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SPECIAL DATES OF INTEREST:

- Today: **Renew your membership!**
- March 11: INRA Board of Directors meeting
- April 9-11: Preserving Historic Places conference, New Albany.
- May 3: Civil War Spring Drill, Huddleston Farmhouse

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INDIANA NATIONAL ROAD ASSOCIATION
Preserve, protect and promote
PO Box 284
Cambridge City, Indiana 47327

Roadwork

MAKE HISTORY, DRIVE IT.

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FIRST HAND ACCOUNT OF CIRCUS

Except from The Road and I (Unpublished Autobiography of Paul Picket, born in 1869, Putnam Co., Indiana)

“The Old National Road! America’s greatest highway. Pathway of an empire. Marriage vow of East and West. A highway of hope and happiness to millions: of failure, suffering and sorrow to some.

No matter how early I rose of mornings, The Road always greeted me with something of delighting interest. The never ending stream of covered wagons, ‘movers’ we called them, accompanied by dogs and often a cow leading at rear, children and men walking beside wagons, songs and at times, strains of violin or banjo sounded from wagons. Oft come a baby’s fretful crying and a tired mother’s comforting lullaby.

This was the great Westward migration yet in motion. During my first few years in the new home I am sure there was never a minute when I could not see a covered wagon on The Road and almost invariably westward bound.

Of course the ‘movers’ were interesting but one morning shortly after sunrise I heard someone shouting, ‘Show’s coming! Show’s coming.’ I didn’t know yet what a show was but out I ran with the rest. Looking across the stream to the east we saw coming down The Old Blue Hill a long line of wagons and queer animals. As they drew near,

the wagons appeared the most glorious things I had ever seen, red and gold and green, blue and yellow, with wonderful carvings and scroll work.

In the march came elephants, camels, etc. filled me with awe and a little fear but to offset this came a troop of Shetland ponies. O! How I love those ponies and talked to my brother about them, hoping to some day own one. Now came the monkey wagon and we could see them looking through the bars of their small windows. A roar or growl came from a wagon, a bear or lion we felt sure.

While we watched the show cross the Toll Bridge a tragic thing took place. The train of animals became congested on the bridge, which was an open one, until the railing broke and a camel was pushed over and would have fallen but an elephant threw his trunk around the camel’s body and held it for several minutes. Show attendants tried, frantically to get to them but the jam was too great, so at last the elephant let go and the poor camel fell.

The show now moved on but left some men who dragged the camel to a place a short way east of our house and buried it and there, I suppose it’s bones still rest to be found some day by some scientific delver who will herald his find as proof that camels used to range Indiana.

HOUSE FIRE ON HNR

East Germantown (Pershing)—On January 9, 2014, volunteer fire companies, including Cambridge City, Centerville, Milton, Dublin and New Lisbon, responded to a house fire at 615 Main St., in East Germantown.

All occupants made it out safely, and the fire was quickly knocked down by firefighters.

The house received significant damage, but is said to be structurally sound. The owners are planning to repair the damage. The home was likely constructed during the early National Road era. It’s a vernacular federal style which was common along the Road during the 1830-50s.



Above: Fire damage on the rear of this National Road Era House in East Germantown.

20 YEARS FOR INRA

20 years is not a long time, but it’s just long enough to make an impact along the Historic National Road. The Indiana National Road Association is an affiliate of Indiana Landmarks. Landmarks helped create INRA in 1994 and has been a primary financial and professional benefactor ever since. INRA’s office is located at Indiana Landmark’s Eastern Regional Office at the Huddleston Farmhouse.

Since 1994, INRA’s successes include, National Scenic Byway designation, All–American Road designation, Installation of Historic National Road Interpretive Panels, and much, much more. **Support INRA in making 2014 and beyond our best years yet!**

OWN A PIECE OF NATIONAL ROAD HISTORY

624 W. Church St., Brazil
Built: 1900 (likely earlier)
Size: 1,240 sq. ft.
Beds: 2
Style: Federal/Vernacular (listed as Craftsman)
MLS# 71583
List price: \$32,000
Contact: Emmert/GMAC Real Estate
812-448-8580



Become a member or donate today!

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State _____ Zip _____
Phone(____) _____
Email _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Traveler (Individual)	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Movers (Family)	\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Veteran Journeyman	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Drover (Business)	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Toll House Keeper	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> King of the Road	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member	\$1,000.00

(make check payable to INRA)

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