

BUD MATTHEWS

HWY 180

ENTRANCE TO CHIMNEY CREEK

CHIMNEY CREEK

CHIMNEY CREEK
RANCH HEADQUARTERS

SMITH'S BUTTERFIELD
STATION 1888-91

CHIMNEY CREEK

BEVO BEND

Road leaving Smith's Station
to the Northeast
Traced points A - M, March 10-14, 2004

Horseshoe Productions

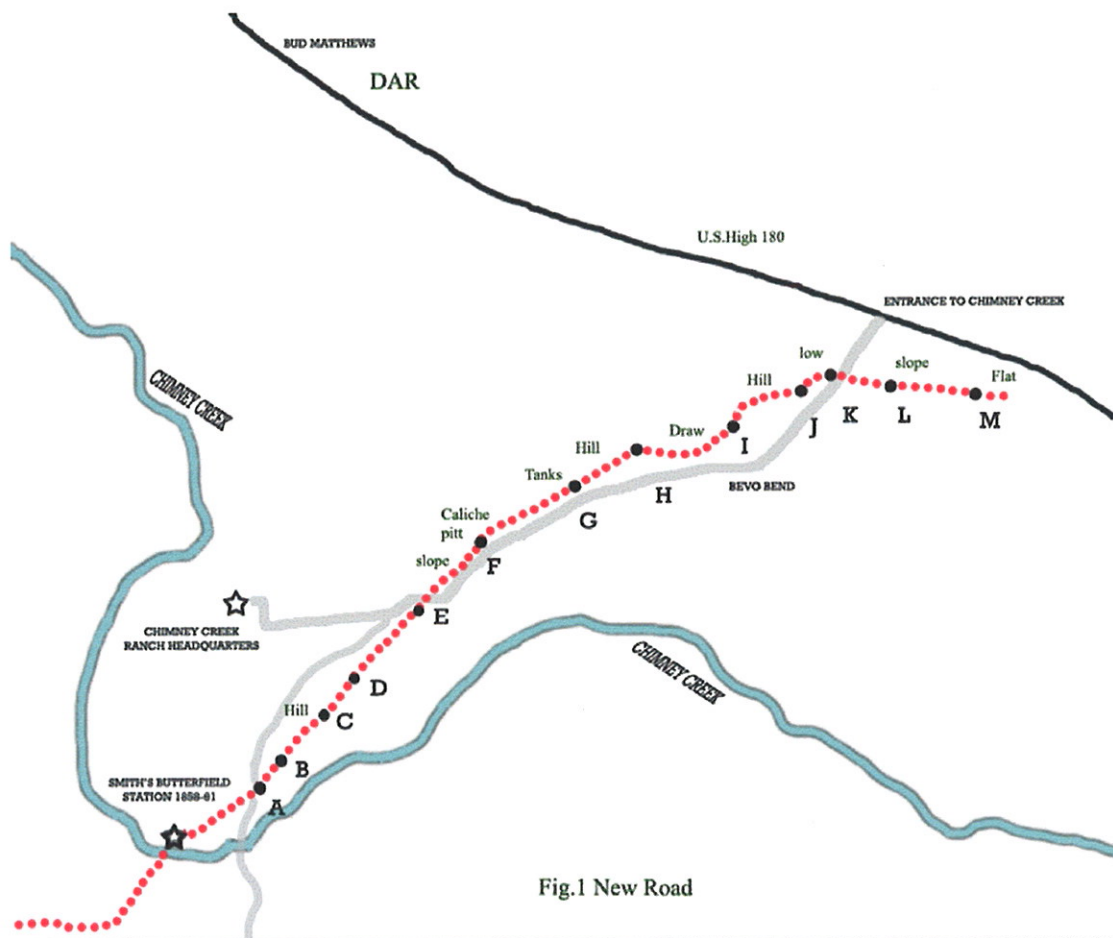


Figure 1: 2.8 miles of road from Smith's Station across Chimney Creek Ranch

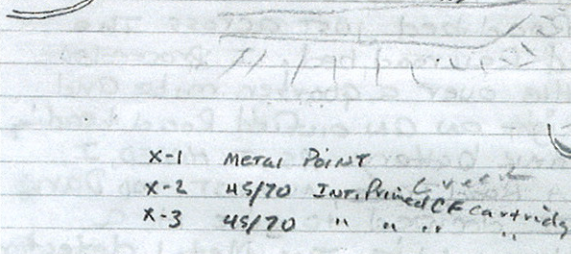
Beginning the Field Work

The first evening at the Chimney Creek Ranch I had time to go to the Bud Matthews area, the place where the road search left off in 2003. I worked there for a short time attempting to find the mail road across the road north of the stock pens and not too far from the DAR marker at Bud Matthews. I did not find what I was looking for so decided to go Chimney Creek Ranch entrance off U.S. Highway 180, where I entered the ranch road, then turned left on an old abandoned pavement, then drove on east about ¼ mile and then turned right on a muddy oilfield road to the south. I was looking for any possible traces of old road in this area as suggested by the J.W. Williams footnote in the Leach Wagon Train Journal. To my surprise I did locate a trace of a road and another surprise; I quickly found several historic artifacts in and close by the trace. Among the artifacts was an incredible Comanche metal arrow point. The significance of this find was that it lent credibility to the journal, "Journey of the Leach Wagon Train across Texas -1857":

September 7, 1857 Camp No.50

"-----we traveled for a considerable distance and about sundown reached a point known as *Camanche Springs*, a point deriving its appellation from the well known fact of its having been a rendezvous for the tribe of Indians from which it takes its name. The tongue of report hath it, that this wild and desolate spot has the scene of many awful murders, the victims having been travelers over this route at early day. -----"

I thought it more than coincidental that the Comanche point was found square in the middle of the old road trace. The feeling that this may be a place where early Texas travelers had an encounter

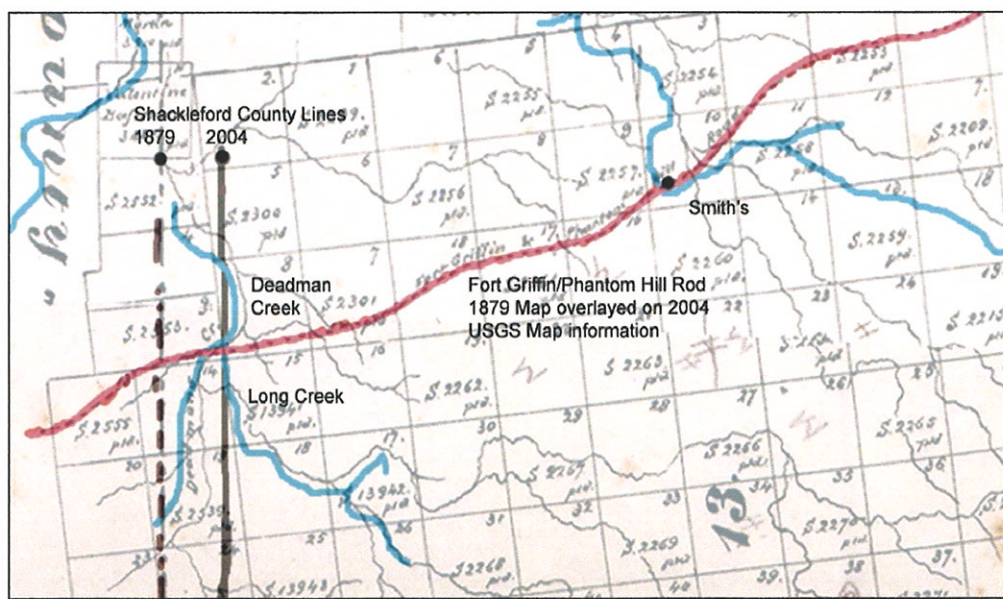


New Research

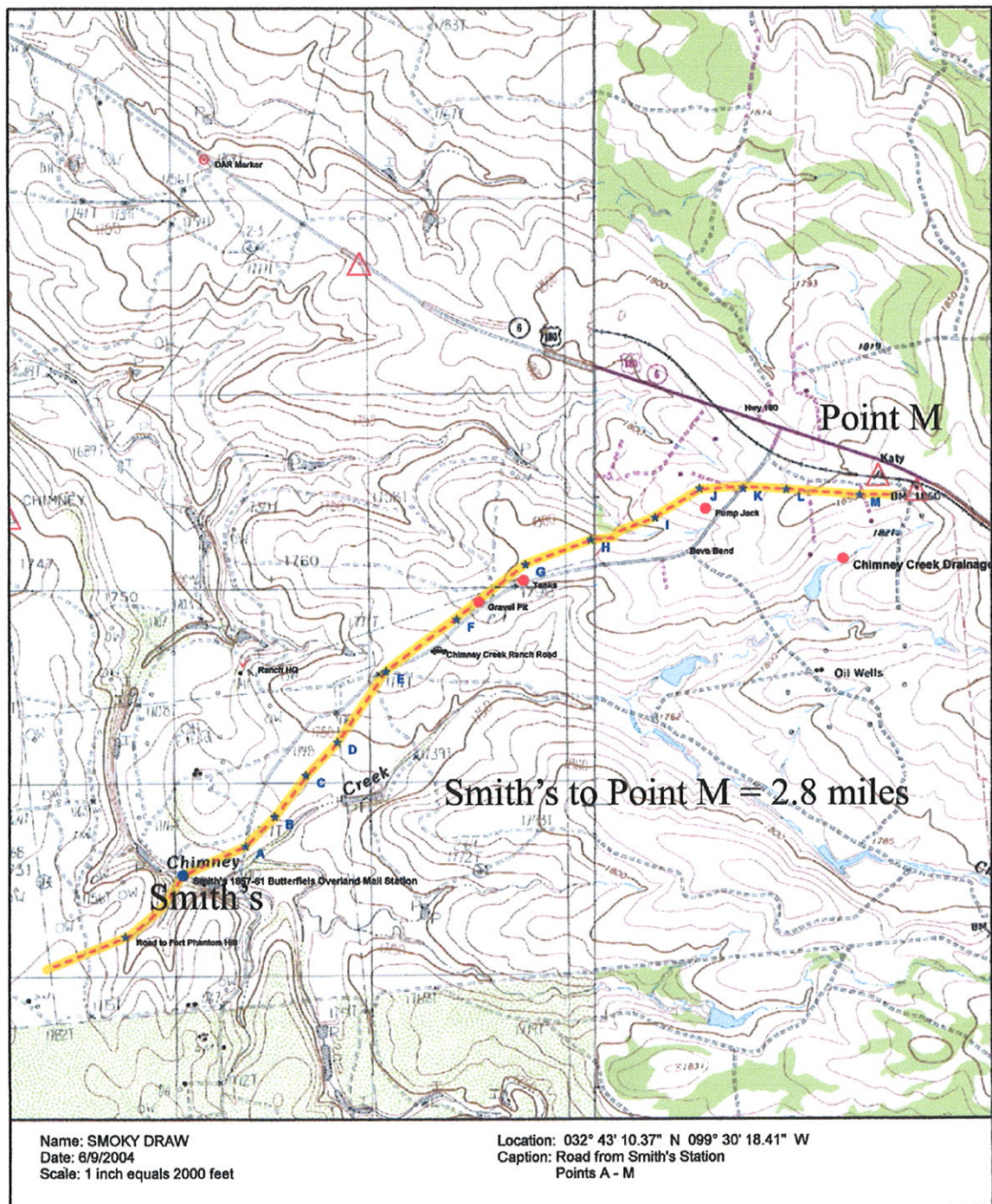
Until May 2004 I had found no historic maps that would accurately show where the Butterfield Overland Mail Road passed through Shackelford County and in particular Chimney Creek Ranch. I had asked Glen Ely, a historian of the Butterfield Trail, to look for Shackelford County maps during his visits to the General Land Office in Austin, Texas. He found one 1879 Shackelford County map that had a portion of the Fort Griffin-Fort Phantom Hill Road. The road takes up in western Jones County, crosses the Shackelford County line, crosses Deadman Creek near its confluence with Long Creek, then it extends part way through Shackelford county and, importantly, beyond modern day Chimney Creek Ranch. Using the computer and Adobe Photoshop software I made a transparency of the 1879 map (Fig.1) and laid it over a modern day USGS topographical map from Maptech Terrain Navigator Pro, then scaled the transparency to match three known points shown on both maps, these being Albany, Fort Griffin, and the point of confluence of Deadman & Long Creeks. By doing this I was able to see where the Fort Griffin - Fort Phantom Hill road crossed the Chimney Creek Ranch property to Smith's. The road matched perfectly by going directly to Smith's Station and matched with the new road to the northeast from the station.



This 1879 Shackleford County Map (above) made transparent and laid over modern day information (below) shows old Fort Griffin/Fort Phantom Hill going to Smith's Station and on to the northeast



Maptech Detail of the New Road



(The notes below are copied from loosely written markers on my Maptech Terrain Navigator Pro software program and there are some typographical errors; however the information is correct)