

Introduction

Remarkable Happenings in the Western Reserve or Whose Bicentennial Is It Anyway? is the eleventh in the series of Western Reserve Studies Symposia. Begun in 1985 and designed to provide a forum for students and scholars of northeastern Ohio's history and culture, the objective of the symposia is to advance the exploration of the distinctive aspects of Ohio's Western Reserve.

The 1996 Symposium hosted by the American Studies Program at Case Western Reserve University was inspired by the 200th anniversary of the arrival on July 22, 1796 of Moses Cleaveland and the surveying party. Commissioned by the Connecticut Land Co. whose proprietors wanted to sell the land to prospective settlers, a prerequisite was the responsibility of charting the land. The surveyors had moved along the southern shore of Lake Erie and entered at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River. They disembarked and climbed the river's banks where before them stretched a wooded wilderness lush with flora and fauna. As they turned to their task we, 200 years later, turn to ours. We are the surveyors who celebrate the land that constituted this region of "remarkable happenings" first called the Connecticut Western Reserve. Our perspective is uniquely served by the Symposium site, Case Western Reserve University's "campus in the country" the Squire Valleevue Farm.

The following persons assisted in planning the Symposium:

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Our investigation of "remarkable happenings" in the Western Reserve will be guided by scholars, authors and commentators. Included here is a program for the Symposium in its entirety, a list of presenters, their papers and abstracts in the order of presentation.

Gladys Haddad
Director
Western Reserve Studies Symposium

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