

# Musings about Journeys

Dan Styer

Wolf Run Nature Preserve  
Oberlin College

The Underground Railroad

European Pilgrimage Routes

Asian Pilgrimage Routes

My feelings during wilderness travel

Conclusions

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We celebrate the underground railroad in sculpture and museum and historic site.



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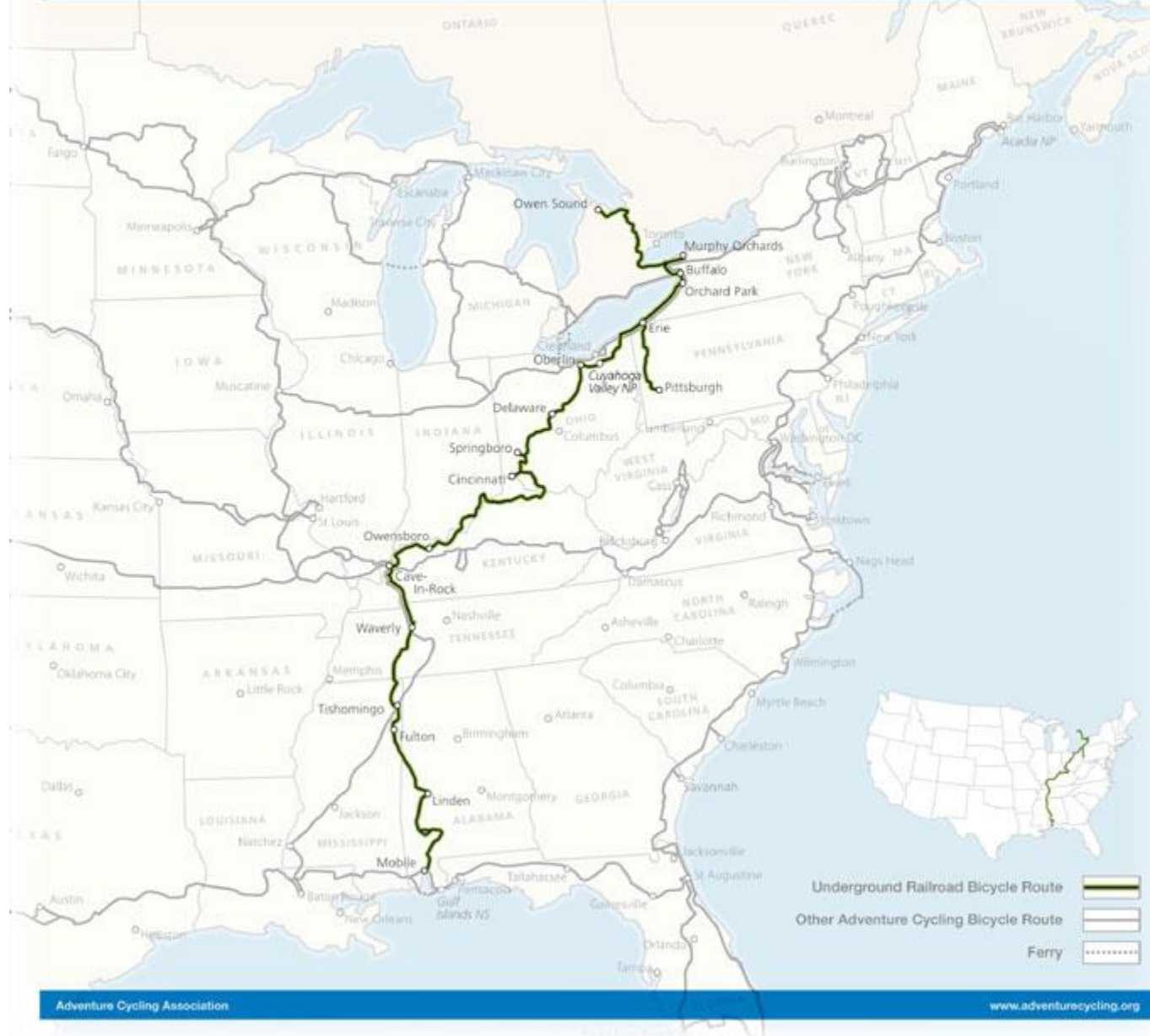
John Muir's long walk south was in the opposite direction of the underground railroad.

We celebrate the underground railroad in sculpture and museum and historic site.

But do we celebrate it on the land?

# Underground Railroad Bicycle Route

Mobile, AL to Owen Sound, ON  
2,008 miles



To some extent we do:

Bicycle route laid out by Adventure Cycling Association

To some extent we do:

Harriet Tubman Byway  
(for cars)







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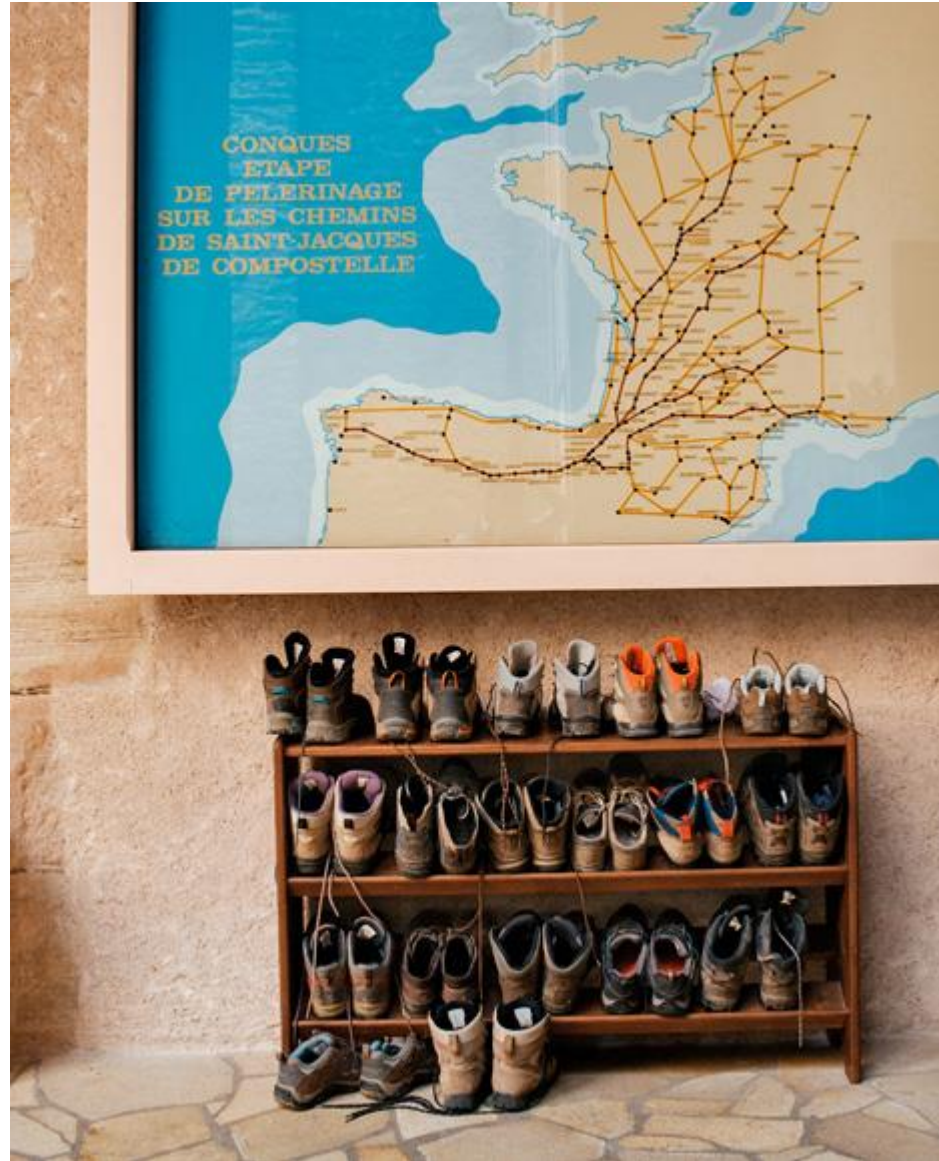
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**"CAMINOS  
DE SANTIAGO"  
OF EUROPE**









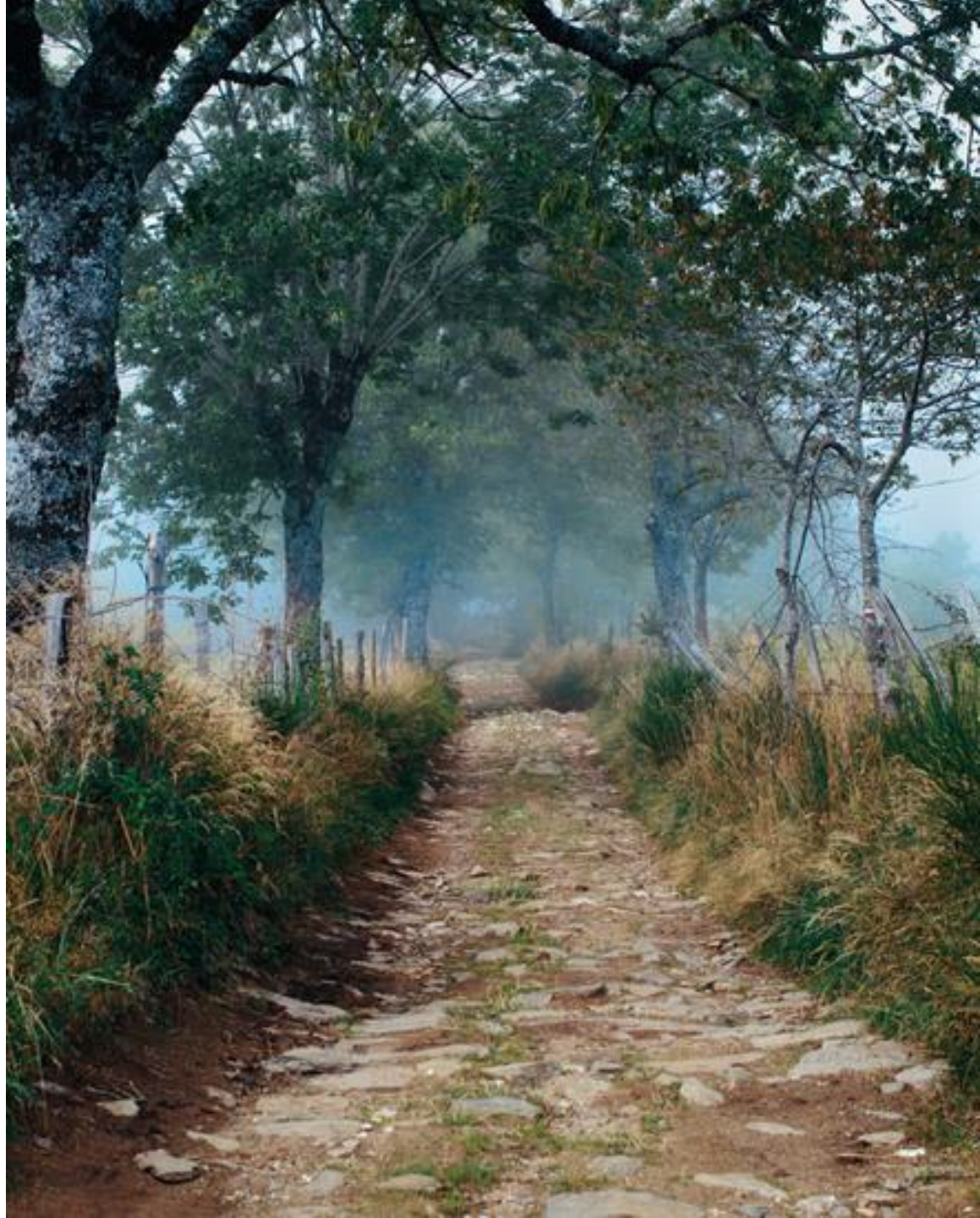












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# Kumano Kodō pilgrimage route





熊野古道

KUMANO KODO



















くまの古道  
針地藏尊









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Often, while backpacking,  
I have felt myself in the  
footsteps of  
Native Americans.



Often, while backpacking,  
I have felt myself in the  
footsteps of  
Native Americans.





Canoeing in the Boundary  
Waters I have felt the spirit  
of the Voyageurs ...

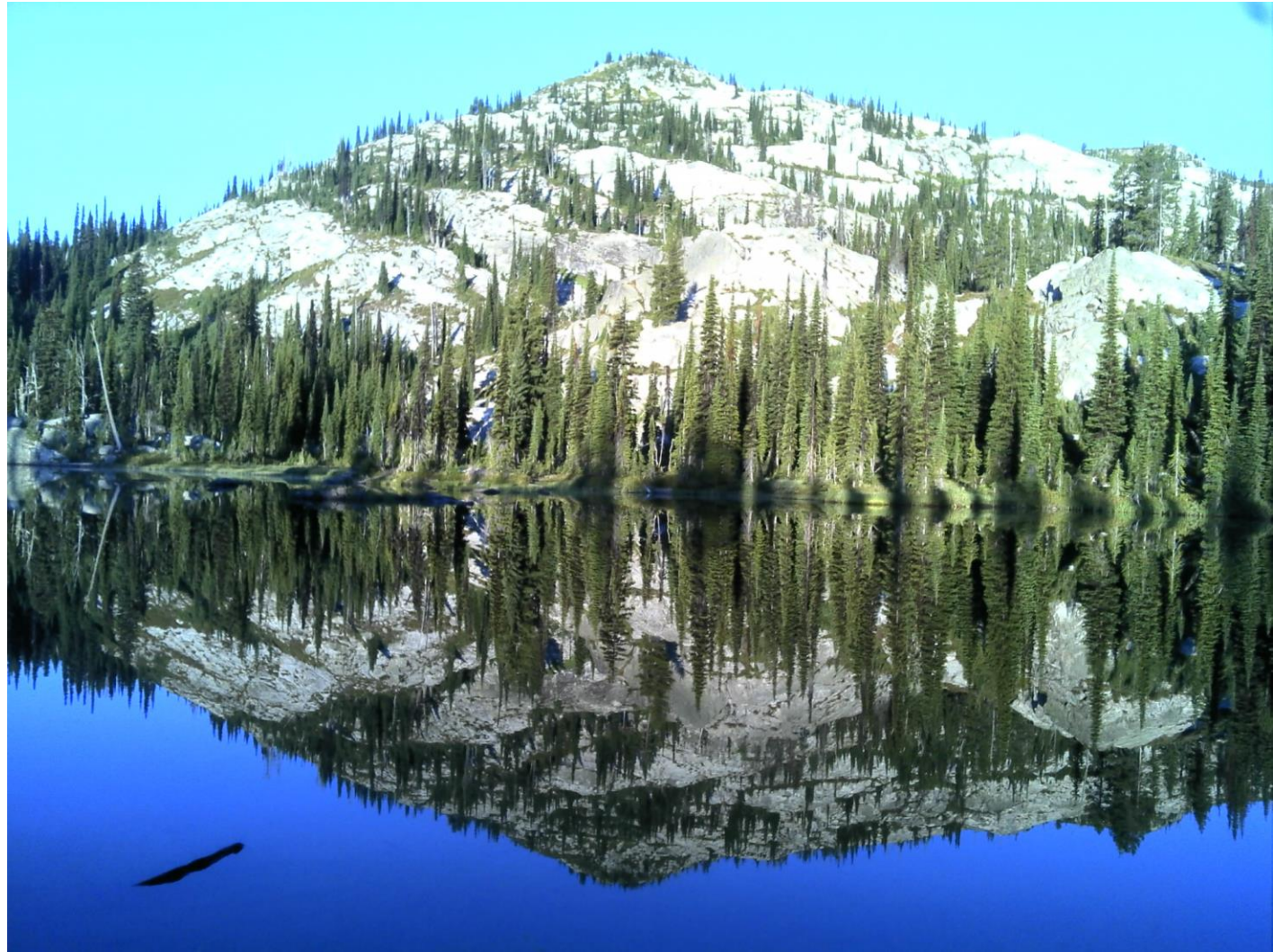


... and also the spirit of  
Sigurd Olson.





Backpacking in Idaho near the Lolo Pass I walked in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark’s “Corps of Discovery”.





In the desert I have followed John Wesley Powell...



... and Ed Abbey.





On Wisconsin's  
Flambeau River  
I paddled in the wake of  
Aldo Leopold.





While retracing the *Thousand-Mile Walk To the Gulf*, even though I was usually in a car, I felt the spirit of John Muir.



But never have I felt that I was following the brave men, women, and children escaping north through swamps and woods and back roads, across rushing rivers to freedom.

But never have I felt that I was following the brave men, women, and children escaping north through swamps and woods and back roads, across rushing rivers to freedom.

I hope to feel this way soon.

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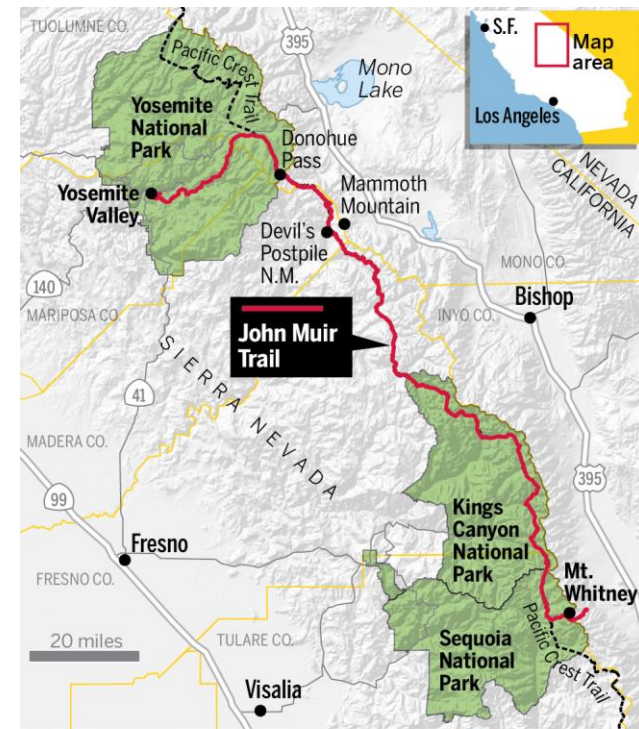


I hope that you – and I – will consider walking,  
not just on the Appalachian Trail,  
a single line on the map,  
but also on any old dirt road that strikes our fancy.





I hope that you – and I – will consider walking,  
not just on the John Muir Trail,  
a single line on the map,  
but also on any old dirt road that strikes our fancy.



I hope that you – and I – will consider walking,  
not just on the Appalachian Trail and on  
the John Muir Trail, those single lines on the map,  
but also on any old dirt road that strikes our fancy.

In this way, we honor the Native Americans.



I hope that you – and I – will consider walking,  
not just on the Appalachian Trail and on  
the John Muir Trail, those single lines on the map,  
but also on any old dirt road that strikes our fancy.

In this way, we honor the European and Asian pilgrims.

I hope that you – and I – will consider walking,  
not just on the Appalachian Trail and on  
the John Muir Trail, those single lines on the map,  
but also on any old dirt road that strikes our fancy.

In this way, we honor the slaves escaping to freedom.



I hope that you – and I – will consider walking,  
not just on the Appalachian Trail and on  
the John Muir Trail, those single lines on the map,  
but also on any old dirt road that strikes our fancy.

In this way, we honor the very concept of freedom.

I hope that you – and I – will consider walking,  
not just on the Appalachian Trail and on  
the John Muir Trail, those single lines on the map,  
but also on any old dirt road that strikes our fancy.

And in this way, we honor John Muir who said:

“To the sane and free, it will hardly seem necessary  
to cross the continent in search of wild beauty, ...  
for they find it in abundance wherever they chance to be.”

– John Muir

“Wild Parks and Forest Reservations of the West”

*The Atlantic Monthly*, January 1898