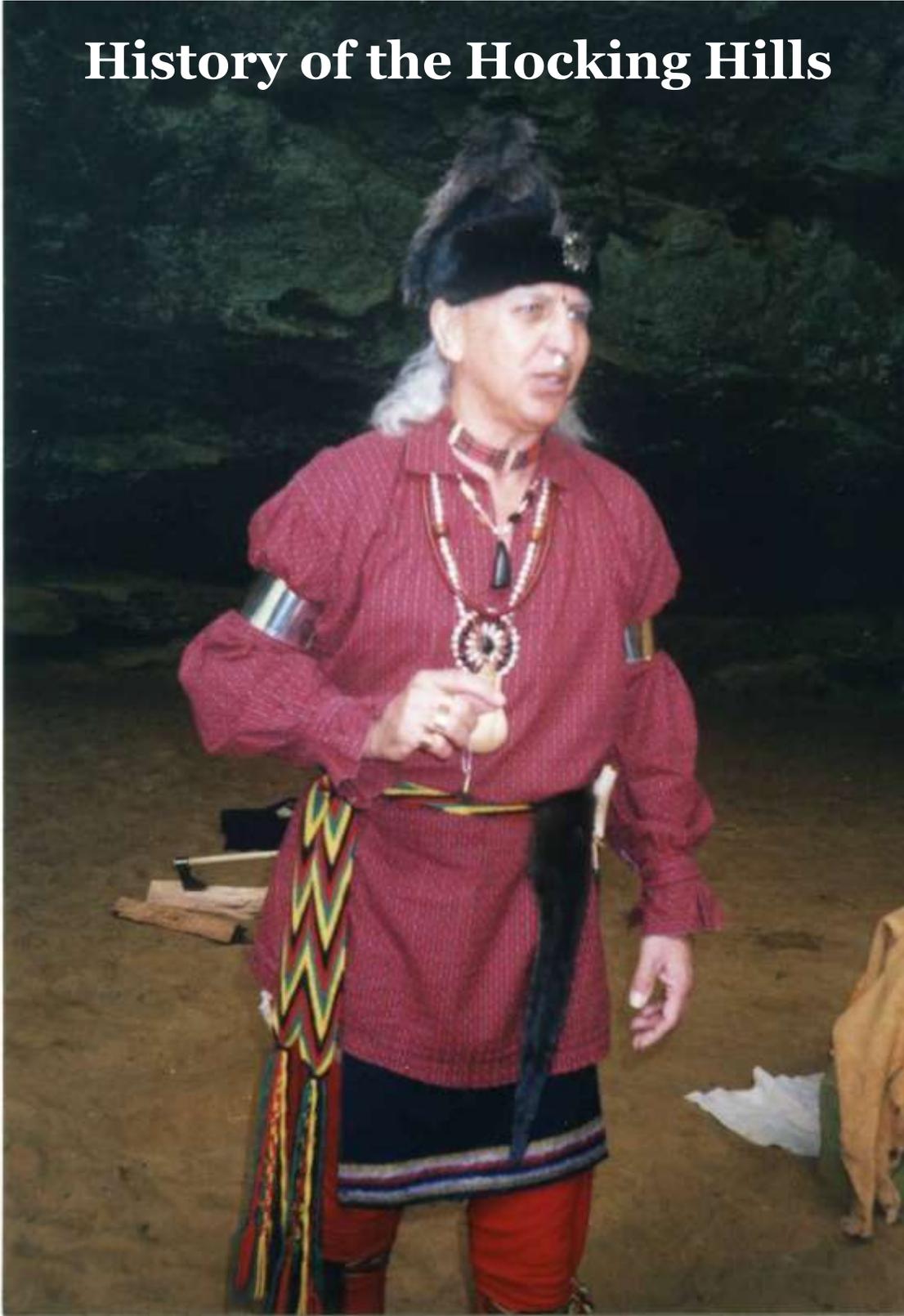


History of the Hocking Hills



Hocking Hills Insider Guide



DISCLAIMER AND/OR LEGAL NOTICE:

The information presented herein represents the view of the author as of the date of publication. Because of the rate with which conditions change, the author reserves the right to alter and update his opinion based on the new conditions. This guide is for informational purposes only. While every attempt has been made to verify the information provided in this guide, neither the author nor his affiliates/partners assume any responsibility for errors, inaccuracies or omissions. Any slight of people or organizations are unintentional.

Neither the publisher nor author assumes any responsibility for errors, omissions or interpretation of the use of the subject matter contained. This guide contains the opinions and ideas of the author and is intended for informational purposes only. Neither the author nor publisher shall be liable for any loss or other damage resulting from this publication.

www.hockinghillsguidebook.com
www.hockinghillsinformer.com
www.hockinghillsinsider.com

Hocking Hills Insider Guide

History of the Hocking Hills

During another era in the Hocking Hills, the forests were treed by moccasins. These inhabitants went by the name of the Delaware, the Wyandot, the Shawnee and the Mingo.

Many of them became famous: Tecumseh, Cornstalk, Tarhe, Blue Jacket and Logan. The county seat of Hocking County is named after Chief Logan of the Mingoes who was as famous as Daniel Boone. His name in the early frontier was as well known as Thomas Jefferson and Logan was respected by both the white man and the Indians.



Tecumseh
Courtesy of Ohio Historical Society

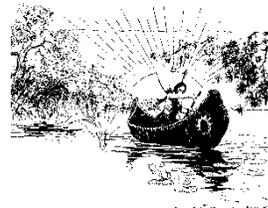
Evidence of the Indians existence is found in caves throughout the county in the form of their picture carvings. They planted crops of beans, corn and squash. They harvested wild nuts, berries and maple syrup from the forest.

They caught fish in the Hocking River. In fact the name the word “Hockhocking” is actually what the Indians named the Hocking River. It means bottleneck to them.



The hills also provided them meat and animal skins. They hunted deer, raccoon, squirrel, rabbit, elk, buffalo and bear. The last wild buffalo in Hocking County was killed by a white man near South Bloomingville in 1799.

Travel in the region was by foot or canoe. Hunting expeditions spanned days or months at a time. Natives were known to travel hundreds of miles between villages for hunting, war making or visiting family members.



At Salt Creek, on the border of Salt Creek Township, there was a large beech tree. Upon this beech tree were carved the words, “This is the road to Hell, 1782”. It is believed that those words had been carved by a captive of the Indians, while on the journey to the Indian town of Chillicothe.

Hocking Hills Insider Guide

Those Little White Stones

Chief Chiungalla or Tecumseh's foster father, told the young warrior he had to initiate himself to Moneto (a Shawnee Diety) by diving into to deep pool in the Little Miami River. He needed to dive, unclothed for 100 days and Tecumseh was obedient and continued this ritual for the entire 100 days, even into the winter months. He carried a stick to break the ice of the river in January.



The chief told him on his last dive he should dive to the bottom of the river and grab whatever his hands felt when they touched the river bed.

When he returned to Chief Chiungalla and Tecumseh's fists were opened, he found some soggy sticks and twigs in one hand. In the other was an oak leaf and a white quartzite stone, about the size of a pigeon's egg.

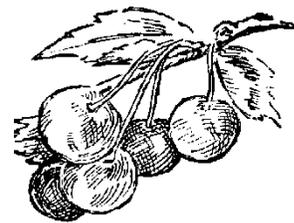


Chiungalla called the quartzite his "Opawaka". It was to be used as a medium between himself and the great spirit. He was to use it when he was in need of guidance.

Tecumseh worked on the stone until he was able to attach a leather cord around it and wear it around his neck. He always had it or him from that moment on.

Natures Incredible Edibles

Native Americans and early settlers to the area knew all about the good things to eat in the forests. They ate the nuts of the hickory, beech, walnuts, hazelnut and persimmon. They ate the fruits of the plum, cherry, paw paw, hawthorn and apples. And also maple syrup, wild rice, grapes, leeks and wild mushrooms were gathered.



The morning glory plant was known to them as wild potato. The roots could be baked or boiled. So could the roots of the Starflower, Arrowhead, Day Lily, Primrose and Lady's Thumb.

The greens of the Dandelions, Chickweed, Picklerelweed, Purslane and Lady's Thumb could be eaten in salads.

Hocking Hills Insider Guide

Many of the same plants could be cooked or used as flavorings for soups and stews.

Wild Herbs like Mustard, Spearmint, Pigweed and Sorrel were available. Leaves of Wintergreen and Partridge Berry were brewed into tea to reduce fever. Other teas were brewed from Lilacs, Wild Bergamot, Spearmint, Violets and Wild Rose Hips.



Berries gathered included Wild Strawberries, Blackberries and Gooseberries. A lemonade-like beverage was steeped from the Staghorn Sumac.

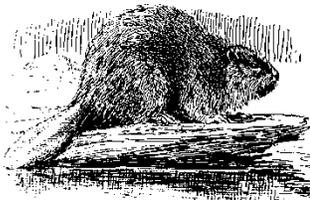


Early settlers did not have the convenience of going to the grocery store to buy prepared food. They had to forage in the forests for their pantry staples, grow their own crops, make their own soap or hunt for their meat. Other staples were bartered or traded for.

-By Jenny Cave

The Northwest Territory and Frontier Life

It's hard to believe Ohio was one of the first frontiers of this country. But that's just what the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 created.



The first white men to venture into this wilderness were hunters and trappers who sought the fur of the beaver, muskrat and otters. They also hunted deer, elk, buffalo and bear.

The trading posts of the time bartered for these furs and provided the basic necessities needed by these frontier men.



Many of these men brought their families to the wilderness. It was a hard life. The men hunted for the meat to feed their families and planted the crops needed for food. Women baked their own bread, sewed all the family clothing by hand and washed it with lye soap in the streams and creeks. Basic survival was a full time job.

Hocking Hills Insider Guide

Children were educated at home until one room school houses could be built to teach all the children with one teacher. Even then, harvest time and other important farm family events took more importance than schooling. It was during this era that the subjects of reading, writing and arithmetic were the focus of education.

-Jenny Cave

Black Powder is Needed for Survival



A frontiersman had to have a muzzle loader, knife and powder horn filled with gun powder or black powder to survive the wilderness. The powder was either bartered for at the local trading post or they made it themselves.

Early black powder was a combination of 75% saltpeter, 15% carbon and 10% sulfur. Recessed caves in the area were mined by native Americans and frontiersmen for the white saltpeter (Potassium Nitrate) they were able to find on the ceilings of caves. Later, it was mined commercially to produce the explosive.

These nitrates were brought to the surface of the ceilings of caves by water leeching through the sandstone. The water evaporates leaving behind the salt formations that could be scraped from the ceiling to harvest the salt peter.

Carbon is charcoal and could be obtained from the sediments of ash from fires. It gave the black powder its color and provided the ignition.

Sulfur could be obtained in numerous ways as sulfurous elements are present throughout the region. One of the processes involved the distillation of iron-laden water. The sediment remaining would be iron-sulfate and could be used as sulfur.



The early settlers to the region utilized and harvested saltpeter to make their own gun powder which saved them money. They were able to use the natural resources of the region to make the gun powder that provided meat for them to eat, skins for clothing, fur for trading for their basic necessities and protection for their family.

By Jenny Cave

Hocking Hills Insider Guide

Early Settlement of Hocking County

By Chas. R. Goslin



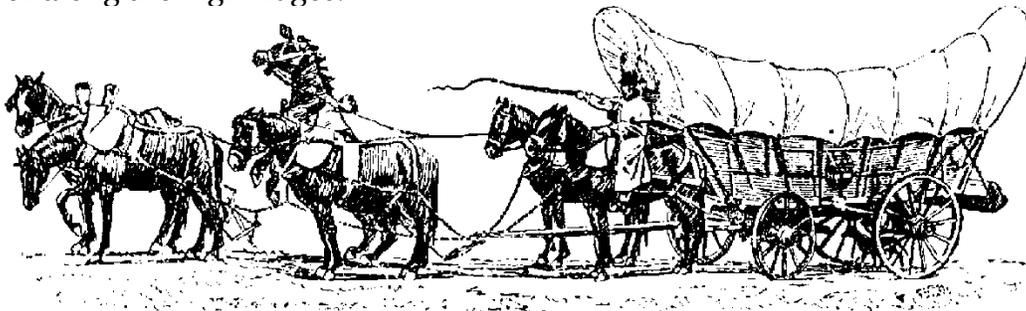
An Indian village was at the Logan city site within the sound of the falls, at the time of Lord Dunmore's War at 1774.

The first Hocking County settler arrived in 1798 and put down stakes on the bank of the Oldtown Creek at the site of the Indian village.

By the spring of 1799 the population of what is now Logan was twenty-two. The plat of the Town of Logan was made by Thomas Worthington in July of 1816. A Mr. Millenhour had the first tavern and store in 1817 in Loagn. By 1887 the town was incorporated and had 50 houses.

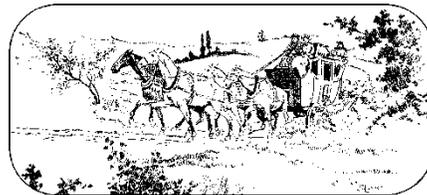
Early Transportation

The Hockhocking River served as the early route of transportation into Hocking County. Those on foot followed game trails along the river banks or along the high ridges.



By 1797 the Zane's Trace was completed. This was the first road across the Northwest Territory. Soon settlers began to arrive by Conestoga Wagon at the communities along the trace. One of the first communities was at Lancaster. There was a road that passed through the Clear Creek Gorge as early as 1811 to connected the Zane Trace with Logan.

In 1820 a road was opened from Logan toward Marietta and another to Chillicothe. In 1823 a road was established between Logan and Lancaster and followed what is now the Old Stage Road in Goodhope Township.



Hocking Hills Insider Guide

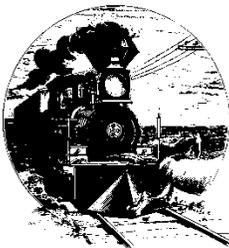
This was the route of the early Tallmadge stagecoaches which made two trips a week between Athens, Logan, Lancaster and Columbus.



The Hocking Canal

In 1838 the Hocking Valley Canal was formed and the first canal was completed below Logan in 1839, to Nelsonville in 1840 and to Athens in 1841. In 1840 the first load of coal, known to the canal men as “black gold”, passed through the canal from Nelsonville to Lancaster.

This was a boon to the coal fields and coal became the number one commercial venture for Logan and the Hocking Valley. Activity along the canal increased with each new year, reaching it's peak about 1852.



The railroad followed the canal into the Hocking Valley, reaching Logan in the summer of 1869. The railroads provided a more efficient and rapid movement of coal, so canal activity declined.

In 1861 the state arranged for leasing the canals for a period of ten years.

Following this there was a gradual decline in the care of the canal and locks, so on May 18, 1894 the canal was drained at Lancaster, ending the canal activity of Hocking County.

Hocking County has two marked canal locks that are open to the public. The Sheep Pen Lock is located near the village of Rockbridge on Dupler Road. It was the twelfth lock on the Hocking Canal system which connected to the Ohio Canal.

The second is Lock #17 which is located off Route 33 off Route 595 near Haydenville. It is on the same canal system as the Sheep Pen Lock. A picnic area is located near this lock for your visit to the area.

Hocking Hills Insider Guide



A railroad was constructed from Nelsonville to Columbus with stations at Logan and Lancaster in 1866 due to the needs of the Civil War. This meant coal could be moved faster and cheaper from the mines that almost surrounded Logan and lined the Hocking Valley.

Branches to this railroad were opened into the entire coal mining territory.

Railroads crisscrossed the county like township roads. Mining towns sprang up along these railroads which not only served the mines but the iron furnaces.

Early Communication



Post Offices were established throughout Hocking County. The mail was carried by horseback, then stagecoaches, by canal boat and railroad. If the road was too bad for the mail wagons, then the mail was carried by horseback. The first post office that was established in Hocking County was in 1815.

Schools and Churches

The first religious meeting was held in Hocking County was a meeting held at the Falls in 1799 when James Quinn, a Methodist circuit rider, preached to a few families that had assembled there.

In 1817 the first church was dedicated in Logan by Thomas Worthington. It was a log church for the Methodist Episcopal congregation.



The first evidence of a school in Hocking County was about 1810 in Starr Township. With the establishing of centralized schools about 1932, the one-room school house became a thing of the past. Those that still stand have been converted to storage sheds, community houses or homes.

Early Manufacturing

With coal in abundance, iron ore to the south that could be dug readily from the ground and the presence of lime to the north, the

Hocking Hills Insider Guide

manufacturing of pig iron became a reality in 1851 with the erection of the Hocking Furnace to be followed shortly by the building of the Logan furnace.



Hope Furnace

The Hope Furnace is located at Lake Hope State Park is at the north edge of the park, just off Route 278. It was in operation from 1854-1874. Remnants of the furnace are still visible today and it gives a better understanding of the size of the structures needed to process the iron ore.

With thirteen iron furnaces in the vicinity of Logan, the Civil War gave a boost to the iron manufacturing.

The manufacture of iron slowed after the war and came to a halt about 1880.

From small hand potteries well distributed through the county, the manufacture of clay products increased by leaps and bounds with Peter Hayden giving the extra nudge that this business required in 1882.

Haydenville is just south of Logan and was the last company owned town in Ohio. Wealthy Columbus industrialist, Peter Hayden owned and operated the



Haydenville Mining and Manufacturing Company where every person in the town was employed.

The company mined its own coal and produced fireproofing products and other fire-clay goods. More than 100 houses were built for employees to rent cheaply, and Haydenville became literally an ad or catalog page for the company products

The company mined its own coal and produced fireproofing products and other fire-clay goods. More than 100 houses were built for employees to rent cheaply, and Haydenville became literally an ad or catalog page for the company products.

Today the town's store, railroad station, houses and church can be still seen today. A unique feature of the Haydenville structures are the round houses which were constructed with silo tiles that were produced in the plant around 1911.



Round House

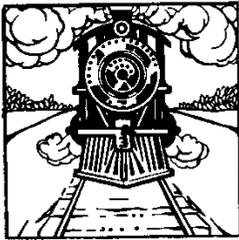
Hocking Hills Insider Guide

The remaining homes are still occupied by Hocking County residents who continue to uphold the tradition of their town.

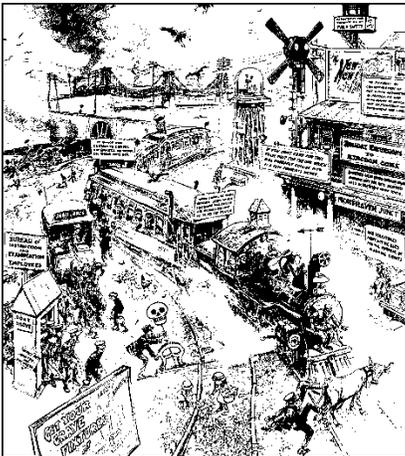
-Excerpted from "Historical Rambling of Hocking County, Ohio
By Chas. R. Goslin, 1971

The Round House Stories of Vinton County

As Recorded By Lew Ogan



Mr. Ogdan visited an abandoned Round House of a railroad company where "quite a number of fellows, young and old, would meet weekly to discuss things in general in local and foreign news, and otherwise gossip". It was sort of "a sort of social clearing house".



Once upon a time a circus was billed for McArthur. The circus manager perhaps anxious to get things going, sent by express a big lion in a wooden crate to McArthur, C.O.D.

Mr. David Weisenbarger was taking tickets and was also the express agent for the railroad company. It took four men to unload the lion off the railroad car and everyone was

Mr. Weisenbarger said the express was \$87.00. No one showed up to call for the beast, and Mr. Weisenbarger grew impatient when the lion got hungry and let out a terrific roar.

Everybody about the railroad station was alarmed for fear he would gnaw his way out of the crate. The word got out that a huge lion in a cage was at the depot. Mr. Weisenbarger said about half the town came to the depot. He was worried when the lion had to spend the night.



Hocking Hills Insider Guide



The next day he telegraphed the express company what to do with the lion. The company soon got in touch with the show manager and the show moved to McArthur.

The show did not have enough money to pay the express bill when they reached McArthur. The express company, however, arranged to let them have the lion and they had the show and paid the express charges. Mr. Weisenbarger said, "My! But I

-Excerpted from "*The Historian*" Magazine
Volume 5 Edition 216

