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## THE OLD INDIAN TRAIL, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

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From the papers of the Late Zimri A. Enos.

Can any of the surviving first settlers of Sangamon county or the descendants of the first settlers, locate the line, or any part of the line of the Old Indian Trail from Peoria through this county to St. Louis: fixing points in the line by the government subdivisions of the lands, or through, or by the farms it passed, with sufficient certainty to enable a fairly accurate plat of the route to be made. This trail according to my understanding was the route which the army under Governor Edwards in 1812 followed in their march from Fort Russell near Edwardsville to Peoria. And which route is designated in one of the early records of Sangamon county as the Old Edwards Trace, and Clear Lake is therein mentioned as a place on the line of the Trace. This trail or trace should, as an interesting matter of history, be definitely established, before all evidence of its location is gone. I have a general idea of the route of the trail or trace from Edwardsville as far north as Elkhart, derived from a personal knowledge of fixed points in it, the topography or character of the country over which it passed and in the manner in which the Indians usually selected their routes, following the high ground or dividing ridges in the prairie, heading streams and avoiding passing through heavy timbers as much as possible, and seldom pursuing a straight line. I know that the path from the house to the stable on a farm seven miles north of Edwardsville (which was settled in 1817) was and is now the line of the Old Trail. And in 1833 I traveled the Old Trail from Honey Point, north about eight miles, to where Zanesville now is; the trail was east of and considerably further

the west side of the Sangamon River, through Germany prairie, crossing the river at or near the site of Bogues' old mill in the N. E. corner of the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 6, T. 16 N, R. 4 W. 3rd P. M., and thence north on the west side of Wolf Creek Timber to Elkhart Grove, in Sec. 7 and 18, T. 18 N. R. 3 W. He stated that his father settled in Germany prairie in 1821 five miles northeast from Springfield, and at that date, an Indian trail was not far from their cabin and he frequently saw the Indians traveling it. Both routes may have been trails that were traveled by the Indians. Since writing the foregoing, I have discovered on the oldest known map of the Illinois Territory (now in the Historical State Library) a surprisingly accurate delineation of that part of the Sangamon River and the Lake Fork northeast of Springfield, and between the two streams, an Indian village marked thereon, in location exactly fitting Buffalo Hart Grove. I would like information from Mr. Cass or any old inhabitant of the Grove if there was any tradition among the first settlers of its being the site of an Indian village, or any relics discovered there that would indicate it, or Indian camping ground, such as an Indian graveyard, the finding of stone axes, spears and arrow heads or Indian utensils of any sort, or spot of blue grass denoting a camping ground. The line of this Old Indian Trail was the wagon route of most of the early settlers of Sangamon county, and is accurately located in the subdivision surveys of townships 9 and 10 north range 6 west 3rd P. M. made by U. S. Deputy Surveyor in 1818 and gives the distances from the section corners at which the section lines north and south and east and west intersected the trail. These connections of the survey lines with the trail were made in conformity with the general instructions issued by the Surveyor General to all deputy surveyors; but these two townships are the only ones on the line of the trail where any attention was paid to this instruction. Mr. Joseph Stafford informs me that when a boy riding in company

failing supply of good spring water. It was on the line of the regular traveled road from Springfield to St. Louis, and from it to the first house on the road south was about thirteen miles, and to the first house north about forty miles. And in a dry time for this whole fifty odd miles there was no other chance for water for man or beast. It was always a stopping place to water and frequently to camp.