

At Grand Tower the trail again divided and a branch, or it might be considered the more important, followed Apple Creek toward its source, crossing the Meramec, Barbeuse and Gasconade to the mouth of the Osage, crossing the Missouri and with other converging trails united to form the GREAT BUFFALO ROAD that followed the Grand River to its headwaters in North-West Missouri and entered the Great Plains region to become the famous OREGON TRAIL by which thousands of emigrants reached the Pacific Coast, if they were fortunate, or fell victims to hardships of travel, including attacks by Indians, and were buried by the wayside.

The OSAGE TRAIL, from Grand Tower to where it crossed the Missouri River had numerous lesser branches not so clearly defined and should be regarded as MINOR TRAILS because their origin and ending were entirely within the State.

From Grand Tower westward, a well defined prehistoric highway traversed the borders of Perry and Bollinger Counties to St. Michaels now Fredericktown, and thence to the "Old Indian Ford" of the St. Francois, now Silver Mine, to the "LOST COVE" by which Arcadia Valley was known in their respective languages to the Osage Indians, French and English.

Through the Lost Cove which this trail entered from the Southeast the trend was to a landmark well known by its sharp-peaked mountain at the base of which was an Indian village when Louisiana Territory was acquired by the United States. (Houck's Hist)

Upon the grounds of the Arcadia Country Club through which led the trail, was a depression several feet deep, of irregular <sup>form</sup>, called the Buffalo Lick.

SOME INDIAN TRAILS

Among the "Cajunes" of Louisiana, as the Acadians call themselves  
is found the story of Evangeline published in their provincial French  
and translated into English, owners of which are reluctant, even tem-  
porarily to pass out of their possession, which relates the story##  
very much as told in the poem. The long quest of the heroine for  
her lover, Gabriel, ends in what to her must have been no less a tragedy  
than that told by the Poet. Believing her dead Gabriel had accepted  
destiny as he found it, married, and was blessed with a houseful of  
children.

THE SAUKEE RENARD trail extending from ~~the~~ mouth of the Osage  
to the DesMoines river may have been a war trail of the tribes bear-  
ing those names or trails by which fur traders of Canada <sup>extended</sup> ~~#####~~  
traffic with tribes west of the Mississippi.

THE SIOUX WARRIORS' Trail originating between the nearly paral-  
lel Illinois and Mississippi rivers was so called because by that  
route the fierce<sup>e</sup> tribe crossed the ~~later~~ stream and made portage to  
the Missouri, in their foray on the more peaceful Osages, massacring  
and burning villages to the headwaters of the river bearing the name  
of Osage. PORTAGE des SIOUX in St. Charles County was so named by  
French ancestors of present day residents who are familiar with the  
traditions of savage warfare when Louisiana Territory was a Province  
of France.

THE CHEROKEE TRAIL is a continuation of the trans-continent-  
that crossed the Mississippi at Grand Tower and proceeded westward  
to the "Old Indian Ford" of the St. Francois thence to the "Lost  
Cove" with which it is inseparably connected by tradition.

SOME INDIAN TRAILS

It is gratifying that to traditions of this trail may be added testimony of witnesses whose personal knowledge gives it special value. During the Administration of Andrew Jackson, governmental authorities decided to move Indians as a body from their homes in the Appalachians to territory west of the Mississippi. Two detachments were convoyed during the summer's heated season with results so disastrous the third was delayed till the weather was more favorable.

Our first witness will give us information of their home and relations to white people which is the beginning of their long journey. Abram Abernathy, or 'uncle Abe' as he was familiarly called was tall and straight as an indian, ~~and~~ though black as his ancestors when brought from Africa, but his speech was free of the drawl of the negro, due perhaps to his training as house boy and later body servant of an educated master.

in their home Indian chiefs were often guests and at their table politicians discussed questions of the day. The decision to leave the home in "No'th Ca'lina" was not a sudden impulse but with political influence the family and perhaps others obtained permission to travel under protection of the military escort that was to conduct 2000 indians across half the continent.

'Uncle Abe' was placed in charge of the wagon 'whut carried the women folks' (white and slave) 'and druv his master's fou' hoss team f'om home' to their new home in Perry County Missouri.

He was, he said 25 years old which would have fixed the date of his birth about 1813.

SOME INDIAN TRAILS

Crossing the Mississippi at Grand Tower at this date was not a problem for Steamboats were plying the rivers from Pittsburgh to towns on the "Father of Waters" whose services might be requisitioned for any military need.

The trail westward to the "Lost Cove" has been traced and repetition is unnecessary. About mid-afternoon of a day in late winter, 1838-39, a large band of Indians might have been seen traversing the "Cove" from the south-east, following the trail that was now a road from Fredericktown to Arcadia Valley. The route led through grounds of the Present day Country Club, where a New Englander and his family had settled the May of 1838. The region was no longer called by its primitive name for it had a post-office established in his home.

An advance agent had contracted with an old settler, Pate Buford, by name, for grain and forage to supply indians and their horses.

With the New Englander teams and drivers were engaged to deliver supplies upon a specified day at the selected camp site two miles from his home, at a <sup>place</sup> where a stream flowed between the bases of Pilot Knob and Shepherd Mountain. An officer was on hand to receive that for which he had contracted and issue vouchers for services rendered.

To the young yankees he extended a cordial invitation to visit the camp when the Indians should arrive, and which as they had never any before, was gladly accepted.

Three bands passed by the cabin, in order, and reached their camp ground, ####. After sufficient time for the campers to become adjusted the sons repaired to the place they had deligered the supplies and were greeted by the officer who guided them through the encampment.

Material for many fireside tales, in homes of their own was derived from the visit to that Cherokee camp by the young men who before had never seen any indian life as it now appeared .

From the camp site another of many daily marches began the following morning, to the north west ~~part~~ along the water shed that divided the tributaries of the Missouri River and those streams that join the Mississippi by way of Black, Current and White rivers far south in Arkansas.

The CHEFOKKE TRAIL continues through Bellevue and traverses Dent County and others to the southwestern part of the State into the then called, Indian Territory but now State of Oklahoma.

#### OLD ROADS

When the St. Louis and Iron Mountain Railway was completed, 1857, to Pilot Knob Stage routes were established, one to the east to Jackson by way of the Cherokee Trail, and another south, via Greenville and Poplar Bluff, to Pocahontas Arkansas which seems to have been the NATCHITOCHEs and VINCENNES. Local history is definitely connected with these routes that were operated till interrupted by the war, when military need superceded that of the general public.

From Pilot Knob a Military Road led to Centerville, Eminence and West Plains to northern Arkansas and Indian Territory by which troops and supplies were transported, and possibly joined the Santa Fe Trail.

Well founded tradion connects with an old Spanish Trail to reputed silver mines on Current River, from which they were driven by "Hooza, Huzzah" or Osage Indians, but before leaving "rolled a barrel of silver dollars into the mines" and obliterated all traces.

SOURCE: Russell, C.S. , Russell Family Manuscript "Some Major Indian Trails in Missouri" 11 type written pages. Copy on file at Fort Davidson State Historic Site