

Tabitha and the Hungry Indians

Tabitha Thomas Streevey lived most of her seventy-five years in Huntington Township, but her family was one of the first to live in Chillicothe. Her father, Michael Thomas, built a cabin for their family about where Cristy's Pizza now sits. At that time only a few cabins were



sprinkled in the clearing and it was not unusual for Indians to be seen, as there were still many in the area. Although the new settlers and Indians lived in peace, Tabitha had heard scary tales about Indians on the warpath and seeing them always gave her a chill.

One day when Tabitha was only about nine years old, she and her younger sister Elizabeth were left in charge of the cabin while her mother went to the nearby Scioto River to wash their clothing. Several Indians came into the cabin and began cutting off slices of venison (deer meat) which they found hanging up, and started roasting it over the fire. The two young girls became frightened and ran under the bed; but after a while they thought it would not do to let these Indians eat all the family's meat, so they slipped out of their hiding place and ran to the river to find their mother.

Mrs. Thomas and her neighbor, Mrs. McMahan started for the house, picking up some clapboards (flat boards which were used for roofing) on their way. When the Indians laid eyes on the two clapboard armed women entering the cabin, they beat it out of there as quick as can be! Such was life on the frontier.

Adapted from Pioneer Sketches: Life in the Northwest Territory and Ross County, Ohio 1600's - 1896 by George Perkins