

Introduction

The Promise of the Land is the subject of the fourteenth annual Western Reserve Studies Symposium. 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 1999 Symposium at Case Western Reserve University took its subject from an inquiry related to the 200th anniversary of the death of George Washington. Did he figure into the history and culture of the Western Reserve? Washington scholars rose to the challenge! The decision was then made to sweep across three centuries with perspectives that were geographical, political and therapeutic to reveal "the promise of the land" in the Western Reserve.

The following persons assisted in planning the Symposium:

David Anderson, Hiram College
William C. Barrow, Cleveland State University
Polly Clemo, Benjamin Rose Institute
Miriam P. Gale, Lake County Hospitals
Beth Johnson, Independent Scholar
George Knepper, University of Akron
Sr. Mary Denis Maher, Ursuline College
Daria Maresh, Hopewell Inn
Lucy Ireland Weller, Mount Vernon Ladies Association

With appreciation to:

Maude and Hardy Drane, Roberta L. Drane, Karen Haas, Martha Isard, Clara Rankin, Nancy Stephenson

For their efforts in implementation, special thanks are extended to Case Western Reserve University's John Bassett, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Barbara Klante, Assistant Dean and Manager of Interdisciplinary Centers and Programs, Susan Griffiths, Public Relations, Stuart Kollar and Sue Harris, Publications, Dwayne Bible, Network Services, Edith Schwede and Barbara Youel, American Studies.

Scholars, authors, and commentators will guide our exploration of **The Promise of the Land**. 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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