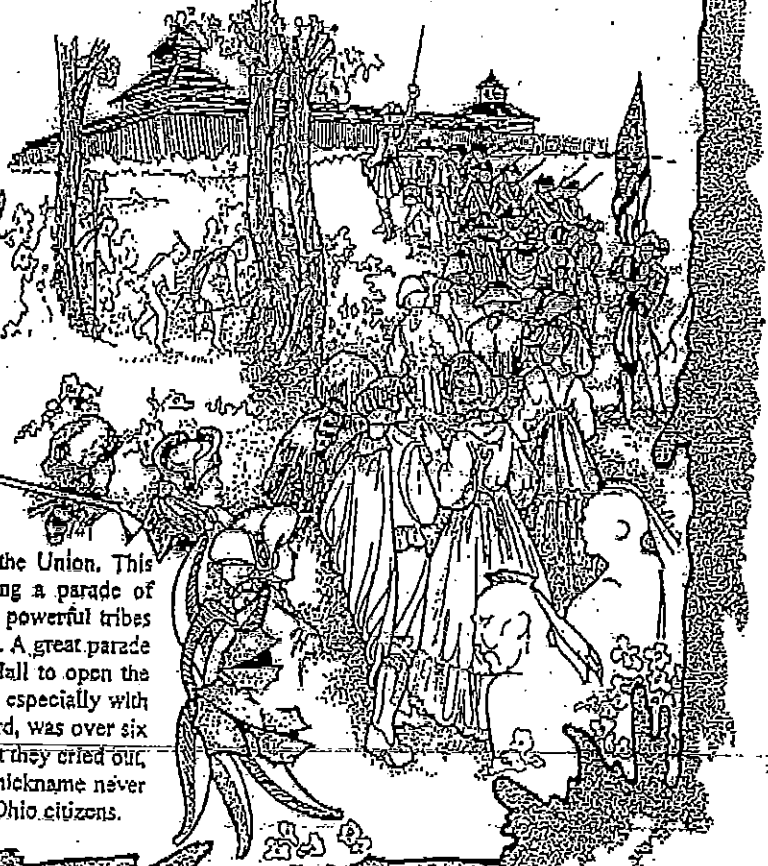
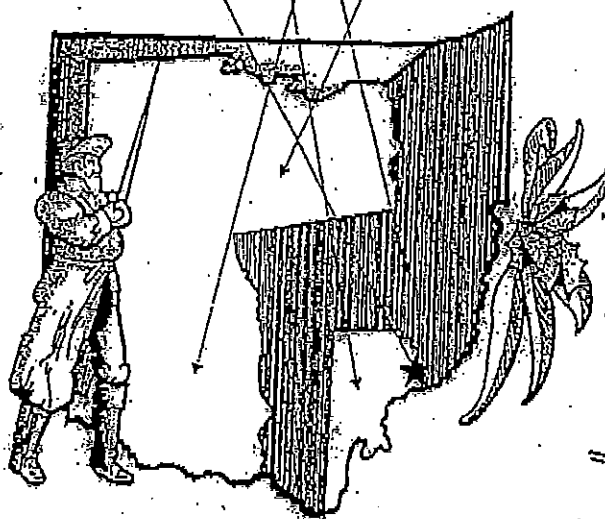


# Colonel Ebenezer Sproat



OHIO'S  
FIRST SHERIFF  
FIRST BUCKEYE  
1788-1802

PART OF  
NORTH WEST TERRITORY  
CONNECTICUT RESERVE  
ARMY LAND  
VIRGINIA DONATION  
OHIO COMPANY  
MARIETTA



He's a Buckeye! — is a phrase understood in every State in the Union. This phrase was first coined at Marietta by some Indians watching a parade of officials. On September 2, 1788, Indians representing the more powerful tribes of the northwest were assembled at Marietta to negotiate treaties. A great parade of all officials in the settlement marched to Campus Martius Hall to open the first court. The Indians were deeply impressed with the pageant, especially with Colonel Ebenezer Sproat, High Sheriff. He carried a drawn sword, was over six feet tall, and so pleased the natives with his gallantry and size that they cried out, "Heap big Hetuk." Hetuk is the Indian name for buckeye. The nickname never left Colonel Sproat and was gradually conferred upon all Ohio citizens.