Sometime in the 1200s, the Anishnaabe people started using this trail, which soon formed into the Three Fires, consisting of the Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi Tribes. Some records show the possibility of the Cadillac-Traverse City Old Indian Trail beginning as early as 700 BC. The Hopewell civilization (also called Adena in some regions) is a prehistoric culture of the American middle west. Experts have found evidence of this prehistoric culture dating back to 600 BC. Large shaped burial mounds and extensive trade networks are characteristics of this ancient civilization. Areas

For several centuries, Odawa people have been on these shores and in the woods and hills of this land. We are living amid the places from which spring the stories of our world, ourselves, our families and our tribal nation. The original tribal trails throughout Michigan are a walk through history.





Grab a bite to eat or enjoy a beverage in our

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Hotels, motels, cabins & camping - find the perfect place to stay during your visit to the Cadillac area.











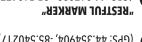


(GPS: 44.332053, -85.520006) 8 "FARM MARKER"

#### (GPS: 44.353083, -85.535178) 6 "МЕАUWATAKA MARKER"

Lake, located west of the unincorporated village. that early travelers stopped and camped on the shore of Meauwataka Manistee River lying ahead along the trail, credence is lent to the story Mitchell to the south and the old Indian village on the north bank of the "half-way" in Pottawatomi. As this area is about halfway between Lake Just west of Marker #9 is the Village of Meauwataka. Meauwataka means





(GPS: 44.367022, -85.560477)

Ð "STAGECOACH MARKER"

villages to be built in Wexford County. It was the first County Seat. Sherman and Manton to the east. Sherman was one of the earliest cross-state stagecoach road passed thru on 16 Road, passing between The Old Indian Trail crosses another old road at Marker #12. The

loads at a slower pace and tore up the roadway with deeper ruts, thus the these two villages. Perhaps, the freight wagons moved carrying heavier between these two roads are the only contiguously cleared land between through-roads in the area. You can see by satellite view that the sections Sherman and Manton. These two roads are the only two such This road, like the Cross-State Stagecoach Road, runs between

### (GPS: 44.450786, -85.634356) "INDIAN CROSSING MARKER SOUTH" 🕺 НІКЕ REQUIRED

fhis bridge as well. on the densely packed top surface. Early white settlers remember using Indians, their families and their animals were able to safely cross the river ."meL yno9" and balles spol to qublind pritering and the noites light gnibuloni besolo won ese ynem, many are now closed including series of campgrounds on the Manistee River. Previously located a benietniam metzy2 bnuorpqmaD tzeroA etat2 napidziM edT



## & FACTS ABOUT KEY MARKERS **MARKERS WITH HISTORY EXPLORING ALL 33**

CONSIDERATIONS WHILE TRAVELING THE ROUTE:

the property around these historic markers. property, and we ask that you respect the owners who maintain Please be aware that many of these markers are on private

# **LAKE MITCHELL MARKER**" (GPS: 44.264082, -85.471926)

stay year around. The inhabitants of this region remained sparse deep voi bib tud sevuest resonand food and forest resources but did not edesnihzing. beruge of the area occurred. Anishinaabe indications of their occupation of the area. When their group of Big Clam, now called Lake Cadillac. The Hopewell left many called Lake Mitchell. Nearby is Little Clam Lake, East and down stream Trail Marker #1 is found on the Northeast shore of Big Clam Lake, later Recommended Start Location

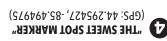
into the mid 1800s. A change accelerated after America's Civil War

Settlers came in mass numbers to the region. ended. Railroads were extended and opened up the wilderness.



(GPS: 44.281173, -85.491706) 3 "BOON MARKER"

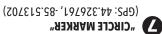
least 1200 years ago, long before the Europeans arrived. te dreups bne sneed, for so to seised species of corn, beans and squash at Hopewell mounds and circles plus recognizable garden sites were The Village of Boon is located a couple of miles west of this marker.



(GPS: 44.303655, -85.499255) В "FIRST PLOW MARKER"

(9 "OLD ASH MARKER"

ash in the region. largely due to the Emerald Ash Borer, which has destroyed many of the woods used for making native tools. No ash are left at this location, according to old texts on this region. Ash were one of the most useful Large white ash trees used to adorn the location of this marker







🕌 НІКЕ ВЕОЛІВЕD

😽 НІКЕ ВЕОЛІВЕD

SOUTE CONTINUED ON INSIDE OF BROCHURE 5t Mary's Church was established in 1884. Roads in the area still consisted (GPS: 44.584951, -85.635316)

woven into many varied and intricate types of containers.

(GPS: 44.527445, -85.645680)

(GPS: 44.512318, -85.656283) "ВЛСКТЕЛ ИОВТН МАРКЕР"

(GPS: 44.504448, -85.656691)

"ВUCKLEY CENTER MARKER"

(GPS: 44.487513, -85.656989)

(GPS: 44.461111,-85.640277)

(GPS: 44.451198, -85.634863) (GPS: 44.451198, -85.634863)

"ИЛЛА САМР МАККЕR"

normal water flow.

left to right and then onward in a northwesterly direction.

morit gnissed fluld toot 08 and qu samon doind lisit neibnl blo and to mob

a long number of years. A short path extends from the right of the marker not all occupied at once, indications point to extensive use as a campsite for

Early historians discovered and counted over 150 fire rings. While likely

opposite side of the river. They accomplished this on a September day with

this task. The Boy Scouts replaced Marker #14 shown on the left side in the

hidges. Reportedly, 700 pounds of dynamite was required to accomplish

years old was growing. Lumber companies wishing to move their newly cut

timber by river down to their sawmills removed these years-old natural

soil had occurred. On that soil surface a large tree perhaps hundreds of

Downstream a short distance was a similar log jam on which a buildup of

picture above and waded the river to refurbish the Marker #75 on the

"ВИСКГЕЛ ЗОЛТН МАРКЕР"

"ВГАСК АЗН МАВКЕВ"

to separate from the next layer. Split then in half, these splints would be

times. Black Ash is highly prized by Indian craftsmen for the "splints" that

Manistee River. Some stands of Black Ash were located here in historic

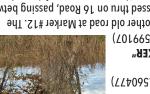
before joining the North Branch Anderson Creek and draining into the

West Branch Anderson Creek gathers water from marshes in this area

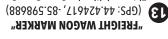
ti gnisues priving the outside surface of a growth ring causing it

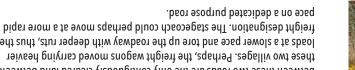
"ЯЗАЯАМ ҮЯАМ ТИІА?" 💽

"МАУГІЕLD МАЯКЕЯ"



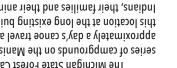
(GPS: 44.409995, -85.599107)



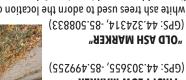












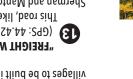
"СІВСГЕ ШАВКЕВ"











around Cadillac illustrate evidence of these burial mounds. Many exist at or around the Cadillac Country Club.

We know that Indians belonging to The People of the Three Fires used the area between Upper Clam Lake (Lake Mitchell) and Lower Clam Lake (Lake Cadillac) establishing campsites for hundreds of years. Aging of relics found in the burial mounds shows that establishment of the trails in the area may go back well before either recorded or oral histories. Might there possibly have been a Hopewell village established here in the mystic past? (Hopewell Civilizations are a prehistoric culture believed to reside in this area of the country and state)

Throughout the past, stories like this have captivated the minds of many history buffs and the first modern mappings of this trail system started to get pieced together by Milo Petoskey Crosby. Upon his arrival to Wexford County in the late 1800s he was captivated by the trail, so much, that upon his retirement (in the early-mid 1900s) he began to mark the trail. He spent years walking the trails based on fragmented historical documents, finding the remnants of the Old Indian Trail. During the 1940s he placed 14 stone markers, which started on Lake Mitchell and ended at the Manistee River near Sherman.

After the original 14 markers were placed, the trail was visited by a select few historians and people with ancestral ties to the trail. This went on for years until James Comp and Ed Babcock, historian and retired Cadillac High School teacher continued the work that Crosby started. Comp and Babcock worked to map and place the next 5 markers.

Finally, in 1987, after 7 years of planning, research and fundraising, trail markers 20-33 were placed by former Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Chairman Frank Ettawagheshik. Ettawagheshik along with the Grand Traverse Sesquicentennial group completed the trail to the West End Beach on the Grand Traverse Bay. For more information, visit: www.cadillacmichigan.com/project/old-indian-trail/



Shop local in and around the Greater Cadillac Area on your next trip!



Find more Spring adventures when you explore the trails, fish our lakes and streams or hit the links.



Cadillac Area Visitors Bureau (231) 775-0657 CadillacMichigan.com

Visit our website for more golf & area travel information

### **COMPLETE GUIDE TO CADILLAC'S OLD INDIAN TRAIL**

This is a great day trip from the Cadillac Area when you are looking to explore the native history of the area.

### CONSIDERATIONS WHILE TRAVELING THE ROUTES

Please be aware that many of these markers are on private property, and we ask that you respect the owners who maintain the property around these historic markers.

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