

Stage 3

Leave Sand Springs

Cross the Arkansas River (Keystone Lake),
North of its meeting with The Cimarron River,
the Red Fork Continue north of the Cimarron Ending east of Stillwater
at the Washington Irving Trail and Museum

⇒ **LAKE KEYSTONE**

- Leave the original sand springs and turn left/west on OK 64.
- Continue west on OK 64.

⇒ **Keystone Ancient Forest Preserve**

- Turn off OK 64 at 209th West Avenue.
- Travel two miles north to the Preserve.
- Retrace the route back to OK 64.

⇒ **Lake Keystone Dam and Observation**

- Turn off OK 64 at OK 51.
- Immediately after you cross the Dam, turn right/west toward the observation site.
- Return to OK 64 and continue west.
- Cross the causeway on the combined waters of the Arkansas and Cimarron Rivers, Lake Keystone.

⇒ **Washington Irving Cove South**

⇒ **Bears' Glen**

- Turn right/north on West Bear's Glen Road to the site of Irving's Bear's Glen, now under water.
- Retrace the route back to OK 64.

⇒ **Washington Irving Cove Recreation Area**

- Continue west on OK 64.
- Turn right/north on Old Keystone Road to the Washington Irving Cove Recreation Area.
- Retrace the route back to OK 64.
- Turn right/west on OK 64.

⇒ **TERLTON**

- Continue west on OK 64.
- Turn left/south on OK 48.
- Turn right/west on Benight Road, County Road E570, to Terlton.

⇒ **JENNINGS**

- Continue through Terlton on Jennings Road, County Road D0575. At Jennings, turn left/south on OK 99.

⇒ **YALE**

- Continue on OK 99 until you reach OK 51.
- Turn right/west on OK 51 and continue west to Yale.

⇒ **IRVING'S CASTLE**

- Take a short trip to Irving's castle, an important place mentioned by Irving.
- Turn left/south on OK 108. Continue to 44th Street, County Road E0650, and turn left/east.
- Continue one mile to Bethel Road and turn right/south.
- Continue $\frac{3}{4}$ mile and look to your right/west.

⇒ **WASHINGTON IRVING TRAIL & MUSEUM NEXT**

Enjoy!

⇒ LAKE KEYSTONE

- **Leave the original sand springs and turn left/west on OK 64.**
- **Continue west on OK 64.**

After leaving the camp of October 14, a skunk was discovered.

. . . it happened that our approach roused a poor skunk from his noontide slumber under a fallen tree. CJL 39

It was murdered and the killers were made the objects of merriment.

. . . it kept up a vigorous defense in its peculiar style, until the surrounding forest was in a high state of fragrance . . . WI 68

His destruction was speedily effected by Tonish and Beatte, not however before it had avenged itself by filling the air with such a subtil and fetid odour as was almost beyond human endurance. CJL 39

Merriment turned to disgust when the two hunters were determined to bear off the skinned skunk for a dainty dinner. Irving said no and he was ignored. The smelly carcass followed him all the way to the crossing of the Arkansas River. And little did Mr. Irving know that before this Tour was over, he would eat skunk with relish.

⇒ Keystone Ancient Forest Preserve

- **Turn off OK 64 at 209th West Avenue.**
- **Travel two miles north to the Preserve.**
- **Retrace the route back to OK 64.**

Irving and the other Tourists were already aware that the land they traveled through certainly contained prairies and river bottom forests with huge impressive trees. It increasingly contained the Cross Timbers, dreaded words for anyone traveling west. This Ancient Forest Preserve was created by The Ancient Cross Timbers Consortium near Bears' Glen. Dr. David Stahle, distinguished Professor at the University of Arkansas, quoted Washington Irving as he worked to get this beautiful place preserved as a part of the Nature Conservancy. Here you will see ancient trees just as promised in its name. You may very well see two forests or more. If you see it in the spring, it is lovely. If you see it at the time of year Irving did, woe to your travels.

The whole tract may present a pleasant aspect in the fresh time of the year . . . Unfortunately, we entered it too late in the season . . . WI 124

⇒ Lake Keystone Dam and Observation

- **Turn off OK 64 at OK 51.**
- **Immediately after you cross the Dam, turn right/west toward the observation site.**
- **Return to OK 64 and continue west.**
- **Cross the causeway on the combined waters of the Arkansas and Cimarron Rivers, Lake Keystone.**

That same morning Irving saw a hill with an evident Indian trail and he climbed. This hill could easily be one of the many hills right within the city of Sand Springs. The first prominent hill west of Sand Springs is directly behind 129th East Avenue to the north. Another possibility is farther along Highway 64. It is about 2.4 miles from Highway 97, which crosses Highway 64 in downtown Sand Springs. The view of the Arkansas River to the left/south of the highway is spectacular. There is no way to stop and cross over. The driver can only get a glimpse, but the passengers will see a memorable view, one that Irving must have seen also. To be able to see a view like Irving saw, you can call ahead and go the observation site on the west side of the Arkansas River and on the south.

. . . we came upon a well-worn Indian track, and followed it, scrambled to the summit of a hill, from whence we had a wide prospect of a country diversified by rocky ridges and waving line of upland, and enriched by groves and clumps of trees of varied tuft and foliage. W1 67

Continue on 64 to the turnoff for Highway 51. If you have made a reservation, drive across the dam to the observation platform. You will see a sign directing you on your right just beyond the dam. Follow the road to its end. You can now see the Cimarron, Red Fork, to the west and north. You can see the Arkansas River, now a lake, reaching deep into the creeks and valleys of Irving's Tour.

At a distance to the west . . . we beheld the Red Fork rolling its ruddy current to the Arkansas . . . W1 68

Keystone Dam was named for the small community of Keystone which now lies under its waters. This land between the Arkansas River and the Cimarron, Red Fork, was once called Triangle Country and it was full of wild game, a fact that the 1832 hunters were happy to bring home for dinner. Go back across the dam and continue west on Highway 64. You will soon cross the water on causeway and bridge. Just to the south is U.S. Crossing, the historic ford and near where Irving actually crossed the Arkansas River on October 15.

⇒ Washington Irving Cove South

⇒ Bears' Glen

- Turn right/north on West Bear's Glen Road to the site of Irving's Bear's Glen, now under water.
- Retrace the route back to OK 64.

⇒ Washington Irving Cove Recreation Area

- Continue west on OK 64.
- Turn right/north on Old Keystone Road to the Washington Irving Cove Recreation Area.
- Retrace the route back to OK 64.
- Turn right/west on OK 64.

Both of these namesakes of the Tour are situated where they should be, very close to where Irving crossed the Arkansas River. Both are west of the Arkansas River where Irving was by the night of October 15, 1832.

Beatte and Tonish . . . procured a Dry buffalo skin . . . cords were passed through a number of Small eyelet holes with which it was bordered, and it was drawn up, until it formed a . . . deep trough. Sticks were then placed athwart . . . to keep it in shape . . . the singular bark was carried down the bank and set afloat. A

cord was attached . . . which Beatte took between his teeth . . . towing the bark after him; while Tonish followed behind, to keep it steady and to propel it . . . The whole way, they whooped and yelled in the Indian style . . . WI 70 71

Irving and party watched this event unfold and happened to spy the sleek carcass of the polecat which had been killed that morning. He decided to take care of it.

I could not resist the temptation to plump it into the river, where it sunk to the bottom like a lump of lead . . . our lodge was relieved from the bad odor which this savory viand had threatened to bring upon it. WI 71

That taken care of he decided to try his luck with the contrived boat.

. . . we determined to trust ourselves in the buffalo hide . . . I stepped in . . . without hesitation, though as cautiously as possible, and sat down . . . the margin of the hide sinking to within a hand's breadth of the water's edge. WI 71

Pourtalès offered an interesting take on the Arkansas River.

We then soon reached the sandy shores of the Arkansas, whose waters look exactly like crayfish soup. CP 51

Commissioner Ellsworth was always good at listing and counting. He got into the buffalo hide with trepidation.

I have an exact inventory of the luggage that was put in before I was placed upon the top of it . . . 3 full saddle bags – 4 guns – Holsters & pistols; powder horns & shot pouches – ½ a bushell of corn, besides all the fresh provisions of our mess – 8 blanketts – 3 buck skin dresses. . . axe, frying pan tin kettle, coffee pot & eating bowls ropes & 1 bridle 2 great coats – On the top of these with several other small articles I was placed, with my double barrellled gun in my hands loaded for a salute if circumstances should be favorable. HLE 42

When you travel across the lake on Highway 64, you have moved to the west of the Arkansas and north of the Cimarron where Irving continued for seven days.

Confluence of the Arkansas and the Cimarron | Triangle Country

1819 Professor Thomas Nuttall studied the flora of the Triangle Country.

1832 Handsome young Count Pourtalès camped here in the Bear's Glen.

1843 Camp Arbuckle was established here.

1957 Construction began for Keystone Dam.

1954 Keystone Dam was operational and flood control began.

Bear's Glen was inundated.

1968 Keystone Dam produced electrical energy.

2002 Keystone Ancient Forest Preserve was created.

If you turn right/north just after you cross the causeway and bridge, you can find a place to rest or picnic, a place still named for Washington Irving's beautiful campsite for October 15, 1832. You will see a beautiful cove, but the rocky dell is lost.

. . . a wild, rocky dell, bordered by two lofty ridges of limestone, which narrowed as we advanced, until they met and united . . . a fine spring of water rose among the rocks, and fed a silver rill that ran the whole length of the dell, freshening the grass with which it was carpeted. W1 75

Irving's camp was in Bear's Glen on October 15. Today's Bears' Glen campsite is near, but the 19th Century campsite is under water. At this encampment the Captain began to anticipate the perils of the west, the dangers of the Cross Timbers.

"I have a wild crew of young fellows . . . It will be difficult to teach them caution. We are now in the land of a silent, watchful, crafty people, who, when we least suspect it, may be around us . . . ready to pounce upon all stragglers." W1 77

Irving awoke before daybreak the next morning at the Bear's Glen.

The moon was shining feebly down into the glen, from among light drifting clouds; the camp fires were nearly burnt out, and the men lying about them . . . I sat on a rock that overhung the spring at the upper part of the dell, and amused myself by watching the changing scene before me . . . The bugle sounded the signal to mount and march . . . The clamor of voices and the notes of the bugle at length died away, and the glen relapsed into quiet and silence . . . W1 81

⇒ TERLTON

- **Continue west on OK 64.**
- **Turn left/south on OK 48.**
- **Turn right/west on Benight Road, County Road E570, to Terlton.**

As they started out from the beautiful Bear's Glen, the young Count was riled, then pleased. Of course the blood red was from Oklahoma's dirt.

After crossing a stretch of sparsely-wooded rocks which annoyed us and tired our horses, we came upon some charming country; a slightly rocky, rolling prairie watered by numerous streams and colored blood red by sumacs. CP 53

Continue on 64 to Highway 48 turn off to the left/south. It was a glorious day.

Our march this day was animating and delightful . . . breaking our way through a country hitherto untrodden by white men, except perchance by some solitary trapper. The weather was in its perfection, temperate, genial and enlivening; a deep blue sky with a few light feathery clouds, . . . an air pure and bland . . . without a human habitation . . . W1 84

It was the Pawnees who made all travelers wary. One question is whether these Tourists were aware of the differences among the tribes of the plains. No matter, they never saw one.

Turn right/west at Benight Road. Continue toward Terlton. You must turn here in order to go where Irving went. If you were to continue on 48, you would cross the Cimarron and Irving didn't cross the Cimarron he traveled far to the east. House Creek is just beyond Terlton. You are somewhat parallel to House Creek as you travel on Benight Road. On October 16, Irving camped beside House Creek and on the night of October 17, he slept there again.

After a march of about fifteen miles west we encamped in a beautiful peninsula, made by the windings and doublings of a deep, clear, and almost motionless brook, and covered by an open grove of lofty and magnificent trees. W1 84

Food for the evening was venison. Irving was worried for a while since it looked like meat from the lone deer would not make it within reach of his knife. One young hunter shot a deer, cut it up like an artist, and supplied it to the party. Then Beatte came in with a fat doe lying across his horse. Captain Bean, an excellent hunter, did not actually bring in his elk, but there was already more than enough. As Irving rested, anticipating his meal, he enjoyed his rural repose. He called to his mind the rhythms of his Tour, those he had experienced and those he hoped to experience.

. . . I can scarcely conceive a kind of life more calculated to put both mind and body in a healthful tone. A morning's ride of several hours diversified by hunting incidents; an encampment in the afternoon under some noble grove on the borders of a stream; an evening banquet of venison, fresh killed, roasted or broiled, on the coals; turkeys just from the tickets and wild honey from the trees; And all relished with an appetite unknown to the gourmets of the cities. And at night—such sweet sleeping in the open air, or waking and gazing at the moon and stars, shining between the trees! W1 85

It was well that this encampment was in such a beautiful place. Captain Bean decided to stay an extra day here for hunting and mending. Many were sick, so this became the rest camp, a place they would not leave until the morning of October 18. At the end of the rest camp Irving counted the game killed:

. . . six deer, one elk, two bears, six or eight turkeys. W1 93

Mr. Latrobe also was eloquent about the plenty supplied at the Rest Camp.

-- messes No. 1 and No. 2 were plenteously supplied during the day of rest, and the whole camp appeared like a kitchen. Man has been defined as a 'cooking animal,' and in particular, clearly distinct from any other on the face of the earth . . . continual trussing and spiting, drying and smoking, carving and cooking, was the order of the day of repose. We found that we all belonged to the hunter tribe, and that there was to be no medium between a feast and a fast. CJL 43 44

As long as the flour held out, the Tourists made their bread every which way. Ellsworth as is his custom, described this work of this cooking animal in detail.

I was greatly amused to witness the mode of making bread or rather baking it, for it is all made up alike with water, without yeast . . . most, preferred to bake the bread, in the ashes, which was done, by making a hole in the hot embers, and throwing in the dough . . . the bread was heavy, and nothing but the . . . stomach of a hunter, whose gastric powers were in their highest perfection would digest it – HLE 26 27

By this time the Osage bowls bought on October 12, were well used. They were preserved and additions were made for the comfort of the eaters.

Many & many are the times, when M Irving, & myself, curled up our legs, (like tailors on their boards) and bent over, to sip out of the bowl our joint allowance – M Latrobe, inc(r) eased our table comforts very much, by presenting each of us with two clam shells, which he found in a creek near by, while hunting game – the large one served as a plate, and would hold a pancake or small piece of meat, and the small one, served as a salt cellar . . . Our bowls, were made with a small handle, perforated with two holes, by which they were

fastened to the pack- saddle, and our little shells, were carefully packed up, after every meal in our pockets, or saddle bags, as objects of great value – HLE 22

At this camp it had become long past time for some personal hygiene. Irving mentions hygiene little if at all. Commissioner Ellsworth mentions personal cleanliness and bodily functions quite a bit.

We had a leisure moment & examined our wardrobes. --M Irving & myself went to the Creek and washed our linnen & woolens—it was a new employment to both . . . it was extremely difficult, to get out the dirt, especially from my wollens— I plied soap liberally and made my clothes tolerable decent & that is all...

HLE 46

On that same day, while the party rested in the rest camp, the young Count in his leather was not interested in soap. The young Count was out of sorts that day, but assuaged his distemper with food and lolling at the beautiful site and enjoying an abundance of food. Responsibilities and Pawnees seemed far away.

. . . Antoine Lambert, for whom we had been waiting since the night before, arrived with a fat female bear . . . We roasted the ribs and cooked fritters in the grease. We ate moose, deer, bear, and turkey; we drank coffee and prairie tea, and we made grilled corncakes. There was such an abundance of everything that I ate every half-hour from seven in the morning to six in the evening. CP 55

The Commissioner stated the usual course of events at meals.

The meat & flour are eaten with great voracity . . . Large pieces of meat are swallowed down with little mastication, and the process of filling up at a meal, is more like the stuffing of sausages . . . HLE 107

Portalès spent the time when he wasn't eating, musing about Rousseau, about man in a state of nature.

Why don't we eat grass, run naked on all fours, and grab all the female women we meet in our pasture? Oh, nature! Oh, philosophy! Oh Jean Jacques! CP 56

He also spent time pouting about Captain Bean's use of his power. It all had to do with a pair of outrageously impressive antlers. The Captain refused to let the young Count go with him to hunt deer. It had been reported that a herd was in the vicinity and that the sultan of that herd had a magnificent pair of antlers.

He used his authority as captain to declare off limits to the entire company the area in which the superb herd was to be found. . . . I would tell the captain to go to the devil for having reserved for himself alone the right to hunt for horns. CP 54 55

The Captain came back to camp sans antlers. The following says more about the young Count and his juvenile sense of the world than the Captain, and his use of power, but nevertheless.

. . . Huntantlers, he returned exhausted, sweating, and swearing, without antlers, without moose, without turkeys, without deer . . . Our bear, cut up and passed around, was gratefully received . . . the captain had no antlers! That made me extremely happy. Oh, man! CP 56

Days later the adolescent Count was still smarting from the disappointment. In came the Captain. Portalès still had not forgotten the loss of the antlers and the joy that the Captain lost them too. You surely therefore know who Hornless could be.

While hunting, Hornless saw two men far off on a prairie hill. CP 64

Rest camp was very enjoyable for those who were not sick -- perfect spot, perfect weather, perfect nights. The excellent Latrobe opened his heart.

. . . I delighted to wake in the stillness of the long night, and to rouse my spirit . . . to open my eyes upon the deep blue sky, with its host of stars, over-head; to glance upon the dying fires and sleeping camp; to muse upon the past and the present; to raise my heart to heaven; and, without taking care for the future, to bless God . . . and incite my soul to gratitude for this lull and calm in the midst of the heaving and restless sea of existence. CJL 50 51

⇒ JENNINGS

- **Continue through Terlton on Jennings Road, County Road D0575. At Jennings, turn left/south on OK 99.**

On the morning of October 18, they continued westward across Oklahoma north of the Red Fork, the Cimarron. Many creeks ran south toward the river and the party needed to ford each one. Irving was having a delightful and invigorating time with his stalwart pony, the one he purchased with such satisfaction at the beginning of the Tour. He was having too much fun.

(My steed) surpassed in action most horses of the troop, and was of great mettle and a generous spirit. In crossing the deep ravines, he would scramble up the steep banks like a cat; and was always for leaping the narrow runs of water . . . in leaping him across a small brook, I felt him immediately falter beneath me. The horse was . . . consigned to (two young men) . . . as he limped off . . . it seemed as if, with him, all strength and buoyancy had departed from me. W1 97

Now Irving was without an adequate mount. He got on the back of an inferior horse and was not pleased. Irving camped near Lagoon Creek on October 18.

After a march of about twelve miles we encamped . . . on the borders of a brook which loitered through a deep ravine. W1 98

⇒ YALE

- **Continue on OK 99 until you reach OK 51.**
- **Turn right/west on OK 51 and continue west to Yale.**

Some time on the morning of October 19 Irving and party entered what would become the Unassigned Lands. And more important to Irving, he found a very satisfactory steed to replace the one he overused. He would grow to love it.

I succeeded in changing my pony and a reasonable sum of money for a strong and active horse. W1 99

Irving traveled through the Unassigned Lands | So named in the 1880's because they were not Assigned to any Indians at that time.

- 1825** The United States and the Osages signed a treaty that ceded their hunting territory to the Cherokees and the Muscogee Creeks. This land stretched all the way to Spanish Territory at about the western edge of present day Oklahoma.
- 1832** Tourists traveled through lands with a diverse population of Indians.
- 1833** A treaty established the northern border of Muscogee Creek lands.
- 1845** The Seminoles separated from the Muscogee Creeks into their own lands to the south of the North Fork of the Canadian River.
- 1861** The Civil War divided the Muscogee Creek Nation.
- 1866** The Muscogee Creeks and the Seminoles ceded their western lands to the United States to be used to settle civilized Indians.
- 1867** A Treaty gave eastern land in the cession to the Absentee Shawnees and the Pottawatomies. A treaty gave eastern land to the Sac and Fox. A Treaty gave western lands in the cession to the Comanche, Kiowa, and Apache.
- 1869** A treaty gave western lands to the Cheyenne and Arapaho.
- 1870** A treaty gave western lands to the Wichita and Caddo. It was never formally ratified.
- 1883** An executive order gave eastern lands to the Kickapoo. Cherokees and Muscogee Creeks gave lands along the southern edge of the Cherokee Outlet to the Pawnees.
- 1889** Muscogee Creeks and Seminoles agreed to remove conditions from the Treaty they signed in 1866. The Unassigned Lands in the middle of Indian Lands could now be opened for white settlement. The Unassigned Lands were opened on April 22, 1889 and became Payne County, Logan County, Oklahoma County, Cleveland County, Kingfisher County, and Canadian County.

On October 19, Irving described the first suggestions of the Cross Timbers. Post oaks and blackjacks appeared, packed close and in miniature.

Our march for a part of the day lay a little to the south of west, through straggling forests of the kind of low scrubbed trees already mentioned, called "post-oaks" and "black-jacks." ^{WI 101}

Continue to Yale. As you enter Yale, look for Jim Thorpe's home, the only one he ever owned. You can take a side trip south to see it. Jim Thorpe was an American Indian and one of the premier athletes of all time. He won both the pentathlon and the decathlon in the 1912 Olympics. His Native American name was Wa-tho-huck which means Bright Path. He was truly American in his Irish, Sac and Fox, Pottawatomie, and Kickapoo background. You will travel through Pottawatomie County later in the Tour. Continue to Jim Thorpe Park, your right/north. Look for the stone column in the northwest part of the park in a triangle of grass between two roads. It is hard to find.

On it is a plaque dedicated by the Oklahoma Historical Society and the community's children to memorialize the gloomy Storm Camp. The plaque is hard to read. The date should be October 19, not October 20.



-- it commenced raining about noon – the soil was spongy oak land, that becomes miry, when wet -- . . . all of us got wet entirely through – when I stopped my boots were almost filled with water, which ran down from my clothes . . . cool breezes sprang up from the N West, harbingers of dry weather -- . . . I found my medicine box in a bad state – I had some blue pills – quinine pills & opium pills – all these had become wet – I took them out, and after drying them as well as I could, I rolled (them) in flour which kept them from amalgamating -- HLE 58

The horses were frightened and almost unmanageable. After a morning of rain in torrents and intense sheets of lightning and bursting, echoing thunder, Irving camped early west of Yale on October 19. What a day!

Lightning flashed, thunder rolled, and the sky was full of fire and water. Lightning struck a short distance from us and routed from its shelter a herd of deer . . . CP 59

There are several creeks to the west of Yale. Three you may see are Mud Creek, Salt Creek, and Council Creek. Carla Chlouber, a Payne County historian and owner of the Washington Irving Museum, suggests Mud Creek as the site. George Shirk suggested Salt Creek. This author believes that Salt Creek looks the right size and it carries a reasonable supply of water. Certainly on this day there was a thunderstorm and it kept on and on, wet and thunderous.

. . . we . . . encamped in an open and lofty grove, with a prairie on one side and a stream on the other. The forest immediately rang with the sound of the axe, and the crash of falling trees. Huge fires were soon blazing . . . As the night thickened, the huge fires became more luminous; lighting up masses of the overhanging foliage, and leaving other parts of the grove in deep gloom. Every fire had its goblin group around it, while the tethered horses were dimly seen, like spectres, among the thickets . . . The grove . . . resembled a vast leafy dome, walled in by opaque darkness . . . then two or three quivering flashes of lightning in quick succession, would suddenly reveal a vast champaign country, where fields and forests, and running streams, would start, as it were, into existence for a few brief seconds . . . WI 102 103

The young Count also was struck with the scene that night of fire and water.

Shivering and ranting in the water that dripped from everything, at long last we found a delightful campsite . . . After some time and effort, we succeeded in lighting a fire and we pitched our tent. . . . Dry clothing followed by a good supper of fritters, moose, deer, and bear finally restored our good humor . . . The crackling fires threw shadows and light over groups of Rangers who were drying themselves near the brilliant flames . . . During the night, wild geese flew overhead and announced with their cries that both their flocks and cold weather were on their way from the boreal regions. CP 59 60

The morning of October 20 dawned bright. The skies were clear.

. . . a glorious sunrise transformed the whole landscape, as if by magic. The late dreary wilderness brightened into a fine open country, with stately groves and clumps of oaks of a gigantic size, some of which stood singly, as if planted for ornament and shade, in the middle of rich meadows, while our horses, scattered about, and grazing under them, gave to the whole the air of a noble park. WI 105

Ellsworth really waxed eloquent. And as was his nature, the Bible was his reservoir of images and understanding.

The country today is truly delightful – The prairies are smooth – the streams frequent, and meandering so as to present a vigorous growth of stately tress on every side . . . the autumnal blossoms mixed with the prairie grass never fail to attract the eye with delight, or refresh the lungs by their sweet odours – My late travelling companion Doct O Dwyer says, Eden was here, and not on the Euphrates – “Adams paradise was in these praries”!! HLE 61

After such a terrible night, the party looked to the horses and then to their safety as they moved farther into the country of the Pawnees.

. . . our line was formed with more precision than heretofore . . . packhorses were placed in the centre of the line, and a strong guard in the rear. W1 105

⇒ IRVING’S CASTLE

- Take a short trip to Irving’s castle, an important place mentioned by Irving.
- Turn left/south on OK 108. Continue to 44th Street, County Road E0650, and turn left/east.
- Continue one mile to Bethel Road and turn right/south.
- Continue ¾ mile and look to your right/west.

The rangers and Tourists were now truly on the prairies, grand grasslands.

. . . one of the characteristic scenes of the Far West broke upon us. An immense extent of grassy, undulating, or, as it is termed, rolling country, with here and there a clump of trees, dimly seen in the distance like a ship at sea; the landscape deriving sublimely from its vastness and simplicity. W1 106

Irving described his castle, a landmark still here today, nearly as it was then. Look to your right/west and you will see the site of Irving’s Castle. You can stop and look in through the cedar. As you read earlier, cedar was once practically unknown on the prairie. Now it has totally overwhelmed Irving’s Castle. This is a painting of the castle that can be found in the Washington Irving Trail & Museum. In 1978, the castle was named a National Historic Place. This is the entry from the National Park Service: Irving’s Castle (added 1978 - Site - #78002257) Also known as Washington Irving Point of Interest 2.5 mi. (4 km) S of Ingalls.

. . . on the summit of a hill was a singular crest of broken rocks, resembling a ruined fortress. It reminded me of the ruin of some Moorish castle, crowning a height in the midst of a lonely Spanish landscape. To this hill we gave the name Cliff Castle. W1 106



Irving spent many months in Spain and from that earlier trip came *The Alhambra*, a book the Spanish people know well. Ellsworth also described the broken rocks.

. . . we descried at a distance, a perfect resemblance of an old Moorish castle in ruins . . . dame nature . . . had so arranged the rocks and stones, as to give the representation, of every part, of an citadel tumbling to

ruins, and yet leaving all the traces of ancient magnificence – with leave of M Irving Doct Hold named it “Irvings castle” HLE 62

Young Pourtalès was still smarting from the loss of antlers on October 17. He was bored. Being Pourtalès; being bored didn’t last long.

A very uneventful day, exactly like the others, except that in spite of yesterday’s lesson we continue to stay in the forest, probably so that Hornless can miss some bears—or “bars” as they call them. CP 60

Everyone on the Tour was excited by signs of the game, especially buffalo. Our ride was made more cheering by the fresh signs of Buffaloe . . . tracks and recent dung (resembling entirely that of our oxen & cows) assured us we should soon meet these terrific animals. HLE 62

⇒ WASHINGTON IRVING TRAIL & MUSEUM NEXT

[Go to Stage 4 of the Tour](#) ⇒