

INDEX		
A-Z		
A	B	C
D	E	F
G	H	I
J	K	L
M	N	O
P	Q	R
S	T	U
V	W	X
Y	Z	

OHIO: OUTPOST OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The purpose of this story-map of Ohio during the period of the American Revolution is to illustrate some of the major events that influenced the conduct of the war on the western frontier. Rather than a collection of historical facts, we have tried to create a visual portrait of the struggle for a land that was destined to become Ohio, seventeenth state of our nation.

The contest for control of this land and its resources is really the story of the conflict between the people who lived here and those who came later. It involves more than military forces, but rather a collection of historical events that shaped the country's history. A few of the more interesting books used in the preparation of this story-map were:

The Great Lakes Frontier by John Anthony Curcio
Frontier America: The Story of the Western Movement by the Ohio Gateway by D. E. Grose
Frontier Fires on the Upper Ohio by Randolph C. Downes
The Frontier by Allen W. Eckert
River To The West and The Heartland: Ohio, Indiana and Illinois by Walter Haight
A History of Ohio by Eugene H. Roseboom and Francis P. Weisenburger
A Revolutionary Frontier, 1763-1788 by Jack M. Sosin
Advancing the Ohio Frontier by Frazee Ella Wilson.

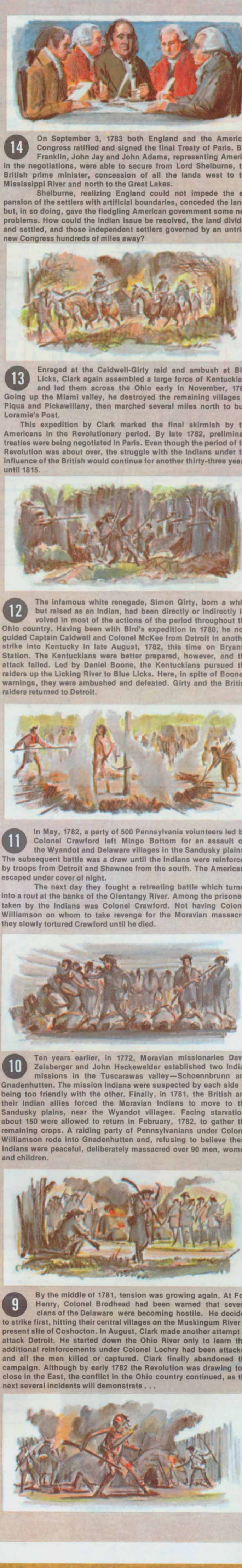
OHIO TOUR AND TRAVEL INFORMATION

For information on Ohio Festivals and other events of interest, call (614) 865-2825.

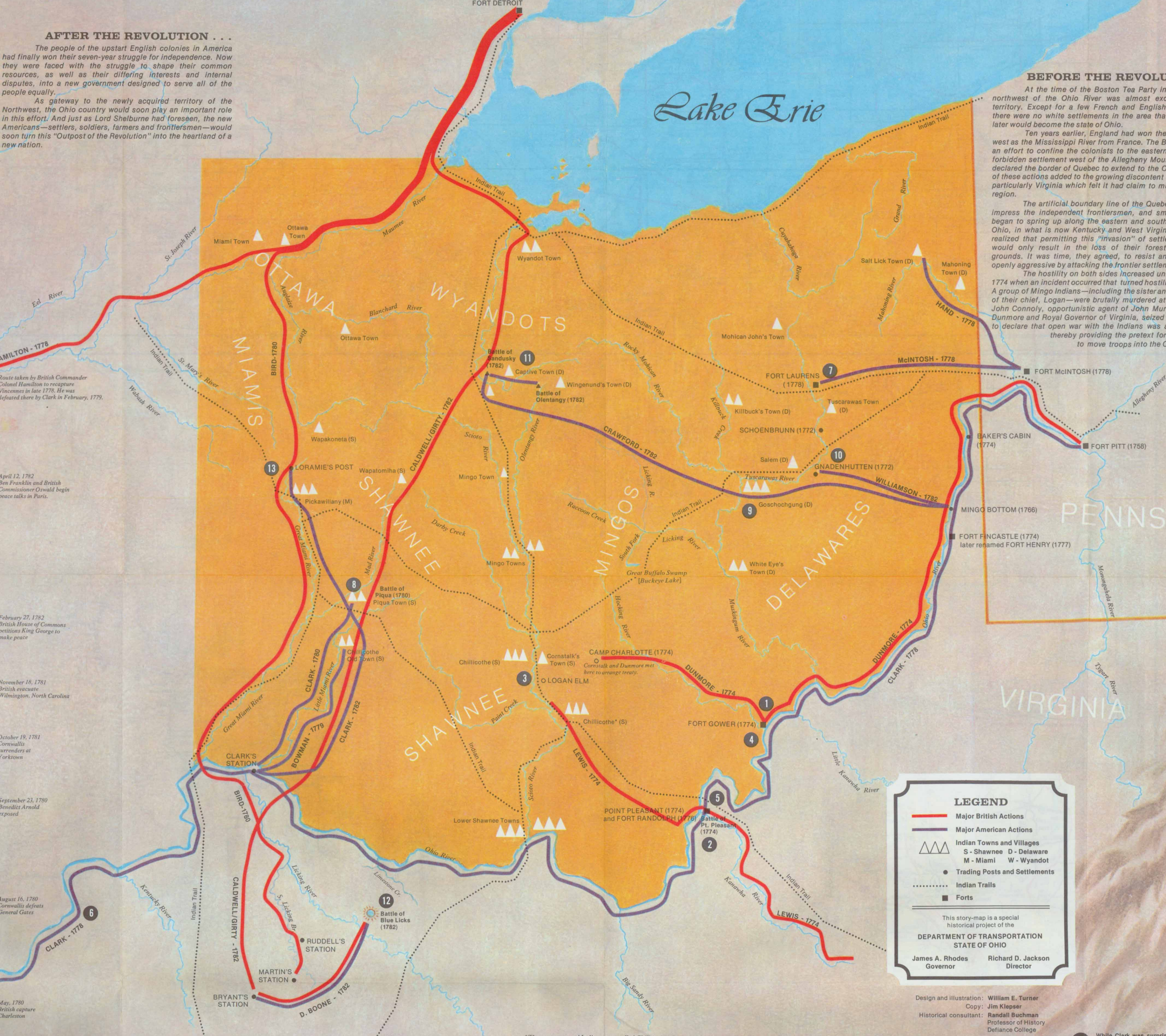
Some Historic Sites and Points of Interest Located by Map Coordinates:

Schoenbrunn Village—Museum of the 17th and 18th centuries, 1776, A-6
Fort Laurens—Revolutionary War site, 1778, G-8
Camp Mifflin—Revolutionary War site, 1777, D-10
Fort Mifflin—Revolutionary War site, 1777, D-10
Fort Stanwix—Revolutionary War site, 1763, D-11
Fort Mifflin—Revolutionary War site, 1777, D-10
Fort Mifflin—Revolutionary War site, 1777, D-10
Fort Mifflin—Revolutionary War site, 1777, D-10

STATE PARKS	Map Location	Nearest City	CAMP				FORT				BATTLE				TRADING POST			
ADAMS LAKE	G-9	Detroit																
ALUM CREEK	G-9	Detroit																
ALTON	H-8	Dayton																
BARBARICAMP	H-10	Delaware																
BEAVER CREEK	K-7	Lancaster																
BIGEY CREEK	H-11	Delaware																
BUCKEYE LAKE	J-11	Dayton																
BURRIS CREEK	F-11	Delaware																
CANTON	G-9	Dayton																
CARROLL CREEK	F-11	Delaware																
CHERRY CREEK	F-11	Delaware																
CLARK'S STATION	F-11	Delaware																
CLARKSVILLE	F-11	Delaware																
CLAY CREEK	F-11	Delaware																
DALTON	J-9	Dayton																
DAVEY CREEK	H-8	Dayton																
DEWEE CREEK	F-11	Delaware																
DIAMOND LAKE	H-11	Dayton																
DOUGLASS CREEK	F-11	Delaware																
EMERY CREEK	F-11	Delaware																
FAIR CREEK	F-11	Delaware																
FRANKLIN CREEK	F-11	Delaware																
FRENCH CREEK	F-11	Delaware																
GILBERT CREEK	F-11	Delaware																
GRAND LAKE	H-11	Dayton																
HAWK CREEK	F-11	Delaware																
HICKORY LAKE	F-11	Delaware																
HORRIGAN CREEK	F-11	Delaware																
HOVEY CREEK	F-11	Delaware																
IMMERSON CREEK	F-11	Delaware																
JACKSON CREEK	F-11	Delaware																
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AFTER THE REVOLUTION . . .

The people of the upstart English colonies in America had finally won their seven-year struggle for independence. Now they were faced with the struggle to shape their common resources, as well as their differing interests and interests, into a new government designed to serve all of the people equally.

As gateway to the newly acquired territory of the Northwest, the Ohio country would soon play an important role in this effort. And just as Lord Shelburne had foreseen, the new Americans—settlers, soldiers, farmers and frontiersmen—would soon turn this "Outpost of the Revolution" into the heartland of a new nation.

BEFORE THE REVOLUTION . . .

At the time of the Boston Tea Party in 1773, the land northwest of the Ohio River was almost exclusively Indian territory. Except for a few French and English trading posts, there were no white settlements in the area that three decades later would become the state of Ohio.

Ten years earlier, England had won the territory as far west as the Mississippi River from France. The British Crown, in an effort to confine the colonists to the eastern seaboard, had forbidden settlement west of the Allegheny Mountains and later declared the border of Quebec to extend to the Ohio River. Both of these actions added to the growing discontent of the colonists, particularly Virginia which felt it had claim to much of the Ohio region.

The artificial boundary line of the Quebec Act failed to impress the independent frontiersmen, and small settlements began to spring up along the eastern and southern side of the Ohio, in what is now Kentucky and West Virginia. The Indians responded aggressively by attacking the frontier settlements.

The hostility on both sides increased until the Spring of 1774 when an incident occurred that turned hostility into warfare. A group of Mingo Indians—including the sister and other relatives of their chief, Logan—were brutally murdered at Baker's Cabin, John Connelly, opportunistic agent of John Murray, the Earl of Dunmore and Royal Governor of Virginia, seized on the incident to declare that open war with the Indians was about to begin, thereby providing the pretext for Lord Dunmore to move troops into the Ohio country . . .

1. By July, Lord Dunmore had organized the Virginia militia, sending Major McDonald from Fort Pittcastle to skirmish against the Shawnee villages in the Muskegon valley, and ordering Colonel Lewis to assemble a force and move down the Ohio River, passing at the mouth of the Hooking River to conduct Fort Gower as a supply post. Early in October, he proceeded up the Hooking toward the Shawnee villages on the Pickaway plain, near the present town of Circleville. Meanwhile, the force under Colonel Lewis had reached Point Pleasant, where the Kanawha joins the Ohio, and began constructing rafts to cross the Ohio and join Dunmore's force.

2. Constable, chief of the Shawnee, on learning of the military expedition, decided to attack but the two forces were still divided. In the early morning of October 10, he engaged Lewis' men in a bloody hand-to-hand battle. Constable's warriors, although equal in number, were unable to defeat the seasoned woodsmen in combat, and finally retreated on October 11.

3. Shaken by the unexpected strength of the "long knives," and fearful of another defeat by Dunmore's force, Constable offered to meet Dunmore and come to terms for peace. He agreed to return prisoners and keep the Indians north of the Ohio River. Dunmore, sensing there could be trouble if the recently embattled men under Lewis arrived, ordered Lewis back to Point Pleasant.

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6. The main trouble spots for the Americans were several British fortifications in the West that provided supplies, weapons and encouragement to the Indians. A young Virginia officer named George Rogers Clark conceived a plan to upset the British strategy by capturing Kaskaskia, Vincennes and, eventually, Detroit. With the support of Governor Patrick Henry, Clark assembled his expedition at Fort Pitt in May, 1778. With about 150 men on flatboats, he used the Ohio to reach Kaskaskia, and on July 4 captured the town and the British and their Indian allies. Aided by several French allies, he also captured nearby Cahokia and the Vincennes without firing a shot.

7. While Clark was surprising the British in the West, other events were happening in February, 1778. General Hand had struck against the Indians along the Marietta River. Congress, convinced that Detroit must be captured, organized an expedition under General McIntosh. Leaving for the Sandusky plain in late October, 1778, McIntosh reached the Tuscarawas River and, at the present site of both Sandusky and the Sandusky River, wintered. Hand's force, including Fort Laurens, wintered under a further advance and, by the following year, lack of reinforcement and supplies, plus constant attacks by Indians and British troops, finally forced Fort Laurens to be abandoned.

8. In October, 1779, Colonel Bowman crossed the Ohio to assault the Shawnee villages on the Little Miami at Oldtown, near the present site of Xenia.

GALLERY OF INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE EVENTS ON THE REVOLUTIONARY FRONTIER

