

THE HEART OF IT ALL WAS THE START OF IT ALL

The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, in partnership with the Ohio Biological Survey, is celebrating Ohio's role in America's westward expansion by sharing the Buckeye state's natural heritage as captured by late-18th century surveyors.

After the American Revolutionary War, the U.S. Congress of the Confederation passed the Land Ordinance of 1785, which directed the surveying, selling, and settling of the Northwest Territory. The Ohio River was the doorway to these uncharted lands.

Colonial surveyors provided first-hand accounts of the Ohio Country's natural features, plant species, and natural communities. As they traversed the Ohio wilderness, these explorers filled journals with their personal observations of the new territory.



PLAN
OF THE
OHIO COMPANY'S
PURCHASE.

The Ohio we see today was once the Ohio Country—the gateway to America's rugged Northwest Territory. After the Revolutionary War, Congress began selling land in a region of the Ohio Country called the Old Seven Ranges. The Ohio Company of Associates (called the Ohio Company) was formed to purchase, survey, and sell tracts from the unsettled region west of the Ohio River.

We invite you to learn how the Ohio Country influenced America's expansion in the late 18th century. Surveyors braved the wilderness to survey the region's Old Seven Ranges and created a mapping system still used today. Members of the Ohio Company built the first northwest settlement in Marietta, on the banks of the Ohio River.

This unique driving tour provides an opportunity to visit seven historic and natural sites in southeast Ohio that shaped a young nation. Sites featured include:

- Campus Martius Museum
- Mound Cemetery
- Dysart Woods Preserve
- Historic Fort Steuben

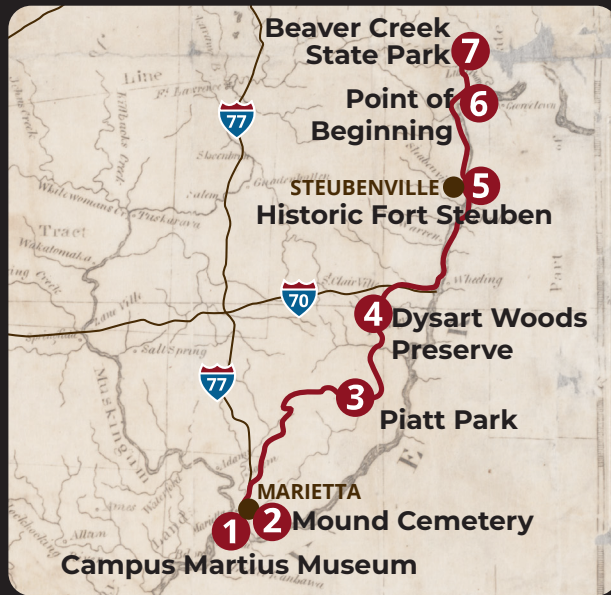
Visit ohiodnr.gov/drivingtour or use the QR code to learn more.



OHIO Gateway to America's
Westward Expansion

SCENIC DRIVING TOUR

OHIO SCENIC DRIVING TOUR



Gateway to America's Westward Expansion

1 Campus Martius Museum

601 2nd Street
Marietta, OH 45750
740-373-3750

Campus Martius Museum protects Ohio's two oldest structures—Rufus Putnam's home and the original Ohio Company Land Office. The museum maintains a large collection of artifacts and documents from 18th century Euro-American surveyors and pioneers. Hours of operation and admission fees vary.



5 Historic Fort Steuben

120 South Third Street
Steubenville, OH 43952
740-283-1787

Historic Fort Steuben was built to protect the surveyors sent by the U.S. Congress to map the Northwest Territory. Recreated using the original 18th century plans, Fort Steuben offers visitors a glimpse into daily life at an 18th century fort. Hours of operation and admission vary. For details, email info@oldfortsteuben.com.



4

Dysart Woods Preserve

*Owned and managed by
Captina Conservancy*

61961 Dysart Woods Road
Belmont, OH 43718

The 455-acre Dysart Woods Preserve protects one of Ohio's finest remaining tracts of old-growth forest including trees that are more than 400 years old and measure 4 ft. in diameter. Open daily from sunrise to sunset and free to visit, this National Natural Landmark offers 1.7 miles of intermediate hiking trails.





2 Mound Cemetery

**514 Cutler Street
Marietta, OH 45750
740-373-1387**

Established in 1801, Mound Cemetery is home to the highest number of Revolutionary War officer graves in the nation including members of the Ohio Company. The cemetery is free to visit. Street parking only.



6 Point of Beginning for the Old Seven Ranges

**Midland Road, between Michigan Avenue and Putnam Street
East Liverpool, OH 43290
GPS: 40.6425, -80.519028**

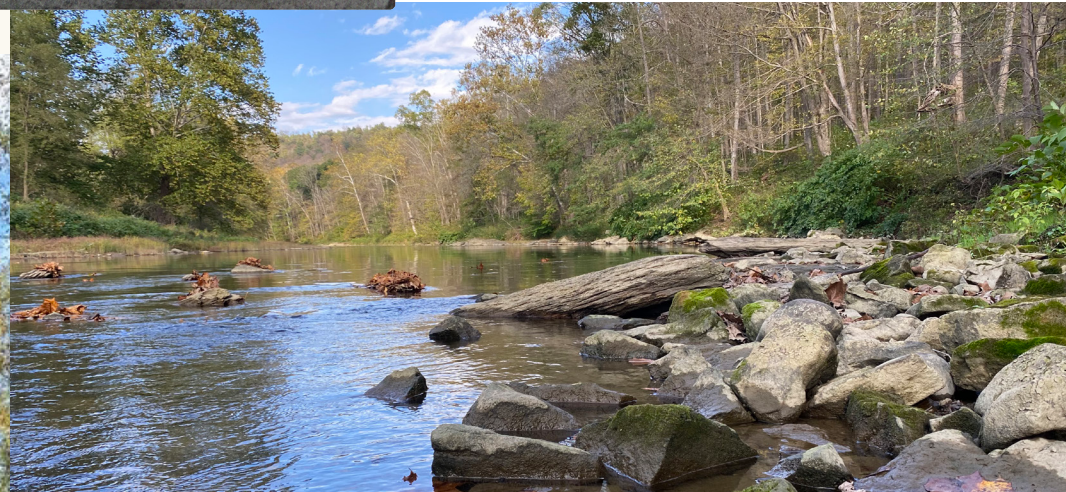
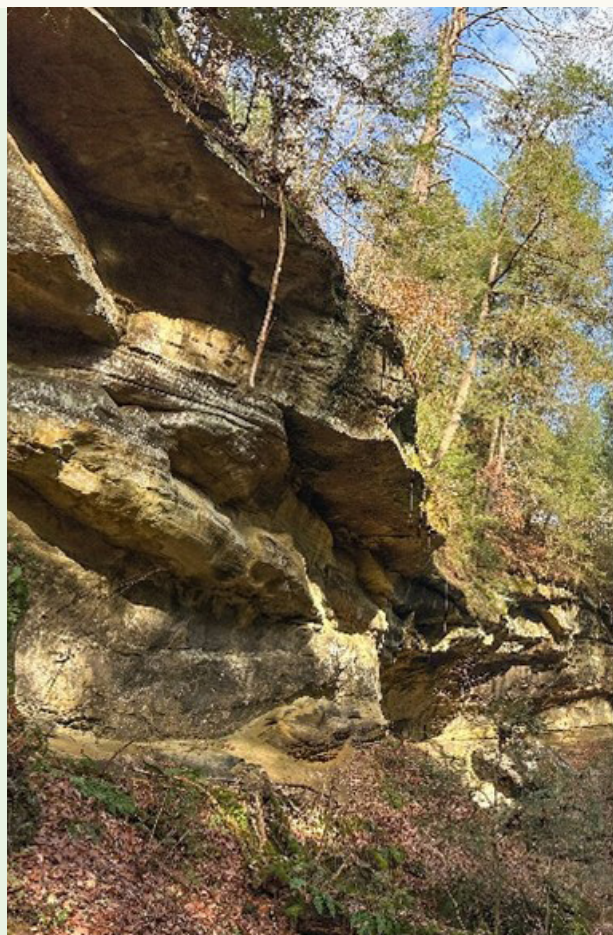
On Sept. 30, 1785, Thomas Hutchins and his survey team began the first U.S. Public Land Survey of the Ohio Country, just 1,112 ft. south of this spot. Hutchins originally marked the "point of beginning" by setting a stone on the bank of the Ohio River. In 1881, after the original marker was submerged, a new monument replaced it. Free and open daily; use caution as the monument can only be accessed by a roadside pull-off.

3

Piatt Park

**Piatt Park Road
Woodsfield, OH 43793
GPS: 39.76075, -81.04776
740-472-1328**

Piatt Park offers a glimpse of the landscape that 18th century surveyors encountered as they platted the eastern part of the Ohio Country. It currently protects 119 acres of forest and showcases a natural rock shelter, a gorge with sheer cliffs, and lovely waterfalls. Visitors may enjoy hiking, picnicking, and camping. Call the park district to make camping reservations. Open daily from sunrise to sunset; no admission fees.



7

Beaver Creek State Park

**12021 Echo Dell Road
East Liverpool, OH 43920
330-385-3091**

Nestled in the hills of Appalachia, the 2,722-acre Beaver Creek State Park features various habitats including forests, bottomlands, and ridges along the gorge of Little Beaver Creek—a State and National Wild and Scenic River. The park offers a recreated pioneer village and restored canal-era lock that connect visitors to 18th century Ohio. The park is free to visit daily from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. To learn more, visit ohiodnr.gov.

Note: Narrow bridge at entrance; if trailering RVs, visit website to view alternate route.



THE FIRST SURVEYORS

Thomas Hutchins and the Old Seven Ranges

After becoming Geographer of the United States, Thomas Hutchins (1730–1789) was commissioned to survey the Old Seven Ranges, west of the Ohio River, in the Northwest Territory. He was also the first surveyor to use the Public Land Survey System, which was a method of naming, locating, and describing parcels of land for purchase.

Hutchins' legacy is still evident today on Ohio maps that reflect his original boundary lines for the Ohio townships located within the Old Seven Ranges region.



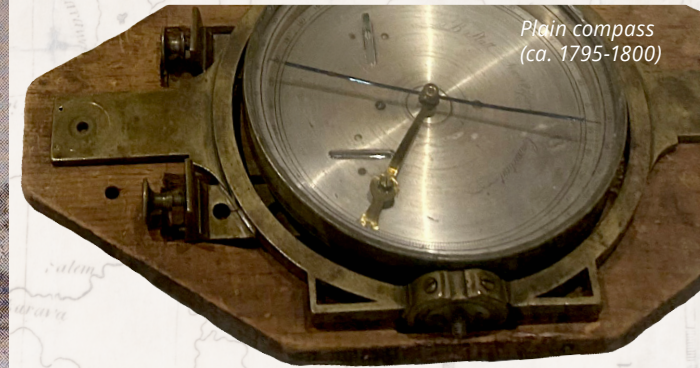
Rufus Putnam and The Ohio Company of Associates

In 1788, General Rufus Putnam (1738–1824) and his partners formed the Ohio Company of Associates, which purchased more than 1.5 million acres of land northwest of the Ohio River. Along with skilled tradesman, survey teams under Putnam's leadership sailed down the Ohio River and when they reached the mouth of the Muskingum River, they founded Marietta—the Northwest Territory's first permanent settlement.

Putnam established the Ohio Company Land Office at Marietta. He and his team surveyed the modern-day counties of Athens, Meigs, and parts of other adjacent counties. Putnam also helped establish the Ohio Valley's local government and postal route.



These survey tools belonged to General Rufus Putnam, superintendent of the Ohio Company of Associates and first U.S. Surveyor General.



Plain compass
(ca. 1795-1800)

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SURVEYOR

In the 1780s, surveying was a respected occupation requiring specific training. The surveyor's job was to venture into uncharted territories, which were often wild and sometimes treacherous landscapes. The surveyor's tools included a compass, mathematical instruments and a 66-ft. metal chain to mark lines along the rough terrain. The work was both dangerous and physically demanding.

Constantly on the move, surveyors had to make and break camp daily. Their challenges in the wilderness were great, ranging from protecting themselves from dangerous wildlife to facing threats from early American squatters and Indigenous communities who perceived them as trespassers. Those brave or ambitious enough surveyed the Ohio Country for \$2 per mile.

In addition to platting the land, surveyors were expected to record natural features (for example rivers, salt licks, and cliffs) and plant species and natural communities (for example trees and shrubs, prairies, and wetlands). Surrounded by wilderness, these men became explorers, geographers, and botanists.

Tools depicted were used by the 18th century surveyors of the Ohio Company.

Gunter's iron chain pins (ca. 1795-1800)

