## The Mighty Wabash

The Wabash River is the most famous of all the rivers in Indiana. Its length of 475 miles makes it the longest free-flowing river east of the Mississippi. Beginning in Ohio on private farmland, the river travels northwest across the state, then turns south and eventually forms the border between Indiana and Illinois before joining the Ohio River. It was established as an important transportation route as early as the 1300s by Native Americans followed by French traders and colonial settlers in the 1700s. However, in the 1850s, a new railroad that ran between the cities along the river led to the decline of river transportation.

