

# Nathaniel Massie Settles Chillicothe

Veterans could move to their new land or they could sell their land. Surveyors were hired to locate their land. The veterans often did not have money to pay the surveyors for their work so they would give the surveyor part of their land as payment.



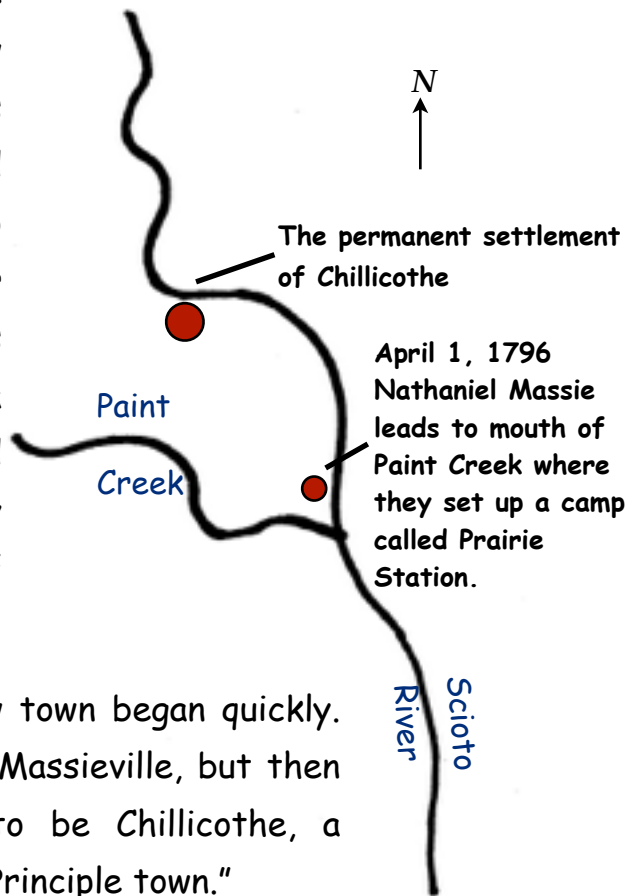
Nathaniel Massie

A young Virginian named Nathaniel Massie had become quite a good surveyor. He was very familiar with the Virginia Military District and had been hired by a lot of veterans to locate their land. Through land payments for surveying work, he eventually owned quite a bit of land in what is now Chillicothe and Ross County.

Nathaniel got a good look at the new lands before many of the new settlers came to Ross County. He selected some of the best lands for himself. Nathaniel wanted to sell some of his land, but, who would want to buy land where there were no nearby towns. He began to make plans for a settlement in the heart of the wooded lands he had surveyed. Nathaniel placed advertisements in Kentucky and Virginia newspapers which offered free land to the first 100 settlers to come to his new town to live.

In March of 1796, Nathaniel and Rev. Robert Finley organized a group of about 40 men from Virginia and Kentucky to begin his new settlement. They traveled up the Scioto River, some in boats and some by land from the Ohio River settlement of Manchester.

On April 1, they set up camp where Paint Creek empties into the Scioto River. He named the new settlement Prairie Station. This spot proved to be too low and flooding from the Paint and Scioto would be a problem. The better location for their new town was found just up the Scioto along a large bend in the river. The land sat upon a high bank surrounded by hills which added to the beauty of the setting.



Clearing the land for the new town began quickly. At first the settlement was called Massieville, but then Nathaniel determined the name to be Chillicothe, a Shawnee Indian word which meant "Principle town."

### 1796\* Ross County's Pioneers \* 1796

Bazil Abrams	James Herrod	Joseph McCoy	John Rodgers
Henry Abrams	William Jamison	Thomas McCoy	William Rodgers
Rueben Abrams	James Keder	John McDonald	David Shelby
John Brown	James Kerr	James Menary	Anthony Smith
James Crawford	William Kerr	Philip Minear	Jeremiah Smith
John Cutwright	George Kilgore	Ferguson Moore	Robert Smith
Thomas Dick	James Kilgore	William Nicholson	Samuel Smith
J.B. Finley	Nathaniel Massie	Benjamin Rodgers	William Smith
Robert W. Finley	Duncan McArthur	George Rodgers	Robert Templeton
John E. Fulton	John McCoy	James Rodgers	Samuel Templeton

Joseph Thomas

From: Pioneer Sketches: Life in the Northwest Territory and Ross Co., Ohio, 1600's-1896 by George Perkins