THE PORTER TREK TO MEXICO

The Porter Family consisted of twenty individuals including Warriner Ahaz Porter, his three wives and children:

Mary Malinda Norwood: 8 children, ages 4 to 21 years

Martha Norwood: 4 children, ages 6 months to 15 years

Rachel Ann Black: 4 children, ages 11/2 to 9 years

They started out 3 Oct 1889 from Orderville, Utah “traveling by horse team.” Their route (so far as we can determine from what we are told in his autobiography and from other sources) was as follows:

Kanab, then Jacob’s Lake and on over the Buckskin Mountains

Across House Rock Valley to Lee’s Ferry

Navajo Springs, Bitter Springs, Tuba City, Moenkopi, then “along the Little Colorado”

They suffered the death of their eldest son, Eugene, age 21, at “Black Rock Crossing of the Little Colorado” (about 10 miles from St. Joseph - now Joseph City. We think the crossing referred to here was “Sunset Crossing” about 3 miles upstream from present-day Winslow).

St. Joseph (their eldest son was “laid to rest” here)

They went “over the mountains onto the river, passing through Sands Butte and Deming. Then over the line to Palomas...”

Their most probable route was through:

Holbrook and St. Johns (both still on the Little Colorado), then south through Springerville, Nutrioso and on down to the Gila River and Duncan; then southeast and east to Lordsburg and Deming, New Mexico, then south to Columbus (New Mexico) and Las Palomas, Chihuahua, Mexico.

“After leaving Palomas we drove down to the Boca Grande which appeared to be little more than a deep slew or pond, with very abrupt banks” (this would be the

Casas Grandes River). They almost lost a horse here!

“...we hooked up and moved on, keeping on the west bank of the Boca Grande (Casas Grandes River) until we reached Colonia Diaz, a Mormon colony. Passing through this town we soon came to Ascencion...about three miles south...arriving there 17 December 1889...” Leaving his family in Colonia Diaz, Warriner Ahaz did some exploring.

They then went on “another hundred miles” through Colonia Dublan, Casas Grandes and Colonia Juarez to Colonia Pacheco (arriving 3 Feb 1890).

There they settled “on a little flat of ground, about three acres, down by the river under the hills in the north-east corner of the town.” (This later became part of the Wilson homestead. Our first home in Pacheco, the covered wagon, sat under the willow trees that Warriner Ahaz Porter planted just below the ditch.)

Total distance traveled - approximately 870 miles!

 **Lyman Wilson, October 1998**