

INTENTIONAL GERMAN COMMUNITIES IN INDIANA: DUBOIS & SPENCER COUNTIES

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GRADE LEVEL: Elementary

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INTENTIONAL GERMAN COMMUNITIES IN INDIANA
DUBOIS AND SPENCER COUNTIES

I. Sites

- A. Jasper
- B. Ferdinand
- C. St. Meinrad Seminary
- D. Benedictine Convent at Ferdinand

II. Chronology

- A. First settlers in Dubois County around 1800 via Buffalo Trace
- B. County named after Toussaint Dubois, Frenchman, soldier under William Henry Harrison, lived at Vincennes
- C. Father Joseph Kundeck, Croatian priest, responsible for large numbers of Germans settling in Dubois County late 1830's
- D. Leopoldine Society of Vienna helped finance German settlement in Dubois County
- E. Father Kundeck established towns of Fulda and Ferdinand as resting stations along his way from Jasper to Troy (31 miles)
- F. Father Kundeck succeeded in getting the Abbot of Einsiedlen in Switzerland to send monks to administrate Catholic missions in southern Indiana - founded seminary at St. Meinrad 1840's
- G. Benedictine nuns arrive near Ferdinand in August, 1867, to conduct mission there - founded Immaculate Conception Convent

III. Reasons for German Immigration and Settlement in Dubois County

- A. Religious persecution
- B. Political oppression
- C. Poverty
- D. Draft evasion
- E. Recruitment - desire to create a German state beyond Atlantic Ocean where they would be free to realize hopes and liberties while preserving their native language and customs
- F. Land in Dubois County was cheap
- G. Terrain and climate similar to that in their homeland - Bavaria
- H. Recruitment and assistance of Father Kundeck and Leopoldine Society; families and friends stayed together

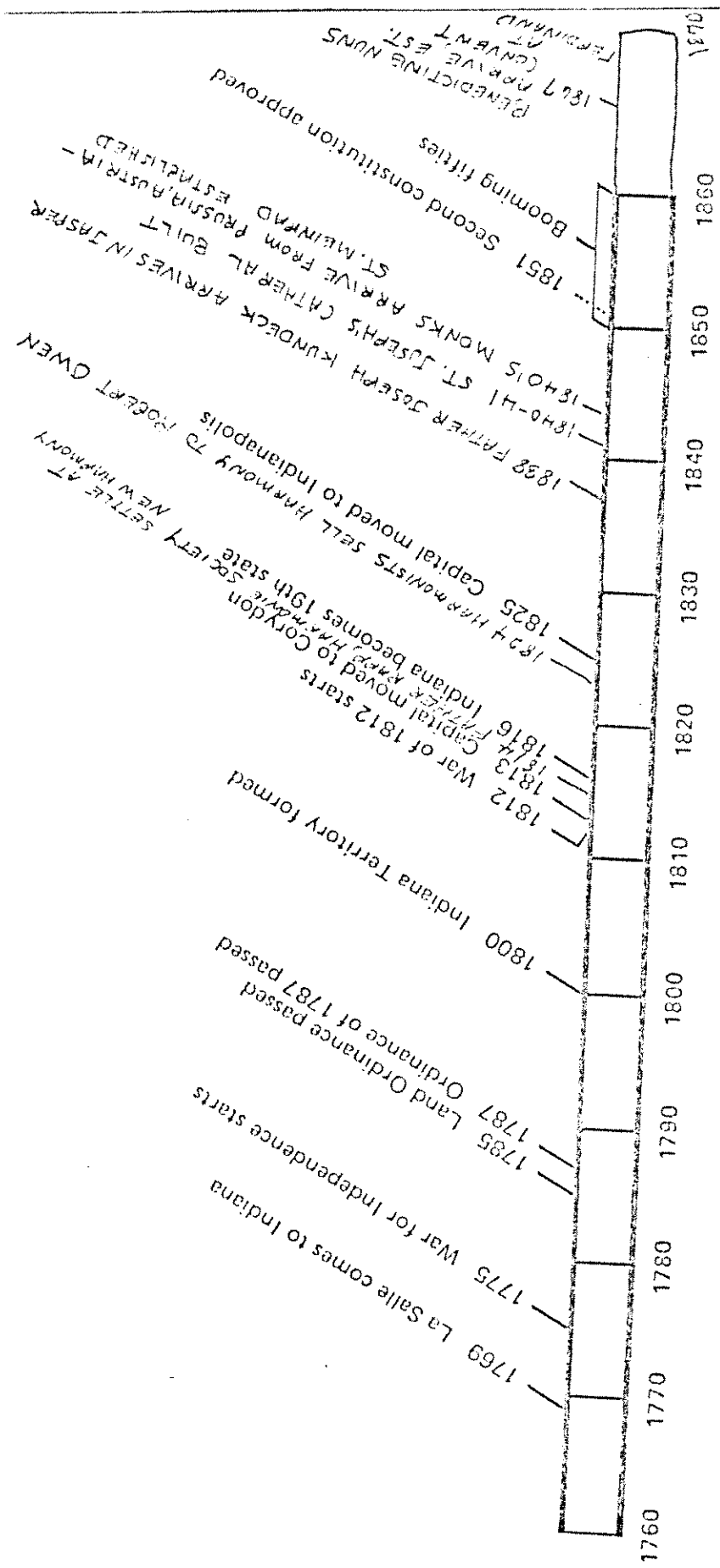
IV. Traits of German Immigrants

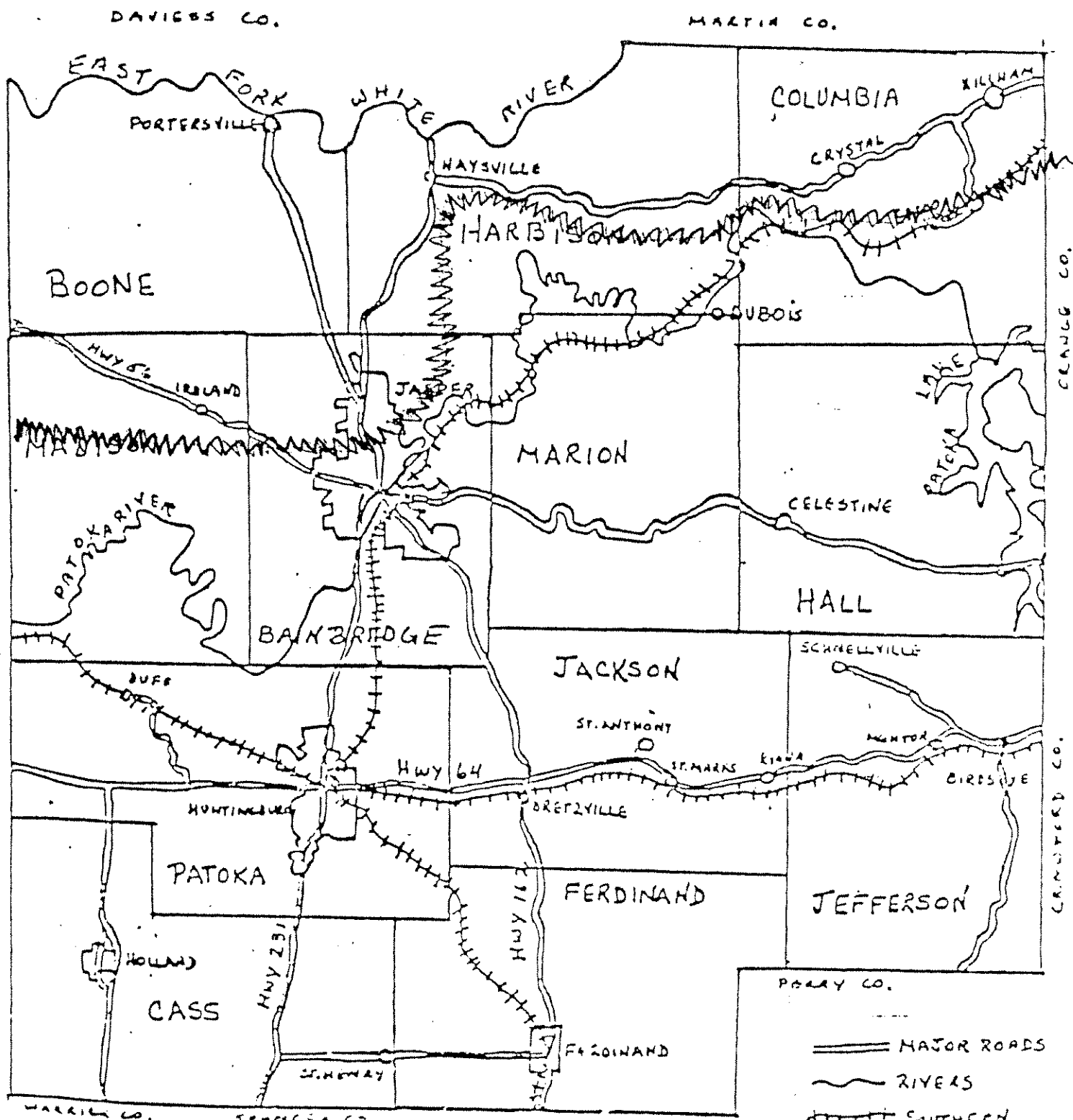
- A. Hard-working
- B. Thrifty
- C. Honest
- D. Religious
- E. Perseverant
- F. Excellent Farmers and Woodworkers
- G. Clean and neat

V. Teaching Activities

- A. Use timeline or chronology rope to show sequence of events.
- B. Teach German immigration and settlement within context of other world history events.
- C. Locate Buffalo Trace on Indiana map showing county lines.
- D. Locate intentional communities of southern Indiana on county or state maps. Discuss and/or research why settlement occurred where it did.
- E. Make charts comparing and contrasting intentional communities of Dubois county with those at New Harmony.
- F. Research biographies of Father Joseph Kundeck and/or Toussaint Dubois.
- G. Role-play scenes from the above - re-enact problems or challenges they faced and overcame.
- H. Teach simple conversational German language.
- I. Bring in resource person from the Indiana German Heritage Society, 401 East Michigan St., Indpls., IN 46204, to present facts, debate issues, or teach about German customs and heritage.

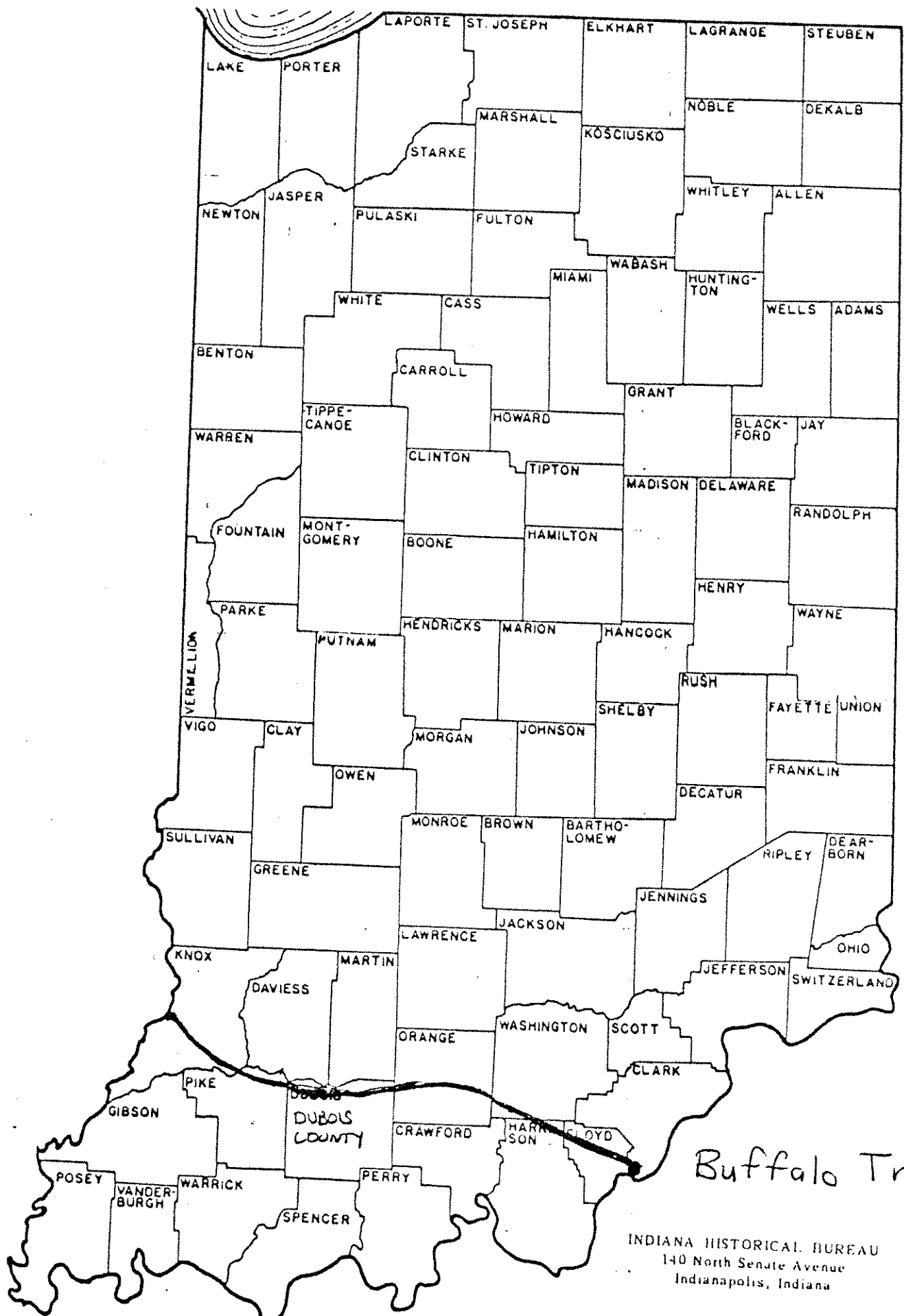
Timeline Showing Establishment of Intentional Communities in Southern Indiana, Including Dubois County, Within Context of Important Events in Early Indiana History





MAP I; Dubois County, Indiana

Buffalo Trace



Buffalo Trace

INDIANA HISTORICAL BUREAU
140 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana