

Comfort Hoyt Jr. to his children in Ohio.

Danbury, May 16th 1831.

Dear Children,

Haning completed the 80th year of my age and entered on my 81st knowing that according to the common course of nature my remaining days must be few, I set down to communicate to you my situation; as to my health Providence has been as propitious as I have reason to expect. My left knee has however been swelled for two or three weeks. I first expected it was a rheumatick complaint, but after a few days the cords of my ham became black by which I conclude I might have met with a small strain. It is rather weak but mending---otherwise my health is very good.

My wife has been woefully afflicted. On the ninth of March, she complained of being faint, took a little camphire, asked me if I would get my own breakfast as she did not want any, was setting a suitable distance from the fire when I went down cellar for bread. I hasted up lest some eggs I had a cooking should be over done so I could not be absent more than one or two minutes, found on my return that she was lying across the andiron, her face toward the fire, her shawl and cap burning, her hands in the fire <sup>literally</sup> roasted, a bottle of camphire which she had in her hand broken and blazing in the fire, conclude she must have fainted for on lifting her up she said (with her natural voice) I am all on fire. The burning of her cap blistered her forehead as her shawl did her breast. Doct. Bostford was there in a few minutes, applied cotton wet with rum

Wildman letters - Scott T. Tanton

which he continued several weeks, using about a quart a day. Her pain was severe, had to lull it by opiates, had constant attendance day and night. In about five weeks it was thought best to remove her to her son's, where was a number of women to assist in taking care of her, where she is now. Has not been able to use either hand so much as to put any food to her mouth yet and it is doubtful whether she ever will, for Botsford says some of her fingers will come off. She sets up but very little, walks across the room by leading, her expenses beside her suffering I expect cannot be less than a dollar a day. The Glassites (?) especially Mr. Bishop have given her money to assist in furnishing her with spirits. We have only to make a wise improvement of this dispensation of Providence and be still knowing that God is God and the <sup>disb</sup>oser of all events. Since she has been at Hoyt's I being alone made Thorps a visit of 11 days, found him, Abigail and children well. Beers seems to have plenty of work at his trade and getting good pay therefore to be out of debt and living comfortably, pd me his tax I took an early breakfast with them & rode in my carriage to Danbury Street a quarter of an hour before six o'clock with but little fatigue--- Charles Benedict's widow lives in the house with me, her son in law and daughter Deborah with her with a little son big enough to drive cow to Deacon Hill. She had rented my two front chambers with privelege of baking and washing in the kitchen, they now occupy most of the house cooke my vituals & do my work for the extra privilege, milking and making

butter to the halves, so I have the stand that was saved  
by being in the meadow in the British conflagration  
(which has been repaired with a new leaf) to put my vic-  
tuals on which my meals are seasonably prepared. The  
season has been fine for milling. If so with you Capt.  
Husted's mill must have brought him in a considerable  
gain. If he could send me some flour it would be well  
accepted as I have only rye to make cake with. You will  
see by this account that my expenses are great and if  
practicable I doubt not you will collect something to  
assist me--- Your uncle Agur sold part of his barren  
plains land paid off his New York debt wherewith to pay  
his other debts. He is complaining with his shoulder  
but keeps to work most of the time-- Eliakim Benedict  
has had a severe shock of the palsy, but has so far re-  
covered as to walk about the house, his mind feeble, his  
wife quite poor, appears consumptive.

There seems to be unusual attention to religion in  
this region, but a few have joined our church as yet,  
more are expected soon to do it, among those who have  
joined are Capt. Rider, Niram Wildman and wife-- It has  
been the practice of most of our societies to have two  
three or four days successively in a week for religious  
meetings, especially to pray for the descent of the Holy  
Spirit which in many cases seems to be peculiarly blessed.  
A three days meeting is to be held in this society for  
said purpose next week, may a blessing attend it.

*I saw this  
in N. H. Am.*

I do not lay out to do much work for it would be in vain if I did. I post Wm Peck's books, who shoes the old mare and bought me a pig toward paying me. By getting a pig I save the sour milk of the cow. But my age and the misfortune of my wife destroy all my ambition as to getting much even to live on. Beers and Abigail are solicitous to have me live with them if my life should be spared until next winter but I make but very little calculation for the future for we know not what a day may bring forth no nor even a minute as in the case of your mother. Wishing and hoping you may all be prospered under the kind hand of Providence in things temporal but especially in things spiritual I subscribe myself your loving parent

Comfort Hoyt

P.S. Please to communicate this to Simeon and Aaron and write us soon. It is some time since you wrote. We are rather expecting you are waiting to send by Miss Bennett should have wrote soener but expected F. Wildman had wrote you of our misfortunes.

(Our cousin Mrs. Peet whom we called upon in Kent, Conn., has the table--she calls it a tip table---that is mentioned in this letter. I did not see it as it was packed away at the time. I am sending her a copy of this letter as I thought it would make the table more interesting to her. The story of the table as she told it is that the British officers had taken it out into the field to mix their drinks upon, and that it thus escaped the fire that destroyed so much in Danbury, the indirect result of which was the settling of our family in the Firelands of Ohio.

Note the P.S. reference to Miss Bennett. She evidently got to Ohio at least for a visit as she was hoping to do in the letter of hers previously included in this series and dated April 23rd, 1830, which see.-- m, W, 2)

early map of Ohio shows peninsula adjoining  
Sandusky called Danbury - (Jim Munz)

# MAP

## WESTERN RESERVE

*Including the*

## FIRE LANDS

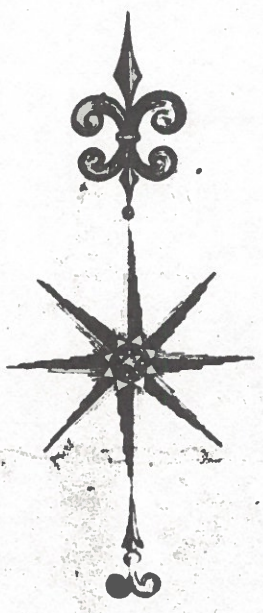
# Ohio

September 1826



RESERVE  
V.D.S.

SCALE



L A K E E R I I



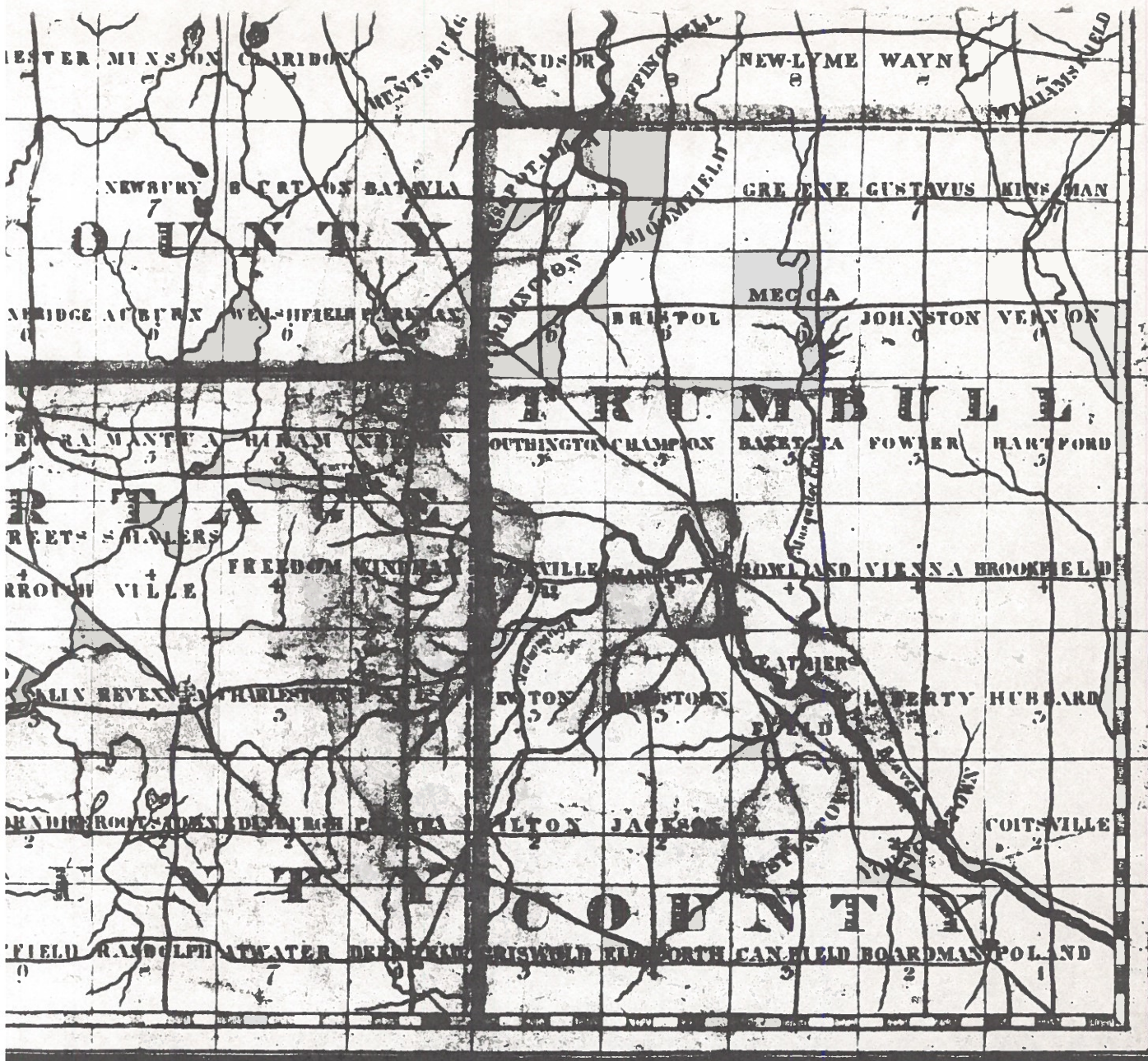
AL. GTON PE. FIELD MEDINA COUNTY

R I E



GENEVA 12 ASHTABULA 12 SHEFFIELD 12 MONROE 12  
 PERRY 11 MADISON 11 JEFFERSON 11 DENMARK 11 PIERPONT 11  
 THOMPSON 10 MORGAN 10 LETCH 10 MIDDSFORD 10  
 CHARDON 9 HARBEN 9 MONTVILLE 9 TRUMBULL 9 ROMEY 9 AND OVER 9  
 WINDSOR 8 NEWLYME 8 WAYNE 8  
 BERTON 7 BATWIA 7 GREENE 7 GUSTAVUS 7 KINGMAN 7  
 AUBURN 6 WELSHFIELD 6 BRISTOL 6 MEGGA 6 JOHNSTON 6 VERNON 6  
 HIRAM 5 BAKETA 5 FOWER 5 HARTFORD 5  
 FREEDOM 4 WINDHAM 4 BOWLAND 4 VIENNA 4 BROOKFIELD 4  
 HUBBARD 3





Engraved by Saxer

to north. Pennsylvania East etc. It extends 120 miles from East to West  
 is stricken off from the west end of the tract, and granted by the state of  
 Maryland. the manner by which the state of Connecticut became possessed  
 their Kings, of granting distant and foreign regions to his subjects granted  
 lands. But as the geographical knowledge of Europeans concerning America  
 United States became an Independent Nation, these interfering claims against  
 the United States, relinquishing their claim to the south of a line  
 the Territory now State of Ohio

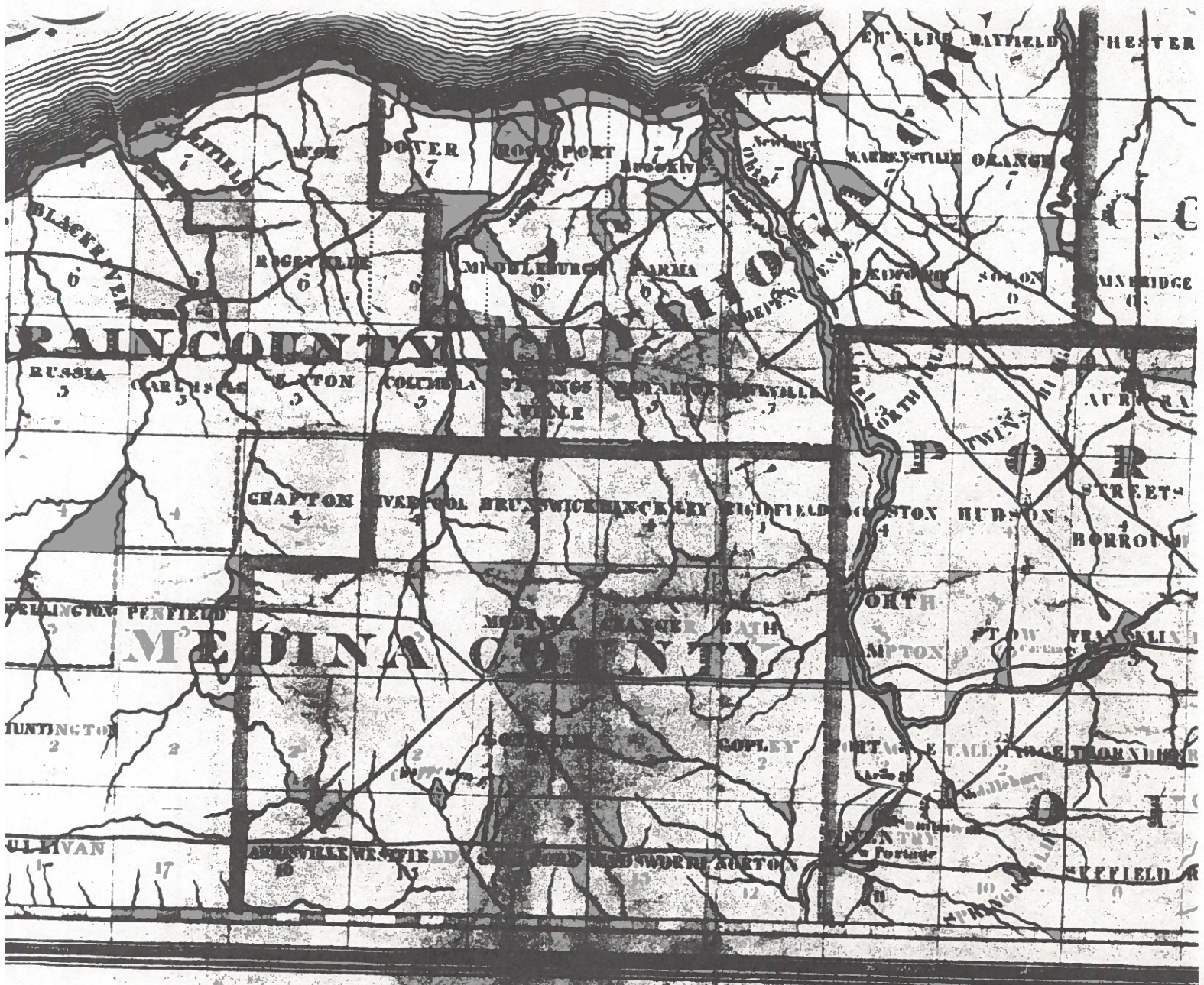


**REFERENCES.**

- Court Houses .....
- Meeting House's .....
- Colleges .....
- Mills .....
- Light Houses .....
- Wheats .....
- County Lines .....
- Roads .....
- Fells .....

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**OHIO.**

*The Western Reserve is situated in the north and upon an average, 52 from north to south. The of Connecticut, as a donation to certain sufferers of the land in question, was the following. King to the then colony of Connecticut in 1662, a charter was then very limited and confused, patents for lands much collision of sentiment between them and the The United States however reserved to themselves the*



Map Right Copied

is situated in the north east quarter of the State between Lake Erie on the north  
 in north to south. The area is just 100,000 of acres, a body of 500,000 of acres is str  
 to certain suffers by fire occasioned by the English during the Revolutionary Wa  
 the following. King Charles II of England, following the example of his brother Ken  
 out in 1662, a charter right to all lands included within certain specified bounds. Be  
 used, patents for lands often interfered with each other. After the United Sta  
 between them and the State of Connecticut which was finally compromised by the Un  
 served to themselves the right of jurisdiction. They then united this tract to the Ter