

# IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## REFERENCE SERIES

### GOVERNOR'S PUNCH BOWL

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When Alexander Ross and his Hudson's Bay Company Snake brigade discovered Stanley Basin, September 18, 1824, they came past a small alpine lake (elevation 8,632 feet) that Ross described as his governor's punch bowl. Climbing an adjacent peak, which he called Mount Simpson to honor Sir George Simpson (Hudson's Bay Company governor) he was greatly impressed by that mountainous area. "No elevated height in this country can present a more interesting prospect," he reported some three decades later.<sup>1</sup> As he continued down Salmon River past a bear's "ploughed field," he continued to marvel at strange sites in that area.<sup>2</sup> His governor's punch bowl is up an old trail (along a west branch of Horse Creek north of Galena Summit) that gave him access to Pole Creek and Salmon River. (See attached map.) Mount Simpson (elevation 9,433 feet) is almost directly north--but a trifle west--of Galena Peak at a distance of eight-tenths of a mile. Ross had to hike eight-tenths of a mile and ascend 1,200 feet to reach its peak from his punch bowl. Altogether, that adventure became one of his most notable memories of his extensive exploration in Idaho.

#### FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Alexander Ross, The Fur Hunters of the Far West, edited by Kenneth A. Spaulding (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1956), 279.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., 280.

(This information has not been edited.)

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