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MS 76
BX 6
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Bannon — "Stories Old and
Often Told" — Four Chapters

MS 76
BX 6
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STORIES OLD AND OFTEN TOLD.

Being

CHRONICLES OF SCIOTO COUNTY, OHIO.

By

Henry T. Bannon

Baltimore

Waverly Press, Inc.

1927.

P R E F A C E.

This book was written because of the writer's love of the work; his affection for the rugged hills, the level valleys, the quiet villages, and the smoky city which make Scioto County; his esteem and admiration for the people who used to live, and for those who now live there. Many of those who have gone away from among men, still move among us daily, unobserved as we use what they have wrought. All honor and glory to them --to all--because each has well played his part. If the writer has done something to perpetuate the history of Scioto County, and the achievements of the people of Scioto County, he is more than repaid. If he has written one sentence which swells your heart with pride he is content.

Many were the books that were read, many were the library catalogues examined, many were the volumes thumbed through, that this simple book might be made. The doing of it has been a joy. That the effort may prove wasted is a fear. These chronicles are faithful; as thorough as the writer's diligence and perseverance could make them. Mistakes there may be, but the salient, outstanding facts are here. There has been no yielding to temptations, either to state conclusions or to make forecasts. History must live in the past; a man, never.

The study of history is a stimulus to youth. Such was the inspiration for Longfellow's lines, beginning, "Lives of great men oft remind us." The history of a nation can deal only with the very few who have attained the pinnacles of fame. But the lives of the outstanding men of any community, men known in person or by their works, to the youthful reader, are better reminders to

{ such readers that they, too, may make their lives sublime; and, departing, leave behind them their footprints on the sands of time. It is the age old struggle with oblivion. Genius is a germ either present, or absent, at birth. If present, it will grow. If not, it cannot ^{be acquired} be acquired. But persistence, application, economy, and integrity will make useful men and women of us all. What such men and women may accomplish, the community accomplishes; nor more, no less. Many are they unmentioned here, who have done much to make Scioto County notable. To tell of ^{each} each is impossible. To discriminate is unthinkable. Our development is due to the concerted efforts of bankers who knew credits; merchants versed in salesmanship; farmers who rotated crops; manufacturers who knew their costs; artisans, skilled and earnest; lawyers, learned and alert; physicians, sympathetic and wise; teachers, patient and thorough; statesmen, logical and foresighted. All are merged into a narration of events creative of our common weal. The youth of Scioto County can, and they will, carry on the work of those men and women who have done the things set down in this book.

Of course, I am indebted to many for their practical help; especially is this true of the chapters dealing with the industrial developments. Others have made valuable suggestions and given me information which appears in this book. To each of them I am grateful.

H. T. B.

CHAPTER 1.

THE DISCOVERY OF THE OHIO VALLEY.

There is the charm of adventure in the story of an explorer. The nearer the pathway of the explorer may be to one's home, the more intense is the charm. Explorers from France were the first white men to enter the valley and descend the Ohio River. One of the points of unusual interest to them was the country about the mouth of the Scioto River.

Explorers are geographers and they give to mankind their first knowledge of the soil, climate, topography, plant life and animal life of the earth's spaces. If such conditions are favorable wanderlust sends forth the pioneer. Varying motives control the pioneer, such as the desire to own some of the land, the hope for betterment, curiosity to look into the unknown, the love of adventure, and the desire for freedom from restraints. Thus, search into history often leads to an investigation of the records, the diaries, and the correspondence of those who first sought out, or reduced the soil to individual possession. In tracing the early history of Scioto County, we learn that the pioneer soon followed the explorer. Traffic in peltries was another lure that enticed American adventurers to follow in the paths of the explorers. Since many valuable furs could be obtained from the Indians, of the Ohio Valley, among the first pioneers in that region were traders and trappers. They were strong, brave men, but illiterate. The trappers did not keep journals and left no written record of their observations. It is from the diaries of the explorer, the trader and the rover, who went into the Ohio Valley, either for himself or as the Agent of others, for the purpose of learning the location of the lands best adapted for settlement, that we learn all there

is to be known about what Scioto County was like before it was touched by the wand of civilization. In this simple book, there will be found, here and there, , excerpts from such diaries. The object in doing so is to put into the possession of the reader the mental picture set down on paper by those who were within the borders of Scioto County at a time when the aborigines roamed at will, when the fires of the first clearings were blazing, and when the settlements were sparse.

La Salle is known to history as an early explorer of the Great Lake region, the Mississippi Valley, and the Ohio River. There is documentary proof that La Salle descended the Ohio River to "the falls" (now Louisville) in 1670. This proof is notwithstanding elements of weakness, however, and some historians refuse to accord him that honor. Parkman ^{basis} ~~bases~~ his conclusion that La Salle discovered the Ohio upon a memorial, written by the explorer in 1677, in which he states that he made such discovery, and also, upon the fact that his rival, Joliet, recorded upon his map, dated 1674, that La Salle followed the route of the Ohio. It is conceded that he knew of the existence of the river and was searching for it. The intensity of his courage and determination add much weight to the claims made in his favor. But it is certain that La Salle made a voyage on the Mississippi. By virtue of this voyage, France claimed all the region drained by the Mississippi River. This, of course included the Ohio Valley.

The first authentic exploration of the Ohio River, by an expedition organized for that purpose, was made in 1749 by Celeron and Bonnacamps. They started from La ^{Chene} ~~Sine~~, Quebec, (near Montreal) on June 15, and made the voyage by canoes. These men took constructive possession of the surrounding country in the name of the King of France. Their flotilla was gaily decked with banners, and the

members of the expedition, of whom there were two hundred and eighteen, besides about thirty Indians, were arrayed in gorgeous uniforms. At locations deemed to possess strategic value, the forces would land, and, with much ceremony bury leaden plates "as a monument of the renewal of the possession we have taken of the said Ohio River, and of all those which empty into it, and of all the lands on both sides as far as the sources of the said rivers, as enjoyed, or ought to have been enjoyed, by the Kings of France, preceeding."

✓ Such a well organized expedition would not have been sent without reason. The reason for it is found in the fact that in 1748 a group of Virginians and British, organized by royal charter into a Corporation known as the Ohio Land Company, were granted 200,000 acres west of the Alleghenies. Until then, the dominion of France over the Ohio Valley had not been contested. This manoeuvre by Great Britain called for a demonstration of force and assertion of title by ~~France~~ The Celeron expedition and the erection of Fort Du Quesne were but what might have been expected.1.

Celeron and Bonnacamps kept separate journals of their voyage, and the latter made quite an accurate map of the river. The journals are preserved in the archives of the French Government at Paris. The map is entitled "Carte de un voyage fait dans La Belle Riviere en la nouvelle France MDCC XLIX." 2 The Scioto River is shown at its proper location, and designated Sinkioto. In creating this name, Bonnacamps simply coined a French word to sound like the Indian name. The location of an Indian village on the west side of the mouth of the Scioto is also marked on the map by the delineation of a small tent.

The journal of Celeron refers to the village at the mouth of the Scioto as St.Yotoc. The French pronunciation of St.Yotoc is quite like the pronunciation of Sinhioto. St. Yotoc was a fanciful creation to sound like Scioto with the prefix Saint. The journal of Bonnecamps speaks of the Shawnees as Chaouanons, an attempt to render into French the sound of the Indian word Shawnee. French explorers were evidently of the opinion that the coining of French names, in substitution for the Indian place and tribal names, would be a circumstance tending to establish the title of France to the Ohio Valley region. Upon several of the old French maps which antedate the Celeron expedition, the Shawnee tribe is designated as "Xhaouanons." One of such maps bears date, 1701; another, 1717. These ancient maps were mere hearsay maps; no doubt prepared from data supplied by traders and trappers. Upon one of them is even a note stating that Lake Erie is not Lake Erie, but part of the Chesapeake Bay. The first real map of the Ohio River is that by Bonnecamps.

The Celeron expedition arrived at the Scioto River on August 22, 1749. The journal of Bonnecamps gives us the first reference in history to an Indian settlement at the mouth of the Scioto. It is as follows:

"The situation of the village of the Chaouanons is quite pleasant,--at least, it is not masked by the mountains, like the other villages through which we had passed. The Sinhiato River, which bounds it on the east, has given it its name. It is composed of about sixty cabins. The Englishmen there numbered about five. They were ordered

to withdraw, and promised to do so. The latitude of our camp was

1. Frederick L. Paxson, history of the American Frontier pp.17-18
2. Map of a Voyage made by the Beaufort River in New France 1749.

was 39 degrees, 1 min." 3.

The order to the Englishmen to withdraw constituted an assertion of French dominion. That there might be no question as to his purpose, Celeron on August 6th, had sent a letter to the Governor of Pennsylvania, by traders, who were returning to the colonies, notifying the Governor to prohibit British traders from entering into the Ohio country, as the French Commandant-General had orders not to permit foreign traders within the Government.

A translation of the Celeron journal may be found in Volume 2, "Catholic Historical Researches." His journal indicates that the expedition drew near the mouth of the Scioto river with much misgiving. Even at that early period the Indians, who dwelt at the junction of the Ohio and Scioto, were exceedingly hostile toward encroachments upon their domain. Information brought to Celeron before landing, and the incidents that happened after landing, justified his fears. On the 20th of August Celeron learned that the Shawnee village was composed of eighty to one hundred cabins. This was evidence of its strength. The next day, the Indians of his detachment represented to him that they were afraid to go to St. Yotoc without giving notice, by sending envoys in advance. They feared that the expedition would be attacked, if it appeared at the village without previous notice and explanation.

Accordingly, Joncaire, Minerville, and five Indians were sent ahead. The expedition followed slowly in order to await their return. As the envoys approached the village, the Shawnees fired over their heads to alarm them. The bullets pierced the banner borne

3. The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents LXIX 183.

by the envoys. Upon landing they were conducted to the council cabin. While the envoys were explaining the object of the expedition, an Indian arose and charged that the French had come to destroy them. This greatly excited the Indians, and they rushed to arms, declaring that the envoys should be killed. The Indians planned to conceal their families in the forest, await the coming of the French, "and lay ~~ambush~~⁹⁸ for their canoes." An Iroquis Chief, however, succeeded in pacifying the Indians. The Indians, with much diligence, constructed a fort to defend themselves better from attack by the main body of the expedition. Minerville, and the five Indians who came with the envoys, were retained as hostages. Joncaire, accompanied by an Iroquis, returned to the expedition to make his report. His relation of the events that that had transpired was not assuring to Celeron.

As the expedition drew near the Scioto, the Indians assembled on the west bank and fired a salute. Celeron states that "those Indians discharged well nigh a thousand gun shots. I knew the powder had been gratuitously furnished them by the English." Such a waste of ammunition was proof of its abundance, and increased the alarm of the French for their safety. The French expedition landed on the east bank of the Scioto,⁴ apposite the village, and returned the salute. Some historians are in doubt as to whether Celeron landed on the east bank of the Scioto or the south bank of the Ohio. The journal is not clear on that point. A consideration of the happenings after the landing, in the light of the physical surroundings, leads to the conclusion that the expedition pitched its camp on the east bank of the Scioto. Here the French remained until August 26th. During their stay, there were frequent councils

4. This location was at the old mouth of the Scioto, about a mile west of the present mouth.

Indians. These councils were held at the camp of the French. Though urged to do so by the Indians, the French refused to go to the council houses in the village, evidently fearing an ambushade. The excuse given to the Shawnees for their not coming to the council cabin was that the children should come to the place where their father had lighted ~~their father~~ had lighted his council fires.

While the first council was in session, eighty armed Indian warriors crossed the Scioto in canoes and came to the camp. This so alarmed Celoran that he ordered his men under arms, and requested the chief to order the withdrawal of his warriors, and this was done. They disclzimed any hostile intentions, and fired a salute as they withdrew.

Celoran derived no satisfaction from these councils, as the answers of the Indians were evasive. Bonnecamps states that their replies at the final council were more satisfactory than those preceeding. But it is clear that, upon the whole, the councils failed to promote the cause of France. As nothing was gained their purpose failed.

The possession of the Ohio Valley by France was merely constructive. The Indians were in actual possession, and the British traders had the control of the Indians. This alliance enabled the British to resist the encroachments of the French. Celeron was under instructions to break up this control, but was unable to do so. His journal speaks so frankly that an extract from it is reproduced to show the exact situation.

"I summoned the English traders to appear and commanded them to withdraw, making them feel that they had no right to trade, or

ought else on the Beautiful River. I wrote to the Governor of Carolina, whom I fully apprised of the dangers his traders would expose themselves to, if they returned there. I was ordered to do this in my instructions, and even to plunder the English, but I was not strong enough for that, the traders having established themselves in the village, and being well sustained by Indians. I would be only undertaking a task which would not have succeeded and which would only have redounded to the disgrace of the French."

This was a confession of the weakness of the French in the Ohio Valley. They were unable to cope with the British in dealing with the Indian allies of Great Britain. The statement of Celoron, that the traders were well sustained by the Indians, is not in harmony with the statement by Bonnecamps, that the Englishmen promised to withdraw. The traders were the tie that bound the Indians to the British. The fact seems to be that Great Britain, through the aid of her traders and agents, was able to maintain alliances with the Indians of sufficient strength to prevent the French from obtaining a permanent foothold in this region. The occurrences at the mouth of the Scioto must have been convincing to France that her constructive possession of the Ohio Valley was not destined to become an actual one. One of the murals in the Scioto County Court house, depicts, with much spirit, Celoron at the mouth of the Scioto River proclaiming the Dominion of France; portrays the confidence of the British traders arising from their control of the Indians; and delineates the defiant attitude of the ~~Indians~~ Indians toward the armed invasion of their domain. Both Celoron and Bonnecamps indicate that the Indians were greatly frightened and excited over the arrival of the envoys and the expedition. They over-looked the craft and cunning of the Shawnees. A consideration of both journals in connection with the bitter warfare

subsequently waged by the Shawnees against the whites at this place can lead but to the conclusion that the French expedition was intentionally intimidated by the Indians when it arrived at the mouth of the Scioto. There the French were given to understand that actual possession of the Ohio Valley could not be obtained without a bitter and prolonged struggle. In its larger aspect, it was a demonstration against the dominion of any white race. The strategy of the English traders, who were in control of the Indians, convinced Celoron that a resort to arms meant his defeat. He was powerless, and conceded it.

Following the Celoron expedition, French traders and trappers became active in the Ohio Valley. The French proved to be far more capable than the English in carrying on the fur trade in the Ohio country; and, in that way, held the territory after Celoron's voyage. But that region was not long to remain a possession of France; for it was taken from her by Great Britain in 1763.

The name of the Ohio River has been traced to a Seneca or Iroquis word, O-^{hee}he-yuh, meaning Beautiful River.⁵ When the French gave to the Ohio the name La Belle Riviere, they simply translated into their language the meaning of the Indian term. Some writers assert that the languages of the Indian tribes had no word the equivalent of "beautiful", and that the Indian name of the river does not possess the meaning generally accepted. There is excellent authority that the name was derived from the Delaware word "Ohio-peekhanne" meaning "very deep and white stream," the idea of the "white stream" being attributed to the white wave crests during wind storms. The traditional origin, however, is so firmly established that it cannot be disputed. More than two centuries ago the Ohio River was known to explorers and geographers as the Beautiful River. So ancient is the origin of the designation that to speculate upon the meaning of the Indian word "Ohio" is unprofitable and idle. It is within

5. The origin of Certain Place Names in the United States. U.S. Geological survey.

It is within the archives of France that the originals of the earliest maps of North America are preserved. Photographic copies of them are available in many American libraries. On the map of Canada, by de Ronville (1699) the Ohio is designated "Riviere Ohoio ou Belle Riviere," Another map, undated, but probably of earlier origin, gives the reason for the name thus: "Riviere Ohio cainsy dit a cause de la beaute," Another very old map bears the legend, "This river is so called because of its beauty and on account of its fine abundance in fishing and hunting." A map "donne par Mr. d'Iberville in 1701" confuses the Ohio and Wabash rivers, the latter being designated as "Ouabache autrement nome Ohio ou belle Rivierre," while the former is named "Riviere d'Ohio autrement appelle Acansez Sipi." As we might expect to find it to be, the map location of these rivers bears no relation to their actual location. The map by Deconagne (1711) also adheres to the name "Ohio ou Belle Rivere."

Thomas Jefferson was evidently impressed by the meaning of the name of the Ohio River, and by the reports of its beauty. In "Notes on the State of Virginia," written in 1781, he thus describes it; "The Ohio is the most beautiful river on earth. Its current gentle, waters clear, and bosom smooth and unbroken by rocks and rapids, a single instance only, excepted."

Captain Harry Gordon, chiefengineer in the Western Department in North America, was at the mouth of the Scioto from June 29 to July 8, 1766. Like all of the early travelers in this region, he describes the Ohio River as being most beautiful "with several long reaches, one of which is sixteen miles and a half, inclosed with the finest trees of various verdure, which afford a noble and enchanting prospect."

CHAPTER II

BRITISH PROSPECTORS AT THE SCIOTO.

In September, 1750, Christopher Gist was sent by the Ohio Company "to search out and discover lands upon the River Ohio, and other adjoining branches of the Mississippi down as low as the great falls thereof." He was especially instructed to "take an exact account of the soil, quality and product of the land."

Gist kept a journal in which were recorded his observations and the course of his travels. He arrived at the mouth of the Scioto River on Tuesday, January 29, 1751. George Croghan and Andrew Montour accompanied him. Gist's description of what he saw at this place is as follows:

"Set out to the mouth of Sciotoe Creek opposite to the Shannoan town. Here we fired our guns to alarm the traders, who soon answered, and came and ferried us over the town. The land about the mouth of Sciotoe Creek is rich, but broken fine bottoms upon the river and creek. The Shannoan Town is situate upon both sides of the River Ohio, just below the mouth of Sciotoe Creek, and contains about 300 men. There are about 40 houses on the south side of the river and about 100 on the north side, with a kind of State House of about 90 feet long, with a light cover of bark, in which they hold their Councils. The Shanaws are not a part of the Six Nations." 1.

Here Gist remained until February 12th. During his stay there were several councils with the Indians at which Croghan made speeches. The Indian chief replied, expressing the hope "that the friend-ship now existing between us and our brothers will last as long as the sun shines or the moon gives light."

1. Christopher Gist's Journals, by Darlington, page 44.

Gist describes, in an appendix to his journal, a curious festival, witnessed by him, at the Scioto at which all the Indian's marriages were dissolved and new alliances made. "While I was here", reads the journal, "the Indians had a very extraordinary festival, at which I was present, and which I have exactly described at the end of my journal." The festival was so unusual that it may be well to give Gist's description of it:

"In the evening a proper officer made a public proclamation that all the Indian marriages were dissolved, and a public feast was to be held for the three succeeding days after, in which the women (as their custom was) were again to choose their husbands.

"The next morning the Indians breakfasted, and afterwards spent the day in dancing, till the evening, when a plentiful feast was prepared; after feasting, they spent the night in dancing.

"The same way they passed the next two days till the evening the men dancing by themselves, and then the women in turns round the fires, and dancing in their manner in the form of the figure 8, about 60 or 70 of them at a time. The women the whole time they danced singing a song in their language, the chorus of which was:

I am not afraid of my husband;

I will choose what man I please.

Singing those lines alternately.

The third day in the evening, the men, being about one hundred in number danced in a long string, following one another, sometimes at length, at other times in a figure of 8 quite round the fort, and in and out of the Tongehouse where they held their councils, the women standing together as the men danced by them; and as any of the women liked a man passing by, she stepped in and

joined in the dance, taking hold of the man's stroud whom she chose, and then continued in the dance, till the rest of the women stepped in and made their choice in the same manner; after which the dance ended." 2.

While the Indians took kindly to the white traders, they were exceedingly hostile toward those white men who came into their country to form settlements. It is important to note that Gist found traders at this village, in spite of the fact that the Celeron expedition had ordered all traders to depart. Such warnings were received by traders with indifference.

The Sunday before he reached the mouth of the Scioto, Gist stopped at an Indian town on the "south-east side" of that river. Here he found about twenty families of Delaware Indians. This town, according to Gist, was the farthest west settlement of the Delaware tribe. After remaining there a day or so, he set out for the Shawnee village at the mouth of the Scioto. Gist estimated the distance between these Indian towns to be five miles. The journal of Gist, and facts still provable, make certain that this Delaware village was on the upland of the Feurt farm,³ on a bank overlooking the Scioto bottoms. Here are evidences of an Indian village the soil containing the teeth and bones of wild animals, bits of pottery and burned stones. Mounds on this site were opened by the Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society. Stone axes, flint arrow heads and beads made from shell and bone were abundant near the mounds until recently. This site is located as described by Gist, being on the south-east side of the Scioto, and about five miles from the old mouth of that river; and here may be found the evidences of an Indian settlement. I can learn of no other possible

2. Topographical Description of the Middle British Colonies in North America, by Thomas Pownall, M.P (London, 1776)

3. Clay Township, Sec. 20, R. 2. --16--

location for this Delaware Village.

George Croghan, who accompanied Gist on his journey in 1751, was a prominent prospector in early Ohio history. He was a noted British ~~Agent~~ Indian Agent and an extensive traveler. On May 23, 1765, Croghan stopped at the mouth of the Scioto while on a voyage down the Ohio. That he was a close observer is apparent from what he recorded in his journal relative to his observations at the mouth of the Scioto:

"The soil on the banks of the Scioto, for a vast distance up the country is prodigious rich, the bottoms very wide, and in the spring of the year many of them are flooded, so that the river appears to be two or three miles wide. Bears, deer, turkeys, and ~~most~~ most sorts of wild game are very plenty on the banks of this river. On the Ohio, just below the mouth of Scioto, on a high bank, near 40 feet formerly stood the Shawneese Town, called the Lower Town, which was all carried away except three or four houses by a great flood in the Scioto. I was in the town at the time. Though the banks of the Ohio were so high, the water was nine feet on the top, which obliged the whole town to take to their canoes and move, with their effects, to the hills. The Shawneese afterwards built their town on the opposite side of the river, which, during the French war they abandoned for fear of the Virginians, and removed to the plains on Scioto." 4.

Early Western Travels, by Thwaites, page 133.

Assuming that Croghan's rough estimate of the depth of the water on top of the ~~bank~~, during the flood witnessed by him, is approximately correct, this flood reached a stage of between 55 and 60 feet. The old tradition of a great flood in the Ohio, during the days of the Indian occupation, is undoubtedly founded on this incident.

The town built by the Shawnees, after this flood, was located in Kentucky at a point opposite the old mouth of the Scioto. At that time the mouth of the Scioto was more than a mile west of its present mouth. Near the site of the new village, there is an extensive ancient earth work, described by Squier and Davis in the first volume issued by the Smithsonian Institution. This volume is entitled, "Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley" (1848). After describing the earthwork the authors say:

"Between this work and the river are traces of a modern Indian encampment, or town--shells, burned stones, fragments of rude pottery, &c. also some graves."

The discoveries made by Squier and Davis verify the existence of an Indian town in Kentucky, opposite the old mouth of the Scioto. Indeed, the traces of this Indian encampment are still (1919) very visible. During a recent examination of this site, a few arrow-heads were picked up; and shells, burned stones, and bits of pottery are still scattered over the surface.

So important was the work of Croghan that Albert T. Volwiler, of the University of Pennsylvania, has written of his life in its relation to the westward movement.⁵

From this book we learn that in 1750 Croghan had a store house at the mouth of the Scioto valued at 200 pounds which was used by him in trading with the Indians.

In 1759 Croghan's cousin, Thomas Smallman, conducted extensive trading at the Scioto, having several assistants and many pack horses. In June, 1766, Croghan commanded an imposing expedition of 17 batteaux from Fort Pitt, to the mouth of the Ohio. Captain Hary Gordon and Ensign Thomas Hutchins were in the party. Their first stop was at the mouth of the Scioto, where a conference was held with the two hundred Indians who had assembled, and presents of the value of 1800 pounds were distributed to them.

The reader who may wish to go farther afield and learn something of the importance of the work of George Croghan, and its influence upon the development of this continent, will do well to read Professor Volwiler's work. Of George Croghan he says:

"He was one of the most persuasive, persistent, and influential of the great American pioneers of his period; and he typified not the abnormal, but the normal development of society."

France was determined to gain title to the Ohio Valley region, and the venturesome French traders were a source of constant irritation to the British Government. The British feared that such traders would form alliances with the Indian tribes thus enabling France to successfully defend her title. To thwart this Great Britain was ever on the alert to drive out French traders. Agents of Great Britain were sent among the tribes to gain their friendship and their co-operation; also, to expel the French. The method employed by those agents clearly appears from the journals of George Croghan. An object of his visit to the mouth of the Scioto in 1765 was to arrest French traders on the Ohio "as they were not suffered to trade there" unless expressly authorized

so to do by the British authorities. Croghan sent a Courier in advance to request the Indians in advance to capture and bring to him at the mouth of the Scioto such French traders as they might be able to secure. Shortly after Croghan arrived at the mouth of the Scioto, the Shawnees brought in seven French traders and delivered them to him, promising to secure others who were trading with neighboring tribes.

That the British well understood the strategic advantages of the Scioto River, in the settlement of the region west of the Allegheny Mountains, is evident in the work by Hon. Thomas Pownall M.P., entitled "Topographical Description of the Middle British Colonies in North America." Pownall resided in America for several years and was Governor of the Massachusetts Colony. His book was written after his return to Great Britain. That he had access to reports made to his Government by its agents, is apparent from a comparison of his work with the journals of Gist and Croghan. Pownall's description of the Ohio Valley, which follows, seems to be a summary of the facts reported by various British agents:

"Scioto is a large, gentle river, bordered with rich Flats, which it over-flows in the spring, spreading them about half a mile in breadth, though when confined to its Banks, it is scarce a Furlong wide. If it floods early, it scarce retires within its banks in a month, or is fordable in a Month or Two more. The land is so level that in the ^{Freshes} ~~Freshes~~ of Ohio, the back water runs eight miles up.

Opposite the mouth of this river is Lower Shawnee Town, removed from the other side which was one of the most noted places of English trade with the Indians. This River, besides vast extents of good Land, is furnished with salt on an Eastern Branch and Red Boile on Necunsia Skeintat. The stream is very gentle, and passable with large Batteaux a great way up, and with Canoes near 200 miles to a Portage near the Head, where you carry over good ground Four Miles to Sandusky. Sanduski is a considerable River, abounding in level, rich land, its Stream gentle all the way to the Mouth. This River is an important Pass, and the French have secured it as such; the Northern Indians cross the Lake here from Island to Island, land at Sanduski, and go by a direct Path to the Lower Shawnee Town, and thence to the Gap of Ouasioto on their way to the Cattawas Country. This will, no doubt, be the way that the French will take from Detroit to Moville, unless the English will be advised to secure it, now that it is in their Power."

The volume from which this extract was taken contains Lewis Evans' Map of 1755, improved by Pownall, in the light of later discoveries. From this Map we learn that Necunsia Skeintat is the tributary of the Scioto, now known as Paint Creek, and that the Cattawas Country is the valley of the Catawba River in the Carolinas inhabited by the Catawba Indians. This tribe waged constant war with the Shawnees, Iroquis, and other Northern tribes. The map describes a "common path to the Cattawas Country." This Path was known as the Warrior's Path. It led from the Shawnee River at the mouth of the Scioto River, south to the North Fork of the Kentucky River, known as Warrior's Branch, thence up this river and through Cumberland Gap. The Ouasioto Mountains are the ridges in Southeastern Kentucky and the adjoining parts of West Virginia,

Virginia and Tennessee, extending from the headwaters of the Kentucky River to, and beyond the ~~Kanawha River~~. The Gap of Onasioto was the name applied to the pass through which this trail crossed the mountains.⁶ Menville is a variant form of Mobile.

The Indian population in Scioto County was very small when the white man first entered it. The Indians preferred the prairie country in western, central and northern Ohio, to the rough hills and densely forested valleys of Scioto County. That region was merely a summer hunting ground for the tribes that occupied villages to the north and south of it. In fact, there were but two Indian villages of importance on the Ohio River--one, the Shawnee River at the mouth of the Scioto, and the other, Logstown. Yet, the existence of the many mounds and other earthworks, and the plentiful supply of stone axes and flint arrowheads strewn over the fields, give evidence that at some time before the coming of the white man, the Ohio Valley had been populated by tribes that were numerous.

In 1924, there was brought to light and published "The Journal of Nicholas Cresswell." It is a valuable contribution to our knowledge, not only of life in the Colonies during the Revolution, but of travel on the Ohio and Kentucky Rivers. Cresswell was an ardent Tory. He came to America in 1774 and remained until 1777. On Tuesday, May 2, 1775 he began a journey by Canoe down the Ohio River, accompanied by seven men who were in quest of land on the Kentucky River. Cresswell's destination was the Illinois country, and his object was to secure land. During the night of

6. The Wilderness Trail, by Chas. A. Hanna, Vol 2, pp 125-252.

May 15th they "drifted all night, but kept watch, spell and spell about." The next day's diary simple records that they "passed the mouth of the Scioto River in the night" and made use of turtle eggs in making pancakes for breakfast. They saw, during their journey such game as deer, bear, elk, buffalo, wolves, turkeys, and mountain lions. Upon his return up the river he makes this brief, but significant mention of the Scioto River. "Passed the mouth of the Scioto River on the N. W. In fear of Indians."

Creswell noted that there was some activity in settlements along the South bank of the Ohio, but the north bank the settler avoided. The reason will appear later. He met more prospectors bound for Kentucky by way of the Ohio River than one would think might venture into such a dangerous country for the purpose of taking up a home.

CHAPTER III

THE FIRST WHITE WOMAN IN SCIOTO COUNTY.

Before the Revolutionary War, many tribes of Indians roamed over the region which now constitutes the states of Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and Virginia. As the home of the Indian was transitory and his tent, food and clothing were supplied from the game of the forest, he could live only where the game was ^{abundant} abundant. To understand properly, our pioneer history, it must be borne in mind that the Indian was a traveler over extensive ranges. The same tribes would wander over the country about Detroit, along the Maumee or Sandusky Rivers, thence down the Miami or Scioto to the Ohio, and into what is now Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and the Carolinas.

One reason for their wanderings is due to the same supply. Constant hunting in one locality will drive out the game. The Indians required many wild animals to supply them with meat, clothing, and tents. In order to keep themselves provided with these necessities, they were obliged to move whenever game became scarce. Sufficient game to feed, clothe, and shelter them indefinitely did not exist within any limited area. Another reason for their wandering is that the Indian is, by nature, nomadic. In this respect the Ohio Valley Indians were not different from the Indians west of the Mississippi. The tribes now in Northern Canada, often pitch their tents for the winter three or four hundred miles from their summer camps. Even while on good hunting and trapping grounds, they will roam extensively. [Among the tribes that wandered north and south of the Ohio River, were Wyandottes, Shawnees, Miamis and Delawares.]

A very small colony of white people had made a settlement prior to 1755, in what is now Montgomery County, Virginia. The place was called Draper's Meadows. On July 8th, of that year a band of roving Shawnees from the Scioto River attacked and destroyed this settlement. They burned the settler's homes, murdered four of the inhabitants, wounded four, and captured four adults along with some children. I. Among those taken prisoner Mary Ingles and her two boys--one of whom was two, and the other, four years of age. The age of Mrs. Ingles was about 23. Other prisoners were Mrs. John Draper and Henry Leonard.

The Indians collected horses, firearms, ammunition, and goods of light weight that could be taken with them, and set out for the village at the mouth of the Scioto. They followed the general courses of the New, Kanawha, and Ohio Rivers to the Shawnee Village at the mouth of the Scioto, where they arrived, in August, 1755. On the journey, Mrs. Ingles gave birth to a daughter. Shortly after reaching the Indian village, all the prisoners except Mrs. Ingles, were forced to run the gauntlet. The spoils of the raid were divided among the Indians. In accordance with the custom of the Indians, the prisoners were then separated. One of Mrs. Ingles' boys was taken to Detroit; the other, somewhere to the interior, but the infant was left with her.

After Mrs. Ingles had settled down to the drudgery and monotony of life in an Indian camp, a party of French traders, voyaging down the Ohio, landed at the Scioto. Their stock of goods was selected with the view of attracting the fancy of the Indians. Among the goods was a supply of checked shirting, which met with

1. The Trans-Allegheny Pioneer by John P. Hale (1886).

instant favor among the Indians.

Mrs. Ingles was greatly distressed over the loss of her boys. She longed to return to Virginia. She realized that she was in the power of her captors, but the hope of escape was ever in her mind. She knew that opposition to the savages meant a close guard, possibly her death; certainly that of her babe. Therefore, this brave woman gave no indication of her thoughts, but created the impression that she was reconciled to her situation and was willing to remain. The presence of the French traders gave her the opportunity to further her plans of escape.

Dressed deerskins are not well adapted for clothing, because when wet they shrink and become very hard. The Indians much preferred that their shirts be made of cloth. As Mrs. Ingles was an excellent seamstress, the Indians traded with the Frenchmen for shirting, and Mrs. Ingles made the shirt. This pleased not only the Indians, but the traders, also; for it enabled the latter to drive many good bargains. To show their appreciation, the traders gave Mrs. Ingles sufficient material to renew her own clothing and to clothe her babe. The Indians were so happy in their new garments that they relaxed their vigilance over her movements. Mrs. Ingles remained at the mouth of the Scioto about two months and was then taken by the Indians to Big Bone Lick, Boone County, Kentucky. While there she escaped and made her way back to her Virginia home, arriving there about the 1st of December. In order to escape it was necessary to leave her infant to the mercy of the Indians; but in mercy the Indian was sadly lacking. The homeward journey of this woman through a trackless forest, the difficulties she encountered in fording streams, climbing mountains, and securing food, her sufferings from hunger and cold, form one of the most pathetic stories of pioneer history.

Nothing was ever heard of the younger of her two boys. The older was ransomed from the Indians by his father about twelve years after his capture. The customs of the Indian had been so indelibly impressed upon this boy, however, ~~that~~ during the years of his boyhood, that it was with difficulty that his father was able to prevail upon him to return to the mother whom he had long since forgotten. For several years after his return he clothed himself in the garb of the Indian, and killed his game with bow and arrow.

Such were the hardships that the first white woman experienced at the mouth of the Scioto River. While the bravery, hardihood, and will power displayed by this woman are difficult for this generation to comprehend, there is no doubt that under equally severe stress and strain, ample proof would be forthcoming that the same fortitude still exists.

CHAPTER IV
IN THE DAYS OF THE INDIAN.

There were two accessible routes that led from the Colonies into Ohio and Kentucky. One through Tennessee and Kentucky, by way of the Cumberland Gap, was called Boone's Trail, and known as the Wilderness Road. The other way was by the Ohio River. The latter route was preferable because the journey could be made in boats with little effort; while over the Wilderness Road, travel by the laborious and slow pack train was a necessity.

But the hostility of the Indians at the mouth of the Scioto, was so bitter that the Wilderness Road was the principal highway in the early days. While natural advantages in transportation routes favored settlements in the Ohio Valley, and in the interior of Ohio in advance of the settlement of the Kentucky interior, the Indian made such routes so dangerous that they were not utilized. Settlers from Virginia and Carolina entered Kentucky by the Wilderness Road; but settlers from Pennsylvania and New York could not safely enter either Ohio or Kentucky by the Ohio River. The Indian Chief, Corn Planter, declared that the Ohio River should forever be the boundary between the Indians and the whites. The north bank of the Ohio was known as the Indian side.

Daniel Boone first entered Kentucky in 1769. During the next few years settlers came in rapidly. In 1783, the white population of Kentucky was estimated at twelve thousand. But the danger in Kentucky from Indian attack was so great, and so many settlers were murdered by the Indians, that the whites, under necessity, erected their cabins in stockades and had block houses for protection. Between 1783 and 1790 more than fifteen hundred whites were killed or captured by the Indians in Kentucky.

The tribes that committed these depredations lived in Ohio along the Miami, Maumee, and Sandusky Rivers. They would travel from their villages in central and northern Ohio to the Ohio River over well worn trails, or down water courses. Crossing into Kentucky they would kill such settlers as they could, plunder and burn their homes, and return to the Indian towns. The presence of these Indian towns in Ohio made the settlement of central and northern Ohio more hazardous, even, than the settlement of Kentucky; and the movement of Indian war parties along and across the Ohio River, retarded the settlement of the region bordering on the Ohio River. For these reasons Ohio was settled much later than Kentucky. Marietta was settled in the spring of 1788, under protection of a block house known as Fort Harmar.

Cincinnati was settled in the fall of the same year, under protection of Fort Washington. Gallipolis was settled in 1790, and Manchester in 1791. As we shall see, the existence of the Scioto River prevented early settlements between Gallipolis and Manchester.

The name of the Scioto River is derived from the Indian word, Seeyotan, meaning Great Legs.¹ The Indians gave the Scioto this name on account of its many long tributaries. These branches extend for many miles east and west of the river. In the northern part of the state they spread out like a fan over an extensive domain. Such conditions made the Scioto a favorite Indian highway.

Between the Sandusky and Scioto Rivers, there was a very short portage. This is well described by James Smith, who lived in Northern Ohio from 1755 to 1759, as a captive of the Indians. In the narrative of his captivity, he thus described the Sandusky-Scioto portage: "This place is in the plains betwixt a creek that

1. The Origin of Certain Place Names in the United States

empties into Sandusky, and one that runs into Scioto; and at the time of high water, or in the spring ~~season~~ there is but about one-half mile of portage, and that very level and clear of rocks timber, or stone; so that with a little digging, there may be a water carriage the whole way from Scioto to Lake Erie." 2. That such was the means of communication between the Great Lakes and the Ohio River, from time immemorial, is shown by the reference to it in a report dated October 30, 1718, from the Governor of Canada to the Council of Marine, at Paris. The Governor thus described the route of the Indians of Detroit and Lake Huron to the Ohio River:

"They ascend the Sandusquet River two or three days, after which they make a small portage, a fine road of about a quarter of a league. Some make canoes of elm bark and float down a small river that empties into the Ohio."

A French map bearing date 1717 shows the portages between the streams entering Lake Erie, and those flowing into the Ohio River. Probably it is from this map that the report was made. Indian tribes could swiftly and easily paddle to the Ohio River in light canoes, not only from the vast areas in central Ohio, drained by the Scioto, but from the Great Lakes. Its ease of access made the mouth of the Scioto a strategic point, at which the Indians could assemble to attack settlers coming down the Ohio. The lack of a ~~Fort~~ such as was erected at the mouth of the Muskingum and the Miami, gave the Indians the greatest possible freedom on the lower Scioto.

Easy portages also afforded communication from the Maumee and Wabash Rivers to the Miami, and from the Cuyahoga River to the Muskingum. It was by the Muskingum, Scioto, or Miami Rivers that

2. An Account of the Remarkable Occurrences in the Life and Travels of Col. James Smith, (1799).

La Salle descended to the Ohio River. This network of tributary streams, connecting the Great Lakes with the Ohio River, was under the control of the Indians. Settlers could not establish locations in Ohio until the Indians were subdued. The importance of ~~the~~ the portages between the ^{Sci}Ohio streams appears in the reference to them in the Ordinance of 1787. In Article 4, of the Compact in that Instrument there appears the following declaration:

"The navigable waters leading into the Mississippi and Saint Lawrence, and the carrying places between the same, shall be common highways, and forever free."

Burnet, in "Notes on the Northwestern Territory" (1847), has left us an excellent description of the perils that beset the pioneer who attempted to pass the mouth of the Scioto River:

"The pioneers who descended the Ohio on their way westward will remember while they live, the lofty rock standing a short distance above the mouth of the Scioto on the Virginia shore, which was occupied for years by the savages, as a favorite watch tower, from which boats, ascending and descending, could be discovered at a great distance. From that memorable spot, hundreds of human beings, men, women and children, while unconscious of immediate danger have been seen in the distance, and marked for destruction. The murders and depredations committed in that vicinity at all periods of war, were so shocking as to attract universal notice. Letters were written to General Harmar from various quarters, calling his attention to the subject, and praying that measures might be taken without delay, to check the evil. They informed him that scarcely a boat passed the rock without being attacked, and in most instances, captured; and that unless something were done without delay, the navigation of the river would necessarily be aban-

done."

In considering this statement of Burnet, it must be borne in mind that the Virginia shore is now the Kentucky side, and also, that the mouth of the Scioto was then about a mile west of its present location. The lofty rock, mentioned by him, is the rock-capped hill directly opposite the present mouth of the Scioto. From the summit of that rock, the course of the Ohio for five or six miles is within plain view. Atwater, in his "History of Ohio records that:

"It was a very hazardous business to navigate the Ohio River. Often were the boats taken by the enemy, and everyone on board destroyed by the Indians." 3.

Such, in general terms, was the menace at the mouth of the Scioto River, and this not only prevented an early settlement there, but also prevented it over a vast area of southern Ohio. Here the Indians of Ohio made their first stand ^{lion} against the stream of immigrants that was pouring into Kentucky and Ohio.

The Ohio Indians, undisturbed by invasion, probably traveled almost invariably by canoe because they were without horses or means, other than canoes, for transporting their belongings. The water shed across north central Ohio afforded easy access from the Great Lakes to the Ohio River, and from both these bodies of water to all the regions tributary to them. Under such conditions the canoe has no equal in primitive travel. As game was plentiful along the banks of the streams, it was not necessary for the Indian to wander far from them. When he was forced to the war path, to oppose the invasion of his hunting grounds by rival tribes, and later by the pioneers and settlers, he found the buffalo traces best a-

3. History of the State of Ohio, by Caleb Atwater (1838).

adapted for travel on foot. If one would visualize what our unsettled country was like, he must see river valleys filled with the accumulation of drift wood from time immemorial; hillsides and uplands encumbered with fallen timber; dense, dark forests and well nigh impenetrable brush; vast acres of swamp lands and beaver ponds. The difficulty of travel on foot through such a country becomes at once apparent. The buffalo wore their traces upon the high lands, along the ridges and hill tops. Both Indian and pioneer found them to be the only trails suitable for overland travel. They were direct, already made, and because on the high places, the wind swept them clear from fallen leaves and snow; and the rain waters rapidly drained away. Along such summits, the traveler had a broad view, from which to see lurking danger and the lay of the land. Their trails were highways, indeed, and such is the origin of the word "highways". But travel by canoe was the ideal way for the primitive ~~xxxxxxx~~ hunter undisturbed by the invader. The canoe is light and swift; it carries a good load; it walks the shallow waters, and is easily portaged. Such an experienced authority as Sir George Simpson aptly refers to canoes as, "Those tiny vehicles of amphibious navigation." It is the canoe that made possible the discoveries and explorations of La Salle, of Marquette, and of Hennepin. The expedition that France sent down the Ohio Valley, under the command of Celeron, traveled in canoes. The Indian and the canoe for almost a generation, held back a tide of immigration striving to flood the Northwest Territory. Canoes established the posts of the Hudson Bay Company. The trapper in the canoe, brought to the posts the wealth of the great fur land.

The voyageur and the canoe developed the river and the lake region of Canada. The development of North America followed in the wake of the Indian's, the trader's and the trapper's canoe.

The treachery and savagery of the Indians, who waylaid the whites at the mouth of the Scioto may be shown by two incidents, the type of many. In 1790 four men and two women were descending the Ohio to Maysville. Their boat drifted with the current during the night. At day-light, they drew near the mouth of the Scioto. The lookout saw smoke ascending among the trees and aroused the party because he knew that Indians were near. As the fire was on the Ohio shore, the boat was steered towards the opposite side. Two white men ran down the river bank on the Ohio shore, and begged the people in the boat to rescue them from a band of Indians, from whom they asserted, they had escaped. But those in the boat, fearing treachery, kept in midstream. It was well known to them that renegade white men often lived among the Indians; also, that white boys, if captured by the Indians while very young, and reared to manhood with them, absorbed the cunning of the Indian. The feigned distress of those on shore was so real, however, that, ~~that~~ the women and one of the men on the boat prevailed upon the others to go to the shore for the two men. Still, there was much misgiving; and during the discussion the boat drifted about a mile below the place where the white men were first seen on the bank. The travelers on the boat reasoned that if Indians were trying to decoy them ashore, the Indians were on top of the bank, out of sight in the brush, where their progress in following the boat would necessarily be slow; there would be no danger if the boat merely touch the shore, with-

out landing , thereby permitting the two men to jump on board and immediately push away; that, should the Indians appear the boat could hastily put back from the shore. Such reasoning caused the boat to be turned towards the Ohio bank.

But, after the boat left midstream it lost the effect of the current and moved very slowly. This fact had not been taken into consideration. As the boat touched the shore, one of the boatmen leaped off, to be ready to quickly shove it back into the stream. Immediately some Indians ran down from the bushes. That they had been running along the bank was apparent; for they were almost out of breath. They were able to reach the boat, however, because it lost headway when it left the current. They seized the boatmen who had landed. Many other Indians came upon the scene at once and opened fire with their rifles. One of the women was killed. One of the men was severely wounded, and another was killed. The Indians boarded the boat, scalped the dead and possessed themselves of all property. One of the men captured upon this occasion, was burned at the stake. Another was compelled to run the gauntlet and was condemned to death; but he escaped, and made his way to the white settlements. The remaining man was ransomed by a French trader of Sandusky. The surviving woman was rescued by an Indian chief after she had been tied to a stake to be burned to death. Later she ^{was} returned to her people.

The following day the same band of Indians attacked a flotilla coming down the river. This flotilla was composed of both freight and passenger boats. The Indians compelled their prisoners to row their boats for them, and they attacked so vigorously that the passenger boats abandoned the freight boats. The loss

loss to this flotilla was a serious one, as there were 28 horses on the freight boats and merchandise worth seventy-five hundred dollars.

Sometimes early travelers on the Ohio were put in fear without cause. A good description of their fear and of their conduct during a ludicrous situation, is in the account in "The Journal of Nicholas Cresswell" of one incident that happened during his journey up the Ohio in 1775, near the vicinity of the present site of Haverhill. He says:

"Wednesday, June 28th, 1775. This morning started early in a very thick fog. About three miles from our camp, the River was very broad and shallow a long way from the shore on that side we were on, which obliged us to keep out of sight of the shore for deeper water. Opening a point of a bar, saw 4 canoes full of Indians about 200 yards ahead of us, upon which we pushed for the shore; but to our great surprise saw six other canoes full of Indians betweixt us and the shore, so that we were entirely surrounded. Everything was preapred for an enagagement; all our lumber and a great part of our provisions were moved over-board. Out of twelve guns, five were rendered unfit for present use by the wet; mine happened to be in good order, and I loaded her with an ounce bullet and seven swan shot. The command of our Canoes was given to me. We had only two Guns on board fit for use--Mr. Tilling's and mine. Tom O'Brien, in the scuffle let his fall in the River and got her filled with water. He laid down in the bottom of the Canoe began to tell his beads and prayed and howled in Irish. Boassier's Gun was wet and unfit for use. He followed O'Brien's example. Weeping, praying, said Ave Marys in abundance, at the same time hugging a little wooden cross.

crucifix