

EVER AFTER

RANGERS

Two more companies of rangers joined Captain Bean's rangers. One was under the command of Captain Nathan Boone, son of Daniel and the other by Captain Lemuel Ford. Secretary of War Lewis Cass, who in February had called for the enlistment of the mounted rangers, called for an upgrade. The rangers became dragoons with regular uniforms and training in cavalry tactics. The dragoons would have a great history and would in turn be upgraded to cavalry. The cavalry's story would not end until the bitter beginning of World War II.

CHEROKEE The Cherokee Nation remains in Oklahoma. Its capital is in Tahlequah, Oklahoma just a few miles north and east of Fort Gibson. To learn about today's Cherokee Nation, go to their home page: www.cherokee.org.

MUSCOGEE CREEK Tulsa was founded by the Muscogee Creek Indians. The capital of the Muscogee Nation today is Okmulgee. Today's Capitol is just northeast of the beautiful early Capitol you saw on the Tour. To learn about today's Muscogee Nation, go to their home page: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

DELAWARE In March of 2005, the Delawares lost recognition by the United States. This means a loss in money and services. The Oklahoma Delawares are still in the midst of evolving history. To find out more about today's Delaware Nation go to their home page: delawaretribe.org.

OSAGE Mr. Manhattan was lost to history, but his descendents survive and prosper. The Osage Nation was at one time very rich. It is still a thriving nation. Individual Osages receive continuing income from oil and mineral profits. To learn about today's Osage Nation, go to their home page: www.osagenation-nsn.gov.

PAWNEE The Pawnees lived in what is now Pawnee County. Their lands were divided. Their capital is in Pawnee, Oklahoma in Pawnee County. To learn about today's Pawnee Nation, go to their home page: www.pawneenation.org.

GUIDES

Auguste Pierre Chouteau He continued to maintain a home in Oklahoma at Grand Saline, now Salina. He maintained a trading establishment at the Three Forks. In October 1838 he became ill and died on December 25, 1838, at Fort Gibson. He was buried in the fort's cemetery after a military funeral. He joined many famous and celebrated people in death. His assets were sold to creditors. His trading operation in Indian Territory was virtually gone by spring 1839, although his influence upon the region was not quickly forgotten. The name Chouteau lasts in an Oklahoma community and in the world of ballet.

Antoine Deshetres, Tonish Five years after the Tour, a traveler named Evert A. Duyckinck visited Florissant, Missouri. He saw the home where Tonish lived with his family. In 1837 this home was the best dwelling in town. The living room had a cross and the savior hanging on the wall and when his daughter appeared to greet the traveler, she was very pretty. Everything glowed with prosperity. Mr. Duyckinck reported that Tonish was *unspeakably useful* in town as well as in the woods.

Tonish wasn't home, but came to visit the traveler later at the inn.

. . . we observed from our stoop the gate opening over at Tonish's and a thin sized rather oldish man coming up towards us. . . . We told him we had heard of his fame & being accidentally in the village thought we could call upon him. He said yes Washington Irving had "made books" about him but he was a bad man—told a great many things that were not so. WU 61

Too bad Tonish, it was Mr. Irving who used his pen – and very effectively. Good as you were on the trail, your story dims beside his. Still because of Irving, Tonish left behind an indelible memory. His reputation in Florissant was good though colorful, much like his reputation on the tour. And Duyckinck's description of Tonish agrees with Irving, with the addition of an interesting family.

Tonish is a lithe active fellow---say five feet eight---about 45 yrs of age---has a dark sunken eye that looks mischief, stammers broken English and is celebrated in the village for the number of his family . . . Tonish is evidently the great man of the village. He has seen a great deal of the world & is in repute for his friendship with the Indians." WU 62

One can only hope that he basked in his good reputation and the love of his family until old, old age.

Alexo Pierre Beatte – Billett to Commissioner Ellsworth This is very sad. Before five years had passed beyond 1832, Beatte and his family were swept away by cholera.

TOURISTS

Washington Irving Washington Irving took the steamboat from Fort Gibson immediately after the Tour. The first steamboat of the season was there and it needed to leave before the water fell.

M Irving was expected to stay 8 or 10 days and our cabin was almost ready for our reception. We anticipated not a little pleasure in keeping batchelors-hall – but alas! In the night the sound of Steam was head a steam boat had arrived! . . . M Irving must go . . . I parted with him with great reluctance – We had shared much together, and I trust formed a mutual attachment to last during life – HLE 145

Irving returned to New York. He built a beautiful home called Sunnyside on the Hudson River. He never married, but was well watched over by his nieces. When *A Tour on the Prairies* was published in 1835, he received praises from all, and enjoyed the esteem of fellow writers. He entered and shone brightly in New York society. He was named Minister to Spain in 1842 and because of his wildly popular book *The Alhambra*, he was accepted enthusiastically. The 21st Century Tourist in Spain can still travel from Seville to Granada on Ruta Washington Irving.

Irving returned to Sunnyside in 1846 and though a celebrity, lived quietly. He died, still the first man of letters, though there were many in the process of taking his place. Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorn, and Edgar Allen Poe, young enough to be his grandsons would supplant him in the American memory. Yet, here in the 21st Century he is still being read, in New York, in Oklahoma, and in all of America. And it would be nice to think that with all his remarkable experiences, his Tour out here on the prairies, the watercourses, and the Cross Timber remained with him to the end.

We hope that Sleepy Hollow Cemetery remains a pleasant resting place for such a renowned storyteller and a lovely place to visit for all who still love Mr. Irving.

Henry Leavitt Ellsworth Commissioner Ellsworth soon left the West.

Mr. Irving has gone, and I am left quite alone in my neat little log cabin, with two rooms only . . . and having passed through the perplexity of commencing housekeeping, by purchasing everything myself—

from stores distant several miles; I embrace the first leisure—to fill up a few large sheets with extracts from my journal. HLE 1

Ellsworth pondered on the possible future of the Indians here where he had been called to work. Some of his views came true, most didn't.

-- the Indians will . . . have more than 500 acres to each man woman & child – The Indians will be protected from hostile invasion by the U States – The Osage band under M Requois . . . on the Neosho, is a proof how much, can be done by the Indians themselves – HLE 132

During the years after his return from the West, he was Mayor of Hartford, Connecticut. He was appointed by President Andrew Jackson to be Commissioner of Patents. He was a founder of Aetna Insurance. He was the prime mover of the first government appropriation for agriculture and would become known as the Father of the US Department of Agriculture. He must have learned more than he knew of the richness of the land when he Toured during that distant October and November. In a letter to Irving after the Tour, he said, “when our journey (though by different paths) through the cross-timbers and prairies of life, is completed, we may meet, to enjoy together the Paradise which lies beyond.”

Albert-Alexandre de Pourtalès Albert-Alexandre took care of himself in the West, something he never had to do in his Swiss castle. He reflected on his life on the prairies in a letter home, written when the Tour was over.

. . . I have learned to wait on myself . . . I myself tied my horse's forelegs every evening . . . saddled him and gathered acorns for him. In addition, I was assistant cook, woodchopper, and laundress. I could qualify as a tailor, but since I was dressed in leather from head to toe, I did not have much to do in that line . . . I have also become accustomed to wearing nothing but moccasins, since I lost my only pair of boots on the first day of the trip. Like a real hunter, I learned how to make this elegant and useful footwear myself. CP 75

Alexandre had loved the Osages as a people and as individuals. He saw them as refugees in their own land. His life back home reflected the best aspects of his nature. Though he continued to love the ladies. It was a life of achievement and rectitude after the frolicsome and fearsome time on the Oklahoma Prairies. He became a Prussian diplomat. He married Anna von Bethmann-Holleweg. One of Anna and Alexandre's two daughters was Helene, who married Count Harrach. Countess Mechtild Harrach, the great-granddaughter of Count Albert-Alexandre de Pourtalès, offered his journals to George F. Spaulding who brought them to us. Through war and devastation, as refugees and exiles, the trunk containing these papers was saved. We hope that his time in Oklahoma made them more than valuable to the Count and his family.

Charles Joseph Latrobe The virtuoso arrived at the end of his time away from hustle and bustle. When they arrived at the Colonel's, scarcity was over.

We were welcomed to the luxuries of maize-bread, sugar, salt, and log-huts: and to as much intelligence with regard to the great world from which we had been for a short period so completely cut off, as could be afforded . . . so far from the scene of important events. CJL 85

With his friend Pourtalès, Latrobe traveled to Mexico and then returned to Switzerland. Latrobe married Alexandre's cousin, Sophie de Montmollin three years after 1832. He went to the British West Indies, to follow a line of study well suited to “a man of a thousand occupations.” He was to learn about the effects of early education efforts on slaves, which were then being freed. He was so competent and his reports so excellent that he was called to be the Superintendent of the Port Phillip District of New South Wales in Australia. In the time he was there, the population exploded, from 2,000 to over 76,000. He contributed to cultural life and was the creator of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens; still beautiful today.

He returned to Switzerland a widower. A year later he married his lost wife's sister. His sight began to fail and he was unable to get another position. Because of the failing eyesight, he was also unable to write. He did however gather records of the experience of the early Port Phillip settlers. After his death, his widow Rose presented a memorial Chappelle de l'Hermitage in his hometown of Neuch'tel. The chapel is still there in memory of the young man who came to Oklahoma and impressed all he met with his intelligence, sincerity and good looks.

Did the Four Meet Again?

As much as the 21st Century Tourists want to believe that this happy four met again, maybe even had reunions, it can't be positively proved. Monsieur Latrobe does suggest they met and that their memories of this sweet place on earth were lovely.

. . . when we subsequently met in the gay saloons of the Eastern cities, we often recalled those days of adventure and light-heartedness . . . in the midst of the great wilderness, we . . . lay down at night, and rose in the morning in peace . . . turning our faces towards the West with the assurance that, please God . . . we should find another place of repose in the day's decline . . . I look back with peculiar delight to our mode of life, and our intercourse with a few trusty friends . . . breathing the free air of the open prairie, or the scented brake of mint and sumac . . . to watch the fleet course of the startled deer . . . to choose our new abode in the tall deep forest by the river side, or . . . where the forest merges into the prairie . . . was not all this delightful? C.L. 49 50

Thank you for joining us on the 21st Tour of the Prairies.

Washington Irving Papers

The New York Public Library -- Washington Irving's Journals 1832-1833

Notes for *A Tour on the Prairies*

The Irving Papers are on six microfilm reels. The first two reels contain the journals. Master Negative numbers for the Washington Irving Papers are *ZZ-3300 and *ZZ-12342. To obtain microfilm please consult the URL <http://www.nypl.org/permissions/micro.html>. Complete form. Mail or fax to library.

Journals Describing the 1832 Tour

- Ellsworth, Henry Leavitt. *Washington Irving on the Prairie or a Narrative of a Tour of the Southwest in the Year 1832*. New York: American Book Company, 1937.
- Irving, Washington. *A Tour on the Prairies*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1956.
- Irving, Washington. *The Western Journals of Washington Irving*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1944.
- Latrobe, Charles Joseph. *The Rambler in Oklahoma, Latrobe's Tour with Washington Irving*. Oklahoma City: Harlow Publishing Corporation, 1955.
- Pourtalès, Albert Alexandre. *On the Western Tour with Washington Irving, The Journal and Letters of Count de Pourtalès*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press: Norman, 1968.

Books Adding Understanding of the 1832 Tour

- Beers, Henry Putney. *The Western Military Frontier 1815-1846*. Philadelphia: Porcupine Press, 1975.
- Foreman, Grant. *Fort Gibson: a Brief History*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1936.
- Hudson, Charles. *The Southeastern Indians*. USA: The University of Tennessee Press, 1978.
- Morris, John Wesley, Charles R. Goins, and Edwin C. McReynolds. *Historical Atlas of Oklahoma*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1986.

Periodical Articles

- Chlouber, Carla. "Washington Irving's Fountain Camp." *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. LXXIV, Number 2, Summer, 1996, pp.130-145.
- Shirk, George H. "A Tour on the Prairies along the Washington Irving Trail in Oklahoma." *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Volume 45, pp, 312-323.

Tour Nations

Cherokee Nation – <http://www.cherokee.org/>

Muscogee Creek Nation – <http://www.mcn-nsn.gov/>

Delaware Nation – <http://www.delawaretribe.org/>

Osage Nation – <https://www.osagenation-nsn.gov/>

Pawnee Nation – <http://www.pawneenation.org/>

Tour Ecoregions

<http://travelok.com/atv/crosstimbers.asp>

<http://travelok.com/atv/greatPlains.asp>

<http://travelok.com/atv/hardwood.asp>

<http://travelok.com/atv/prairie.asp>

<http://travelok.com/atv/tallgrass.asp>