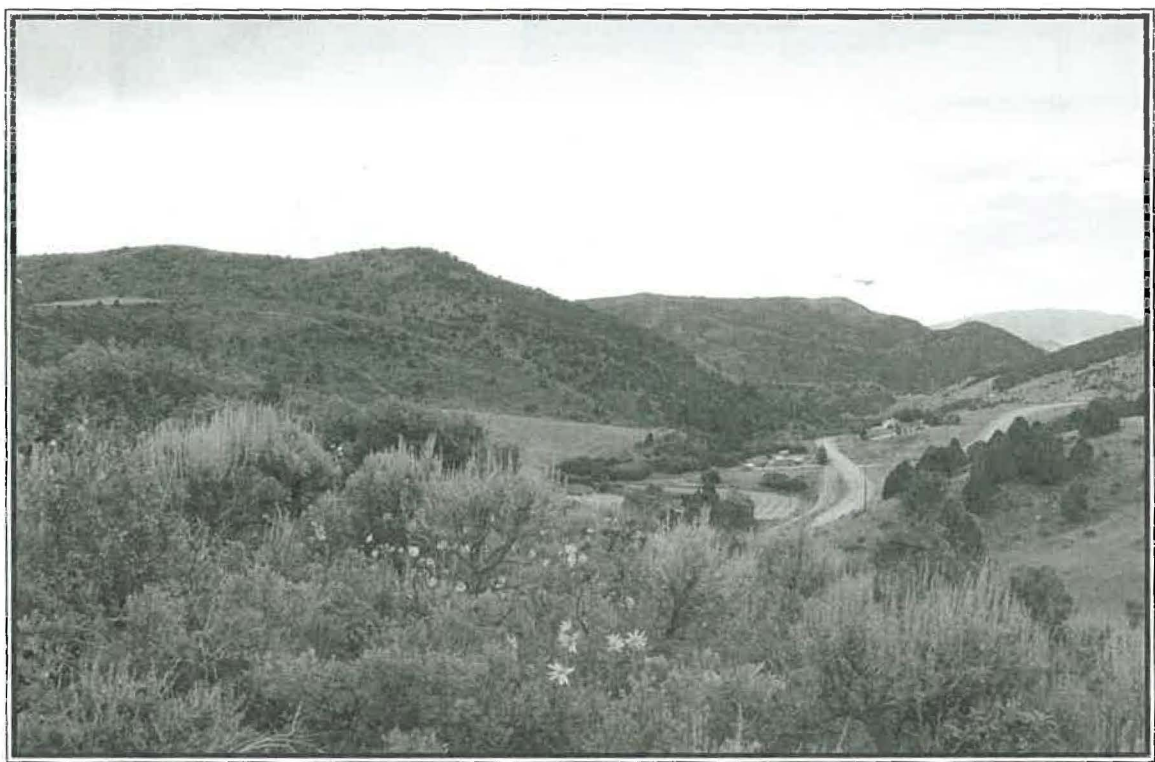


2.

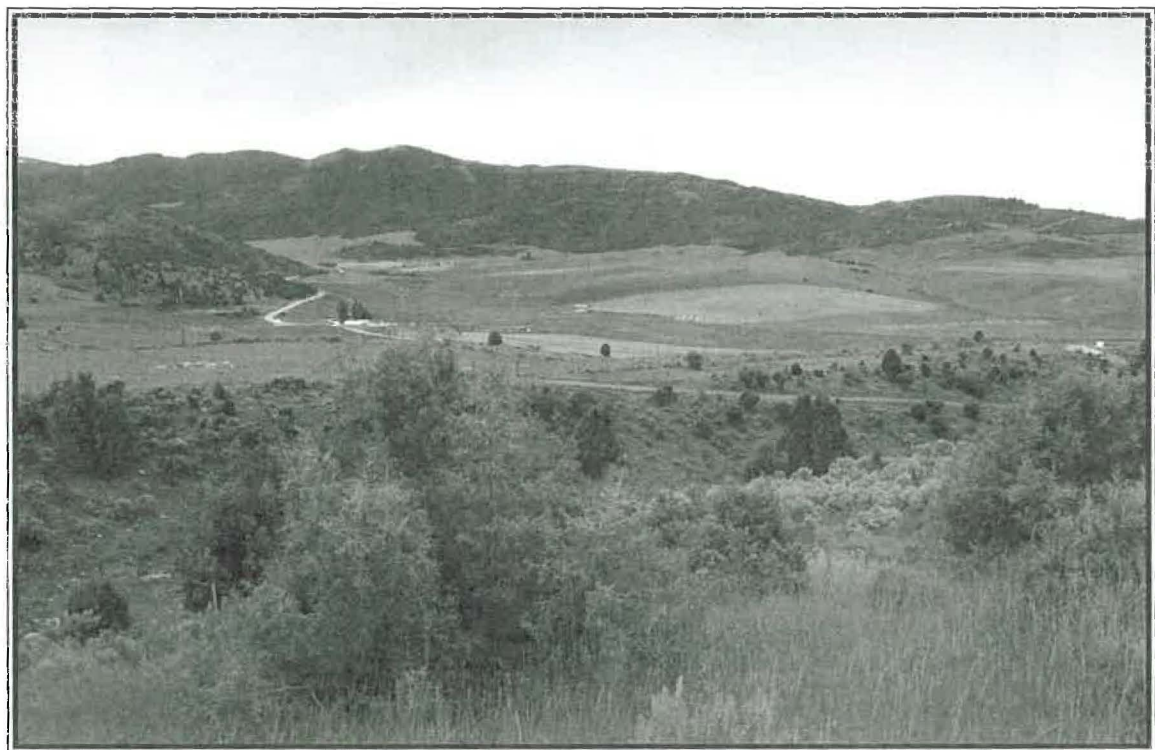


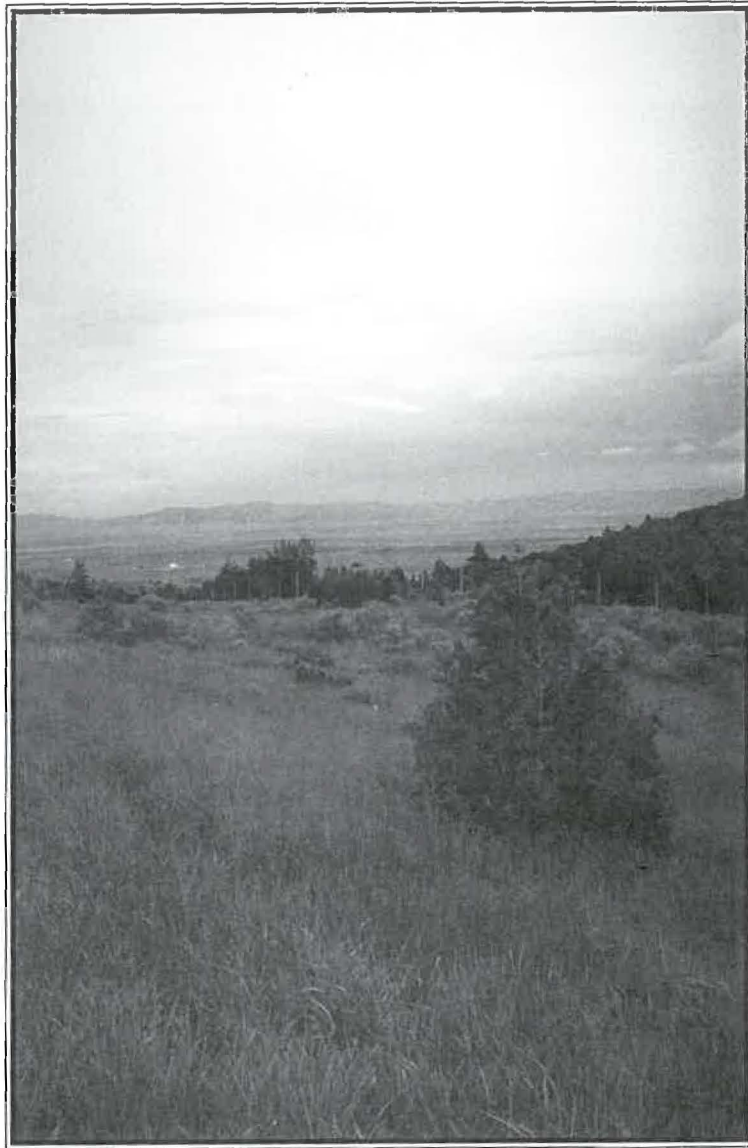
3.

4.

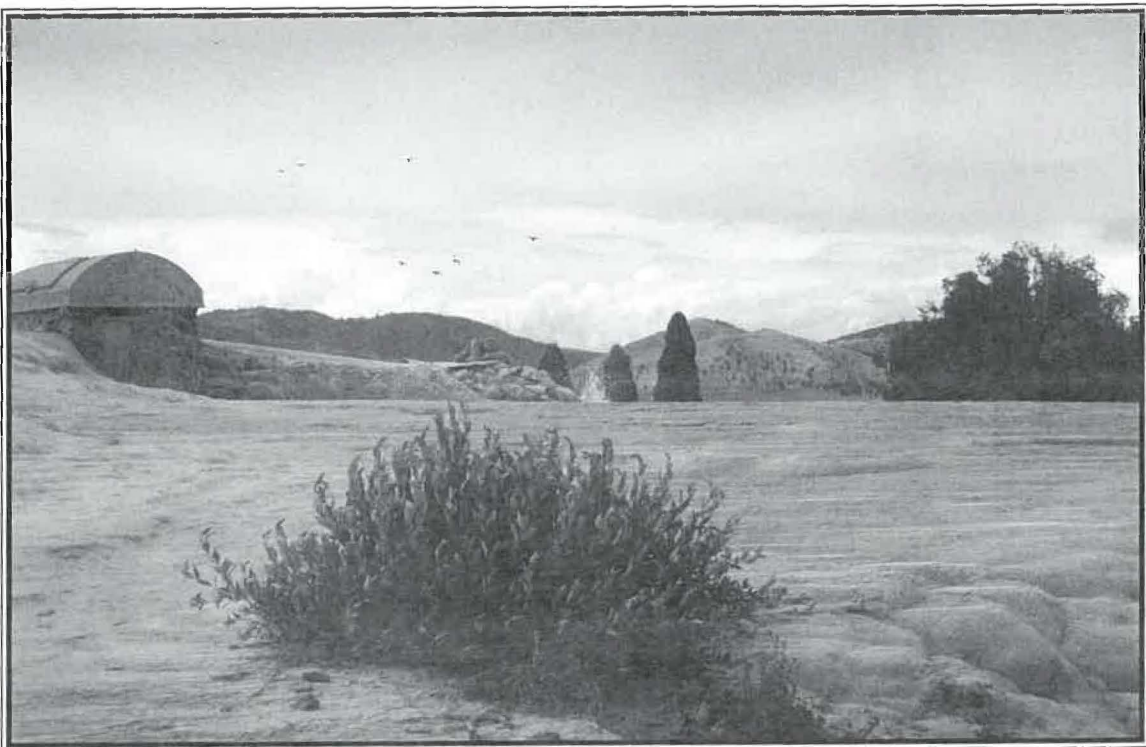


5.





6.



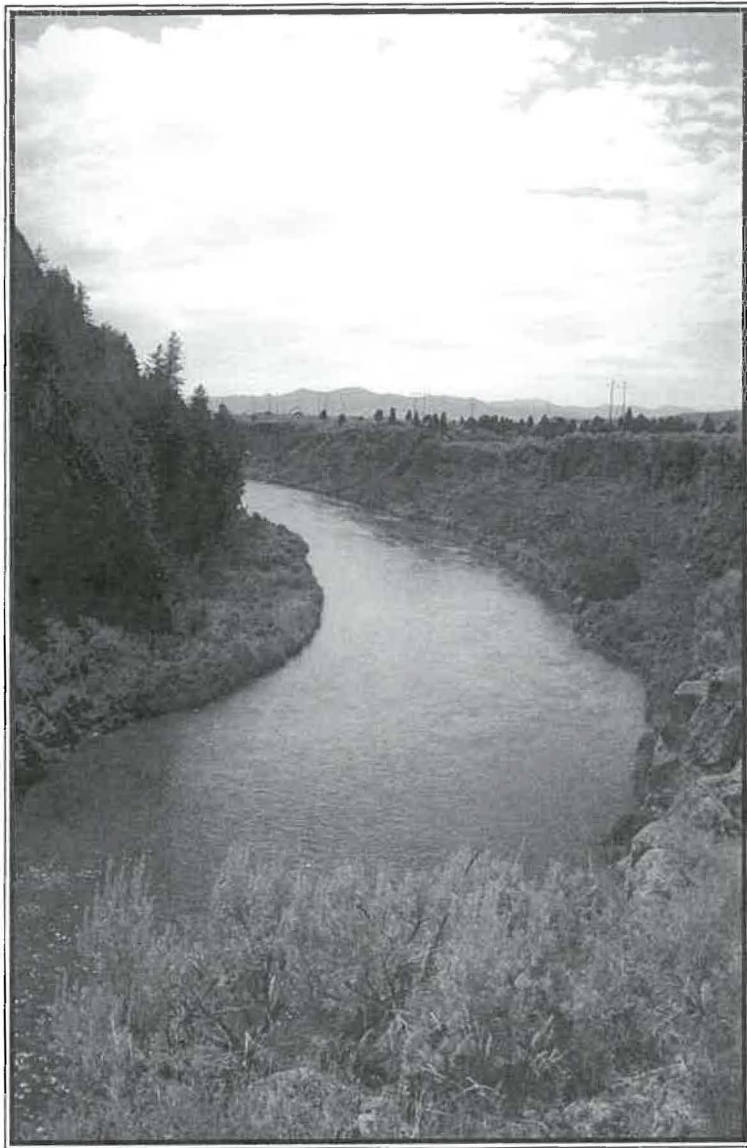
7.

8.

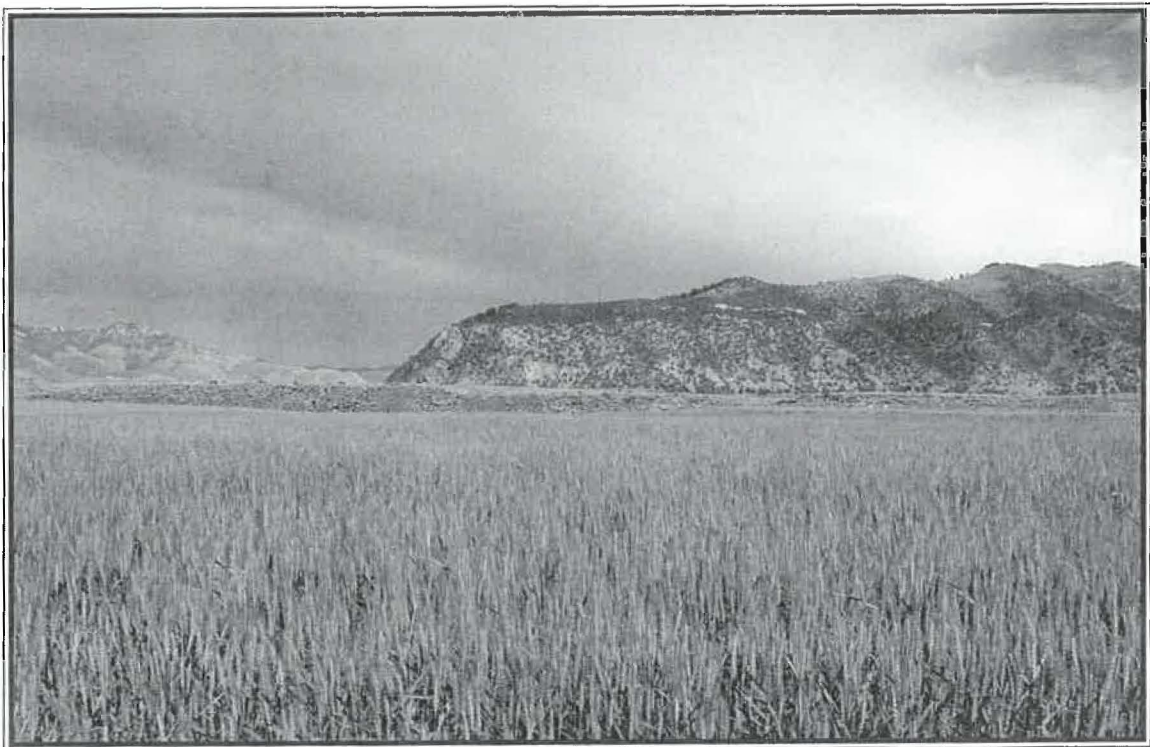


9.





10.

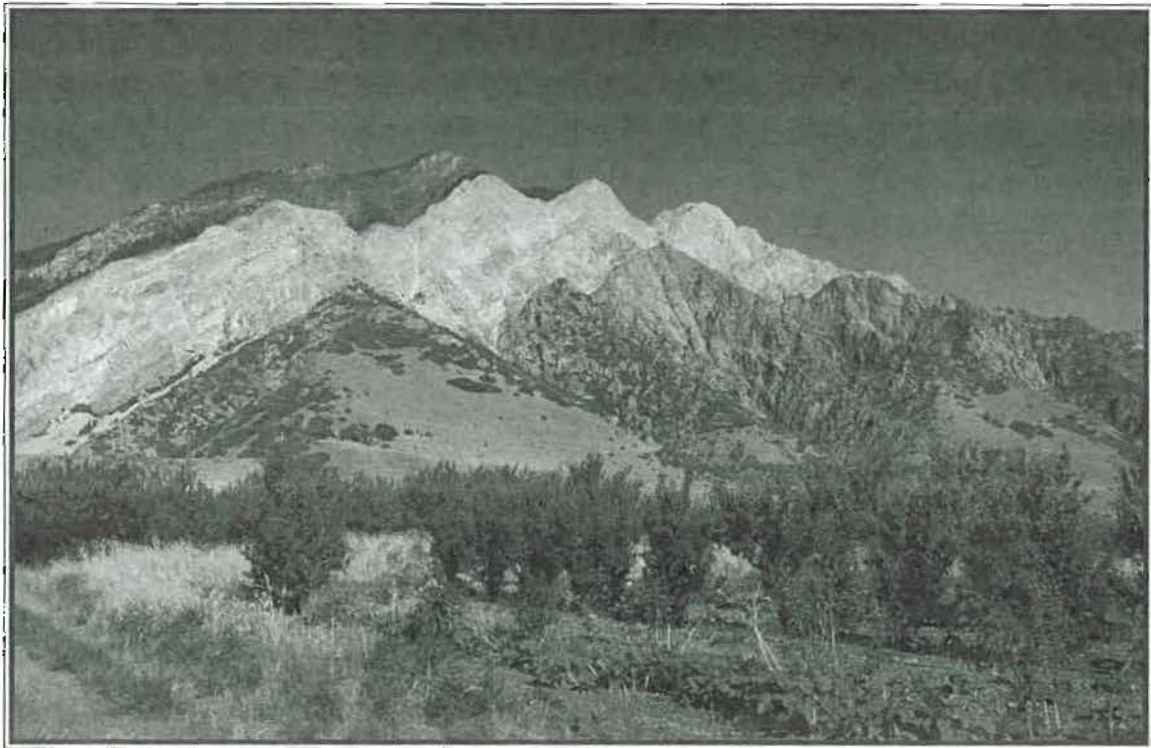


11.

12.



13.

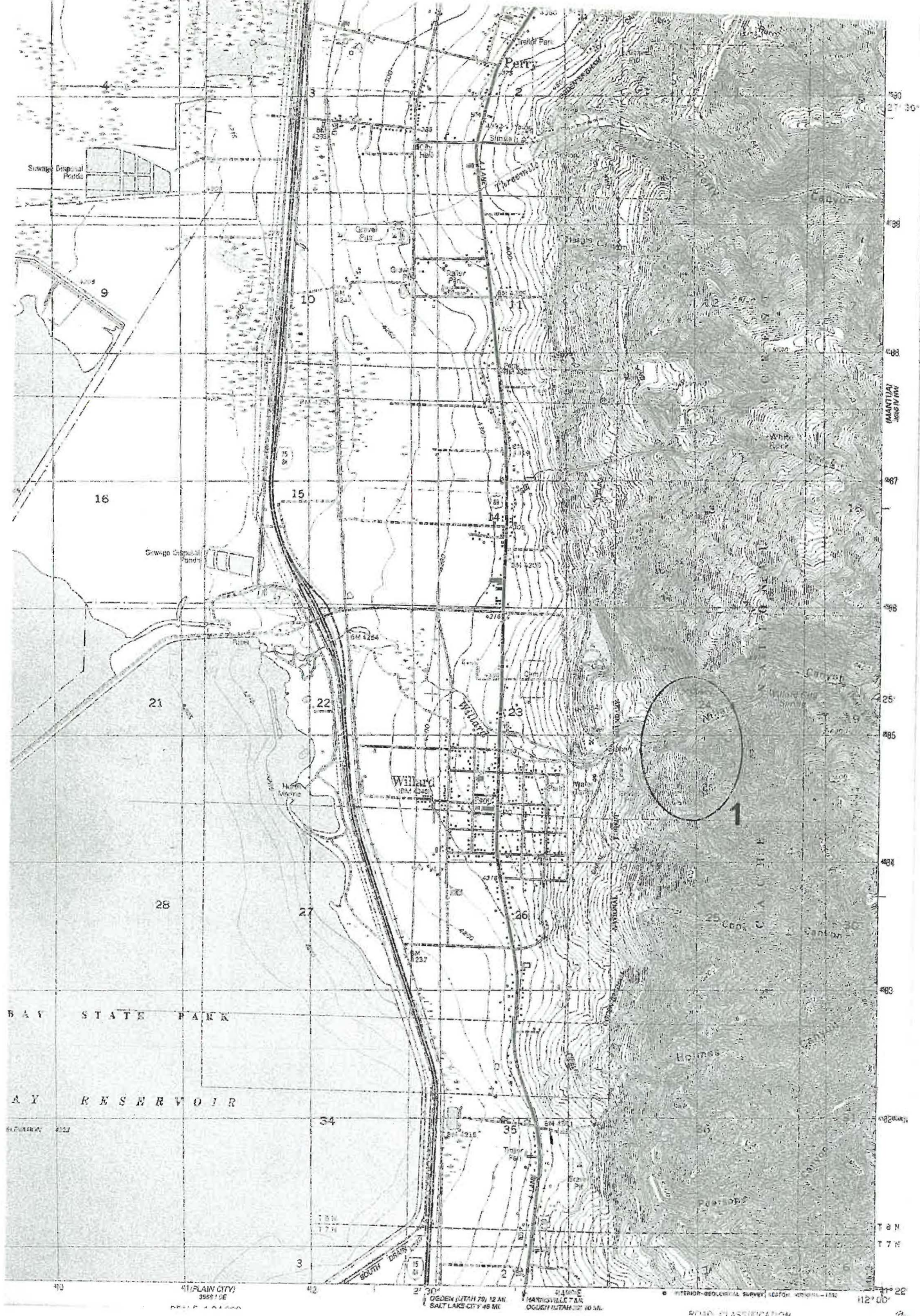


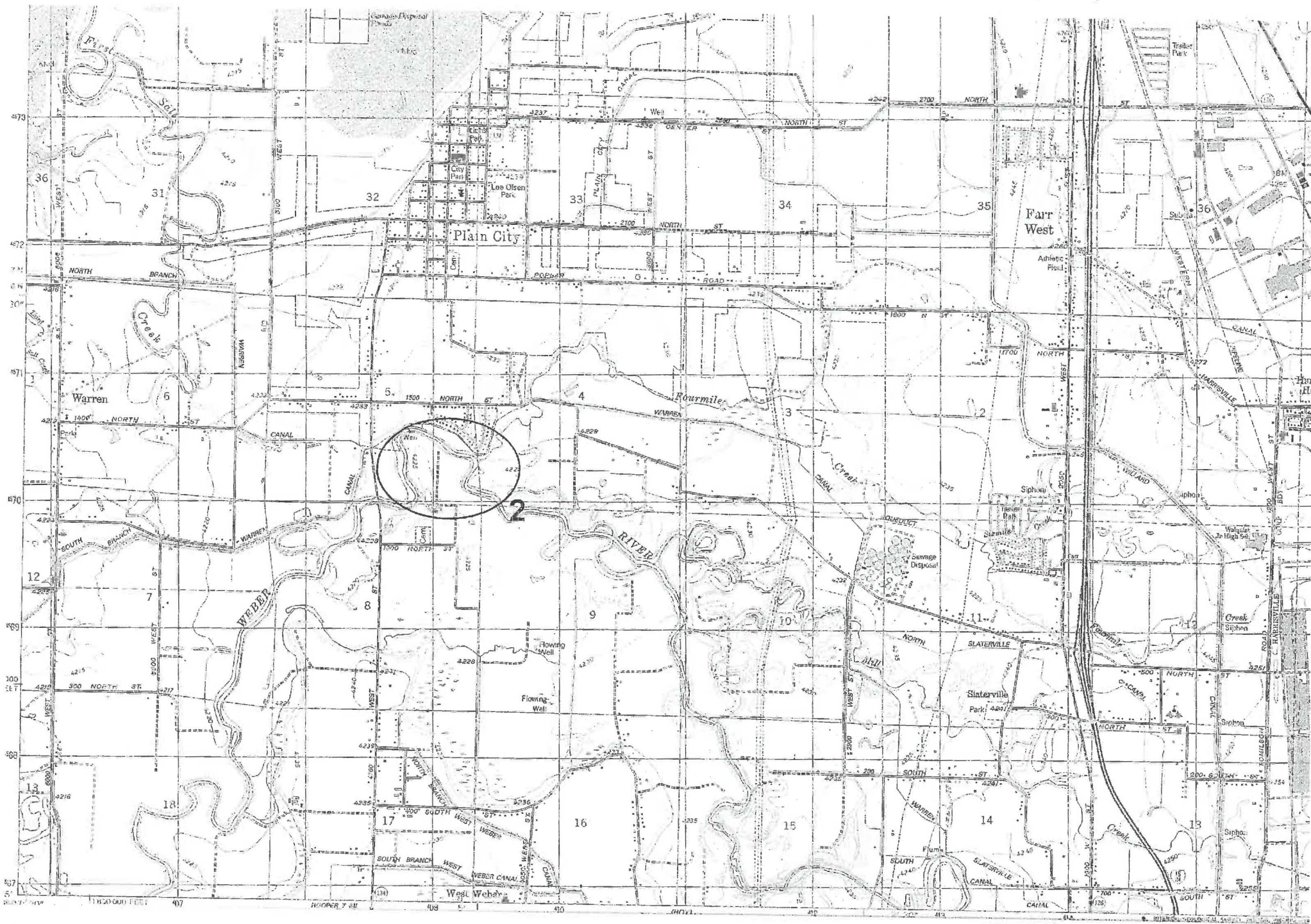
MAP LOCATIONS - DATES OF CAMPS

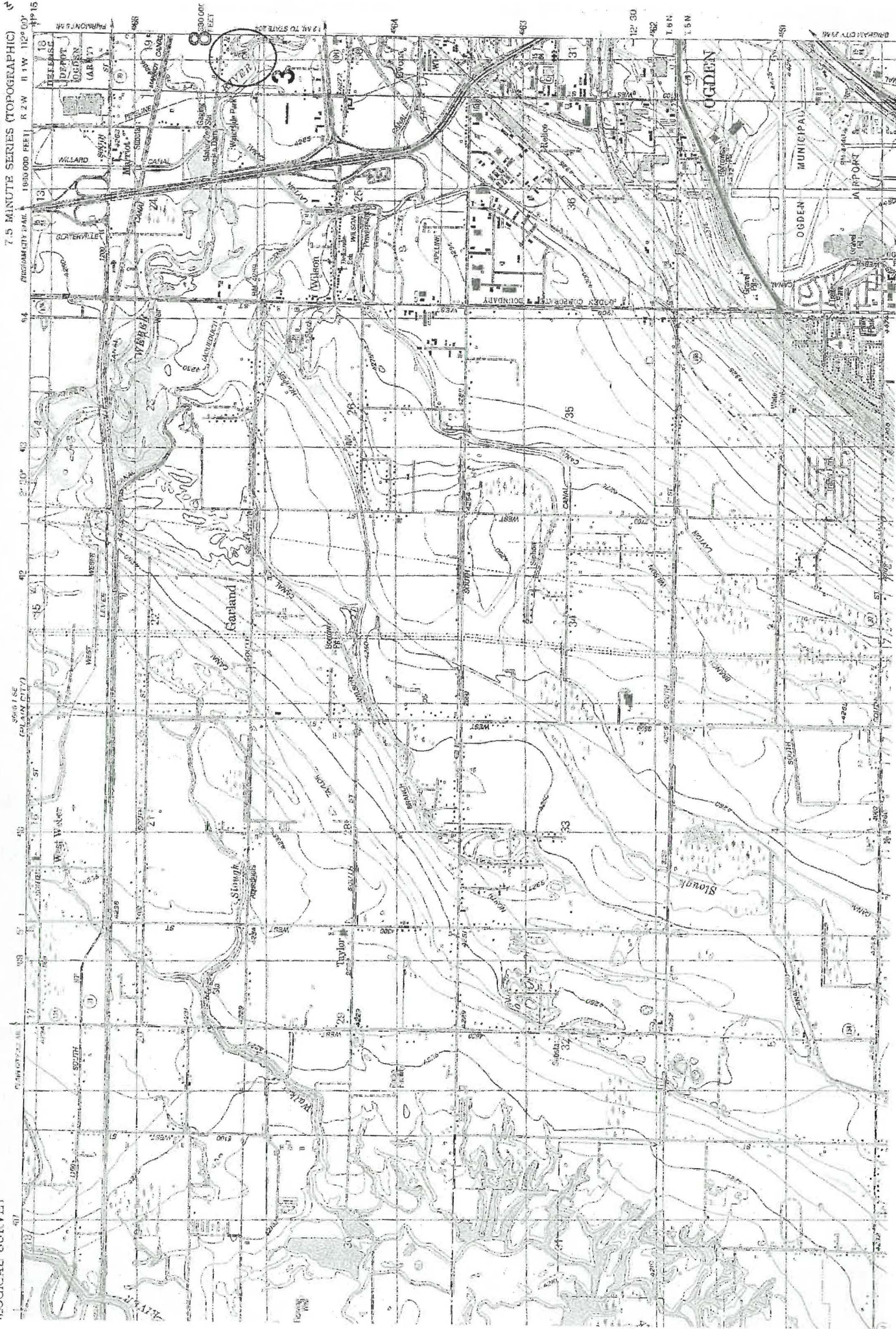
"THE HUNTER"

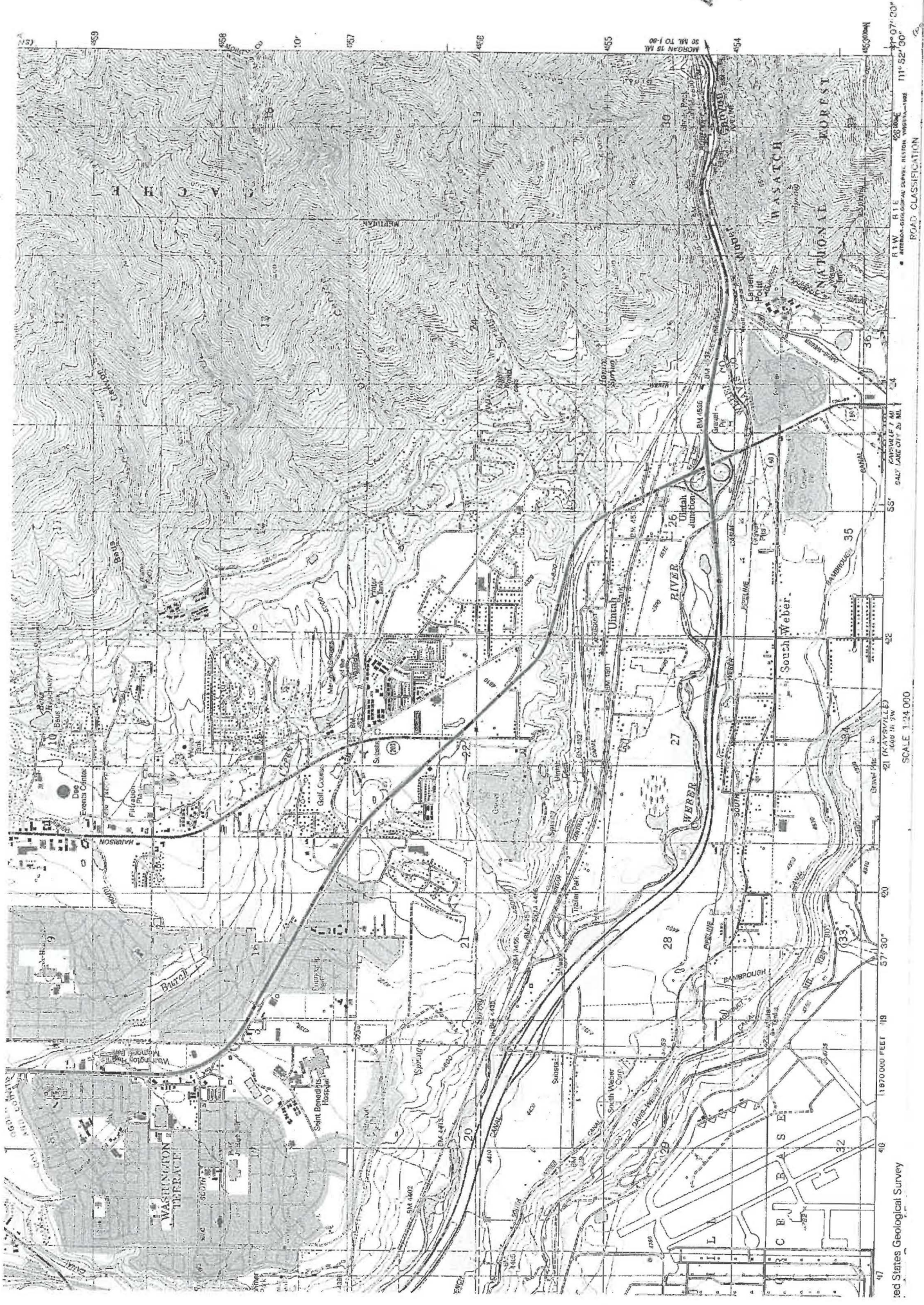


1. Arrived: December 17, 1839
Went hunting on December 18th
Left: December 20th
Traveled 10 miles to "Weaver river" [*Weber River*]
2. Arrived: December 20, 1839
Went hunting -
Left: January 3, 1840
Traveled up the "Weaver river" to the fork of the Ogden River
and "Weaver river"
3. Arrived: January 3, 1840
Made winter camp
4. Left camp on January 10th to go hunting - traveled up the "Weaver fork"
about 10 miles to a "smooth plain" [*Mountain Green*] - camped
5. Left camp on January 11th - traveled north about 10 miles to "Ogden
hole" - [*Pineview, Reservoir*] - camped
6. Left camp on January 12th - traveled north about 2 miles turned left
[*west*] at a steep ravine and climbed to the summit taking 3
hours - descended to the valley and winter camp at about dark
7. Left camp on February 3rd [*location on the mountain is not recorded*]
Hunt sheep - camped on the mountain the night of February 3rd
to view the lake as the sun rose in the morning - the Wolverine
- returned to camp on February 5th
8. Left the winter camp on the forks. February 24th to go to the Eutaw
Village to trade furs









United States Geological Survey

SCALE 1:24,000

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

111° 52' 30" W
111° 57' 30" W
40° 47' 30" N
40° 52' 30" N

