

Trail of Tears

Routes through Bollinger County, Missouri

In cooperation with Bollinger County Library

Revised edition

January 22, 2021

**TOT committee: Jeanie Layton, Eva Dunn, Sheila Porter,
Carol Abernathy and John Reilly**

The Trail of Tears that was a tragic part of our nation's history came through our region. All 13 detachments came through our county before it was Bollinger County. The short version is that the northern route was the Jackson to Farmington road passing through Sedgewickville, the Hildebrand route was the Jackson to Fredericktown road passing through Patton and the Benge detachment followed the Jackson to Greenville route passing through modern day Marble Hill. The documents and narrative that follow will paint the picture that the Cherokee in 1838 and 1839 saw as they travelled our roads.

Following that line of thinking, let's start with the Northern route.

Northern route through Bollinger County:

Our premise as we approached this project was that the trails which comprised the Trail of Tears through our county would follow the paths that the first pioneers established. Often the pioneers used tribal trails of the Osage, Cherokee and Shawnee and expanded them to accommodate wagons. The first pioneers settled this area over 30 years before the Trail of Tears passed their way. They expanded native trails, created familial connecting roads and started the first roads of commerce. The first postal roads in the area also follow our projected paths. These postal roads gave way to Military trails that were used during the Civil War and after the War became foundations for the State and Federal Highway systems.

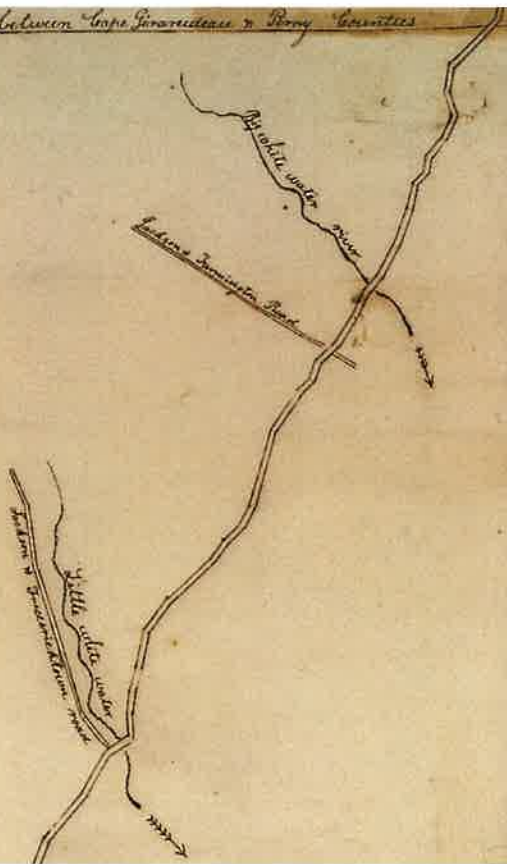
The northern route follows the 1800s Jackson to Farmington Road. The Jackson to Farmington Road in Bollinger County can be shown on the 1843 State Road maps from the west side of the Mississippi River across from Chester IL to Greenville. They show a portion of the Jackson to Farmington road and the Jackson to Fredericktown road.

A map of a State Road beginning on the Bank of the Mississippi River
opposite to the Town of Chester in Illinois and from thence via Perryville
Perry County to Greenville in Wayne County Mo being 12 Miles
38 chains & 50 links in length drawn at a scale of 1 Mile to an inch



2^d Sheet

Line between Cape Girardeau & Perry Counties



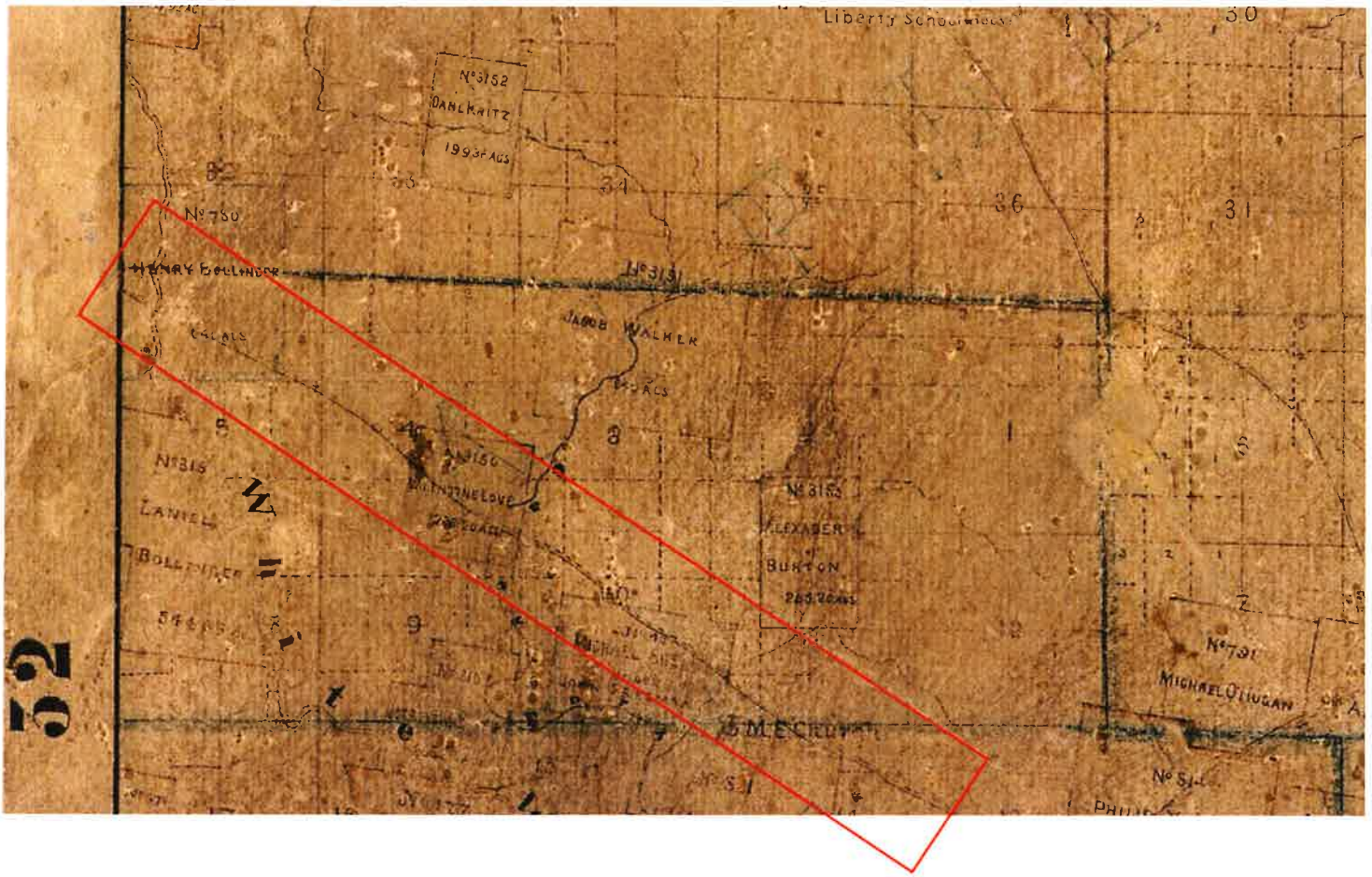
A map of that part of a State Road leading from the Bank of the Mississippi River
opposite to the Town of Chester in Illinois to the Town of Greenville in Wayne County Mo
which lies within Cape Girardeau County drawn by a scale of one to an inch
and being 17 1/2 Miles in length

Courses and distances

	C	D
1	S 45° W	50.00
2	S 7° W	19.00
3	S 25° W	19.50
4	S 46° W	17.00
5	S 4° W	11.00
6	S 45° W	10.50
7	S 9° W	18.50
8	S 20° W	30.00
9	S 25° W	26.00
10	S 42° W	12.50
11	S 29° W	9.50
12	S 20° W	7.00
13	S 29° W	28.00
14	S 46° W	18.00
15	S 18° W	14.00
16	S 49° W	11.00
17	S 33° W	30.00
18	S 14° W	59.00
19	S 23° W	12.50
20	S 44° W	17.50
21	S 32° W	15.00
22	S 45° W	45.00
23	S 35° W	28.50
24	S 12° W	28.50
25	S 10° E	18.00
26	S 5° W	15.00
27	S 5° E	15.00
28	S 53° W	20.00
29	S 25° W	34.00
30	S 35° W	43.00
31	S 26° W	29.00
32	S 35° W	49.00
33	S 56° W	65.00
34	S 56° W	18.00

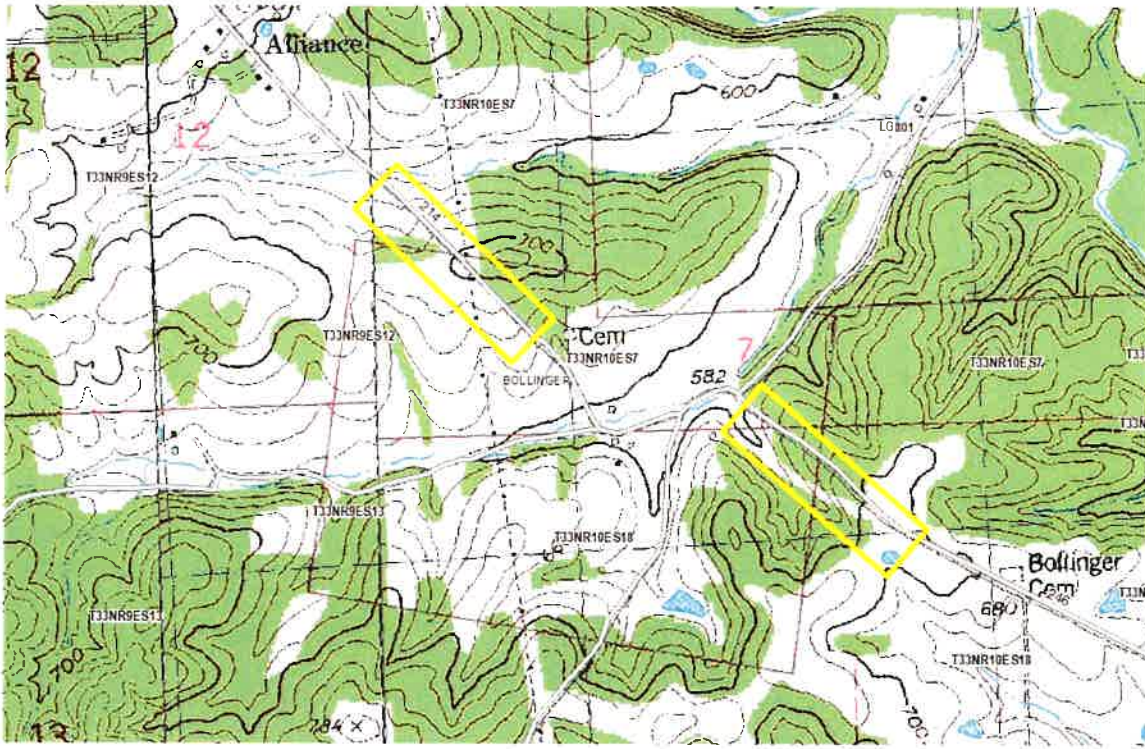


The James Brooks Cape County map of 1870 also shows the Northern route as it passes into Bollinger County through Henry Bollinger's land grant # 780.

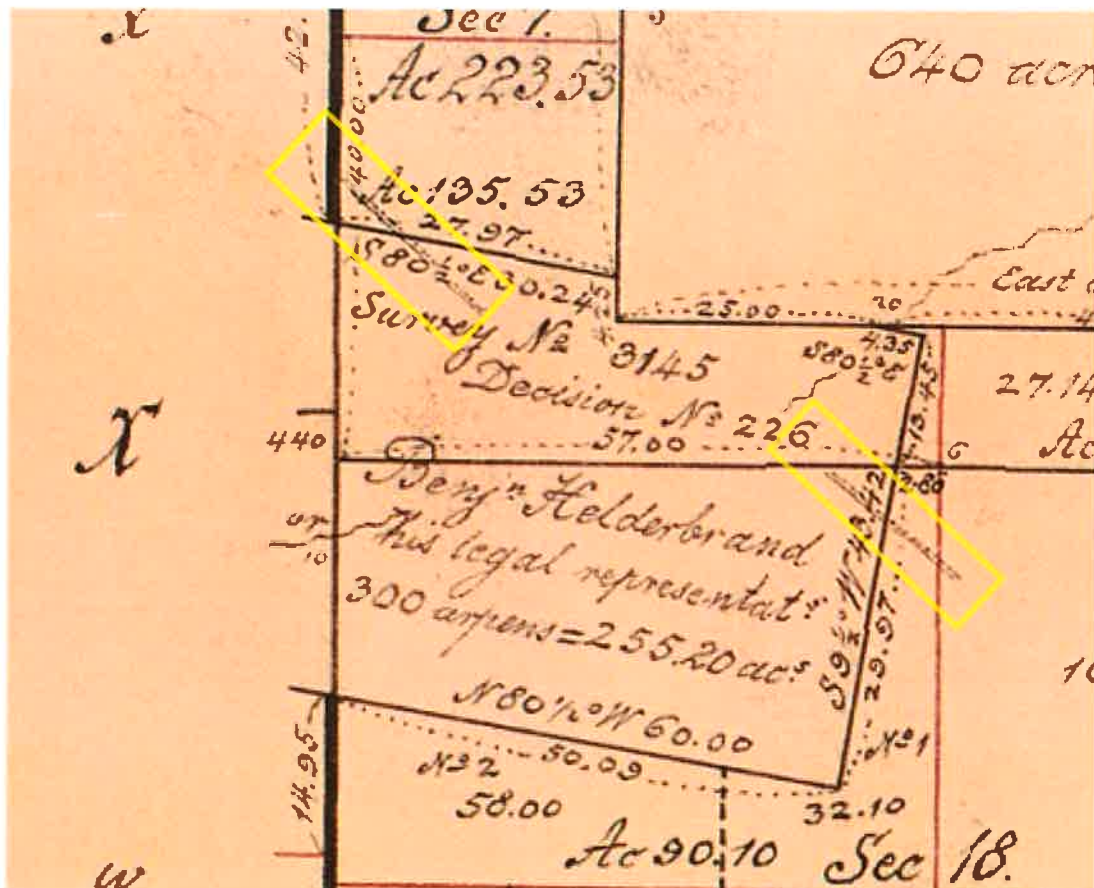


The portion that moves into Bollinger County from Cape County is referenced in BB Cannon's diary."halted and encamped at Widow Roberts on the road via Farmington(just before the Bollinger County line). His diary of Nov. 17th, 1837 continues. Marched at 8 o'clock A.M. halted at WhiteWater Creek 4 o'clock P.M. Issued corn & fodder, corn meal and beef, 18 miles today."

Coming from the Widow Roberts farm on the Cape County side to the road that comes into Sedgewickville you are following BCR 228 to State Rd. WW that follows the main street through Sedgewickville and continues onto State Rd. EE west. About 100 yards off of EE on BCR 238, a witness structure called the Bollinger/Dolle Mill(1828) stood watch as the wagons, horses and thousands of Cherokee passed this way. Because the Mill was also the post office in this area for a while, we believe BCR 238 was actually part of the main road based on the 1906 Bollinger Plat map.



T33N R10E - US Survey 3145 – road entering and leaving US 3145 is comparable on the modern USGS topo and the 1861 Plat which shows the road as it was in Oct 1838 – where Aaron Snider surveyed it crossing the boundaries of US Survey 3145. <https://apps.mda.mo.gov/molandsurveyindex/imageviewer?id=714478>



1861 Plat Map showing the Jackson – Farmington Road in US Survey 3145 as noted by the surveyor Aaron Snider in October 1838 during his survey of Benjamin Helderbrand's land grant - US 3145.

Survey a tract of 300 arpents Equal to 250 ²/₁₀₀

261

acres of land granted to Benjamin Helderbrand
or his legal representatives, by Carlos Hebert
Delapue on the 30th January 1873. received
for record by Antoine Volant, Surveyor
General of the Province of Upper Louisiana
on the 27th of February 1886 - recommended
for confirmation according to the Conception
by the late Board of Commissioners on the
23rd of October 1884 Decision N 226
and confirmed according to the said Decision
of the Commissioners by an act of Congress
approved 4th of July 1836 -

8. to a road leading from Jackson to Farmington
leaving S. E. and N. W.

30. 24 Interset the Western boundary of Frederick
Hunter Survey N. 801 for 640 acres where

The trail continued west on BCR 246 and then onto BCR 214. The Conrad Johnson Cemetery on BCR 214 established in 1830s was also a silent witness to the tragedies that passed.

A portion of CR 214, west of State Hwy. 51 is now vacated so the closest current road is MO 51 until you reach BCR 930. Proceeding northwest on BCR 930, you would have passed the former mill that became the German Reformed Church for the first settlers.

The following line drawing of the Mill was done from the verbal descriptions of the mill in the booklet, "German Reformed Church – 1805 – 1832."

German Reformed Church 1805-1832

Rev. Samuel Weyberg
Elders- Peter Grounds, Leonard Welker,
Frederick Limbaugh, Frederick Slinkard

*First Protestant Church west of the Mississippi
held in this mill site.*



About a half mile past the Church/mill would have been the resting place for the Cannon party at the Hahn mill site in 1837. The pictures below are what remain of the dam and mill race, the only clue to it's history.













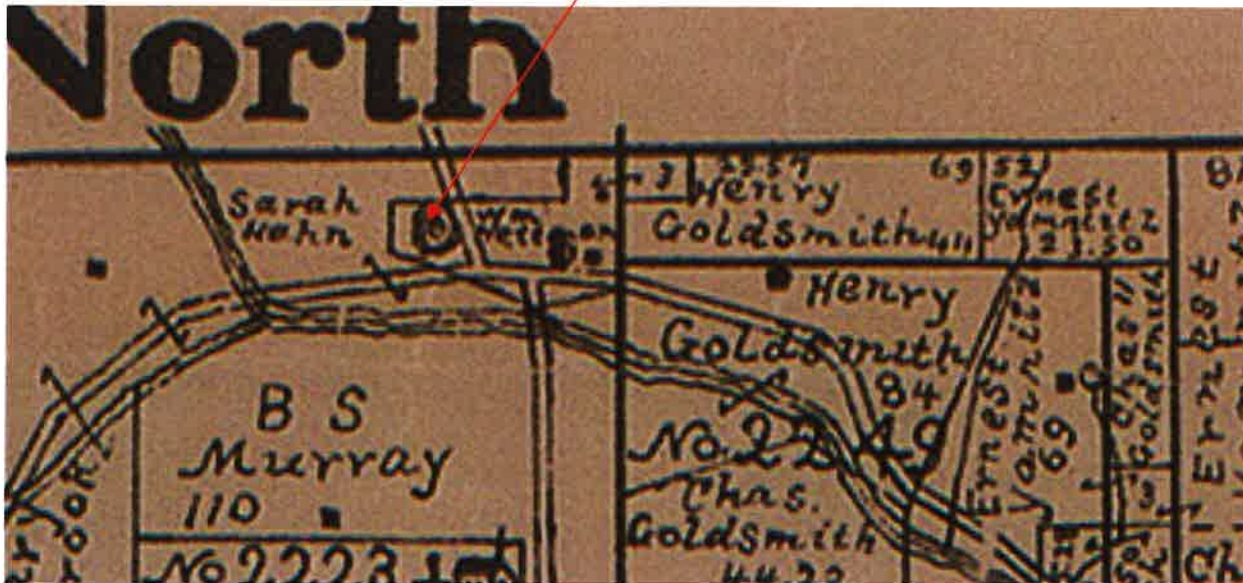
According to Cyrus McCormick, Missouri engineer and surveyor, and author of "The Missouri Indian Trails," Hahn's spring and mill was the camping spot at the end of the day on Nov. 17, 1837. "Mr. Hahn's mother was a girl born in 1816 and she remembers well when the Indians camped there. Mr. Hahn, who was 88 years old in 1938, related the story his mother told him. The Cherokee camped there on the 17th day of Nov. 1837 and then proceeded to Yount just across the county line."

The Hahn mill and spring are in the right location on Whitewater and for the 18 miles that were cited in the Cannon journal.

BCR 920 completes the trail in Bollinger County before you cross into Perry County on PCR 722 at Yount.

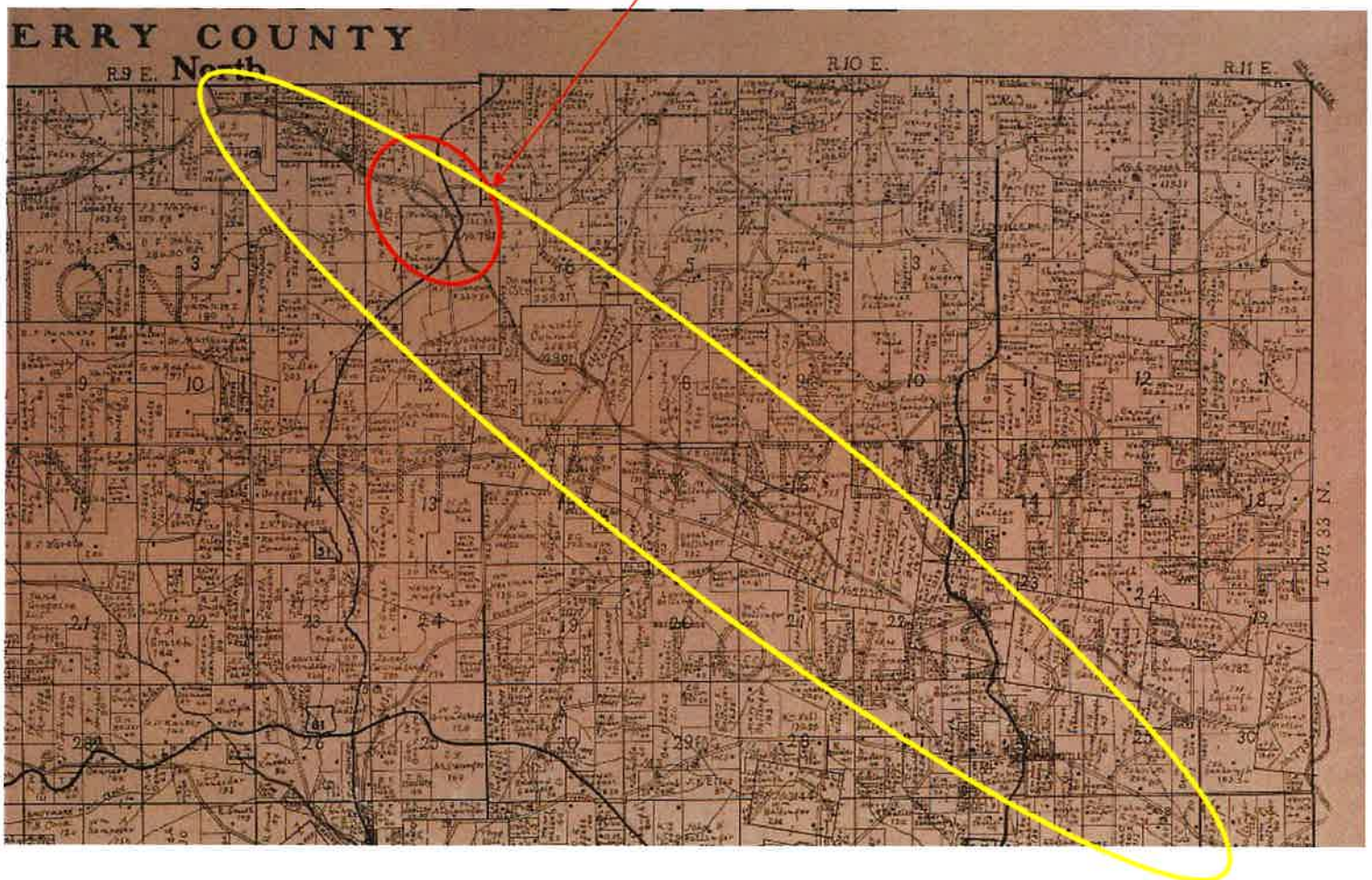
Other Documental support:

Mill & spring site from 1906 Bollinger Plat map on BCR 930. Detachment stop on Nov. 17,1837

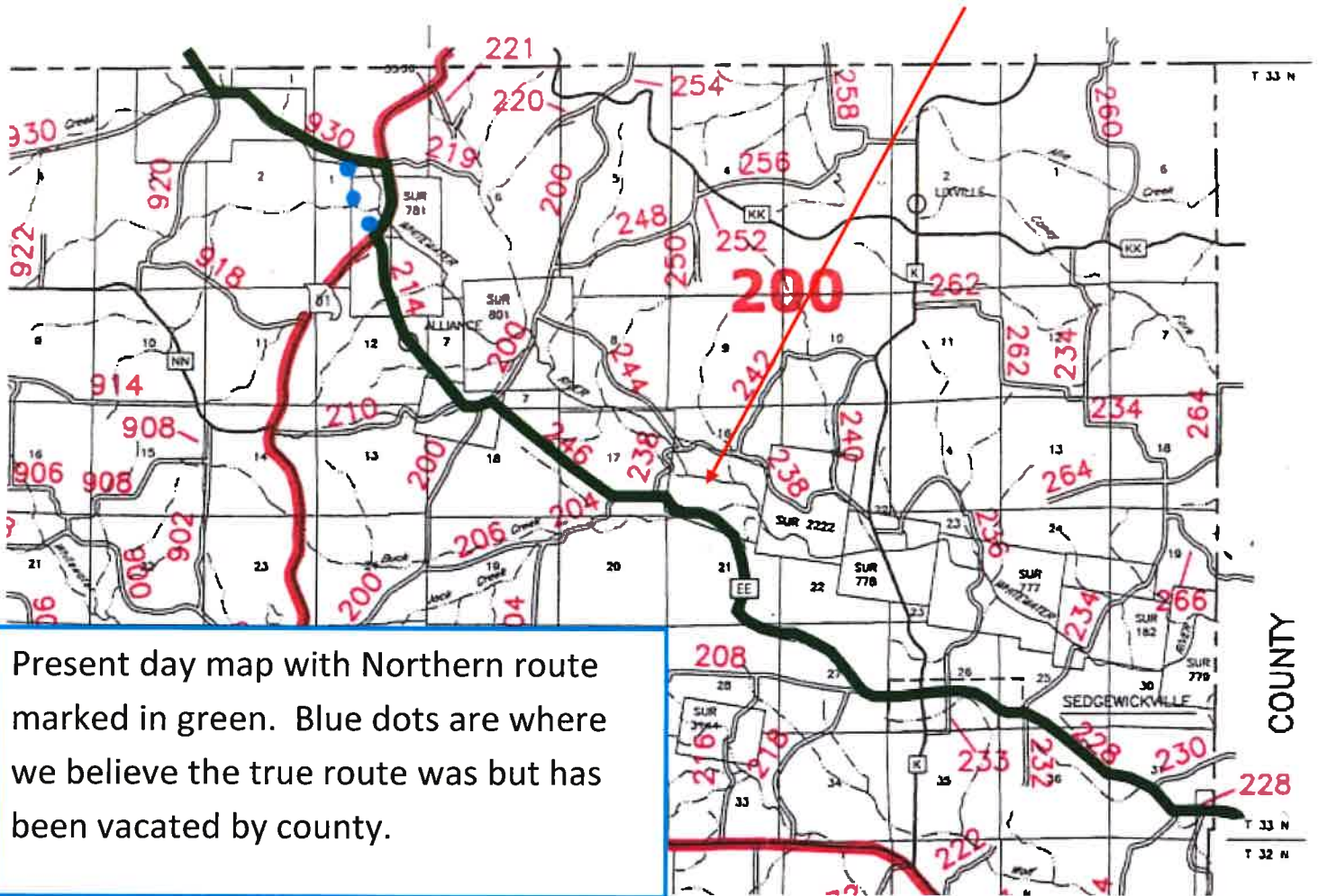


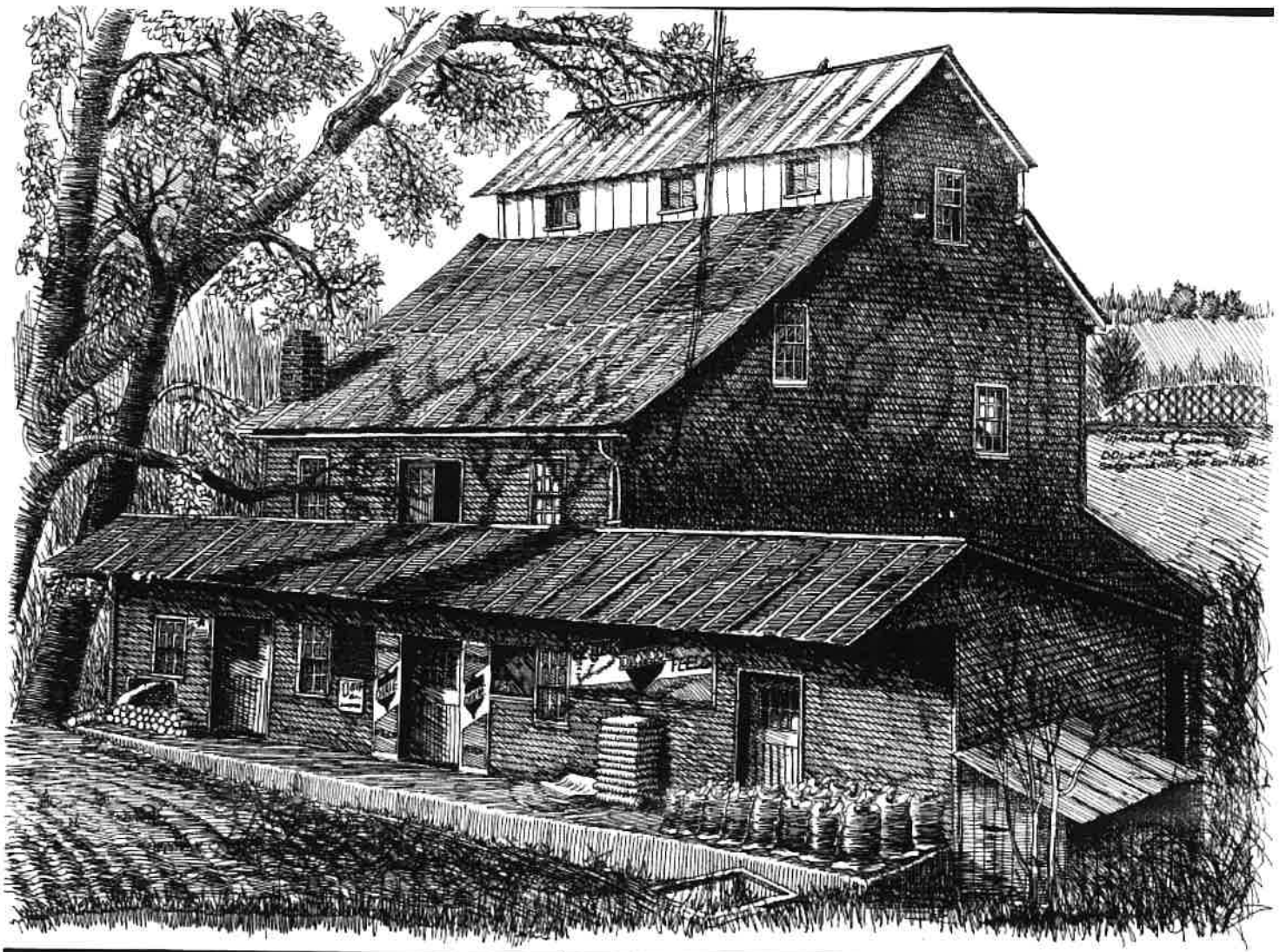
Note variation from present BCR 214 & 930

Road follows pioneer land grant families

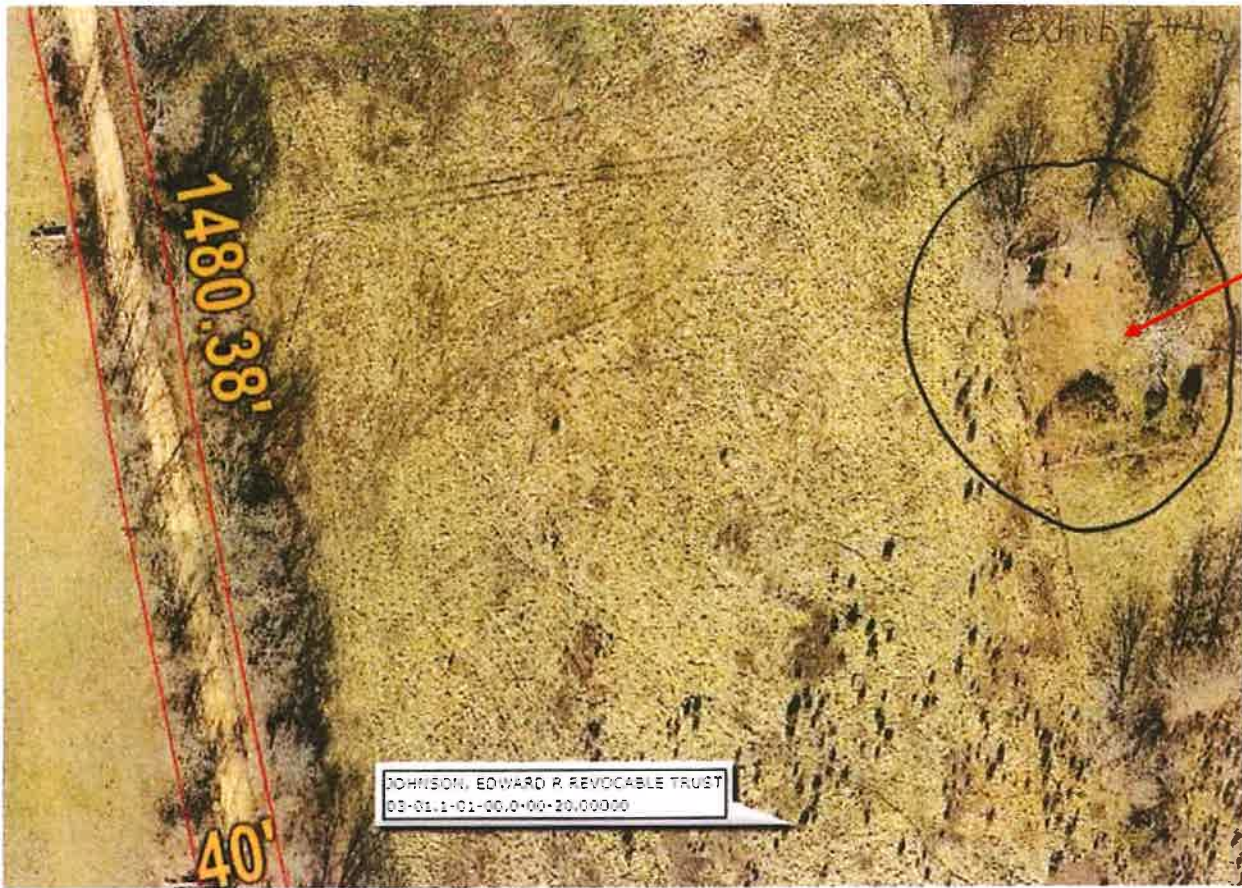


Witness structure Dolle/Bollinger Mill location 1828





Dolle/Bollinger mill built in 1828. Above drawing shows mill in the 1980s. In very fragile condition now.



Conrad Johnson
cemetery on
BCR 214 –
1830s

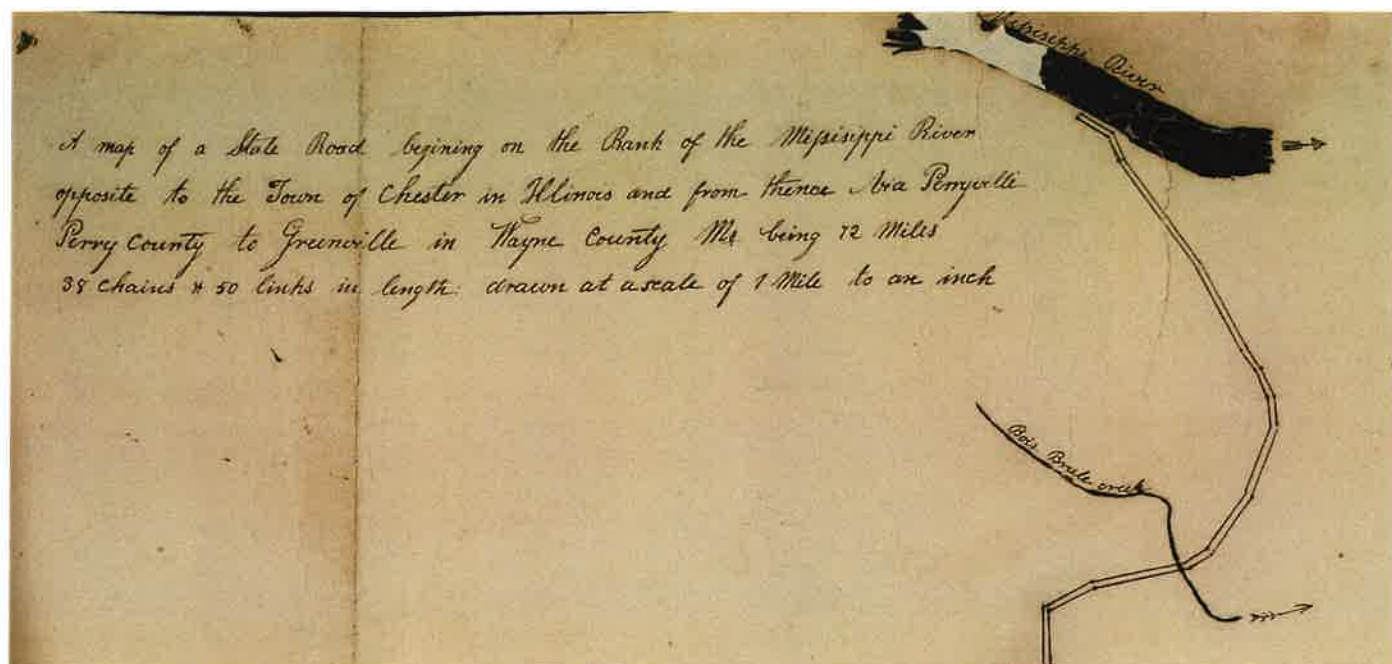
The Hildebrand route

The Hildebrand route was one of the two divergences from the Northern route. They stayed close enough to the Northern route to have scouts report on their location several times in the Rev. Daniel S. Butrick's Journal. They also would sometimes use the Northern route and left fires burning for the Richard Taylor detachment with whom they were travelling. Some believe they diverged from the Northern trail due to fires along that route. Others say that it was because all the detachments had taken all the wildlife for food. We believe in our area, they used what we called the Jackson to Fredericktown route. This route followed a trail that would be used by Jesse James and also by confederate soldiers a little over 20 years later. There were pioneer families along the Bollinger County portion of the trail but they were few and far between. Few communities had names yet but this was the route farmers and pioneers used to go to Fredericktown.



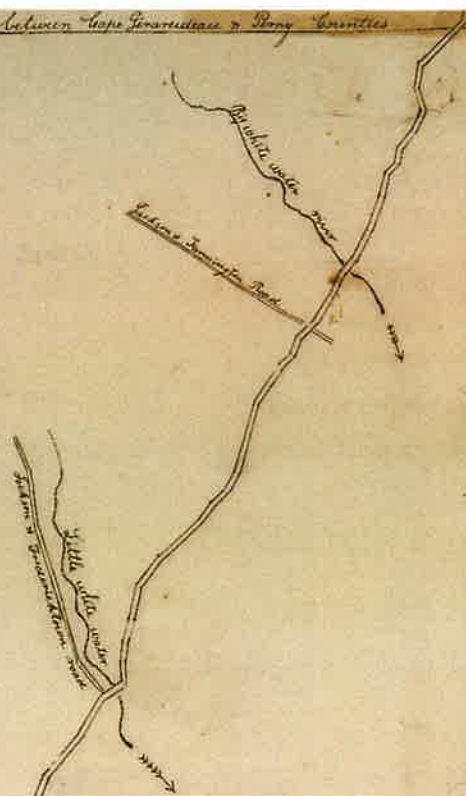
1839 David H. Burr Post Roads map showing Jackson to Fredericktown road.

The earliest road survey was an 1843 State road survey by Aaron Snider which shows a portion of the Jackson to Fredericktown road. One copy calls it the Jackson to Fredericktown road and the other calls it a county road. The state road that was surveyed closely aligns to present state HWY 51.



2^d Sheet

Line between Cape Girardeau & Perry Counties



A map of that part of a State Road leading from the Bank of the Mississippi River
opposite to the Town of Chester in Illinois to the Town of Greenville in Wayne County Mo.
which lies within Cape Girardeau County drawn by a scale of one to an inch
and being 17 1/2 Miles in length

Courses and distances

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26	S 5° W	15.00
27	S 5° E	15.00
28	S 53° W	20.00
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30	S 35° W	43.00
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32	S 35° W	49.00
33	S 56° W	65.00
34	S 50° W	18.00



The James Brooks map of 1870 shows the road coming from Millersville to the edge of Cape County. (Very faint even on the original.)

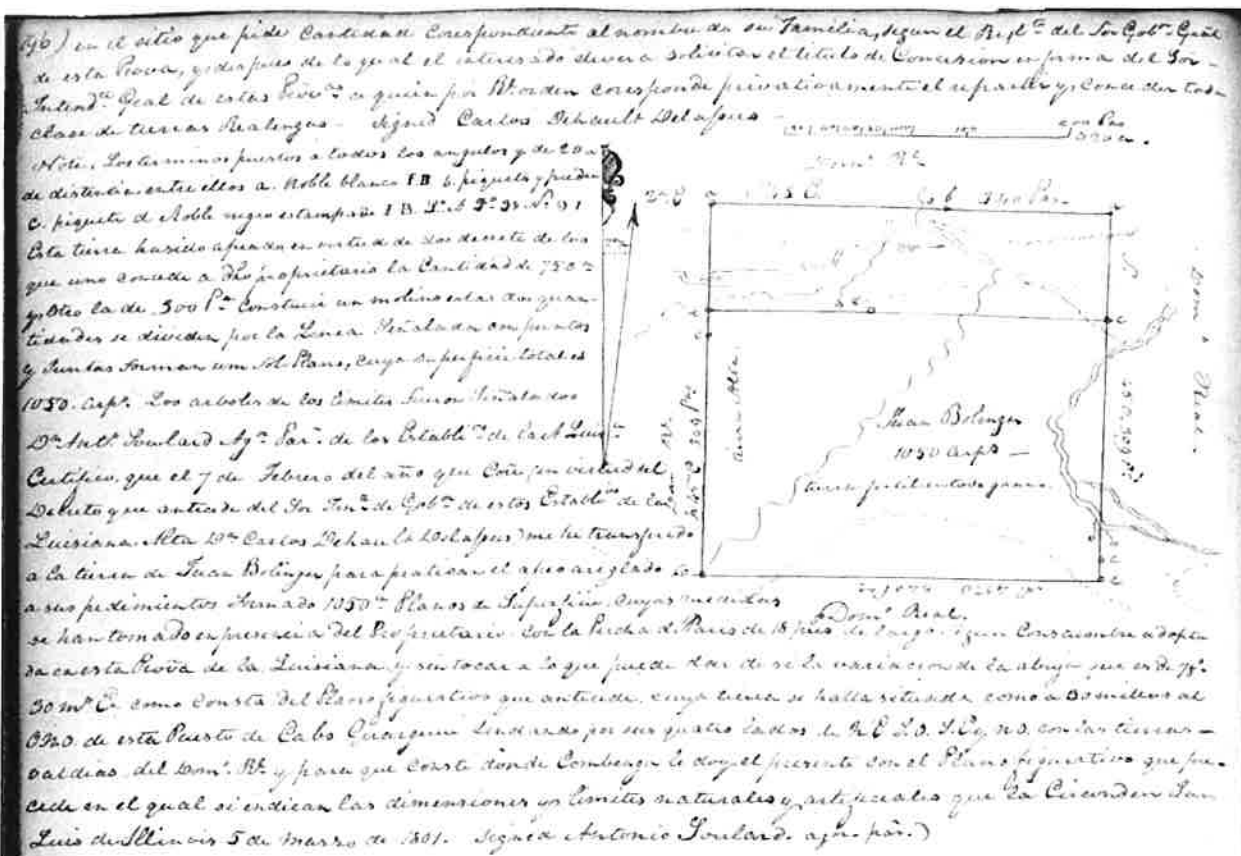


(enhanced manually – green dots represent Jackson to Fredericktown road)

Coming from Cape County, County Rd. 352, you would cross the county line onto BCR 368 which ran right through US land surveys #2226, 675 and 809. Proceed due north onto State Hwy. B that took over the vacated portion of 368, then west onto BCR 366, BCR 366 passes through USPS #3143 & 774. These two land

grants were to pioneer Christian Seabaugh. Christian had two sons who became doctors and his neighbor George Washington Mayfield, son of a Revolutionary War veteran, had five sons and seven grandsons who became doctors. Locals call this area "Doctor's Row."

Continue northwest on BCR. 364 which crosses pioneer Philip Bollinger's land grant #227. Philip was a brother to Matthias who built Bollinger/Dolle Mill and to George Frederick for whom the county was named. A short way further on BCR 364 is the location of a long gone log house that was the favorite stop of Jesse James where he would request his favorite of fried chicken from the lady of the house.

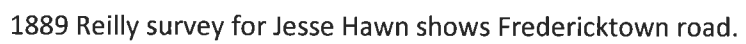


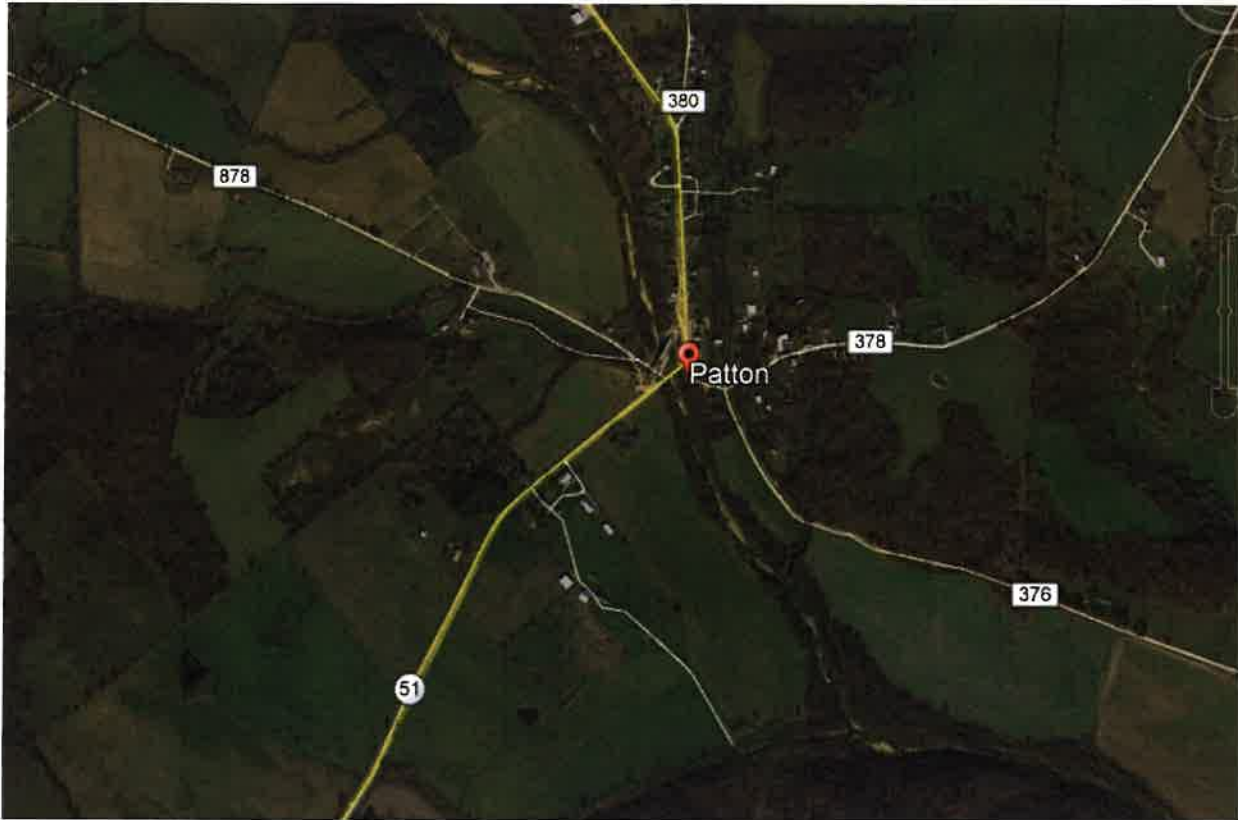
Survey of John Bollinger's Survey No. 768 shows Jackson to Fredericktown road faintly.

American State Papers Public Lands Vol 2 pg 589

Grant of Survey No. 768 to John Bollinger (which John Bollinger/ s)

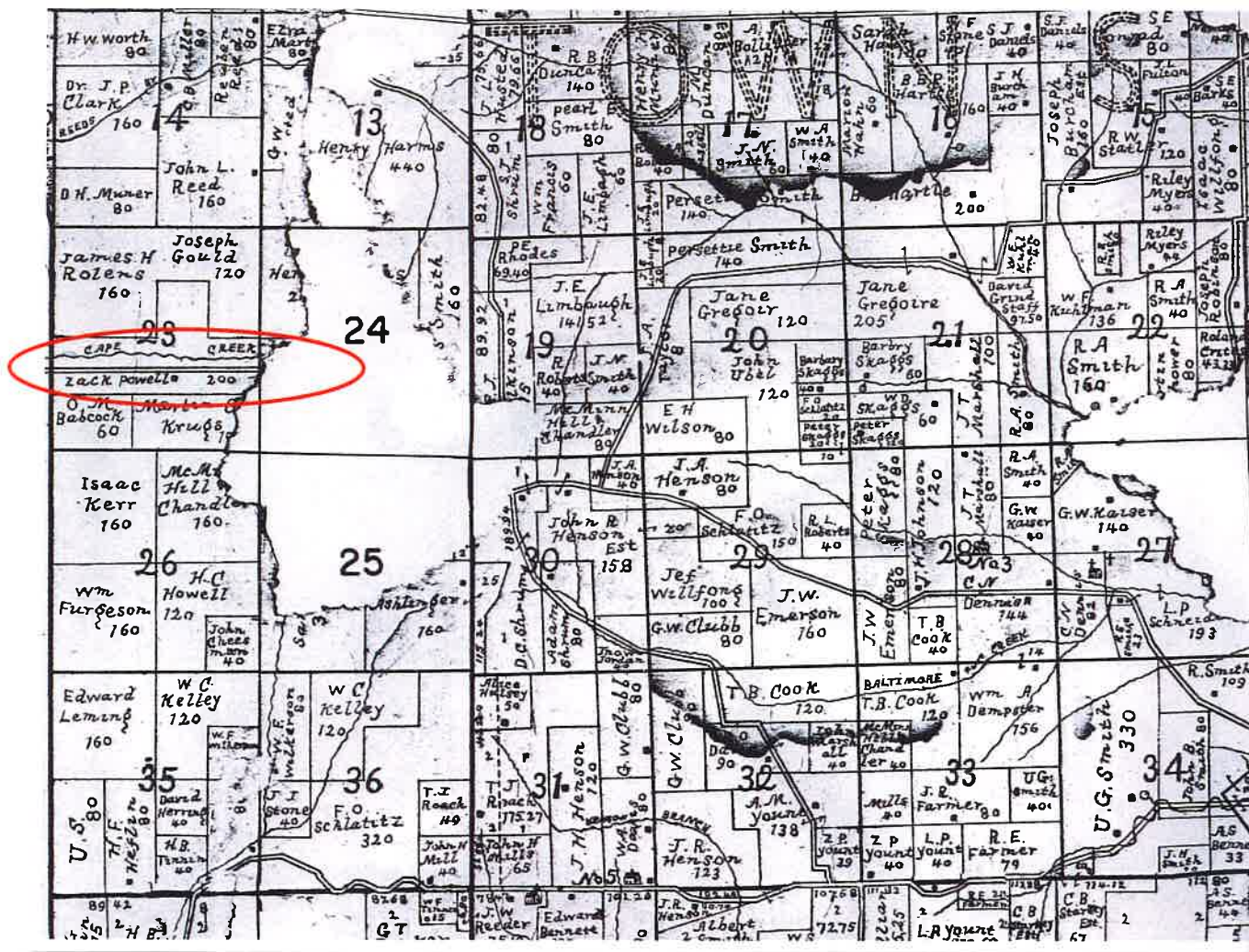
COMMISSIONERS' CERTIFICATES—Continued.									
No.	Date.	Name of person under whom land was claimed.	In whose favor issued.	Reason of the claim.	Water claim.	Number of acres.	Number of square.	State.	
768	June 1.	John Bollinger	John Bollinger	Concession	White Water	-	750	Cape Girardeau.	
769	June 1.	John Kays	John Kays, or his legal representative	Concession	White Water	-	250	Cape Girardeau.	
770	June 1.	William Yarns	John Bollinger, etc.	Settlement right	White Water	-	300 (117 3/4)	Cape Girardeau.	
771	June 1.	Joseph Colburn	Joseph Colburn, or his legal representative	Settlement right	White Water	-	400	Cape Girardeau.	
772	June 1.	Joseph Pickett	Joseph Pickett	Settlement right	White Water	-	350	Cape Girardeau.	
773	June 7.	David Anderson	William Bollinger and D. Anderson	Settlement right	White Water	-	350 (260 3/4)	Cape Girardeau.	
774	June 7.	William Bollinger	William Bollinger	Settlement right	White Water	-	300	Cape Girardeau.	
775	June 7.	Charles Miller	John Dwyer	Settlement right	White of Red Top	-	250	St. Louis.	
776	June 7.	William Miller	William Miller	Settlement right	Grand Chain	-	350	Cape Girardeau.	
777	June 7.	John Shaw	John Shaw	Settlement right	White Water	-	550	Cape Girardeau.	
778	June 7.	Adam Dwyer	Adam Dwyer	Settlement right	White Water	-	450 (242 1/2)	Cape Girardeau.	



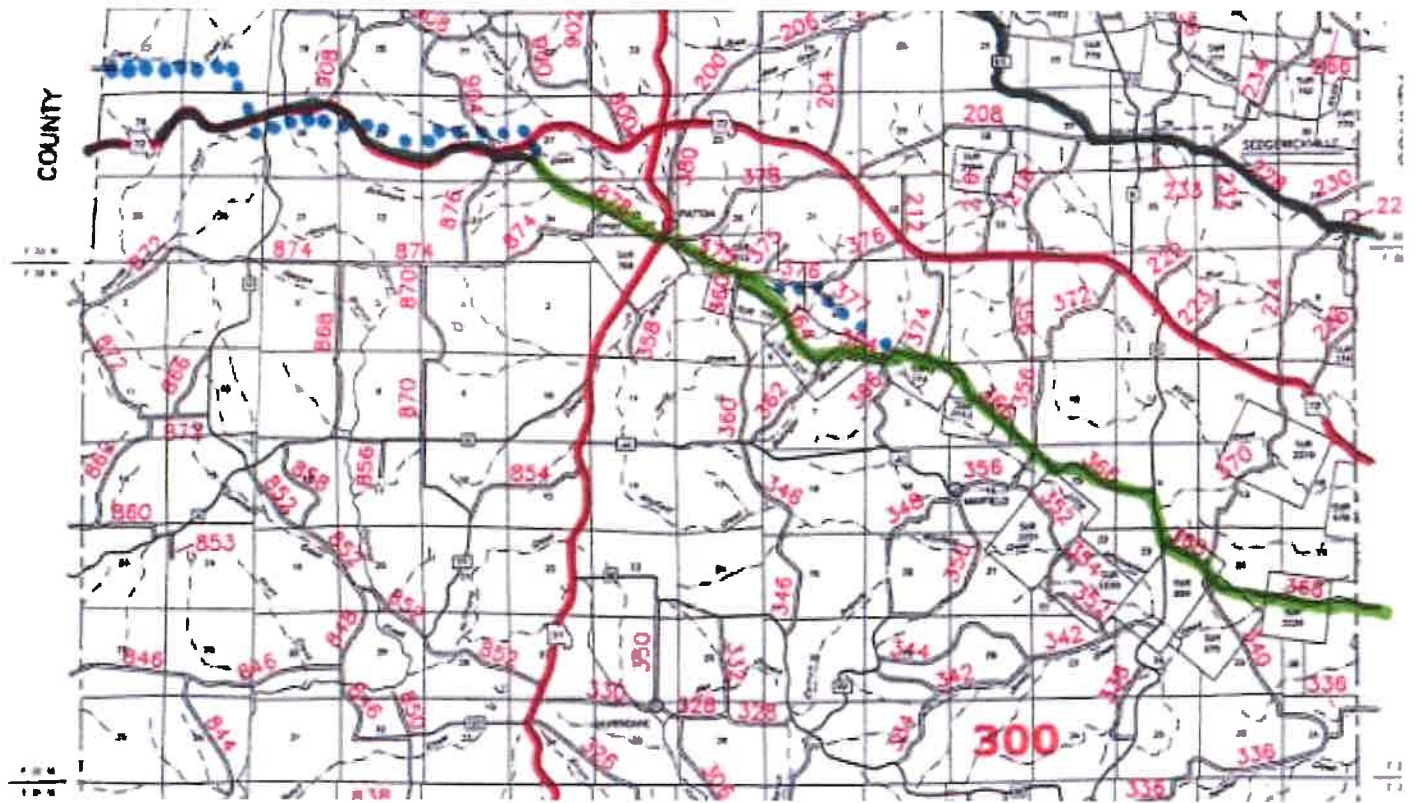


Present day Patton area.

Continue on BCR 375 to the Patton intersection of HWY 51. Cross State HWY 51 onto BCR 878. BCR 878 has been vacated from the time it reaches present HWY 72 to where it went in a northwesterly direction and crossed into Madison County just south of Cape Creek. Hwy 72 is the only continuous present road available after 878 now.



Plat from Township 33N Range 8E unknown date in Cape County archives. Damaged map shows Exit from Bollinger County into Madison County just south of Cape Creek before Hwy 61/72 was mapped. That road would meet MCR 248 toward Castor Station then Fredericktown.



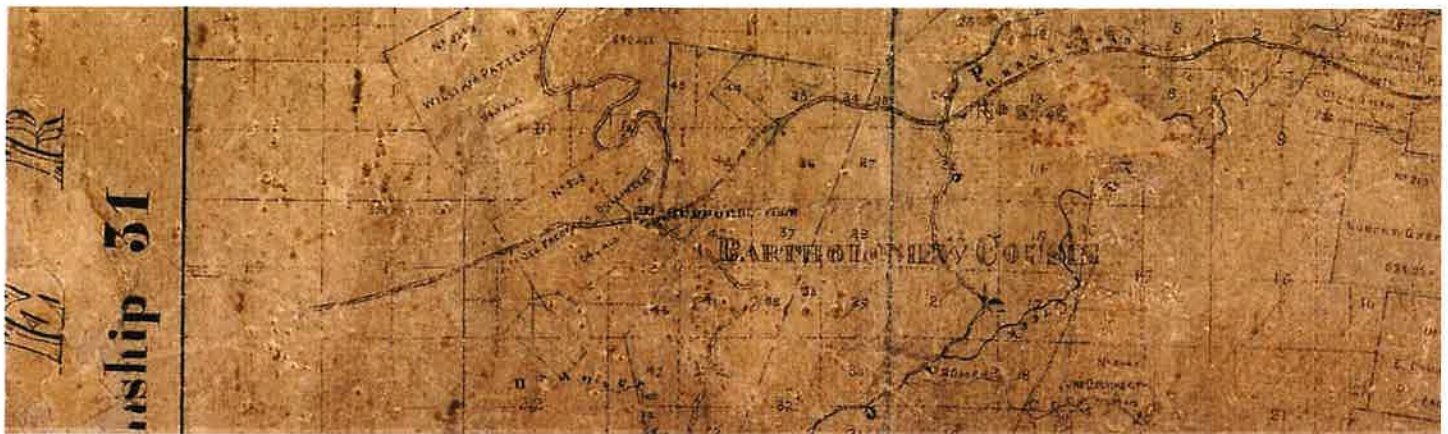
Modern map with Hildebrand route in green. Blue dots are where we believe the road actually went but has been vacated or moved by county. As can be seen in the upper right corner of this map, the Hildebrand route was not very far from the Northern route that ran through Sedgewickville.

The Hildebrand route came through Jackson to Fredericktown. The best route there is shown in the maps and information that is above.

Benge route through Bollinger County:

The Benge route through Bollinger County follows the Jackson to Greenville road. The earliest settlers were in this area since the 1790's and had established market and familial roads. The Jackson to Greenville road was surveyed in 1837 for State Hwy. 34 and also closely followed the Burr Postal Road map of 1839 that shows the post stop in "Greene" which is the predecessor of Marble Hill. The Military trail that also closely followed the earlier postal and family roads was used for the Civil War and helped to establish future state and federal roads in the area.

Coming from Jackson, the trail would have gone through Burfordville where George F. Bollinger had a large mill and settlement.



The "gravel road" in the Brooks 1870 map is what became present Hwy 34.

Continuing southwest, the path diverged in a few spots from present state Hwy. 34 and will be shown on an accompanying map. By the time the detachment had reached Marble Hill, they were being pressed very hard. Initial county historians believed they had crossed at the future swinging bridge location, but Mr. Russell Weisman, MoDot historian has aligned present roads with a digital (GPS) version of the 1837 plat and believed the crossing would have been a little further east. In digging through family plats, we found that the very first Lutes house (1817)(founders of Lutesville/Marble Hill) was a two story log house hiding under additions and modern siding and matched the 1837 plat of family locations. This caused us to research further in Marble Hill and found the landowner right beside the creek was told that the crossing which was the Military trail and early pioneer crossing matched the 1837 plat. So when they reached Marble Hill, they entered just at the edge of town on the Military trail that is now vacated but falls just behind the homes that face Broad Street. This continues south and crosses the Hwy. 34 bypass into Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Mock's field where the creek crossing

is located. He has owned the farm for 25 years and the person he bought it from had owned it for 50. He was told the crossing is where the early pioneers went for ice in the winter and then crossed to do business with the Lutes family. The crossing is directly across from what would be the future jail and ice house just south of present Crown St. They faced a large hill and road that is the present Ellen St. and just at the top of that hill is the Log house that presently belongs to Bill and Louis Acup. They continued on this street to where it would meet Possum Creek Road (BCR 502). Continuing southwest on Possum creek road, they would have gone past a family homestead of Thomas Adams. Continuing on BCR 502 another mile, the county changed the road in the early 1900s. The road used to run on the north side of the creek for about a half mile and came out on the present BCR 519. They still call BCR 519 the Military Trail even though a portion of it has been vacated for over 50 years. BCR 519 at the time of the Trail of Tears would have gone all the way through to meet BCR 506. BCR 506 continues southwest toward Buchanan. BCR 506 on the modern day maps runs into State Hwy H. On the 1906 Bollinger County Plat map, the county road ran continuously to where it met 702. There was no Hwy H in 1906. Continue southwest on BCR 702 until it crosses State Hwy Y and becomes BCR 738.

The other witness structure and eyewitness account falls at the edge of our county. The McMinn family lived in this area and built their log cabin in the early 1820s. According to the U. S. Senate Document No. 120, 25 Congress, second session, p. 535, Samuel's son Washington McMinn remembered distinctly the removal of the Cherokee Indians. He mentioned a peculiarity which he observed among the passing tribes which was not generally known, that the Cherokee tribes had in their possession many African slaves." Their plantation was where the Benge detachment would have crossed Castor River into what is now Wayne County. In 1837, BCR 738 went all the way to the edge of Bollinger County and met Wayne CR. 224 and on to Greenville. Now the last short portion has been vacated by the county. The Benge route in Bollinger County is shown on the county map that follows. (modern day edition).

We are so fortunate to have not one but two witness structures on this route that are both in excellent shape for their age.

Documentation:

Earlier research from Rusty Weisman, MoDot historian.:

From Ft Payne Alabama to Jackson Mo. the Benge Detachment was accompanied by Col. Jonathan L. Colborn – He was the contractor's representative – the agent of Chief John Ross and his brother Lewis Ross – who were responsible for the removal under Cherokee rather than US military supervision.

On March 2, 1841 Colborn was deposed by the Cherokee's attorney in Washington DC – during Chief John Ross's efforts to secure full reimbursement for the cost of the removal.

Colborn indicates that the Benge Detachment crossed the Mississippi River at IronBanks/Columbus KY and that they arrived at Jackson on Nov. 28, 1838 – where he left them.

The Colborn deposition allows us to know that the Southern Advocate newspaper account relates to the Benge Detachment – and not any of the other detachments who also passed through Jackson.

The key documents include mention of the Benge Detachment in the Jackson Mo. - Southern Advocate Newspaper – Dec. 1 1838

Cherokee Indians – during the preceding week 1900 of this tribe of Indians, which the government is engaged in removing, passed through town.

Some of them have considerable wealth, and make a very respectable appearance; but most of them are poor and exceedingly dissipated.

Twenty years later, the John C. Darr Wagon Train passed the same way –

Here is the excerpt from Darr's diary for that day.

16th Nov Morning clear and cold, left our camp four miles east of Dallas, seat of justice for Bollinger county; it had the appearance of being a lively place, which we passed through. Our way led us over rocky, barren hills, though small valleys were very productive. Hills generally heavy timbered with pine and other growths. Took up camp 18 miles from Dallas, at Mrs. McMeinus, a sister of my father, a very old woman, living near the Castor river where she owned a large farm. This being the first time I ever saw her. My father had another sister who married a man by the name of Arney who moved to Missouri at the same time the McMeinus did and never were heard of afterwards. We reduced our journey today 22 miles, clear and cold. (McMeinus would really be McMinn)

Maps



1839 Burr Postal Road portion (Shows Jackson to Greene post office(Now Marble Hill) and southwest to Greenville.

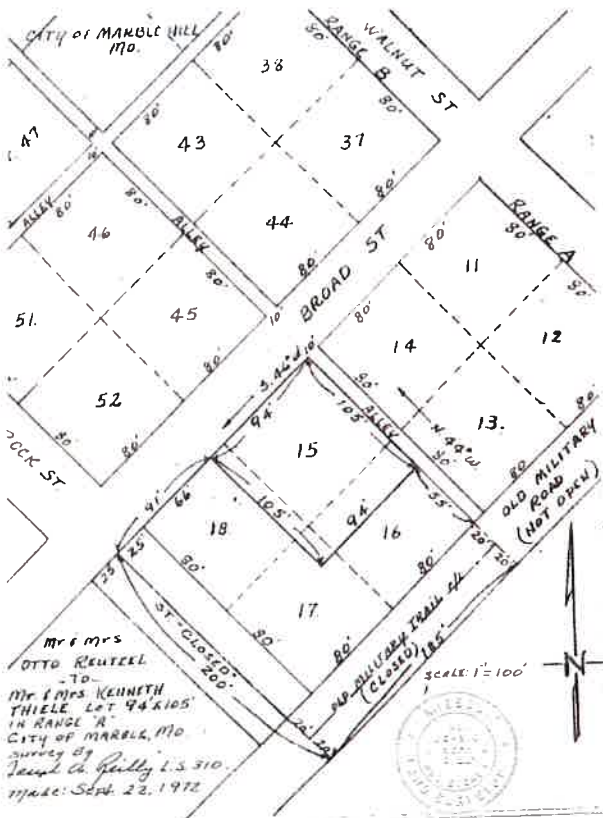
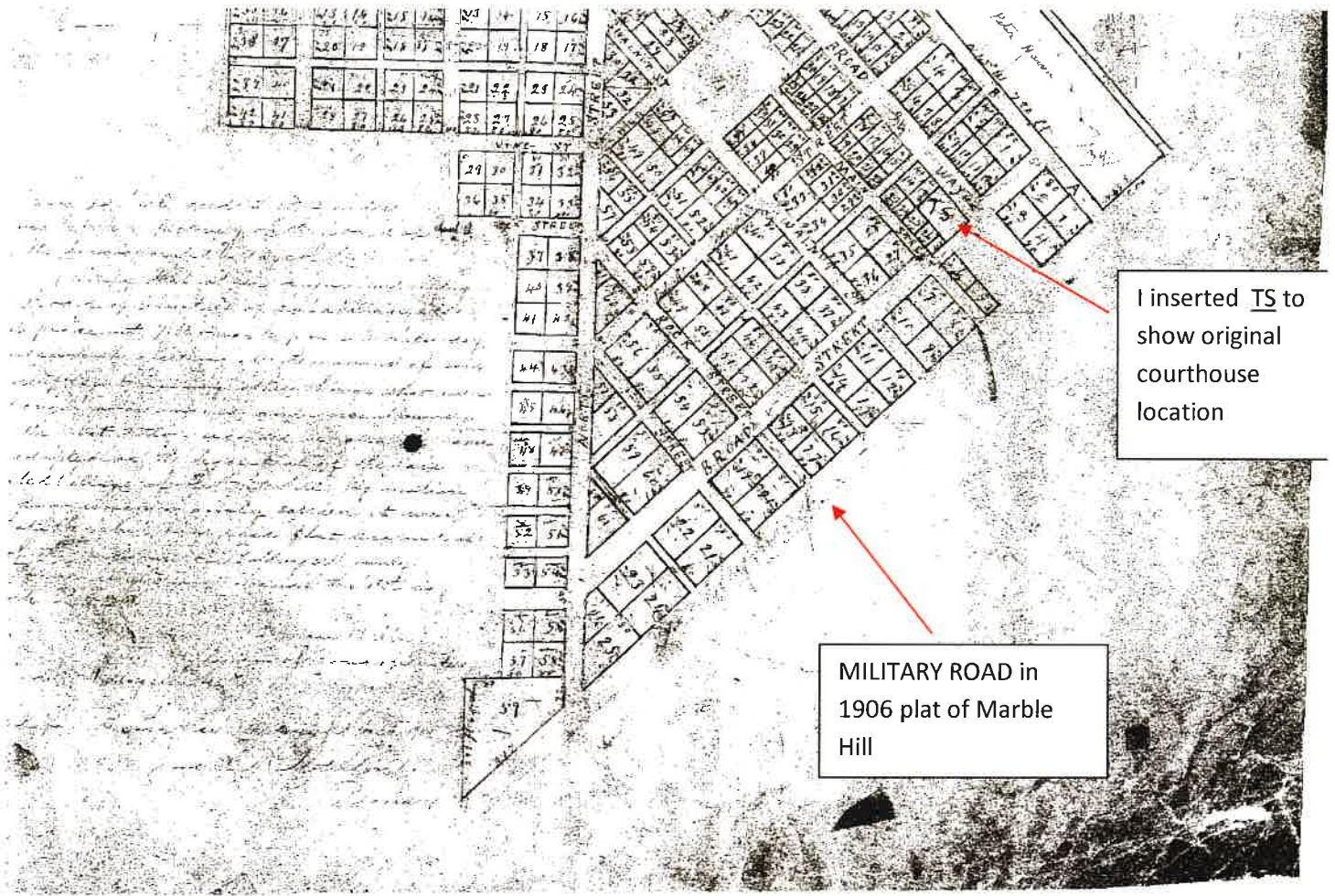


Exhibit #1:

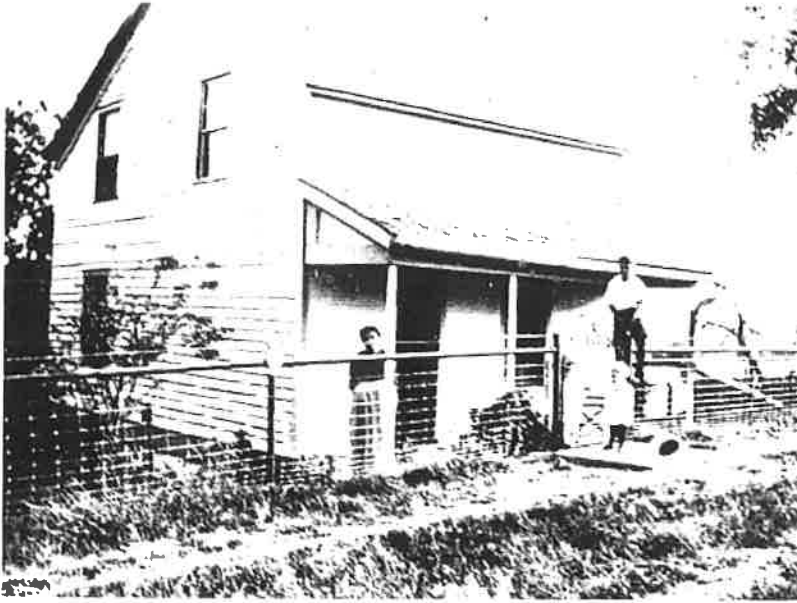


Photo Courtesy of Paul W. Squires

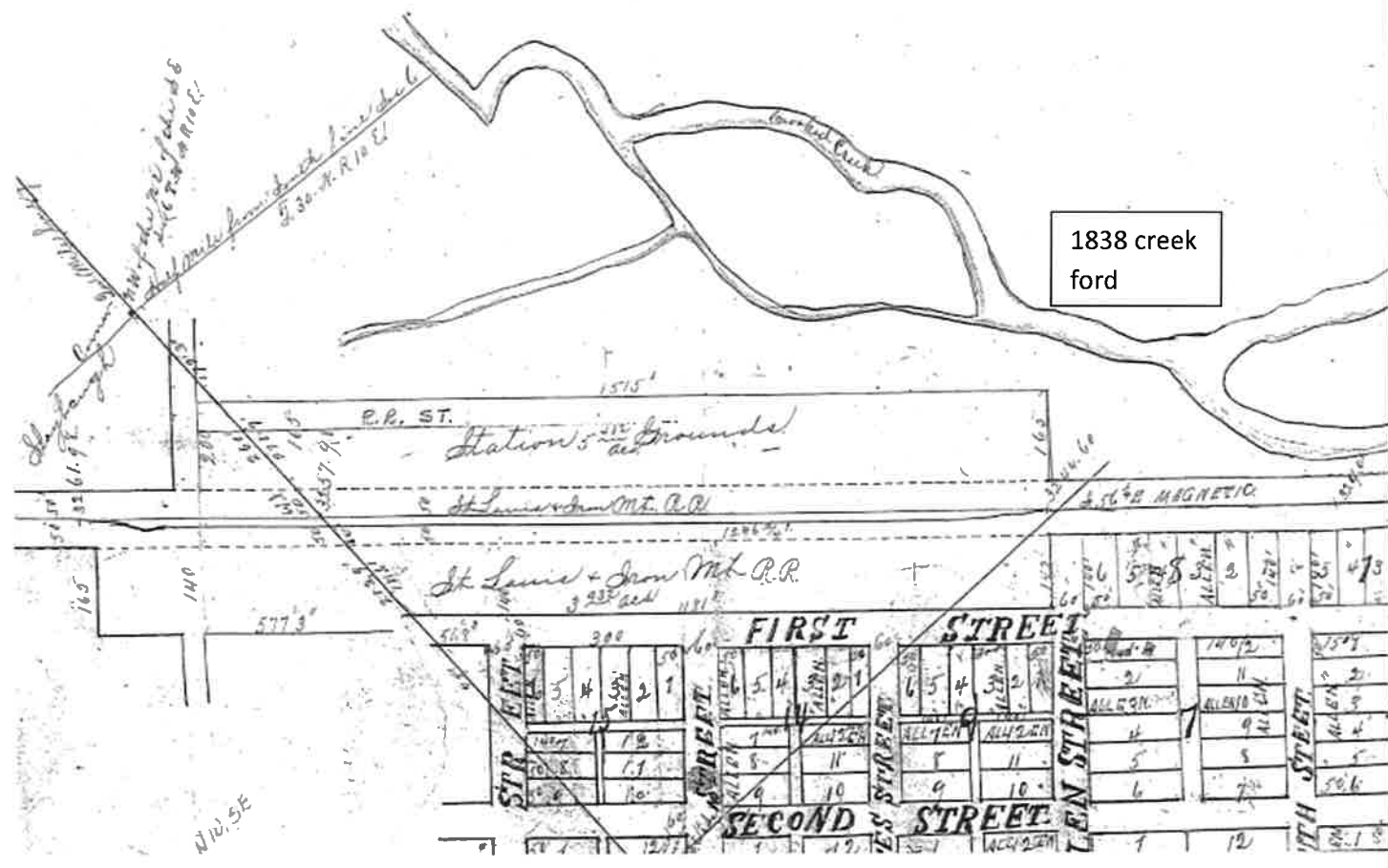
This house, formerly the home of Mrs. Sarah Crow, is one of the oldest still standing in Marble Hill. It fronts on Broad Street at the end of Rock Street. The old military road ran back of the acreage on which it was built in the original part of the village first called New California, and later Dallas, before being named Marble Hill.

Mrs. Crow, the "Lady at the Loom" is shown standing on the front porch; Paul W. Squires, her only grandchild living in 1980 who contributed his memories of her in this publication, is sitting on the gate post; Merle, the youngest Squires grandson is standing near the hat which he seems to have temporarily discarded; and to his right is Howard Squires, also her grandson. This picture was taken about 1919.

* * * * *

Plat of the Town of Lutesville
 in the County of Gallinger and on the
 Saint Louis and Iron Mountain Rail Road

1869





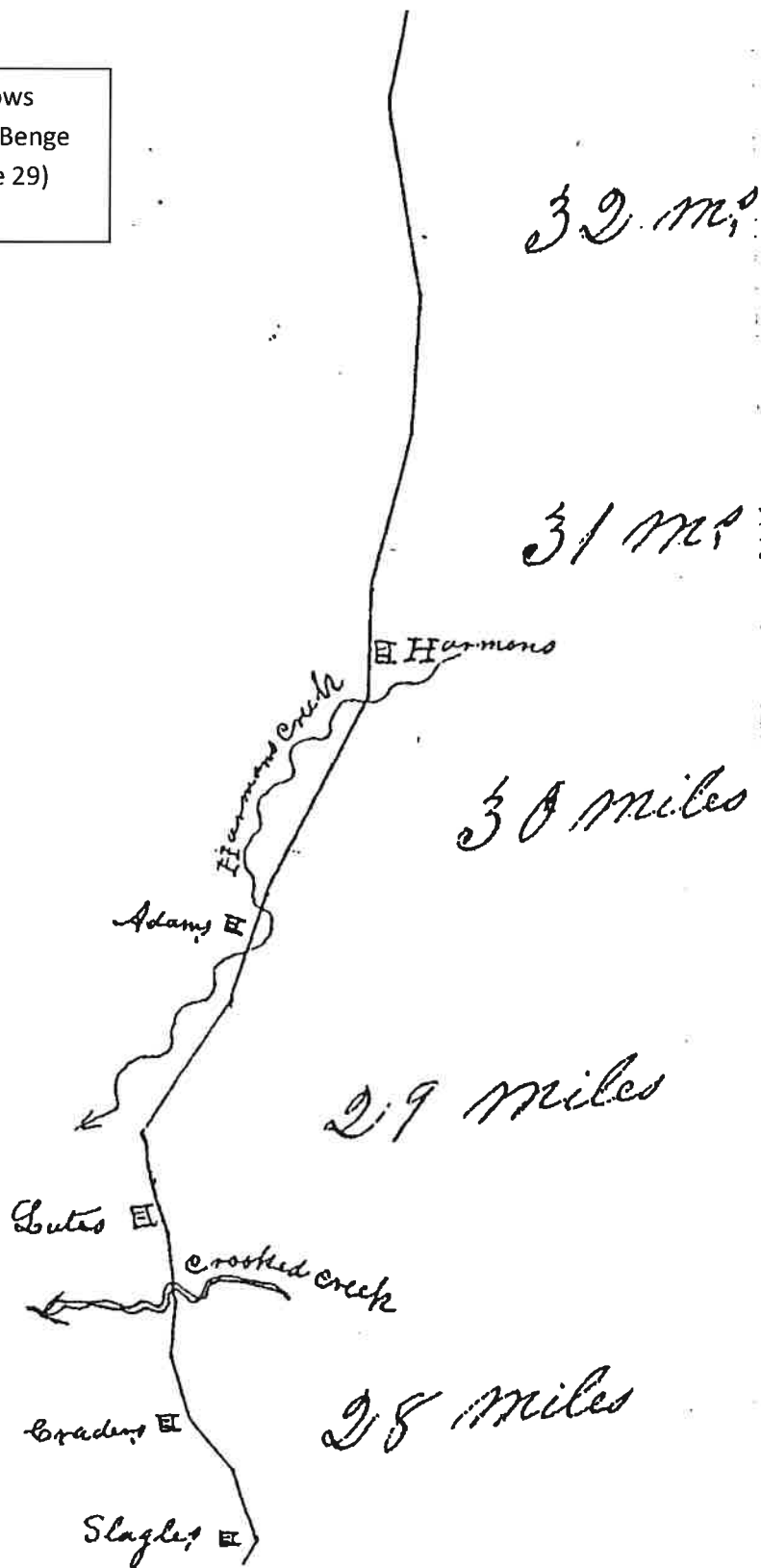
Lutes house in 1869 and
in 1837 state survey

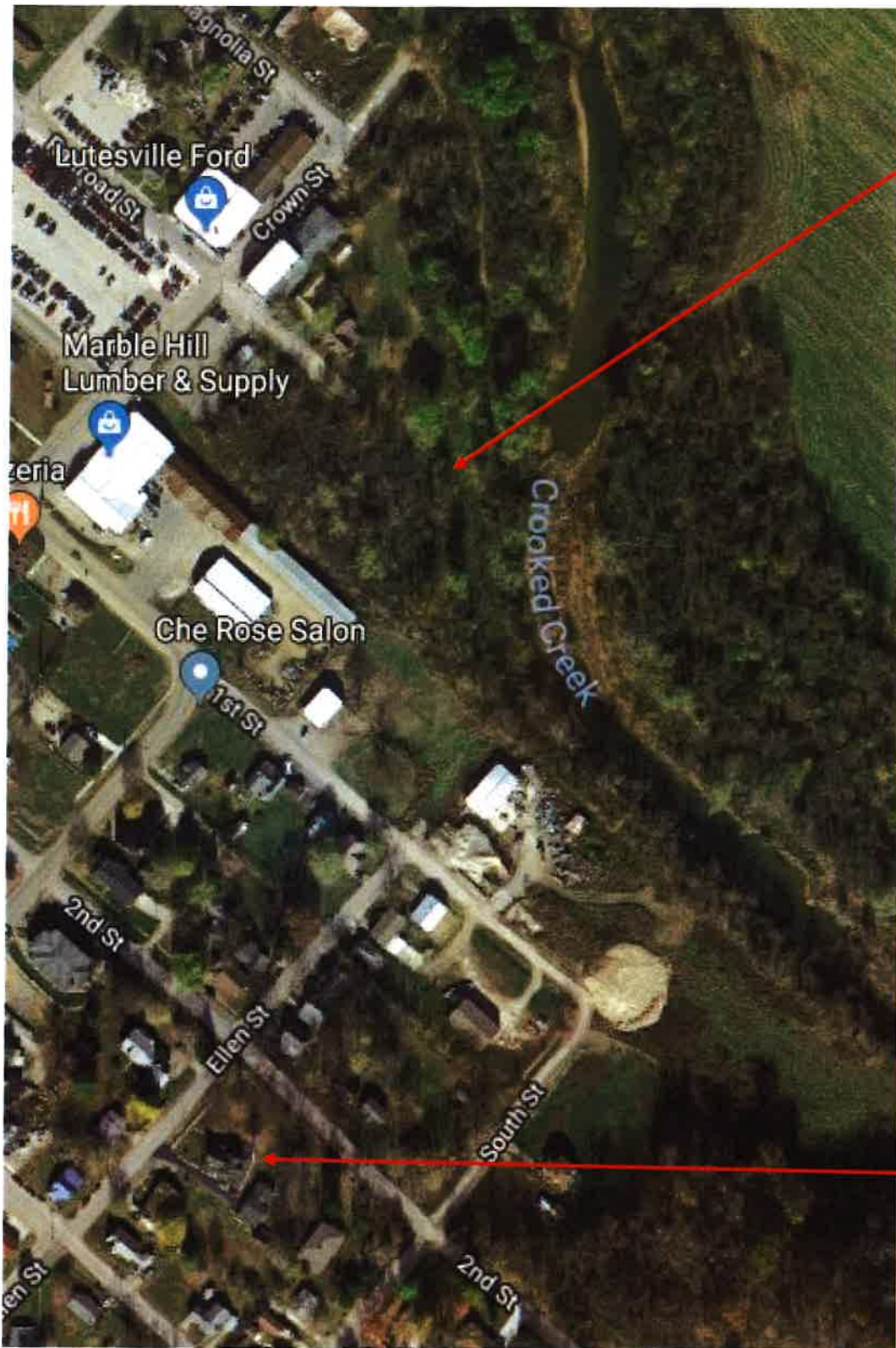
I, Hannah Lutes, the wife of the said John Lutes, do hereby certify that the above and of all so far as the same are laid out upon our lot and the South West quarter of the East quarter with all the parcels of ground lying thereon intended for sale which are represented by these claims to the use and benefit of the public and to be embraced in the public streets and roads and that this thirty first day of July A.D. 1869

Witness Moses Whybark } John Lutes

31st day of July A.D. 1869 before the undersigned the of said, personally came, Eli Lutes

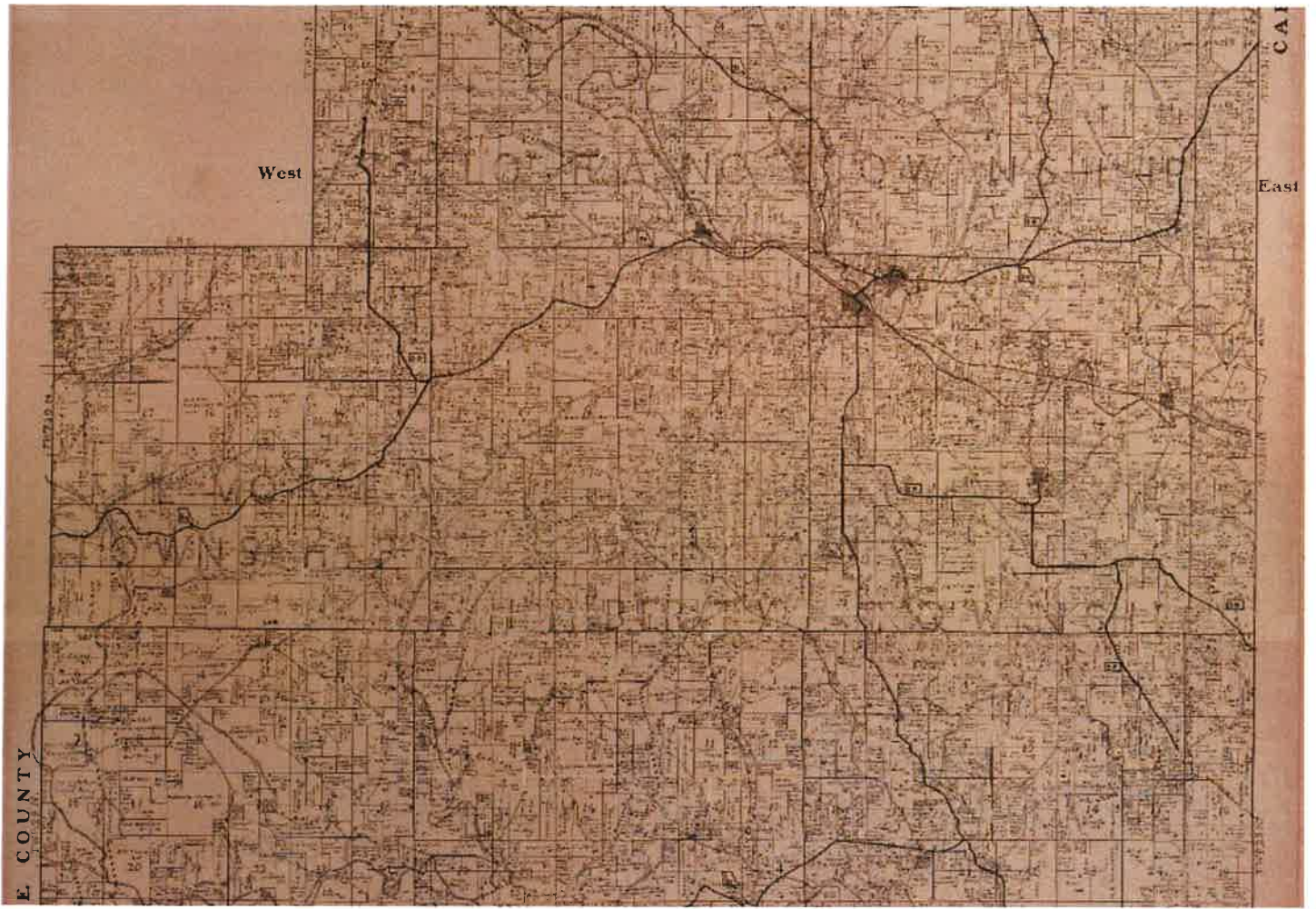
1837 state survey that shows
landowners a year before Bengé
route (Lutes house at mile 29)





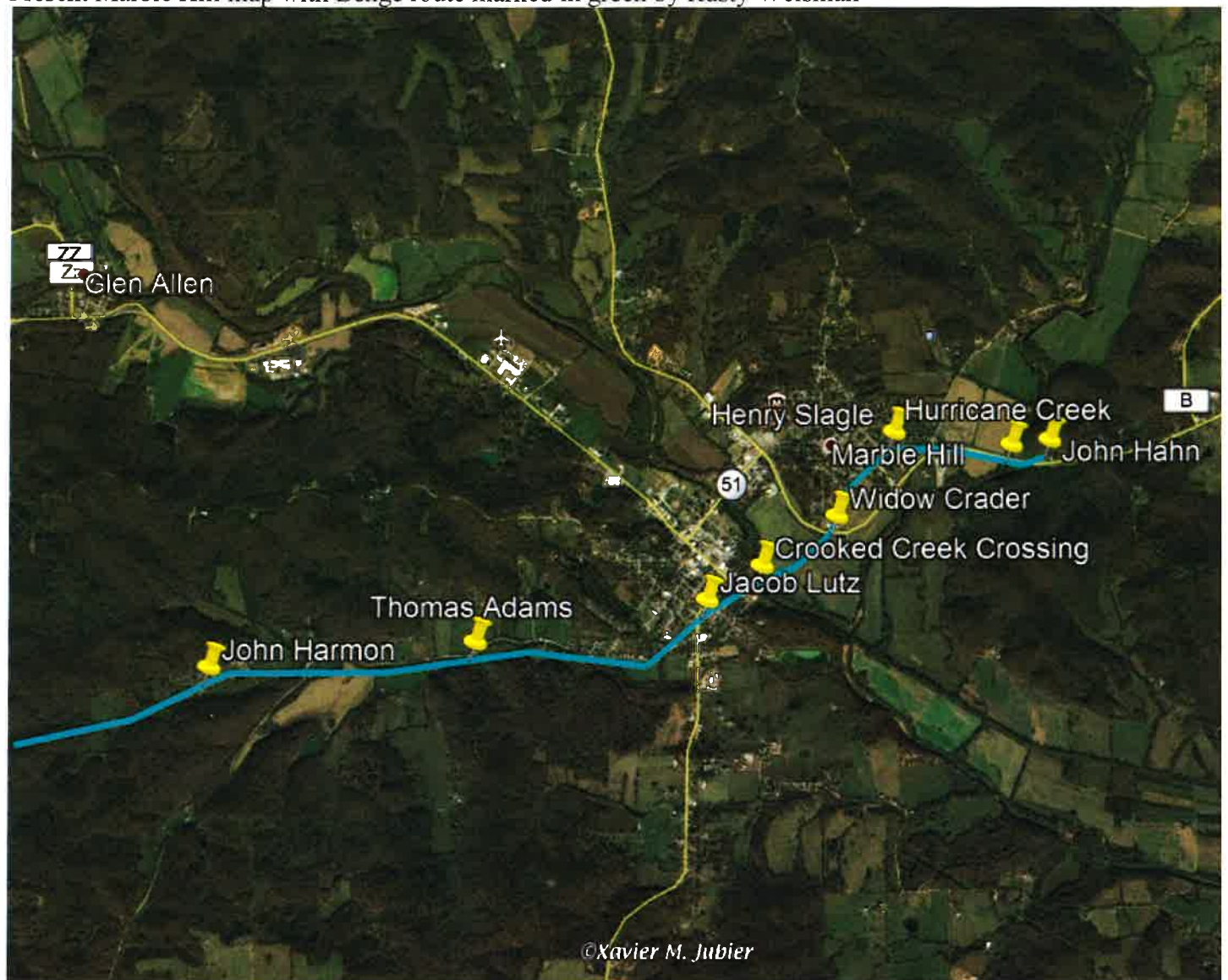
Crooked
creek
ford in
1838

Lutes house
on 1837
state survey

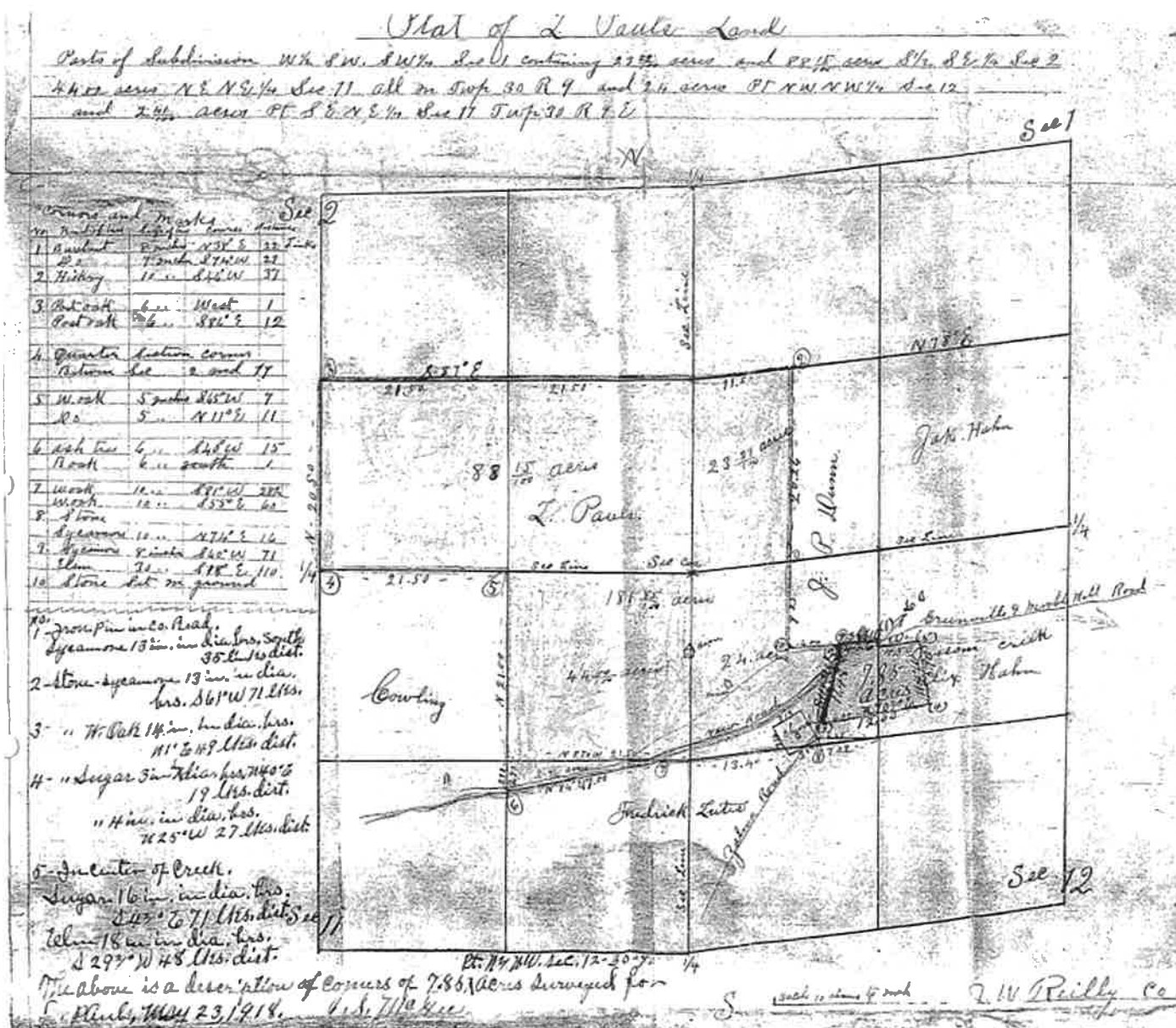


1906 Bollinger County Plat mat.

Present Marble Hill map with Bengé route marked in green by Rusty Weisman



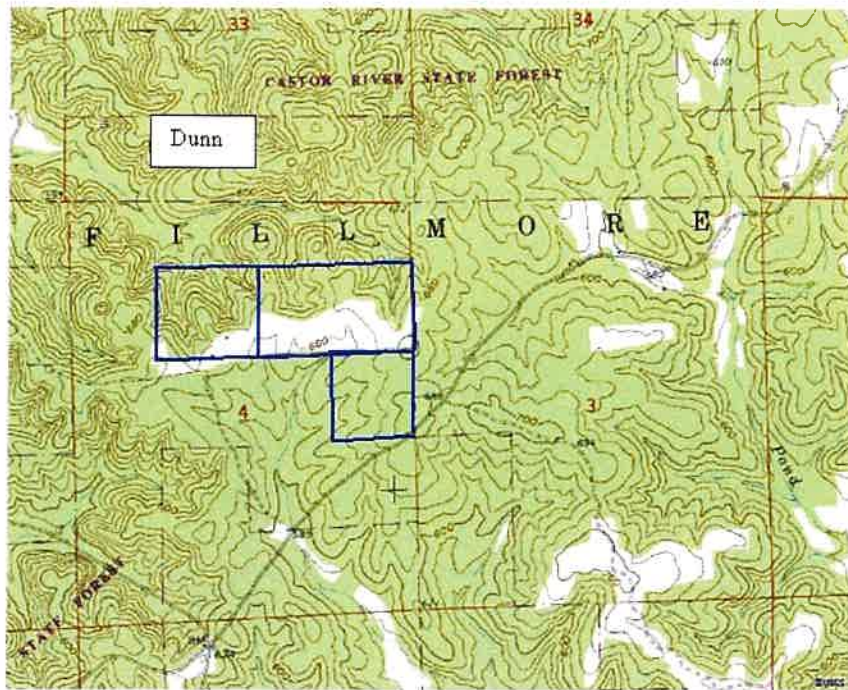
PP



Survey shows changed BCR 502 before this 1918 survey. One mile outside Marble Hill where 502 meets 519.

Here is part of a USGS topo map showing the location of the parcel in Bollinger Co. owned by the Dunns along the State Road from Cape Girardeau to Arkansas. The house shown on the 1837 plat (sent separately) seems to have been in the 40 acre parcel in the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 4. The early state road more or less followed the road shown on this map.

Rusty



Map showing 147.895 acres of land entered by Joseph A. Dunn in 1900

Email sent by Rusty Weisman about state road closer to the McMinn properties.

The McMinn House
is being restored.
When this photo was
taken the front porch
was still under
restoration.



The Buchanan School
was restored several
years ago.

Log cabin is preserved under additions.

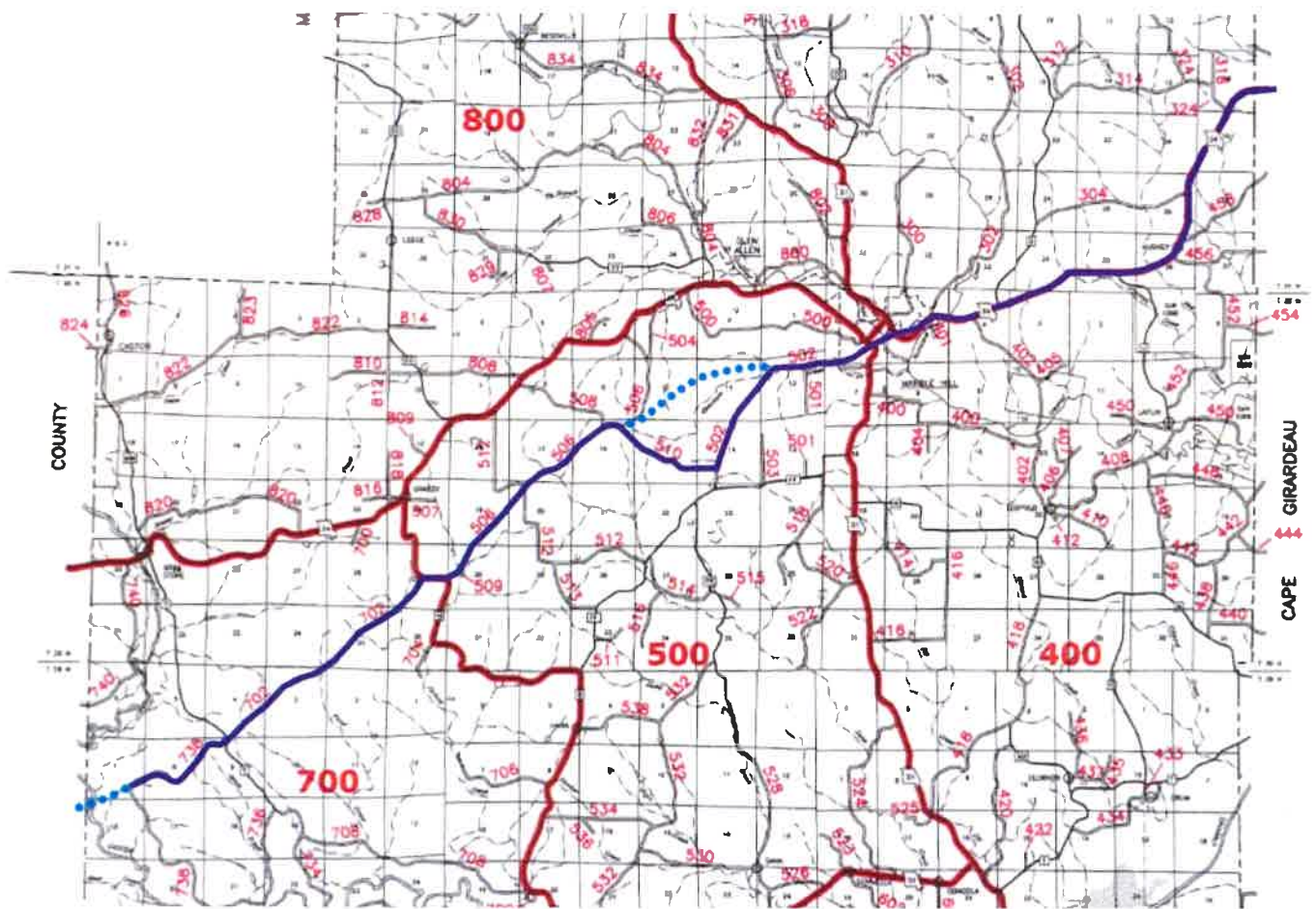


View toward Wayne County from the McMinn Plantation

The Military Trail cut across the plantation and forded the Castor River into Wayne County where it crossed the Barnhart property.



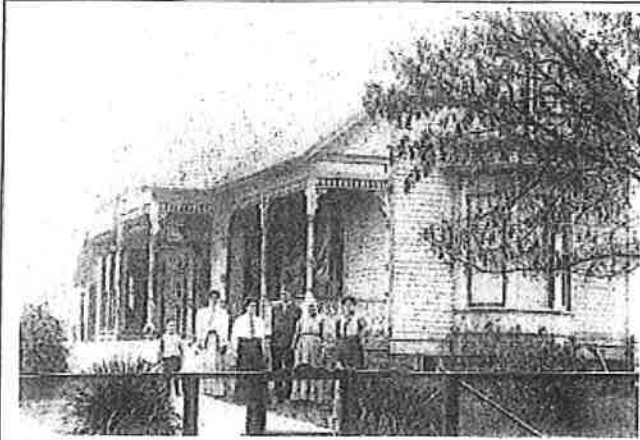
Castor river bottoms of McMinn property.



Bengé route marked on current county map in purple. Blue dots are original segments that have been vacated.

Lutes Witness house in Marble Hill

Original land patent to Jacob Lutes



Mr. Burford also told us that he was born in this house on March 3, 1903.

Memo

From
Peyton Jerome Burford
Oct 29, 1989

To Mr & Mrs Lutes
I promised this photograph to
9 years ago and here it is.
I am 84 now, was 75 when
I saw you. I was about 6
when the picture was taken.
My grandmother, next to last
on the right was born in this
house. She died about 1914
and in article in the paper at
time of her death I figured
the house to be about 170
years old at this time. I
am second on the left.

Peyton J. Burford

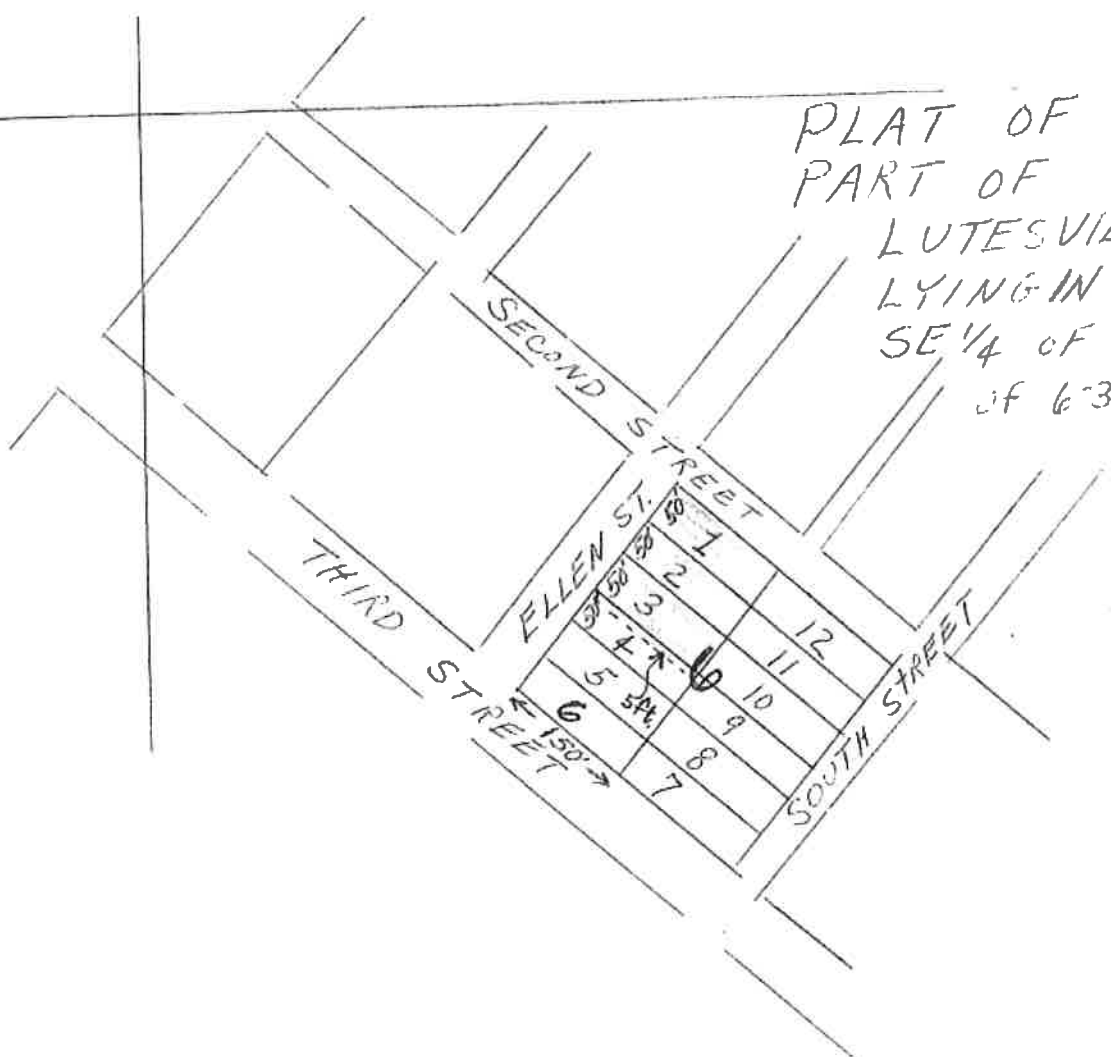


Bill and I moved here on January 1, 1967, so we've lived in the same place for 50 years. The original part of the house is 12-inch square logs with mud between the logs. When we wanted to put an extension telephone upstairs, the telephone man burned up his drill trying to get through to the inside! As far as we know, this is the oldest house in Marble Hill (the old Lutesville) and was in the Eli Lutes family, the founders of Lutesville, Missouri.



Witness structure on Bengie route: Original Lutes house. Location shown on 1837 plat. Attached note from Mr. Peyton Burford says that the two story log structure that is under a portion of this house was about 170 years old in 1987 so would bring the original build date to 1817. Additions were added and today the house is owned by Bill and Louise Acup.

PLAT OF
PART OF
LUTESVILLE
LYING IN THE
SE 1/4 OF SE 1/4
OF 6-30-16



PLAT OF LOTS 1, 2, 3 and 5 feet
OF LOT 4 IN BLOCK 6, LUTESVILLE, MO.

The following Aaron Snider survey of 1837 from Cape Girardeau to Arkansas is what most of the Benge route is predicated on:

