RESOURCE PROTECTION PLANNING PROJECT

EXPLORATION IN OKLAHOMA, 1540-1860

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EXPLORATION SITES IN OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma was not opened to general white settlement until 1889 and did not become a state until 1907. Nonetheless, by the time of the American Civil War in the 1860s, Spanish, French, and American explorers had already criss-crossed the area. For centuries they had searched for riches or valuable natural resources, sought to establish trade with the Indians or the Spanish in Santa Fe, mapped, and studied the flora and fauna. Despite the existence of the journals of these explorers, knowledge of their routes through Oklahoma is often vague and few sites exist today. Modern day names of creeks, rivers, and other landmarks often bear no resemblance to the names that explorers used, making certain identification difficult at best.

Even where historical records allow reasonably accurate location of sites, centuries of natural and man-induced changes have combined to obliterate most evidence of explorers' presence in Oklahoma. Rivers, which provided avenues of travel for early explorers, have been altered significantly in the twentieth century either through damming or channelization, and water now covers many locations associated with these explorers. Many other sites served as temporary camps that are not likely to provide archaeological material. Explorers were also guided by landmarks such as unique rock formations and

later by pre-existing structures, but the passage of one to three centuries can easily confound attempts to locate these sites.

EARLY SPANISH EXPLORATION

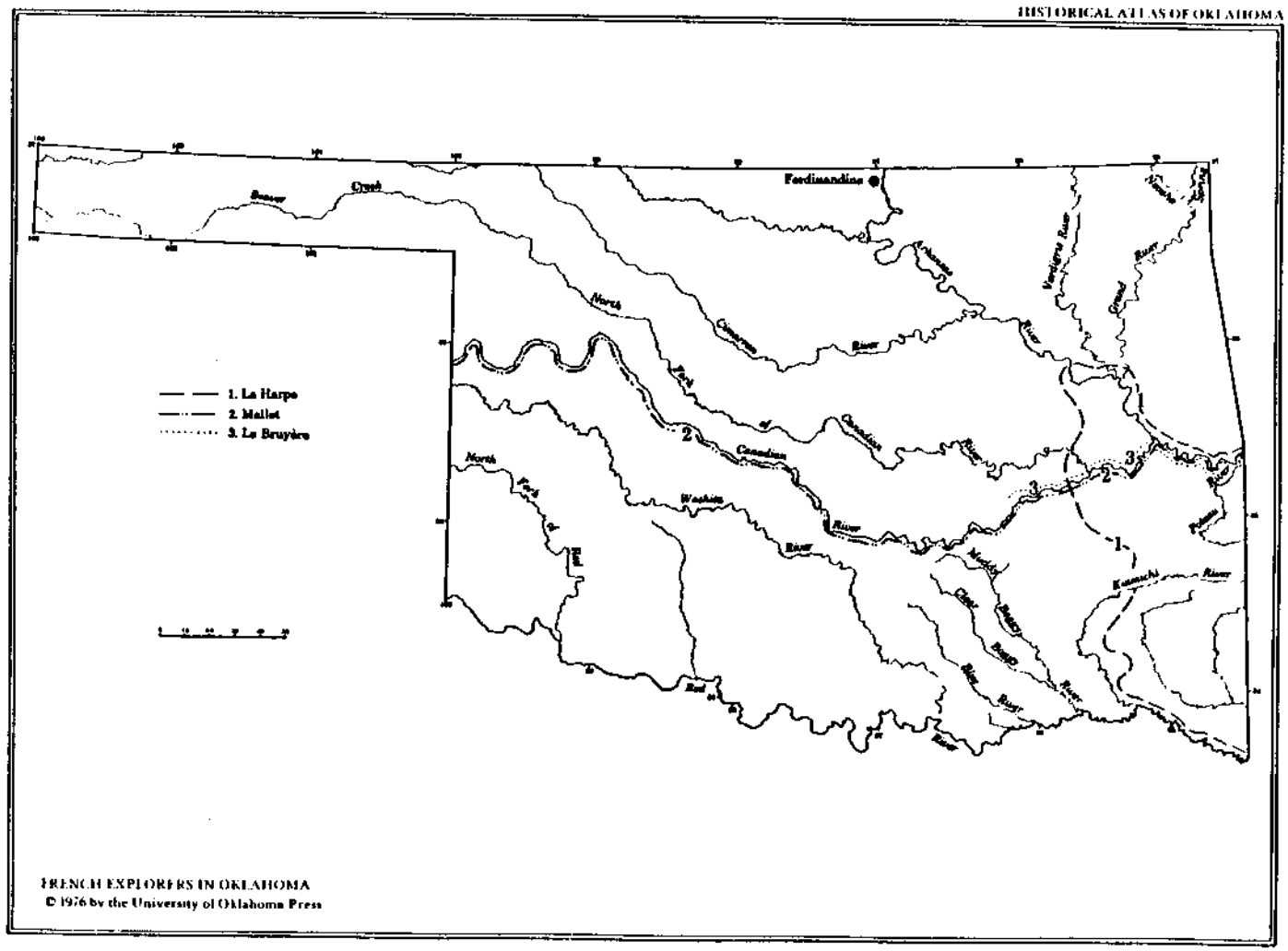
The first recorded expedition into present-day Oklahoma was the intrepid Spanish explorer Francisco Vásquez de Coronado. During the winter of 1539-1540 Vásquez de Coronado, governor of Nueva Galicia, a section of what is now northwestern Mexico, organized an expedition to explore north of the Rio Grande in search of gold. In February 1540, Vásquez de Coronado led a large party of men into New Mexico where he established a camp near the future location of Santa Fe. Later that year, searching for the alleged riches of the Gran Quivíra, he marched a group of his men east through the Texas panhandle and north toward Kansas. Coronado left the first recorded information of the region that would become western Oklahoma, but his descriptions of vast treeless prairies and shortages of water are not easily associated with twentieth century landmarks. In fact, his exact route can only be estimated and has long been debated. He probably crossed western Oklahoma heading north near the 98th meridian and traveled to a village of Wichita Indians in central Kansas. Finding only a typical village of grass huts and not the fabled wealth, he became disillusioned and returned to Mexico.

Following the Spanish colonization of New Mexico in 1601, Juan de Oñate led another expedition east across the buffalo plains and into the Canadian River valley along the western edge of Oklahoma. He turned north to the Arkansas River in Kansas in an effort to retrace Coronado's trip to Quivíra, but again found nothing of promise. Already over-extended and without the attraction of mineral wealth, Spain expressed slight interest in what later became Oklahoma. Only the increasing French interest in the Mississippi River valley after 1700 forced the Spanish to utilize this region as a barrier to French encroachment upon valuable Spanish settlements to the west and south of Oklahoma.

FRENCH EXPLORERS BEFORE 1763

During the eighteenth century, the French explored sections of Oklahoma, following the rivers that drained into the Mississippi River. They entered the area seeking alliances and establishing a fur trade with the Indians. In addition, the French hoped to trade with Spanish outposts in New Mexico.

The first recorded French entry into Oklahoma was that of Jean-Baptiste Bénard Sier de la Harpe, who in December 1718 left New Orleans to explore the northwest, hoping to establish a French outpost on the upper Red River. He passed near Nachitoches, Louisiana, and built a fort on the



Source: John W. Morris, Historical Atlas of Oklahoma.

south bank of the Red River, approximately 36 miles east of Oklahoma. From this base, in June 1719, La Harpe sent the geographer of the expedition, Du Rivage, up the Red River for approximately 180 miles. He reported the goodwill of Wichitas on the Red River and the rivalry of tribes to the west (especially the Comanches) that would be an obstacle to trade with the Spanish. In August 1719, La Harpe led an expedition overland into southeastern Oklahoma. His exact route is uncertain, but available historical evidence indicates that he most likely traveled across the southwestern tip of Arkansas, into Oklahoma to a site near Idabel (McCurtain county, region four). From there he probably turned northward to the Little River and followed that waterway to Gaines Creek. Then it is likely that he treked north, crossed the South Canadian and the North Fork of the Canadian, and ultimately arrived at the Arkansas River between Haskell and Tulsa (Muskogee or Wagoner counties, region three). He returned to New Orleans in the fall of 1719 with reports on the flora, fauna, topography, and the tribes of southeastern Oklahoma.

While La Harpe was in southeastern Oklahoma, Claude-Charles du Tisné entered the northeastern part of the state after his visit with the Osages in central Missouri. While he thought he crossed the Arkansas River, historians believe he actually crossed the Grand River and encamped with Pawnees near the sites of Chelsea and Vinita (Rogers and Craig counties, region three). His exact path is

unknown, but historians believe he traveled to the sites of Chelsea and Vinita (Rogers and Craig counties, region three). Again, inter-tribal rivalry prevented further exploration to the west. Du Tisné probably came within fifty miles of La Harpe's expedition at the time the latter was in eastern Oklahoma.

French fur traders moved out from New Orleans and Illinois for the rivers of eastern Oklahoma, establishing a trade with the Indians, especially the Wichitas. Such men resided in Indian villages, adopting Indian lifestyles and trading a variety of goods for furs and pelts. By 1720, these traders are known to have floated down the Canadian, Arkansas, and Red Rivers to markets in New Orleans or Natchitoches. While they contributed indirectly to French knowledge of the regions, they left few records of their explorations. Archaeological evidence at Indian villages near the Arkansas River in Kay county (region two) provide verification for this trade. In 1721, Richard Pichart and five other fur traders traveled along the Canadian River into eastern Oklahoma, trading with the tribes of the area. Pichart's exact path also is not known as he did not keep a journal, but it is believed that he descended the Arkansas River on his return trip.

Besides such fur traders, other official French expeditions traversed parts of the state at approximately the same time. In 1721, La Harpe attempted to ascend the Arkansas River to the Canadian River but only got about

halfway from the border of Oklahoma to the Canadian River before turning back. Even so, his expedition reported on the potential of the Canadian River as a trade route to the Spanish in New Mexico. In 1722, Etienne Veniard Bourgmont (Bourgmond) began his explorations of the Mississippi River basin by sponsoring a peace meeting of tribes in the lower Missouri River region. Two years later he crossed Kansas seeking to locate the Comanche Indians and he wandered south into Oklahoma to the Cimarron River.

In 1739, the next recorded trading expedition, led by Pierre and Paul Mallett reached Santa Fe in Spanish territory via the Missouri River. On their return trip in 1740, they crossed through Oklahoma, following the Canadian River and, by May 19, 1740, they abandoned their horses for canoes, descending the Canadian to the Arkansas River, continuing down to New Orleans in 1741. In so doing, they pioneered a southern route across Oklahoma to Santa Fe.

After the Mallett party returned and reported on the enthusiasm for French trade items in the isolated Spanish community at Santa Fe, the governor of French Louisiana sent another expedition to Santa Fe. He dispatched Andre' Fabry de la Bruyère, guided by four members of the Mallett party, who ascended the Arkansas River to the Canadian River, hoping to retrace their steps from Santa Fe. Due to low water, Fabry was forced to give up after wintering near the McIntosh-Hughes county boundary (region five). Four traders determined to continue the trip overland, but

records do not reveal what happened to them.

Although Spain established a restrictive trading policy to discourage French traders, the opportunistic French continued to journey to Santa Fe between 1749 and 1752. The traders usually crossed Oklahoma via the Arkansas or Canadian Rivers but occasionally sought new routes. One such group of Frenchmen (Louis Fèbre, Joseph Raballo, and Pierre Satran) headed up the Arkansas at least as far as two Indian villages (possibly the Deer Creek and Bryson archeological sites in Kay county, region two). By 1757, these same Indian villages had relocated to the Red River at the Cross Timbers (today across from Spanish Fort, Texas, in region five), a prime location for a trading center as it was easily identified by the natural landmarks. Here they resumed their middleman role between French traders and the Comanches to the west. This trade at the Twin Villages perpetuated Comanche raids on the Spanish in New Mexico and Texas and in 1758 forced the Spanish to retaliate by sending an expedition to investigate and then attack the fortified Twin Villages on the north side of the Red River. The resulting defeat of the Spanish provided evidence of the established French trade up the Red River and of the extent to which the French had explored the area.

FRENCH EXPLORERS IN THE SERVICE OF THE SPANISH AFTER 1763

In 1763, at the conclusion of the French and Indian War, England emerged victorious over France and Spain. France ceded Louisiana Territory, which included present-day Oklahoma, to Spain, in part because it feared losing the region to the victorious British. The Spanish employed many French officials and traders to maintain relations with Indian tribes who had been loyal to the French, and who hated the Spanish. The lieutenant governor of Natchitoches, Athanese de Mézières, led an expedition up the Red River to the Twin Villages, trying to improve relations between the new Spanish rulers and the Indians of southcentral Oklahoma.

Another Frenchman in Spanish service, Pedro (or Pierre) Vial, also explored parts of Oklahoma between 1786 and 1793. He was attempting to open roads connecting Santa Fe and San Antonio with the newly acquired Spanish settlements of Natchitoches and St. Louis. He utilized the Twin Villages as a communication center, travelling between San Antonio and Santa Fe in 1786 and in 1788-1789 from Santa Fe to Natchitoches. In 1792, he led a party on an expedition from Santa Fe, cutting across the Oklahoma panhandle and hoping to open a road to St. Louis. On his return trip in 1793, he headed back to Santa Fe through the panhandle of Oklahoma, closely approximating the later American route known as the Santa Fe Trail.

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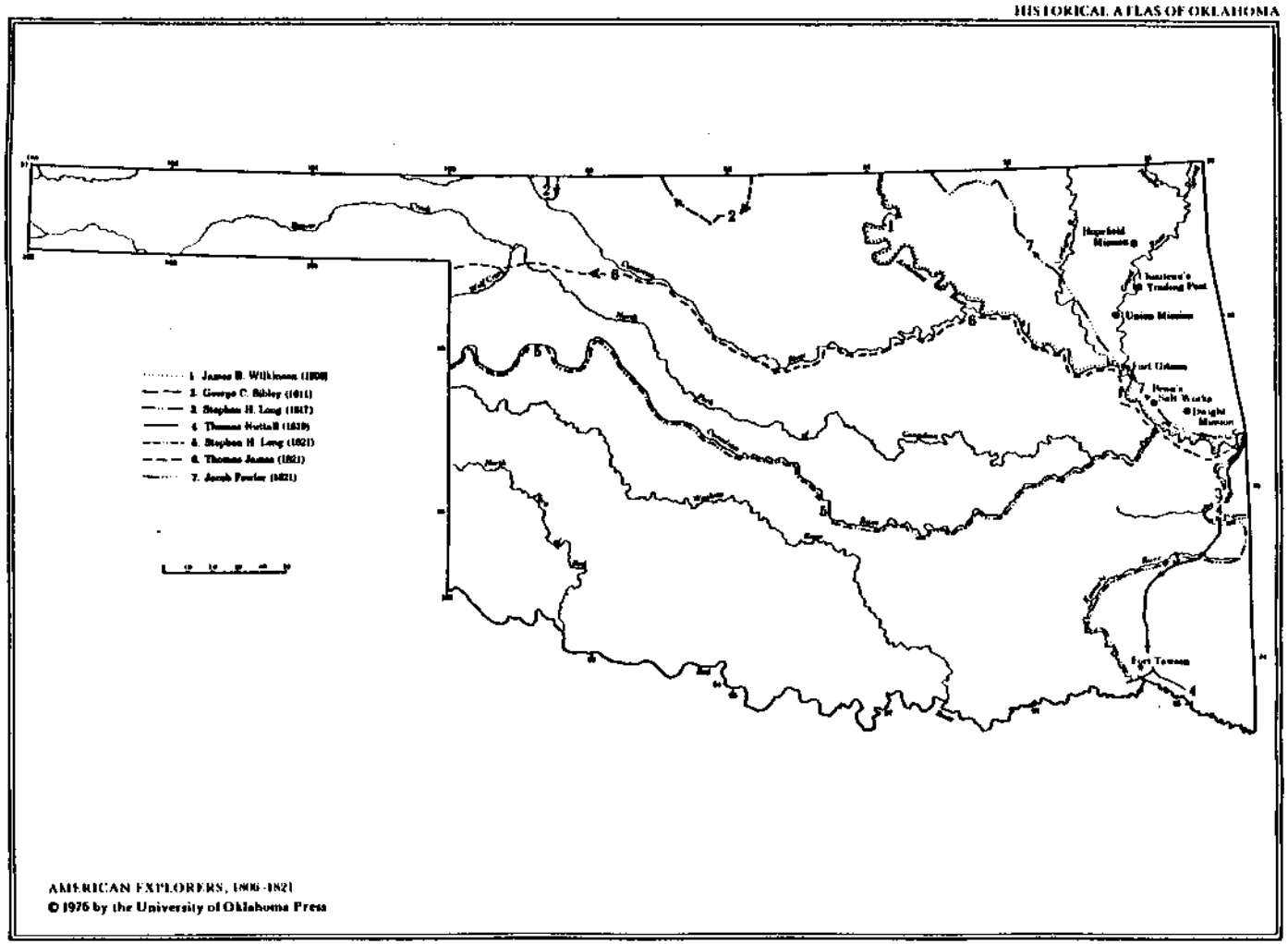
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AMERICAN EXPLORATION AFTER THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE

Louisiana Territory remained under Spanish control until 1800 when Napoleon forced the retrocession of the territory to the French. France never reestablished administrative control or resumed its explorations of the area, for Napoleon sold the entire region to the United States in 1803. The ambiguous boundary between the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase and Spanish territory to the south and west (bordering what is now Oklahoma) prompted the immediate efforts of the United States to learn exactly what the limits of purchase were. Both American military and civilian expeditions explored the region, including present day Oklahoma. As the French and Spanish had done, the Americans also realized the necessity of gaining the allegiance of the Indians in the region. Official expeditions not only added to the knowledge of the landscape but also served as envoys to the Indians. Rivers continued to figure priminently in routes chosen for these expeditions.

In 1806, Lieutenant Zebulon Montgomery Pike headed the first American expedition into the Louisiana Territory to explore the Arkansas River basin. Leaving St. Louis, Pike led his men to the Great Bend of the Arkansas River in Kansas and in October 1896 divided his force. He placed First Lieutenant James B. Wilkinson in command of five soldiers and two Osage guides and sent them south through



Source: John W. Morris, Historical Atlas of Oklahoma.

Oklahoma, down the Arkansas River, while he led the remainder of the men north to find the source of the Arkansas River. Pike ordered Wilkinson to chart the Arkansas River, erroneously hoping he would find a more direct route to Santa Fe. He also directed Wilkinson to pacify the Osage and open trade with them. Unfortunately for Wilkinsons' expedition, winter arrived early and caused considerable difficulty and hardship for the men who were trying to navigate in the low waters of the Arkansas River. The party spent much of the early part of the expedition pulling their boats across sand and ice. Wilkinson led his men along the Arkansas River to the Oklahoma-Kansas border where they were met by the Osage who resupplied the expedition with fresh buffalo meat.

Lieutenant Wilkinson's expedition first entered Oklahoma when the Osage hunters guided them to their village just north of Ponca City (Kay county, region two) on November 30. Although they resumed their trip, ice clogged the river. While waiting for the river to open, Wilkinson explored the surrounding area and visited the future site of Pawhuska (Osage county, region three) before returning to the Arkansas River near the mouth of the Salt Fork River. Weather conditions worsened as the party continued down the Arkansas. At the mouth of the Cimarron River (now under Keystone Lake), the men stopped and rested while some members of the party explored about twenty miles up this tributary.

With the hardships caused by the weather, Wilkinson failed to keep a daily journal, noting little except an important rendezvous with the Osage. He continued to follow the Arkansas southeast to Three Forks, located at the confluence of the Arkansas, Verdigris, and Grand rivers near modern-day Muskogee. After arriving there on December 23, Wilkinson made a successful alliance with the Osages at Three Forks, the most powerful group in the region. While at Three Forks, he may have visited the main Osage village located about sixty miles up the Verdigris and about seven miles south of Claremore (Rogers county, region three). Soon thereafter Wilkinson descended the Verdigris and Arkansas rivers through Webber's Falls (Muskogee county, region three) to the Oklahoma-Arkansas border and arrived there on December 31, 1806. While Wilkinson reported that the water level in the Arkansas River was inadequate for navigation, he had supplied a valuable description of the topography of northeastern Oklahoma, and he had been able to make an alliance with the Osages, which helped secure America's claim to the region.

George C. Sibley, Osage Indian agent in Missouri, explored the Oklahoma country in 1811. His official purpose was to trade and sign a treaty of peace with the Indians. Sibley, however, was more interested in scientific discovery and took this opportunity to explore the region. Early in May he left Fort Osage (in southcentral Missouri), heading toward the "Saline Hills"

(the Great Salt Plains) of northwestern Oklahoma. En route he visited with the Kansa Indians and later with the Pawnee and Osage.

On June 21 or 22, Sibley entered Oklahoma, treating with an Osage chief in the vicinity of present-day Blackwell (Kay county, region two). He then turned west in search of the Great Salt Plains, but due to his inaccurate computations it is difficult to trace his exact route. On June 23, the party camped under an elm tree on Sand Creek, southwest of present Medford (Grant county, region two). The next day the expedition crossed the Salt Fork of the Arkansas and topped a hill from which Sibley first viewed the Great Salt Plains. He was two or three miles northeast of present-day Jet (Alfalfa county, region two). While the explorers examined the salt covered sandy plain, Osage scouts spotted hostile Comanches nearby. Sibley and the scouts decided to head northwest back into Kansas to rejoin the Osage camp.

After retreating to the Osage camp in Kansas, Sibley planned to explore "Rock Saline," now known as the Big Salt Plain. With ninety Osages for protection from the Comanches, Sibley re-entered Oklahoma in the gypsum hills region that borders western Kansas and Oklahoma. Heading southwest, they spotted "Rock Saline," where Buffalo Creek joins the Cimarron River about eight miles west of Freedom (Woods county, region two). Instead of a rock, or mountain of salt, this was actually a smaller version of the Great

Salt Plains. Sibley managed to cut out a fifteen inch chunk of pure salt before Osage scouts reported Comanches in the area. Sibley and the party of Osages returned to the Osage camp in Kansas on July 3. He then marched back to Fort Osage in Missouri, where he arrived on July 11, 1811. His journey stimulated further exploration in Oklahoma and contributed greatly to the knowledge and attitudes about the plains, pointing out the economic possibilities of the abundant game and valuable minerals.

In 1819, Thomas Nuttall, a highly respected English botanist, explored a considerable part of the state. Nuttall began his travels early in the year in the Arkansas country. He visited Little Rock and Fort Smith. In May, Nuttall saw Oklahoma for the first time when he traveled up the Poteau River for some distance with a military detachment that was orderng white settlers off the Indian land. From the headwaters of the Kiamichi River (LeFlore county), the party headed south to its confluence with the Red River. After the hardships of the thickets, ravines, and annoying ticks, the expedition graciously accepted the hospitality of William Styles, who owned the first farm that they reached along the Red River. While making botanical collections, Nuttall became separated from the company and got lost, but he remained enthusiastic about the beauty and agricultural potential of southeastern Oklahoma. He finally made his way back to Fort Smith in late June 1819 with his extensive notes on the topography

and the flora and fauna, including numerous newly discovered plants.

Early in July 1819, Nuttall obtained passage with a trader named Bogie (Bougie), heading north toward Three Forks at the confluence of the Arkansas, Verdigris and Grand rivers. He ascended the Arkansas River past the mouths of the Canadian and Illinois rivers, made his way around Webber's Falls, and traveled on to the Verdigris River. On the thirteenth of July, the party arrived at Bogie's and Nathaniel Pryor's trading houses on the Verdigris. He, and possibly a companion, wandered the prairies between the Verdigris and Grand rivers for several days, noting the fertility of the soil and the possible use of the rapids in the rivers for industry. In mid-July he ascended the Grand River with two other men, visiting a salt works about fifty miles upstream.

On August 11, Nuttall left the trading house with a trapper named Lee, traveling northwest overland, but the pair became afflicted with fever, the August heat, and drought. As a consequence, they had to give up plans to reach the Rocky Mountains by way of the Cimarron River. Even Nuttall's botanical explorations suffered as the men became concerned for their lives. They eventually arrived at the Cimarron River that they then descended to the Arkansas. They finally arrived at Bogie's settlement on the Verdigris River on the night of September 14. In mid-November, Nuttall arrived at New Orleans and then headed

East. He published an account of his journeys in 1821, but was greatly disillusioned by his last sojourn, especially with the inconsistent water supply and fertility of the soil in the region. Despite Nuttall's discouragement, his botanical documentation of eastern Oklahoma was a monumental achievement.

Less than one year after Thomas Nuttall traveled through parts of Oklahoma, Major Stephen H. Long led the first expedition to cross the entire width of the state and the first official expedition into Oklahoma since Wilkinson's trek down the Arkansas in 1806. Long began his journey at Council Bluffs, Iowa, early in June 1820, heading toward central Kansas. Long divided his party before entering Oklahoma. He ordered Captain John R. Bell down the Arkansas River to Fort Smith while he headed south in search of the Red River.

The group led by Captain John R. Bell arrived in Oklahoma on August 19 at the point where the Arkansas River enters Oklahoma (Kay county, region two). After the men gorged themselves on watermelons that they found in a field of Indian corn near the river, they followed the Arkansas River for ten days. At this point, Bell left the river going as far as Hominy Creek in Osage county. When he returned to the Arkansas, Bell found that three soldiers had deserted, taking the best horses, most of the rations, and many of the journals. Continuing their descent of the Arkansas, the party reached Hugh Glenn's trading post about

a mile above the mouth of the Verdigris River (Wagoner county, region three) where the men resupplied. The group continued down the Arkansas and then proceeded to the salt works established by Mark and Richard Bean along a tributary of the Illinois, seven miles north of the Arkansas (Sequoyah county, region three). After spending the night, the party resumed the march, crossing Vine Creek and arriving at Fort Smith two days later.

Long led his group along the Canadian River, which he mistook for the Red River, until on August 17 he crossed into Oklahoma along the 100th meridian north of Antelope Hills in Roger Mills county (region seven). He continued down the Canadian toward eastern Oklahoma, stopping at the fall of the river just above Gaines Creek (both now covered by Lake Eufaula in Pittsburg county, region four) before encountering the North Fork of the Canadian River. Approximately three and one-half miles below the North Fork, they spotted another landmark in the river, a huge rock, twenty-five feet high and fifty or sixty feet in diameter (also now under Lake Eufaula in McIntosh county, region three). At the confluence of the Canadian and Arkansas rivers, Long realized that he had not been following the Red River. Disappointed, he descended the Arkansas River toward Fort Smith, where he arrived on September 13, 1819. Although he considered the expedition a failure, the information gathered about the topography, climate, flora and fauna added greatly to America's

knowledge of the area, and the journals served as guides to future explorers and pioneers.

Shortly after Stephen H. Long completed his travels, other expeditions passed through Oklahoma en route to Santa Fe, hoping to trade with the Mexican citizens. Although the Spanish government maintained a strict policy against trading with foreigners, Americans continued to take the risk, gambling for significant returns if allowed to trade. In 1821, two parties heading to Santa Fe led by Hugh Glenn and Jacob Fowler and by Thomas James provided private accounts of the Oklahoma country and encouraged others to try to establish trade through Oklahoma with Santa Fe.

In 1821 Fowler and Glenn organized an expedition, with Glenn as the commander and Fowler as the group's historian. Fowler kept an account of the Oklahoma country through which the group passed between September 6 and October 4, 1821. The party left Fort Smith, spending the first night at Bean and Saunders' Salt Works on the Illinois River in present Sequoyah county (region three). Turning northeast, the men visited Chief Clermont's Osage village near Claremore (region three), an area Fowler described as attractive. From there the group proceeded northwest and crossed the Kansas-Oklahoma border near the Arkansas River, heading for Santa Fe. Few actual records exist that relate the specific details of the expedition through Oklahoma. The real significance of this trading

expedition was that it helped stimulate the opening of trade with Santa Fe.

While Fowler and Glenn were proceeding on their expedition, another trading group headed by Thomas James made its way through Oklahoma toward Santa Fe. On May 10, 1821, James and his partner, John McKnight, set forth from St. Louis, Missouri, and descended the Mississippi River to the Arkansas. They proceeded up the Arkansas into Oklahoma, passing the future site of Fort Gibson and the mouth of the Verdigris. The group traveled on to the Cimarron River, which the men ascended for about thirty miles. From there, James headed toward the Verdigris with the apparent intent of trading with the Osages. En route he visited an Osage village in western Mayes county. At this village James talked with Hugh Glenn and Jacob Fowler about joining their expedition. That did not occur and so James led his party on westward toward the "Salt Plains." Eleven days later the group reached the Cimarron River, which they followed past the "Shining Mountains," now known as the Glass Mountains for their gypsum crystals that glitter in sunlight (Major county, region two). From there the group proceeded west, encountering numerous, unfriendly Comanche warriors, but their notes are unclear as to their exact route. Most likely, they crossed the North Canadian River and then entered into what is today the northern edge of the Texas panhandle and what was then Spanish territory. The party had passed out of Oklahoma north and

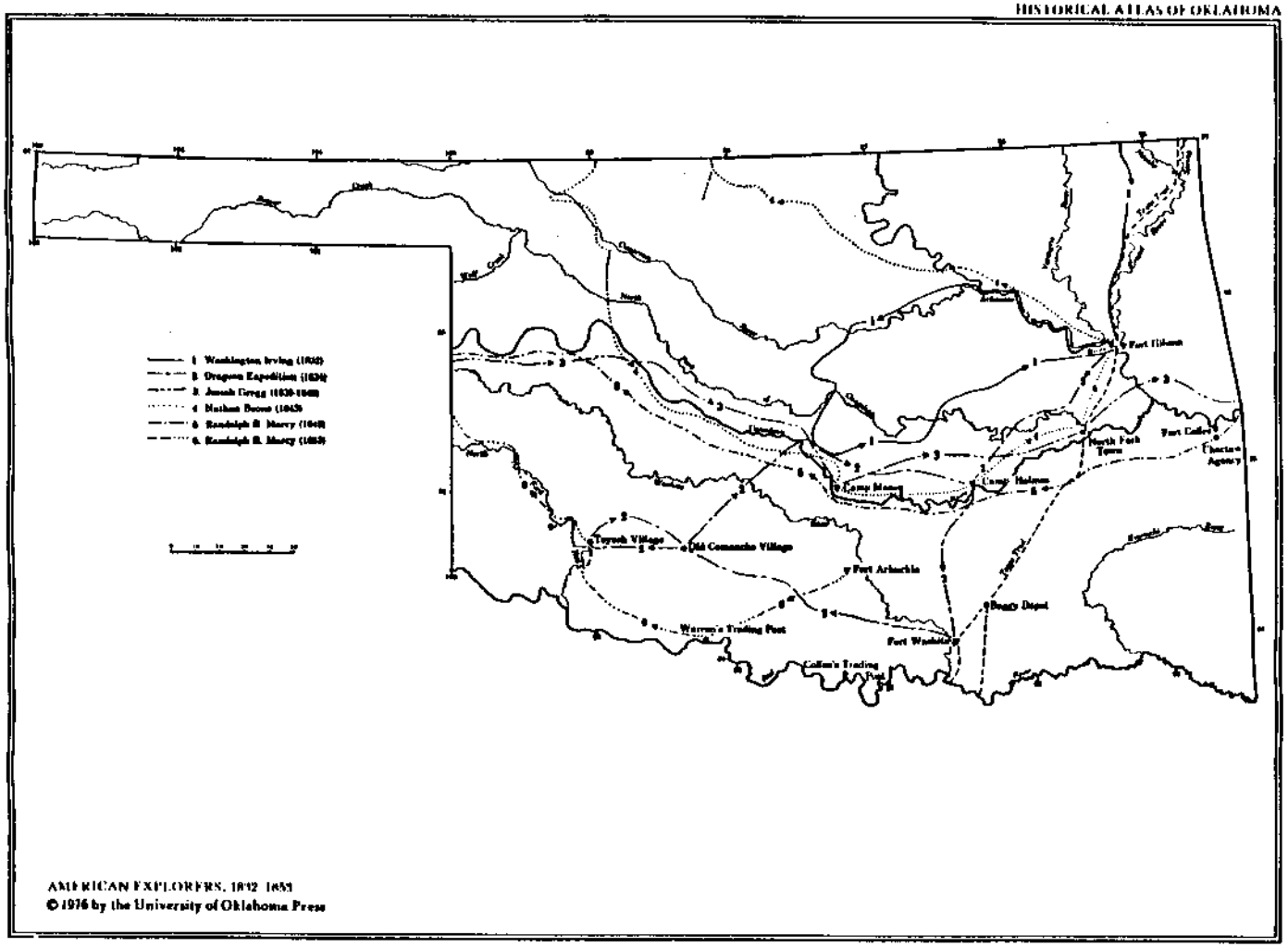
west of present Shattuck (Ellis county, region two) and safely reached Santa Fe on December 1, 1821, nearly a month before Fowler and Glenn arrived.

Both parties arrived to find that Santa Fe was no longer in the hands of the Spaniards, for the Mexicans had just gained their independence. This news improved trading possibilities between Santa Fe and the Americans. In the 1820s, traders from Missouri quickly established a healthy commerce with Santa Fe, but success could not be insured as long as the Kansa and Osage Indians continued to raid the trading expeditions. Before the United States could provide protection to trading parties, it needed further exploration and surveying of the best routes.

Using a route known as the Santa Fe Trail, most traders left St. Louis and cut across Kansas and the northwest corner of the present Oklahoma panhandle to get to Santa Fe. In 1825, President John Quincy Adams appointed Thomas Mather and veteran explorer George C. Sibley as commissioners to survey this route to Santa Fe and to treat with the Kansa and Osage Indians for a right-of-way. After assembling a survey party at Fort Osage in southcentral Missouri, they departed on July 17, 1825. Members of the survey party met successfully with the Osage at Council Grove in Kansas during early August. A few days later they concluded a similar treaty with the Kansa Indians on Turkey Creek in McPherson county, Kansas.

After signing the treaty with the Kansa, Mather and most of the men decided to return to Missouri. Sibley and the remaining eleven men would then conduct the survey to Mexican Territory, and at that point seek permission to extend their survey to Santa Fe. Sibley led members of the survey party from Kansas, following the Cimarron River into Oklahoma on October 5. The next day they left the river valley heading southwest and arrived at a regular camping place just west of present Highway 287 (Cimarron county, region one). The party traveled to Taos and then to Santa Fe, and Sibley returned to Fort Osage in June 1826. Although the treaties with the Indians did not end the depredations, the survey successfully drew national attention to the commerce with Santa Fe, and Sibley's journals contained one of the earliest written descriptions of the Oklahoma Panhandle.

On October 10, 1832, the United States Government dispatched a group of mounted rangers from Fort Gibson to try to stop Indian depredations in the western plains of Oklahoma. Four civilians, Washington Irving (American author), Henry Ellsworth (Indian Commissioner appointed by President Andrew Jackson to study and report on conditions in Indian country), Albert Alexandre de Pourtalès (young Swiss nobleman), and Charles Latrobe (Count Pourtalès' English tutor) accompanied this mission and reported on what they saw in the region. On October 10, the expedition started west, roughly following the north bank of the



Source: John W. Morris, Historical Atlas of Oklahoma.

Arkansas River. The four men had few official duties, and spent their time observing the countryside and hunting for buffalo, deer, elk, bear and turkeys. Passing through what is now Tulsa (region three), they crossed the Arkansas at the confluence of the Cimarron River. The party followed the Cimarron, through southern Pawnee, northwestern Creek, and southern Payne counties (regions three and six). By October 22, the group was fording the Cimarron River near Coyle (Payne county, region six) and continuing on southward. Unaware of the great size of the Cross Timbers, the expedition decided to travel through the deeply ravined and timbered hills. By noon on October 29, the men had made it only as far as the prairie just north of Norman (region six), where they camped near a tributary of the Canadian River. While there, the four civilians took the opportunity to hunt buffalo and chase wild horses.

Deciding it would be foolhardy to continue further west, the party headed back toward Fort Gibson. On November 2, they arrived at the open country along the North Fork of the Canadian River, crossing the river into what is now the western section of Okfuskee county (region three). On November 10, they arrived back at Fort Gibson. From there Irving traveled by steamboat to Little Rock, Arkansas. Latrobe and Pourtalès followed by canoe a month later, while Ellsworth stayed in the west as Indian Commissioner for two years. Although nothing significant was directly gained by their trek, these explorers provided

important insight into the area that would eventually become the state of Oklahoma by writing of their exploits and life during their "tour of the prairies".

In 1834, Brigadier General Henry Leavenworth, commander of the Southwestern frontier, and Colonel Henry Dodge, commander of the First Dragoon Regiment at Fort Gibson, were ordered by the government to establish contact with southern plains tribes in Oklahoma. They also were to stop Indian raids upon travelers and upon the Five Civilized tribes that had been resettled from eastern states and now resided in the eastern one-half of Oklahoma. While this expedition was not intended as an exploration party, their travels in southern Oklahoma recorded valuable information about the region. Accompanying the dragoon expedition, George Catlin, the distinguished artist of Indian life, provided especially valuable documentation through his journals and paintings of the customs and habits of Kiowa, Comanche, and Wichita tribes in the area.

On June 15, 1834, Leavenworth and Dodge led about five hundred men west from Fort Gibson. Although most of the party were military, some civilians and numerous Indian scouts and interpreters accompanied the expedition. As the group marched westward, many of the men became ill due to tainted water and food shortages. Catlin later estimated that one third of the men died en route. By the time the party reached Edwards' Trading Post at the South Canadian,

near the mouth of the Little River, a tent hospital had to be established, which later became known as Camp Holmes (just south of present Holdenville, Hughes county, region four). The dragoons crossed the South Canadian and continued south to the Washita. After fording the Washita and proceeding only a few more miles, another hospital camp was set up, which was named after General Leavenworth, who himself was a patient there. From Camp Leavenworth, Colonel Dodge pushed westward with the reorganized dragoons, now down to half the original number.

Dodge remained intent upon contacting the tribes of the region. He marched to the site of Lawton (Comanche county, region seven) and explored in the vicinity of the Wichita Mountains. A meeting with Comanches on July 14 provided the first opportunity to negotiate the expedition's goals. The Comanches led the soldiers toward their village where a larger parley was planned. The meeting was hospitable, but meaningful negotiations were not held due to the fact that the principle Comanche chief was away on a buffalo hunt.

Deciding to proceed to the Wichita village for negotiations, the dragoons picked their way through the Wichita Mountains. On July 22, 1834, the party began negotiations with the Wichita Indians, at Toyash Village on the North Fork of the Red River (west of Mountain Park, Kiowa county, region seven). After creating good will through an exchange of prisoners, Dodge successfully

treated with the Wichitas, as well as the Comanches and Kiowas who had returned from their buffalo hunt to join in the talks.

Once negotiations were completed, Dodge returned to the camp near where he had met the Comanches. From there, accompanied by over twenty representatives of these plains tribes, Dodge led his group to the Canadian River. He sent a message to General Leavenworth but was unaware that on July 21 the general had died from fever and an earlier fall from his horse. Dodge continued northeast in a direct line to the Canadian River where he hoped to find buffalo. His party camped for a few days near Union City (Canadian county, region six) while recuperating and hunting before heading toward the Cross Timbers. From there the dragoons returned to Camp Holmes and by mid-August had made their way back to their original camp near Fort Gibson. The venture cost many lives due to illness and disease, but not one life, American or Indian, was lost in conflict. Although it produced no permanent peace, the expedition led directly to the first treaty with southern plains tribes, and it provided valuable information on southwestern Oklahoma.

In 1839 and 1840, Josiah Gregg pioneered the southern or Oklahoma route to Santa Fe, hoping to find a quicker way to the customers in New Mexico. Gregg led thirty-four men out of Van Buren, Arkansas, on April 21, 1839. The party forded the Arkansas River north of the mouth of the

Canadian River near Webber's Falls and proceeded southwest to cross the North Fork of the Canadian near Eufaula, passing through North Fork Town (an old trading center in the Creek Nation, now under Lake Eufaula, McIntosh county, region three). Then they continued west to a place called Camp Mason (Gregg mistakenly called it Camp Holmes) across the river from present-day Purcell in Cleveland county (region six).

At Camp Mason, forty dragoons joined the expedition to escort the traders safely to the United State border. With greatly improved prospects for their safe journey from Camp Mason, the men followed the Canadian River to a place Gregg named Spring Valley, a fertile natural springs area between Geary and Greenfield in Blaine county (region seven). After examining this region, the party traveled on along the Canadian to Taloga (Dewey county, region seven), arriving at that location by May 30. The next day Gregg passed through the gypsum hills northwest of Seiling in Woodward county (region two), before realizing that he had gone too far north. They then turned southwestward, and on about June 5, Gregg's group crossed the boundary between Mexico and the United States and left present-day Oklahoma bound for Santa Fe.

On the return trip in March 1840, Gregg tried to find an even shorter route by travelling along the south bank of the Canadian into Oklahoma. He sighted the Antelope Hills, located in northwestern Roger Mills county (region seven)

and Rock Mary in Dewey county (region seven). He guided himself by these landmarks before fording the Canadian River near Fay (Dewey county) and coming across his wagon tracks from the previous summer. The expedition then retraced its steps back to Arkansas. Gregg correctly realized that this route would never replace the Santa Fe Trail, but he believed it had much to offer. It was considerably shorter and far enough south to have grass earlier in the year, as well as having few large rivers to cross. His journals, which he published in 1844, provided valuable information about the terrain and topography of west-central Oklahoma

In the 1840s, the increasing conflict between Texas and Mexico made it even more important for the United States to identify its western border between the Arkansas and Red Rivers (Oklahoma's western border). In 1843, Brigadier General Zachary Taylor ordered the First Dragoon Regiment, stationed at Fort Gibson, to examine the boundary between the United States and Mexico beyond the one hundredth meridian between the Arkansas and Red rivers. Because of his scouting ability, Captin Nathan Boone was selected to command this expedition. This assignment also included an inspection of salt deposits between the watersheds of these rivers, but exploration really concentrated on the Arkansas River and its Salt Fork.

On May 14, 1843, Boone led approximately sixty men northwest out of Fort Gibson. The party crossed the

Verdigris River at Unswatoy's Ferry near present Okay (Wagoner county, region three), proceeded northwestward, and camped at a site near Tulsa. By May 20, the group had reached a point on the Arkansas River near Blackburn in Osage county (region three). Boone led his party to the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River near Tonkawa (Kay county, region two), fording the river and proceeding westward along the Salt Fork. On May 27, the detachment camped near the site of Pond Creek in Grant county (region two). On the 29th, they encountered about forty Osage who volunteered to lead Boone and his men to the Great Salt Plains.

After examining these salt deposits, Boone headed northward into Kansas, to fulfill his orders to protect traders en route to Santa Fe. Finding another dragoon expedition available for that duty, Boone headed west through Kansas, and entered Oklahoma again on June 28, 1843, near where the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River intersects the state boundary. From there he marched southwest, camping on the Cimarron River about seven miles southeast of Freedom, Oklahoma. The next day he discovered a salt plain that from the description in his journal corresponds with the area now known as the Little Sahara Recreatonal Area in Woods county (region two). After exploring the salt flats, Boone ordered his detachment down the Cimarron to a point near Isabella in Major county and then turned southwest and marched overland to the North

Fork of the Canadian near the Canton Reservoir. From this location, Boone followed the Canadian River toward Fort Gibson and reached the Fort on August 1, 1843. His expedition had augmented the information provided by earlier explorers of northwestern Oklahoma.

In the late spring of 1849, Captain Randolph B. Marcy and federal troopers leading Forty-Niners to the gold fields of California also explored a considerable section of future Oklahoma. Leaving Fort Smith, Arkansas, in May 1849, Marcy headed southwest until he reached the Canadian River. Deciding that the river would provide a good benchmark for future expeditions, he led the group along the south bank of the river on a largely uneventful journey across Oklahoma, broken in his journal only by the excitement occasioned by passing the large geological formation known as Rock Mary in Dewey county (region seven). While escorting the California emigrants, March's party had successfully surveyed for a possible railroad route west from Fort Smith.

On his return, Marcy resumed his command of Fort Towson and helped establish the new Fort Arbuckle, seven miles west of Davis (Murray county, region five), where he justifiably acquired a reputation as an authority on the southwestern region of what is now Oklahoma. In 1852, while in Washington, D.C., Marcy called to the attention of the Adjutant General's Office that the western Red River area had never been adequately explored. With Texas now

part of the United States, the opportunity existed to explore to the source of the Red River and at the same time to try to persuade the Indian population to abandon their warlike habits. As a consequence, on March 5, 1852, the government ordered Marcy to explore the Red River and its environs.

By May 1852, Marcy had proceeded from Fort Arbuckle to the mouth of the Little Wichita River on the Red River and then on to Cache Creek, near Warren's Trading Post (Cotton county, region seven), which was the official starting point of the expedition. While awaiting the supply train, Marcy explored in the area. On May 14, he led his party along the Red River for a day, but they were forced to leave the river the next day because the wagons could not traverse the rugged terrain. The group then headed toward the Wichita Mountains where they explored a creek Marcy named for the abundant otters that inhabited it. In following Otter Creek up into the Wichita Mountains, Marcy and his men discovered abundant wildlife, especially deer and antelope, and evidence of gold and other minerals.

Mistakenly thinking he had reached the 100th Meridian (the wester border of Oklahoma), Marcy sent a survey party to mark the point where the 100th Meridian crossed the Red River. Marcy's expedition actually was on the North Fork of the Red River, near Mountain Park (Kiowa county, region seven), nearly fifty miles from the meridian that forms the western border of Oklahoma. He followed the river, passing

near a river that he named Mount Webster (today known as Tepee Mountain, southeast of Lugert) and met with the same Wichita Village at Devil's Canyon visited in 1834 by the Dragoon Expedition under the command of Colonel Dodge. Marcy followed the river north, crossed Wolf Creek, passed the future site of Lonewolf (Kiowa county, region seven), and rounded the turn of the river headed west.

By June 6, Marcy had crossed Suydam Creek, four miles east of Sayre (Beckham county, region seven) and on June 10 left Oklahoma for the Texas panhandle, eventually arriving at the Llano Estacado (Staked Plains) in the Texas Panhandle by June 12, 1852. Four days later, the group reached the headwaters of the North Fork of the Red River. Although historians have tried to make sense of Marcy's journal, his incorrect use of river names makes his route unclear until his descent of the Red River brings him back to the mouth of Otter Creek (Tillman county, region seven) on July 12. Marcy had explored the Staked Plains region of the Texas Panhandle before retracing his steps to Fort Arbuckle, arriving on July 28, 1852. He had found the sources of the North Fork as well as other tributaries of the Red River and explored a significant section of future Oklahoma. His report provides the first adequate account of the southwestern part of Oklahoma, recording information on the Indians he saw and the resources, climate, and geography of the region.

On July 15, 1853, Lieutenant Amiel W. Whipple led a military expedition from Fort Smith, Arkansas, into Oklahoma in order to explore and survey a possible route for a transcontinental railroad. The expedition crossed the Poteau River and spent two days at Ring's Plantation near Spiro (LeFlore county, region four). On July 19, the explorers traveled to the Choctaw Agency at Scullyville and remained at that location until July 26, when they again continued southwest crossing Gaines Creek and camping near present-day Stuart (Hughes county, region four) on August 8. From this point, they tried to follow the South Canadian as much as possible, often utilizing the road surveyed by Marcy a few years earlier. Hoping to find a guide and interpreter, Whipple visited with Shawnee Indians for several days at Shawneetown (Hughes county, region five), which at the time was just a series of crossroads connecting a rural community of Shawnee Indians. Whipple then moved on to the site of Old Camp Arbuckle by August 17, 1853. Five days later he led his party westward along the South Canadian River to a point near Purcell (McClain county, region five). The expedition proceeded northwestward toward the Oklahoma-Texas border and left Oklahoma near where state highway 33 now crosses into Texas (Roger Mills county, region seven).

Whipple's report on his travels added to the scientific knowledge of the state and successfully plotted the course for a future railroad. His journals reveal how

little accurate information was available even by the 1850s on the topography of Oklahoma and its inhabitants. Even though Whipple tried to follow a road blazed by Marcy just a few years earlier, trail traces became increasingly difficult to locate as the survey party moved west. At one point "road" conditions were so horrible that wagons had to be physically lowered over a cliff. Knowing the Wichita Mointains were nearby, Whipple incorrectly mapped them at the 100th Meridian. Problems of prairie fires plagued the western leg of his journey, but the terrain had improved and the wagons travelled easier.

Within a few years, the United States would be torn by civil war and the attention of the nation was redirected to ending the war, rather than exploring and settling the American West. During the 1860s, military expeditions continued to cross Oklahoma, either as a part of the war or on campaigns against hostile Indians. Such military action, along with the continual treks of traders through the territory, aided in preparing the region for settlement, but the important work of exploration was completed by the many French, Spanish, and American explorers who crossed the territory before 1860.

PROPERTY-TYPE ANALYSIS OF HISTORICAL EXPLORATION PROPERTIES IN OKLAHOMA

Research has identified only a few specific properties related to exploration in Oklahoma. Due to a lack of journals or inaccuracies in the records of explorers who travelled through Oklahoma, specific site location is often difficult. Most locations associated with exploration simply served as temporary campsites, without associated permanent structures. In some instances, explorers utilized existing structures, but these have often been abandoned or destroyed. In a few cases, natural landmarks served as guides; however, the passage of time, weather, and channelization and impoundment of Oklahoma's waterways have all taken their toll. Nonetheless, some properties, though rare, might be located and would provide valuable information on the exploration of Oklahoma. In general, the following property types have either been identified at known sites or might be located in Oklahoma along the routes of the explorers: campsites, forts and military camps, trading posts, farm houses, Indian villages, and natural landmarks. The National Register criteria will be the basis for evaluating all identified sites. National Register criteria are as follows:

A: Properties that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B: Properties that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C: Properties that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

D: Properties that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

1. Campsites: Campsites rarely utilized existing structures and precise location is extremely difficult. Such sites might be identified by pieces of equipment and refuse left by the explorers. Such archeological data can be located only by excavating the soil that has since covered these potential sites.

2. Forts and Military Camps: In some instances, explorers utilized military forts as a base of operations or a temporary stop along their route. Most likely, the only structures used specifically by such expeditions would be bunkhouses and officers' quarters. In most cases, the site of the fort itself constitutes the only tangible evidence of the explorers' presence. Most forts were built of log, but many temporary forts and military camps had no permanent structures. Few of these forts still exist, but archeological evidence can identify some locations.

3. Trading Posts: Later explorers often stopped at existing trading posts that either supplied goods for the expedition or served as points of reference. Few, if any, trading post structures have survived to the present, but in some instances the sites can be identified.

4. Farm Houses: In a few cases, later explorers, especially in eastern Oklahoma, encountered isolated farmers who had constructed houses, often of log. Explorers then camped at these farms and the farm house often became a focus of hospitality. In some cases, the locations of well-known farm houses served as landmarks to help guide explorers. Most of these structures have deteriorated or been destroyed, but rare examples may still survive.

5. Indian Villages: Explorers frequently visited Indian villages, either to trade or to form alliances. The housing varied from tribe to tribe. The Five Civilized Tribes in eastern Oklahoma built log cabins. Other tribes used homes built of mud and grass, while nomadic villages had no permanent structures. Archeological evidence will be the only material likely to have survived at these sites.

6. Natural Landmarks: Natural formations, such as unique boulders, hills, springs, waterfalls, or the confluence of two waterways, often served as points of reference for explorers. The channelization and damming of the rivers in Oklahoma has inundated many of these sites. Some of the other locations are still visible and can be identified through careful comparison with the explorers' journals.

EXPLORATION SITES IN OKLAHOMA

REGION ONE:

Beaver County:

1. Pedro Vial Encampment: On Beaver Creek, vicinity of Dombey, OK

Cimarron County:

2. Santa Fe Trail Campsite: NW 1/4 Sec. 4, SW 1/4 Sec. 5, T 4 N R 4 E; west of highway 287, near Boise City, OK (OLI)

3. Coronado Inscription Site (Autograph Rock) (Cold Springs Camp): East 1/2 NE 1/4 Sec. 8, T 5 N, R 4 E; on Cold Springs Arroyo

REGION TWO:

Alfalfa County:

4. Great Salt Plains: 8 secs. T 27 N R 10 W, 2 secs. T 27 N R 9 W, 6 secs. T 26 N R 9 W, 18 secs. T 26 N R 10 W; between highway 11 and 64, 3 miles east of Cherokee, OK

Kay County:

5. Bryson Archeological Site: 6.5 miles NE of Newkirk, OK (N.R. 9/20/79)

6. Chilocco Creek Archeological Site: NW 1/4 Sec. 26, T 29 N, R 3 E; on west side of Arkansas River near mouth of Deer Creek, NE of Newkirk, OK (OLI)

7. Deer Creek Site: 6 miles NE of Newkirk, OK (N.R.)

Major County:

8. Glass Mountains: Secs. 15-22 and Secs. 27-30, T 22 N, R 13 W; west of Orienta, OK

Woods County:

9. Big Salt Plain (Rock Saline): All but Secs. 1-6, T 27 N, R 19 W; SW highway 64 and 50 junction, 4 miles west of Freedom, 3.5 miles south of Lookout; 8 miles

west of Freedom at Buff Creek

10. Little Sahara: S 1/2 of Sec. 23 and N 1/2 of Sec. 26, T 24 N, R 16 W; west of Waynoka, OK

REGION THREE:

Mayes County:

11. Campbell (Bryan) Saline (Union Mission): Sec. 16, T 19 N, R 19 E; 5 miles NE of Mazie, OK

12. Nathaniel Pryor Gravesite: Original site NW 1/4 Sec. 33, T 21 N, R 19 E, 3.5 miles SE of Pryor--moved in 1982 to Pryor Cemetery-Knoll, OK highway 20 (OLI)

McIntosh County:

13. Ball Mountain: Sec. 17, T 10 N, R 15 E; near Eufaula, OK (OLI)

Muskogee County:

14. Dragoon Commandant's Headquarters (Kneeland House): 409 Creek Street, Fort Gibson, OK (N.R. 3/13/80)

13. Fort Gibson: Secs. 1, 2, and 11, T 15 N, R 19 E (N.R. 10/15/66)

Okfuskee County:

15. Old Dog Ford: North of Canadian River, about 2.5 miles SE of Boley, OK

Osage County:

16. Bald Hill: Sec. 17, T 20 N, R 12 E; about 2/5 mile west of county line, 3.5 miles west of highway 11, 4 miles north highway 64, 2 miles west and 3 miles north of Tulsa, OK

Pawnee County:

17. Bear's Glen: SW 1/4 Sec. 20, T 20 N, R 10 E

Rogers County:

18. Claremore Mound: SW 1/4 SE 1/4 Sec. 13, T 22 N, R 15 E; 1 mile north of Sageeyah, OK (OLI)

Sequoyah County:

19. Bean's Salt Works: On tributary of the Illinois River, 7 miles north Arkansas River; SE 1/4 Sec. 21, T 13 N, R 21 E; about 5 miles north of Gore, OK

Tulsa County:

20. Irving Camp: On Jill Creek on OK highway 51, within 1 mile radius of end of pavement at river's edge

21. Washington Irving Camp: North of Bixby on old U.S. highway 64, east side of Arkansas River in vicinity of bridge north of Bixby, OK

Wagoner County:

22. Hugh Glenn's Trading Post: 1 mile above mouth of Verdigris River

23. Unswatoy's Ferry: Near present day Okay, OK

REGION FOUR:

Choctaw County:

24. Witch Holes Spring: Sec. 34, T 6 S, R 20 E; 2 miles SW of Swink and highway 70

Haskell County:

25. Tamaha Jail and Ferry Landing: NW 1/4 SW 1/4 NE 1/4 Sec. 28, T 11 N, R 2 E; 9 miles north and 7.5 miles east of Stigler, OK (N.R. 11/14/80)

Hughes County:

26. Edward's Store: SW 1/4 Sec. 8, T 6 N, R 9 E; about 1.5 miles SW of Bilby, south of Little River (OLI)

27. Fort Holmes Site: SW 1/4 Sec. 4, T 7 N, R 9 E; site at Bilby, 4.5 miles SE of Holdenville, east on highway 68 near railroad crossing (OLI)

28. Shawnee Town Site: W 1/2 Sec. 30, T 5 N, R 9 E; cemetery 3 miles north of Allen, east of Canadian River bend on ridge (OLI)

LeFlore County:

29. Choctaw Agency/Walker Station (Old Scullyville): 1.25 miles east of Spiro on county road is spring, agency few hundred feet SE; 1 mile east of Skullyville, OK (N.R. 5/5/72)

30. Ring's Plantation: near Spiro, OK

31. Sugar Loaf Mountain: Secs. 32-33, T 7 N, R 27 E and Secs. 4-5, T 6 N, R 27 E; 3 miles northeast of Monroe, OK

Johnston County:

32. Dragoon Crossing of Blue River: NW 1/4 Sec. 20, T 2 S, R 7 E; OK highway 7 about 12 miles west of Wapanucka, OK (OLI)

Marshall County:

33. Camp Leavenworth: Near line between SE 1/4 NW 1/4 and NE 1/4 SE 1/4 Sec. 7, T 7 S, R 6 E; 2 miles south of Kingston, OK (OLI)

McClain County:

34. California Road: south of Wayne, OK

35. Camp Arbuckle (Beaverville): SE 1/4 Sec. 14, T 5 N, R 2 E; 1.5 miles north and 1 mile west of Bryers, south side of Canadian River

McCurtain County:

36. Clear Creek Water Mill: S 1/2 SE 1/4 Sec. 31, T 6 S, R 21 E; 3 miles SW of Valliant, OK

Murray County:

37. Fort Arbuckle: 7 miles west of Davis, OK

Pontotoc County:

38. Dead Man's Spring (Canyon Creek Spring): NW 1/2 NW 1/4 NW 1/4, and NE 1/4 NW 1/4 Sec. 19, T 1 N, R 7 E; 1 mile east highway 99 on section line road, near Fittstown (OLI)

39. Osage Village: South of Canadian River in vicinity of Allen on trail later called Texas Cattle Trail

Pottawatomie County:

40. Washington Irving Camp: near Tecumseh, OK

REGION SIX:

Cleveland County:

41. Camp Mason: Sec. 17, T 7 N, R 1 W; 4 miles NW of Jones, 4.5 miles NE of Lexington, east highway 77 (OLI)

42. Irving Camp: SE 1/4 Sec. 27, T 9 N, R 1 E; 15 miles east of Norman, OK (OLI)

43. Washington Irving Buffalo Hunt and Camp: East of Moore, OK

Oklahoma County:

44. "Ringing the Wild Horse" Site: W 1/2 Sec. 17 and E 1/2 Sec. 18, T 13 N, R 1 W (N.R. 1/25/71)

45. Irving Camp: On Crutcho Creek, near Oklahoma City

46. Washington Irving Camp: NW 1/4 Sec. 30, T 14 N, R 1 W; 1.5 miles west of Arcadia; SW 1/4 SW 1/4, Sec. 13, T 12 N, R 2 W; 2.5 miles east of North Canadian River (OLI)

Payne County:

47. Irving's Castle: SE 1/4 Sec. 5, T 18 N, R 4 E; 2.5 miles SSW of Ingalls (.5W Ingalls, 3S, 1/4W, N of road 1/4) (N.R. 2/17/78)

48. IXL School: N 1/2 NE 1/4 NE 1/4 Sec. 5, T 17 N, R 2 E--monument of school; monument for camp 1 mile NW of school; 4 miles west of Perkins, OK (OLI)

REGION SEVEN:

Blaine County:

49. Spring Valley: Between Geary and Greenfield, OK

Caddo County:

50. Black Beaver's Grave: W 1/2 NE 1/4 SW 1/4 Sec. 15, T 7 N, R 10 W; north edge of Anadarko, OK (N.R. 5/11/73)

51. Rock Mary: NW 1/4 Sec. 1, T 11 N, R 12 W; or NW 1/4 Sec. 30, T 12 N, R 12 W; 4 miles west of Hinton, OK (N.R. 6/22/70)

52. Steen's Buttes: NW 1/4 Sec. 10, T 12 N, R 11 W; west of U.S. highway 66 and highway 281 (OLI)

53. Whipple Expedition Camp 27: North of Cogar, just east of where Deer Creek turns north and about 10 miles east of Rock Mary

Comanche County:

54. Camp Comanche: on U.S. highway 62, 2 miles south of Comanche county line between Sec. 7 and 8, T 4 N, R 11 W, off U.S. highway 277, near Lawton, OK (N.R. 5/12/77)

55. Crossing Site on "14 Mile Beaver Creek": 3 miles west of Sterling, OK (OLI)

56. Mount Scott: E 1/2 Sec. 11 and W 1/2 Sec. 12, T 3 N, R 13 W; in Wildlife Refuge on highway 49, .5 mile west of Medicine Park, 5 miles west and 6 miles north of Lawton, OK

Cotton County:

57. Marcy's Crossing of Cache Creek: 1 mile north of Warren's Trading Post site at the mouth of Cache Creek, near Randlett, OK

58. Warren's Trading Post: SW 1/4, Sec. 8, T 5 S, R 10 W; on north bank of the Red River east mouth of Cache Creek, about 10 miles south of Temple, OK (N.R.)

Custer County:

59. Whipple Expedition Encampment No. 30: near Arapaho, OK

60. Whipple Expedition Encampment No. 29: SE Custer County, near Clinton, OK

Jefferson County:

61. San Bernardo (or the Taovayas Village): Sec. 14, T 7 S, R 4 W (N.R. 3/10/82)

Kiowa County:

62. Devil's Canyon (Dragoon Encampment/Wichita Village): 3 miles SE of Lake Altus, 3.5 miles SE of Lugert, on north side of North Fork (N.R. 6/20/72)

63. Tepee Mountain (Mount Webster): Southeast of Lugurt

Roger Mills:

64. Antelope Hills: SE 1/4 SE 1/2 SE 1/4 Sec. 29, SW 1/4 SW 1/4 SW 1/4 Sec. 28, NE 1/4 NE 1/4 NE 1/4 Sec. 32, NW 1/4 NW 1/4 NW 1/4 Sec. 33; 6 miles NE of Durham, OK (N.R. 12/14/78)

65. California Trail Traces: 1 mile NW Roll on U.S. highway 283

Stephens County:

66. Military Trail Crossing: 2 miles north of Comanche on U.S. highway 81, trail to west

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