OHIO

IN THE

NORTHWEST TERRITORY

SESQUICENTENNIAL

1937-1938

Northwest Territory Celebration
Commission of Ohio

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Prepared by the Federal Writers’ Project
Works Progress Administration in Ohio
Ohio in the Northwest Territory Sesquicentennial Celebration

• For the 150th Anniversary of the Ordinance of 1787 and the settlement of the Northwest Territory, the Federal Government and the six States which were formed from the Territory—Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota—will participate in a series of commemorative events.

• Opening in New York on July 13 with a Federally sponsored pageant re-creating the adoption of the Ordinance, the Sesquicentennial will progress to the six States, where territorial, State and local history will be reproduced. Features of this interstate program will be: an ox-drawn covered wagon caravan traveling from Ipswich, Massachusetts, the original trail of the Marietta settlers; a motion picture; a historical novel; a text-book history of the Territory; and contests for students and for writers on territorial history. On July 15, 1938, the anniversary of the establishment of civil government in the Territory, a memorial will be dedicated at Marietta.

• Ohio cities which grew from territorial forts and trading posts and other historical points of interest will be centers of attention through the co-operation of State and local agencies in the promotion and direction of appropriate celebrations.

• For reading material pertaining to Ohio history, ask your librarian. For information on Celebration plans write to

The Northwest Territory Celebration Commission of Ohio
State House, Columbus
I most heartily endorse the proposal that the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Ordinance of 1787 and of the settlement of the Northwest be celebrated by the joint observance of the Federal Government and the various States concerned. I trust that the forthcoming anniversary will be seized as the opportune occasion to instill in American minds and hearts the cherished appreciation of the rank and honor that is the rightful due of the “Great Ordinance”.

Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the United States.

The people of Ohio are particularly interested in this sesquicentennial. Here were the first settlements in the Northwest Territory and the first civil government; here was the broad gateway to the lands north of the Ohio and east of the Mississippi; ours was the first State to be carved from the lands embraced by that Ordinance. Ohio is rich in territorial history and in the possession of monuments to the courage and perseverance of the makers of history in the Territory. Proud of our heritage, we welcome this opportunity to commemorate it.

O. Maurice Davis
Governor of Ohio.

Means of encouraging study of the history of the Northwest Territory and the place of Ohio therein have been provided. The response of communities to participate in the re-enactment of early events and to depict by pageantry the happenings of the past gives promise of outstanding celebrations. The best thing we will derive from it all is the enthusiasm it will raise in us.

Chairman, Northwest Territory Celebration Commission of Ohio.