

Alexander Wylie Itinerary by places visited

The following Table lists places visited by Alexander Wylie and recorded in his paper: Wylie, Alexander (1869). Notes of a Journey from Ching-Too to Hankow. *Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of London*, Vol. **14**, No. 2, pp. 168-185.

The Table accompanies a document written describing the paper and its background as it relates to a project to identify the places and the routes of the Shu Roads which still exist today and to provide locations of them in Google Earth. The materials used here and additional background information can be found on a web page [HERE](#). The Tables below have been constructed using previously acquired GPS information, ancient and modern Chinese maps, Russian Topographic maps the 1960's and from Google Earth. It has also been checked in the field during a visit to China to travel Wylie's route from Chengdu in Sichuan to Xixiang in Shaanxi. In his paper, Wylie mentions many rivers and towns off the road. However, this document focuses on towns and places on the road rather than rivers, towns off the road or general geography. This document is available on the [Qinling Plank Roads to Shu](#) web site as a PDF file and is called "Alexander_Wylie_Itinerary_Update.pdf". The Table lists the towns that Wylie and his party passed or stopped at as they were recorded in the paper and has been updated during a visit using the closest motor highway route (G108) today with some off-road walks on the old road.

Wylie uses a somewhat non-standard pre-Wade-Giles transliteration for Mandarin that seems to have been based on transliterations developed for southern Chinese dialects. But there are consistencies and most can be converted into modern Pinyin and confirmed by finding the places that still exist today on a map or in Google Earth. A list of character transliterations used by Wylie matched with Pinyin established in this project is also available and is called "Transliteration_Table.pdf". In addition, Wylie published an Itinerary of his full trip in 1868 with Chinese characters as well as his transliterations. Where this has been used to provide characters or to provide some places not in the text it is indicated by the annotation [Itinerary].

The names in **purple highlight** are Qing Period cities at "County" level or above. Typical designations for township type are discussed in End Note 1. Where a place is still unknown, even after the field visit, it has a **red highlight**. Notes in **yellow highlight** are remarks mainly about the route compared with the modern highway. Some **blue highlights** are used to indicate starting places or changes in the travel mode **green highlights** indicate a few rivers (but only a few here as a separate table is being developed for rivers).

From north gate of Chengdu

Name in Wylie Paper	Qing PY	Qing CH	Present PY	Present CH	Comment
Ching-too Foo	Chengdu Fu Huayang Xian Yiyan Dao	城都府 華陽縣 驛鹽道	Chengdu Shi	成都市	Origin Place was Chengdu Fu. No relics of the city wall seen by us. It seems that the path of G108 is similar to the old motor road. Will use Russian maps to get track for GE in areas where older route has been swallowed up in concrete jungle of Modern Chengdu.
Sze-ma-keaou	Sima Qiao	司馬橋	Sima Qiao	司马桥	Sima Qiao Bridge. A modern bridge of this name is on G108 but rather hard to get to if you wish to leave during peak traffic times!
San-ho-chang	Sanhe Zhen	三河鎮	Sanhe Zhen	三河镇	Location in Chengdu – swallowed up by city. Close to Xindu. “chang” is not clear as “zhen”, could actually be “chang”! Definitely on G108.
Teen-hwuy-chin	Tianhui Zhen	天迴鎮			[Itinerary]
Sin-too heen	Xindu (Xian)	新都縣	Xindu (Qu)	新都区	Just outside present Chengdu. Area designation now. Qing department was Xindu Xian.
Tang-kea-she	Tangjia Shi	唐家市			[Itinerary]
Heang-yang-chang	Xiangyang Chang	向陽場			[Itinerary]
Chang-hwa-chin	Zhanghua Zhen	張華鎮			[Itinerary]
Se-ching-keaou	Xicheng Qiao	西城橋	Xicheng Qiao?	西城桥	Wylie crossed river “Ma-shwuy-ho” (Mashui He) here. Xicheng Qiao meaning “west city bridge”. Not found during field work.
Han Chow	Han Zhou	漢州	Guanghan (Shi)	广汉市	Called Han Zhou in Qing Period. Wylie says it was “A large and prosperous place”. Still true. It is at City level of administration.

					Now famous for archaeological sites.
Seaou-han-chin	Xiaohan Zhen	小漢鎮			[Itinerary]
Tih-yang heen	Deyang Xian	德陽縣	Deyang Shi	德阳市	Not mentioned by Wylie in London paper despite being a Xian. But included in itinerary in Shanghai paper.
Hwang-heu-chin	Huanghu Zhen	黃許鎮			[Itinerary]
Pi-ma-kwan	Baima Guan	白馬關	Baimaguan	白马关	Perhaps the first main pass of the Old Road, Pang Tong's tomb a must to visit. Now very much renovated for tourists. But old sections and Stele exist. Hiking trail not bad.
Lo-keang heen	Luojiang Xian	羅江縣	Luojiang Xian	罗江县	Qing District City; also present day County capital in Deyang City.
Kin-shan-poo	Jinshan Pu	金山鋪	Jinshan Zhen	金山鎮	Wylie stopped the night here. Hwy 108 just north of Luojiang. This is a Zhen in the Historical atlas for Qing period. Jinshan Pu was a postal station?
Sin-poo	Xin Pu	新鋪			[Itinerary]
Tsaou-keō-poo	Zaojiao Pu	皂角鋪			[Itinerary]
Shih-keaou-poo	Shiqiao Pu	石橋鋪	Shiqiao Pu		"Handsome stone portal" according to Wylie. But it was NOT found. Stone Bridge Village
Meen Chow	Mian Zhou	綿州	Mianyang Shi	绵阳市	Walled Departmental City, Wylie stayed overnight here. It was Mian Zhou in Qing period and Mianyang City today. Wylie uses "chuh" here for "zhou". Later he uses "chow" for "zhou". (Old Road off present G108)
Yew-heang-poo	Youxian Pu	游仙鋪	Youxian Zhen	游仙鎮	"Seven Story Pagoda" in Wylie's day but does not seem to be there today. Youxian Pu in Wylie's time, now a Zhen.
Yew-heang-poo	Youxiang Pu	沈香鋪			[Itinerary]
Wei-ching	Weicheng Yi	魏城驛	Weicheng Zhen	魏城镇	Busy town of considerable size in Wylie's time. An "yi" in the Historical Atlas for Qing period. Now a Zhen.

					(Old Road off present G108)
Shi-neu-poo	Shiniu Pu	石牛鋪	Shiniu Zhen	石牛鎮	“Stone Ox Stores” (Shiniu Pu) to Wylie. Now a “Zhen”.
Tsze-tung heen	Zitong Xian	梓潼縣	Zitong Xian	梓潼縣	Eleven story Pagoda and walls, Wylie stayed overnight there. Zitong Xian in Qing as well as today. (Old Road off present G108) Russian Map shows present highway has moved a lot. Russian Map route is closer to Shu Road relic area.
Koo-keen-tseuen	Gu Jian Quan?	古劍泉	Gu Jian Quan?	古劍泉?	“Ancient Sword Spring” with Stele (not a town, not listed in the itinerary and not found in the field!)
Keih-heang-poo	Qiqu Pu	七曲鋪	Qiqu Cun?	七曲村	Mountain village, birth place of Wan-chang-te. Large Temple here. Also called Qiqu Shan (Also Temple to God of War). Modern Hwy has been “straightened” relative to Russian map route.
Keih-heang-poo	Jixiang Pu	吉香鋪			[Itinerary] It should be Qiqu Pu but there is an anomaly that needs to be resolved yet.
Shan-ting-poo	Shangting Pu	上亭鋪	Shangting Zhen	上亭鎮	“Swiss” mountain village. Originally a post-station In Historical Atlas for Qing period as a Zhen (Old Road is off present G108)
Yin-woo-poo	Yanwu Pu	演武鋪	Yanwu Xiang	演武乡?	Yanwu village is present here but the transliteration is “yung” in text and “yin” in itinerary. Wiens says it is Yanwu. So do characters.
Woo-leen-yih	Wulian Yi	武連驛	Wulian Zhen	武連鎮	Wylie and Co. rested here for the night. (In Department of Keen). Same Wulian noted and liked by Isabella Bird, Eric Teichman and Hope Justman. Was a major Postal station and also has Jueyuan Temple with amazing old murals including some foreign priests. (Old Road off present G108??)
Lew-ch'e-kow	Liuchigou Yi	柳池溝驛	Liugou Zhen (Liuchigou Zhen)	柳池溝鎮	“Busy little town” according to Wylie. Called Liu Chi Gou in Historical Atlas for Qing. Post station. “Willow Pond Gulley”.
Leang-shan-poo	Liangshan Pu	梁山鋪			[Itinerary]

Tsing-lin-poo	Qinglin Pu	青林鋪			[Itinerary]
Chow-ya-tsze	Zhouya Zi	周埡子	Zhouyazi	周埡子	On hill top then steep descent into vally and to Jiange Present Zhouyazi is NOT on Hwy 108! Jianbei Cun is. Photographs in GE show route of the Cedar trees through Zhouyazi. Russian map has the old route clearly marked. Can be hiked.
Keen chow	Jian Zhou	劍州	Formerly Jiange, now Pu'an Zhen	(古劍閣) 普安鎮	Pagoda etc, good stone road from Zitong to here and beyond (maybe to Jianmen Guan). Old road can be seen from Cypresses. Qing Jian Zhou. Now has old town declared a “Guzhen” with support from 512 reconstruction funds. (Old Road off present G108 to south, marked clearly on Russian Map)
Han-yang- chang	Hanyang Chang	漢陽場			[Itinerary]
Keen-mun- kwan	Jianmen Guan	劍門關	Jianmenguan Zhen	劍門關鎮	Village, Wylie stayed overnight. Busy town. Big change in terrain as you head for Da Jian Shan mountains. This place is on top of the “plateau”.
Keen-mun	Jianmen	劍門	Jianmen Guan	劍門關	Sabre Gate Pass. A place, not a town. (Old Road off present G108 below Jianxi Bridge, between here and Guangyuan was changed for motor highway) Russian Map shows another alternate route to the west – maybe not any better for motor vehicles!
Keen-kō	Jiange	劍閣	Jiange	劍閣	The pavilion or “gate” in the steepest position of the pass. A building still there with original stone steps close by. Wylie says it was originally built by “Choo-ko-Leang”. This was Zhuge Liang (諸葛亮).
Ta-muh-shoo	Damushu Yi	大木樹驛	Damushu	大木樹	Village on the old road from Zhaohua to Jianmen Guan after Niutou Mountain and Tianxiong Pass (completely by-passed by modern roads)
Pih-shwuy-	Baishui	白水江	Bailong	白龍江	Baishui River was seen from old road between Jianmen pass and

keang	Jiang		Jiang		Zhaohua (Very large River that joins Jialing at Zhaohua). Now called the Bailong (white dragon) River
New-tow-shan	Niutou Shan	牛頭山	Niutou Shan	牛头山	Mountain south of Zhaohua. Old road climbed to the Tianxiaong Pass and then went along ridges and valleys to Damushu and then Jianxi Bridge.
Teen-heung-kō	Tianxiong Ge	天雄閣			[Itinerary] – Tianxiong pavilion, 30 Li from Damushu, 10 Li to Zhaohua.
Woo-le-ya	Wuli Ya	五里埡			[Itinerary] – half way to Zhaohua from Tianxiong Guan
Chaou-hwa heen	Zhaohua Xian	昭化縣	Zhaohua Zhen	昭化镇	Boats here on the Jialing coming from Jianling headwaters and Baishui, heading for Lanzhong and Chongqing. Qing Zhaohua Xian now Zhen. Wylie would have had special interest in this port. (Old Town preserved).
Kea-ling-keang	Jialing Jiang	嘉陵江	Jialing Jiang	嘉陵江	The Jialing comes from Shaanxi, cutting through near Chaotian to meet the Bailong near Zhaohua. River traffic was common between Zhaohua, Guangyuan and the upper reaches of both rivers.
Kwang-yuen heen	Guangyuan Xian	廣元縣	Guangyuan City	广元市	(Old Road off present G108) The old road comes through Zhaohua and there takes a Ferry. Then to Guangyuan. The three rivers meeting were hard to control. But motor road needed new path. Replace with routes from Russian Topo route and add old road as relic.
Tseen-fuh-yae	Qianfo Ya	千佛崖			[Itinerary, Famous Buddhist Grottos]
Seu-kea-ho	Xiujia He	須家河	Xujia He	须家河	On River, main activity the Coal Trade in Wylie's time.
Fei-seen-kwan	Feixian Guan	飛仙關	Feixian Guan	飞仙关	Barrier Gate. Wei-fung Shan? Temple to Shun?? These were not seen but place exists.
Sha-ho-yīh	Shahe Yi	沙河驛	Shahe Zhen	沙河镇	[Itinerary] Present township visited.
Ming-yue-hea	Mingyue Xia	明月峽	Mingyue Xia	明月峽	(Old Road off present G108) Major changes here after May 2008 Sichuan Earthquake rebuilding. A large park celebrating the Mingyue Gorge and its place in history and geology. The old plank road relic is at the south end and the

					access has changed. Previous G108 has become part of the new park and road re-built.
Chaou-teen-yih	Chaotian Yi	朝天驛	Chaotian Qu	朝天区	Wylie mentioned that passage boats come up here in 1 day from Guangyuan.
Chung-tsze-poo	Zhongzi Pu	中子鋪	Zhongzi Zhen	中子镇	[Itinerary and on maps]
Chuen-tow-poo	Zhuandou Pu	轉斗鋪	Zhuandou Zhen	转斗镇	[Itinerary and on maps]
Keaou-chang-pa	Jiaochang Ba	敷場坝			Jiaochang Ba. Wylie stopped here overnight. Not Found.

Now the places go into Shaanxi starting at Qipan Pass

Name in Wylie Paper	Qing PY	Qing CH	Present PY	Present CH	Comment
Tseih-pwan-kwan	Qipan Guan	棋盤関 (七盤関)	Qipan Guan	棋盘关	Boundary with Shaanxi. Edge of Qing scroll map. Wylie used 七 in Itinerary.
Hwang-pa-yih	Huangba Yi	黃坝驛	Huangbayi Xiang	黄坝驿乡	[Itinerary] Well known village on Shaanxi side – on all maps and visited.
Ning-keang chow	Ningqiang Zhou	寧羌州	Ningqiang Xian	宁强县	Ningqiang Zhou in Qing times with “Qiang” as Qiang people. On the divide between the Jianling and the Han River catchments. But Wylie uses “keang” which is Jiang. It was always “qiang”.
Woo-le-po	Wuli Po	五裡坡	Wulipo	五里坡	Small Village. Wuli Po, on G108
Woo-ting-hea	Wuding Xia	五丁峽	Wuding Xia	五丁峡	This is the pass/gorge leading to the barrier gate.
Woo-ting-kwan	Wuding Guan	五丁関	Wuding Guan	五丁关	Barrier pass in Qing Scroll map

Kin-neu-yih	Jinniu Yi	金牛驛	Jinniu Yi	金牛驛	Jinniu Yi or Jinniu Xia. Wylie makes it a postal station. [Itinerary does NOT include this place].
Ta-gan-chin	Da'an Zhen	大安鎮	Da'an	大安	Wylie says it is a Garrison Town with 3 camps. This accords with Qing Scroll Map.
Sang-shoo-wan	Sangshu Wan	桑樹灣	Sangshu Wan	桑树湾	[Itinerary, but also established place on maps]
Tsing-yang-yih	Qingyang Yi	青陽驛	Qingyang Yi	青羊驛	Wylie said the mountain stream was very swollen and made it difficult to cross. It was well known in Qing times. Either Wylie made an error with “yang” or it has changed.
Tsae-pa	Cai Ba	蔡壩(坝)	Cai Ba	蔡坝 (菜坝?)	The limit of navigation of the Han was discussed by Weins as well. This is about 5 miles plus on from Qingyang Yi according to Wylie. That makes it near present day Xinpu. Russian map has a village “tsai-ba” in Cyrillic there as well. Solution is that Tsae-ba is on the South of the River and Sin-poo on the North. (Some question about character still).
Sin-poo-wan	Xinpu Wan	新鋪灣	Xinpu Wan	新铺弯	Xinpu Wan is on the northern bank near the confluence of three rivers (Han Shui, Ju Shui (沮水) and Nan He) and where there was enough water in Wylie’s time for navigation. On the other side of the river was Caiba. Essentially the same place now.
Meen heen	Mian Xian	沔縣	Mian Xian	勉县	Wylie came by boat so may not know all the villages on the road. He describes the city wall and lack of people in the city wall area. (Old Road off present G108??) Old road went to Huangsha.
Hwang-sha-yih	Huangsha Yi	黃沙驛	Huangsha Zhen	黃沙鎮	On the bend that was bypassed in current road G108. On Russian map. GPS track taken during visit as well as relics visited.
Sin-keae-tsze	Xinjie Zi	新街子	Xinjie Zi	新街子	[Itinerary; well known place on Shu Road maps]
Han-chung Foo	Hanzhong Fu Nanzheng Xian	漢中府 南鄭縣 陝安道	Hanzhong Shi	漢中市	It was raining hard and Wylie could not get around in Hanzhong. Wylie then went overland to “Cha-chin” then Shiquan to go by boat to Hankou. Hanzhong was also the seat of the Dao covering Hanzhong and Xing’an. The Dao is sometimes called Hanxing Dao

	Shaan'an Dao				(漢興道).
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They left Hanzhong by bearer and cross the Han River 8 miles from the city by ferry. Aim is to go to Shiquan via Xixiang and Cha Zhen to avoid swollen river and dangerous rapids.

	From south gate of hanzhong
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Name in Wylie Paper	Qing PY	Qing CH	Present PY	Present CH	Comment
Tseih-le-teen	Qili Dian	七裡店	Qilidian Cun	七里店村	Just across the Nan Sha River He going south east to Shahe Zhen (Guluba would have been passed)
Pan-tāng-ya	Bandeng Ya	板凳埡	Bandengya Cun	板凳埡村	[Itinerary] Small village or hamlet today as in Wylie's time.
Sun-kea-ping	Sunjia Ping	孫家坪	Sunping Zhen	孙坪镇	[Itinerary] Name Sunjiaping has been used on recent maps, Russian maps, by Teichman etc.
Sha-ho-kan	Shahe Kan	沙河坎	Shahe Zhen	沙河镇	Main junction visited by Wylie and Teichman.
Koo-chuh-pa	Kuzhu Ba	苦竹壩(坝)	Kuzhu Ba	苦竹坝	7 miles over the hills from Shahe Zhen to here. At junction of stream.
Ma-tsung-tan	Mazong Tan	馬蹤灘	Mazong Tan	马踪滩	On the "Muh-ma" (Muma, 牧马) river (from Micang Shan) Took boat from here to Xixiang. Teichman came the other way.
Se-heang heen	Xixiang Xian	西鄉縣	Xixiang Xian	西乡县	District city (busy, thriving place). Locals say it thrives most when times are bad as it is a good place to shelter.
Tung-too-kow	Dongdu Kou	東渡口	Dongdu	东渡	Dongdu a place now in Xixiang across the Muma River where the modern G316 crosses on the main Xixiang Bridge
Pan-keaou-wan	Banqiao Wan	板橋灣	Banqiao Wan	板桥湾	[Itinerary] Also on Russian map in place expected.
Yang ho	Yang He	洋河	Jingyang He	泾洋河	Comes from south near border with Sichuan to Xixiang where it combines with the Muma and then moves on to join the Han (at

					modern Sanhuashi, 三花石乡)
Pih-meen-hea	Baimian Xia	白勉峽	Baimian Xia	白勉峽	15 miles from the Yang River crossing at the top of a valley against steeper where there were few villages.
Cha-ke-chin Cha-chin	Cha[ge?] Zhen	茶[舸?]鎮	Cha Zhen	茶鎮	The obvious place is present day Cha Zhen or “Cha-chin”. Now on the dam. River is Cha He. There is a place also called “Lao Chazhen” (老茶鎮). Wylie took a boat from here to Shiquan.
Shih-tseuen heen	Shiquan Xian	石泉縣	Shiquan Xian	石泉縣	Back to Han River and an easily recognised place!! Here they could negotiate a boat to go all the way to Hankou.

End of travel by bearer along the Shu Roads or linking roads and now they travel by river craft.

From here by boat along the Han so places not quite like a land route – they are close along the river

Name in Wylie Paper	Qing PY	Qing CH	Present PY	Present CH	Comment
Leen-hwa-shih	Lianhua Shi	蓮花石	Lianhua Shi	蓮花石	Boat carried off in rapid and damaged below this village. Village name not found on modern maps but found on a Qing Period map from 1800-1820 (see Endnote 3). May be under water now?.
Foo-paou-shih					Granite Reef (not a town). Wylie uses “shih” but it seems the same as before when he uses “shih”. This is a problem with the London printing.
Yew-fang-kan	Youfang Kan	油坊坎			Another gorge (not a town) with surge experienced below the village with this name. (Kan is 坎 from Itinerary)
Mei-hoo	Meihu	梅湖			Stopped at this village for the night, strong rapid here too, stayed over to repair. No village of this name has been located.
Tung-lo-wan	Tongluo Wan				Bend in river with strong rapids. (Not a town). NOT in Itinerary. The preceding places ARE LIKELY ALL now under water.
Han-yang-ping	Hanyang Ping	漢陽坪	Hanyang Zhen	汉阳鎮	[Itinerary] On the right side of the river. On all maps.

Ma-kea-yung	Majia Ying	馬家營	Majiaying Cun	马家营村	[Itinerary] Well established village on present maps.
Han-wang-ching	Hanwang Cheng	漢王城	Hanwang Zhen	汉王鎮	On the left side of the Han. Waited for water to go down. New pilots. Rapid called Kwan-tsze-tan was too risky. Wylie visited local Zhai fortress
Tsze-yang heen	Ziyang Xian	紫陽縣	Ziyang Zhen	紫陽鎮	Took pilot on board for next rapid. Here he visited the “Immortals Grotto” which today is marked by a stele.
Me-ke-seen-tung	Mixixian Tong	米溪仙洞			[Itinerary] Characters for the Grotto above. (Rice stream immortals Cave).
Ta-taou-ho	Dadaohe	大道河	Dadaohe Zhen	大道河鎮	Coal cliffs all down here in Wylie’s time.
Lew-shwuy-teen	Liushui Dian	流水店	Liushui Zhen	流水鎮	On left bank of Han (Itinerary). Also, see Shaanxi atlas Hanbing Qu and Russian maps. Can be see in Google Earth still above the water level!
Hing-gan Foo	Xing’an Fu Ankang Xian	興安府 安康縣	Ankang Shi	安康市	Qing period Xing’an Fu and Ankang Xian now Ankang City. Document has “Hing-gau” but “Hing-gan” is confirmed in Itinerary. Ta-gan was Da’an. But he uses “Se-gau” for Xi’an maybe in error). “Gan” is not very different from the Cantonese phonetic for “An” (ngon/).
Leu-ho-poo	Lúhé Pū	閭河鋪	Lúhé Zhēn	閭河鎮	At the mouth of the Lú River. Wylie uses 閭, present day map uses 呂. Qing Period name should be checked. Wylie did make mistakes with rivers. He labelled the 月河 the 越河.
Seuen-yang heen	Xunyang Xian	洵陽縣	Xunyang Xian	旬楊縣	Limit of “Shu Roads” as they become Huguang Roads. Note the change in the Character Xun in the present day city (and river). It loses the water!
Shuh-ho-kwan	Shuhe Guan	蜀河關	Shuhe Zhen	蜀河鎮	Found on map and GE.
Kea-ho-kwan	Jiahe Guan	夾河關	Jiahe Zhen	夾河鎮	Found on map and GE. In Itinerary, Wylie writes it as 甲河 but both modern and Qing period maps use 夾.

Pih-ho heen	Baihe Xian	白河縣	Baihe Xian	白河县	Found on map and GE, also on map of Qing Districts and Prefectures (see Endnote 3) and list of Qing departments.
Yuen-yang Foo	Yunyang Fu	鄖陽府	Yun Xian	郧县	Today just Yun Xian and of lesser rank. From here, Wylie stops his record simply saying that from here to Hankou is nine days travel (down river). The Itinerary continues to record places and rivers and will be used in a separate document concerning the Han River trade and travel.
Hankow	Hankou	漢口	Han Kou	汉口	Not a county level place in the Qing Period. Base for British “region of interest” and a concession with British, French, Russian, German and American settlements. Now one of three areas making up the city of Wuhan. The end of Wylie’s travel overland and on water in new territory.

END NOTES

Endnote 1. Previous and present town designations plus post station designations.

In the Qing period there were many place names and designators that had a historical association but designations that were administrative and also those associated with the postal system were well defined and appear regularly among the names recorded by Alexander Wylie. Basically, many place names in China consisted of a “name” and a “designator”. The designator could be an administrative designation, a use designation, a geographic designation and many other types. Some designators have been applied in former times but have now become part of the name. The designator Zhou is common in modern place names. But now it is just part of the name.

In the Qing period, Provinces had a Governor and a provincial capital. Within a Province the main unit of administration was the Fu (府) although groups Fu were subject to inspection by a Circuit Inspector. The Circuit or Dao (道) was usually based at one of the Fu that were part of the Circuit. Within Fu the main units of administration were the Zhou (州), Xian (县) and Ting (厅). Zhou was possibly higher in rank than Xian and a Ting was usually a lower level posting than the other two, and usually indicated a remote border region. But sometimes it seems to have been the rank of the administrator that decided importance. In some cases a Ting had a well paid administrator to get people to take the post! There were some special cases of Zhou and Xian that were directly administered by the Governor but they were exceptions and none was in

Shaanxi. After the 1911 revolution, Zhou, Xian and Ting were abolished and replaced by Xian. Dao was also abolished and not replaced. In modern China, the Fu has become the City (市) (sometimes translated as Prefecture to be consistent with translations of the Qing period Fu) and under city the most common designations are the Xian (县, usually translated as County) and Area (区) with the area being a special case such as the local administration of the administrative centre of a City or a special area. Under Xian the most common unit is called a Zhen (镇) (with Xiang 乡 also being used as well as being used for lower divisions) but under Zhen the situation tends to vary with Province and is somewhat confused. In general, villages can be Xiang (乡) or Cun (村) but have many other designators – often with links to historical situations. Zhen (镇) was occasionally used in the Qing period and probably like Ying (营) it meant a local garrison. In southern Shaanxi, in the Qing period and in modern times, the designation Zhai (寨) is commonly used and may have indicated a local fort that nearby villages shared when danger arrived in the form of rebels, bandits or the Imperial army. The Table has identified the recognized places visited by Wylie to the second main Qing administrative level.

On the road Wylie followed there is also a very strong influence of the Imperial postal system. Since the time of Qin Shihuang, China had a postal system of post stations with changes of horses, rest stations, agriculture and water storages and usually garrisons to control traffic and trade as well as deliver important messages throughout the Empire. In the Qing Dynasty, courier posts were variously called Yi (驿), Zhan (站), Tang (塘), Tai (台), Suo (所) or Pu (铺). Many of these names occur among those found in Wylie's list. The designation Ba (坝) was also common and could be an alternative to Tang among postal stations but usually just referred to the existence of a small dam that could be used to water horses or for irrigation. The designation Xun (汛) is similar to Ba and also found in southern Shaanxi but was not among the names listed by Wylie. Examples of many other common designators are found among Wylie's names. A particularly common one is Guan (关) originally indicating a mountain pass or military barrier. Recognising the name and designator is an important step in working out Wylie's names!

Endnote 2. Official “Guzhen” (relic ancient townships) along the road

The China National Geographic Magazine listed three relic townships (古镇) in this area of China as being near Guangyuan. They are Zhaohua Guzhen (昭化古镇), Jianmen Guan Zhen (剑门关镇) and Jiange Guzhen (剑阁古城). Of these, Zhaohua is the most developed.

Endnote 3. Qing Period map of the provinces north of the Han River

A Qing Period map is available from the US Library of Congress as a digital image in various formats (including Jpeg2000). See the Shu Roads web site at http://www.qinshuroads.org/Yan_Ruyi_Qinling_Hanshui/Qinling_Hanjiang_subs.htm for information on the US LoC holdings and access. The map referenced in this document is called “Map of the four provinces in the north bank of the Han River” and it is about 1800~1820 in its production date. It also lists places and rivers along the Han that will be used for other work. This map goes only as far as Baihe Xian (白河縣) still on the Upper Han going downstream (the right hand end). At the headwater end (left hand end), it has two branches after Da’an (大安驛, 驛 ri was an alternative ancient name for a post station), one larger one is shown reaching to near Yangping Guan (陽平關) and a smaller one reaching near to Ningqiang Zhou (寧羌州). The branch towards Yangping Guan is not correct. The Han catchment divide is only a little beyond Da’an.