

**APPLEGATE TRAIL ROUTES & FORDS ACROSS THE ROGUE RIVER**  
Analysis Handout by Bob Black at December 1, 2014 HETC's Meeting at Fords

**Diary References or Survey Notes**

**Virgil Pringle Diary-1846**

<u>Location</u>	<u>Distance</u>
Wednesday, Oct. 14—"Travel 12 miles of good road and camp on Rogue River..." (at the site known as the Dardanelles)	
Thursday, Oct. 15—"Move down the river 10 miles and camp — Plenty of Indians about ..."	10 miles
Friday, Oct. 16—"Cross Rogue River about 4 miles from last camp. Ford good. Camp on right bank."	4 miles
<b>Total miles travelled from the Dardanelles to the ford across the Rogue River .</b>	<b>14 Miles</b>

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**Lester Hulin Diary—1847**

Sunday, October 17—"Found very good camping Ground about 5 on the river bank." (Dardanelles)	
Monday, October 18—"Followed down the river About 12 miles and camped."	12 Miles
Tuesday, Oct. 19—"In about 1 mile we crossed the river ..."	1 mile
<b>Total miles travelled from the Dardanelles to the Ford across the Rogue River</b>	<b>13 Miles</b>

Friday, Oct. 19—"Passed among the bluffs and camped after a distance of about 12 miles."

**Jesse Applegate Survey Notes on the Military Road**

<u>Location</u>	<u>Milepost</u>	<u>Distance</u>
Dardanelles	MP 11.4	11.9 miles
Evan's Ferry	MP 23.3	

**Total miles travelled from the Dardanelles  
to the Rogue River (ferry) crossing 11.9 miles**

**COMPARISON OF RECORDED DISTANCES TRAVELLED**

<u>Location</u>	<u>Pringle</u>	<u>Hulin</u>	<u>Applegate</u>
Dardanelles	10 miles	12 miles	11.9 miles
Camp	<u>4 miles</u>	<u>1 mile</u>	
Ford			
Sub-Total	14 Miles	13 miles	11.9 miles
	<u>15 Miles</u>	<u>19 Miles</u>	<u>19.2 Miles</u>
Grave Creek			
Total	29 Miles	32 Miles	31.1 Miles

## **CONCLUSIONS**

1. Only the diary information, the 1853 Jesse Applegate Survey information and the GLO Survey information was used. No use was made of the "recollections" as the information they contained was considered to be unreliable.

2. The 1853 Applegate Survey Map shows that the Military Road crossed the river at the location of the Evan's Ferry. This location was recorded as being 11.9 miles west of the Dardanelles.

3. The emigrant diary mileages appear to be quite accurate when compared to the surveyed distances recorded by the Applegate Survey of 1853 between the Dardanelles and Grave Creek. Therefore, they were accepted as correct.

A. The Pringle Diary recorded a distance of 14 miles from the Dardanelles to the ford used by the emigrants of 1846. Therefore, it appears that this ford was located near Pearce Riffle.

B. The Hulin Diary recorded a distance of 13 miles from the Dardanelles to the ford used by the emigrants of 1847. Therefore, it appears that this ford was located west of the later Evan's Ferry location and near Pearce Riffle.

4. Using the current aerial photos and USGS topographic maps, a possible ford site was located that was likely used by the emigrants of 1846 and 1847. This site is at the upper end of Pearce Riffle, and is between Chinook Park on the south bank and Pearce Park on the north bank. Once across the river, the trail likely headed northwest up Rich Gulch (through the bluffs) and then continued west and then northwest through the NE part of modern Grants Pass, Oregon.

5. The site of the ford is shown on the APPLEGATE TRAIL map dated Dec. 15, 2014.

**Bob Black, Member  
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December 1, 2014**