



MAP OF THE STATE OF OHIO 1815

The Northwest Territory, of which Ohio is a part, was created by ordinance passed by Congress in 1787, after the area was given up by Britain by the treaty of 1783. The first Governor, appointed by Congress, was Gen. St. Clair, and the first capital was at Marietta in 1788. In 1790 it was moved to Cincinnati. A Territorial Legislature was organized in 1797. In 1800, Congress divided the Territory into two parts, Chillicothe becoming capital of the east part. 60,000 adult males were required for statehood. Estimated 42,000 in 1800 had increased to 230,760 in 1810. Nov. 29, 1802 a Constitution for State government was signed as authorized by Congress April 30, 1802. Feb. 19, 1803, it was approved by Congress and Ohio was recognized as the 17th state. Edward Tiffin, elected first Governor, was inaugurated March 1, 1803 at Chillicothe, the first capital. In 1810 a move was made to Zanesville, in 1812 a return to Chillicothe and in 1816 to Columbus, its present location. The first known British habitation of Ohio area, in 1749, called Laramies store, a trading post, was at Pickawillany at the north-west area of Miami County shown above. It was attacked and destroyed by the French in 1752. A settlement at Portsmouth 1785 was abandoned. First settlement was at Marietta in 1788. Second was in Nov. 1788 at Columbia, at the mouth of the Little Miami River. In 1749, Celoron De Bienville, traveled down the Ohio River as far as the Great Miami. At six river mouths, he planted lead plates near the roots of large trees, claiming possession of the lands for France. He attached metal plates to the trees. One lead plate was found in 1798 on the west bank of the Muskingum, and another at the mouth of the Kenawha in 1846. Howe's History of Ohio, says there is evidence of man's presence here before the glacial period. Since that time, the "Mound Builders," more structures than in any other equal area in the world. Articles of shells, bone, stone, mica and copper, together with human skeletons, frequently burned, are found in these mounds. Their period is entirely unknown. The Indians who occupied the area, had no knowledge of them. The principal Indian tribes in the Ohio area, were the Delawares, Shawanese, Miamis, Wyandots, Hurons, Ottawas, Senecas and Mingoes, and their numbers were estimated at about 6000 at the beginning of the Revolutionary War.