

Early Migration to Indiana:

How Did Our Ancestors Get Here
Before the Railroad?



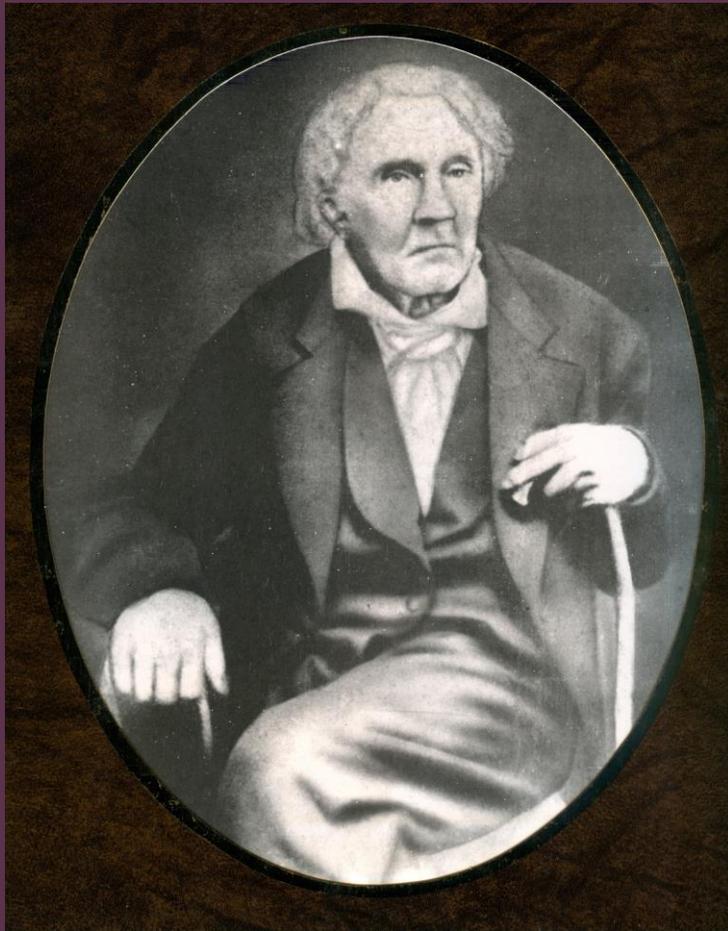
About Me...

- Lifelong Henry Countian
- First Career (1994-2017)
- Second Career (2017-present)
- Family: Fords/Ballards
- (Everett Guy Ballard was the attorney who defended Captain George Streeter in 1902)
- Education

- Love of genealogy goes back 40+ years
- Aunt was a big influence



Background: Why I Chose To Explore Early Transportation



Aaron Ballard (1796-1877)
Photo in presenter's collection



Photo in presenter's collection

Nancy (Pearson) Ballard
(1809-1885)

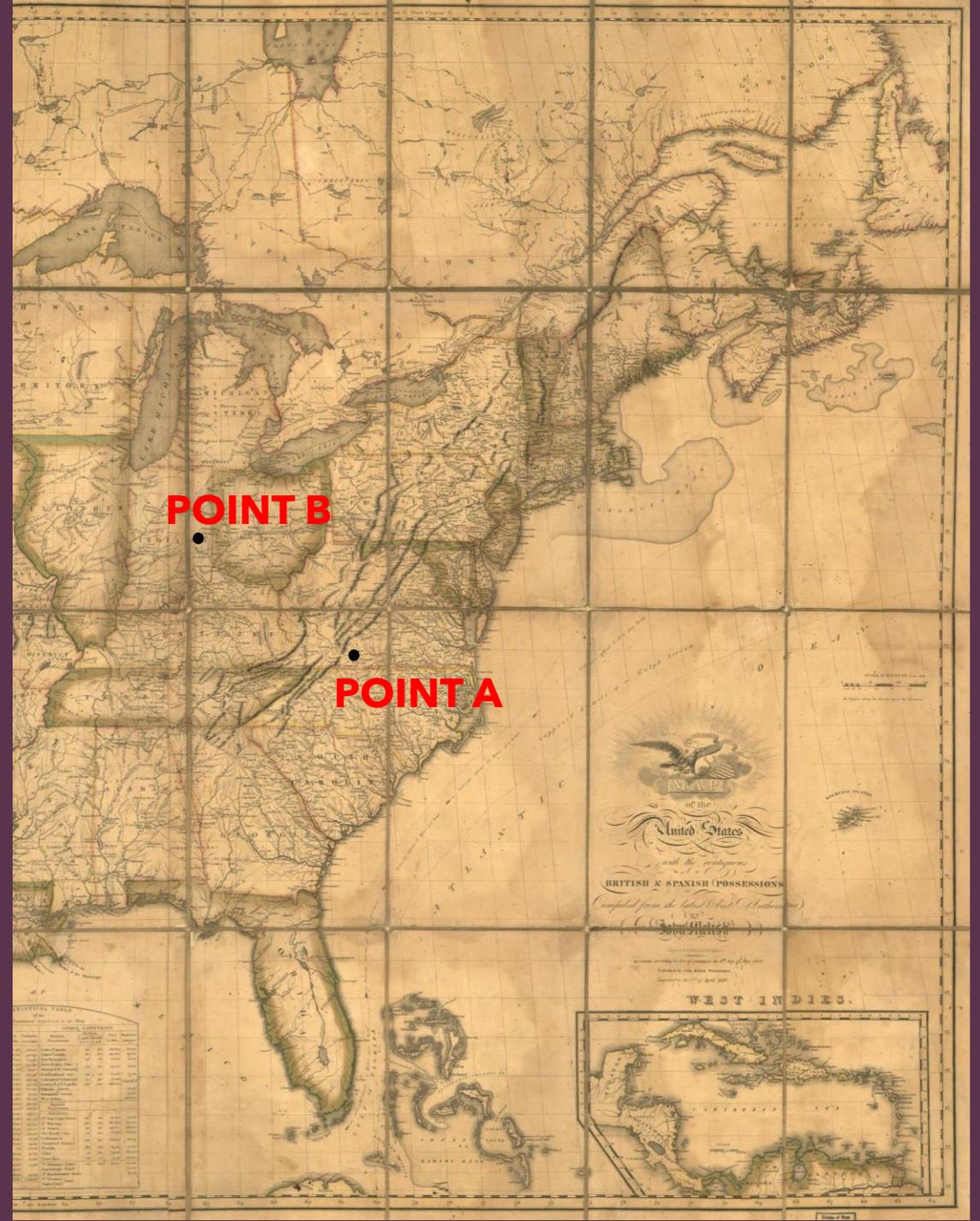


Photo courtesy of Mark Dixon

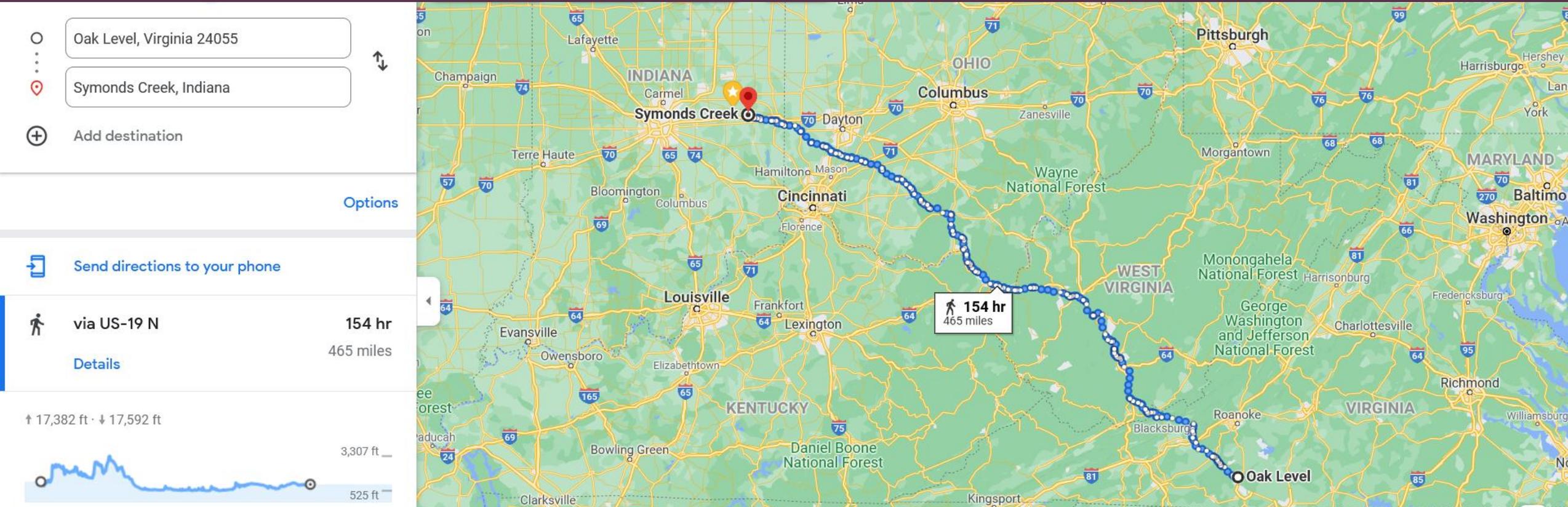
My 3rd-great-grandmother told her granddaughter about traveling to Indiana from Virginia in 1832. That granddaughter passed along this information to *her* granddaughter (the equivalent to my mother's generation) who wrote it down. This tiny scrap of paper is now at the Indiana Historical Society.

However, Nancy did not share the route she and Aaron took to get to Indiana.

1819 U.S. Map



Virginia to Indiana...using today's tool, Google Maps



By foot, 465 miles (154 hours)

PEARSON SIDE

HICKMAN SIDE



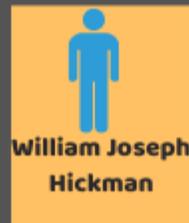
Thomas Pearson

5x Great Grandfather



Unknown

5x Great Grandmother



William Joseph Hickman

5x Great Grandfather



Catherine [unk]

5x Great Grandmother

MOVED TO PREBLE CO., OH, WHERE WILLIAM DIED IN 1828: MARY ANN MARRIED DAVID HARTE IN 1829: THE HARTERS AND CATHERINE HICKMAN MOVED TO WAYNE CO., IN, AROUND 1830



Benjamin

LIVED IN MEADE CO., KY



Thomas Pearson

4x Great Grandfather



Elizabeth Hickman

4x Great Grandmother



Mary Ann Hickman



David Harter



Elizabeth Witt



Aaron Ballard

5x Great Grandfather



Nancy Pearson

3x Great Grandmother

MARRIED IN LOGAN CO., KY, IN 1822: DIVORCED ABOUT 1825

MARRIED IN FRANKLIN CO., VA, IN 1832



Which route do you think the Ballards used? [HYPOTHETICAL]

Did they head north to the National Road, which was in much better condition than the Wilderness Road in Kentucky? Using this route, they missed most of the mountainous travel.

Did they use the Wilderness Road in Kentucky to reach Nancy's uncle Benjamin Pearson who could get them to the Whitewater Canal? They would have had to go through the mountains and a road in fairly rough condition.

Many Indiana ancestors who arrived pre-1822 hale from North Carolina and Virginia...what route do you think they used?

Cluster & Chain Migration

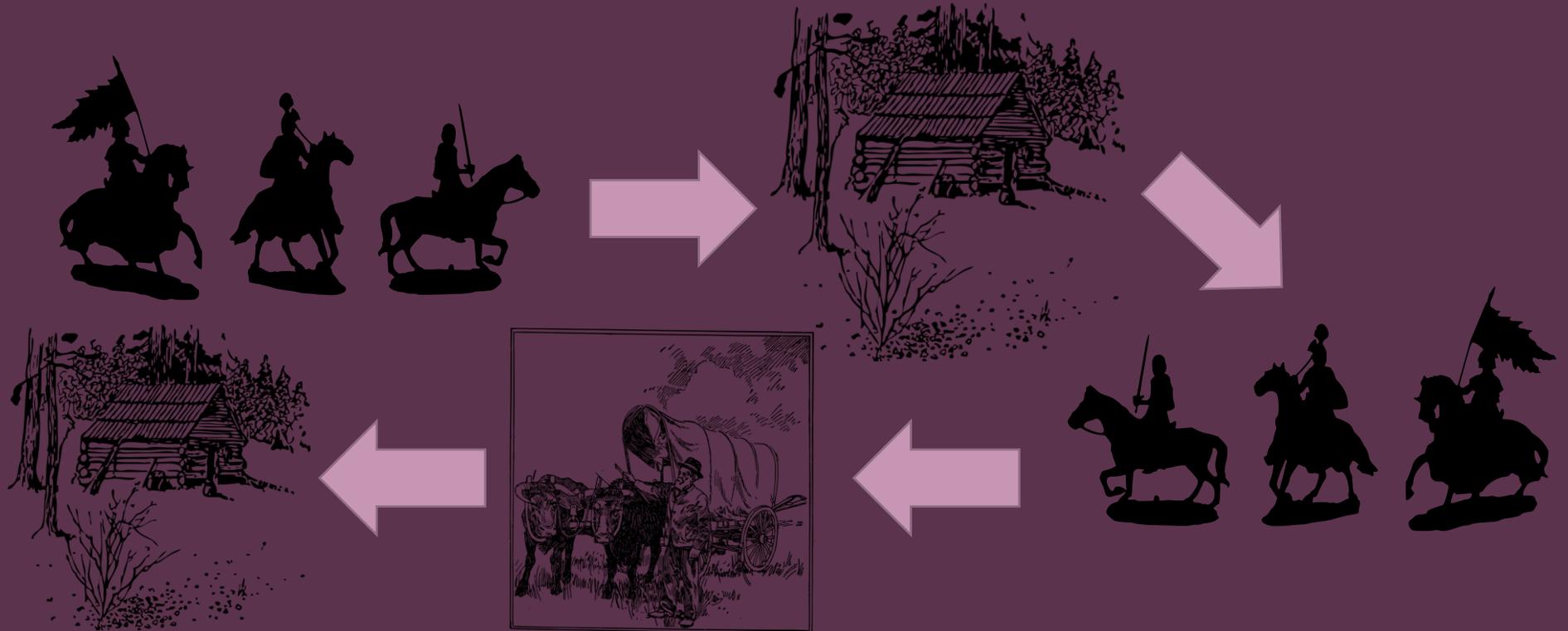
Cluster Migration:

A group of people moving together, such as multiple inter-related families or families who shared the same religion.



Chain Migration:

Typically, men would scout new land, stake a claim, and return to their original home to retrieve their family. Or, a couple may move and write to family and friends about cheap land to encourage them to move.

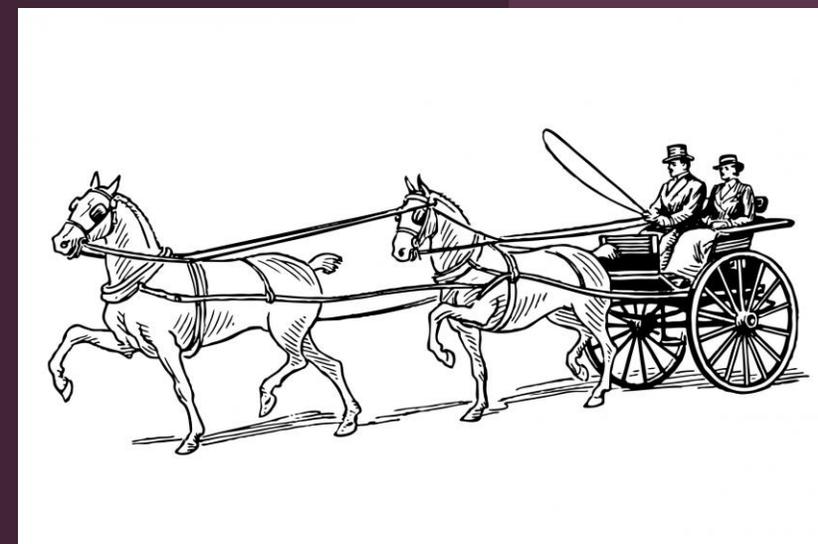
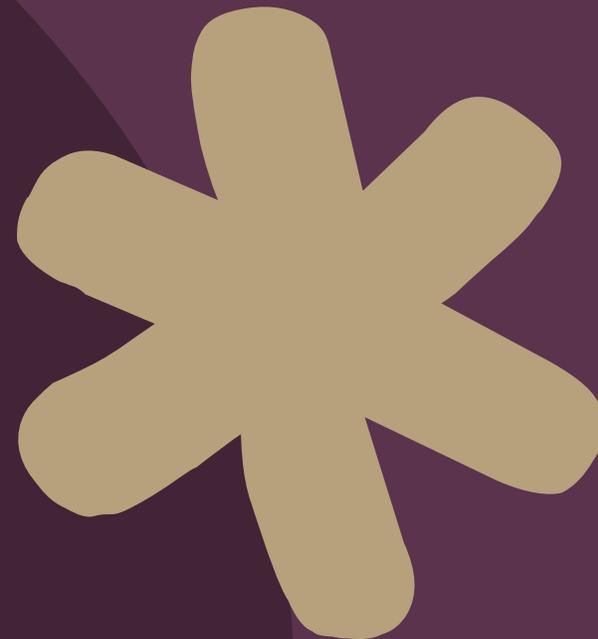


Options for travel in the 1830s:

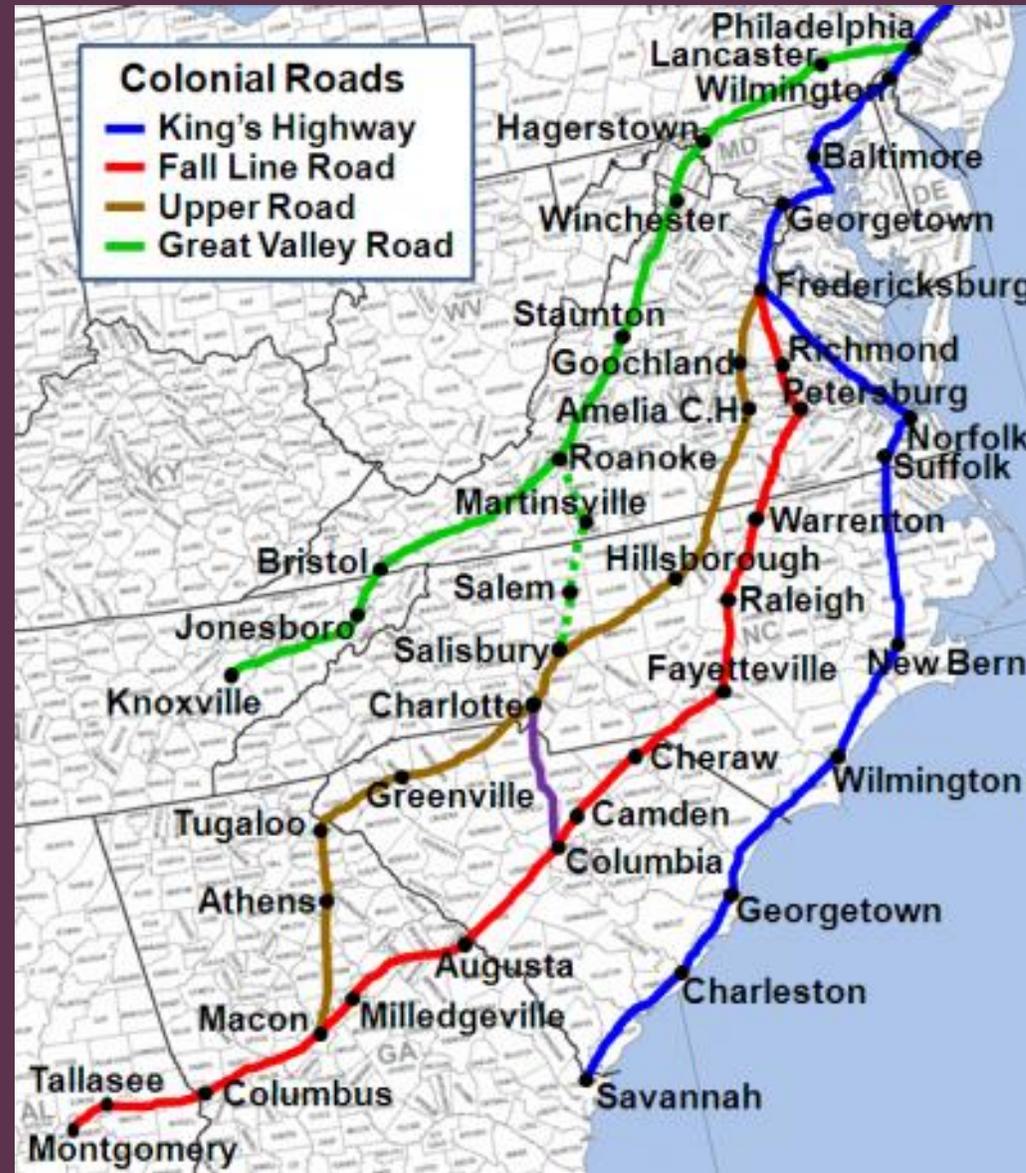
By foot, horse, or wagon on the Cumberland Pike (National Road)

By foot, horse, or wagon to the Ohio River

By foot, horse, or wagon to a canal



There were roads in Colonial America, east of the Appalachian Mountains.





Two Routes:

←
North to National
Road, then west
to Indiana



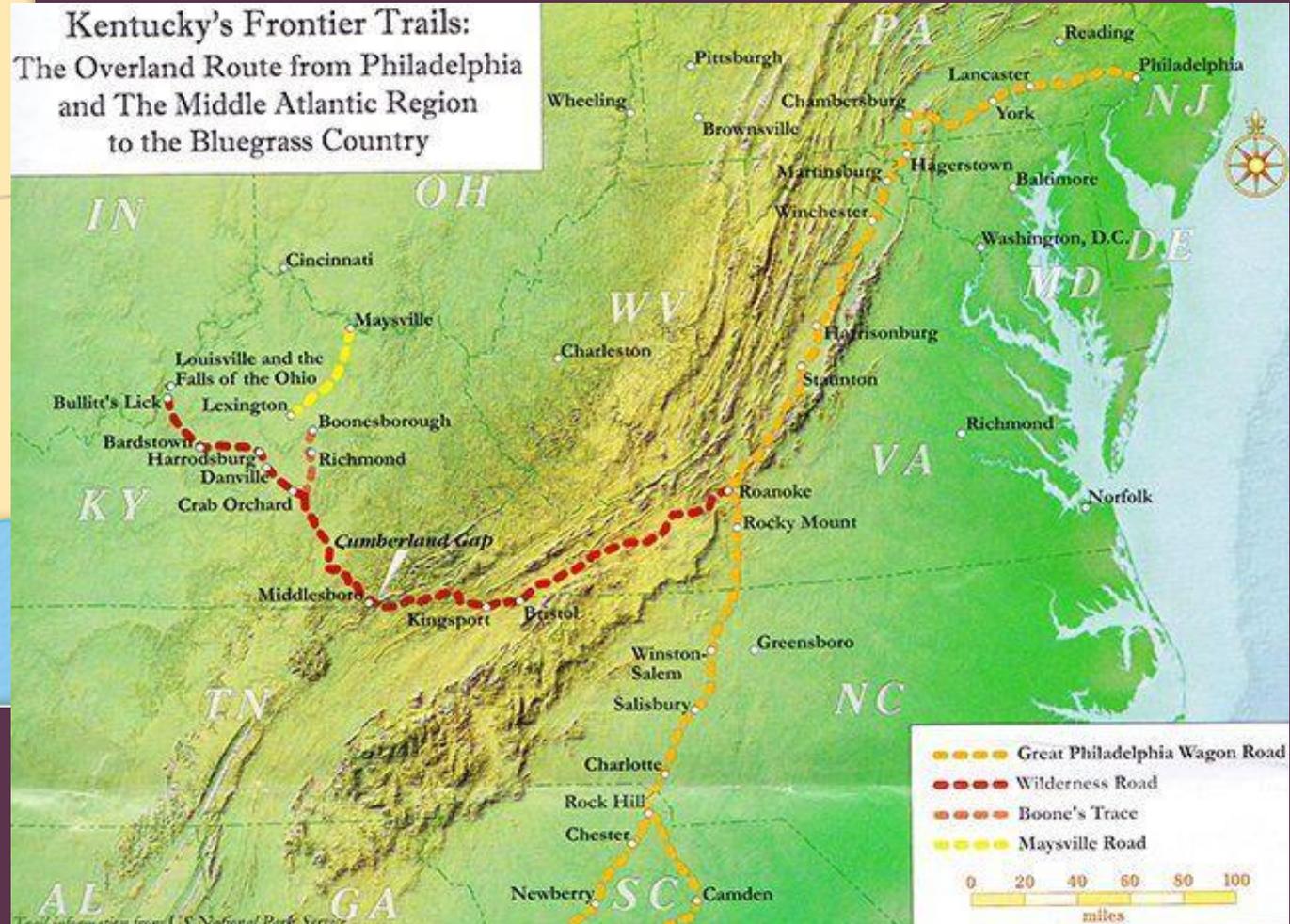
West through
Cumberland Gap
to the Wilderness
Road north to
Ohio River, then
to the Whitewater
Canal



Cumberland Gap & Wilderness Road



Cumberland Gap: Formed by herds of woodland buffalo, then used by the Native Americans; it is estimated that between 200,000-300,000 settlers passed through the Cumberland Gap before 1810.



After 1818, the Wilderness Road was used less because of the expanding National Road.

North to National Road (black star=Franklin County, Virginia)

The Great Wagon Road (solid red line): Originally a Native American path, from Philadelphia to North Carolina prior to the American Revolution; by 1834, improvements were being made to the road in northern Virginia, just south of Cumberland, Maryland.



Cumberland, Maryland: (solid blue star) Start of the National Road in 1811; by the early 1830s, it was built to Columbus, Ohio.

National Road (originally known as the Cumberland Pike)

As the National Road was being constructed through Ohio and Indiana in the 1820s and 1830s, it provided work for men who were migrating west. The funding for the road ran out when the road reached Vandalia, Illinois, in 1839.



Huddleston House (Cambridge City, IN)

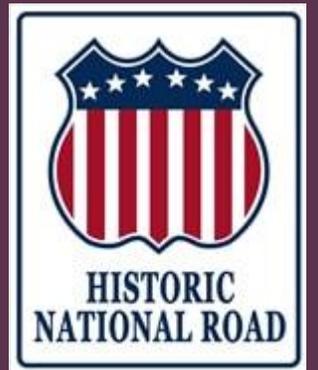


Here you can visit the National Road Heritage Site on the lower floor, an interpretative National Road exhibit. There are also locations in Henry County where you can walk the original National Road.

Trail end points: N. West Street (Raysville) to CR 425 W (Ogden) and CR 125 to William Street (Lewisville)

UPDATE: Sadly, the Huddleston House has been sold to a private party.

Indiana National Road Association
<https://indiananationalroad.com/>



Canal: Canals or artificial waterways are waterways or engineered channels built for drainage management or for conveyancing water transport vehicles. They carry free, calm surface flow under atmospheric pressure and can be thought of as artificial rivers.

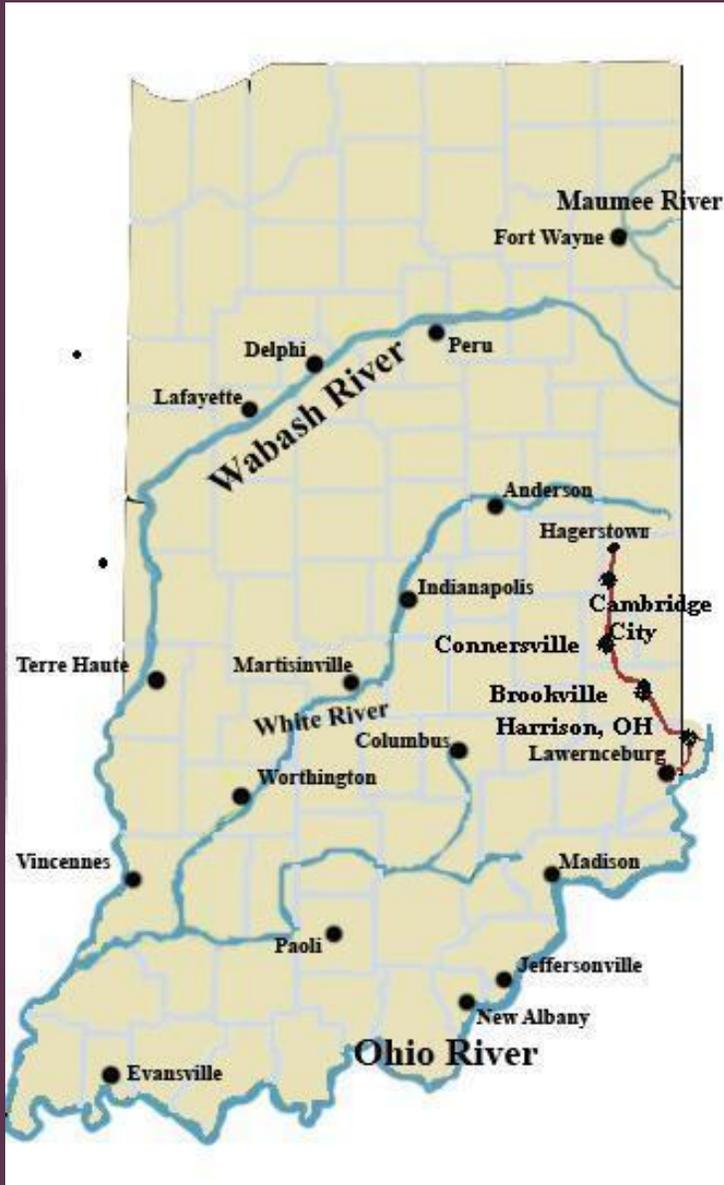


Used to connect two bodies of water. Locks are used to move boats from higher to lower ground and vice versa.

These were manmade and created a waterway where there was no waterway naturally, such as a river.

This is Lock #34 on the Erie Canal in Lockport, New York. It is a still functioning lock on the canal. Watercraft can go from Canada south to Florida and back again.

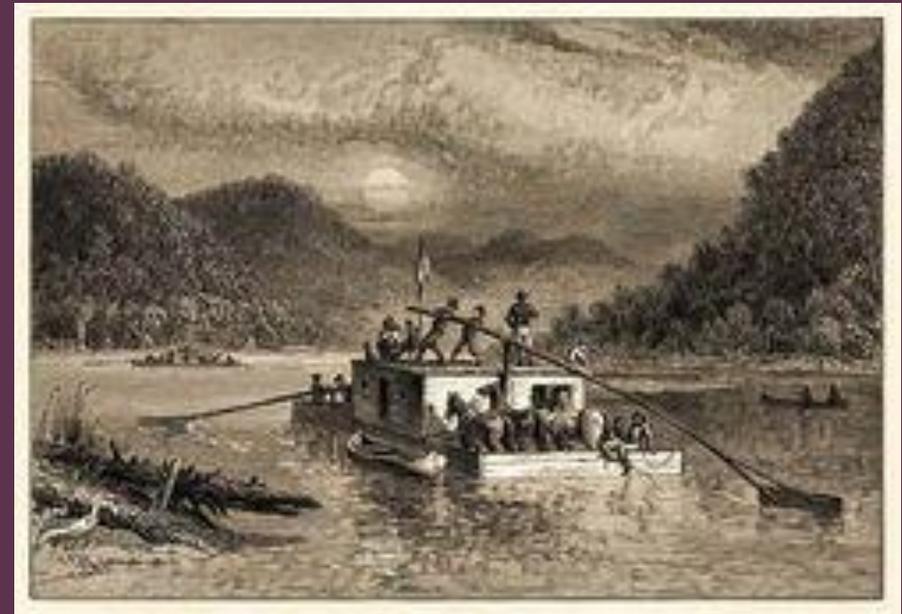
Whitewater Canal (Lawrenceburg, IN, to Hagerstown, IN)



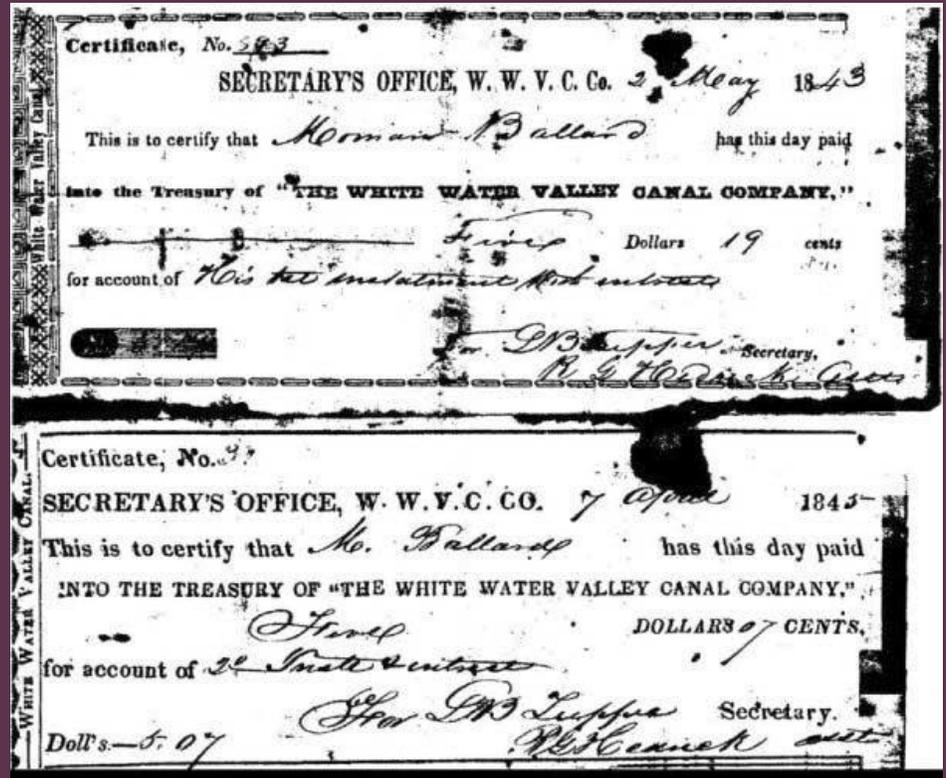
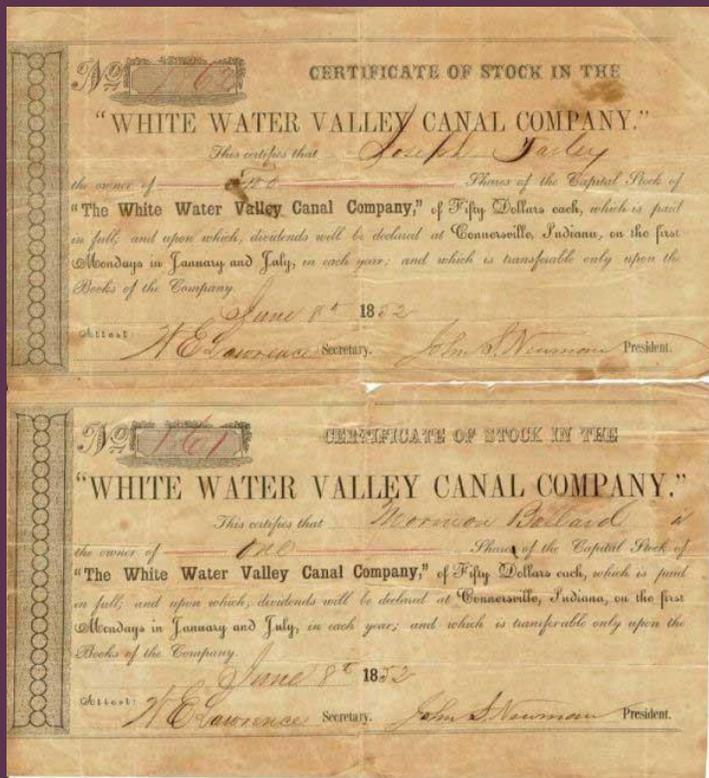
Nancy's uncle, Benjamin Allen Pearson, lived in Meade County, Kentucky, and ran flatboats on the Ohio River for a living.

Aaron and Nancy could have used the Wilderness Road to meet Benjamin who then would take them to Lawrenceburg where they would take the Whitewater Canal northward.

Benjamin Pearson died in 1833, thought due to the cholera outbreak.







For more information about Indiana's Canals, please check out this link:

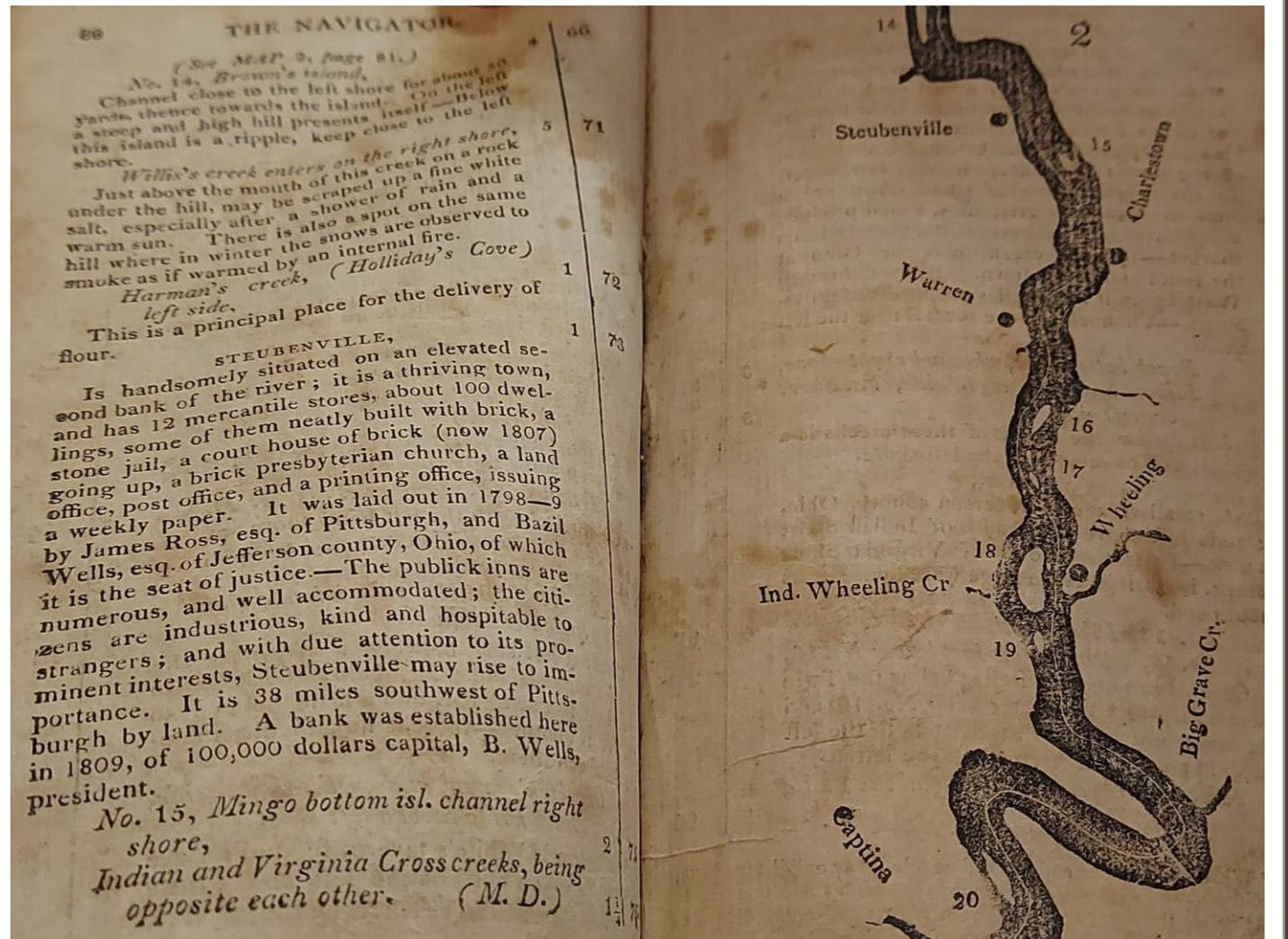
<https://www.in.gov/history/for-educators/download-issues-of-the-indiana-historian/canal-mania-in-indiana/>

Great photos and first-hand accounts of canal life.

The Rand-McNally of the 1800s...

This copy of the Navigator, Published in 1811 gives directions for the emigrants coming by Flat-boats down the Ohio and other rivers. It is the "Road-map" of a century ago.

Presented by Mrs. Susan B. Unthank.



Published in 1811 by Zadok Cramer.

containing directions for navigating the Monongahela, Allegheny, Ohio and Mississippi rivers : with an ample account of these much admired waters, from the head of the former to the mouth of the latter, and a concise description of their towns, villages, harbors, settlements, &c. : with maps of the Ohio and Mississippi : to which is added an appendix, containing an account of Louisiana, and of the Missouri and Columbia rivers, as discovered by the voyage under Capts. Lewis and Clark.

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Which Way Did They Take?

North to National Road: Well-traveled road to the north, work available helping build the Road as they moved west; family in Preble County, OH

West through the Cumberland Gap: Rougher terrain but Aaron was familiar with it; family near Louisville, KY, with flatboat experience to get to Whitewater Canal; water travel somewhat easier but cost more; work available helping build canal

Thank you very much for your time...

Best of luck on your genealogical journeys!

Questions?

