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'More than a road ... a way of life'

Dan Davis / The Daily Jeffersonian
May 6, 2011

"It is a great day today as we commemorate the 200th anniversary of the groundbreaking of the National Road."

Cambridge/Guernsey County Visitors & Convention Bureau Director Debbie Robinson spoke those words to several folks gathered at the Guernsey County Courthouse Thursday morning.

"The National Road is important to Cambridge and Guernsey County," she continued. "Our Project Pride committee was the very first group to create a riding tour along the Guernsey County circuit on the National Road. We prize it's history, and what it brings for tourism."

In celebration of the beginning of the National Road -- one of the first improved roadways authorized by the federal government -- a caravan of vintage and antique cars left Vandalia, Ill., the western terminal of the road, May 2. It stopped in Cambridge Thursday for a brief ceremony.

Mayor Tom Orr thanked those responsible for organizing the event.

"That's more than a road there," said Ed Wagstaff, president of Project Pride and member of the Ohio National Road Association. "It's a way of life. It's been a way of life for this area for 200 years."