

a large sum of money in gold. It was in two small shot sacks. Stopping at Alexandria for dinner, Winslow says he took off his overshoes while on the stage and slipped a sack of gold into each shoe. He then carried his overshoes into the dining-room and apologized for his absent-mindedness, but he had the overshoes where he could touch them with his feet, and no one at the table knew they were eating over a fortune.

FIRST VINCENNES AND INDIANAPOLIS ROAD.

BY HENRY BAKER.

THESE facts concerning the first wagon road connecting Vincennes with Indianapolis were secured by the writer many years ago from Martin Wines, one of the early settlers of Greene county. The road, or trail, as it was long called, was established in the fall of 1822. An unusual fact connected with it was that it was marked out by dragging a log, or brush, as different reports have it, with an ox team over the entire distance of 120 miles, through the woods, prairies and marshes. The thick, high grass on the prairies and the wild pea vines in the woods so obstructed progress that the dragging of this log or brush was considered the best and cheapest way to mark the route, as mowing would have been too slow. An engineer or surveyor was employed by the State to keep the course, as many variations had to be made from a straight line to suit the lay of the land and the best crossings of the many streams and marshes. The route was directly through the site of Linton, Greene county, and near the home of Martin Wines. Latta's creek marsh, named for John Latta, one of the early settlers, was exactly in the line of the survey, and as Mr. Wines was familiar with the lay of the country he was asked to mark out the best ground to cross the marsh. The way by which he piloted the company became the roadway, and was so used until a few years ago. Along the trail in the woods trees were blazed, and in the prairies tall poles reaching above the high grass were set to guide the travelers.*

*Mr. Baker probably means that these guides were used before the road was marked out.—*Editor.*