

Geog Dept

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES  
806 15th STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

### FELLOWSHIPS FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY AND RESEARCH

READ APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM.

1. NAME MR. <del>MISS</del> <del>MRS.</del> <u>Conway</u> <u>Emmett</u> <u>A.</u> SURNAME. FIRST NAME, INITIAL	4. APPLICANT'S FIELD  Forestry	FIELD OF PROPOSED STUDY Archaeology (Indian Paths)
	5. PROFESSIONAL TRAINING DATE OF COMPLETION: <u>June 1939</u> MONTH/YEAR DEGREE RECEIVED: <u>BSF &amp; MSF (Forestry)</u>	
2. POSITION TITLE: <u>Research Associate</u> DEPARTMENT: <u>Geography</u> INSTITUTION: <u>Ohio University</u> CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: <u>Athens, Ohio 45701</u>	6. PERIOD OF TENURE REQUESTED NUMBER OF MONTHS: <u>12</u> FROM: <u>1/1/76</u> TO: <u>12/31/76</u> MONTH/DAY/YEAR MONTH/DAY/YEAR	
	7. LOCATION(S) WHERE STUDY WILL BE CONDUCTED Base: <u>Ohio University, Athens, Ohio</u> Project covers all of the State of Ohio	
3. TOPIC OF PROPOSED STUDY  <u>Mapping of Principal Indian Paths of Ohio</u>		

8. ABSTRACT OF DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED STUDY. (PLEASE CONFINE ABSTRACT TO THIS SPACE.)

I propose the MAPPING OF THE PRINCIPAL INDIAN PATHS OF OHIO on the standard U.S.G.S. topographic, 7-1/2 min. quadrangle maps and to document the informational sources.

None but generalized maps and descriptions of Ohio Indian paths have been published. Indian paths have been mapped for Pennsylvania and the Southeastern United States (Paul E. Wallace, Indian Paths of Pennsylvania, 1965; and William E. Myer, "Indian Trails of the Southeast", 1928, 42nd Annual Report of Bureau of Ethnology). Both authors stated that the Indian paths continued to important centers of activity in Ohio.

The principal sources of path information for Ohio are the "Field Notes and Plat Maps of Ohio Townships". These are on record in the Ohio Auditor's Office, the National Archives and the Marietta College Library. The source has been tested and found to be adequate; being, fortunately, the last official referencing of known trails before the settlement of Ohio. Settlement brought on a relocation of the trail system. Supplemental sources of locational information would be historic maps and travel journals. Trails in unglaciated Ohio could be well over 50,000 years old.

The State of Ohio has remained, since Paleo-Indian times, one of the principal hubs of human activity in North America. More than just a "crossroad", Ohio's prime living conditions and traffic patterns of land and water should have heightened the verve of man. Paths develop between centers of human and migratory animal activity; therefore, it is presumed that knowledge of their locations would aid in the study of anthropology, art, history, botany, zoology and geography; and, in addition, have applied uses in outdoor recreation and civil engineering.

The procedure would be to: (1) transpose recorded trail information to the topographic maps, (2) make field checks for ground evidence, and (3) mark the confirmed trail locations on the topographic maps. A forester's training is well-suited to this task. The applicant has applied his training and experience in testing the feasibility of this project and considers it to be a chance to make a major contribution to science.

## DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED STUDY

I am applying for a Fellowship for Independent Study and Research for the full year of 1967-77 in the amount of \$20,000 for the purpose of MAPPING THE PRINCIPAL INDIAN PATHS OF Ohio. The applicant has been working part-time at this since 1963.

None but generalized maps and descriptions of Ohio Indian paths have been published, yet these paths might lead to prehistoric information about the various transitional people who had occupied Ohio since Paleo-Indian times. It can be seen upon viewing that Indian paths fit the landscape as the easiest way to go on foot between places of importance to the Indians. They are direct, dry and relatively-level for hundreds of miles; in fact, they continued to all formerly-occupied parts of the continent. Their engineering logic matches the ancient tracks of other continents. Our Interstate Road System amounts to a regression to the characteristics of ancient footpaths.

In order to map the Indian paths, one needs to find a record made before the imposition of the Land Enclosure System, brought over from Europe. Private ownership for farming and local political control of road systems grossly modified the prehistoric path pattern after settlement by Europeans. Before the American Revolution, no orderly system of public land survey was followed prior to settlement. This resulted in indiscriminate metes and bounds land descriptions and much litigation. In Ohio, as the first area to be disposed-of by Congress after the Revolution, we have an orderly, official record of Indian paths.

The principal sources of information on Indian paths in Ohio are the "Field Notes and Plat Maps of Ohio Townships". These and the accompanying surveyor's notes were made in conformity with the action set in motion by a congressional committee appointed in 1784 with the objective of reporting, "An ordinance for ascertaining the mode of locating and disposing of lands in the western territory, and for other purposes therein mentioned." The key, therefore, to precisely relocating the Indian paths in Ohio lies in the determination of the Congress that the Northwest Territory be subdivided and inventoried before settlement! Among the nineteen items which the surveyors were to document in running their mile-square section lines were: "15. Roads and trails, with their directions, whence and whither."

This project description includes an example of a surveyor's notes, a portion of an original township plat map with trail marked thereon and a matching, modern topographic map on which the described Indian path has been relocated.

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Along the Indian paths one should be able to find much evidence of value to the anthropologist in the way of village sites, salt springs, hunting areas, caves and artifacts. Petroglyphs, a form of art, may have more meaning. History is more commonly enacted along roads. Known trails display botanical differences, as "path grass". Migratory animals, from voles to mastodons, no doubt, used these ancient paths, to the interest of zoologists. Geographers study settlement patterns which follow migration routes. There would be applied uses of knowledge of the Indian paths in outdoor recreation and civil engineering.

The mapping of Indian paths in Ohio would be an important extension of similar work performed previously in Pennsylvania and the Southeastern United States. (Wallace, Indian Paths of Pennsylvania, 1965; and Myer, "Indian Trails of the Southeast", 1928, 42nd Annual Report of Bureau of Ethnology). Both authors stated that Indian paths continued to important centers of activity in Ohio.

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OHIO INDIAN PATH DATA SOURCES AND PROCEDURE

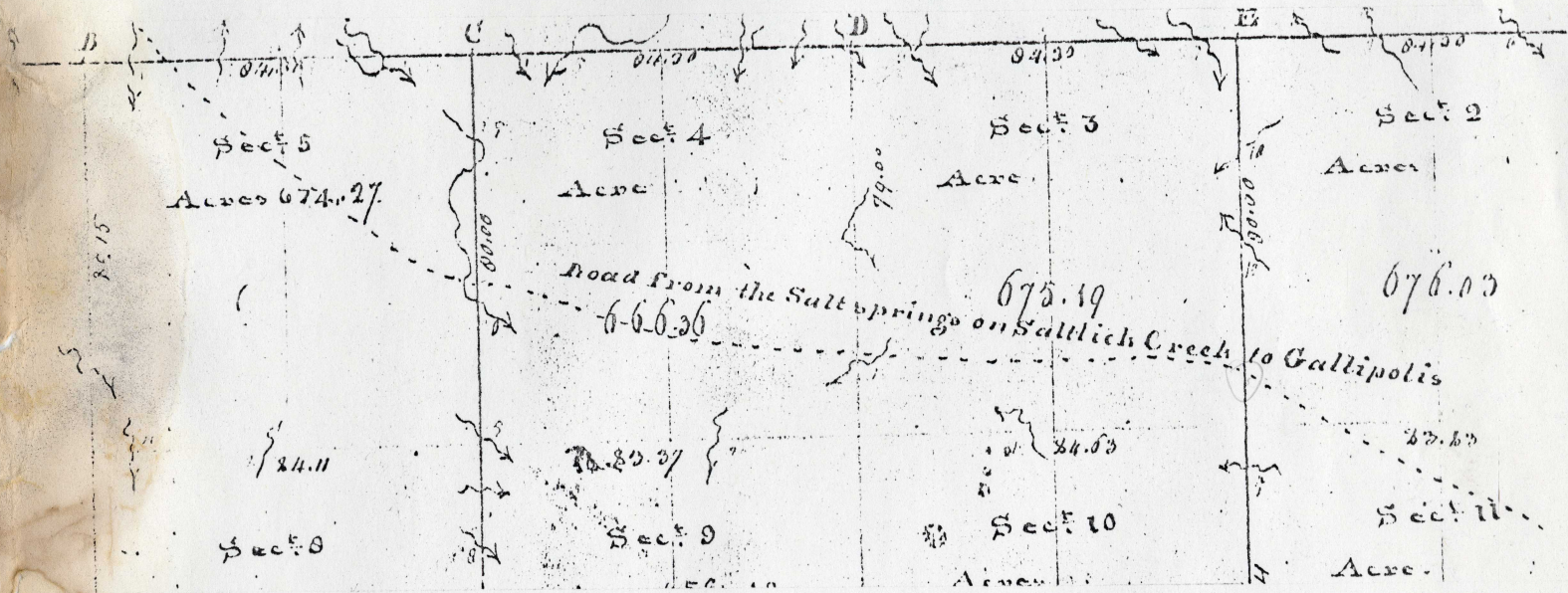
1. Sample of federal surveyor's field notes for rectangular land survey:

July, 1798, Levi Whipple, D.S. for Township 7, Range 17, Ohio River Survey

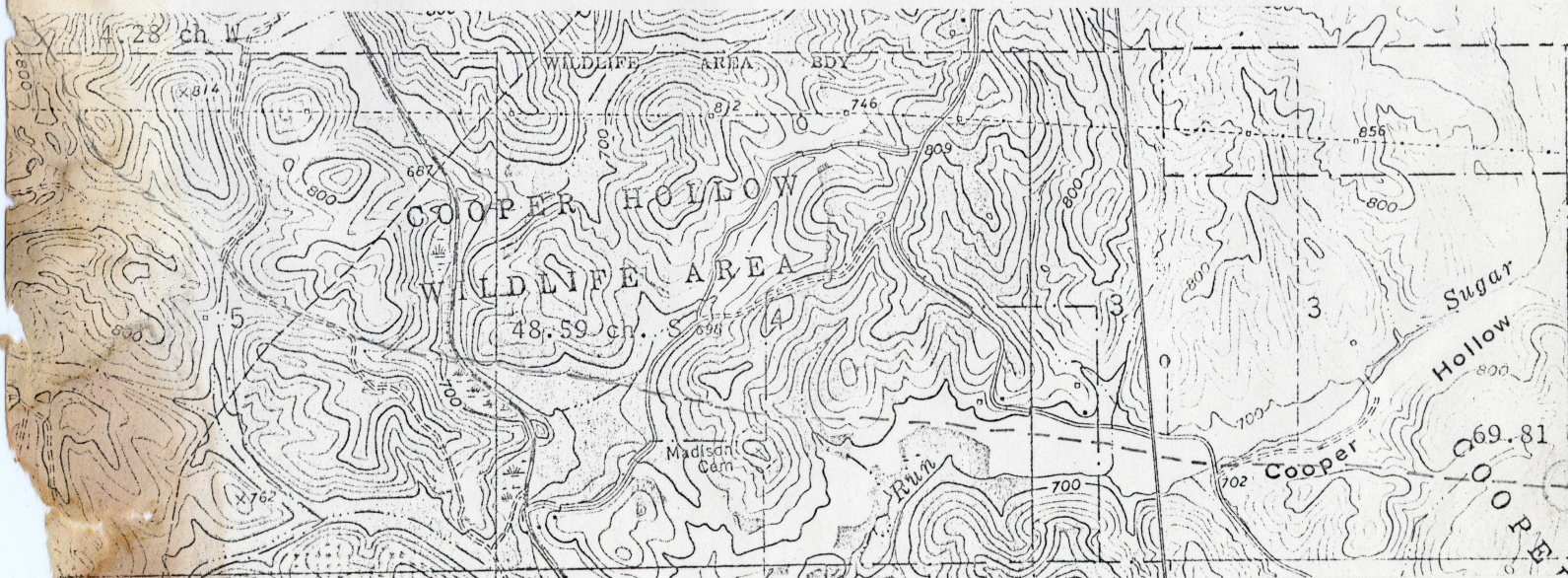
"West  
4.28 Along north boundary of T 7, R 17 (chain measurement)  
to a road that goes from Gallipolis to the Salt Springs  
upon Salt Lick Creek, course W & SE"

"South  
48.59 between Sec. 4 & 5, T 7 R 17  
descending a hill to the road from Gallipolis to the  
Salt Springs on Salt Lick Creek, from E to W."

"South  
69.81 between Sec. 2 & 3, T 7 R 17, July 17, 1798  
descending a little, then ascending a hill to the road that  
goes from Gallipolis to the Salt Springs on Salt Lick Creek,  
course N 60 W to S 60 E"



2. Portion of Plat Map of Township 7, Range 17, surveyed by Levi Whipple, July, 1798 and subdivided by Joseph Fletcher, 1805, showing above references.



3. Matching portion of U.S.G.S. Topographic Map, 7-1/2 min. Quadrangle, 1961, showing (a) plotted original references, (b) relocated Indian path -----.