

New Americans Look to Westward Settlement



The Revolutionary War was over. The new United States now reached across the Allegheny Mountains to the Mississippi River. Part of the new lands were the Northwest Territory where we live today. The Northwest Territory included what is now our state of Ohio and the states of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, Wisconsin and a little bit of Minnesota.

The United States was anxious to settle these new lands. The Congress decided to grant land in the Northwest Territory to the veterans of the Revolutionary War as payment for their service. It was an unsettled wilderness whose native Indians had not welcomed the settlers in their nearby state of Kentucky. Who would be better to tame this new land than the soldiers who had bravely fought to win our freedom from Great Britain.

The first part of the Northwest Territory to be settled was the land east of just north of the Ohio River known as the Ohio Country. Congress gave sections of the Ohio Country to states like Connecticut and Virginia, who would then award them to Revolutionary War veterans from their state.



Graphic (RR)

Along the Ohio Trail, Ohio Auditor's Office

**Bounty Land Warrants
for Veterans of the
American Revolution**

Acreage by Rank*

Major General	.....	1100 acres
Brigadier	.....	850 acres
Colonel	.....	500 acres
Lieutenant Colonel	..	450 acres
Major	.....	400 acres
Captain	.....	300 acres
Lieutenant	.....	200 acres
Ensign	.....	150 acres
Non-Commissioned	..	100 acres
Soldier	.....	100 acres
Surgeon	.....	400 acres
Surgeon's Mate	.....	300 acres

*Source: William Donohue Ellis, *The Ordinance of 1787: The Nation Begins*, Dayton, Ohio: Landfall Press, 1987, p. 28

Veterans were given land as payment for their service in the recent fight for freedom. The amount was determined by the soldier's rank. The paper which awarded them their land was called a "Land Warrant."

Some veterans chose to move to the unsettled Ohio and to settle on their new land. Others stayed in the East and sold their property to adventurers willing to move West.