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# The Crown Collection of Photographs of American Maps

Selected and edited by

**Archer Butler Hulbert**

Associate Professor of American History, Marietta College;  
Author of "Historic Highways of America," etc.

Series IV

3



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The Crown Collection  
to  
American Maps.

Series IV.

The  
American  
Transcontinental  
Trails

edited

by

Archer Butler Hulbert

Professor of History and Director of  
the Stewart Commission on Western History,  
Colorado College.

Volume 3.

The Oregon Trail in Idaho and Oregon.

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## Introduction: Vol. 3.

Volume 3 of Series IV carries on The Oregon Trail from Map No. 36 in Volume 2 Through Idaho and Oregon To The Dalles.

The hope expressed in the General Introduction to Volume 1 that these maps might arouse keener local interest in behalf of accuracy bids fair to be more than fulfilled.

The establishment at Colorado College of the Stewart Commission on Western History by Philip B. and Francis C. Stewart of Colorado Springs assures the success of this and other research into the history of the Far West. To them the editor expresses his deep sense of gratitude.

To J. Q. Peterson of the U.S. Geological Survey the editor is indebted for much assistance.

R.B.H.

Colorado Springs, Oct. 18, 1925.

Bibliography<sup>⑤</sup>

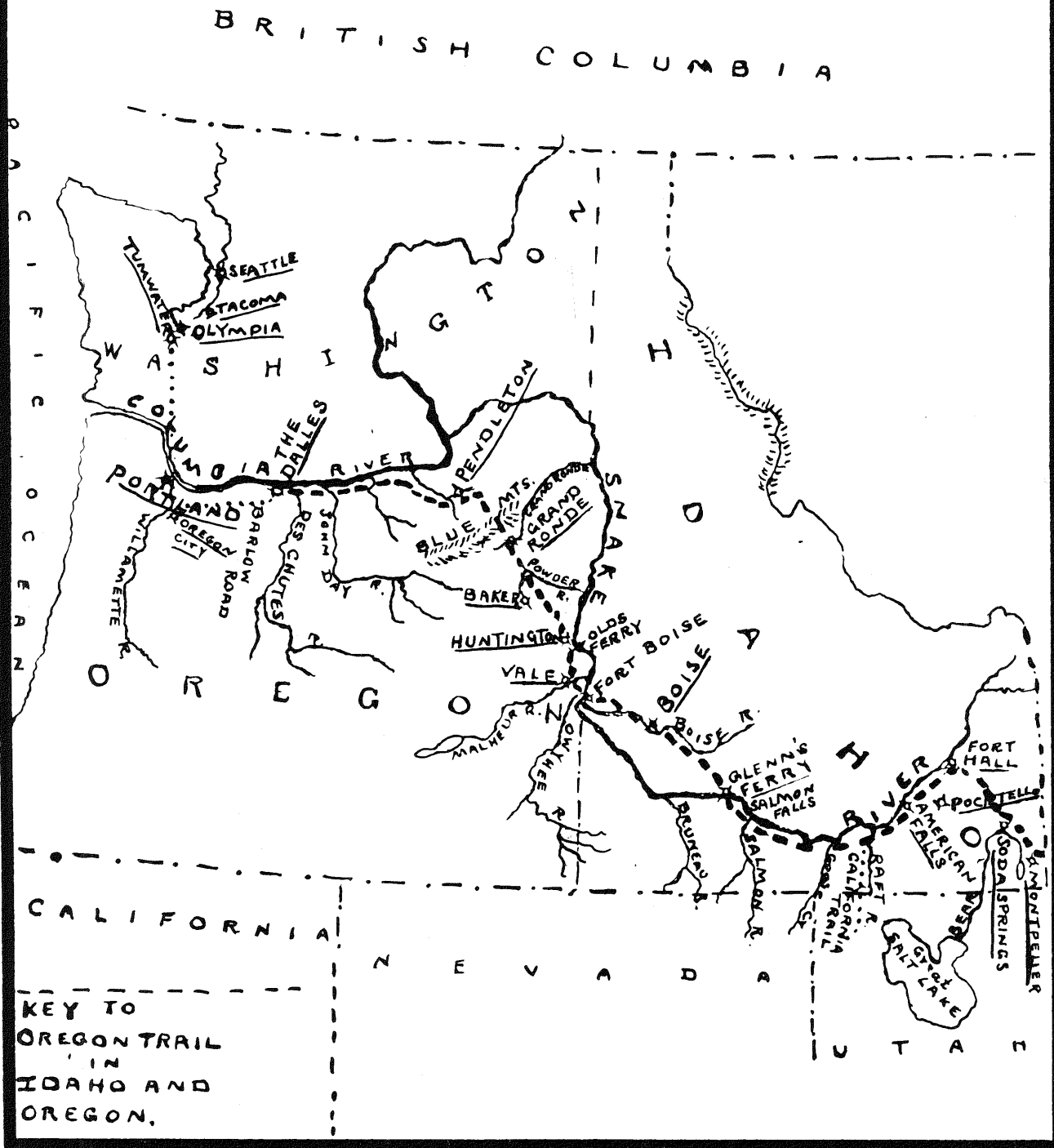
(The Oregon Historical Society Quarterly and the Oregon Pioneer Association Transactions are cited here, respectively, as "Quarterly" and "Transactions".)

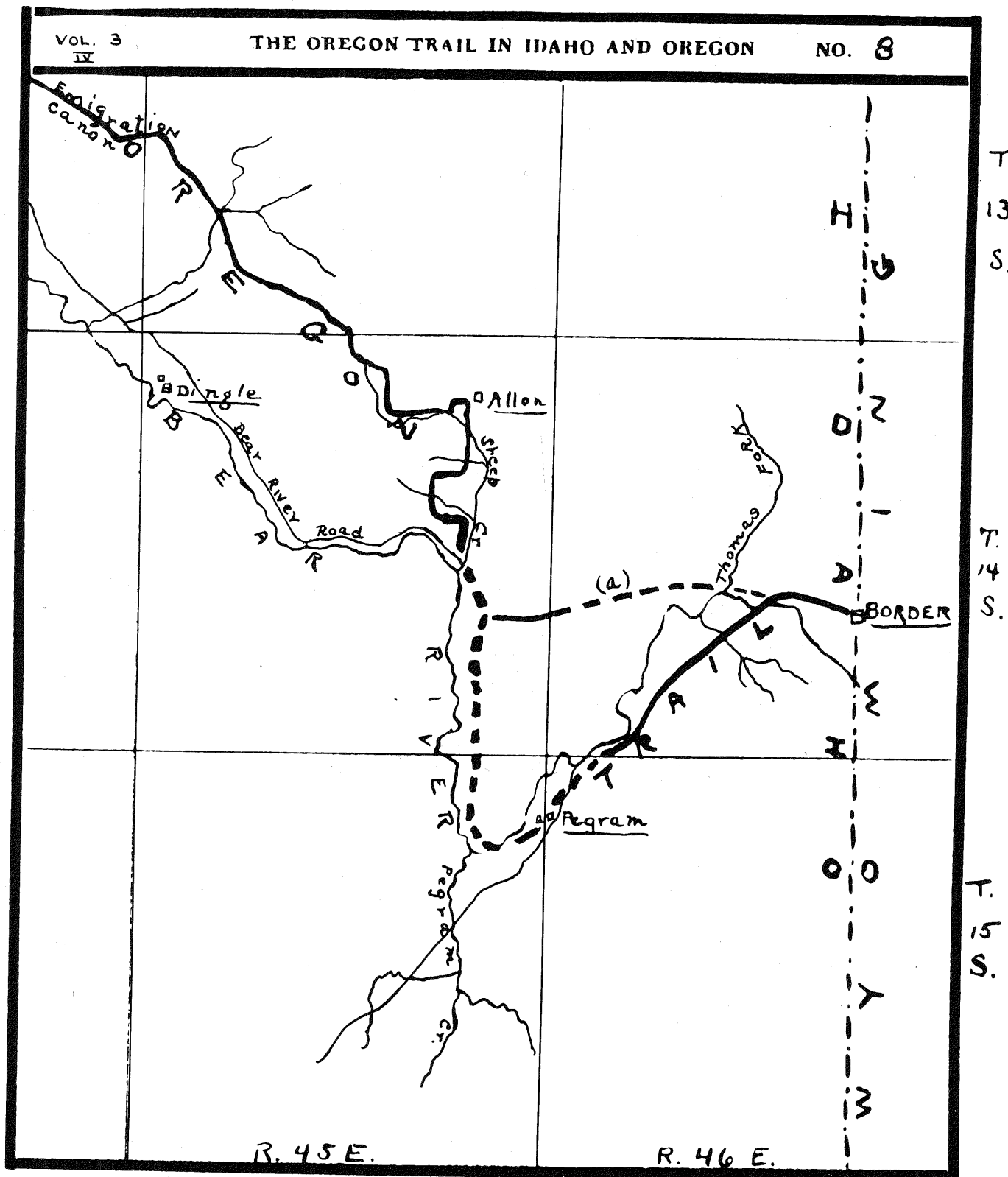
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|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Adair, S. O., "Recolle." <u>Transactions</u>                           | 1843            | 1900                   |
| Arthur, J., "Remin." <u>Transactions</u>                               | 1843            | 1887                   |
| Ball, J., "Journal", <u>Quarterly</u> , III.                           | 1832            |                        |
| Barney, J. N., <u>Quarterly</u> , XII + XIII.                          |                 |                        |
| Bennett, L. J., "Recollec." <u>Transactions</u>                        | 1845            | 1895                   |
| Burnett, P. H., "Letters", <u>Quarterly</u> , III.                     | 1843            |                        |
| Canfield, J. B., "Remin." <u>Transactions</u>                          | 1847            | 1903                   |
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| Ellis, M. F., "Journal", <u>Transactions</u>                           | 1838            | 1889                   |
| Elliott, T. C., <u>Quarterly</u> , XIII.                               |                 |                        |
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| Greer, E. O. S., "Diary" <u>Transactions</u>                           | 1848            | 1907                   |
| Harrit, J., "Diary" <u>Transactions</u>                                | 1845            | 1910-11                |

⑤ Note again bibliographies cited in Vol. 1. No. 6, and add, for this volume, C. W. Smith, Pacific Northwest Americana. The purpose to cite only sources easily obtainable, and not rare books or manuscripts, is carried out in the present instance also.

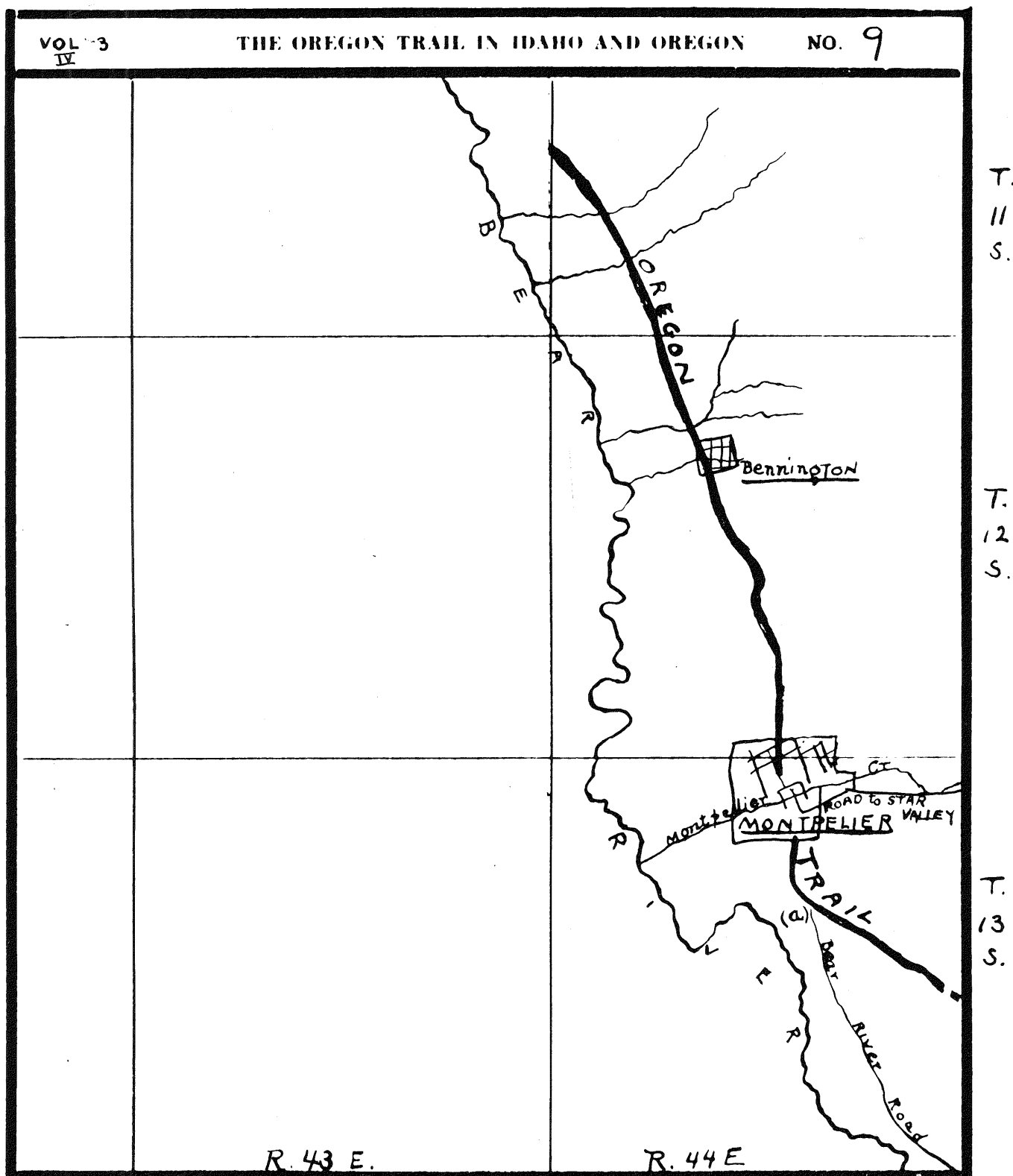
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|-----------------------------------------------|--------|-------------|
| Howell, J.E., "Diary", <u>Quart. I.</u>       | 1845   |             |
| Kellogg, D., "Remin.", <u>Trans.</u>          | 1852   | 1913        |
| Kerns, J.T., "Journal", <u>Trans.</u>         | 1852   | 1914        |
| Leonard, Z., <u>Expedition</u> ,              | 1831   | 1904        |
| Minto, J., "Remin.", <u>Quart. II.</u>        | 1844   |             |
| Nesmith, J.W., "Diary", <u>Quart. VII.</u>    | 1843   |             |
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| Parrish, E.E., "Diary", <u>Trans.</u>         | 1844   | 1888        |
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| Richey, C. & A., "Letter", <u>Trans.</u>      | 1852   | 1912        |
| Staats, S., "Recollec.", <u>Trans.</u>        | 1845   | 1877        |
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| Townsend, J.K., <u>Narrative</u> (E.W.T. XXI) | 1833-4 | 1905        |
| Tuller, M.A., "Recollec.", <u>Trans.</u>      | 1845   | 1895        |
| Welch, N.D., "Recollec.", <u>Trans.</u>       | 1844   | 1897        |
| Whitman, Mrs M., "Journey", <u>Trans.</u>     | 1836   | 1891        |
| Williams, V.A., "Diary", <u>Trans.</u>        | 1853   | 1919        |
| Winter, W.H., "Journal", <u>Quart. VII.</u>   | 1843   |             |
| Wislizenus, F.A., <u>Journey</u>              | 1839   | 1912        |
| Wolverton, C.E., "Remin.", <u>Trans.</u>      | 1847   | 1899        |
| Wyeth, J.B., <u>Oregon</u> (E.W.T. XXI)       | 1832   | 1905        |

- The Oregon Trail in Idaho and Oregon -

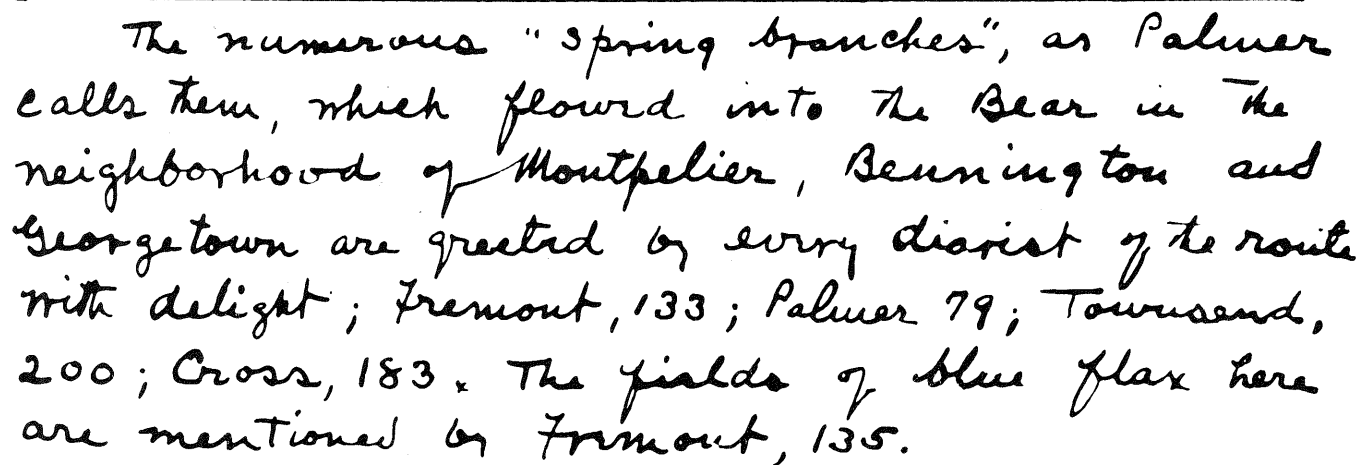


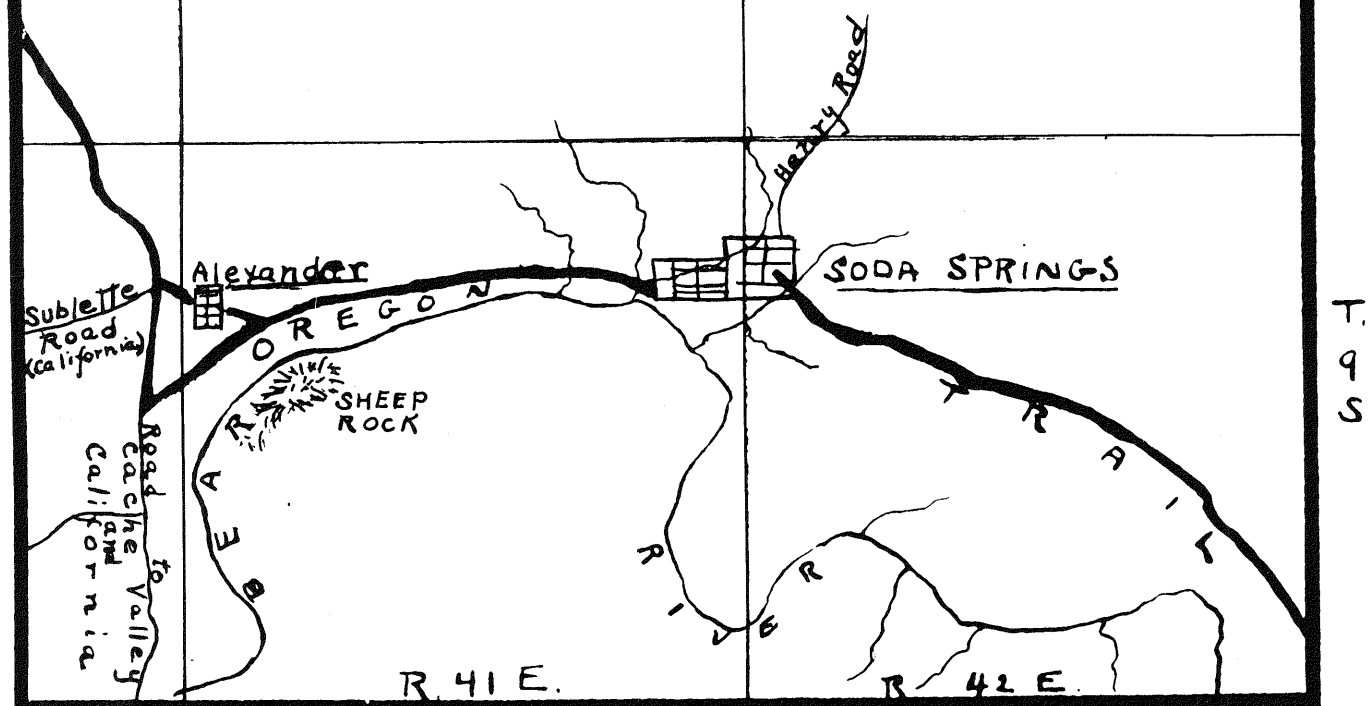


On entering Idaho the Oregon Trail crossed the Bear near the mouth of Thomas Fork; Fremont, 133; Palmer, 79. The earliest packhorse route took the cutoff (a). Reaching the luxurious Sheep Creek valley, steep hills were encountered which were exhausting to emigrant trains; Fremont, 134; Palmer, 78; Townsend, 199. The valleys between offered abundant forage which was greatly relished. The modern road follows

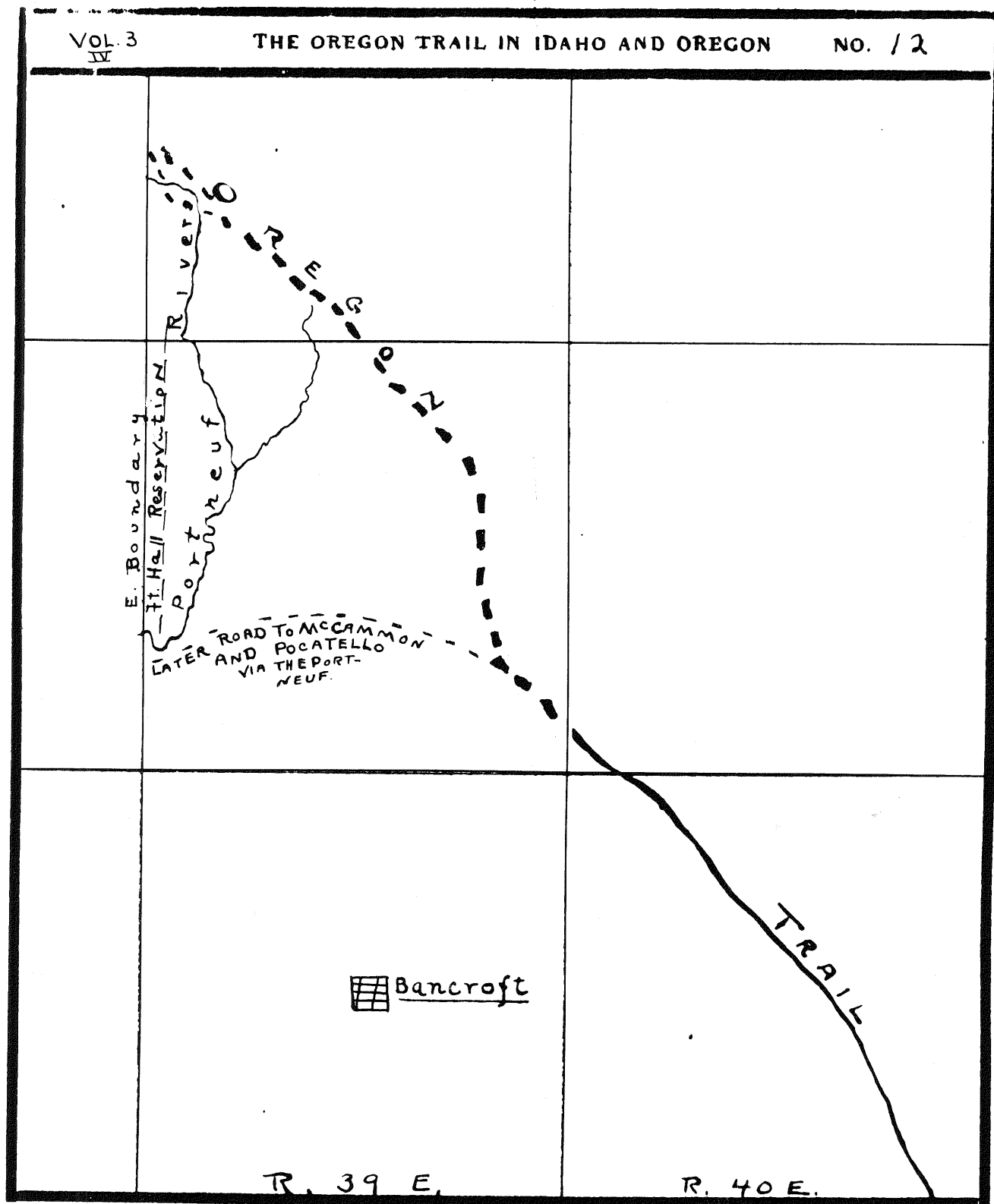


Descending "Emigration Canon" ("one mile almost perpendicularly", Prosch, 56) travellers rested and repaired outfits in the valley near Montpelier, which was settled by Mormons in 1863. The damage to running gear very likely explains the location (a) of the trading post found here by Major Cross in the year of the rush to California; Cross, 181.

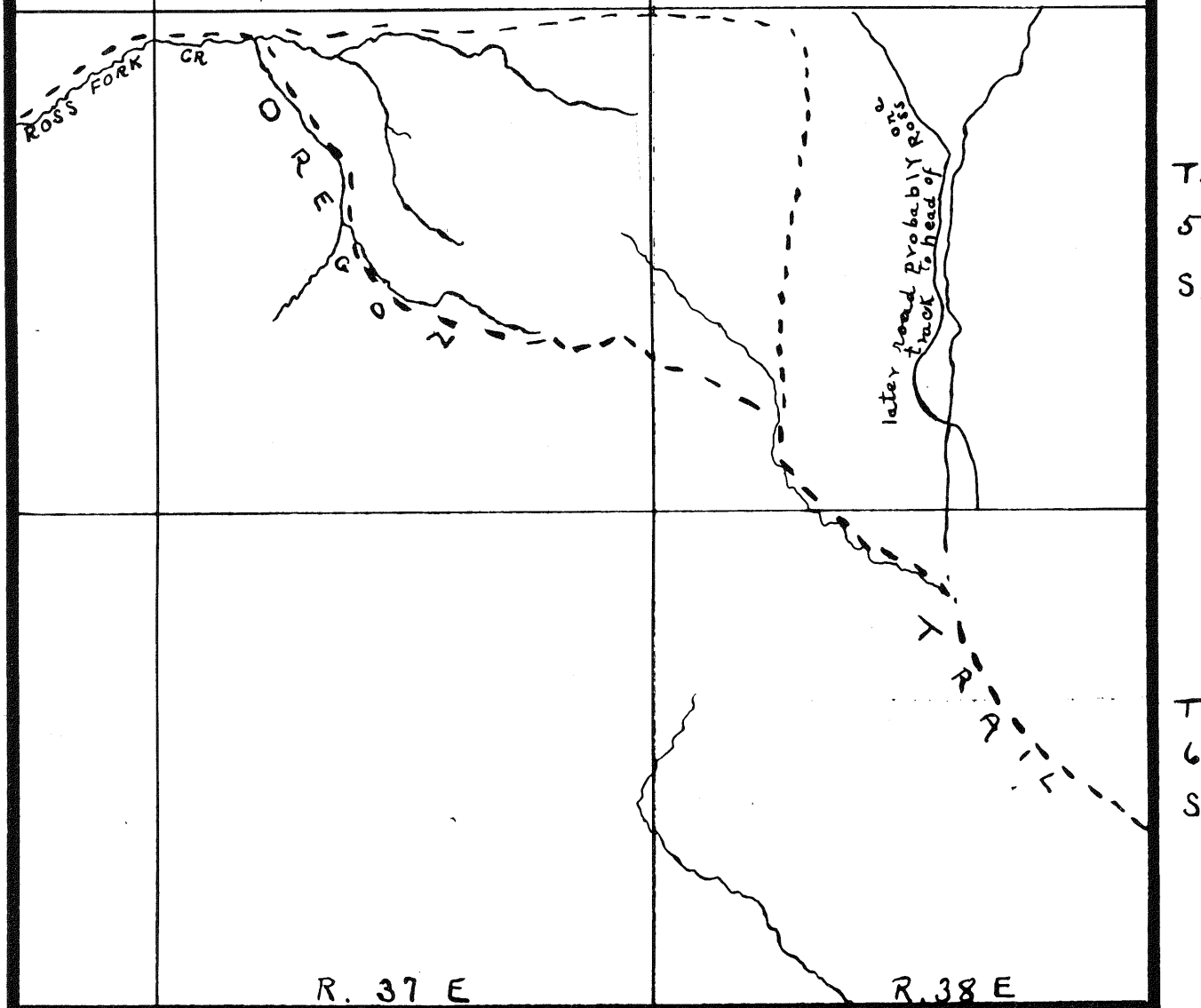




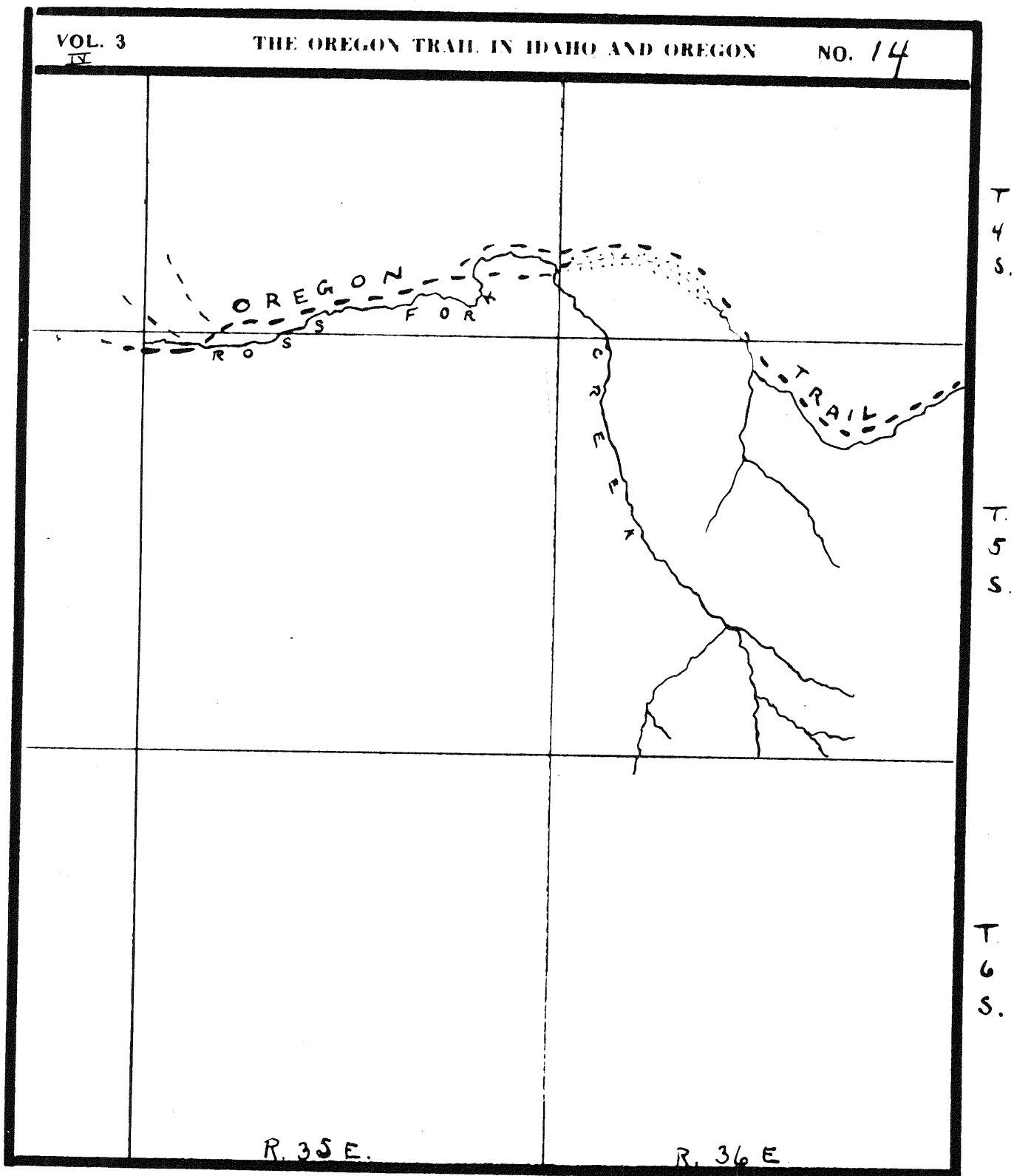
Every traveller in our list describes "Beer Spring" (Fremont, 135-9) or "the white clay pits" (Townsend, 200), as the noted Soda Springs were first called. Following the Bear, which here swings southward around imposing Sheep Rock (Fremont, 139; Winter, 88), a California trail branched southward, J. H. Sharp, 92; Cross, 186; Quarterly, VII, 319; Trans. 1889, 104; Williams, 214.



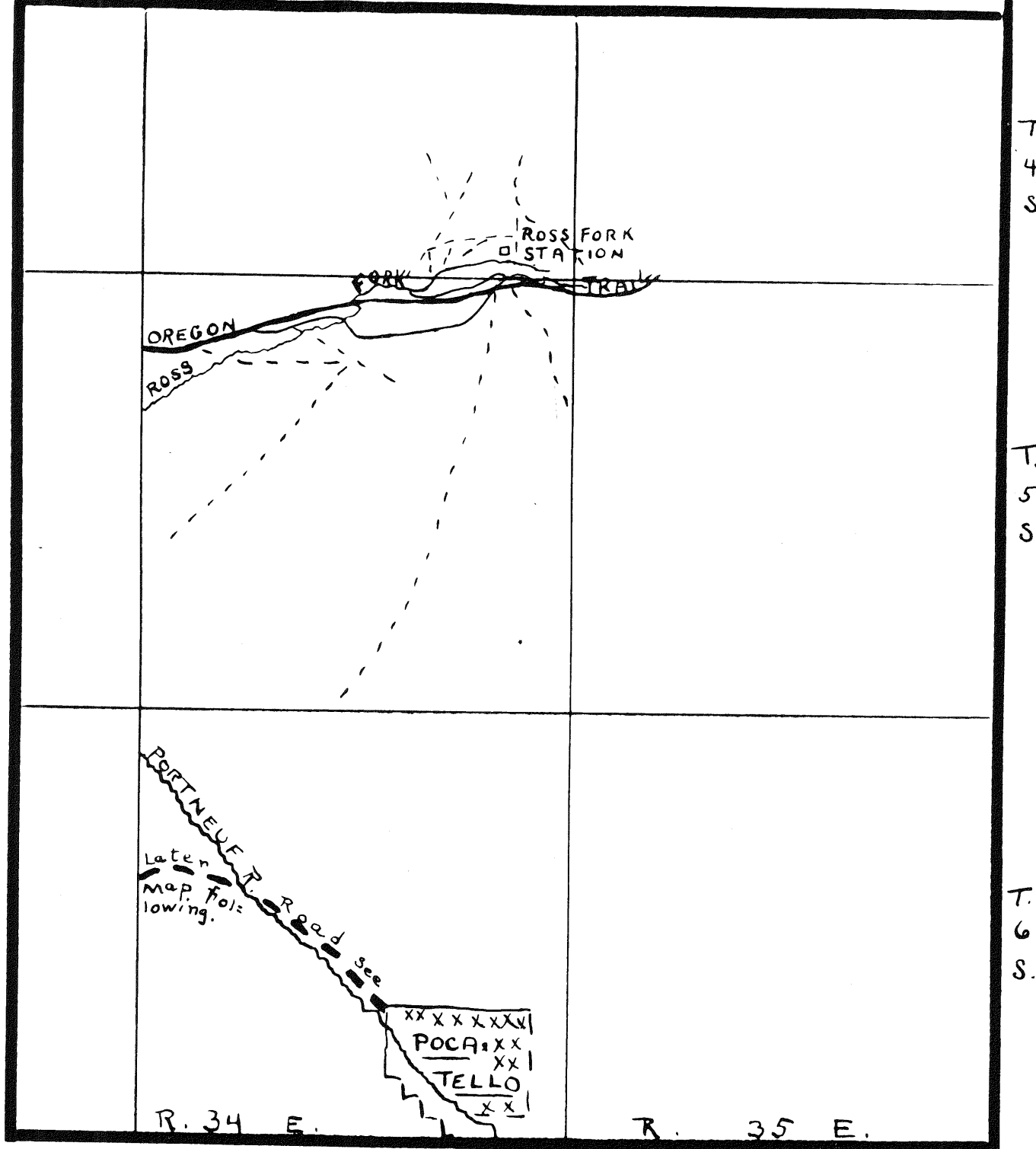
The old trail, striking northwest from Alexander toward Fort Hall on the Snake River, crosses elevated basaltic plains (Palmer, 84) and comes down on the headwaters of the Portneuf, Blackfoot and Ross Fork; Townsend, 204; Ball, 93; Winter, 88; Cross, 187.



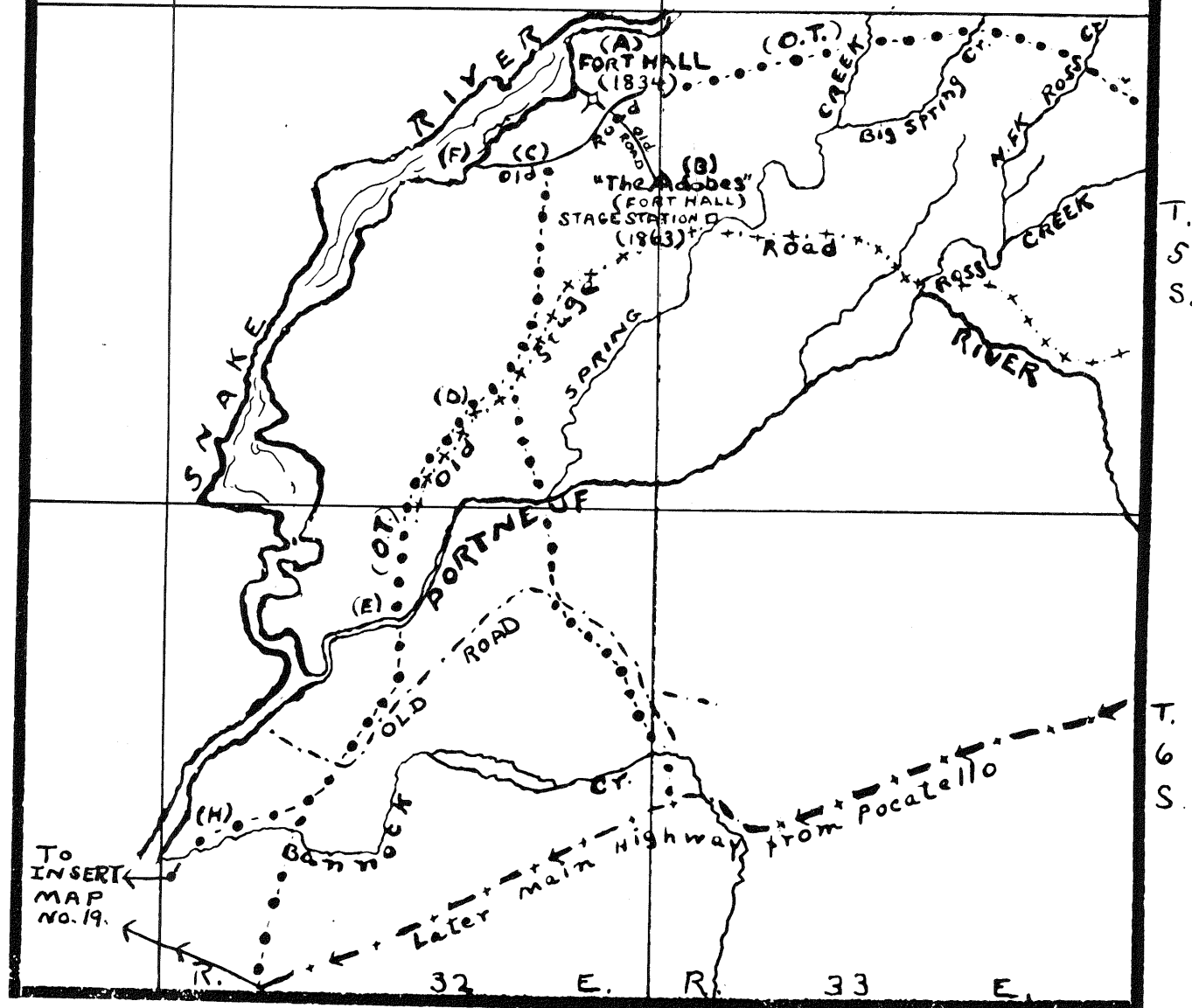
The vagueness of writers on this divide between Bear and Snake drainages makes any guess as to exact route hazardous. The earliest surveys, in general, show only a dotted line to mark the track, in part, and this is confused with similar lines showing dry beds of tributary streams. As in the case of many divides, different tracks were used at times.



The floundering over the mazy tracks on or near Ross Fork was enlivened only by the consciousness that the emigrant was, at last, looking upon streams which flowed into the Pacific Ocean. All of our listed diarists, who mention these streams, refer to this cheerful reflection.



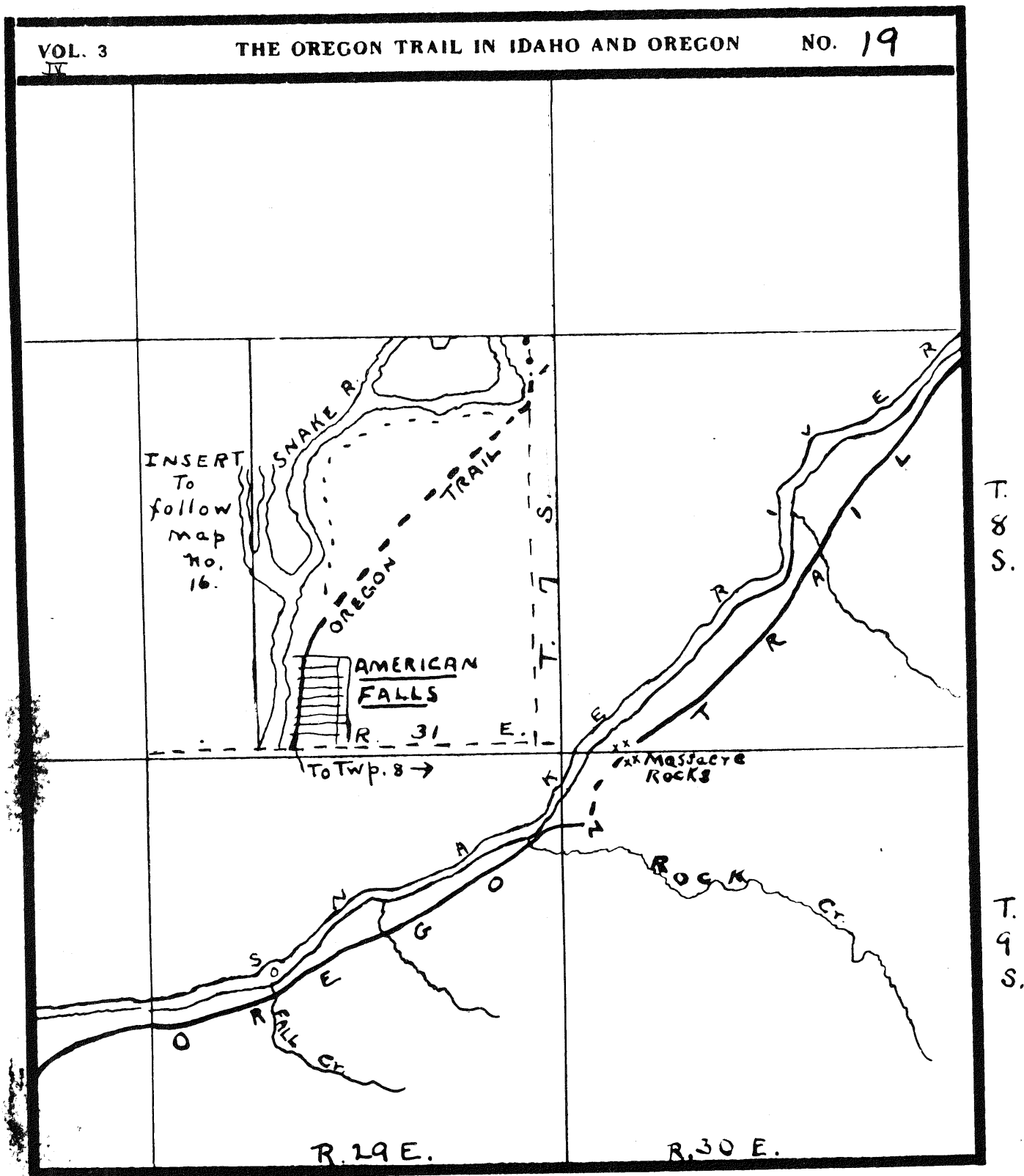
For the meager course of the trail on Ross Fork and tributaries cf. Palmer, 85-86; Townsend, 209; Kerns, 174. The dotted lines above show the traces of old roads found when the region was first surveyed. They suggest that no one track was ever "the Oregon Trail" hereabouts. The "later road" from Pocatello approximates the present highway.



Every annalist, of course, mentions Fort Hall at more or less length. Many factors have led to the prevailing misunderstandings as to the original site as well as the position of the later "Fort Halls". The confusing of the names of the various streams, Ross Creek, Spring Creek, Portneuf and Bannock, by early writers was a contributing cause for these misunderstandings. The changing (continued)

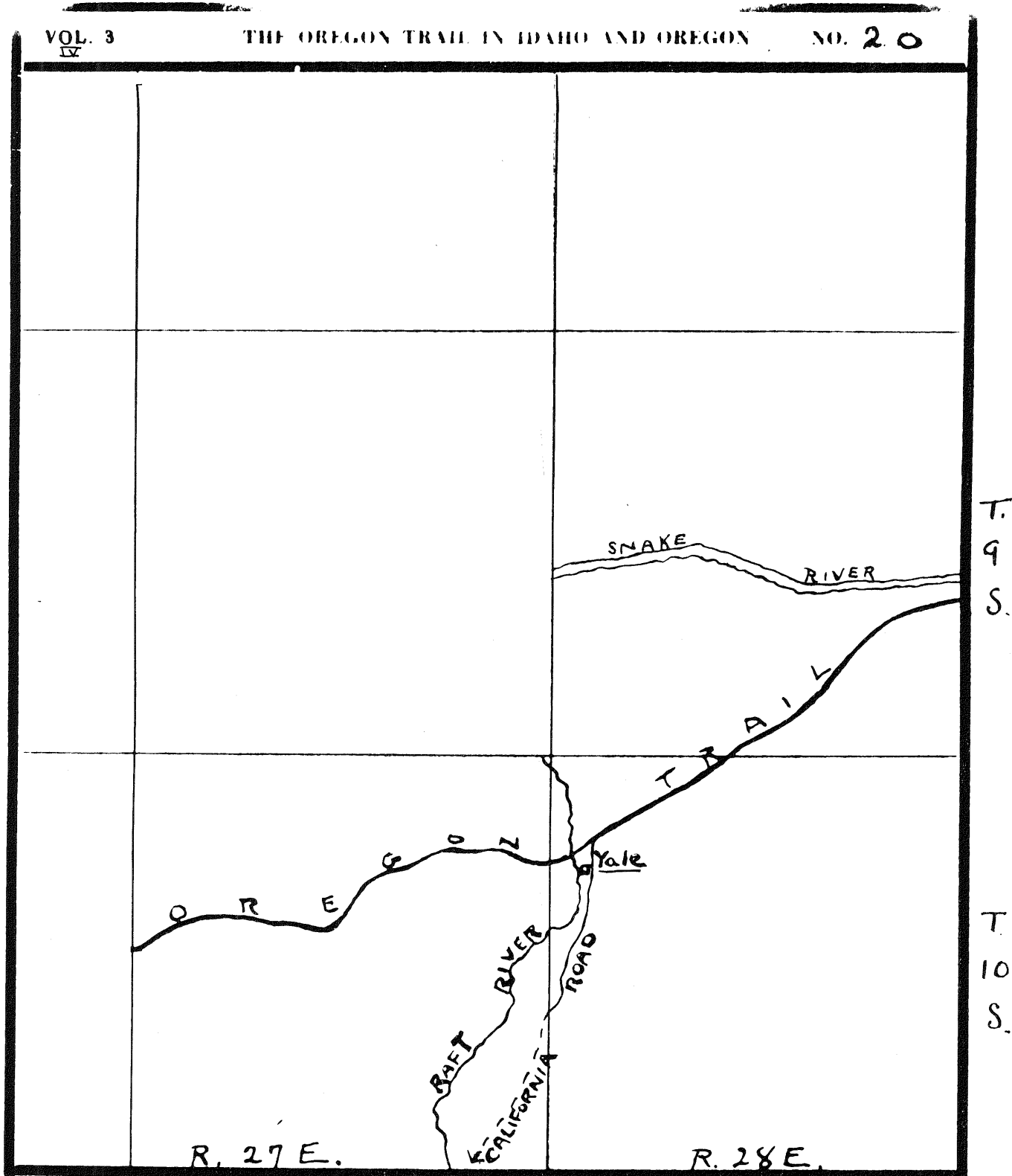
drainage conditions of the section in T. 5 Rs. 33 and 32 have also contributed; it contains upward of 1200 springs. With the passing years old streams have disappeared; new ones formed. The site of Wyeth's Fort Hall ("A" on preceding map) is approximately exact, located one half mile from the Snake (Palmer, 87). The "forts" or camps(?) located by, or found by, Townsend (209), Fremont (160), Minto (216), Wislizenus (106), Cross (188), all going under the name "Fort Hall", cannot be reconciled save as we understand that water conditions led to a change of location such as Cross (in 1849) states was then about to take place (188-190). "The Adobe" ("B") was a stage station. It is called "Old Fort Hall" on the U. S. Geological Survey (Bull. 713, Plate III, pocket). The word "old" is not used advisedly, although one of the numerous "Fort Halls" may have stood on that site. The remains of old roads ("C") near the original site is not without significance. I have drawn the tentative Oregon Trail ("O. T.") to connect with (continued)

them. The road "C" ending near the Snake may indicate ("F") the old ferry where the river was crossed by emigrants who took the "north bank" route to Fort Boise; cf. J. H. Sharp, 92; Parrish, 108; W. Irving, Astoria (ed. 1881) Ch. XXXIII. The lines of the trail ("O.T.") are conjectural, based on study of travellers' journals. Although the annalists speak of following the Snake, we do not know how closely they meant; the swampy ground near the river doubtless drove them to the south-west to make the trail approximate ("D") the old stage road in lower R. 32 and cross the Portneuf at "E". Fremont crossed the Portneuf and went three miles to camp at the mouth of the Bannock ("H"). For varying routes and descriptions cf. Palmer, 86-87; Townsend, 209; Fremont, 160-164; Kerns, 174; Minto, 216; Winter, 89; C. A. Sharp, 180; Wislizenus, 106; Cross, 188; Howell, 148; Parrish, 108; Whitman, 47 and M. Cannon, "Fort Hall", Washington Hist. Soc. Quarterly, VII, 217+.

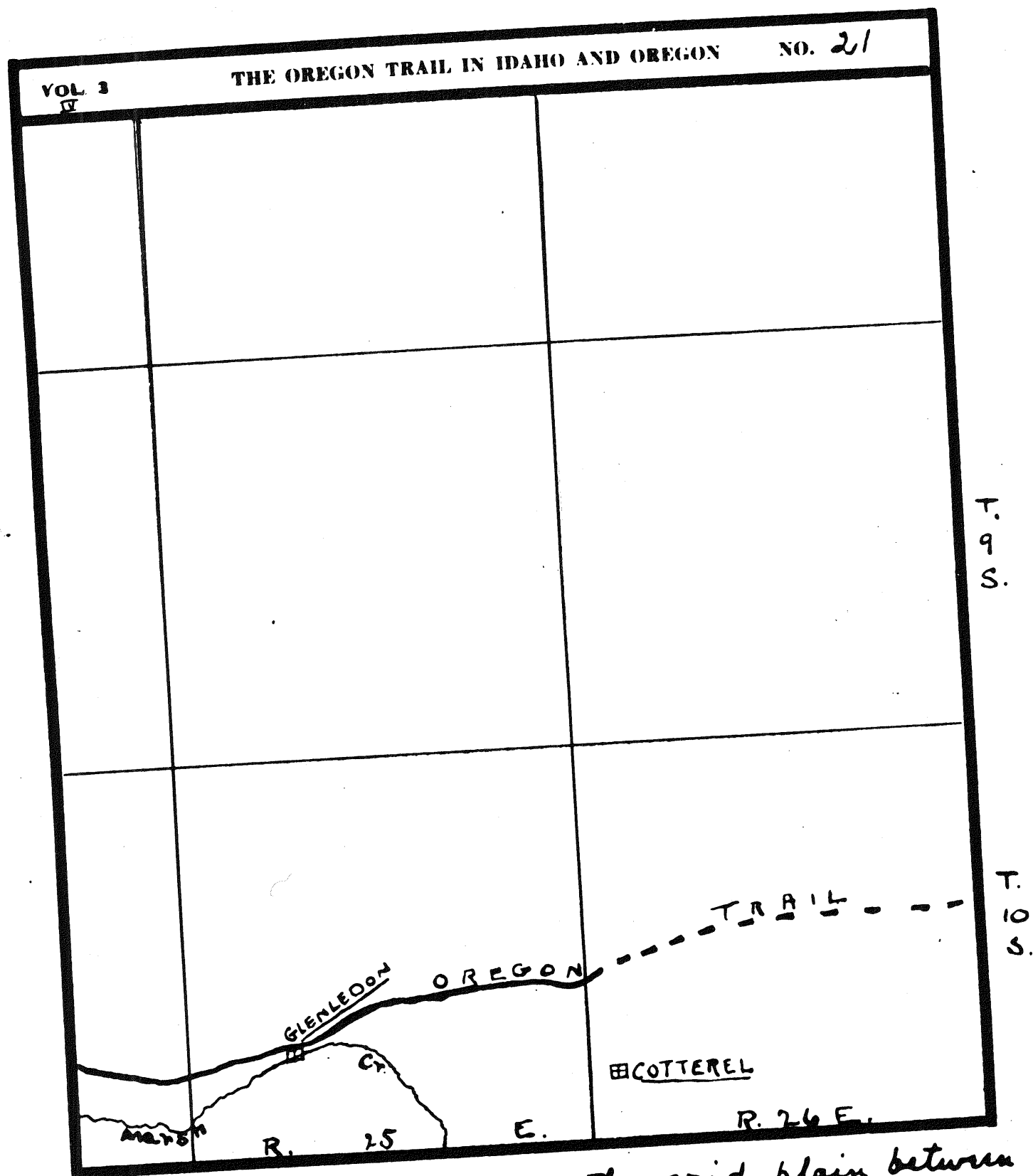


INSERT: Few travellers fail to mention American Falls; the old trail, with graves beside it, is plainly marked in the outskirts of the present city; Fremont, 164; Ogden, 357; Palmer, 90; Parrish, 108; Winter, 89.

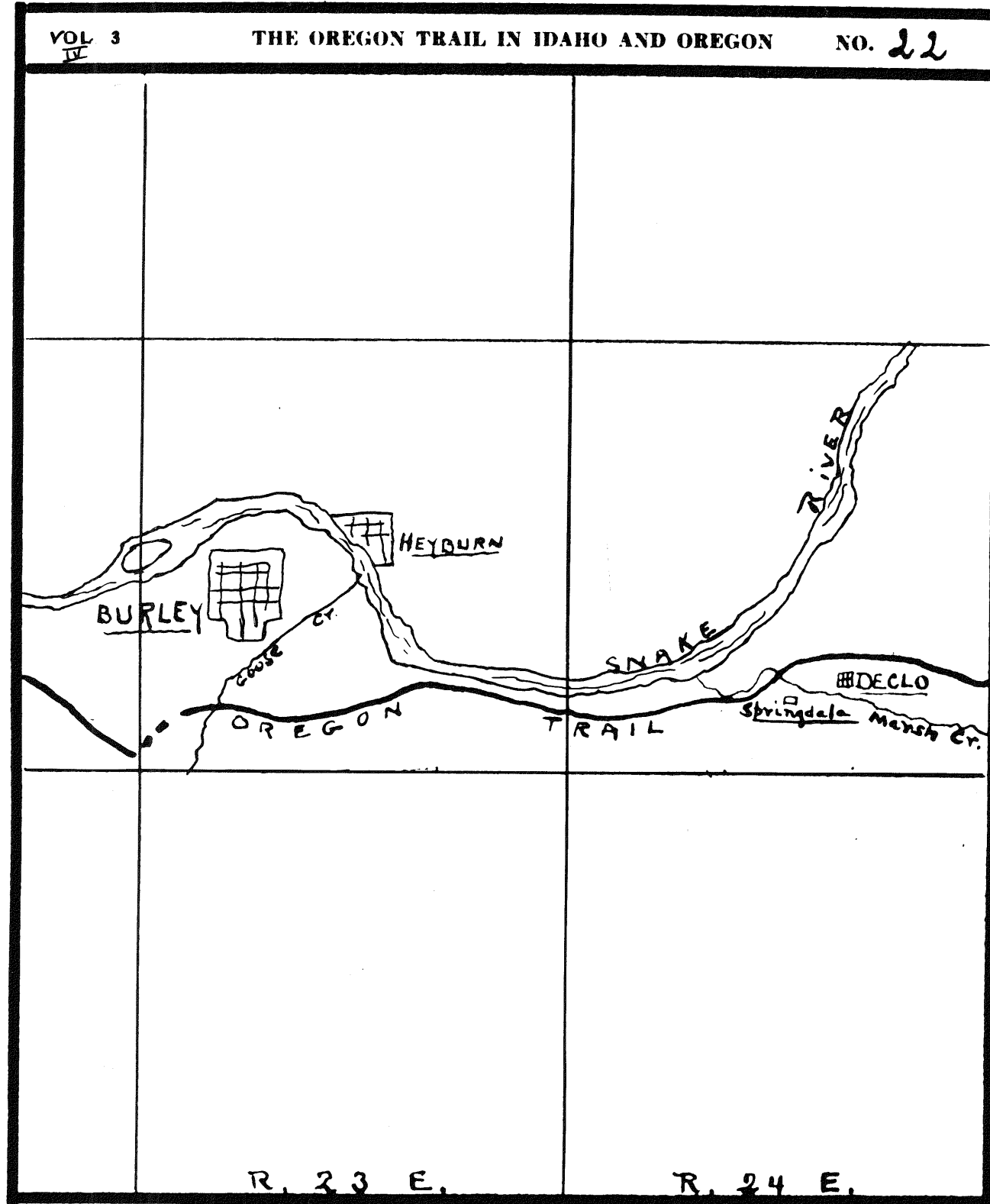
Hardly a single annalist mentions the lonely pass: Sage thro "Massacre Rocks" except Mrs Eells, 84. Rock and Fall creeks are cited frequently: Fremont, 165, Palmer 9.



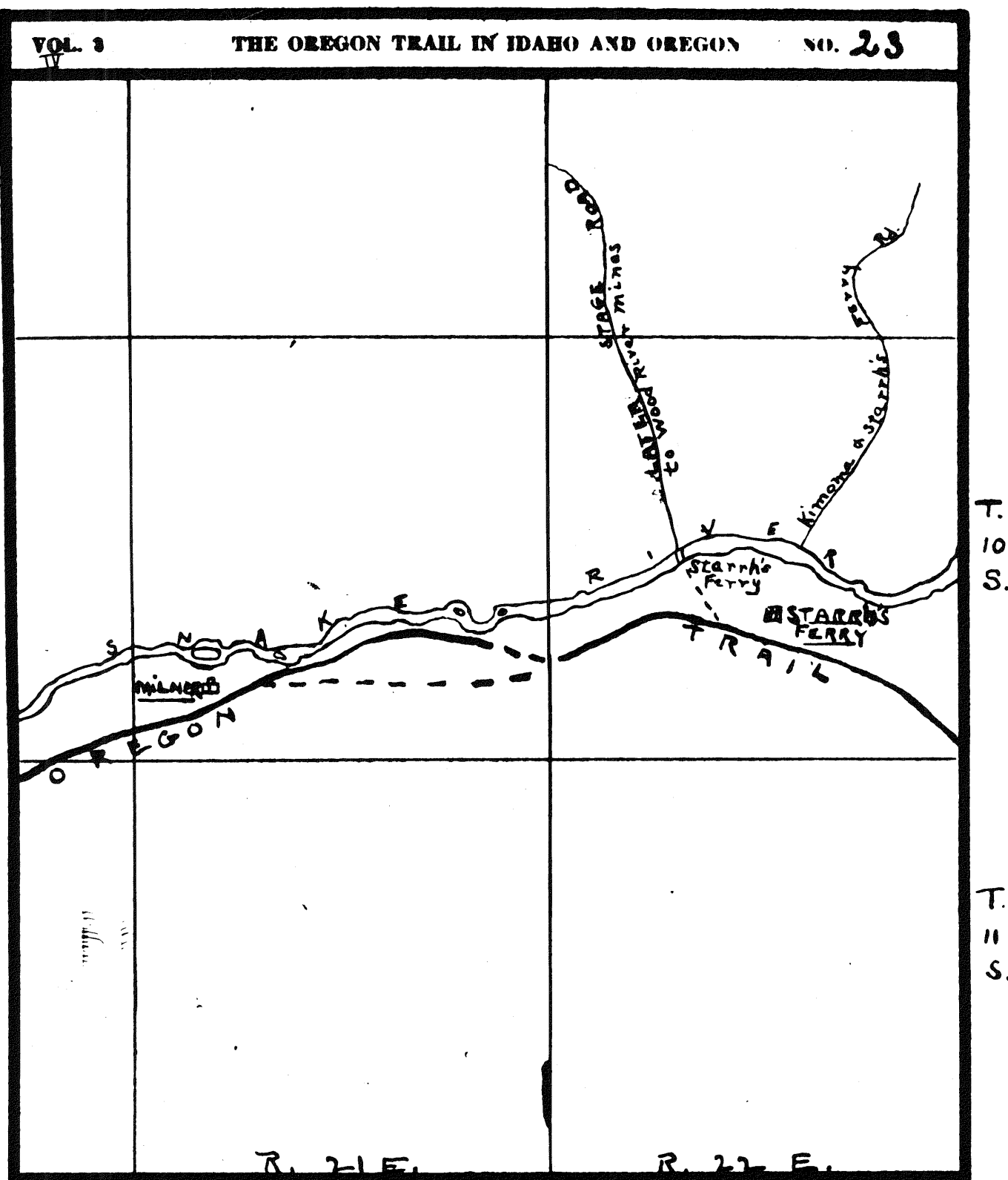
Raft River ("Riviere aux Cajoux"), and the branching of the California Trail from the Oregon, is described by many travellers. For earliest use of the branch see Ogden, X, 361; also cf. Palmer, 90; Adair, 71; Harrit, 518; Greer, 164; C.A. Sharp, 180; Eccles, 84; Gross, 193; Howell, 148; Prosch 57. Raft Creek called "Ogden's River" by Cross (194) and "Raft River" by Ogden (X, 356-7).



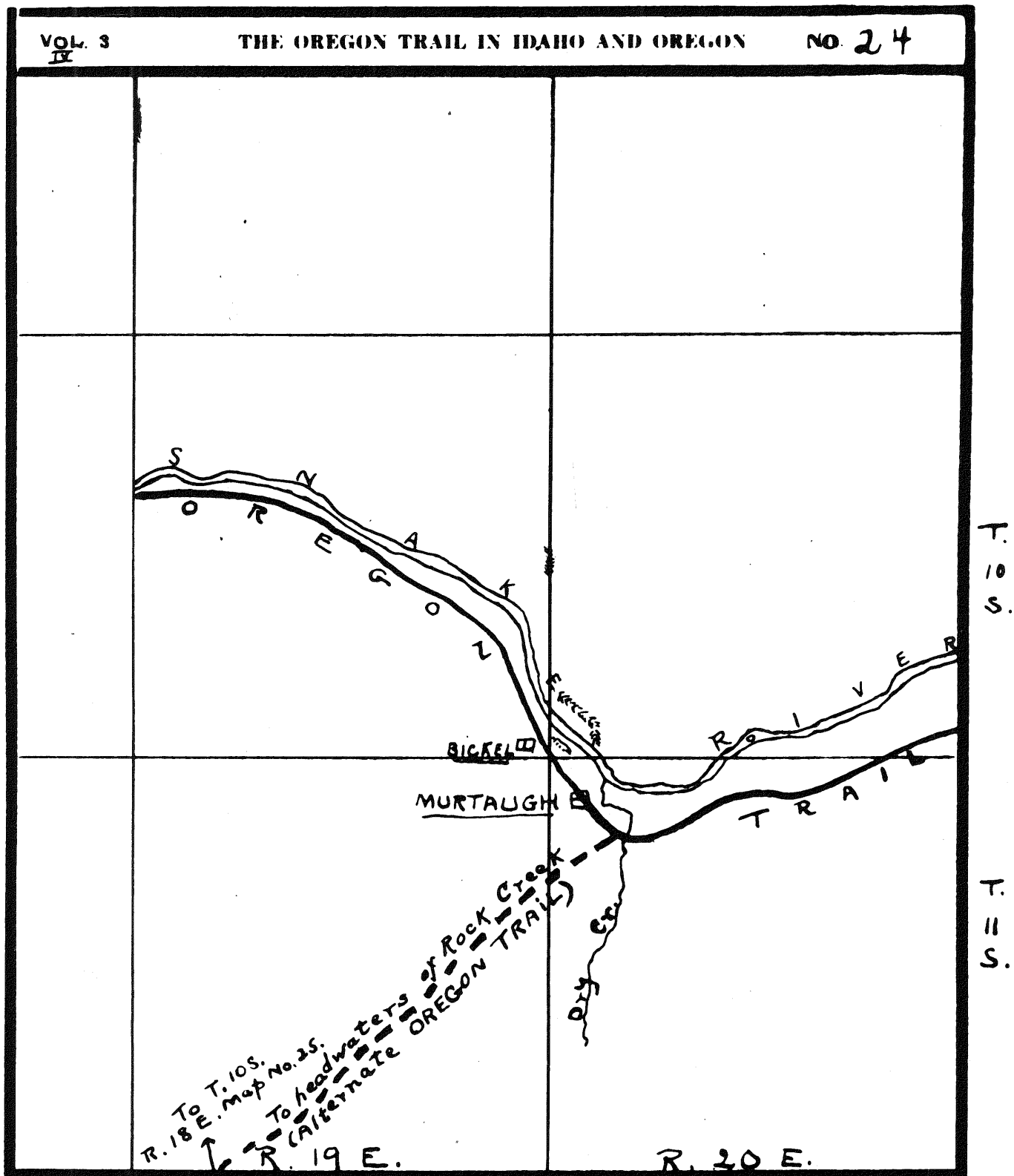
The long pull over the arid plain between Reft River and the Springs of Marsh Creek was tiresome: Adair, 71; Harrit, 518. Of it Greer wrote: "You in the States know nothing about dust" (163). For Marsh Creek cf. Palmer (who identifies it as Fremont's "Swamp Creek", 91); Fremont, 166; C. A. Sharp, 181; Cross, 194; Prosser, 5.



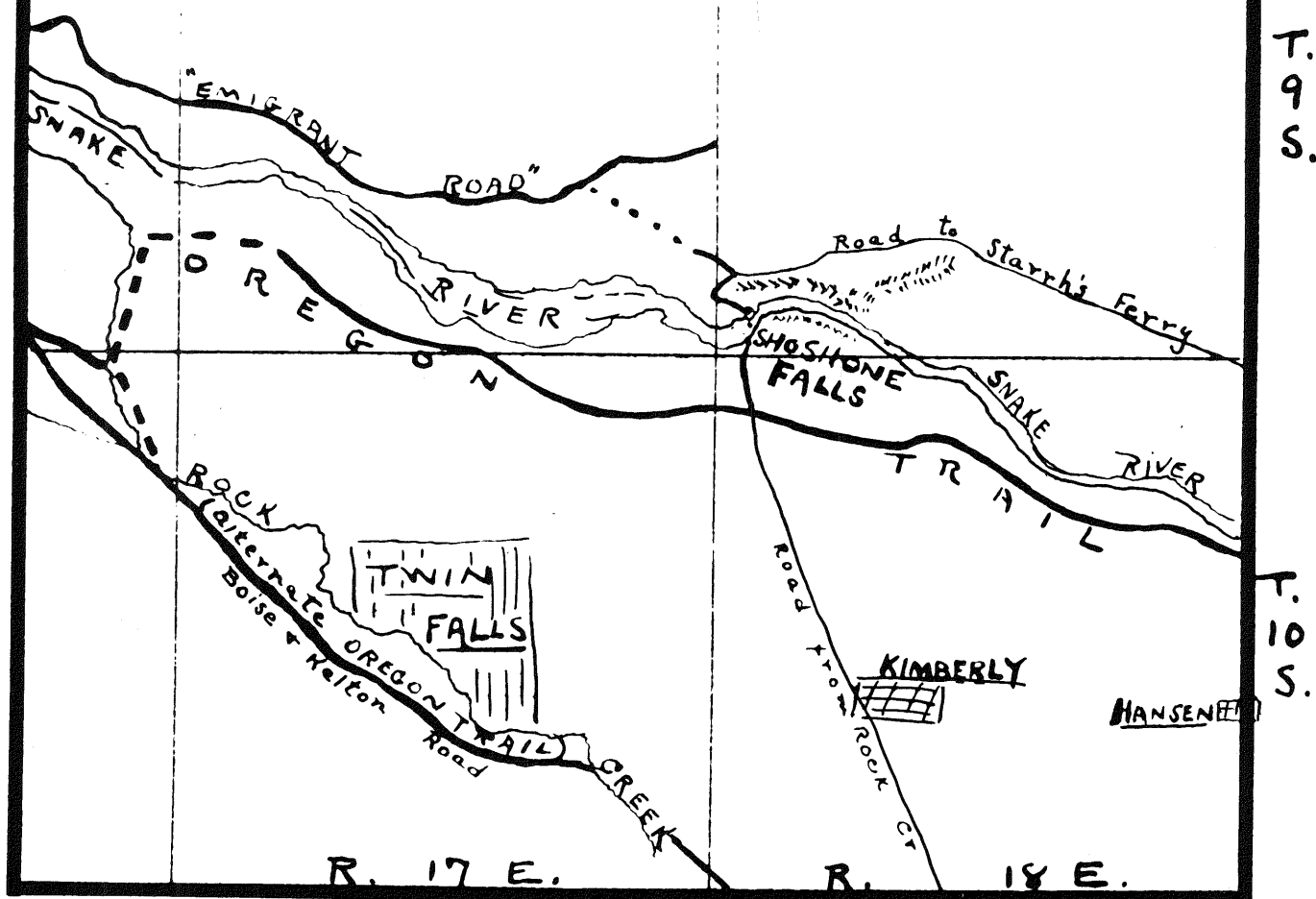
After the hard pull of sixteen miles without water to Marsh Creek, the sight Snake River was not un-  
welcome, difficult as was the climb<sup>down</sup> to the water's  
edge. Goose Creek offered the next practical  
camping spot, as described by Fremont, 166; Pal-  
mer, 91; Minto, 219; Greer, 164; C.A. Sharp,  
181; Cross, 194; Prosser, 57.



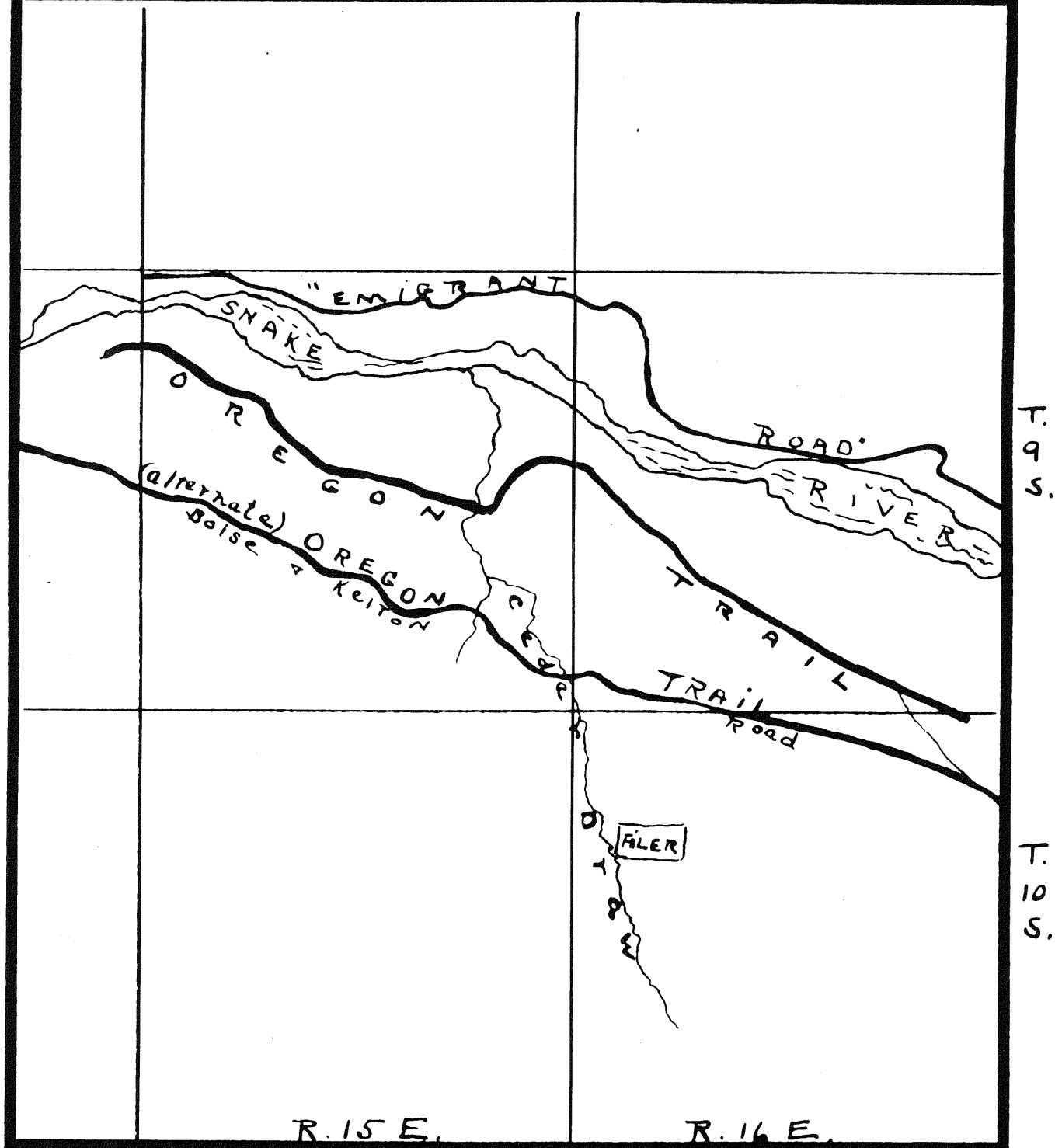
The site of Starr's Ferry, where later stage coaches crossed the Snake, was, doubtless, a crossing place in earlier days. The men of Hunt's party, which took the route on the south side of the river, crossed near Milner. The "Cauldron Linn," where that expedition was wrecked, is now covered by the Milner Dam. Irving, Astoria, ch. XXXIII +. Cf. Cannon Quarterly, XX, 9 +; Cross, 195.



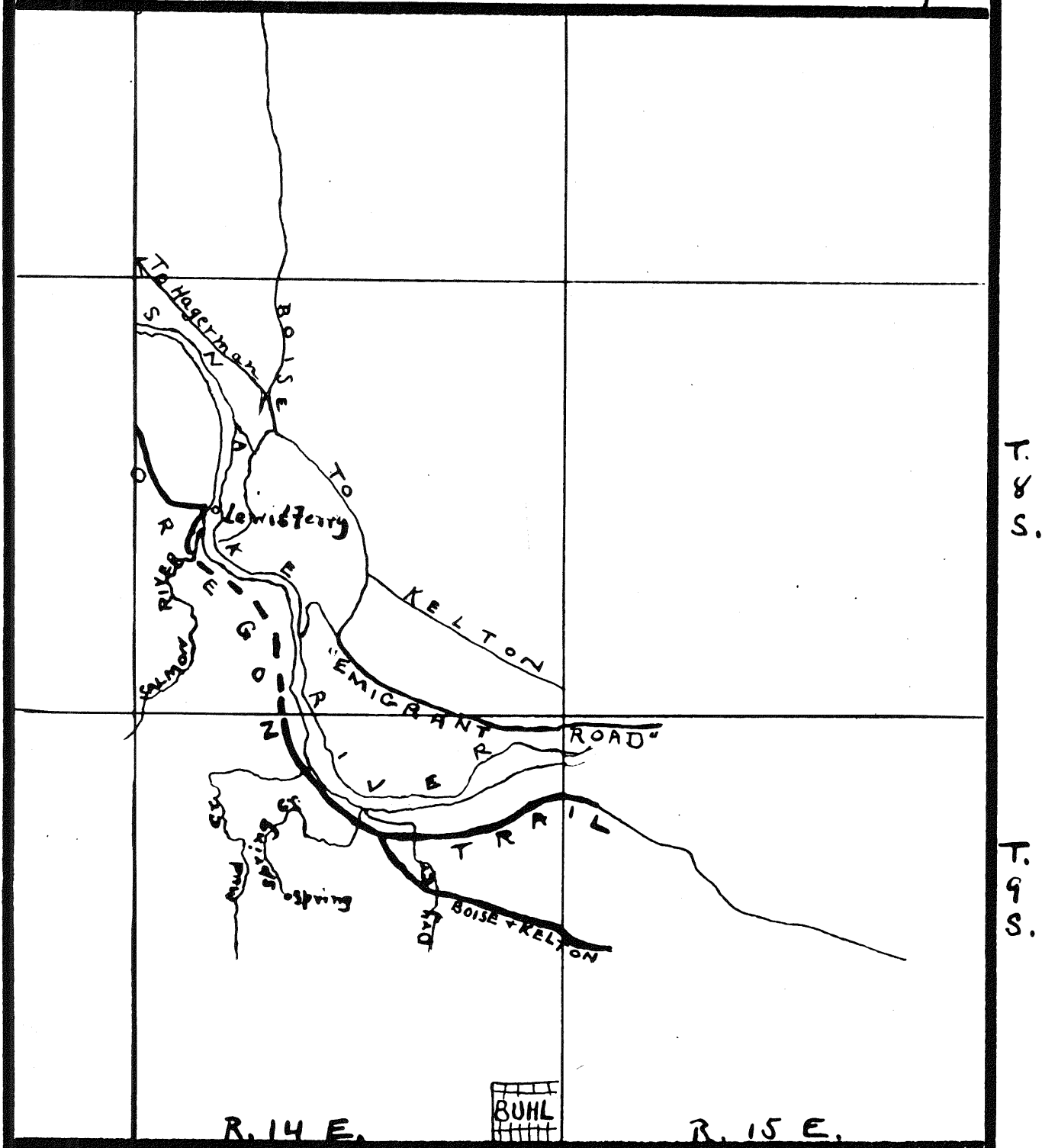
For possible route of Astorians, referred to on preceding maps, and of other earliest travellers, see Barney, *Quarterly*, XII and XIII; also Elliott, 71+. The crossing of Dry Creek near Murtaugh is frequently mentioned by emigrant diarists: Palmer, 91; Cross, 195.



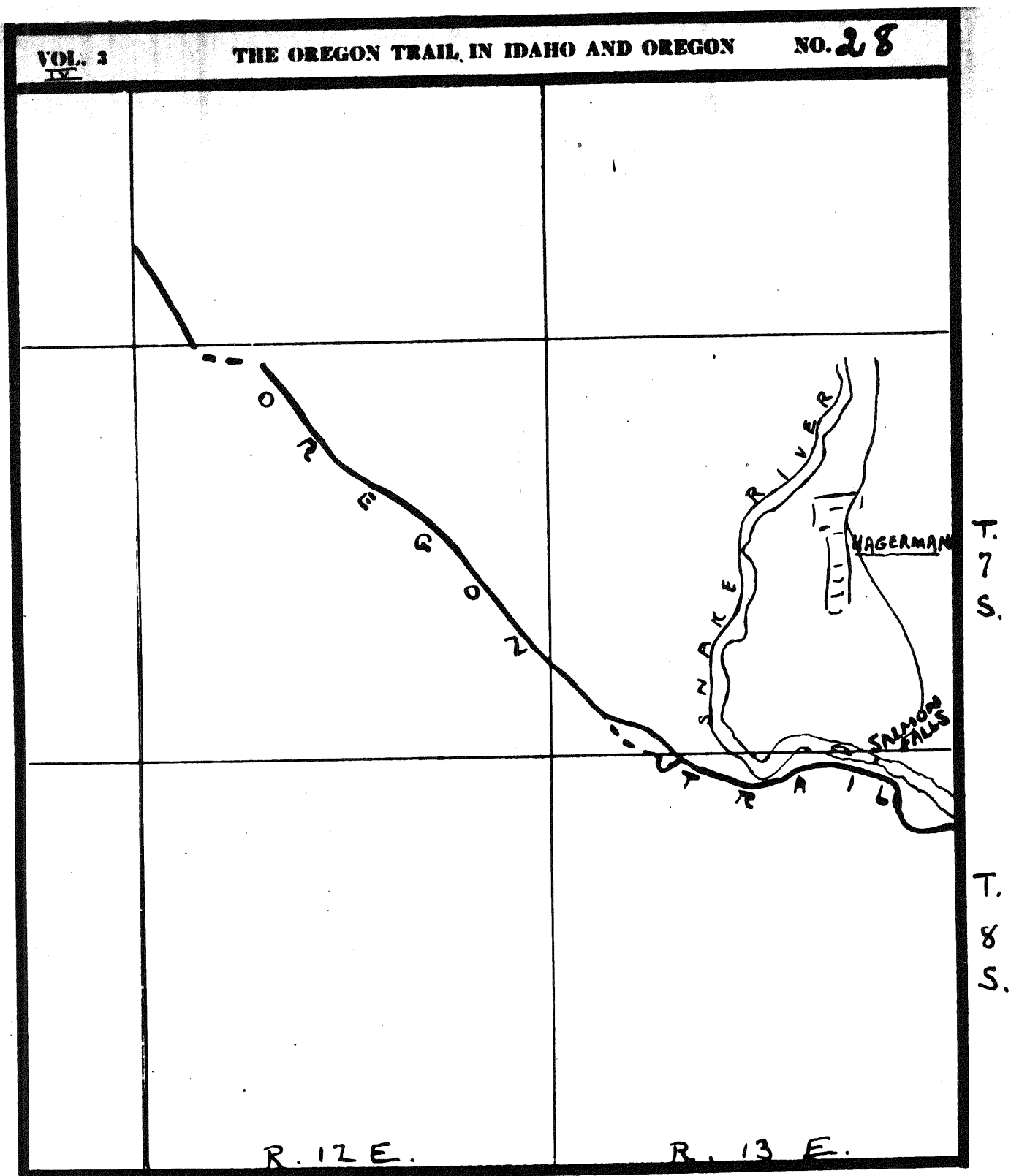
Many travellers heard far: James Shoshone Falls (which French-Canadians once attempted to name "Canadian Falls" in rivalry with Americans who named "American Falls," Cross, 196). The crossing-place above the falls, now used, was so well-known to later travellers that old maps show the "Emigrant Road" north of the Snake; Fremont, 167. The oldest (continued)



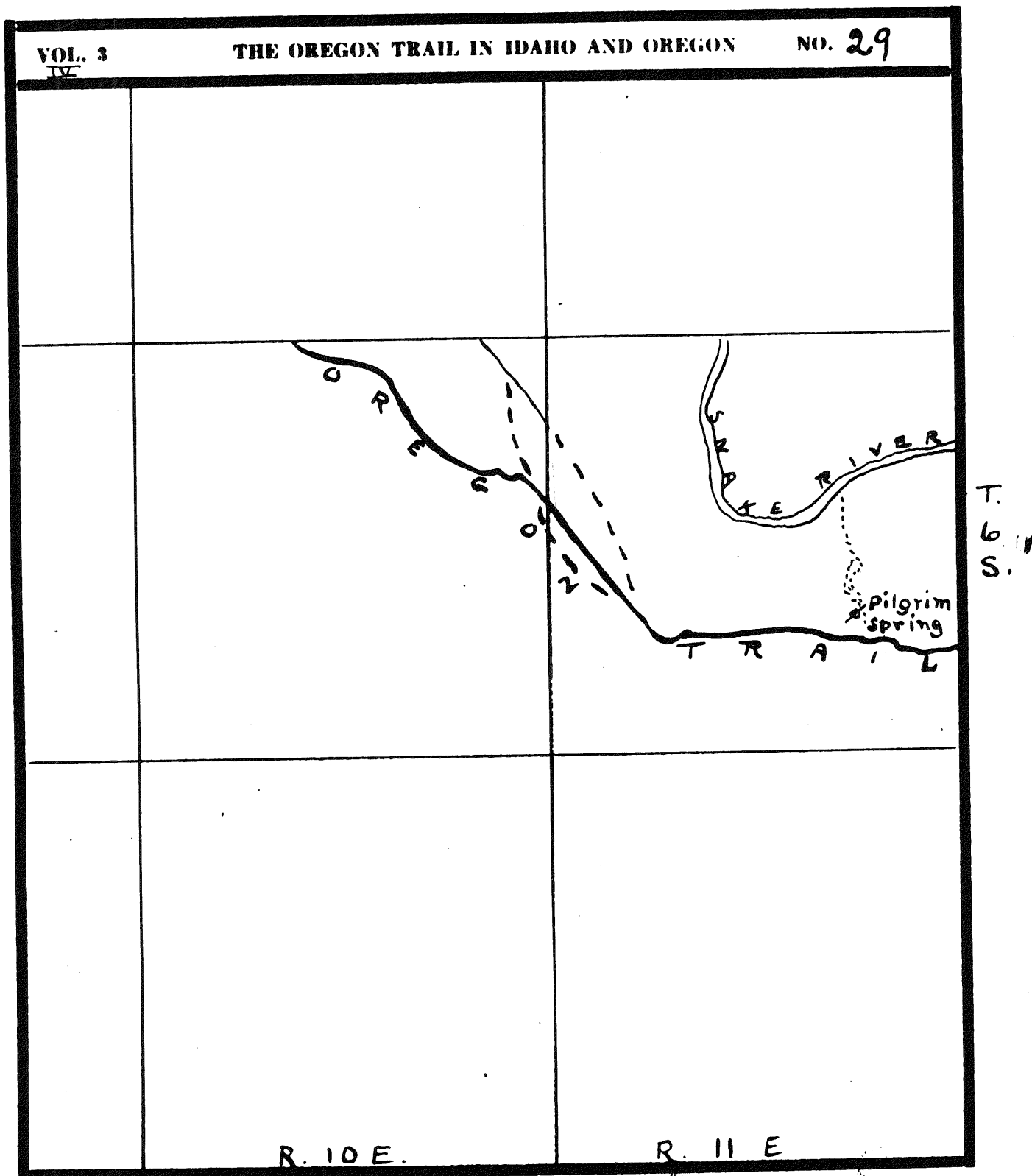
Oregon trail had branches which followed closer the course of Rock Creek (preceeding map) than did the main trail; some quite agree with the line of the "Boise and Kelton Road"; Cross, 196; Brosch, 57. Rock Creek was a well-known watering place: Palmer, 92; Fremont, 167; Ellis, 85; Cross, 195. Cedar Creek is mentioned by Palmer, 93.



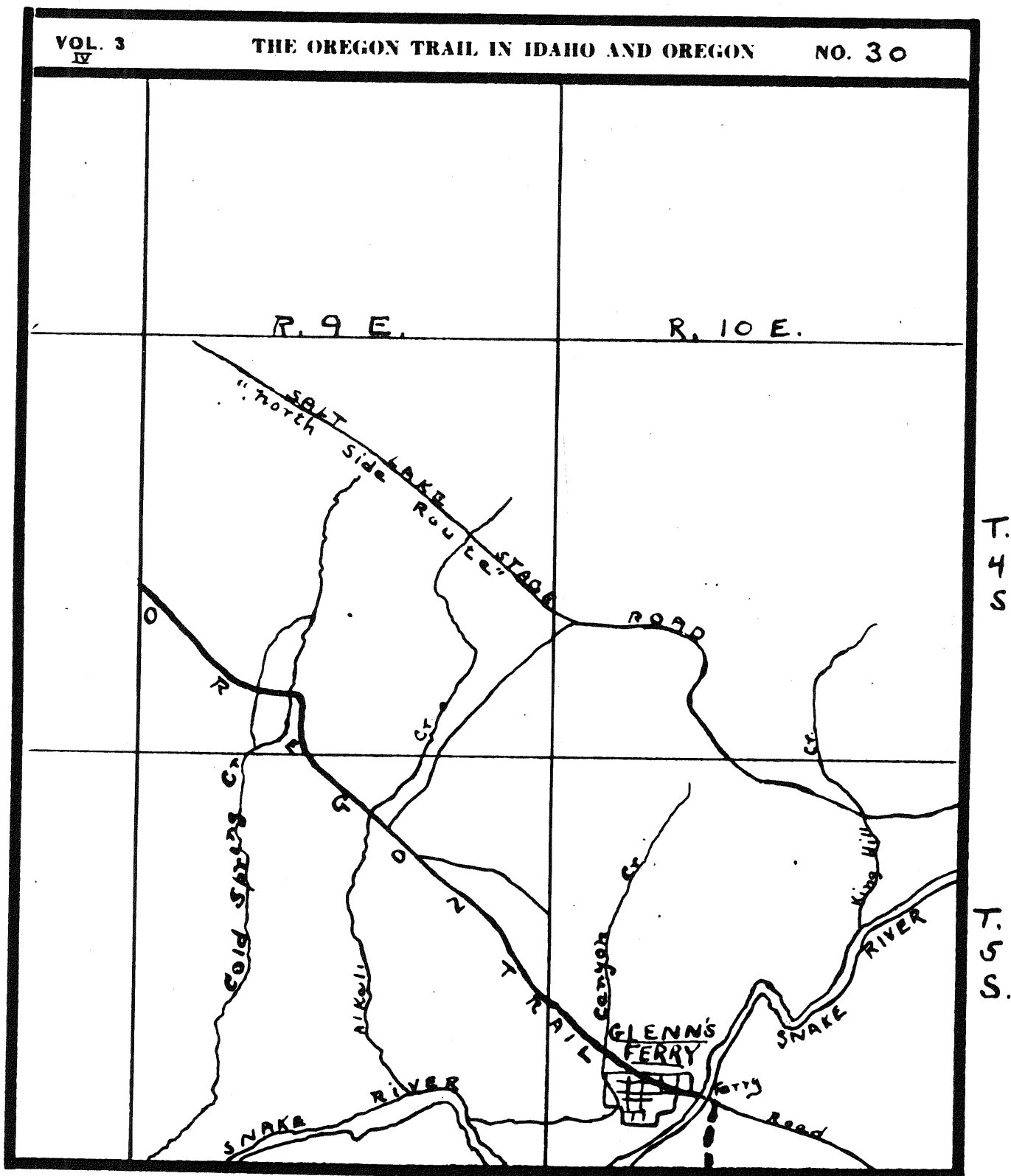
The return of the old trail to the Snake (ten miles above Salmon Falls, Nesmith, 350) to Spring Creek, where good water was available, is noted frequently: Palmer, 93-4; C.A. Sharp, 181. At Salmon River and Salmon Falls (next map) every train secured fish from the Indians. For Salmon River see Harrit, 518; Greer, 165; Eells, 85.



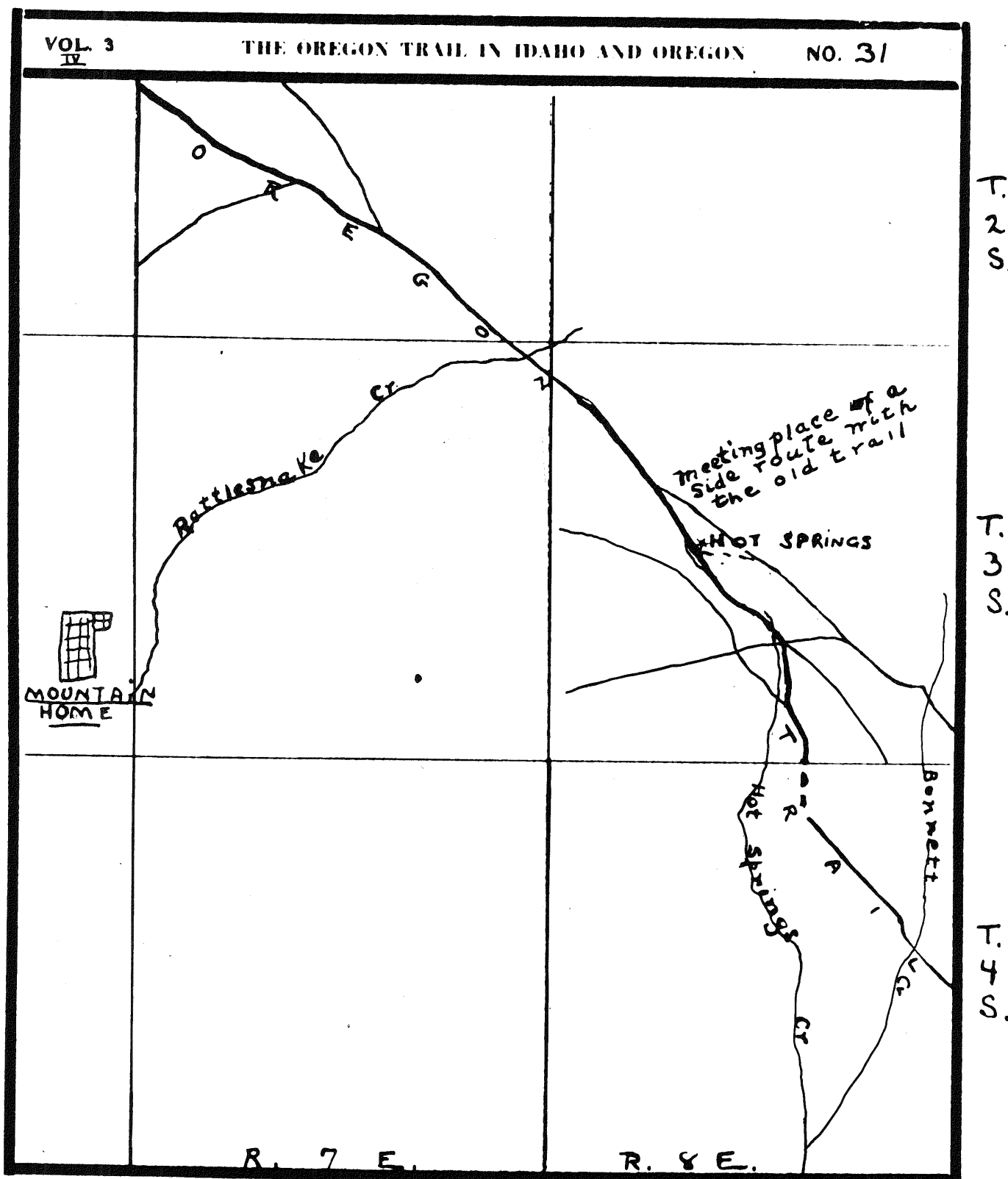
Salmon Falls ("Fishing Falls," Fremont, 168) is described by every journalist on our list. Below the Falls was a noted crossing-place for those who took the northern route: Richey, 598; Minto, 221; Harrit, 519; Bagley, Wash. Hist. Quarterly, XIII, 176. The hard climb to the plain's summit west of the Falls, (suggested by the jog in the old survey) continued



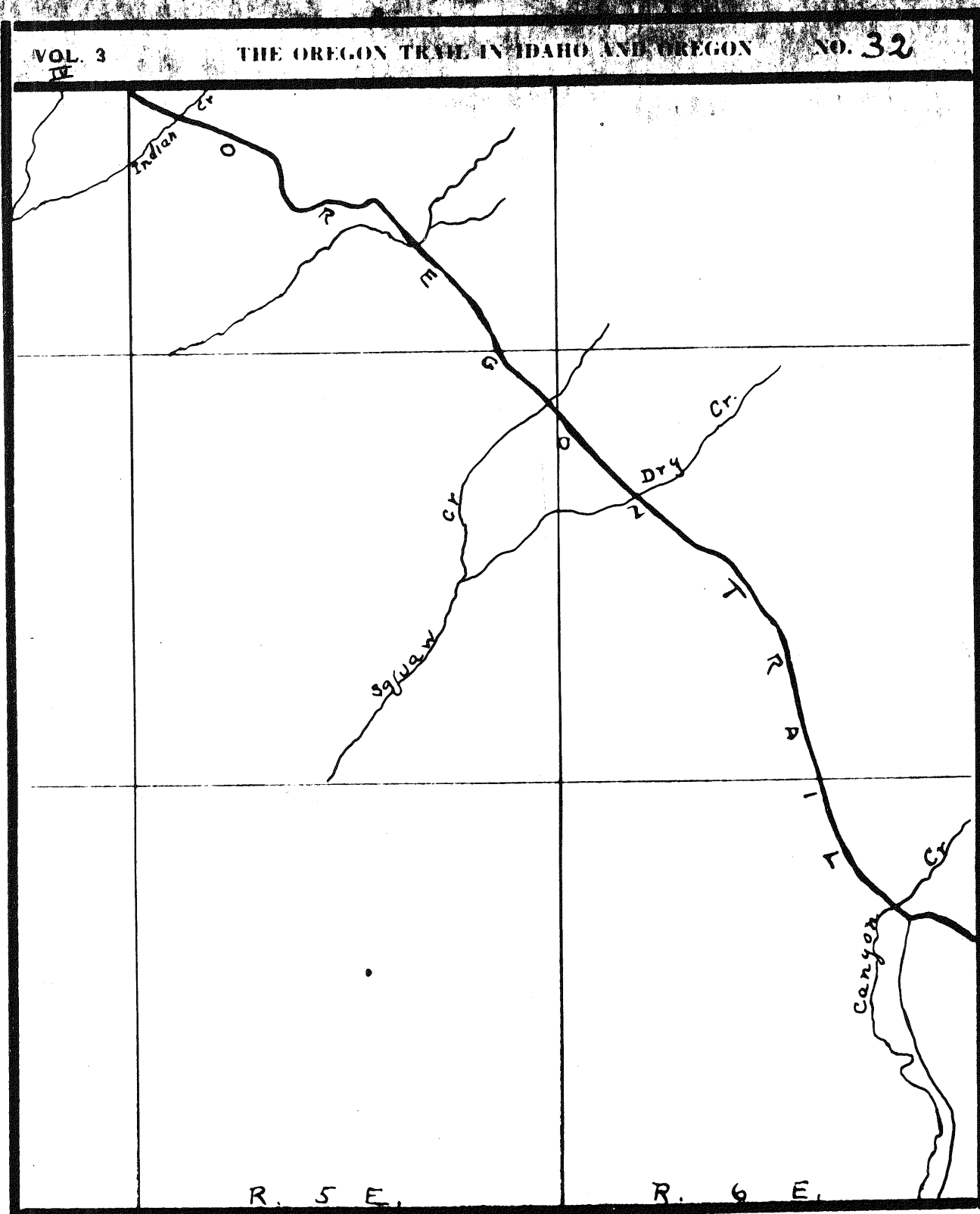
and described by Cross (199), added to the long pull without water to Glenn's Ferry, probably explains the frequent use of the Salmon Falls crossing. The records show that the trail originally ran near the river canon or else trains <sup>went</sup> over to the river for water; one of Nesmith's oxen "fell off the bluff" and broke his neck (321). Pilgrim Spring was made famous by Mrs. Whitman's "Ode to a Thunk".



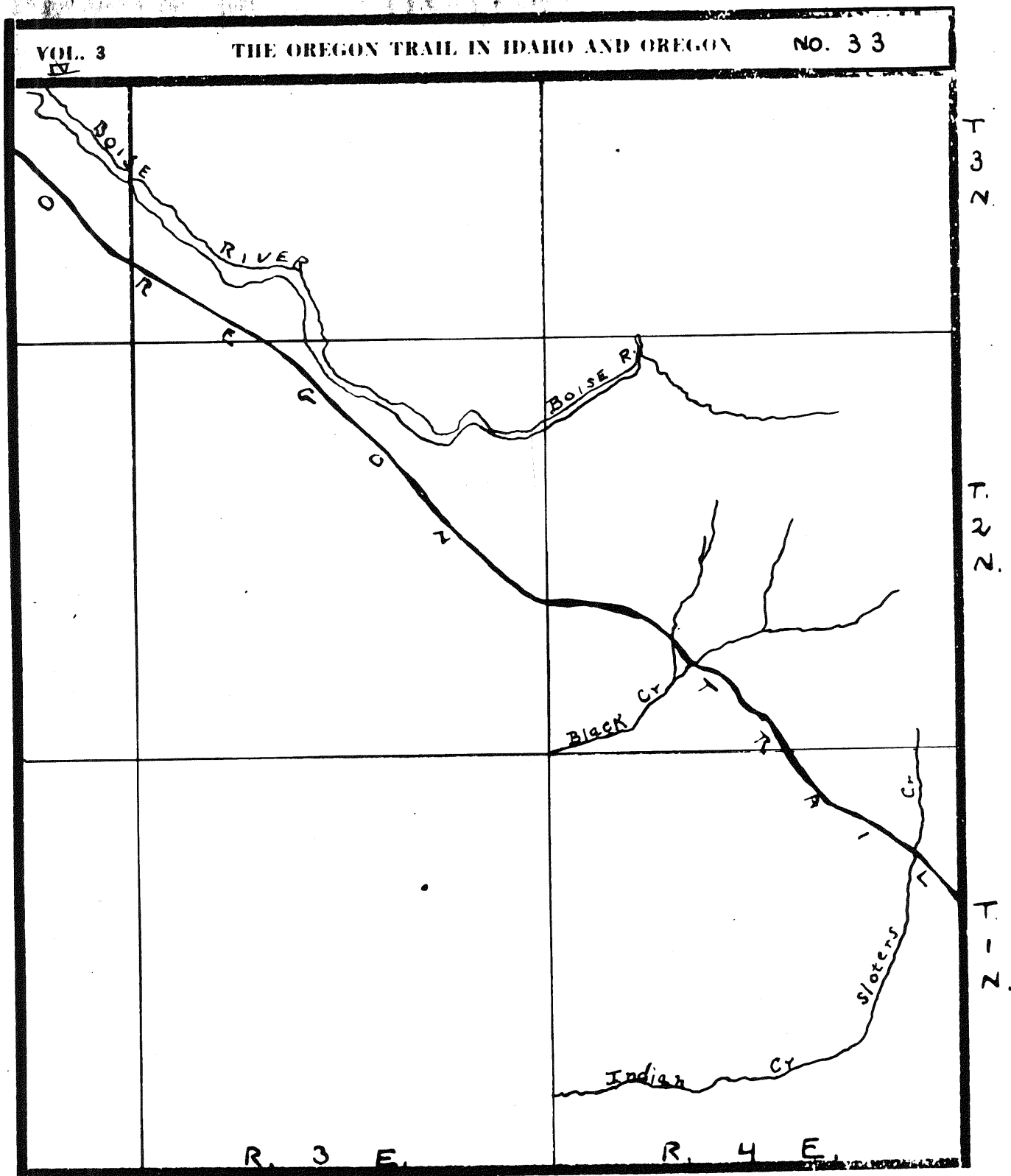
Islands (Fremont, 170; Whitman, 50; Cross, 201) below present Glenn's Ferry mark this historic crossing place of the Snake mentioned by all diarists. The ford was usually dangerous (Adair, 71; Gilliam, 206; C.A. Sharp, 182; Cross 201) and sometimes impassable: Winter, 93; Prosch, 58; Sharp and Cross *op. cit.* For lower crossings see routes of Winter, Sharp, Whitman, Cross, Prosch, *op. cit.*



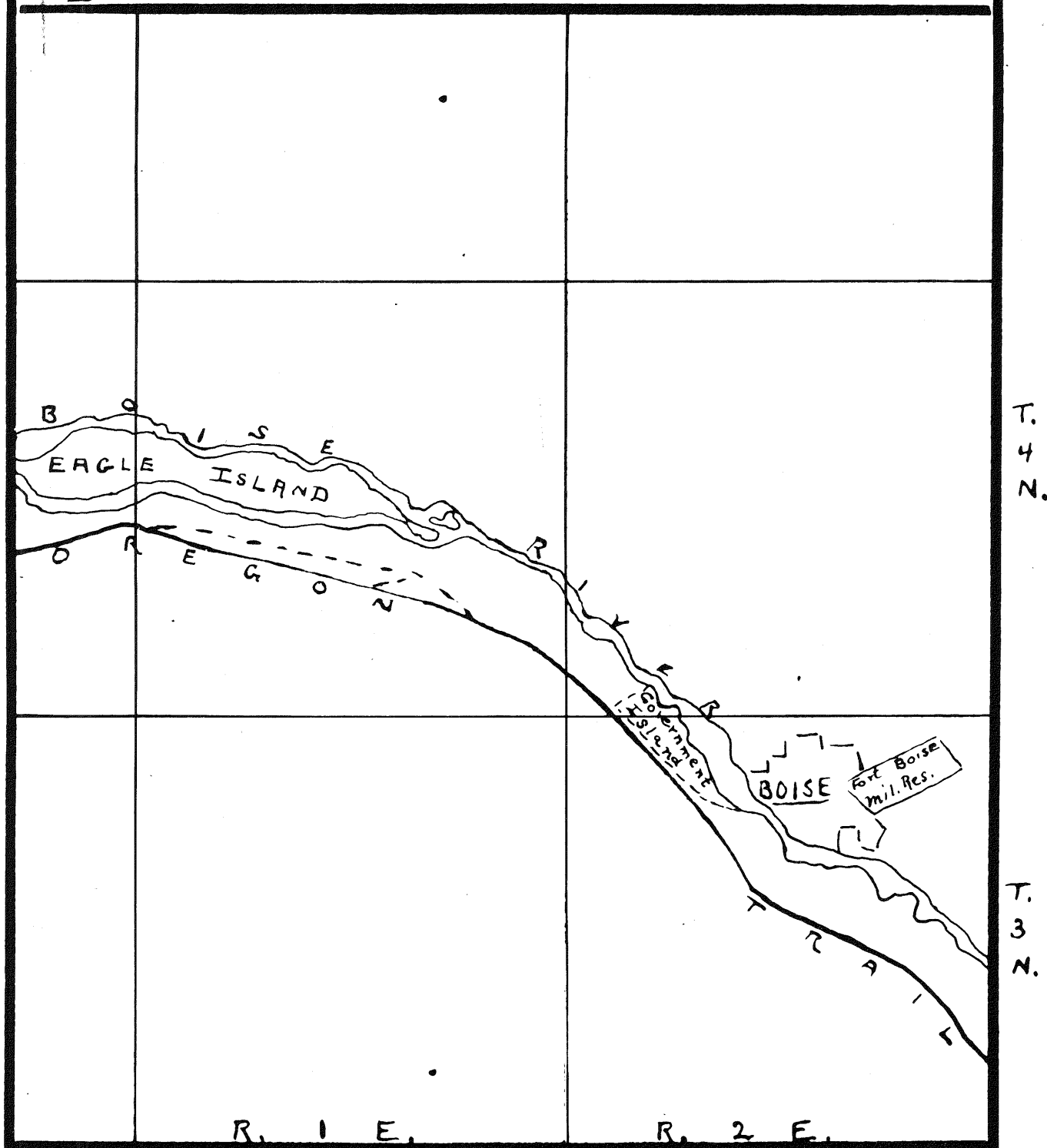
On the track from the river northward, Cold Spring Creek is noted by Palmer (96). Hot Springs is described by nearly every one; the water, hot enough to broil a fish or "scald a hog" (Howell, 149), boiled out "in four or five places"; Parrish, 110. Cf. Fremont, 170; Palmer, 97; Kerns, 178; NeSmith, 351; Harrit, 519; Whitman, 51; Greer, 166.



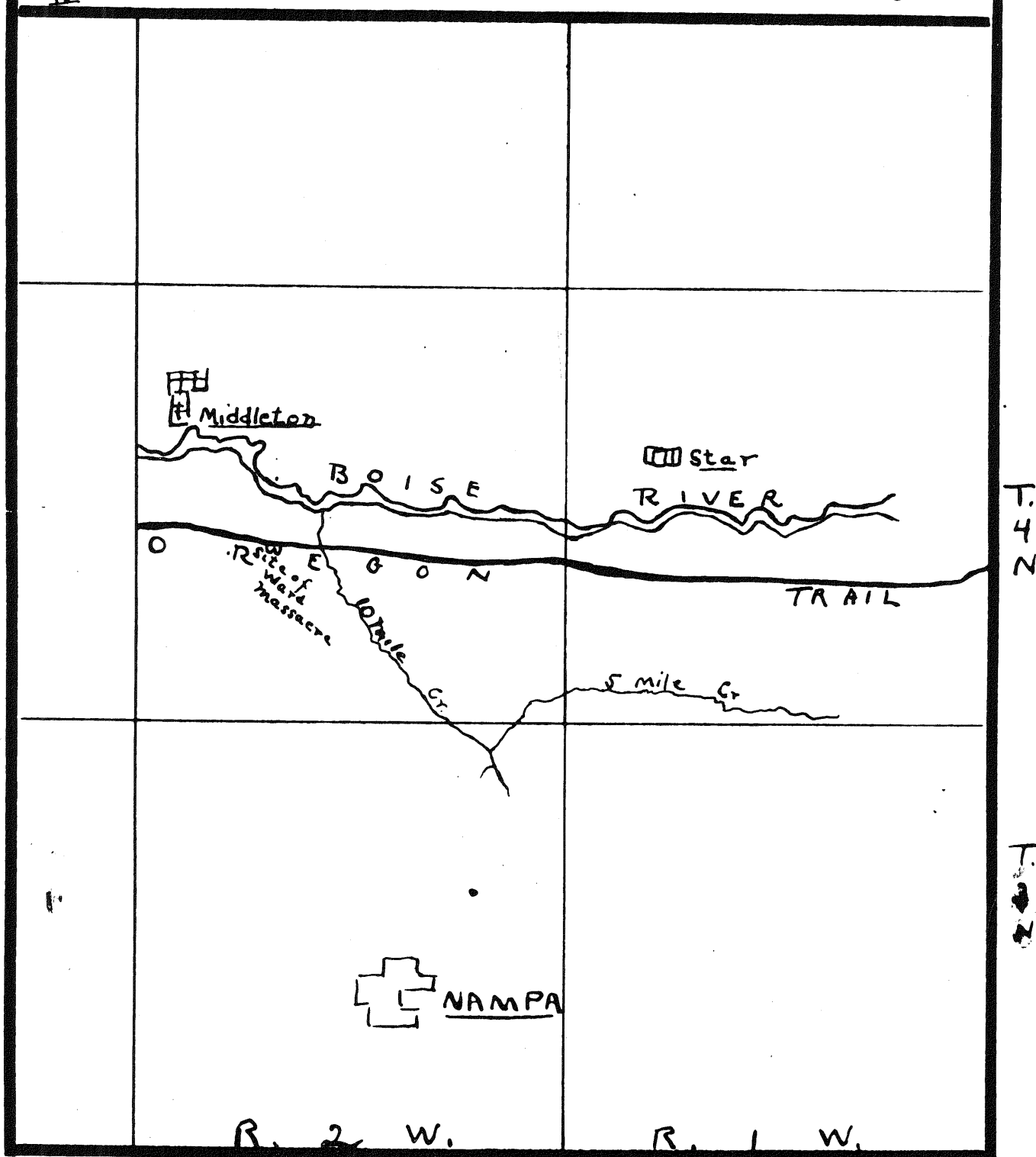
Well-known Rattlesnake Creek (preceding map) is mentioned by both Fremont (171) and Harrit (519). Canyon, Dry, Squaw and Indian creeks are noted, but under a confusion of names: Palmer, 97-98; Fremont, 171; Parrish, 110; Greer, 166; Harrit, 520.



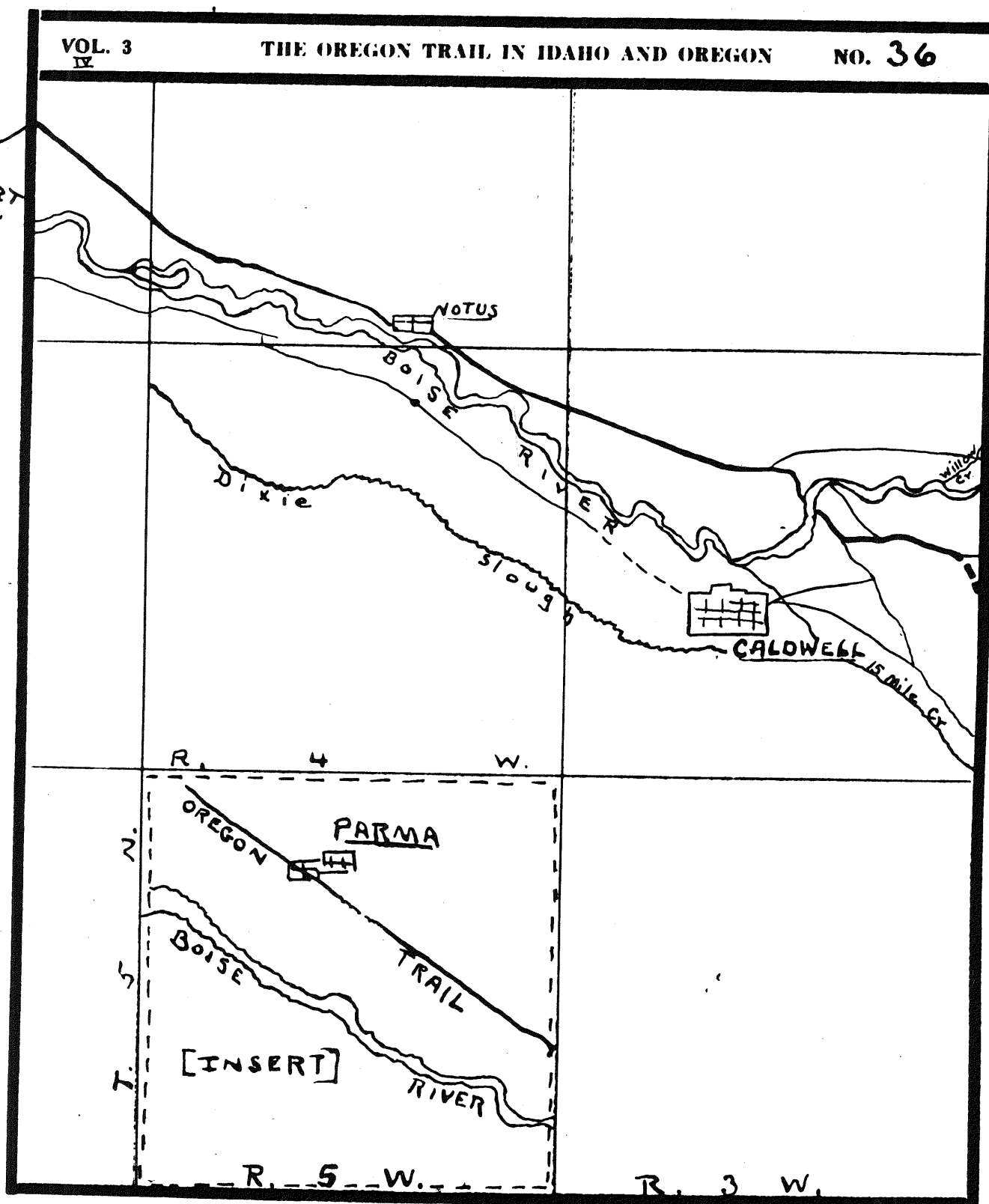
The green fringe along the Boise was hailed with delight by emigrants from heights beyond Black Creek; Fremont, 172; the Balmy of Gilead being particularly remarked (Greer, 166). Mrs Whitman called the Boise "Bigwood River". The earlier name, Reed's or Reid's River, is given only by writers antedating 1836: Quarterly, XIV, 384; X, 353.



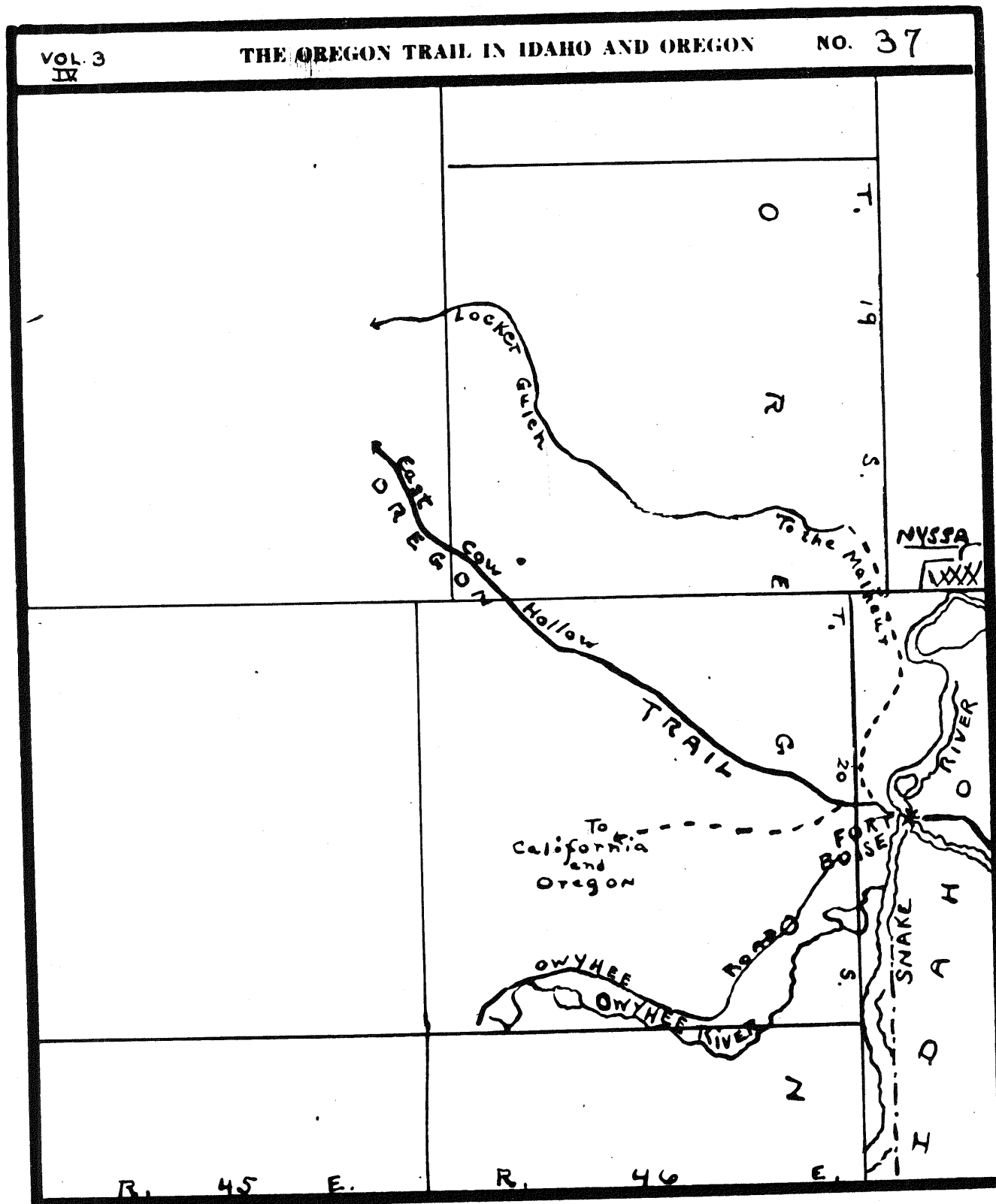
The trail came down to the Boise (pre-  
ceding map) six miles above the present  
city of Boise; Cannon, 14. The abundant  
expressions of pleasure upon reaching the  
"beautiful rapid stream" with its "fine  
old trees" (Fremont, 172) on the part of early  
annalists is appreciated even by (continued)



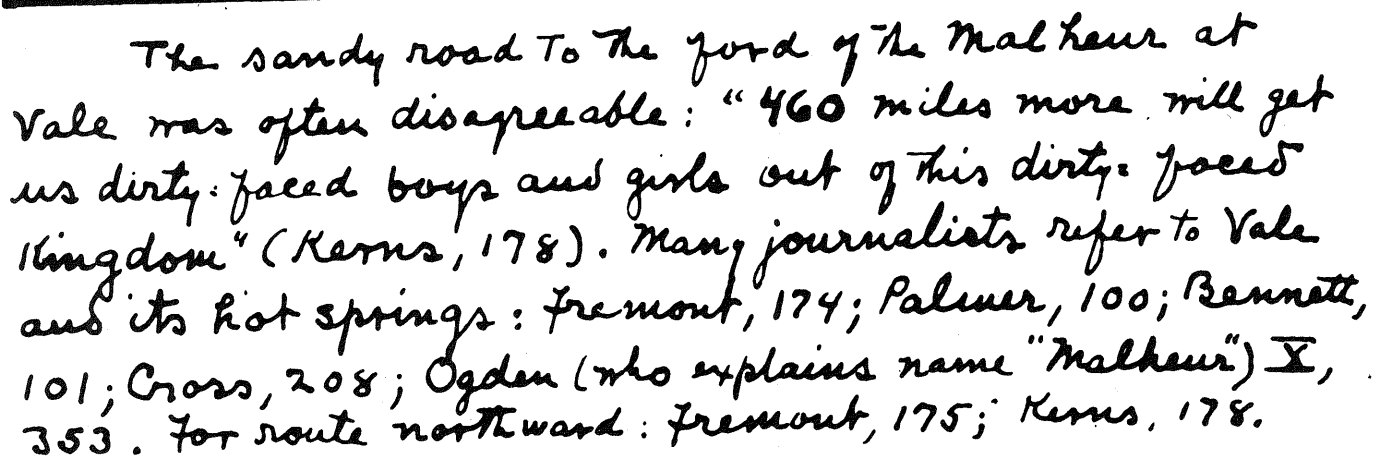
present-day tourists who have raced across the hot plains once traversed so slowly by covered wagons. Every diarist describes the Boise Valley in similar terms.

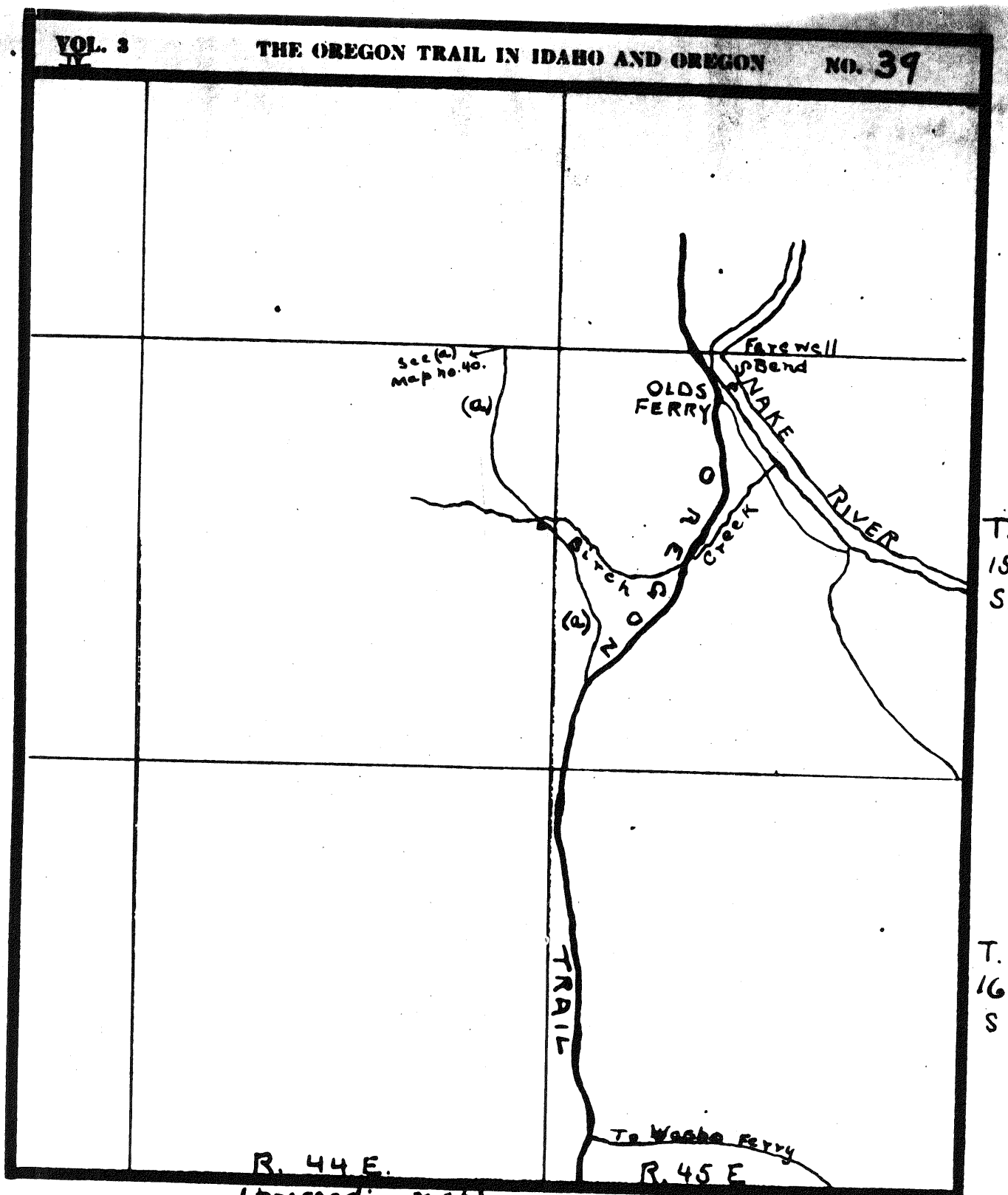


The crossing-place of the Boise one mile above Caldwell (Cannon, 14) is mentioned particularly by Palmer (98) and Harrit, 520.

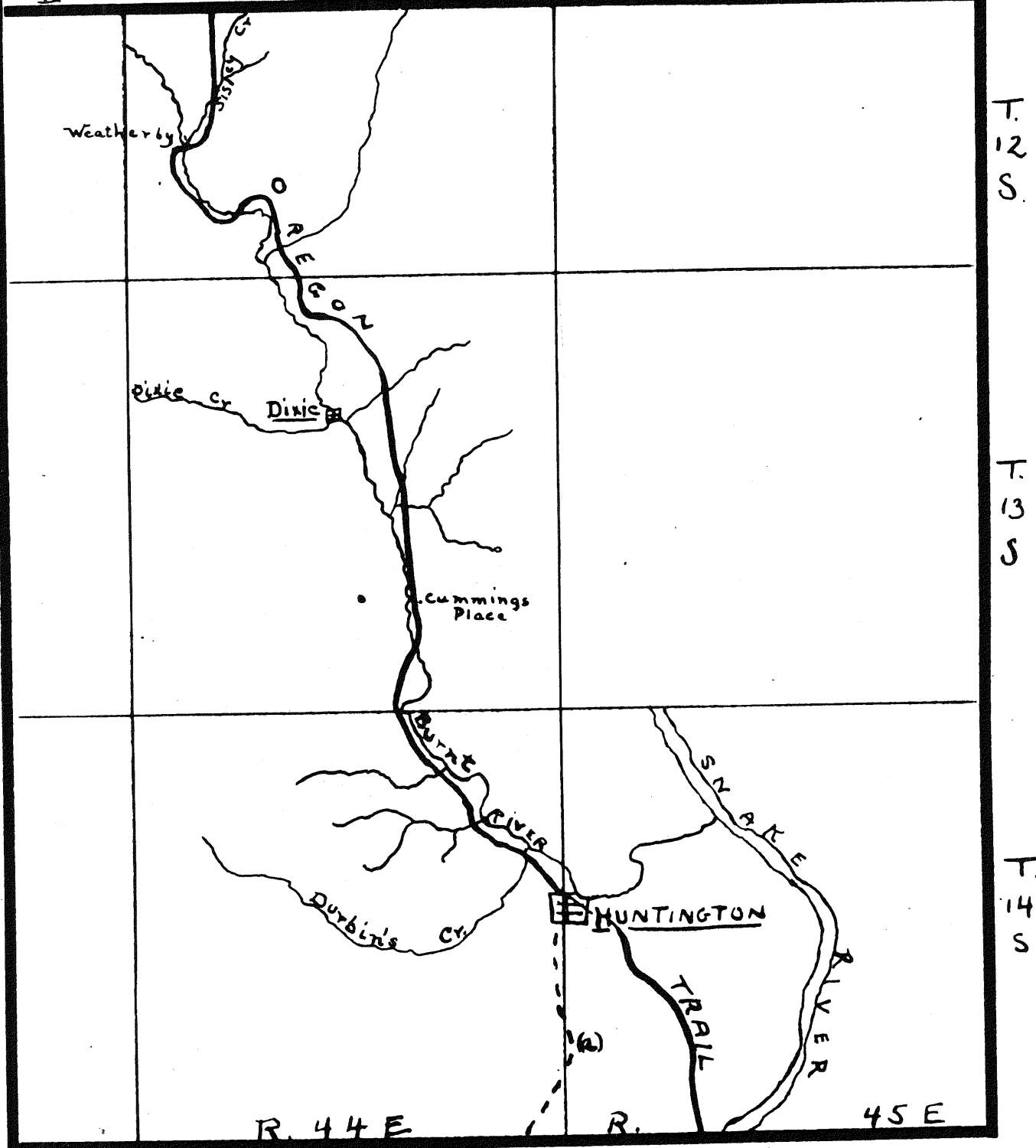


The site of Fort Boise is now in Snake River bed: Cannon, 16. An early trader's cabin antedated The Hudsons Bay Co. post: Ogden, X, 353. Fremont found the "fort" a "simple dwelling house", 173. The crossing of the Boise is in all accounts; Mintz calls it "Emigrant ford", 222. For route up the "dry sandy hollow" westward see Fremont, 173; Cf. Cross, 207.

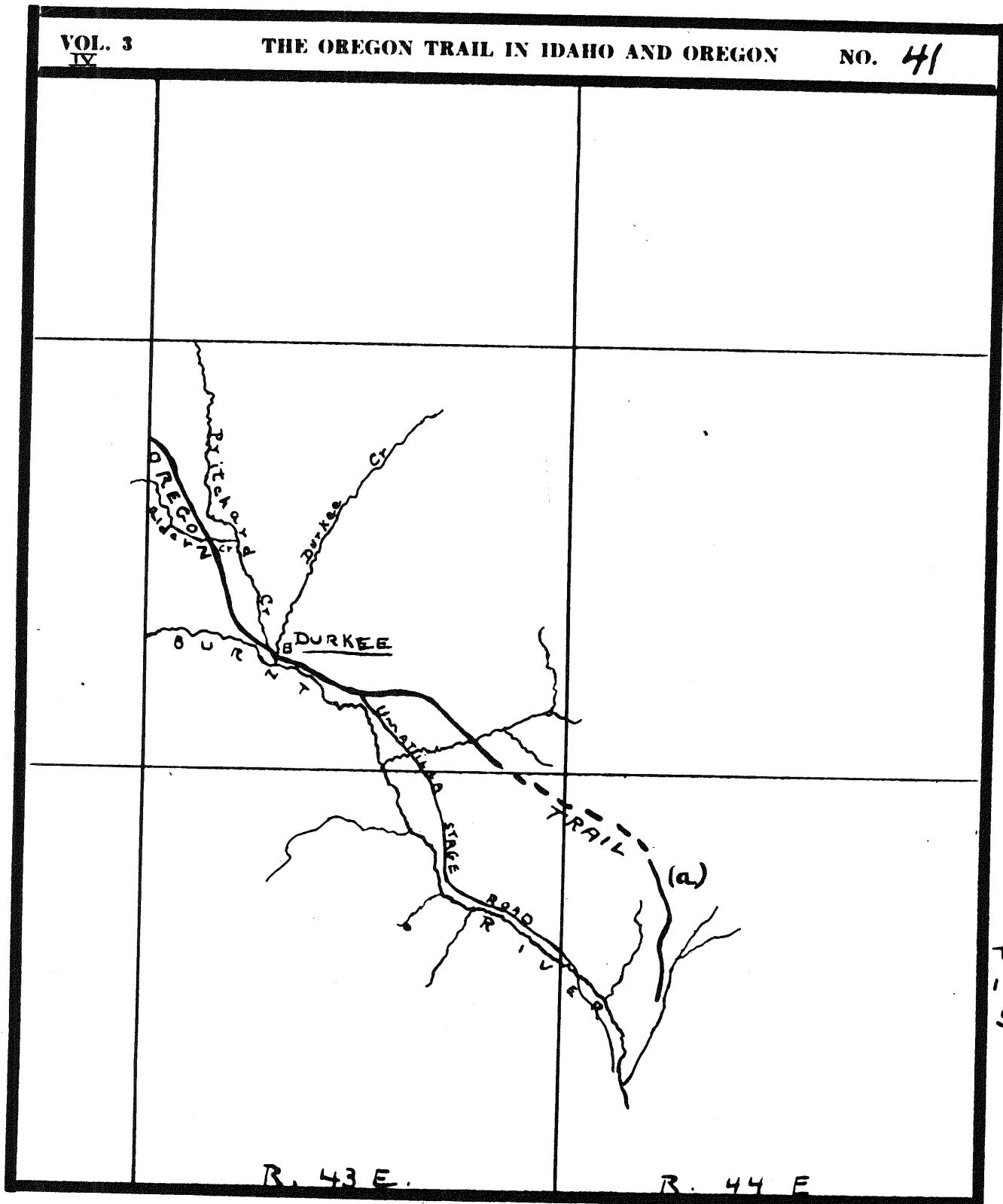




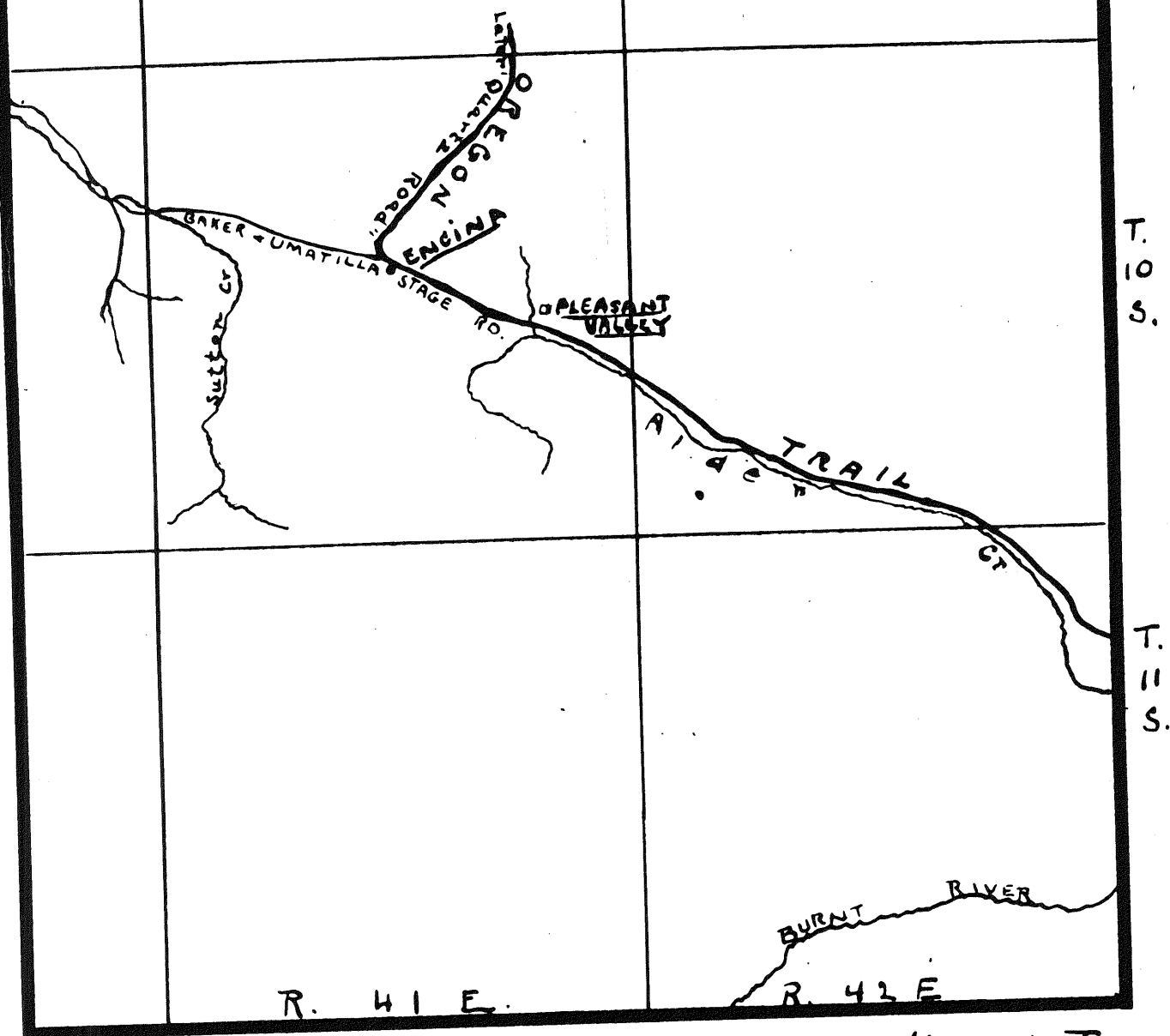
A Sulphur Spring, <sup>(preceding map)</sup> is mentioned on the route of the old trail by Kerns, (179), Palmer, (101) and Prosch (59). Birch Creek ("Riviere aux Boureaux") is noted by most diarists; Fremont places the ford of the Birch at four miles from the Snake (175). The trace (a) may have been the original pathway, crossing the hills directly toward Huntington. Olds Ferry. Ogden, X 356.



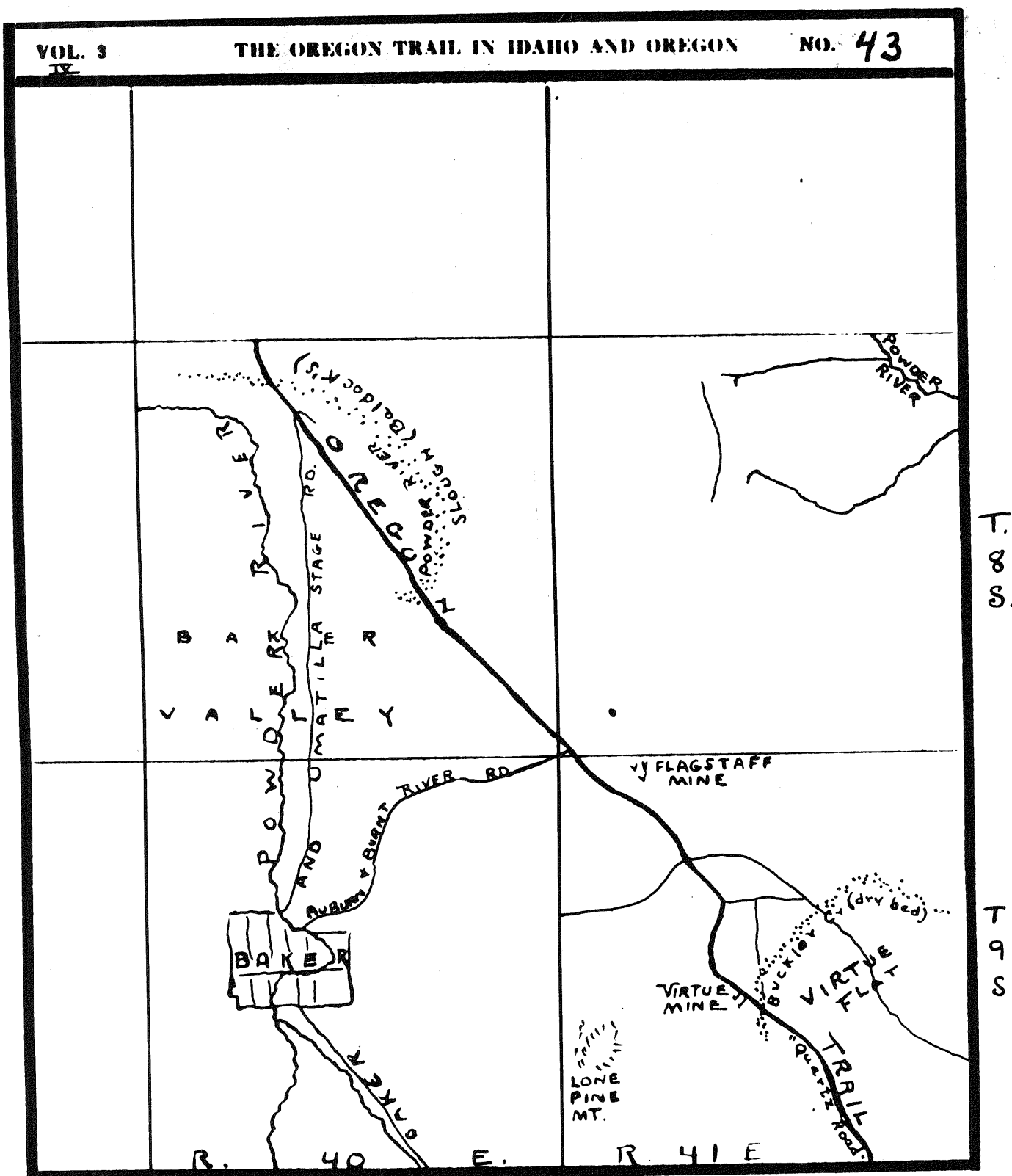
On entering Burnt River Valley the emigrant faced one of the most tedious sections of the entire journey. The valley, which looked "a hole among the hills" (Fremont, 176), was "the roughest and hardest part of the journey" (Parrish, 112); "the roughest country I ever saw" (Nesmith, 352). Some trains crossed the river as many as eight times; Howell, 150.



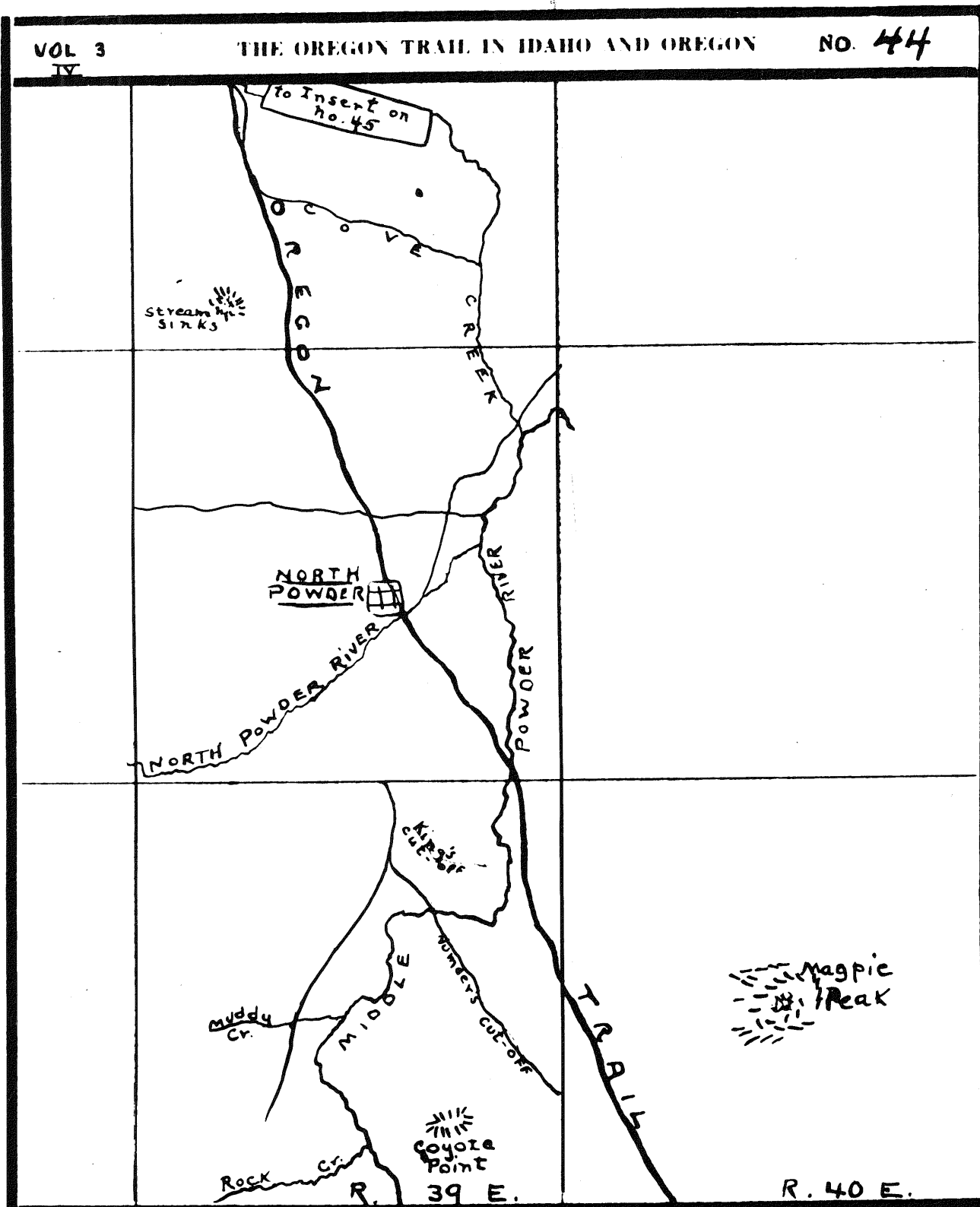
The old trail's course to the higher ground to (a) the east is defined clearly in the early records: Palmer, 103; Fremont, 176. Where "sidling mountains" were not encountered the early traveller was in "hemmed up, brushy, stony bottoms"; Kerns, 179. Herriabots Ogden's horse fell and "broke every bone in his body"; IX, 352. Cf. Greer, 166.



Reaching the Pleasant Valley section at the head of Alder Creek ("dry branch", C.A. Sharp, 184; Palmer, 103) the trail turned abruptly to east of north on the line of the later Quartz Road. As the divide between Burnt and Powder rivers was reached better travelling was found. Here earlier explorers had lost the track. Townsend, 268.



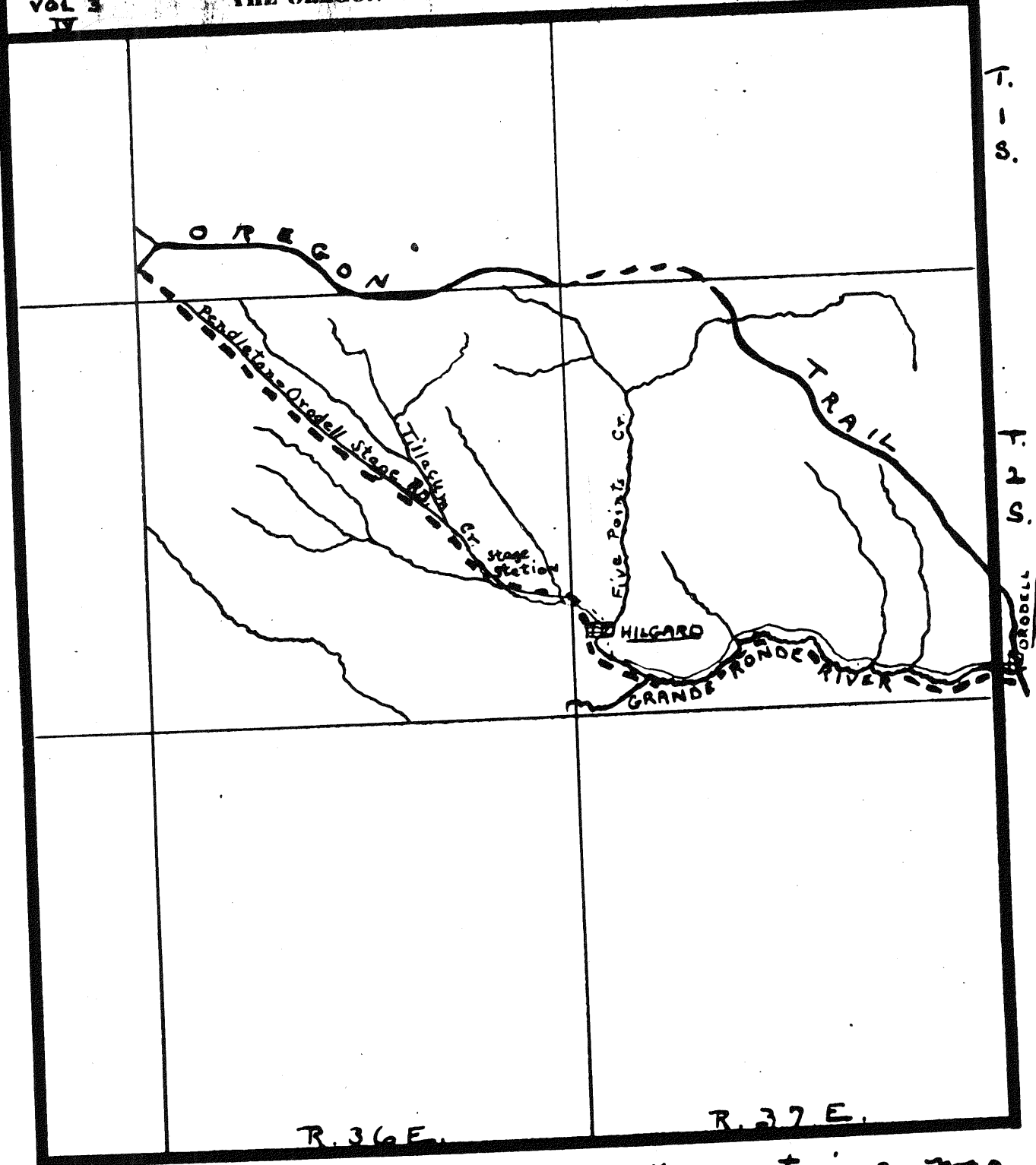
Entering the noted Idaho mining region travellers, as early as 1849, heard rumors of hidden gold; Cross, 211. The Powder River slough was found dry at times (Cross, 211) and at times almost impassable, a "muddy hollow"; Parrish, 113. Cf. Fremont, 176; Palmer, 104; Brosch, 59.



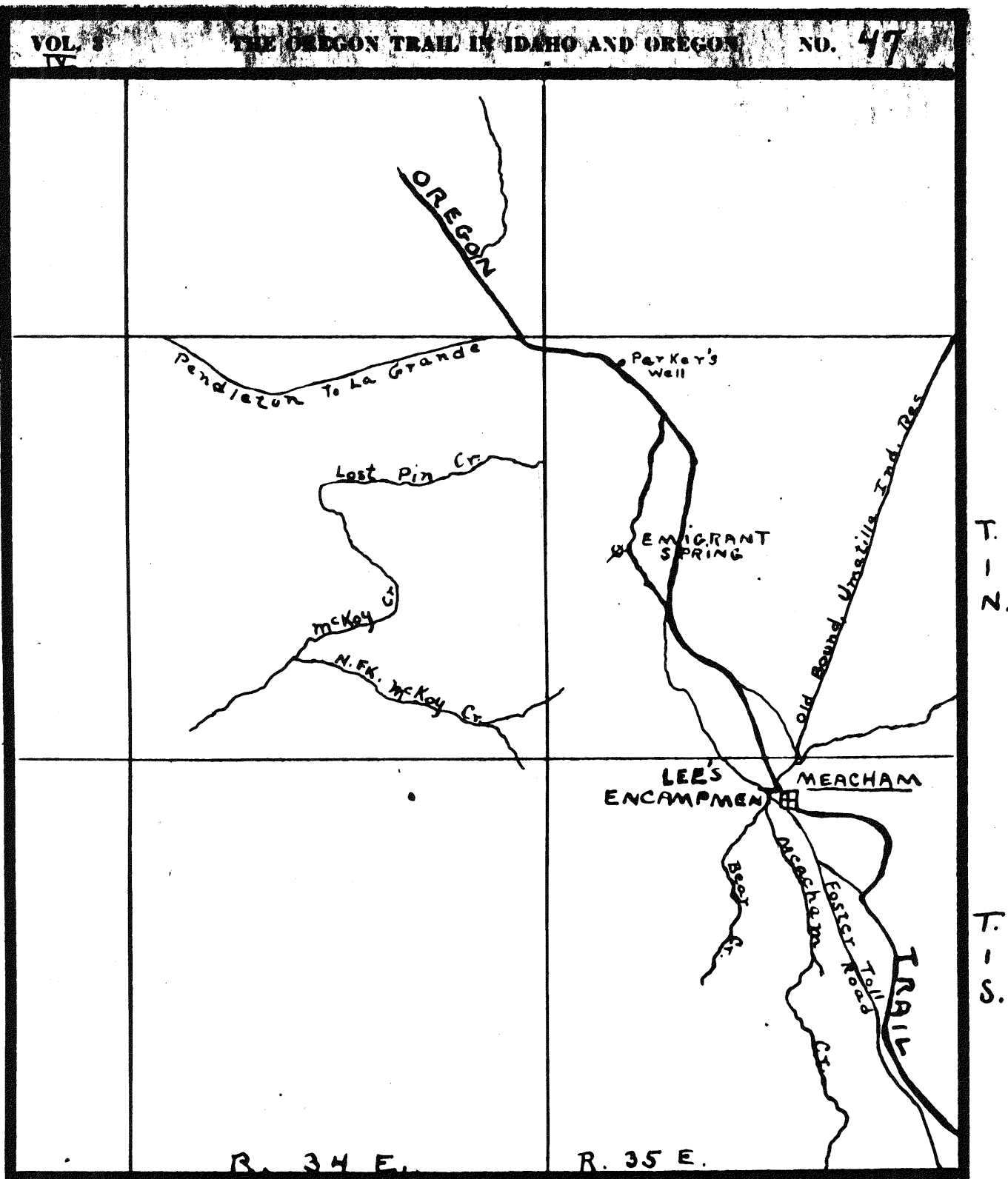
A famous "Lone Pine" on the Powder in earlier days greeted the emigrant to the "handsomest valley" he had yet seen; Kerns, 180. Fremont found the stately guide felled by a mutton pioneer's ax (177). The camping site was continually known, however, as "Lone Tree": Minto, 223; Burnett (who calls it "Lane Pens") 408; Nesmith, 353; Ellis, 87; Whitman, 53; Howell, 150.



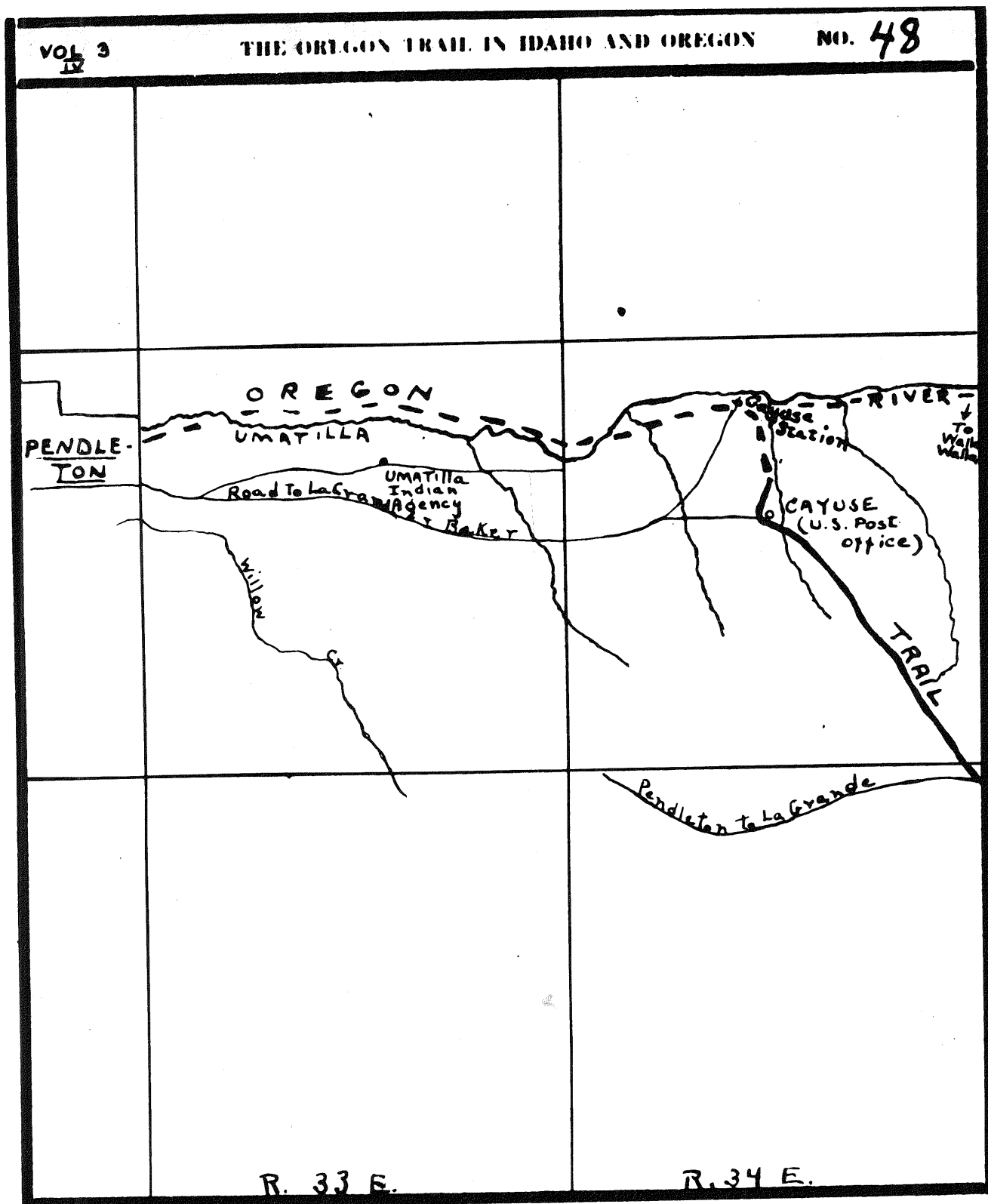
The difficult climb over the rocky ridge dividing the Powder Valley, <sup>(Ladd's Canon)</sup> from the Grand Ronde (Kerns, 181; Whitman, 54; Adair, 72; Kellogg, 92), brought the emigrant to the 300,000-acre tract of the Ronde, rich in springs, flax and clover; Howell, 150. Famed in the days of the trappers (Townsend, 271+), every emigrant comments on its future agricultural development.



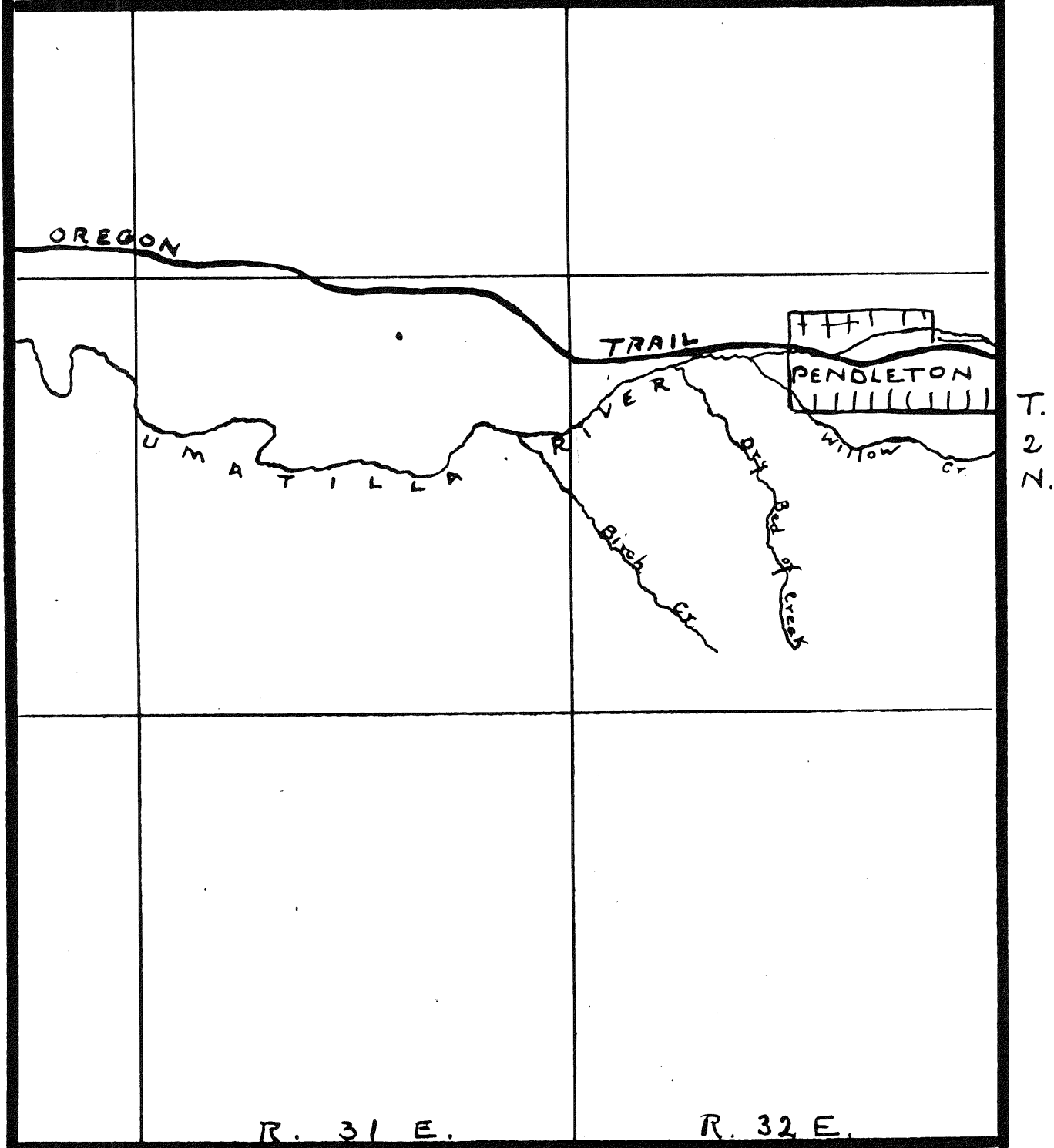
The ascent of the Blue Mountains was uniformly described as difficult: Palmer, 109; Townsend, 273; Parrish, 114; Kerns, 182. For many parties, however, the route was made shorter by the welcome stories of Oregon's richness told by friends who came out to Grand Ronde to greet newcomers: Kerns, 180; Minto, 223; Gilliam, 207. -- Alternate route.



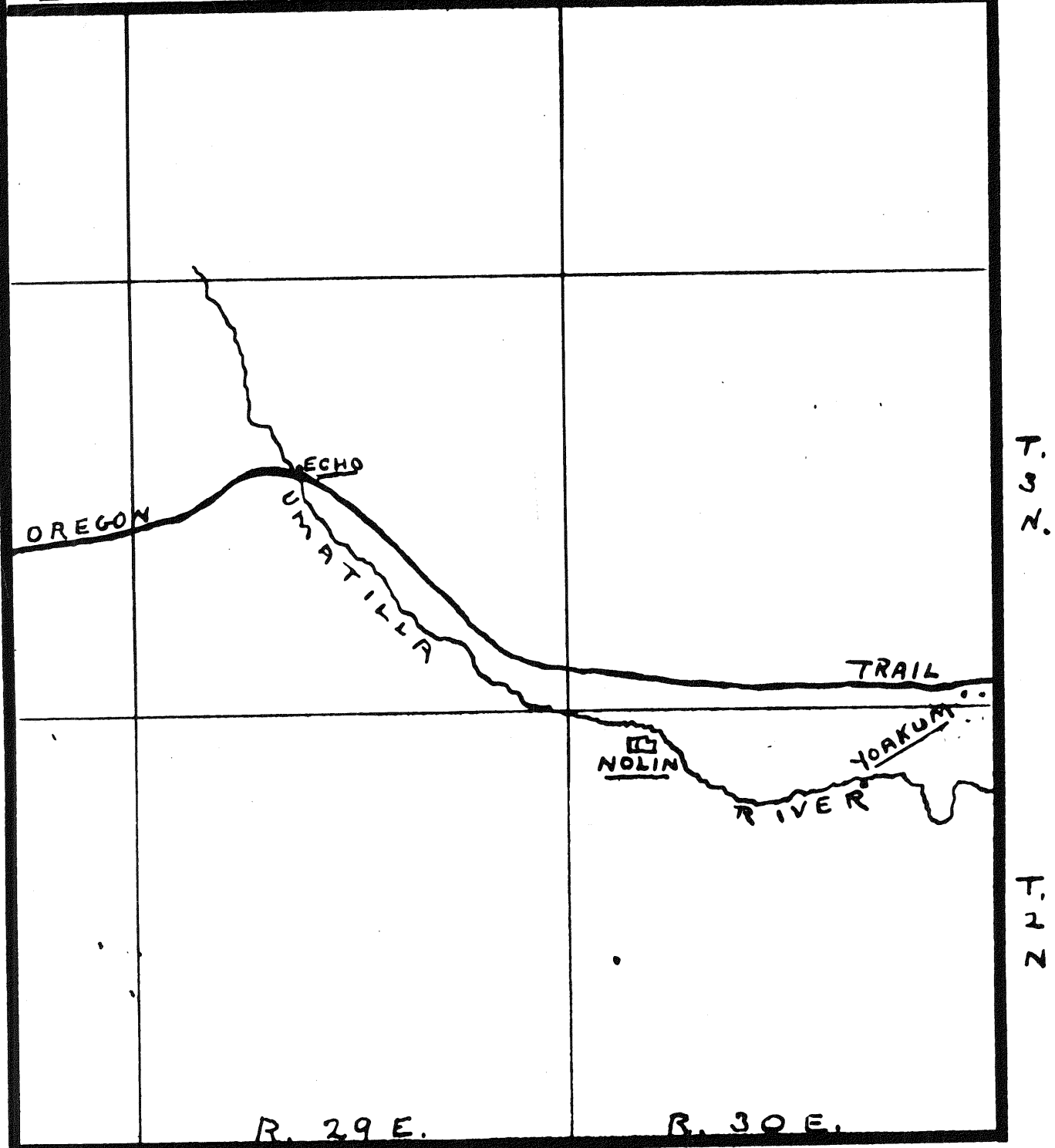
"Lee's Encampment," the present site of Meacham, offered a welcome resting place for tired trains on the mountain summit-plain where food and water and enchanting scenery were enjoyed: Palmer, 110; Kellogg, 92; Currey, 43; Kerns, 182-3. Cf Quarterly, I, 378. Emigrant Spring marks the site of the Oregon Trail monument unveiled by President Harding.



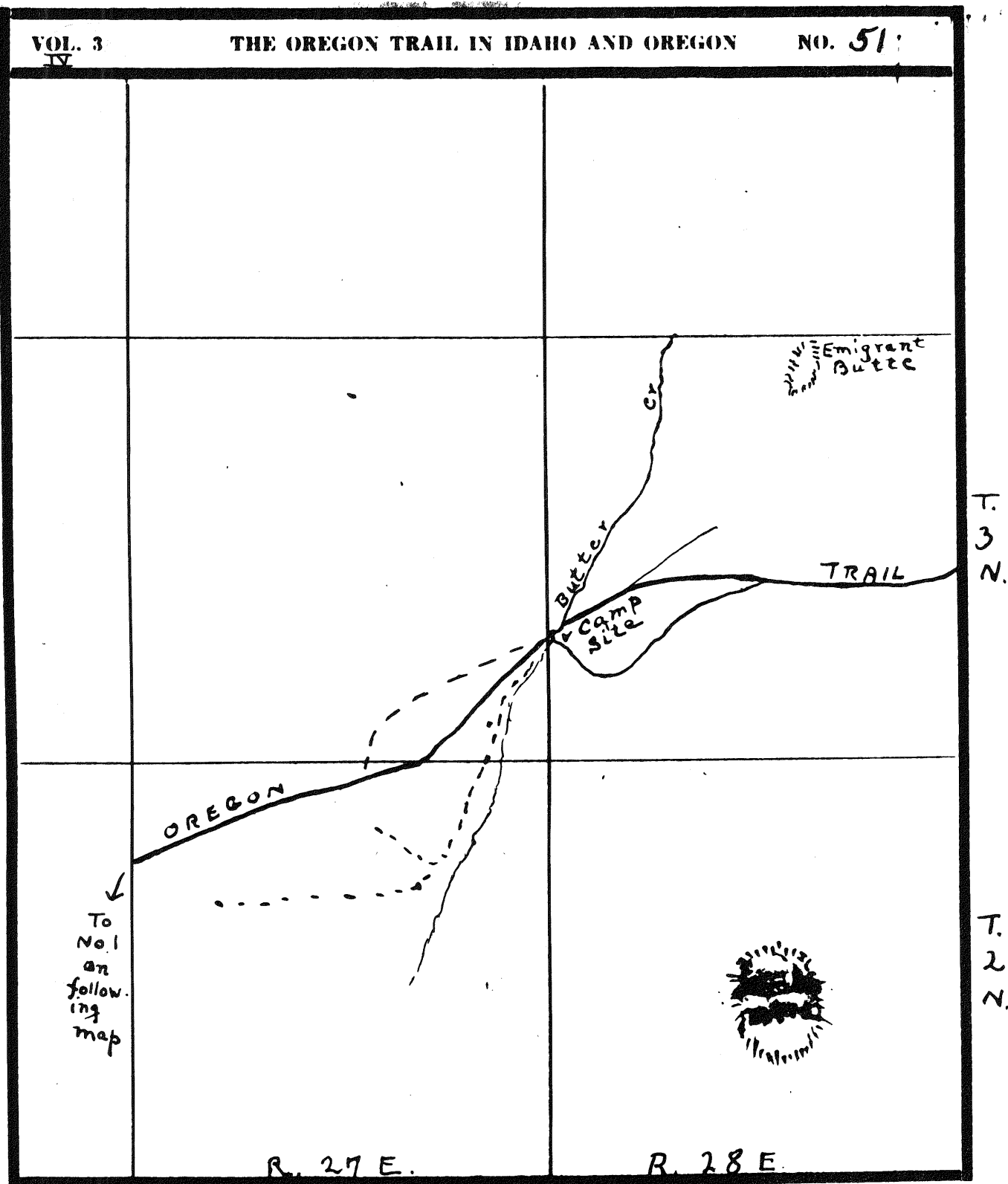
Those acquainted with present-day routes from the Blue Mountains to the Umatilla will not wonder that Townsend found the descent over ninety years ago "the most tedious march I ever made" (276). The many passage ways down explain why here it was a "deeply-worn horse trail" and there "dim wagon tracks"; Minto, 226. Cf. Palmer, 111; Cross, ; Arrish, 114



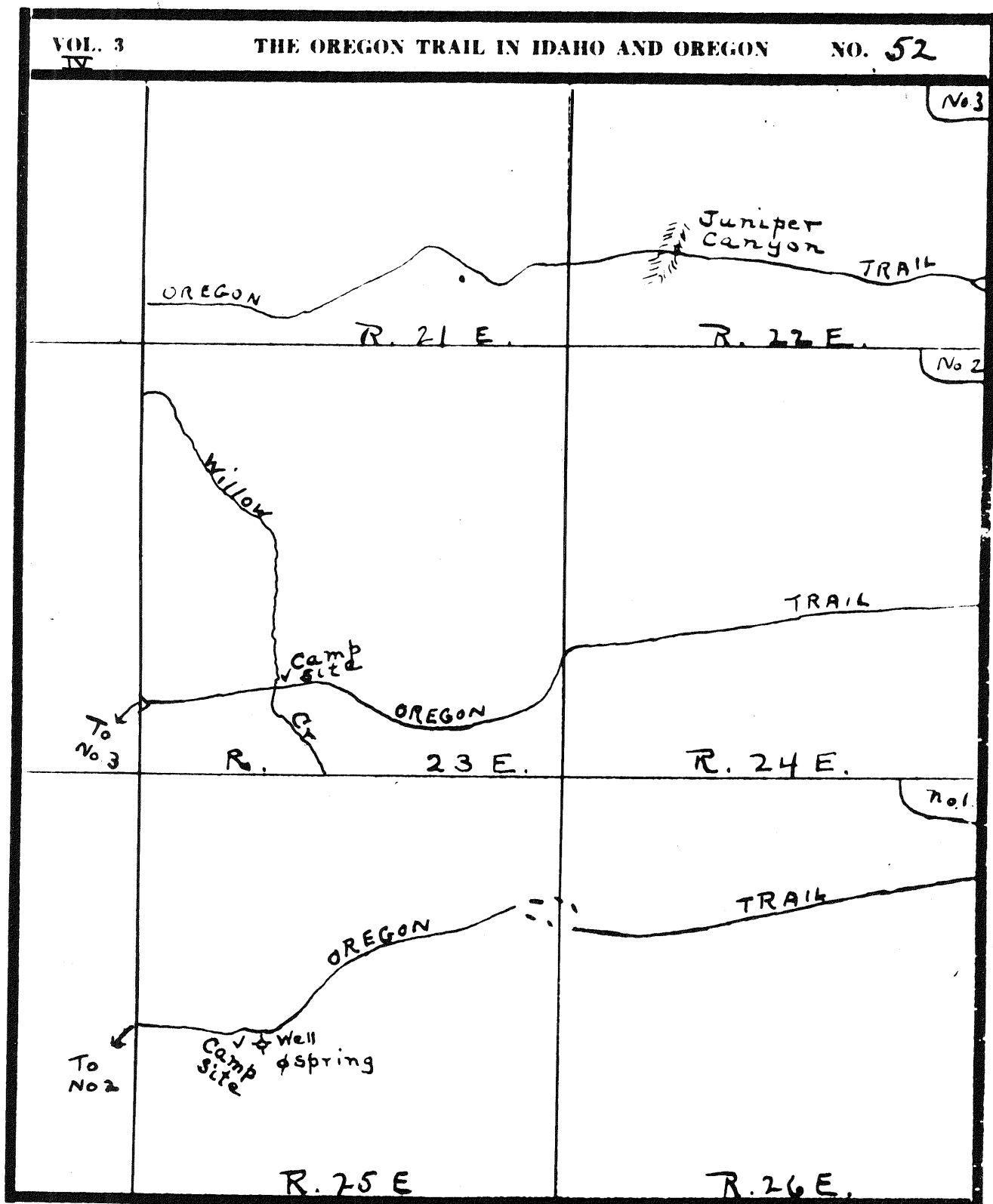
The crossing places on the Umatilla (preceding map) are open to question as our dotted line suggests; the valley was descended on the left river bank by many. The crossing at Pendleton is firmly fixed by Kerns as about twelve miles from the point at which he came to the river: 183. The route "up the bluff" to the westward is noted by Palmer: 114.



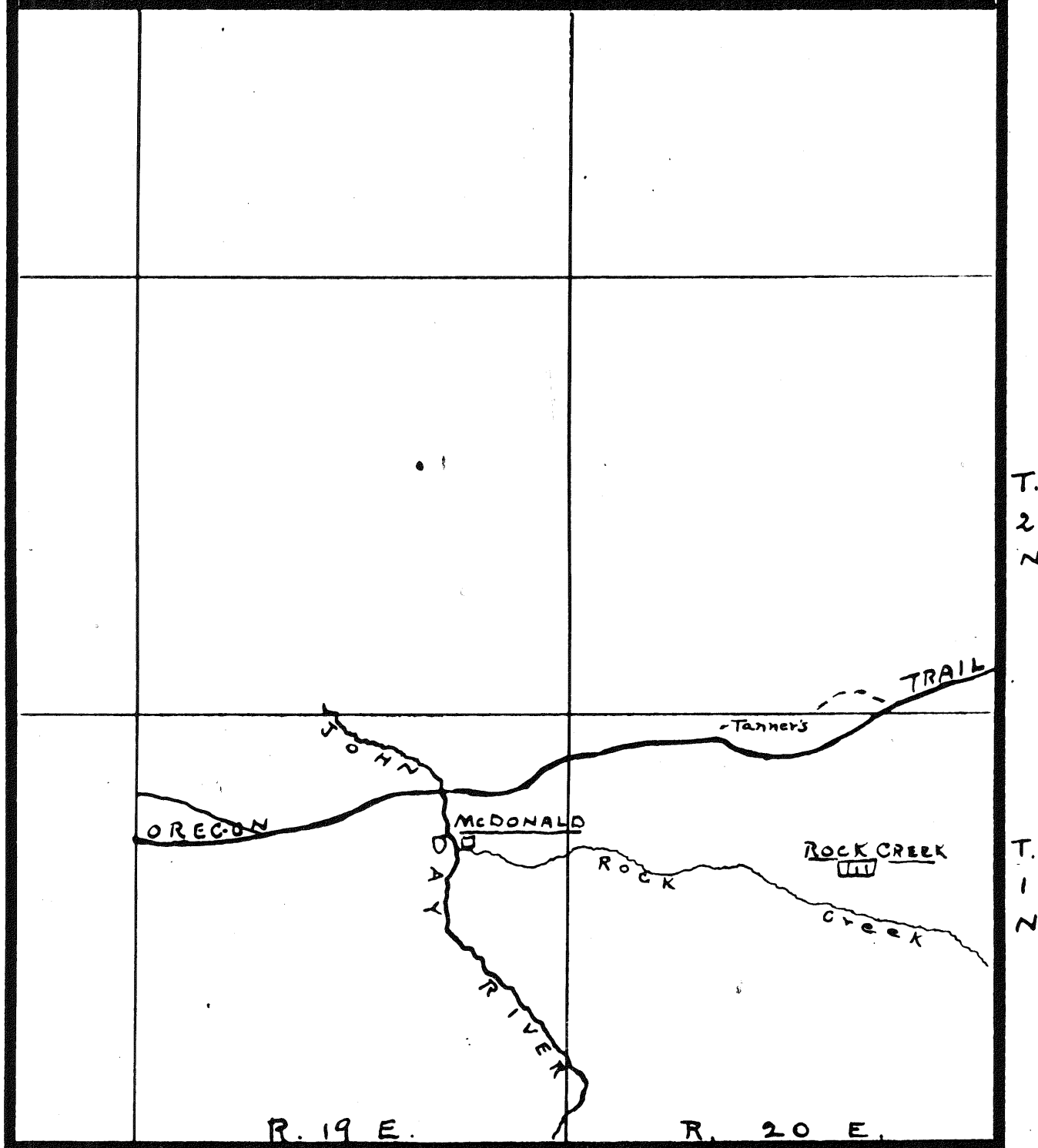
The last stages of the journey across the Umatilla and down the Columbia Valley proved, ordinarily, an unexpected hardship to men and women who believed they had entered the land of "corn and wine". The unexpected stretch of about one hundred miles of barren, dusty desert was (continued)



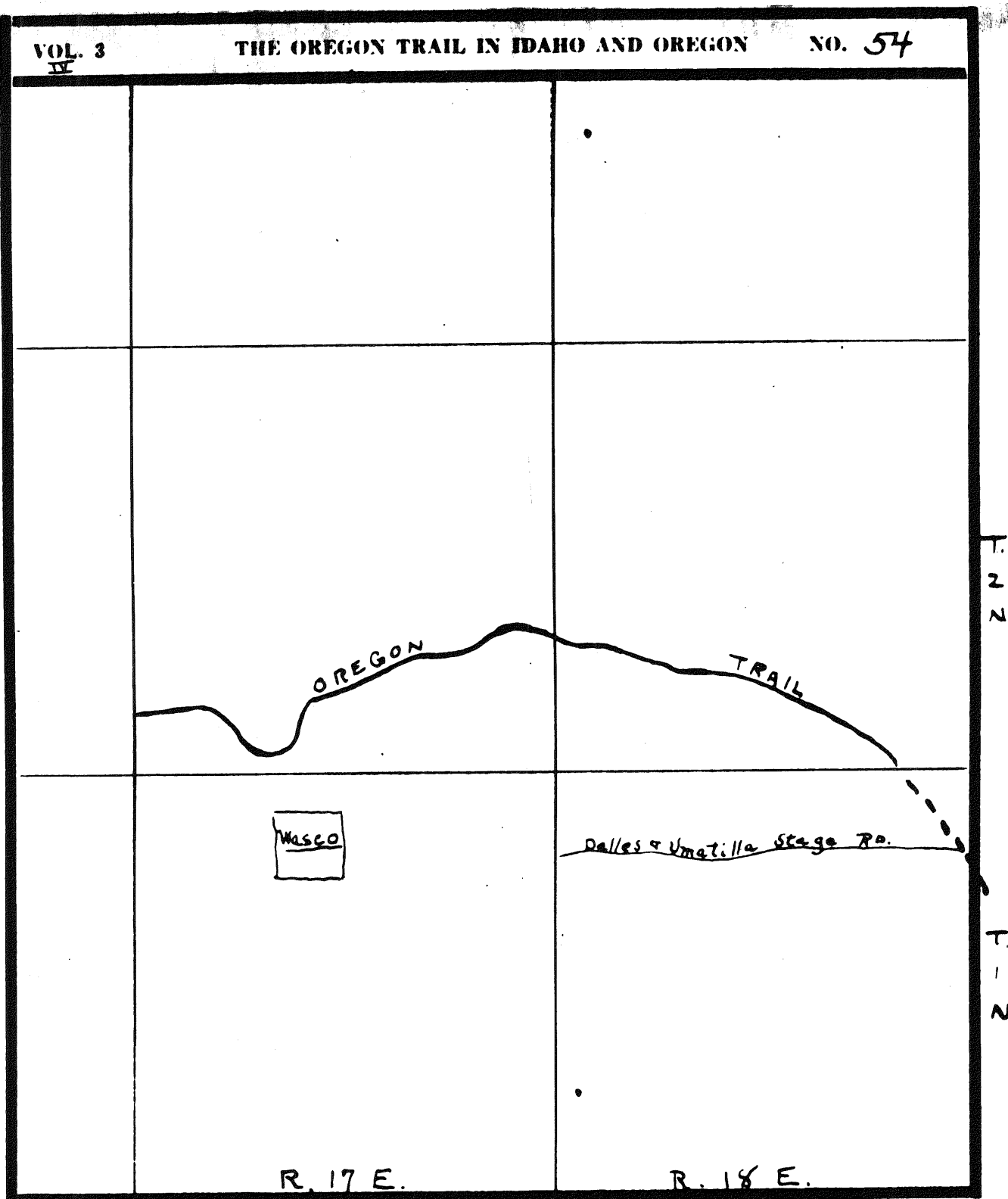
a surprise to the uninformed. To the cattle trains the search for streams and water holes was frequently a serious business. Green leaves record of standing all night at such a hole to keep crazed cattle from drowning each other: 168. "Bitter Creek" (Butter Creek) is mentioned by Kerns, 184.



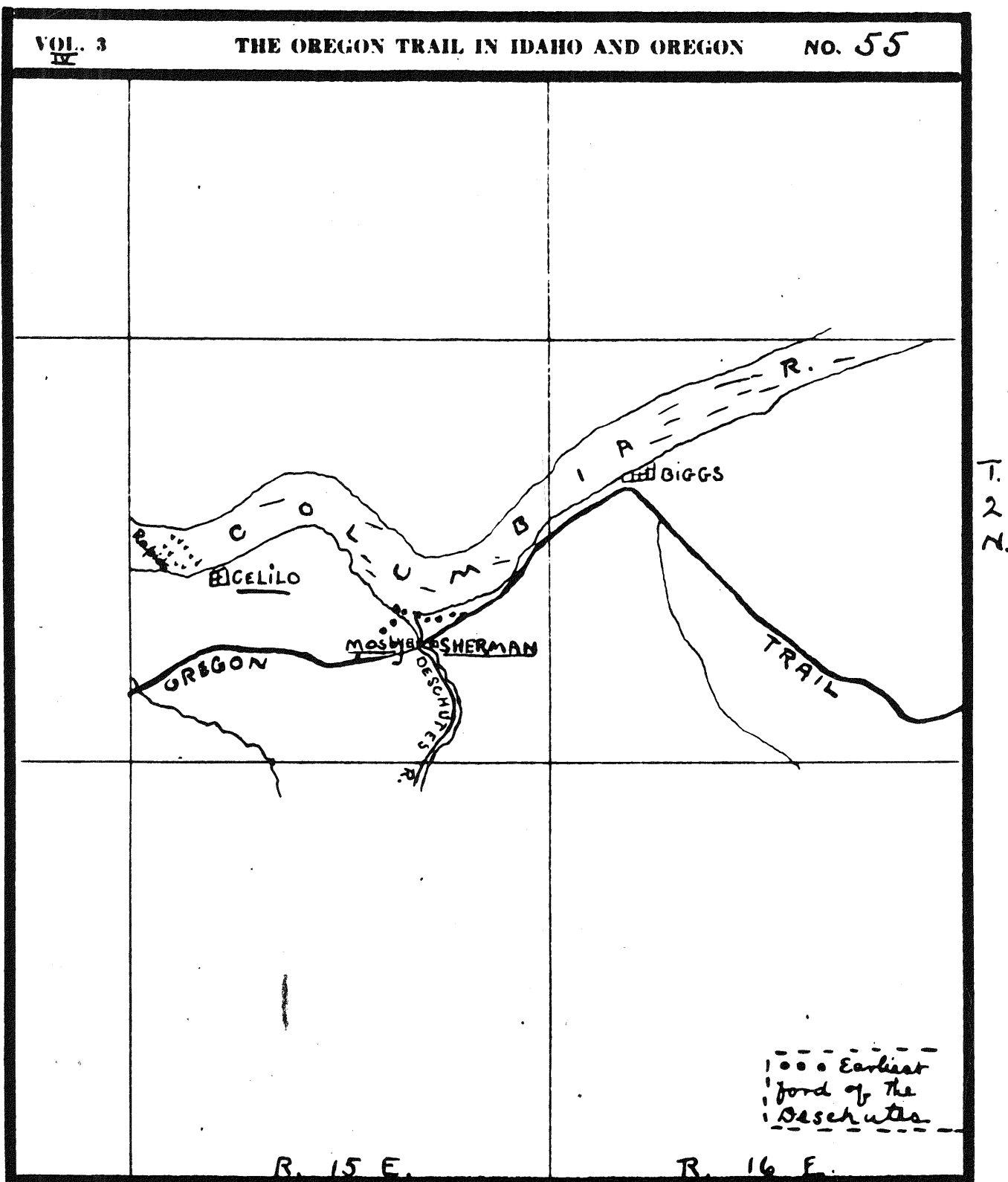
"Wells Spring" or "Well Spring" served as one oasis in these desert miles although the caustic, but graphic, Kerns dubs it "a mudhole spring". Cf. Holverson, 67; Greer, 168. Willow Creek served as another camping spot: Kerns, 184-5; C. A. Sharp, 185.



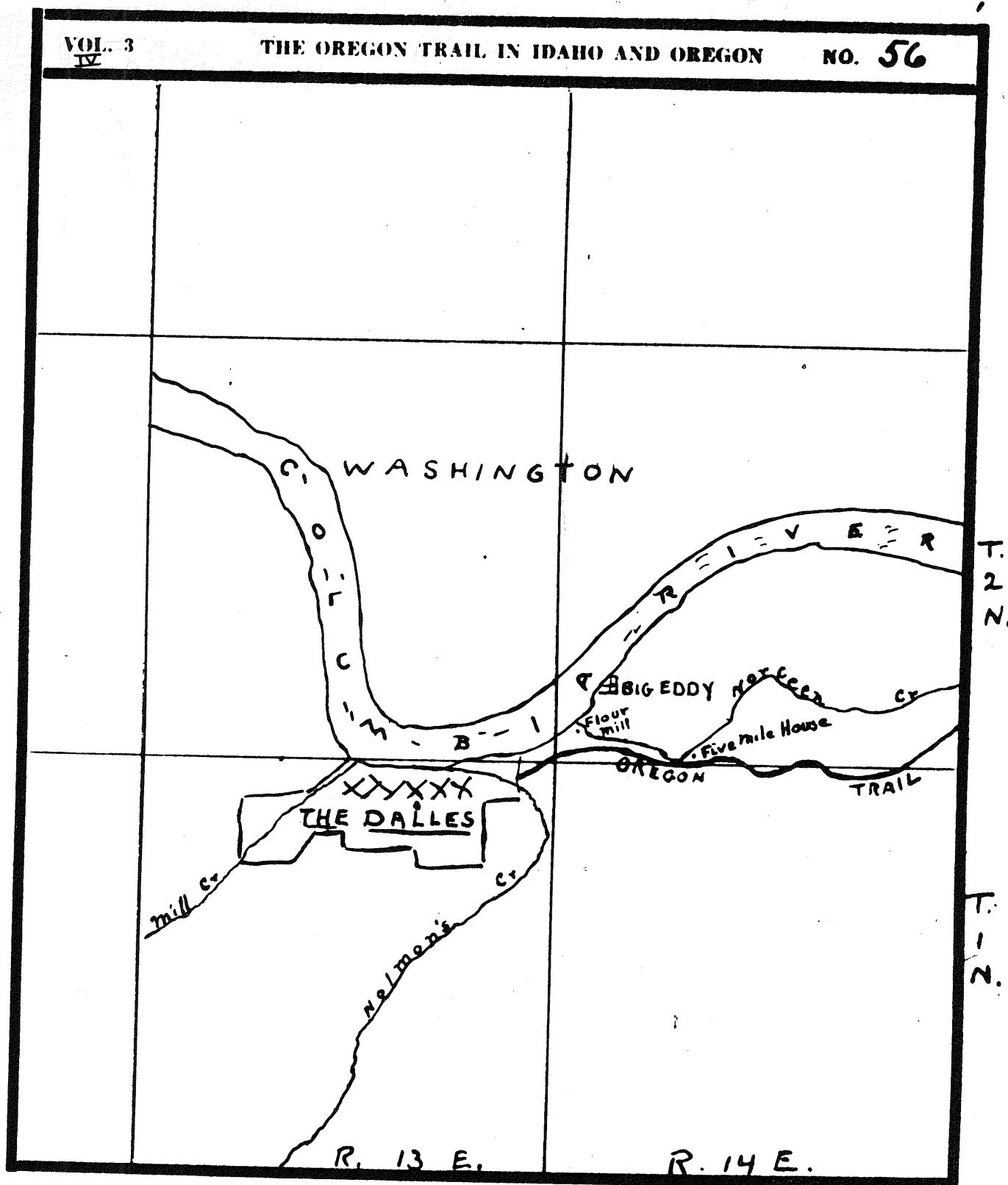
John Day River offered genuine relief to emigrants as practically every one of their annals records. "Tanner's" marks the site of a spring six miles from the river mentioned by Kerns, 185.



An eighteen or twenty mile pull across the plain (Ranges 18, 17 and 16) brought the emigrant to the shores of the Columbia (see map following) at the present town of Biggs. These last miles of real toil were enlivened, on clear days, by the views of Mt Hood and Mt Helens.



No crossing of the Kansas, Platte or Snake on the long trail from the Missouri was more difficult than the crossing of the Deschutes at Sherman. The old crossing place is just to the right of the modern highway bridge. The taxing experience here is described by Fremont, 185; Palmer, 118; Cross, 216; Tuller, 88; Welch, 99; Parrish, 118; Kerns, 180; Minto, 228; Nesmith, 358; Greer, 169.



The accounts of arriving at The Dalles are all similar, whether the traveller was to proceed to his destination by river (Cf. Kellogg, 93; Arthur, 98; Cross, 216) or by the "Barlow Road" (see Quarterly, III, 71+) which was the pathway followed by those who drove stock or preferred the landward course to the Willamette Valley or Puget Sound.