



Forest Service *Centennial*

Snapshot

Celebrating – Early Ohio Residents

Wayne National Forest - US Forest Service

Nelsonville, OH: Humans have inhabited southeast Ohio for more than 12,000 years, according to archaeological evidence found on the Wayne National Forest and other places throughout the region. Paleo-Indians, a nomadic tribe of hunters, came to this area to hunt large mammals such as mastodon, elk and caribou that migrated into Ohio after the glaciers retreated.

Between about 8,000 and 1,000 B.C. known as the Archaic Period, tribes were able to sustain themselves on a broad variety of native leafy plants and other vegetation that has grown into woodlands over time. This led other tribes to settle briefly on the area during the Woodland period, about 1,000 B.C. to about 1,200 A.D. From about 1,200 to about 1,650 A.D. prehistoric fort Ancient tribes lived in the region in large floodplain villages often organized around central plazas and upland hunting camps.

European settlers began frequenting the area in the mid-1600s, as these last ancient tribes began to abandon the area. They either migrated farther west and north to avoid conflicts with other eastern tribes or succumbed to diseases that were brought into the area by these new European immigrants. But during their existence in Ohio they settled primarily along the Miami and Scioto river valleys.

Ohio's role in the American Revolution was minimal, but became far more prominent in the growth of the original 13 colonies as the country and settlers began to push into the "frontier." In 1792, President George Washington re-commissioned retired Revolutionary War General Anthony Wayne to safeguard the westward

movement and expansion of the country through Ohio. Following his successes in opening up the frontier to expansion, the population in Ohio grew to more than 60,000 by 1803, the year Ohio was admitted to the United States as the 17th state. The population at that time consisted mostly of immigrants from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

Settlers in Ohio were mostly young immigrants.



Forest Facts

The 236,500 acre Wayne National Forest is one of 155 national forests.

Trails are now open on the Ironton district to horses, ATVs, motorcycles, and mountain bikes.

Upcoming Events

Wildflower hikes are offered at Wildcat Hollow and Lake Vesuvius on May 7, 2005.

The annual National River Cleanup Day is May 21st on the Little Muskingum River.

Check out our Websites

www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne

www.fs.fed.us/centennial

For more information

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