

Chapter 3

History of the Western Reserve

Story of the Western Reserve

By John Grabowski, Western Reserve Historical Society

During the autumn, northern Ohio takes on the appearance of New England. The yellow and red foliage mimics that of Connecticut and Massachusetts and, in places, the built landscape mirrors those parts of the eastern seaboard. The centers of many small towns are anchored by town commons, often as not the site of the community's Congregational or Presbyterian Church.

This apparent mirage is not an illusion, but a reminder of the region's cultural foundation. It was once part of Connecticut known as that state's Western Reserve, and "Western Reserve" remains part of the name of a number of local agencies ranging from schools to businesses and social service agencies. Upon that foundation rests a broader, more complex subsequent history, for northern Ohio has evolved from rural to industrial, and its population consists of a global diversity of peoples unimaginable in late 18th-

century New England, the place and period that gave birth to the Western Reserve.

Birth of the Western Reserve

The creation of the Connecticut Western Reserve was very much a part of the colonial and post-colonial speculative interest in the trans-Appalachian lands that characterized the 18th century. George Washington and other prominent Virginians had a keen interest in the development of the Ohio country. New Englanders also looked to acquire, sell, and settle lands in the West. Some historians point out that one of the major grievances the colonists had with Great Britain centered on the Proclamation Line of 1763, which prohibited expansion beyond the mountains. It, along with taxes, was a cause for the subsequent revolution.

When the Revolutionary War ended, a major issue facing the new government (under the Articles of Confederation) was the manner in which the lands west of the Appalachians would

be administered. The area technically belonged to the former colonies, as their royal charters or grants often noted that their lands extended from the Atlantic seaboard to the "South Sea." In all cases but one, the new government was able to secure the western colonial claims and then reconstitute those lands that lay north of the Ohio River as the Northwest Territory. The exception was Connecticut. It managed to "reserve" approximately 3,333,699 acres of its claim.

That Western Reserve began at the western border of Pennsylvania and stretched 120 miles further west. Its southern and northern borders were those of Connecticut, 41 degrees and 42 degrees, 2 minutes. Connecticut's success in holding on to this vast acreage stemmed from a legal issue that predated the Revolution. Some of the territory of New York and Pennsylvania impinged upon the strip of land that Connecticut claimed as a result of its original 1662 charter. This "loss" of land to New York and Pennsylvania provided the basis for Congress to accept the state's claim in 1786

(the fact that Virginia was also able to hold on to some portion of its western claims, as its Military Lands, provided a useful precedent). With that done, the state looked forward to marketing the land, but two issues needed to be solved first.

Roadblocks to Settlement

The primary issue was Native American claims to the lands. While the native population in northern Ohio was not substantial in the late 1700s, the land was nonetheless not open for settlement. That matter came to partial closure in 1795, when the Treaty of Greenville extinguished Indian claims to lands east of the Cuyahoga River (the mouth of which would become the site of Cleveland.) This allowed Connecticut to bring the entire parcel to market, even though the western portions were not yet open for settlement (they would become available in 1805, when all remaining native claims were settled). The government of Connecticut did not, however, wish to sell the lands on a piecemeal basis. They sought a single buyer for the entire parcel, and finding one proved somewhat problematic.

Eventually a consortium of investors—35 purchasing groups comprising a total of 58 individuals—came together as the Connecticut Land Company to purchase the Western Reserve. They paid \$1,200,000, or roughly 40 cents per acre,



September 1826 map "Western Reserve Including the Fire Lands in Ohio" courtesy of The Ohio Historical Society

for the land, while the state held on to 500,000 acres in the far western section as the "Firelands," set aside for Connecticut citizens whose property had been burned by the British during the Revolution. While the transaction was now closed as far as the state was concerned, the investors faced a challenging process. They had bought the land on mortgage, speculating that they could pay

back what they had borrowed and make a profit as well by dividing the land into parcels and selling it in turn to settlers and other buyers. Neither the survey nor the sale of the land would prove easy.

Surveying the Purchase

The investors' first step was to survey the lands east of the Cuyahoga River in order to prepare them

for sale. The company chose its general agent, Moses Cleaveland, to lead the first survey in 1796. He arrived at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River on Lake Erie on July 22. His surveyors named the settlement there in honor of Cleaveland (the spelling of its name was always ambiguous and would be shortened to its current form in 1835). He himself returned east in the autumn of that year, never to return. Indeed, very few members of the Connecticut Land Company chose to visit, let alone settle on, their properties—they viewed the enterprise purely as a business venture. However, as in the case of Cleveland, various members of the company are memorialized by place names that still exist in the Western Reserve: for instance, Rootstown is named after Ephraim Root.

The surveying, which continued for several years, determined the landscape of the region more than the actual early settlement did. It divided the Western Reserve into 25 five-square mile-townships (the townships in the remainder of the Northwest Territory comprised 36-square-mile grids as specified by the Land Ordinance of 1785) that were, in turn, subdivided into smaller parcels. As communities were planned, they were laid out in the pattern of New England—a town square, surrounded by smaller lots for businesses, churches, and homes within the center of the community, and larger parcels for farming on the

outskirts. Today, Cleveland, the Western Reserve's largest city, still retains its central "Public Square" complete with a church and a courthouse.

Early Settlement

Initial settlement in the Western Reserve was slow, much to the consternation of the investors. One, Oliver Phelps, narrowly escaped being sent to a debtors' prison. It was uncertain as to what entity actually had authority over the region. Was it the State of Connecticut or the federal government? Connecticut refused to handle governance of the area, and so eventually, in 1800, an act of Congress brought the region formally into the Northwest Territory. Additionally, the Connecticut Land Company made little provision for transport to the area or for schools and other amenities.

Pioneering individuals and families faced great hardships, and the Western Reserve had to compete against other regions to attract settlers. Western New York State, in particular, provided a more proximate location for New Englanders seeking better farmland. Finally, there were lingering concerns as to whether the British, ensconced in Canada just across the lake, might someday lay claim to the Ohio lands.

Nevertheless, settlers slowly made their way to the Western Reserve in gradually increasing numbers.

Many came from Connecticut, Vermont, and New York, with ancestral roots generally traceable to Great Britain. As they built communities, they gave substance through their churches, courthouses, and small town businesses to the "New England plans" created by the surveyors. The region was, in terms of religion, cultural mores, and economic interests, very much a clone of New England.

New Settlers from Foreign Soils

Success would eventually alter, but never quite extinguish, this cultural foundation, and that success began to become evident in the years after the War of 1812. Although there was real fear of a British invasion during the conflict, the American victory finally removed the potential threat of a British takeover of the region. The end of the War of 1812 and the Napoleonic Wars in Europe also set in motion another factor that would change not only the Western Reserve but the entire United States. From 1820 to 1860, an estimated five million individuals emigrated from Europe to the United States and many, largely German and Irish, would come to northern Ohio.

During the same period, the attraction of northern Ohio grew with the creation of viable transportation links, both to the eastern seaboard and within the region and the state (Ohio having

been admitted as a state in 1803). Canals were key to regional growth. The completion of the Erie Canal in 1825 allowed easy access for goods and people across New York and thence by lake transport to the Western Reserve. Then, the completion of the Ohio and Erie Canal from Cleveland on Lake Erie, to Portsmouth on the Ohio River, placed the region on a transport route that stretched from the harbors of Europe to the Gulf of Mexico.

These events began a period of transformation for some areas of the Western Reserve. Towns located on the north-south route of the Ohio and Erie Canal grew, and their population diversified. Cleveland, the "capital" of the Western Reserve, had a population of 606 in 1820 and 43,417 four decades later. Once largely Protestant, the Western Reserve now had a growing number of Catholic and Jewish inhabitants. The advent of railroads in the 1850s served to accelerate change, and it also shifted patterns of settlement. Towns that had grown along the canal corridor now began to stagnate as traffic went to the railroads.

Signs of Social Reform Emerge

The Civil War further catalyzed change in some areas of the Western Reserve. Given its New England roots, the region was strongly pro-union and anti-slavery. Some towns, such as Oberlin

and Hudson, were profoundly abolitionist, with the latter having been the home of John Brown for a time. After the Civil War, two Western Reserves evolved - one industrial and located on the lakefront or on major rail lines, and the other more rural and, to some extent, more homogeneous in population. By the 1920s, lakefront cities such as Ashtabula, Cleveland, and Lorain housed populations drawn from all parts of Europe and the American South and produced goods that reshaped life in America. Parts of the Western Reserve constituted one of the country's foremost centers of industrial production in 20th-century America. But, just beyond these areas, in towns including Stow, Tallmadge, Rootstown, Mesopotamia, and Kinsman, the region looked much the same as it had some 50 years earlier.

Modern Day Changes

Within the past six decades, the Western Reserve of Ohio has changed again. The automobile and post-World War II suburbanization, along with new patterns of migration and immigration, has altered landscapes and lifestyles. One-time small towns such as Solon and Medina have become exurban communities—as in the former, the town square has all but been obliterated by the culture of the automobile, whereas in the latter town, the square survives and has become an icon for the preservation movement and an asset for the city.

Diversity of population and religion has increased throughout the region: small-town clinics employ doctors from India, and cities such as Cleveland and Akron celebrate their global heritage through museums, monuments, and multicultural festivals.

There are, however, two rather interesting trends stemming from these most recent changes. One is the growing fascination with all historical heritages in the region, whether they stem from its New England roots, from Europe or Asia, or from the cotton fields of Alabama. The other is the fact that never before has the Western Reserve been as viable in terms of regional identity as it is today.

The waterways, railways, and highways that served to bring a wide variety of peoples, cultures, and occupations into what some had called "New Connecticut," also created an internal connectivity that could not have been imagined by the members of the Connecticut Land Company. That connectivity is proving vital to the region's future.

Suggested Additional Readings

Hatcher, Harlan. *The Western Reserve: The Story of New Connecticut in Ohio*. Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 1991.

Wheeler, Robert (ed). *Visions of the Western Reserve: Public and Private Documents of Northeastern Ohio, 1750-1860*. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 2000.

Western Reserve Themes and Subthemes

The Western Reserve: The Nation's Town Square

Town squares appear throughout the Western Reserve, but there is a regional connectivity that goes beyond sharing an architectural and landscape feature. The Western Reserve has been, and continues to be, a microcosm of the nation. Serving as the meeting and mixing place for various cultures and types of people, the Western Reserve is an example of the power of diversity to create change. Progressive thinking and social change throughout the nation were put into action within the Western Reserve, including movements for abolitionism, women's rights, civil rights, labor laws, and environmental protection. Astounding inventions and business innovations in manufacturing, industry, and technology launched new commerce from starting points in the Western Reserve. Education and cultural advancements created and developed further within the region changed our American way.

From church spires to smokestacks, Western Reserve influences changed the nation. The forward-thinking nature of this place began with a focus on religion and expanded into industry, transportation, social reform, and many other

societal issues. Innovation and improvements were inspired by the rich mix of beliefs and experiences that resulted by the blending of different cultures – first from those cultures shared by those who settled the land from Connecticut and the East Coast. This blending of beliefs, thoughts, and ideas was further strengthened by waves of immigrants steeped in their own cultural experiences.

The Western Reserve is the nation's town square and has been since the region's creation soon after the Revolutionary War. Town squares are places

where fresh ways of thinking are the norm. They are settings where people and institutions come together to discuss happenings, advocate for a better way, run their businesses, and build a sense of community.

Stories from the Western Reserve

The importance of the Western Reserve in shaping America is evident in six themes that reveal how the Western Reserve both influenced national history as well as reflects (serves as a microcosm) the nation. The Western Reserve's prominence in innovation and social reform can be seen and

What is a Town Square?

Here's how residents of the Western Reserve defined a town square during Town Hall Gatherings to discuss the feasibility study.

It's a place to get the latest news. It's kind of like yesterday's Internet.

It's a place to see and be seen.

It's a place where a community's need for green space was first recognized.

It's a social gathering place – a place to visit with friends and meet new people.

It's a place for protests.

It's a place that is "Open for Business."

It's a place where national issues are discussed – events, ideas, origins, impetus for growth.

It's the center of community activity.

It's a place where new ideas take root.

Figure 3 Word from the Streets . . . What is a Town Square?

felt today. Examples where you can witness these stories are included below each theme. These stories are just samples of some of the places, people, and innovations that evolved from a land surveyed and settled by New Englanders, early settlers, and immigrants. These stories evolved from those attending public meetings. Following an initial round of public meetings, the themes were developed and presented to the public at a second round of public meetings.

Theme #1- Migration

Settled by New Englanders in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the Western Reserve has been home to generation after generation of distinct domestic and international immigrants bearing their own ideas and traditions. This mixing of cultures and beliefs has inspired new ways of thinking, new ideas, and social reforms. At the same time, many of the cultural elements of each immigrant group have been retained and become part of the region's cultural vernacular, creating in the Western Reserve a region that boasts vibrant ethnic communities and customs, unique foods, an extensive calendar of ethnic festivals, music, museums, art, and club activities. The melting pot also gave rise to social acceptance and reform as those escaping persecution in their home countries sought a way of life in America that would accept differences. Diversity gave rise to social acceptance and reform.

One strong and enjoyable example of the influence of migration on the region is food. It has been said that if you follow the food you will discover the culture. For many, whether it is the Polish pierogi, the Czech kolache, or the Italian pizzelle cookie, a tradition of home-cooked history continues today. Waves of Italian immigrants have fostered the development of excellent, locally owned and operated Italian restaurants throughout the urban areas of the Western Reserve. New immigrants have also brought their own food traditions; for example, Taiwanese immigrants operate the Happy Buddha Precious Temple, a vegetarian restaurant in Cleveland. Food traditions like these exist around the United States as a result of immigration, and the concentration and diversity of them in the Western Reserve make it a perfect illustration.

Music and art are also embodied in the history and current culture of the Western Reserve. Polka clubs and the presence of the “chicken dance” at weddings in the area both carry on a largely forgotten music type for many parts of the country. A rock-and-roll tradition helped Cleveland land the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and deejays from the area were instrumental in racial integration of radio programming nationwide.

There is much overlap among the subthemes. In migration, for example, education was often an important goal for many immigrant parents who wanted their children to be successful and well-educated citizens in their new home. Likewise, internal migrations of African-Americans helped give rise to the area's civil rights influences on the nation.

Places

Loghurst, Canfield – Loghurst is an 1805 log home believed to be the oldest remaining log house in the Western Reserve and is operated by the Canfield Heritage Foundation.

Hale Farm and Village, Bath – An outdoor living history museum for more than 50 years, Hale Farm and Village provides all ages an opportunity to experience life on the Western Reserve frontier in the 19th century.

Slavic Village, Cleveland - Settlers from New England were first attracted to this area in 1796 by the fresh water and power provided by Mill Creek. Construction of the Ohio and Erie Canal in 1825 led to industrial and commercial growth. The arrival of heavy industry brought a large influx of Welsh, English, Scottish, and Irish immigrants. In the 1870s, Czech and Polish immigrants arrived, bringing their culture and religion to the area,

creating a neighborhood as rich in ethnic history as any in the United States.

Western Reserve Historical Society Museum, Cleveland – This not-for-profit educational institution preserves its collections, historic sites, and museums to inspire people to explore the Western Reserve history and culture. Its interpretation places the regional experience within the larger context of state, national, and global history. Today, it is the largest privately-supported regional historical society in the nation.

Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, Cleveland - The Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage introduces visitors to the beauty and diversity of that heritage in the context of the American experience. It explores the lives of individuals and their families in terms of their social, cultural, economic, and scientific contributions to the region, the nation, and the world.

Connecticut Land Company Office, Warren - Now home to the Trumbull County Tourism Bureau, this building once served as the headquarters for the Connecticut Land Company where tracts of land were sold.

Kilpi Hall, Conneaut - Kilpi Hall, the home of the Conneaut Community Center for the Arts, is the

oldest original Finnish Hall in Northeast America. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, it is where Finnish ancestors gathered to pray, laugh, sing, and dance.

People

Moses Cleaveland led the first survey party to the Western Reserve from Connecticut.

Rev. Heinrich Christian Schwan, a German immigrant, introduced the first lighted Christmas tree in Cleveland in 1851 and helped spread the tradition across America.

Hector Boiardi, better known as Chef Boyardee, emigrated to the region from Italy and opened a Cleveland Restaurant. His sauce became nationally recognized and a multi-million dollar corporation.

Bob Hope, a British-born comedian and actor, moved to Cleveland in 1908 and later became known for his humanitarian efforts, particularly his support of U.S. Armed Forces and its USO shows.



Geauga and Trumbull Counties Amish Communities

The Amish are a Christian separatist group that preserves a simple, self-sufficient way of life, avoiding modernization. They are easily identified by their traditional clothing without adornment, hats, and beards on married men. Their families tend to average about seven children. The home is the central place for gathering and fellowship in Amish communities. Church services, weddings, funerals, and social gatherings are all conducted at home. They do not allow electricity or telephones and rely on horse and buggy for travel. English is learned as a second language during school (Pennsylvania Dutch is the primary language for Amish), which runs through eighth grade.

Amish migration to Geauga and Trumbull counties began in the 1880s, creating the second largest Amish population in the state and the fourth largest population in the United States. There are about 60 Amish schools in Geauga County, serving an Amish population of more than 14,000. Their homes, horse and buggies, and simple attire are a visible part of life in Geauga County. Other elements of their culture that are evident to visitors include Amish shops for hardwood furniture, quilts, hand-oven baskets, baked goods, hand dipped candles & homemade soaps. Roadside stands also offer fresh produce and baked goods to visitors.

Innovation and Ideals

Food – Regional markets, restaurants, and dinner tables express the diversity of those that settled the region. “Cheesedom” described Aurora and its surrounding communities in the 19th century as a major center of cheese production. Beginning in 1808, local producers began shipping their cheese elsewhere. With the influx of new immigrants came new traditions and foods, including Pierogi, Czech kolaches, Italian pizzelles, and Barberton chicken-Serbian Style.

A cookie table is an ethnic wedding tradition said to originate in Youngstown. In place of or in addition to a traditional wedding cake, a large table with cookies is commonly presented to guests at Western Reserve wedding receptions.

With its origins dating back to 1840, the West Side Market was dedicated in 1912. Its 137-foot tower has stood as a Cleveland landmark for nearly a century. Today the market is home to more than 100 vendors of great ethnic diversity.

Music – The Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of polka music. The Cleveland-Style polka has its roots in Slovenian folk music.

Theme #2- Transportation

The Western Reserve connected itself to the nation; in the development of those systems, it connected the world. Canal boats, steamships, lake freighters, railroads, automobiles, Goodyear Airship, early aviation, and aerospace innovations—the Western Reserve has been at the hub of designing, manufacturing, and using the vehicles and systems that transport people and goods. The region was a heavy user of these technologies, illustrating similar industrialization and settlement patterns to those found elsewhere in America as a result of transportation technologies and routes. More importantly, it was the home of numerous innovations in the design and manufacture of the modes and methods of transportation.

The Western Reserve retains its historic role as a center of automobile and parts production



and design, as well as in the construction and movement of people and goods via transportation system. For example, the Lordstown General Motors plant increased the number of employees in 2010 to build components for the new Chevrolet Cruze. The region today has a rich heritage of trails and outdoor recreation, evidenced through a national park, the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail, and an extensive array of connected trails through metroparks systems. In the Towpath Trail, one can see a historical form of transportation giving way to a more modern priority.

Overlapping with other subthemes, the natural existence of Lake Erie and the region's rivers created the basis for a water-based transportation system that eventually included canals. Today, water trails, boating, and ferries are a few of the systems that continue to be used. Railroads in particular fed the explosive growth of industry in this region; the region also spurred railroad growth as increased industry created a need to move products.

Places

Steamship **WILLIAM G. MATHER**, Cleveland – The 1925-built MATHER, a restored 618-foot Great Lakes freighter, allows visitors to marvel at the “engineering firsts” that helped transform the Western Reserve into a great industrial center.

Goodyear Airdock, Akron – The Goodyear Airdock in Akron was constructed in 1929 by the Goodyear Zeppelin Corporation. With its construction, Akron became one of the centers for development and construction of lighter-than-air ships. In more recent years, the airdock has been used for construction of military blimps by Lockheed Martin.

NASA John H. Glenn Research Center, Cleveland – Established in 1941, this research center formed to develop and improve aircraft engines. The Flight Propulsion Research Laboratory now investigates all types of propulsion.

NASA Plum Brook Station, Sandusky – Plum Brook is a facility for full-systems testing of large flight-rated structures and propulsion systems.

National Packard Museum, Warren – The National Packard Museum preserves the Packard Legacy, recognizing Packard's influence on transportation and industrial history. Packard automobiles introduced a number of innovations in its designs, including the modern steering wheel and standard 12-cylinder engines.

People

Alexander Winton built the first diesel engine in the United States and developed a production schedule to make a group of cars according to a pattern. *Horatio Nelson Jackson* made the first cross-country automobile trip in 1903, in a Winton automobile.

Garrett Morgan invented the traffic signal, as well as the gas mask.

Charles Goodyear revolutionized transportation through the discovery of a process to convert rubber into usable materials.

Franklin Augustus Seiberling founded Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, created company housing to benefit workers, and co-founded the Lincoln Highway Association that built the first hard-surface road across America.

Harvey Firestone founded Firestone Tire and Rubber Company and was one of the first global producers of tires.



Ransom Eli Olds was a pioneer of the American automotive industry for whom both Oldsmobile and Reo brands were named.

Alfred Kelley "the father of the Ohio canal system," was born in Middlefield, Connecticut, on November 7, 1789, and moved to Cleveland in 1810 where he became the city's first mayor in 1815. He was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives in 1814 and served in state politics in some capacity for the rest of his life.

Innovation and Ideals

The *Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Trail and Canalway National Scenic Byway* are nationally designated scenic byways.

The first tubeless automobile tire began to roll within the Western Reserve.

The Soap Box Derby is a youth racing program, and the World Championships are held in Akron every July. Cars competing in this event rely only on gravity to move.

The first padded bicycle seat in the world, known as the *Garford Saddle*, was produced by Garford Manufacturing Company in Elyria.

Edison Birthplace, Milan

Unquestionably one of the most prolific inventors of all time, Thomas Alva Edison was born in Milan in 1847. Located on the Huron River and canal, and serving as the depot for a rich trade in wheat and supplies for inland families, Milan was not only the second largest wheat shipping port in the world, but also a major shipbuilding center. Edison was just seven years old when the family moved to Port Huron, Michigan. Edison visited his birthplace home in 1923 and was shocked to discover it was still lit by candles and lamps.

Best known for his invention of the electric light bulb in 1879, Edison held many other patents that changed our world. Some of his inventions include a vote recorder, stock ticker, phonograph, electric motor, and motion picture projector.

Edison's birthplace is open as a museum, and it is the only national Edison site to have family involvement in its operation.



Theme #3- Industry

The earliest days of the Western Reserve were marked by a powerful agricultural industry that made the region prosperous. At one point, the region was one of the most prolific cheese- and maple syrup-making areas in the nation. Later, heavy “smokestack” industries led to the primacy of this area as a regional, national, and international force in business and manufacturing. Innovations and prolific production in oil, iron, rubber, and steel led the region to this manufacturing prominence from the Civil War through World War II, bringing the peoples of the world to the Western Reserve for jobs in factories and mills. These immigrants further enhanced innovations by bringing their unique knowledge and skills, such as furniture-making and clock-making.

It was the spirit of the New England “Yankee,” regarded by many as sharp, canny, and resourceful that began the industrial advances in the Western Reserve, a movement that continued by waves of skilled immigrants. This drive to make systems better, more efficient, and more profitable continues today as the region is an international center for progressive medical care and research, and polymer innovations.

The innovative spirit of work in the region also translated into the Western Reserve leading the

nation in innovations in labor structures and relationships, as well as in worker's rights. Important national struggles for worker's rights took place in Cleveland, Akron, Warren, and Youngstown, changing the face of industry for all Americans. The existence of strong industries led to the establishment of educational institutions of technology, design, and the arts to feed manufacturing and to augment the quality of life for workers.

Places

Wineries – German immigrants, who came to the Western Reserve in the late 1800s, brought with them German winemaking techniques and found a microclimate influenced by Lake Erie that produced excellent grapes and wines. Wineries popped up from the Lake Erie Islands, near Sandusky, all the way east to the Pennsylvania border. This narrow strip became known as the “Lake Erie Grape Belt”, an area that is home to well over half of the grape acreage in Ohio.

Museum of Labor and Industry, Youngstown – This museum tells the story of the impact of the iron and steel industries on Youngstown and other Western Reserve communities.

Hopewell Furnace, Struthers – Built in 1803, the Hopewell Cold-Blast Charcoal Furnace was the first furnace built in the State of Ohio. It was built

on Yellow Creek by James and Daniel Heaton near the present city of Struthers.

Amherst Sandstone Center, Amherst -- Beginning in 1847, Amherst developed and prospered around the sandstone industry and its associated quarries. Amherst sandstone is well known for its quality, durability, and rich texture, and it has been used for construction projects throughout the world.

National Inventors Hall of Fame™, Akron – This site honors the women and men responsible for the great technological advances that make human, social, and economic progress possible.

People

Thomas Alva Edison held 1,093 U.S. patents including the incandescent light bulb, motion picture camera, printing telegraph, and cylinder phonograph.

John D. Rockefeller was an American oil magnate who revolutionized the petroleum industry.

Halsey Taylor invented the bubbling drinking fountain.

Quincy Gilmore invented improvements to the artificial heart.

It was the spirit of the New England “Yankee,” regarded by many as sharp, canny, and resourceful that began the industrial advances in the Western Reserve ...

Lewis Miller invented equipment that led to the modern-day combine harvester.

Dr. Daniel B. Woods was one of the first doctors in the west to use ether in surgical procedures.

Platt Rogers Spencer is the father of American handwriting who perfected the Spencerian Script influenced by nature and Lake Erie.

Ferdinand Schumacher founded a company that merged to become Quaker Oats Company.

Ohio Columbus Barber was known as the “American Match King” and helped form several companies including Diamond Match Company and Babcock and Wilcox Company.

Innovation and Ideals

The first *whole-body x-ray scanner* was developed by Ohio Nuclear, Inc.

United Rubber Workers Union was founded in Akron.

Salt is mined under Lake Erie, and *Morton Salt* got its start in the Western Reserve.

Countryside Initiative is an innovative community-based food system that re-establishes farms within the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Medical breakthroughs are vast and include the first near-total face transplant, surgical procedure to repair diseased heart valves, larynx transplants, and development of a new pacemaker to allow spinal cord injury patients to breathe with a ventilator.

The American Society of Metals International became an international society for materials professionals. Its International Geodesic Dome is a landmark in the world of technology.

An area of the Western Reserve is known as the “*polymer valley*” for its large number of plastics and rubber companies since the 1800s.

The *Sheffield Manual Labor Institute* was among the first that trained men and women of all races.

Theme #4- Lake Erie

Part of the largest freshwater system in the world, Lake Erie created the climate for the Western Reserve's dynamic cultural and industrial history. Its influence on the weather and natural landscape is evidenced by flourishing vineyards, nurseries, and orchards, while the natural features dictated where harbors and canals developed. These working waterways connected the Western Reserve to the world, providing transportation for people and ideas to and from the region, jobs, and a carrying route for raw materials and manufactured goods. The impact of industry on the lake and rivers also created change in the 1970s. The nation's environmental movement, The Clean Water Act, and the birth of the Environmental Protection Agency were sparked by grassroots efforts that followed media coverage of the "burning" of the Cuyahoga River when an oil slick upon the river ignited.

Focus on the lake continues to shift in value from viewing it as only a way to fuel an industrial engine to a recreational, scenic, and natural resource creating a quality of life few areas possess. Today, the lake's value as a recreational, scenic, and natural resource is becoming increasingly recognized. As water issues emerge in other areas of the United States, Lake Erie's importance as part of the vast freshwater Great Lakes system will increase as well.

Important research on Lake Erie and the Great Lakes is conducted within the region, with academic institutions cooperating and leading the way. Scenic and working lighthouses, shipwrecks, sportfishing, historic resort communities, and a history of tourism along the lakefront are important elements of the region's heritage and its identity today.

Places

Ashtabula Harbor District – With completion of the railroad in 1873, Ashtabula's harbor became a direct route to ship iron ore to the booming steel mills of Youngstown and Pittsburgh. Demand for labor in Ashtabula brought Swedish, Finnish, Irish, Italian, and other immigrants to the city. The harbor was one of the busiest ports on the Great Lakes. Now on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975, the district conveys the feeling of a characteristic late 19th century commercial street of structures ranging from the High Victorian Italianate through the Neo-Classical styles.

Harbour Town 1837, Vermilion - Once known as the "Village of Lake Captains," no other place in Ohio has so many beautifully maintained captains' homes in its historic district.

Marine museums in Fairport Harbor, Ashtabula, Vermilion and Sandusky celebrate the rich maritime history on Lake Erie

The Ohio State University Stone Laboratory is the oldest freshwater laboratory on the Great Lakes. More than 65 researchers from at least a dozen of our nation's academic institutions and agencies use Stone Laboratory as a base for solving Great Lakes issues such as aquatic invasive species, the Dead Zone, harmful algal blooms, and nutrient loading. Stone Laboratory also serves as an OSU island campus for undergraduate and graduate students, in addition to serving as a workshop site for high school and middle school students.

Lake Erie lighthouses are located in Conneaut, Fairport, Ashtabula, Lorain, Cleveland, Vermilion, Huron, Sandusky, Port Clinton, and Put-in-Bay. The Marblehead Lighthouse, built in 1822, is the oldest continuously operating lighthouse on the Great Lakes.

Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial, Put-in-Bay – This National Park Service site and memorial commemorates international peace and the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812.

Views of Lake Erie and access to its beaches and waters are found at several sites, including *state parks* in Geneva-on-the-Lake and Marblehead.

Mentor Marsh, Mentor - One of the largest natural marshes remaining along the Lake Erie shoreline,

Mentor Marsh is an important breeding and nursery area for wildlife that depend on Lake Erie.

Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve, Huron – Part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's network of estuarine research reserves, Old Woman Creek is the only one representing a Great Lakes freshwater estuary. Estuaries are a transition zone between land and water, resulting in a site with a variety of habitats including marshes and swamps, upland forests, open water, tributary streams, and barrier beach.

The *Lake Erie Islands* archipelago of South Bass, Kelleys, Middle, North, and Pelee islands are places of maritime commerce, military history, winemaking, quarrying, and tourism. Isolated from the mainland and accessible only by boat or

air, these islands retain a coastal charm and are becoming recognized for their natural treasures.

People

Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry led U.S. naval forces to victory during the War of 1812's Battle of Lake Erie, securing control of the lake and forcing British retreat.



Commodore Perry

George Hulett invented the Hulett ore unloader that revolutionized shipping on the Great Lakes.

Samuel L. Mather is credited with opening the rich iron ore resources of the Lake Superior region, bringing Cleveland to its position of supremacy in the iron industry.

Benajah Wolcott was one of the first settlers on the Marblehead Peninsula in 1809. On June 24 1822, he was appointed keeper of the newly completed Marblehead Lighthouse. Following his death 10 years later, his wife—Rachel Wolcott—became the first female lighthouse keeper on the Great Lakes.

Pierpont Edwards founded the Toleration Party in Connecticut and became a U.S. federal judge. He was also one of the original members of the Connecticut Land Company, owning South Bass, Middle Bass, and Gibraltar islands. He and his agents began farming till after the War of 1812 when they began providing maritime resources and services.

Tinkers Creek

Tinkers Creek is named for Joseph Tinker, who was the principal boatman for Moses Cleaveland's survey crew. This 52-person work unit from Connecticut was charged with surveying the original Western Reserve. They didn't finish the survey work entirely, and Tinker died in a boating accident while returning to New England.

Tinkers Creek is the largest tributary of the Cuyahoga River, draining parts of 24 different political jurisdictions, spanning Portage, Geauga, Summit, and Cuyahoga counties. At a total length of about 30 miles, Tinkers Creek has a drainage area of 96.4 square miles. Its waters eventually end up in Lake Erie, providing an example of how actions that impact water quality of tributaries contribute to the quality of Lake Erie waters as well. In a 2-mile stretch, the creek drops 220 feet through a steep gorge, producing waterfalls and cascades that provide pleasant viewing for visitors to the area.

Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve includes almost 786 acres of rich peat, swamp, and marshland populated with diverse foliage and fauna. For example, nesting waterfowl, songbirds, Canada geese, wood ducks, beavers, whitetail deer, mink, raccoon, weasel, muskrat, fox, snapping turtles, water snakes, four-toed salamanders, and bullfrogs are commonly found within its boundaries.

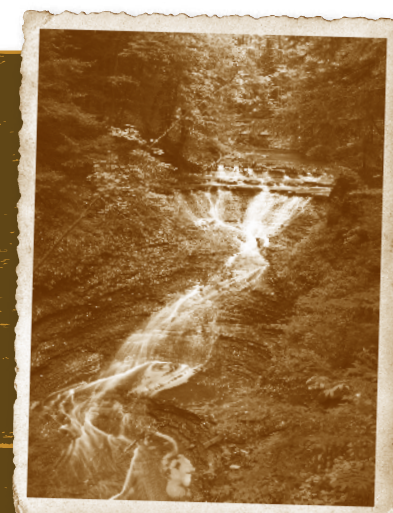


Photo by Miriam Poling

Innovation and Ideals

Clean Water Act of 1972 – The publicity surrounding the water quality of Lake Erie and the Cuyahoga River publicity when it “caught fire” in 1969 served as a catalyst in passage of the Clean Water Act, the first laws to protect the nation's waters and to eliminate pollution discharge into waterways.

Lake Erie is known as the “*Walleye Capital of the World*”, and it produces more fish for human consumption than the other four Great Lakes combined.

An emerging interest in *steelhead fishing* and increased access and water quality has led to the growth of steelhead fishing in the lake's tributaries.

Theme #5- Land Use and Architecture

Choices in land use began with the first surveying team sent to the Western Reserve from New England. Unique surveying methods resulted in settlement patterns that included town squares, radiating patterns of land use and roadways, and five-mile-square townships. As early settlers from New England arrived in the area, they brought distinct architectural patterns, examples of which are prolific through the region. Especially common in the early era were wood-frame and wood-sided buildings.

As increased immigration and industrialization occurred, architectural tastes were influenced by those of the world and country at large and by the increased availability of other building materials, such as stone and brick. Civic buildings of the region, particularly those of heavy industrial periods, are awe-inspiring examples of their architectural types, which include Richardsonian Romanesque, Beaux Arts, Greek Revival, and more. These structures are a testament to the wealth that generated in the Western Reserve and—when built with private monies—to the philanthropic bent of the region's leadership through time. Many continue to serve their communities today as city halls, libraries, auditoriums, and theaters. The homes of financial giants, such as the Tudor Revival-style Stan Hywet Hall, illustrate the individual wealth that was generated and held here.

Not all structures are illustrations of magnitude and expenditure, however. Especially in areas with high immigration numbers, such as Youngstown, one finds smaller churches, clubs, and halls within ethnic communities that illustrated the groups' shared culture. Historic neighborhoods range from high-style to vernacular, from industrial-era mansions lining the streets to small, wood-frame homes that cohesively portray their period of significance.

Places

Town squares, such as those in Medina, Hudson, Canfield, Tallmadge, Mesopotamia, Cleveland, Milan, and many other Western Reserve communities, mirror the settlement patterns brought to the area by Connecticut settlers.

Millionaire Row, Warren - Historic Mahoning Avenue is where the local affluent – the “Who's Who” of American industry, commerce, and politics – built and lived in stately homes and mansions that lined the street during the mid- to



late-1800s. Recognized as national treasures, many of these structures have been restored to their original grandeur. Today they are home to businesses, museums, offices, and private residences including the Sutliff Museum, an authentic recreation of the Victorian period, circa 1830-1900.

Trumbull County Courthouse, Warren – Completed in 1897, this building is a Richardson Romanesque design and features Ohio's largest common pleas courtroom.

Sandusky is home to one of the largest collections of historical limestone architecture in the country.

Stambaugh Auditorium is a Greco-Roman style building financed by a leading Youngstown businessman.

Shandy Hall is the oldest frame house in the Western Reserve to be preserved in its original form.

Norwalk is situated at the center of the Firelands, a subregion of the Western Reserve, and is an architecturally-diverse historic district.

People

The *Van Sweringen* brothers built Cleveland's Terminal Tower, the second tallest building in the world when completed in 1930.

Jonathan Goldsmith was a master builder and a pioneer in the Greek Revival Style of architecture.

Daniel Burnham co-developed the 1903 Group Plan that included the Cleveland Mall, public green space, and the city's major civic and governmental buildings.

J. Milton Dyer was a prolific and prominent architect who designed many Cleveland buildings, including one of the country's first major exhibition halls.

Ernest J. Bohn became the "father" of public housing and introduced the first enabling legislation in Ohio. The first three public housing projects authorized and begun by the Public Works Administration were built in Cleveland in 1935-37.

Innovation and Ideals

Shaker Heights was one of the country's first Garden City suburban planning projects.

Original records of the Connecticut Western Reserve Land Company show how settlement of the area was a "test bed" for *public land systems and surveying*.

Medina Town Square

Typical of many cities and towns in the Western Reserve, Main Street Medina boasts a classic town square at the heart of its historic downtown commercial district. The city's Main Street website (www.mainstreetmedina.com) describes its creation:

Founded in 1818, one of the first things Medina's earliest settlers did was to clear away the huge trees and create a public park, or, as it was called in their native New England, a Town Commons or Village Green. Business and residential buildings quickly sprang up along the four streets surrounding the park. The community received a grant of land on the condition it become the county seat for Medina County.

The Medina Public Square Historic District includes a central green space with a gazebo, surrounded by a courthouse, retail stores, restaurants, the convention and visitors bureau, various county, city and federal government buildings, historic churches, theaters, and a magnificent public library building. The Public Square Historic District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and remains the heart of the community today, with events like summer concerts and special programs taking place there.



Land conservancies, metropark systems, and state and federal agencies have acquired and preserved *public spaces* for Western Reserve residents and visitors.

Cemeteries and monuments trace the region's heritage and wealth.

Main street thoroughfares, town squares and *downtown business districts* continue to be the center of community activity.

Theme #6 – Education and Social Reform

Those within the Western Reserve have seldom been afraid to fight for their beliefs. We see evidence of this in widespread involvement in abolitionism, Underground Railroad, women's rights, civil rights, and environmental action advocated by citizens of the region. Harriet Taylor Upton led the early women's suffrage movement from here, Oberlin College had a racially integrated student body as early as 1835, and Case Western Reserve University has a Social Justice Institute that works to encourage civic discourse and engagement today.

A climate supportive of philanthropy has aided the region's ability to create change. The region provided the first public scholarships

Sutliff Museum, Warren

The life and times of the Sutliff family are featured in this museum from pioneer times of the Western Reserve through the days of the Civil War to the height of the Victorian era.

The Sutliff brothers, Levi and Milton, were active in the area's abolition movement and played significant roles in the Underground Railroad. Levi's daughter, Phebe Temperance Sutliff, was a scholar and educator, teaching at the college level and eventually serving as the first woman president of Rockford (Illinois) College in the early 20th century. Upon returning to Ohio from Illinois, she was instrumental in many civic organizations in Warren, including forming educational programs for immigrants and serving as the first female board president of the Warren Public Library in 1938. She established and endowed the Sutliff Museum.

The Warren Library Association, through the Sutliff Museum, continues the Sutliff legacy of community service and education through programs such as the Underground Railroad Suitcase and lectures. Outside the doors of the museum is an Underground Railroad exhibit established by the Warren Library Association that provides a glimpse of the local anti-slavery sentiments from the 1820s to the 1850s. This exhibit has earned the Warren-Trumbull County Public Library (which houses both the exhibit and the Sutliff Museum) a Freedom Station designation by the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati.



for education. Industrial leaders paid for the construction of libraries, theaters, and other civic buildings. Today, the volume of community-based foundations is above the norm, evidencing a continued tendency to give.

For many, religion formed the foundation for active social reform and a giving spirit. Connecticut settlers brought with them faith, a practice of tithing, and Puritan beliefs. This

regional attention to matters of the spirit was strengthened by the arrival of new immigrants, many of whom were seeking to escape persecution based on their religious beliefs. One needs only to scan the horizon in a town of the Western Reserve to see the diversity and volume of churches that evidence the religious heritage of the region.

Places

John Brown Home, Akron – The fight to end slavery in the United States was the driving force and passion of John Brown's life; here, one can see documentation of his life history, from his days of youth in his hometown of Akron in the 1830s, to his historic raid on Harper's Ferry in 1859.

John Mercer Langston House, Oberlin – A National Historic Landmark, this site was home to John Mercer Langston, abolitionist and U.S. Congressman, who was one of the first African-Americans elected to public office in the United States.

William H. McGuffey Boyhood Home, Warren – A National Historic Landmark, this site was home to William H. McGuffey, creator of the McGuffey Readers.

Oberlin Heritage Center – This award-winning museum complex includes three beautifully preserved historic sites including the Monroe House (1866), Jewett House (1884), and Schoolhouse (1836).

Oberlin College – This small Ohio college has an extraordinary, nationally significant history. It was a hotbed of abolitionism, women's activism, part of the Underground Railroad, and a leader in non-segregated higher education opportunities.

Hubbard House Underground Railroad Museum

– Not only is this site an excellent example of Western Reserve architecture, but it was also used to shelter slaves moving along the "Underground Railroad." Written accounts list over 30 individuals seeking freedom stayed at the house at one time before boarding ships to Canada.

Historic Kirtland and Kirtland Temple

– From 1831 to 1838, Kirtland was a bustling community and headquarters of an energetic new religious movement under the leadership of Joseph Smith, Jr. Historic Kirtland tells the story of early members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.



Wellington – In 1858, a runaway slave was seized by U.S. marshals in Oberlin and transported to Wellington for deportation to the south. Plans were thwarted when a massive crowd gathered in Wellington. The people involved were indicted for violation of the "Fugitive Law."

Union Chapel, Newbury—Residents built the Union Chapel when the Congregational Church across the street refused to allow James Garfield

to speak there, as they were concerned about the topic of his speech. Garfield, later the twentieth President of the United States, dedicated the small chapel to free speech. The South Newbury Woman's Suffrage Political Club, one of the oldest in the U.S., was organized there, and Louisa May Alcott and Susan B. Anthony are among those who have spoken at the chapel.

People

Toni Morrison is a Nobel Prize and Pulitzer Peace Prize winning author.

Joshua Reed Giddings was an American statesman and abolitionist.

Jay Cooke was a wizard financier who developed the war bond system to aid union efforts during the Civil War.



Jay Cooke

Harriet Taylor Upton secured the National Women's Suffrage Association national headquarters in Warren and was active in politics in late 1800s.

John Mercer Langston was one of the first African-Americans elected to public office when elected as a town clerk in Ohio.

Archibald Willard painted *The Spirit of '76* in Wellington after seeing a patriotic parade pass through the town square.



Betsy Mix was president of the women-speaking-only Salem women's rights convention in 1850 and was an active abolitionist.

Clarence Darrow was an attorney during the Scopes-Monkey trial.

Ransom Dunn was an early evangelist who influenced abolitionists.

Innovation and Ideals

First Community Charity Fund Community Chest was the first community charity fund and precursor to the *United Way*.

Women's suffrage movement was nationally headquartered in Warren.

The *Anti-Saloon League* was founded in Oberlin and became one of the nation's most powerful prohibition lobbying organizations.

Alcoholics Anonymous began in Akron.

Easter Seals began in Elyria as the National Society for Crippled Children.

The *Akron Plan* for church buildings was first used in 1872 and was popularized by architectural pattern books in the late 19th and early 20th century. The plan is typified by an auditorium worship space (the "rotunda") surrounded by connecting Sunday school classrooms spaces on one or two levels. The plan promotes efficiency of movement by congregants between worship and Sunday School.

Abolitionism and *Underground Railroad* movements were active throughout the Western Reserve.

The *open shelf library system* was founded in the Western Reserve.

The "burning" of the Cuyahoga River sparked the *national environmental movement*, the formation of the *Environmental Protection Agency*, and *passage of the 1972 Clean Water Act*.

Oberlin

Oberlin has a long and vibrant history of involvement in key social issues facing the nation. Active in the Underground Railroad movement, the city has been called the "Town that Started the Civil War" for the uproar it raised when Oberlin residents and Oberlin College students traveled to nearby Wellington to free a man from slave catchers. Abolitionism was not the only issue tackled by residents of this campus community. Civil rights, temperance, prohibition, and women's rights all received a boost from this small community.

Oberlin College was the first in the nation to regularly enroll women alongside men; it was the first to graduate an African-American female. A sampling of the college's alumni demonstrate the unique role this community has played – John Mercer Langston who became the first African American elected to Congress from Virginia, Antoinette Brown who became the first ordained female minister in the United States, and Lucy Stone who helped organize the American Woman Suffrage Association.

The progressive Oberlin Heritage Center maintains three historic sites where visitors learn more about this community's celebrated past. This award-winning center provides guided tours, history walks, workshops, and programs.

