

A Brief Story of the Old Buffalo Trace and Its Significance to State Progress

The old Buffalo Trace was first made by the American Bison (buffalo) on their way from the prairies of Illinois to the salt licks of Kentucky. The last buffalo seen on the trace were near White River in the year 1799. Indians traversed the trail on hunting trips and soldiers used it as they traveled from Vincennes, the territorial capital, to Clark's settlement near the Falls of the Ohio.

In 1805 William Rector surveyed the trace in order to establish the Indian Treaty line of 1804. This old trail is a matter of exact record. It was sometimes referred to as, Kentucky Road, Harrison's Road, Vincennes Trace, etc.

The first settlers found it a ready-made road to the west as the great migration began. Shortly after the Scribners founded New Albany, a survey was made that resulted in a route connecting New Albany to the Buffalo Trace. This is now known as the Old Vincennes Road. Thus a river port was connected to the hinter-land for trade purposes.

Indiana became a state in 1816. Several years thereafter the state decided to pave a turnpike linking New Albany to Vincennes. It was called the State Road. This was one of several ambitious enterprises that nearly broke the new state financially. A toll company bought the road and operated it for most of the time until 1913.

Between Galena and Greenville on Highway U.S. 150 stands an old Toll House restored by the Peppy Peppers 4-H Club as a memorial to the history of highway travel in this region. This toll house and the land on which it stands was donated to the Floyd County Historical Society by Mrs. Irene Birk Armstrong in November of 1972.

Indiana chose as its motto: "The Crossroads of America" because highways have played such an important role in the development of the state. Highways that had their humble beginning in the Old Buffalo Trace.

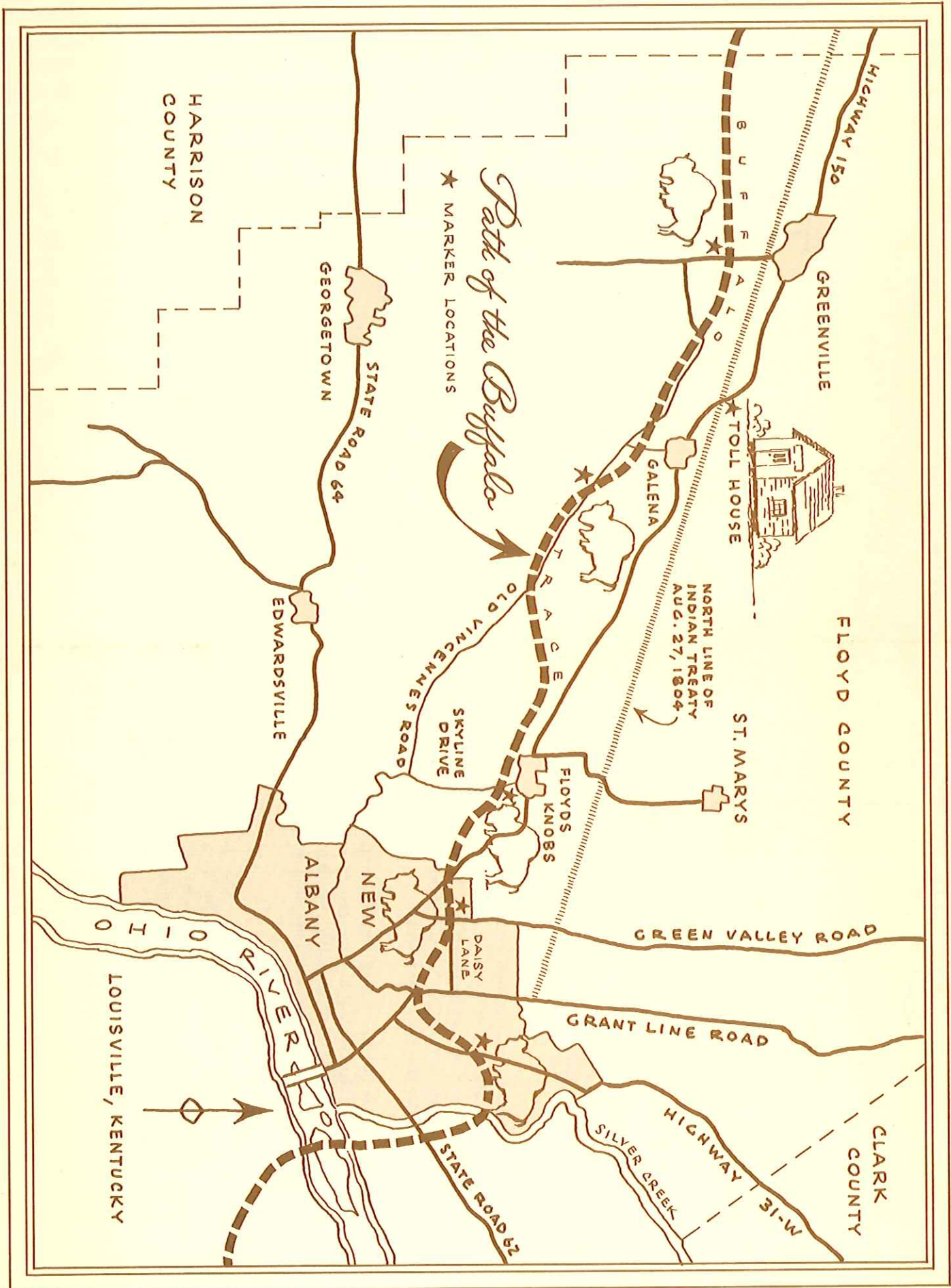
Historic Buffalo Trace



"First Road West From New Albany"

Courtesy of

THE FLOYD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Path of the Buffalo

★ MARKER LOCATIONS

HARRISON COUNTY

GREENVILLE

FLOYD COUNTY

CLARK COUNTY

GEORGETOWN

EDWARDSVILLE

ALBANY

NEW

OHIO RIVER

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

TOLL HOUSE

GALENA

NORTH LINE OF INDIAN TREATY AUG. 27, 1804

ST. MARYS

FLOYDS KNOBS

GREEN VALLEY ROAD

GRANT LINE ROAD

SILVER CREEK

HIGHWAY 31-W

SKYLINE DRIVE

DAISY LANE

STATE ROAD 62

STATE ROAD 64

HIGHWAY 150