

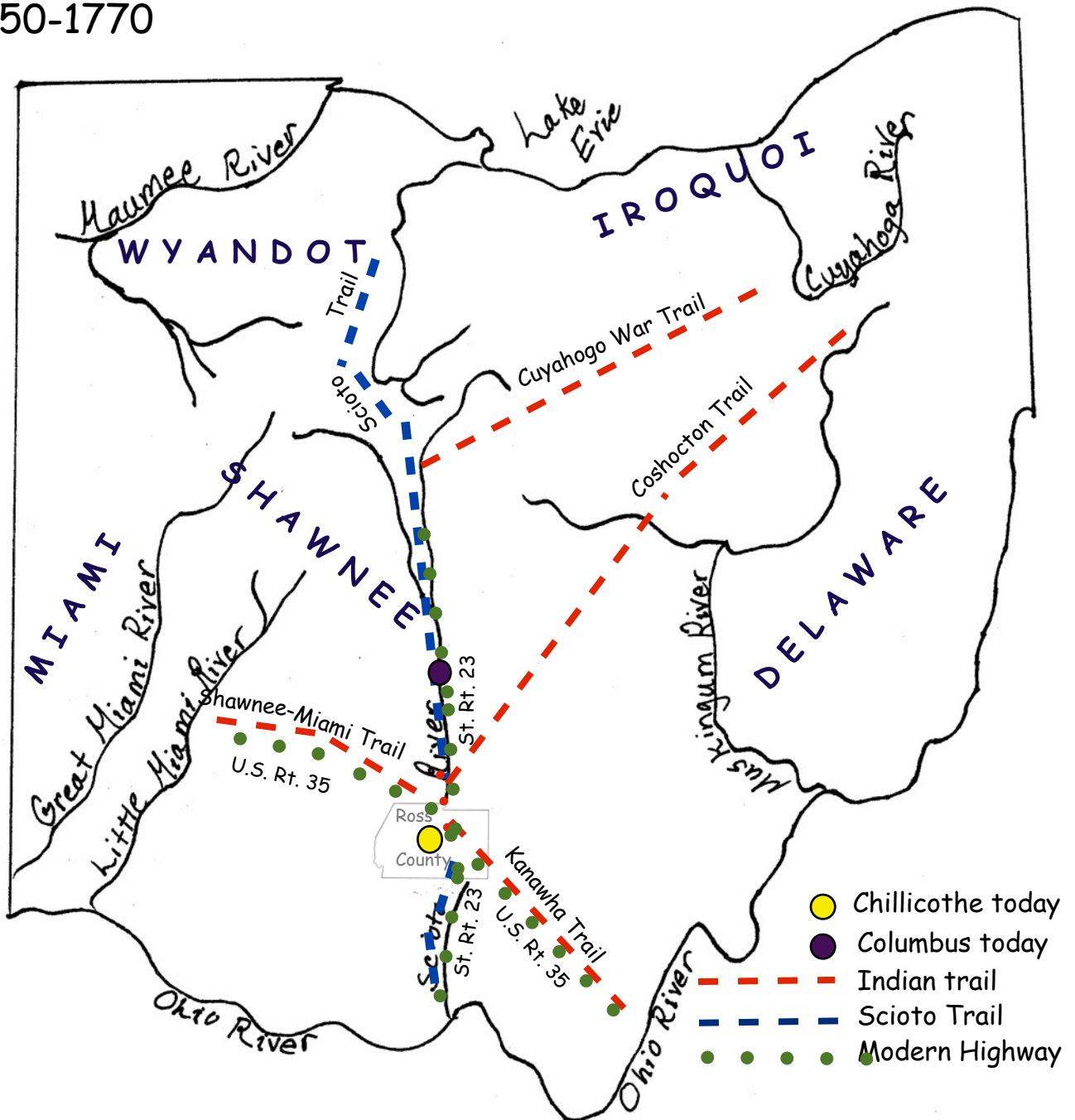
Ross County, An Indian Crossroads

The Shawnee did not settle in Ross County until about 1750, but there were always Indians passing through here on the "Indian Highways" that criss-crossed Ohio. Many of these trails began as paths made by deer and other animals. The Indians used them for many years and later the white settlers made use of them. A lot of these Indian trails are now the highways we use to travel in our cars.

The most famous of these trails is the Scioto Trail. It started in northern Ohio at the mouth of the Scioto River. It followed the Scioto River south through the land of the Wyandot Indians. Trails from the lands of the Miami, Iroquois, and Delaware Indians joined this trail along its way south. It eventually joined the famous "Warriors Path" once it crossed the Ohio River. Rt. 23 now follows a good part of the Scioto Trail.

The Kanawha Trail leads through what is now Jackson, Ohio. It was a popular destination, first for animals, then for Indians and later the area's early settlers. Jackson was the sight of the Scioto Salt Works. Salt was very important to the early settlers. It was used for flavoring and preservation of food. The salty water was boiled in a big pot over an open fire until all the water was evaporated and only the salt grains remained. It was then bagged and sold. Getting salt in this manner was much quicker and cheaper than having it shipped from "civilization on the other side of the Appalachian Mountains. Rt. 35 follows much of what was the original Kanawha Trail.

Ross County, An Indian Crossroads 1750-1770



Indian Place names and their meanings:

Scioto River- "Hairy" River This referred to large amounts of deer hair in the river.

Cuyahoga River-"Crooked" River

Muskingum River-"Moose eye" River This referred to the clearness of the water.

Maumee and Miami Rivers- Maumee is a form of the word Miami. The meaning is uncertain.

Ohio River- "Beautiful" River

Lake Erie- "Lake of the Cat People" The Erie Indians were part of Iroquois Tribe which was known as the Cat Nation.