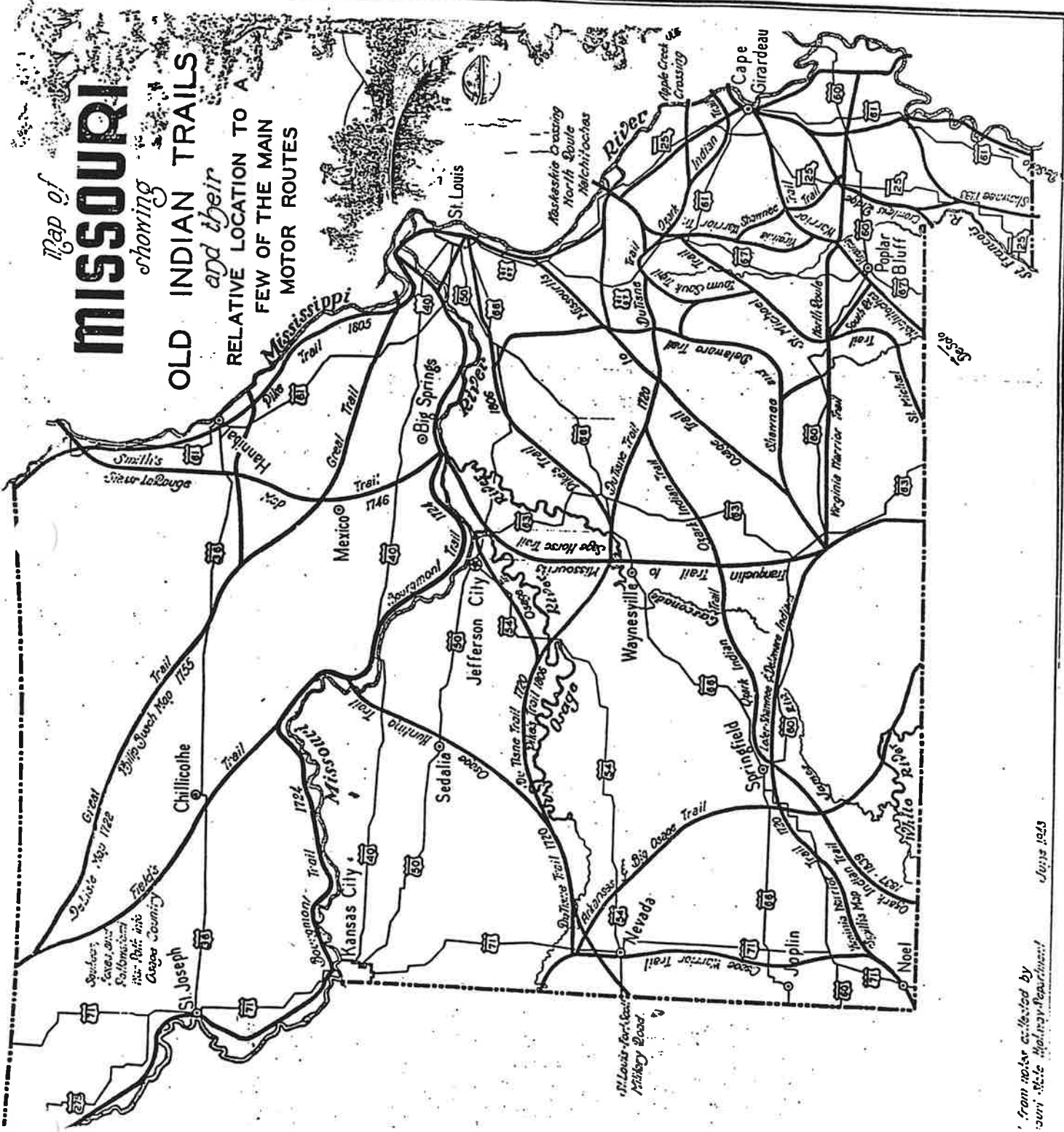


Map of  
**MISSOURI**  
 showing  
**OLD INDIAN TRAILS**  
 and their  
 RELATIVE LOCATION TO A  
 FEW OF THE MAIN  
 MOTOR ROUTES



Trail motor as revised by  
 our State Highway Department  
 June 1923

ASIA

## THE MISSOURI INDIAN TRAILS

I am indebted to the following authors in locating the old trails in Missouri: without their help it would have been impossible to compile this work: Allen H. Hinchey's Indian Legends, Harvey's History of the Shawnee Indians, Drake's Life of Tecumseh, Mouck's History of Missouri, Pozier's History of the Mississippi Valley, E. M. Violet's Missouri History, and Forman's Journey Down the Ohio. In addition to the above information, I have personally traveled along and across many of the trails in southeast Missouri. I have spent most of my life in the Ozark hills and the southeast lowlands in land surveying, having begun that occupation in 1878 when I was a mere boy and have continued it most of my life. <sup>From 1913 to 1923 County Surveyor and Historian</sup> In fact, all of my life since 1923 I have put in with the State Highway Department in making land surveys, tying in road locations, and making abstracts. During that time I have naturally picked up information as I passed along that I could gather from the old people living along in the vicinity. It was handed down to them by their forefathers along a traditional line as to the location of the old Indian trails, wigwams, and villages in and through this part of the country.

The first Indian trail that we have any history of was up the west side of the Mississippi River in 1542. De Soto in his record history of his passage through this

part of Missouri was along this trail, up to the south-east portion of what is now the State of Missouri. He came north and found a very high state of civilization among the Indians and cultivation of the territory of the Casquin Indian tribe on the south side of the old original Mississippi River channel. The Casquin Indians occupied what is now known as Scott County, Missouri. The Casquin Indians piloted him across the channel of the river to the north side into the territory of the Capaha's Indian tribe where there was considerable trouble as the Casquin and Capahas were not on friendly terms. De Soto remained with the Capahas for several days and, as he was in need of salt, sent two of his men, <sup>with helpers</sup> Herando De Silvera and Pedro Moreno, north forty leagues to La Saline for salt. They returned in 11 days loaded down with salt and De Soto returned back south across the old channel of the river into the tribe of Casquins. Thence he marched southwest across the St. Francis River at the old Indian ford, which is about four miles south along the river where Wappapelo now is. Thence he continued southwest crossing the Current River into Arkansas at what is now known as Current View along what is known as the old Matchitokes trail that followed along the route southwest to Red River. As De Soto's history gives it, he either went along the Matchitokes' trail or the Matchitokes followed his trail. This location is the first

trail that I have any history of in Missouri. Now the route or trail that was followed by De Soto along the west banks of the River up to Cape Girardeau continued along near the west bank of the river north through St. Genevieve. From there it went along by and through the west side of the river to St. Louis and continued from there up the river indefinitely. ? (This is the trail De Soto was on and on a trail by the river)

The Natchitokes trail was from the Great Lakes south to Natchitokes, Louisiana, or on Red River and was used by many different tribes. The first crossing we have any history of was at Kaskaskia. Thence from Kaskaskia they came down to the Saline; thence west and south along the Saline to the headwater of that stream, thence crossing south to what is later known as Mine La Motte. Thence south to Wappapelo; thence south, a little west, to Caney on Cane Creek; thence southwest by the way of what was later known as Martinsburg to Wick's Ferry on the Current River on what is now the Arkansas line; thence on south to Red River. This was the original north and south Indian trail from the Great Lakes to the Gulf.

There was an east and west trail across the western continent from Virginia west to the Pacific, known as the Indian Warrior Trail. The south branch of this trail crossed the Mississippi River at Painbridge; thence in a southwesterly direction along the north side of the swamp



by what is now known as Zalma; thence on into the Natchitokes trail north of Wappapelo. From there it went down along the Natchitokes trail to Caney Creek; thence northwest to a point in Carter County known as Crites Corner where it intersects the north line of the <sup>Virginia</sup> Indian Warrior Trail.

The north line of the <sup>Virginia</sup> Indian Warrior Trail crossed the river at Apple Creek; thence west by the Shawnee village and continued from there west to the Natchitokes trail; thence south along the Natchitokes trail to Wappapelo. There it turned west along Otter Creek to the point in Carter County where it connected with the south route of the <sup>Virginia</sup> Indian Warrior Trail. From there it proceeded west down a long point into Current River valley across Carter Creek (at that point I examined carefully the line of the old trail where it came down the hill into the Current River Valley, and it is very plain to be seen at that point). It continued up the valley on the east side of the Current River to Van Buren, across that river at the old ford into the town that was first known as Van Buren, it being on the high ground west of the Current River. Thence west along the line of the old route which is near where the present 60 is now located; from there west to Birch Tree and Mountain View. At Mountain View, however, the old trail is out of the

present road goes along the top of the ridge and connects with the cross roads at what is now known as Nutter Valley, which was a very important crossing in the early settling of this country. I find evidence, in fact I rode along and across this road, <sup>most</sup> of the way through the woods, and very very plain parts of the old trail still remain.

There is one place south of Lowasse where the opening in the timber is as clear as it could possibly be. Thence from Nutter Valley west--from this point west I will have to depend on the old Platt History as I have not personally gone over this road from here west to the state line.

I have been over all of the other part, from the <sup>Mississippi</sup> Mississippi River to this point at Nutter Valley. The route, however, went along as shown by the map through the southern part of Wright County and the southern part of Webster County and through Greene County <sup>east</sup> east to Springfield. Then it went diagonally southeast through the northwest corner of Christian County and the southeast corner of Lawrence County and the northwest corner of Barry County. Thence to the southeast corner of Newton County into McDonald County and out of McDonald near the southwest corner of the state. This trail is a part of the map made from Smith's map in 1720. St. Michaels trail was here long before without any name. Before St. Michaels was organized it was spoken of as the

route southwest by the early explorers; or, in fact, by the historians in 1717. It was the trail leading into what was afterwards known as Mine La Motte. St. Michael was not organized until 1709. It ran southwest from the old mines on through Madison County down Trace Creek across the River St. Francis at what is now the Clay Marsh place on southwest past Pets. Thence south along the old Ironton and Patterson road between the Mudlick Mountain and the Ailey Mountain to or near the intersection of Clarks Creek <sup>1/2</sup> miles above Patterson. Thence up Clarks Creek west to what is afterwards Danielsville where Piedmont now is. From there southwest across Black River at Clearwater where they are now building the dam. Then on up Greenwood Valley, thence south through what is now known as Hunter and Grandin (at a point on this road north of here in a corner of section 26, 37, 34 and 35 in township 27, range 2 east is where the St. Michaels Trail crossed the Virginia Warrior Trail). Thence south through Carter and Ripley Counties to Doniphan. In laying off the town of Doniphan, the people owned on each side of the old trail and they insisted on having the street made along the old trail route. Hence there was, and is, a quarter block cut off just halfway across the block from the courthouse east diagonally laying northeast from that point to the flat iron

building known as the Johnson Pharmacy, diagonally across the street from the hotel, and remains as a monument to the location of the old St. Michaels Trail today. The trail thence went southwest and crossed at a valley and there was a ford just south of what is now Dorothy Wright's Gravel Plant. Thence southwest for a short way; thence west by the way of old Doyle. From there west to Ponder and Gatewood, and out into Arkansas just west of the line of Ripley and Oregon Counties, and came just in Arkansas north of Mammoth Springs, Arkansas.

From the old Indian ford on St. Francis River east along the old trail to Bloomfield and continuing in an easterly direction some, from Bloomfield across through Nigger Wool Swamps. Along these swamps there was a levy thrown up in the year of 1858 or 1859, and is still very plain to be seen across the swamp into Sikeston. It went from the swamps 2 miles south of Sikeston thence in an easterly direction across a point on St. John's lake <sup>The Sikeston Ridge to</sup> where there was shallow water and a sand bottom. <sup>across the lake</sup> Then to a point in the Dogwood Ridge and thence southward into a trail that led up along the west side <sup>Mississippi</sup> of the river. <sup>?</sup> south along this trail to a crossing into Kentucky. This was a route used in the settlement of this country. It followed along the river route in the early day as it was up through Mississippi County on the highest ground there.



What was name?  
Route?

was along that particular part of the county.

From the Arkansas line <sup>North</sup> south to Wornersville, there was a trail known as the Crawley Ridge Trail. It ran north past Grand Prairie by the way of Caruth and thence north to Kennett, then to what was in the early day Chillicothe. From there north by the way of Walden along the sand ridge north to a point 1 or 2 miles south of Dexter then to a spring. It was there the natives and teamsters camped. <sup>IN LATER YEARS ON THE OLD INDIAN TRAILS</sup> Then it went along the west side of Dexter for about 4 miles; thence northwest to Aid, thence west to the St. Francis River at the old Indian ford spoken of before. This trail connects with the route that led east from Bloomfield to the river at Hickman, Kentucky. It was known as the Crawley Ridge road being the only high ground along that side of Crawley Ridge. It was cut into by the St. Francis River from the old Indian ford to Chalk Bluff.

There is a Shawnee Indian trail that led north from Bloomfield by the way of <sup>Dianna to</sup> Zalma to St. Michael. It connected with the old Natchitokes trail at what is now known as Mire La Motte. There was a trail from Pats on the St. Michael trail that led north through Iron County to where Ironton is now. There it separated and bore west into the old Shawnee Delaware trail in the edge of Iron County. The other line led northeast by the way of Iron

Mountain into the Dutisno Trail at Farmington. This was known as the Tournsuk Trail.

The first 400 Cherokee Indians were taken along the route in the north line of the Ozark hills from the Mississippi River to the Indian territory in 1837. This party was commanded by P. B. Cannon, and they crossed the Mississippi River at Greens Valley, known as Moccasin Springs, in Cape Girardeau County on November 15, 1837. The party moved down on the morning of the 15th by the way of Jackson, and up what was then known as the old Farmington route to Mrs. Roberts school house (see point on map marked November 16, 1837). From there they went northwest along the old trail to White Water. This point is just at the edge of Bollinger County and about 500 feet south of Mr. Wahn's store. near Wahn's Spring. Mr. Wahn's mother was a girl at that time as she was born in 1816. She remembered well when the Indians camped there and she lived in that vicinity all her life. Mr. Wahn, who is 93 (Wahn) (1938) years old, told me quite a bit about the camping of the Indians that he had learned from his mother. The Indians had camped there on the 17th day of November, 1837. From there the trail went past Yount and the old Farmington route to the southwest corner of Perry County and the north <sup>EASY</sup> corner of Madison, and into St. Francis County over to what was later known as Crossville. Here the

Ozark trail crossed the Matchitokes trail that led down from Ste. Genevieve south to the mines. There I placed a card on the fence post showing the date November 19, 1837 that they camped. Thence they moved northwest past \* the Cook settlement in St. Francis County to where the present 31 crosses Wolf Creek. There I put another card having the date November 19, 1837. Thence northwest through Farmington and west to St. Francis River 2 miles south of Bismarck. I placed another card there showing the date of the 20th. At this point they had some trouble with the Indians as they had stopped in Farmington, gotten whiskey, and quite a lot of them were drunk. From there they went west by the way of Caledonia to a point 2 1/2 miles west of Caledonia at a spring, where they camped on November 21, 1837. Thence west and southwest on the head of Big River to the post office Enough. They camped there on November 22 and 23, 1837. On the 24th they camped on Possum Creek. Then they moved up on to Huzzah Creek 2 miles to a school house at a town now known as Dillard. They remained there from November 25 up until December 4. On the fourth they traveled up Huzzah south, but they had taken the wrong trail from Dillard and were off their line. They must have camped up near Hawes mill as the trail went that way, but I didn't find any camping place. Then they turned northwest and went into the Wright trail which crossed the Meramec River at Dent County at

Short Bend

which place there was quite a camp and also a burying ground that was used by the Indians. They camped there on the night of December 5. This route went northwest through what is now known as the Indian Trails Park. I drove over this line from Howes mill to the intersection of the road that they should have taken had they gone the right way from Dillard to Short Bend. Thence they went southwest ~~past Howes territories and~~ continued southwest to section 18, township 34, range 7 west, and camped December 6, 1937. This is about 5 miles west of Salem. Two miles northeast of Licking the corner of 23 and 29, they blazed trees along the whole line there with an axe. A man showed me the place that his father had entered, and the place where they camped on the 7th. From there they went southwest to Pirey, and it rained all that day. When they stopped on the west side of the river at a grocery, the Indians and also some white men got drunk and had quite a time. I got this information from Jacob Pratter who was in that country when he was 7 years old, and his father had shown him the old building on the river  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile west of the old ford. I have Mr. Pratter's picture taken in front of his house on the 9th of September, 1941. His home is 1 mile north of Success on the highway in Texas County where he has lived for many years. I also have a picture of a tree with the three notches on it that was taken a half mile west of

old Success in Texas County. Date of December 3, 1837. From there they went to Turley and camped on the night of December 9, 1837. Thence west to an Indian village on the Gasconade where they camped on the night of the 10th. Here they got mixed up again as they said they had gone to Waynesville. On the 12th they marched to Mr. Park's place on the west of the head of Parks Creek. He was a part Indian and his grandson showed me the location and told me a great deal about the Indians camping there. He had received this information along a traditional line through his grandfather. From there they went southwest, but I couldn't find the camp, but I did find where they crossed the county line. Then I went back to camp No. 14 and followed that route back east to section 3, township 27, range 18 west at Farrey Rigby's house. I found the old trail at that point, but I couldn't find where they camped on the night of the 12th. On the night of the 14th they camped just south of North View. On the night of the 15th they camped at Danforth place at the big dairy farm house 6 miles northeast of Springfield. On the night of the 16th they camped at a spring 21 miles southwest of Springfield <sup>Dec 18</sup> 16, 17 and 18 where the old wire road leaves the Ozark trail and turns to the right on west where the old stage route went across in the early day. At the south line of the city of Spring-



field it shows on the city platte the diagonal line along which the old Ozark trail ran. I nailed upon a tree a card showing that this was a part of the old Ozark, a part of the old wire road, and the old stage route leading to California. On December 19 they camped on the north fork of the James River at the Delaware Indian village. The well worn evidence of the old road is still there and I nailed a card upon a tree just south of the old county bridge which is about one mile down the river or north of the present Missouri state route 14. The next camp was over in Stone County two miles northwest from Crane. Thence southwest to McDowell where they camped on December 21. On December 22 they camped 1 1/2 miles southwest of Cassville at the county seat of Barry at a spring. On the 23rd they camped just north of the Arkansas line 2 1/2 miles east of the corner of McDonald County. From there the line continues south into Arkansas to the Arkansas line of the old trail where the Indians went across through Arkansas instead of going around the Ozark trail.

*CF McCormick*

The trail from Cape Girardeau west by the way of Jackson, thence to Gravel Hill along the present route. At Gravel Hill it leaves the present 34 route and goes south of this road until it reaches the school house just east of War Creek Bridge. There it comes along 34 route over to the hill just east of Marble Hill. There it cuts through south of the present 34 route and crosses the Hurricane Creek just a short way south of the 34 route bridge. Thence along the south side of Marble Hill across Crooked Creek and bears south of the school house at Lutesville. Thence west up Possum Creek about two miles to where it leaves Possum Creek and goes north of the route into old Grassy post office. There this route divides. One route leads down the top of the ridge in a southwest direction and crosses Castor at the old Buchanan ford thence south along Castor to an old Indian Village just north of Hog-eye. From there west by the way of Lowndes and Greenville and Poplar Bluff to Doniphan, where it intersects the old St. Michael's trail. The other branch from Grassy leading west went down Grassy Creek to Castor across Castor at the old Ivy ford out by the Methodist camp meeting ground. Thence over the hill to Turkey Creek up Turkey Creek across the hill to Bear creek in a westerly direction. From there west to St. Francis River just below the 34 bridge on St. Francis up to Clarks Creek to Patterson. From there it went up the old Ironton road to the English place about two miles beyond. Then west

*Sumo / route  
?*

along the old St. Michael trail to Piedmont and across to Black River at Carters Mill. Thence in a northwesterly direction to Ellington that was originally Parnsville. There it strikes road no. 106 and bears west past Powder Mill Hollow, and crosses the Current River at Powder Mill Ford into the Shawnee Delaware Trail.

From the old Van Buren on the west side of the River on the Virginia Warriors Trail is the Quadariva trail. It leads north along <sup>Chickon</sup> Kilton Creek to Current River at the old ford on Current River just south and east of Quadariva village. This village is situated in section 36, township 22, range 2 west of the fifth principle meridian. The old ford where the first mail route crossed the river is situated in section 6, township 22, range 1 west. The Indian trail went on in a northeasterly direction and intercepted number 106 route at the old Powder Mill ford. That is the route leading out from Cape Girardeau to the west.

There is one route leading out from Point Pleasant in New Madrid County west by the way of Portageville, which was originally Shenbone. Then from Gideon to Clarkton along which there was a plank road made in 1862. It was later known as the pole road as the soldiers burned the plank ~~and~~ during the Civil War. It was a very rough road, but that was the only way of getting across the swamp except in the very dry fall season.

*This Route followed an Old Indian Trail all the way*

of the year. There were 147 culverts on this road from  
 Weaver ville to Clarkton and no guard rails on them. In  
 the later years after the plank was burned and replaced  
 by poles, they could make 12 miles a day I have been  
 told. Of course the going was rough. At Clarkton this  
 road divided. Part of it went north from Clarkton by  
 the way of Gibson <sup>AND FOUR</sup> 4-miles to Chalk Bluff into Arkansas.  
 The other part of this road left Clarkton and went south  
 by the way of Kennett and Ceruth and Hornersville into  
 Arkansas. It was also divided at Ceruth and went further  
 west by the way of Senath and Cardwell on southwest to  
 the Conrar settlement near Black Oak, Arkansas. I got  
 this information from H. C. Wicker.

There was a road from Doniphan east by the way of  
 Gamburg and Buzzard Bay to Grimlin mill on Black River;  
 thence east to Harviell. I got that information from <sup>the name</sup>  
 John P. Ponder.

From old Doyle on the St. Michael trail a trail ran  
 south along the <sup>Cum-Barril</sup> Ginbarrel route to old Purr post office.  
 I got that from John P. Pullian.

Then there was one from Doniphan east by the way  
 of Martinsburg to Naylorville, and another route leading  
 from that back into the route to Doniphan.

There was a trail leading from Poplar Bluff south  
 along the west side of Black River to Coon Island.

*Information from John Corrigan - Poplar Bluff Mo*

There was no trail from Coon Island west to Neelyville; but one was cut out there by Mr. Wm. Goff in 1825. The oldest mail route north from Red Rock, Arkansas to St. Louis came up into Ripley County at old Burr post office. It went north to Ponder through Bardley, Hadley Wilderness, Caledonia, and Potosi to St. Louis. *when?*

The first road surveyed in Scott County was the old Kings Highway in 1808. The survey terminated at Tywappity about one mile north of the township line of township 27 and 28, and the dividing line between New Madrid district and Cape Girardeau district of the Louisiana territory. This is known as the old Kings Highway from St. Louis to New Madrid and the survey was made from big Shawnee south to Tywappity. I got the survey notes and had photostatic copies made of the survey showing the location from Tywappity north to what was old Appleton.

From Benton, the county seat of Scott County, there was a trail to Charleston. There were four houses on the trail, and it went along the route where route 55 is now located. Later there was a stage route on this old road. From Benton there was an early road made to Commerce, which is on the river northeast from Benton--there was one house on this road.

*From Fredericktown*

There is another trail going southeast along the old military road 10 miles ~~east~~ to the range line; thence south



along the range line to near Albright where the road turns to the left and goes across into the old trail from there south. It crossed <sup>Carver's</sup> the river at Yokers mill and kept down on that side of the river to Talma. ~~From there across the river at the mouth of Grassy Creek at the old Ivy Ford into the line running across by the way of the camp ground spring.~~ <sup>TP</sup> Then from Fredericktown west along the old trail near the route of number 70 to Ironton into the line leading south along the old military road. There is a road leading from Fredericktown northwest across Pea Ridge out by way of the Will farm on the Catherine tract and through the Wigenstein settlement and into the road leading out from Farmington into Caledonia. There is also a road leading out from Fredericktown north by way of Mine La Motte and Libertyville to Farmington. Another road leads from Fredericktown south by the way of Cold Water, Lodi, and Greenville. There is one leading from Fredericktown east by the way of Cornwall, Dallas, Jackson and Cape Girardeau. Another leads northeast to Perryville. There are quite a number of roads here made in the early days very soon after it was made into a county. They followed along the old trails as Madison County was part of the early settled portion of Missouri. Fredericktown is near the mines and when it became a town

1801

road led into the town rather than the mine. The mine of St. Michael was organized in 1799 and was laid out immediately north of the creek.

The DuTisne trail left the old Ozark Indian trail in the northwest corner of Dent County. This trail is taken from a map of DuTisne made in 1720. It followed the same old trail that the Ozark Indian trail followed for a way. Then it goes in a northwesterly direction through Phelps County into a trail that was later followed by Pike in 1803 through the south portion of Pulaski County. From there northwest through Miller County into the southern portion of Benton County across the southeast corner of Henry County and southeast to St. Clair County. Thence west along the line of Bates and Vernon County to the middle of Bates County. Thence in a <sup>west</sup> northwesterly direction into the Kansas territory.

There is an old trail leading from the southern line of Howell County to about the middle of Howell north by the way of West Plains. Then northwest by the way of Hutton Valley, thence near the western line of Texas County and up through Pulaski County and along the line through Miller and Maries Counties. Then around Osage County near the Osage settlement at the mouth of the Osage River. From there on down the river to the Missouri. This was known as the Franquitin trail in 1824.

There was a trail following along this above Fran-  
quittin trail north from the Arkansas line to Mutton  
Valley. From Mutton Valley it went in a northeasterly  
direction across the northeast corner of Shannon County  
and through the southern part of Dent County and through  
the northwest corner of Reynolds County and again through  
the southeast corner of Dent County. Then through the north  
corner of Iron County and northwest through Washington  
County to Potosi which is known as the Osage Verdigris to  
the Missouri. That is the Osage down to Kansas where  
there was a large Osage village.

There was an Osage trail leading from the <sup>Nathaniel</sup> southeast  
corner of Arkansas diagonally in the northwest through  
Taney County and then up through the middle of Stone  
County. It crossed the Ozark trail in the north part  
of Stone County then north through Christian County  
and cross the Virginia Warrior Trail in Greene County.  
Thence north through Greene and across the southwest cor-  
ner of Polk diagonally through Cedar north and northwest  
to the middle of Vernon County to Big Osage.

We also have an Osage trail leading from the south-  
west corner of this state up to about the middle of Mc-  
Donald County up through the center of Newton County on  
up west of Carthage in Jasper County up through Barton  
County. Thence on north through Vernon County by Nevada

and into the big Osage village that was in that time at Bates County, but that territory is later included in Kansas. That was the Osage Warrior Trail.

There is an Osage Hunting Trail that leads off from the Osage River in Bates County and comes along the Du-Tisne Trail to St. Clair County. From there it goes in a northeasterly direction to the corner of Johnson and diagonally through the northeast corner of Pettis. Then it goes along the southeast line of Saline to the Missouri River trail which is the Bourgmont Trail laid down from a map made in 1724. It goes down the north side of the Missouri River to the Mississippi at the junction. There is an Osage trail that leads off in a northwesterly direction from near the west line of Morgan County and goes through Miller County in a northeast direction. Thence into the Osage River junction in Cole County.

Then we have what was known as the Great Trail leading from the Missouri's northwest through Lincoln County. Thence through the northeast corner of Montgomery County and diagonally northwest through Audrain County and northwest through Monroe County. Thence across the southwest corner of Shelby County and by way of Macon in Macon County. Thence through the northeast corner of Linn County and through the southwest corner of Sullivan County and through the north line of Grundy

County and diagonally through Harrison County and the corner of Gentry County. Thence diagonally northwest through Worth County. This is known as the Great Trail (taken from a map) by DeLisle in 1722. (Map by Phillip Soghe)

There is also a field trail leading off from the Fourmont Trail. It goes northwest from the south line of Carroll County, up through the southwest part of Livingston County through Daviess County and northwest through Gentry County and northwest through Worth into the Great Trail by DeLisle.

The Smith Trail came out from a point on the Fourmont Trail in Gasconade County. This trail is by Sieur Le Rode's map in 1746. It goes from the southwest corner of Montgomery County to the northeast corner of Callaway, then to Audain and the southeast corner of Monroe through the center of Marion going north along the east line of Lewis and across the river to the east out of Clark.

At the junction of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers north of St. Louis up around the river through St. Louis County continuing along the north line of the Missouri River is another trail. It followed the Missouri River through St. Charles and Warren Counties. Thence through Montgomery County, Callaway County, Boone County, Howard County, Chariton, Ray County, Clay County, Platte County, Buchanan County, Andrew County, Holt



County, and Atchison County. It followed the trail of  
Bourmont in 1784 taken from a map of that date. <sup>They</sup> also  
know not speak of a point in Clay County that he came  
south into the Kansas Country. *along Indian Trail*

The first road west from Ste. Genevieve that we have  
any history of was laid from Ste. Genevieve to Potosi  
in 1810 and we have that laid out carefully. From Ste.  
Genevieve we go west to the old corner of the old survey  
number 2025 at the sand cove. We turn west and go west  
through 2016 through survey 9 northeast corner of 284.  
Thence on west to Thurman and to the St. Francis County  
line in state highway route B. <sup>Thence on to Potosi</sup> Now the plank road that  
was laid out from Ste. Genevieve, to Iron Mountain in  
1852 comes along adjacent to and adjoining route 32, but  
it originally ran above the Kings Highway for about 5  
miles and thence came out into Vineyard. It followed  
the present route from there on in past Farmington and  
Iron Mountain. The Natchitoches Trail was laid along the  
east side of the Mississippi River from the Great Lakes  
down past Vincennes, then to Kaskaskia. At this point  
there was a crossing over into the Missouri side of the  
river. The main Natchitoches trail, however, went further  
down into the Virginia Warrior Trail and crossed it down  
at Bainbridge. The south route of the <sup>Virginia</sup> Indian Warrior Trail  
crossed at the same place and followed along that part of

*added with the 1810*

the Natchitoches Trail across to Wappapello. The north  
end crossed in about the year of 1732 and started building  
the town and settling that part of the territory known as  
Ste. Genevieve.

*a league - 6 miles*

Francis Renault received a grant of land of two leagues,<sup>1</sup>  
embracing what is now known as Mine La Motte, then as La  
Saline. They came up the Saline to the head of it at Avon  
and then across the hill south to the mines. Renault came  
there and put in mining operations in 1733. He came by  
San Domingo and bought 500 Negroes, and brought 200 work-  
men from France for his labor. He operated this mine  
until 1742, and then for some reason he quit and went  
back to France. While he was operating this mine he  
built a smelter and a stack that is now standing. I have  
a photograph of this stack taken several years ago at  
that place. I have been there. According to all the  
histories that I have found he followed a route first to  
Yaskaskia and then to Ste. Genevieve on pack horses.  
Along about the year 1739 he conceived the idea of mak-  
ing wooden wheels and carts like they had in France;  
also to haul the lead over to the river in the form of  
pigs instead of the blanket formation. I claim when he  
opened up the trail to transfer products by wheeled ve-  
hicles that he converted that trail into a road; and

that this was and is the first road made and used by white people on the west side of the Mississippi River in the United States above the 33rd parallel.