The story of Natchez Trace is the story of the people who used it. The Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians inhabited this region when the first white man, Father Jacques Marquette, passed through the area around 1673. The Natchez Trace was the most heavily traveled trail in the Old Southwest. After 1800, it was known as the 'King's Road' because of its role in the internal commerce of the United States.

During the American Revolution, Spain won war against England and, as a result, ordered the U.S. Army to clear the road between Natchez, Mississippi and Nashville, Tennessee. When the invasion from West Florida. The invasion did not occur, because Spain and England were allies.

Boatmen, soldiers, postmen, missionaries, and Indian traders all used the Natchez Trace. Steamboats and canals had replaced the boatmen's trail, and the volume of traffic grew until the 1830s. The Natchez Trace became a national highway when President Andrew Jackson extended mail service to Natchez. The road was surveyed and divided into sections, and a Post Office was established.

During the Civil War, the Union Army used the Natchez Trace to transport troops. In 1863, a Union force captured the town of Natchez and cut off the Confederates' supply line to the Gulf of Mexico.

After the war, the Natchez Trace was abandoned. Railroads began to replace the trail as a means of transportation. By 1890, steamboats were operating on the Natchez Trace, and the old trail was no longer used.

In 1926, Congress authorized the Natchez Trace Parkway. The parkway, which runs from Tennessee to Mississippi, is a modern recreation of the old trail. It is a reminder of the past, and a symbol of the pioneering spirit that built America.

Today, the Natchez Trace Parkway is a unit of the National Park System that preserves a good part of the Natchez Trace in Journey's End and the Great Smoky Mountains. The parkway is one of the most heavily traveled in the Old Southwest.

The transformation of the boatmen's trail to a modern highway is a remarkable story. From the days of the kettle drums and muskets to the present day, the Natchez Trace has remained a link between the peoples of the South. It is a reminder of the past, and a symbol of the future.