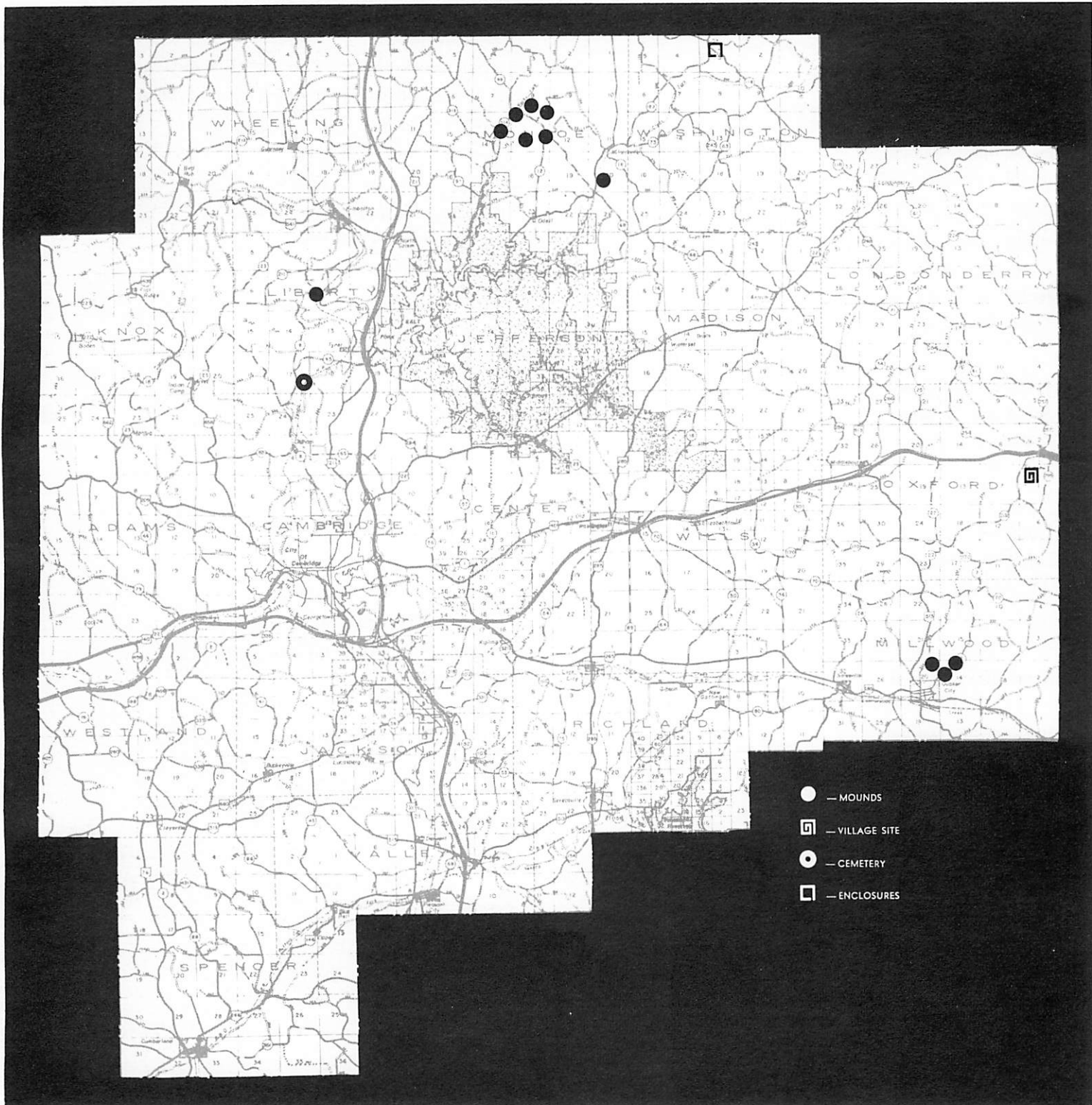


Mounds Of Guernsey County



The Mound Builders

The Archaeological Atlas of Ohio, published in 1914, contains the following comments as to the evidence that at one time Guernsey County was inhabited by the mound-building peoples:

“Guernsey county, with its rugged topography, its few streams and narrow valleys did not offer very favorable conditions for aboriginal settlement and therefore is sparse in number of earthworks. Eleven mounds have been recorded in the county, besides an enclosure, a cemetery and a village site. Monroe township leads with six mounds, Millwood has three, and Liberty one. Despite the relative scarcity of earthworks, many fine archaeological specimens of flint, stone and other materials have been found in the county, showing at least a temporary or transient occupation of considerable importance.”

These people would probably have been of the Hopewell culture that flourished in the southern part of Ohio in the period 500 B.C. to 500 A.D. and gradually declined until about 1100 A.D. when their culture seemed to disappear altogether.

The map on the previous page shows the location of the sites mentioned in the Archaeological Atlas. It is highly probable, though, that there are also other sites in Guernsey County that were not listed in the Atlas. Erosion and cultivation have nearly obliterated the mounds, however, and little observable evidence remains of these pre-historic Indians.

Guernsey County

Townships.	Mounds.	Enclosures.	Village Sites.	Cemeteries.	Totals.
Liberty	1			1	
Monroe	7				
Washington		1			
Oxford			1		
Millwood	3				
Totals	11	1	1	1	14

This page courtesy of Central National Bank at Cambridge



Indian cemetery, Liberty Township

Indian grinding holes carved out of solid rock near Indian cemetery



Indian Days

Guernsey County was a little "off of the beaten path" as far as important Indian activities were concerned. The valleys of the Muskingum (and the Upper Muskingum, now called the Tuscarawas), the Scioto and the Miami Rivers abounded with important Indian towns and many exciting events occurred there when white expeditions into the Ohio country were launched. These rivers connected, by means of short portages, with the Great Lakes by way of the Cuyahoga, Sandusky and Maumee Rivers, thus providing an almost continuous water route between the Lakes and the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. Counties through which these rivers flow are rich in Indian history.

It was not so with Guernsey County, however. Our river (Wills Creek), was just not that important a stream to the Indians. No towns of historical importance were located there.

But Guernsey County did have a few Indian towns of its own, small and transient though they were. Wolfe states that there was a town near the mouth of Trail Run in Jackson Township called "Old Town", another town four miles north of Cambridge, another on Indian Camp run in Knox Township, another near the mouth of Birds Run in Wheeling Township and one on Salt Fork creek in the southeastern part of Jefferson Township.

A branch of the Mingo Trail connecting the Salt Lick near Duncan Falls (then called Wills Town) with the Mingo town called Crow's Town south of present-day Steubenville passed through Guernsey County. Frank Wilcox, in his "Ohio Indian Trails" states that this branch of the Mingo Trail ran "to the forks of the Stillwater at Piedmont (U.S. 22), and so on southwest over the heads of Skull Fork and Salt Fork, and over Leatherwood Creek two miles east of Lore City (Ohio 285). It then followed a ridge westward and southward over Will's Creek, and passing through Hartford Station (now Buffalo), and Pleasant City, led up Buffalo Fork to Cumberland

(Ohio 146). From Cumberland it ascended Miller Creek, over High Hill (Ohio 284), down the north ridge of Kent Run and into Duncan Falls (Ohio 60)."

In the 1760s, an Officer of Engineers in the British Army, Thomas Hutchins (later to become the first Geographer of the United States and the man in charge of the surveying of the Seven Ranges), made several extensive tours of exploration into the Ohio country, and in 1766 the following map was published based on his notes. As to the trail from Will's Town to Crow's Town, he states as follows:

"Will's Town has 35 Houses in it and About 45 Warriors, & 80 Women & Children. The Houses are close together, and their Cornfields in sight of the Town. The Muskingum is not Fordable opposite the Town.

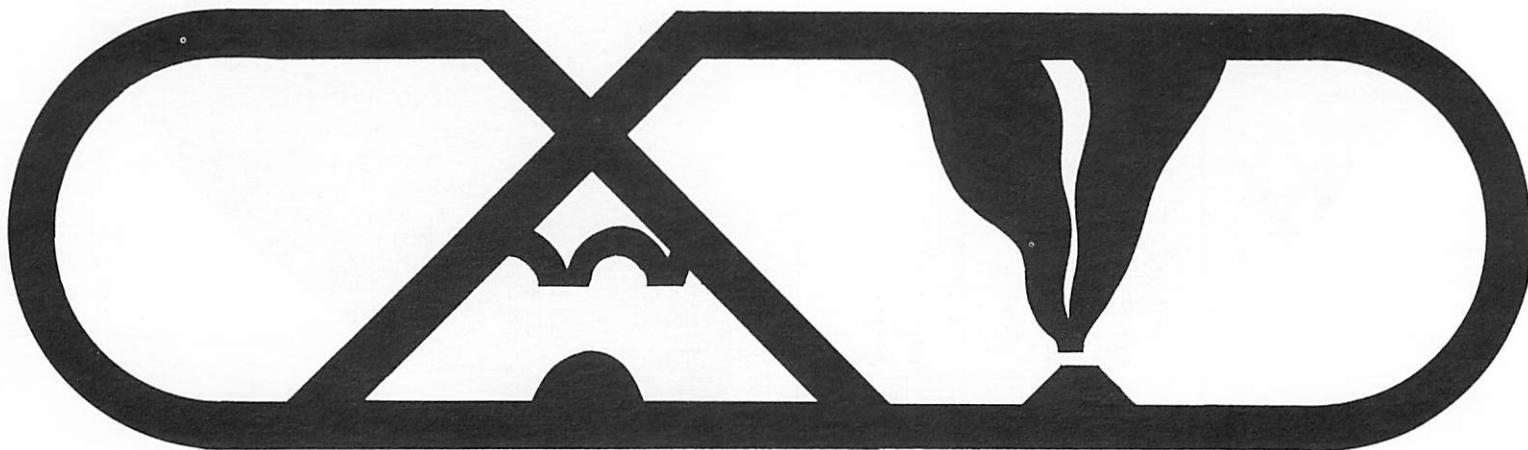
The Path, then Leading to the Crow's Town, takes over several little Ridges for 6 miles to A Creek 8 yards wide.

21 miles further, through a very Shrubby Country, is A small Delaware Town, at a Creek (Wills Creek), 30 yards wide. There is about a Dozen Houses, 20 Warriors, and 30 women & Children.

About 75 Miles further is the Crow's Town on the Ohio River, which is now Evacuated.

The Indians have not any Forts at the aforementioned Towns."

On the map, the Delaware town along Wills Creek is referred to as New Town. The exact location of this town cannot be definitely ascertained from the map for the map is not that accurately drawn, but if it did lie along the Mingo Trail at its intersection with Wills Creek, it was probably in the vicinity of Pleasant City, or perhaps it was the Trail Run town referred to by Wolfe as being called "Old Town". Whatever its exact location, it is the only Indian town set forth on early maps as being in Guernsey County territory.



This page courtesy of The Nicolozakes Trucking Company

Hutchins Map



Fishbasket

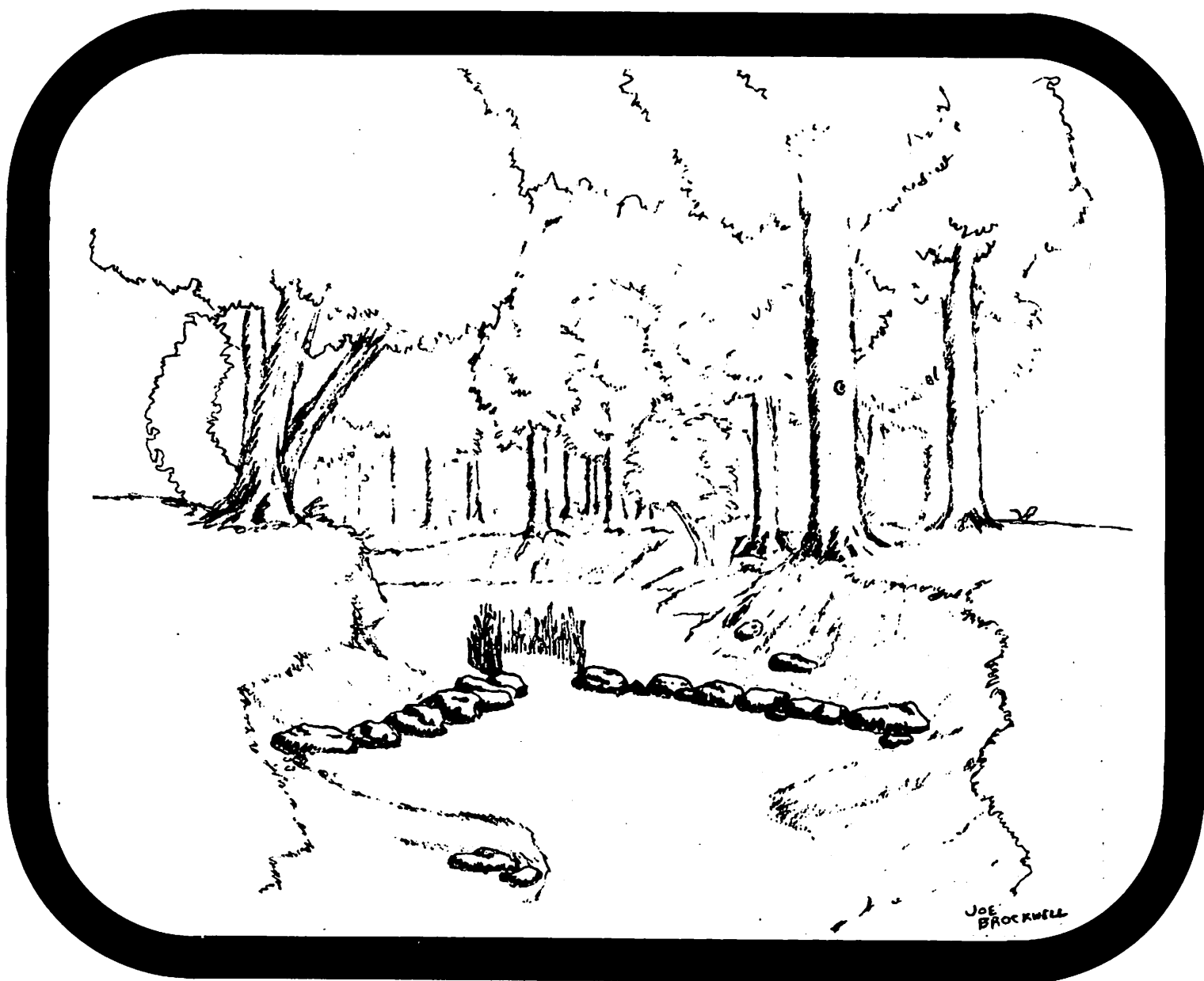
An interesting relic of Indian times survives to this day in the name given to an area just north of Cambridge known as "Fishbasket".

So that name will have more meaning to us in the future, the following drawing depicts how an Indian "fish basket" worked.

At a shallow place in the stream, (in this case at the bend of Wills Creek between the old airport site and U. S. 21), rocks

would be piled in the shape of a V, pointed downstream, but not quite joined in the center. Fish, swimming downstream, would pass through the opening in the rocks, but then could not get past the wooden stakes (the "basket") and could simply be picked out of the water, or speared, by the Indians.

When the first settlers came to this area, there was an Indian Fishbasket at this location and it has been known by that name ever since.



This page courtesy of Randall-Burkart/Randall Division

Border Wars

McDonald's Expedition, Or The Wapatomica Campaign

Since there were no Indian towns of importance in Guernsey County, no events of major significance took place here during the Border Wars. However, on two occasions, large bodies of whites crossed the county enroute to the Indian towns on the Muskingum and one Indian fight involving a few frontiersmen and a few Indians is recorded as having taken place along Wills Creek near Cambridge. These events are described in the order in which they occurred.

In the spring of 1774, numerous raids by Indians had been made on the white settlements in Pennsylvania and Western Virginia and occasionally the whites would also raid the Indian towns. Finally, however, a large force of militia, 400 in all, crossed the Ohio at the mouth of Captina Creek (about 20 miles below Wheeling) on July 26, 1774, and headed for the Indian towns on the Muskingum, the principal town at that time being Wapatomica, at the site of present-day Dresden. Col. Angus McDonald was the leader of this expedition and among the participants were Jonathan Zane, Simon Kenton and George Rogers Clark. (Definite proof that George Rogers Clark accompanied the expedition has been hard to come by, but his biographers state that there is "good reason to believe" that he went along.)

The route followed by McDonald as he crossed Guernsey County is not designated as such on the early surveys. However,

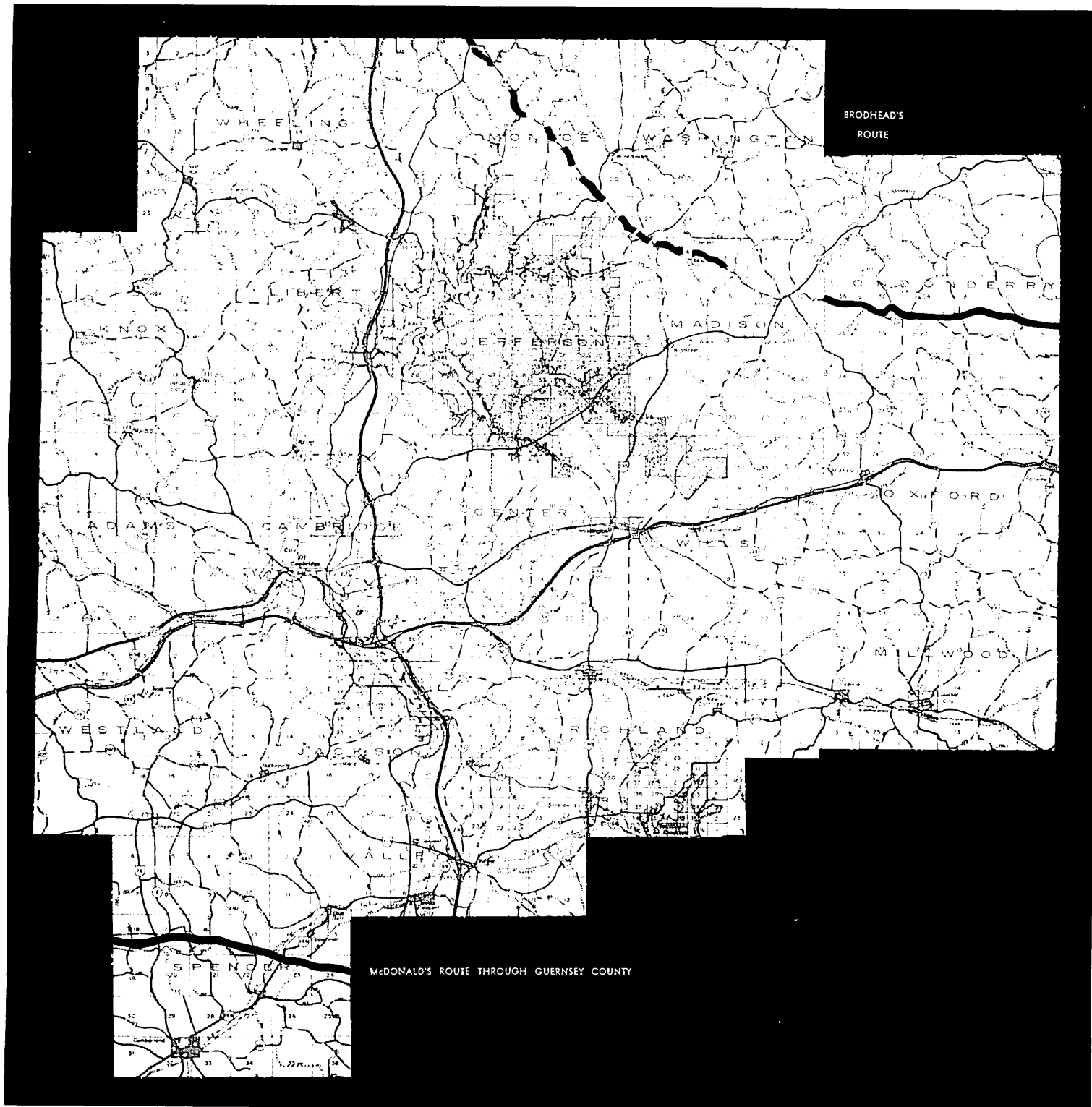
these surveys do show a road from "the Salt Springs to Grave Creek" crossing Spencer Township. This, almost certainly, is McDonald's route, for Grave Creek is now Moundsville, W. Va., nearly opposite to Captina, the starting point of the expedition, and the Salt Springs were at Chandlersville, from which numerous Indian trails branched off to the various towns, including Wapatomica. Therefore, McDonald's force would have started from Captina to take advantage of the existing Indian trail as far as Chandlersville (the Salt Springs), and then headed northwesterly on another Indian trail directly to Wapatomica. That they were using an Indian trail as they approached Wapatomica is shown in an account of the expedition which mentions seeing Indians in "the road" ahead. In 1774, the only "road" in this part of the Ohio country would have been an Indian trail. With only the slightest of reservations, then, the route believed followed by McDonald is shown on the map accompanying this article.

About six miles from Wapatomica, on August 2nd, a small force of Indians ambushed the whites, killed two and wounded 8 or 10, losing a few killed and wounded themselves. The Indians then retreated and the whites proceeded on to the river, arriving on the evening of the same day. The next day the whites crossed the river and destroyed the town and a few other towns nearby. They then returned to Wheeling. This was the first military expedition to cross Guernsey County territory.



This page courtesy of Cambridge Savings & Loan Association

Brodheads Route & McDonalds Route



As shown on original survey plats in the office of the Recorder of Guernsey County.

Brodhead's Expedition, Or The Coshocton Campaign

The second military expedition to enter Guernsey County consisted of about 284 men along with 5 friendly Indians, under the command of Col. Daniel Brodhead. These men were on a retaliatory expedition against the Indian towns on the Muskingum near Coshocton.

The spring of 1781 had been an especially hard one for the settlers east of the Ohio. A large force of Indians had crossed the river with a view to penetrate as far as Washington, Pa., (then called Catfish), killing and destroying everything in their path. Although they did not quite reach Catfish, they did capture and kill a good many settlers who had been unable to flee before their advance. The Indians then re-crossed the Ohio.

Immediately, a retaliatory expedition was formed. Col. Brodhead, commanding the 8th Pa. Regiment of Regulars left Ft. Pitt on April 7th, 1781, and proceeded with 150 of his soldiers to Fort Henry at Wheeling, where they were joined by 134 militia commanded by Col. David Shepherd and 5 friendly Indians. They then crossed the river into the Ohio country and, enroute to the Muskingum, passed through a portion of Guernsey County. Their track through Guernsey County was still visible 20 years later when the county was surveyed and is designated on the original survey plats in the Recorder's Office at Cambridge. The route taken by this expedition is set forth on the preceding page.

Striking the Upper Muskingum just below the Moravian town of Salem, southwest of present-day Port Washington, the army proceeded swiftly to Coshocton and completely surprised the unsuspecting Indians. After capturing all of the Indians in the town on the east side of the river, they proceeded to kill by tomahawk 16 of the men who were identified by the friendly Indians as being "particularly obnoxious for their diabolical deeds". On the morning after the capture of Coshocton, an Indian called over from the opposite side of the river and, in response to Col. Brodhead's assurances that no one would be harmed and his request that some chiefs come over to talk with him, a "fine-looking" Indian did cross the river. While conversing with Col. Brodhead, a militiaman (some say a Wetzel) came up behind the Indian and tomahawked him. The town was then destroyed and the army returned to Fort Pitt by way of Newcomerstown, an important Indian town known by that name even in those days. Salem and Gnadenhutten. On the way, the remaining men among the captives were slain and the only survivors among the captives to reach Fort Pitt were some squaws and children.

The above account is above set forth as accurately as possible from the frontier annals. It is interesting to compare

that account with Col. Brodhead's official report, set forth below. You will notice that it reads as though the Indians were killed in battle, not "executed".

Col. Brodhead's Report

Colonel Brodhead's Report of the Expedition to President Reed of the Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

"Philadelphia, May 22d, 1781.

"Sir: In the last letter I had the honor to address to your Excellency, I mentioned my intention to carry an expedition against the revolted Delaware towns. I have now the pleasure to inform you, that with about three hundred men (nearly half the number volunteers from the country), I surprised the towns of Cooshasking and Indaochaie, killed fifteen warriors and took upwards of twenty old men, women and children. About four miles above the town, I detached a party to cross the river Muskingum and destroy a party of about forty warriors, who had just before (as I learned by an Indian whom the advance guard took prisoner), crossed over with some prisoners and scalps, and were drunk, but excessive hard rains having swelled the river bank high, it was found impracticable. After destroying the towns, with great quantities of poultry and other stores, and killing about forty head of cattle, I marched up the river, about seven miles, with a view to send for some craft from the Moravian towns, and cross the river to pursue the Indians; but when I proposed my plan to the volunteers, I found they conceived they had done enough, and were determined to return, wherefore I marched to Newcomerstown, where a few Indians, who remain in our interest, had withdrawn themselves, not exceeding thirty men. The troops experienced great kindness from the Moravian Indians and those at Newcomerstown, and obtained a sufficient supply of meat and corn to subsist the men and horses to the Ohio river. Captain Killbuck and Captain Luzerne, upon hearing of our troops being on the Muskingum, immediately pursued the warriors, killed one of their greatest villains and brought his scalp to me. The plunder brought in by the troops, sold for about eighty pounds at Fort Henry. I had upon this expedition Captain Mantour and Wilson and three other faithful Indians who contributed greatly to the success.

"The troops behaved with great spirit and although there was considerable firing between them and the Indians I had not a man killed or wounded, and only one horse shot.

"I have the honor to be, with great respect and attachment, your Excellency's most obedient most humble servant.

"Daniel Brodhead"

The Wills Creek Incident

The only actual mention in pioneer annals of an Indian fight in Guernsey County territory concerns a small group of men who were attempting to steal back from the Indians horses that had been originally stolen by the Indians. Their story, as told in the annals follows:

In the year 1791 or '92, the Indians having made frequent incursions into the settlements along the Ohio River, between Wheeling and Mingo bottom, sometimes killing or capturing whole families, at other times stealing all the horses belonging to a station or fort, a company consisting of seven men rendezvoused at a place called the Beech bottom, on the Ohio River, a few miles below where Wellsburg has been erected. This company were John Whetzel, William McCullough, John Hough, Thomas Biggs, Joseph Hedges, Kinzie Dickerson and a Mr. Linn. Their avowed object was to go to the Indian towns to steal horses. This was then considered a legal, honorable business, as we were then at open war with the Indians. It would only be retaliating upon them in their own way.

These seven men were all trained to Indian warfare and a life in the woods from their youth. Perhaps the western frontier at no time could furnish seven men whose souls were better fitted, and whose nerves and sinews were better strung to perform any enterprise which required resolution and firmness.

They crossed the Ohio, and proceeded, with cautious steps and vigilant glances, on their way through the cheerless, dark and almost impervious forest, in the Indian country, till they came to an Indian town, near where the headwaters of the Sandusky and Muskingum rivers interlock. Here they made a fine haul, and set off homeward with fifteen horses. They traveled rapidly, only making short halts to let their horses graze and breathe a short time to recruit their energy and activity. In the evening of the second day of their rapid retreat they arrived at Wills creek, not far from where the town of Cambridge has since been erected.

Here Mr. Linn was taken violently sick, and they must stop their march or leave him alone to perish in the dark and lonely woods. Our frontiersmen, notwithstanding their rough and unpolished manners, had too much of my Uncle Toby's "sympathy for suffering humanity," to forsake a comrade in distress. They halted, and placed sentinels on their back trail, who remained there until late in the night, without seeing any signs of being pursued. The sentinels on the back trail returned to the camp, Mr. Linn still lying in excruciating pain. All the simple remedies in their power were administered to the sick man, without producing any effect.

Being late in the night, they all lay down to rest, except one who was placed on guard. Their camp was on the bank of a small branch. Just before daybreak the guard took a small bucket and dipped some water out of the stream; on carrying it to the fire he discovered the water to be muddy. The muddy water waked his suspicion that the enemy might be approaching them, and were walking down in the stream, as their footsteps would be noiseless in the water. He waked his companions and

communicated his suspicion. They arose, examined the branch a little distance, and listened attentively for some time; but neither saw nor heard anything, and then concluded it must have been raccoons, or some other animals, puddling in the stream.

After this conclusion, the company all lay down to rest, except the sentinel, who was stationed just outside of the light. Happily for them the fire was burned down, and only a few coals afforded a dim light to point out where they lay.

The enemy had come silently down the creek, as the sentinel suspected, to within ten or twelve feet of the place where they lay, and fired several guns over the bank.

Mr. Linn, the sick man, was lying with his side towards the bank, and received nearly all the balls which were at first fired. The Indians then, with tremendous yells, mounted the bank with loaded rifles, war-clubs and tomahawks, rushed upon our men, who fled barefooted and without arms. Mr. Linn, Thomas Biggs and Joseph Hedges were killed in and near the camp. William McCullough had run but a short distance when he was fired at by the enemy. At the instant fire was given, he jumped into a quagmire and fell; the Indians, supposing that they killed him, ran past in pursuit of others. He soon extricated himself out of the mire, and so made his escape. He fell in with John Hough, and came into Wheeling.

John Whetzel and Kinzie Dickerson met in their retreat, and returned together. Those who made their escape were without arms, without clothing or provisions. Their sufferings were great, but this they bore with stoical indifference, as it was the fortune of war.

Whether the Indians who defeated our heroes followed in pursuit from their towns, or were a party of warriors who accidentally happened to fall in with them, has never been ascertained. From the place they had stolen the horses they had traveled two nights and almost two entire days, without halting, except just a few minutes at a time, to let the horses graze. From the circumstances of their rapid retreat with the horses it was supposed that no pursuit could possibly have overtaken them, but fate had decreed that this party of Indians should meet and defeat them.

As soon as the stragglers arrived at Wheeling, Capt. John McCullough collected a party of men, and went to Wills creek and buried the unfortunate men who fell in and near the camp. The Indians had mangled the dead bodies at a most barbarous rate. Thus was closed the horse-stealing tragedy.

The exact place where this occurred is not known. Wolfe states that two Indian trails crossed Wills Creek near Cambridge, one "just above the B. & O. Railroad bridge", and the other "just above the Penn. R. R. bridge." The "small branch" might have been Crooked Creek, however, or Leatherwood or Salt Fork Creeks. If they were returning by the Mingo Trail, it might even have been Buffalo Fork near Pleasant City. About all that is known for sure is that it occurred along Wills Creek at a "small branch" near Cambridge.