

early history south euclid

The early history of South Euclid and Lyndhurst is very much interwoven with that of Euclid and Richmond Heights. The territorial beginnings go back as far as 1662. King Charles II of England granted to the colony of Connecticut, through Governor Winthrop in 1662, a charter of all lands included within certain specific bounds. Because no one then really knew anything about the land, the King made a broad charter giving "*all the territory of the present state and all the lands west of it to the extent of its breadth from sea to sea.*" This curious, cross country grant caused so much controversy that the United States Congress in 1786 passed an ordinance creating the Northwest Territory. This ordinance created the first commonwealth in the world which recognized every man as free and equal.

Before Congress created the ordinance, the cross country grant was hacked away by many other East coast claimants. Connecticut yielded all but one portion of land and she clung to that stubbornly. It was a tract of land west of Pennsylvania, bordered on the north and south by the same parallel lines as the State of Connecticut, and bordered on the west by a line 120 miles from the west line of Pennsylvania. This area became known as the Western Reserve of Connecticut, and even New Connecticut. Western Reserve became its lasting name.

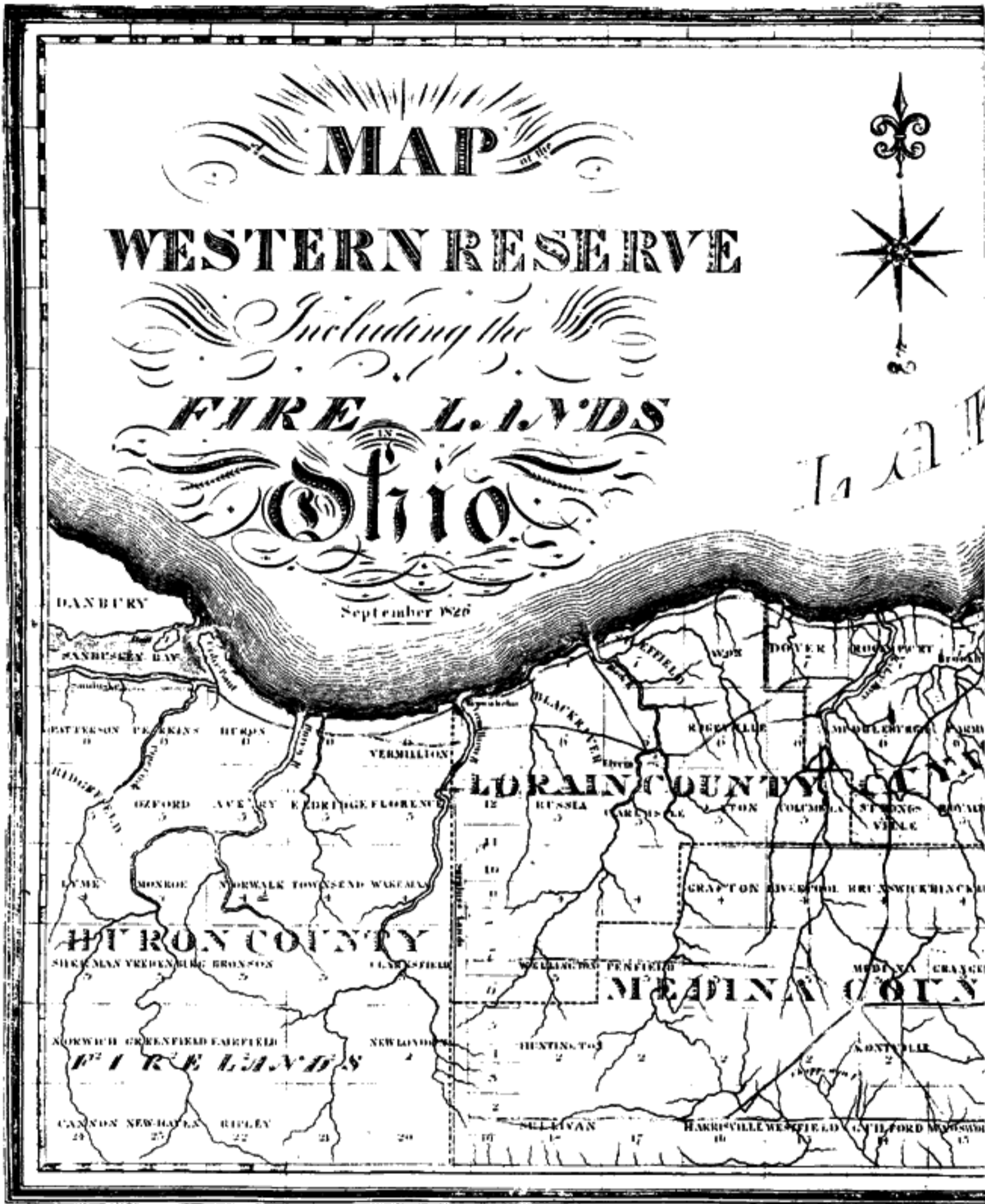
Certain tracts of land were given to veterans of the Revolution as an early form of soldiers bonus in Connecticut. Other families received tracts of land because of the undue hardships they received at the hands of the British marauders who would raid and burn towns on the Connecticut coast. These Western Reserve tracts are still referred to as the Firelands and are located a short distance west of Cleveland.

Before the settlement of the Western Reserve, various indian tribes - Erie, Ottawa, Chippewa, Seneca, and Wyandot - roamed the area. Various treaties were made with the white man between 1701 and 1796. In 1796, the Iroquois Nation signed the final treaty in which they relinquished all lands east of the Cuyahoga River. It was at this time that the Connecticut Land Company purchased from the State of Connecticut 3,366,921 acres of the

Western Reserve. General Moses Cleaveland, one of the directors of this company, was sent to survey part of the parcel. He was to establish a capitol of the Western Reserve, survey and divide the land into townships five miles square. After this was done, the Connecticut Land Company hoped to make a fine profit selling the land back east for about fifty cents an acre. An interesting side note is that the company was cheated because a sizeable portion of the land they originally bought, unknown to them, lay under water in Lake Erie. No one knew at that time that the Erie shores east of the Cuyahoga River went in a northeast direction. The northeastern portion was dry land, but their western portions lay under water, an embarrassing and costly mistake.

Early in the spring of 1796, General Cleaveland and sixty six qualified surveyors and helpers journeyed westward to carry out his company's orders. At Conneaut Creek, a camp was made and forty one men remained on that site while General Cleaveland and the others proceeded west to the bank of the Cuyahoga River where a *community site* was laid out for development. They were gone eighteen days, and the men remaining at Conneaut Creek camp became dissatisfied and mutinied. They had enlisted for the duration, but now demanded considerations not specified in their agreement. General Cleaveland drew up a contract with them on September 30th for their joint purchase of a township 25 square miles at one dollar per acre. Each man was granted lake front property as well as a farm back in the rocky hills and plateaus. They were to clear the land, erect houses, and sow two acres of wheat and grass, and settle a specified number of families during the next three years. In the early organization proceedings, the men involved named the township *Euclid Township* in honor of the Greek mathematician and patron saint of surveyors.

The new township became officially settled in 1797, one year after the town of Cleveland was laid out and settled. The western boundary of the township began at approximately East 140th St. or Coit Rd. and the lake, proceeding directly south five miles to what is now Cedar Road, eastward to a line near Winchester Road and north from that point



REFERENCES.

- City Houses
- Meeting Houses
- Chapels
- Shells
- Light Houses
- Villages
- Gravelly Lines
- Roads
- Falls

PUBLISHED BY
WILLIAM SUMNER
 Nelson, Postage Coaster
OHIO.

The Western Reserve is situated in the north east quarter of the State and upon an average 32 miles north to south. The area is just 3000000 of a of Connecticut, as a donation to certain sufferers by fire occasioned by the of the land in question, was the following. King Charles II of England gave to the then colony of Connecticut in 1682, a charter right to all lands within was then very limited and confused, patents for lands often interfered with a much collision of sentiment between them and the State of Connecticut, as the United States however reserved to themselves the right of jurisdiction.



between Lake Champlain on the north, & Pennsylvania tract &c. It extends 120 miles from East to West
 a body of 200,000 of acres is stricken off from the west end of the tract, and granted by the state of
 New York during the Revolutionary War, the manner by which the state of Connecticut became possessed
 of the western part of his brother Kings, of granting distant and foreign regions to his subjects granted
 within certain specified bounds. But as the geographical knowledge of Europeans concerning America
 was imperfect, after the United States became an Independent Nation, these interfering claims occasionally
 were finally, and forever, relinquished by the United States, relinquishing their claim to the 200,000 of acres described,
 then united this tract to the Territory now, State of Ohio



MAYFIELD RD.

GREEN RD.

Survey map 1874

to the lake, a total in excess of 25 square miles. In later years, much of the territory became the municipalities of East Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, South Euclid, Lyndhurst, and Richmond Heights.