

See attached description.

Wesley Allen died  
May 20-1963

(This paper states  
that he had half  
of the property goes  
to his widow -  
Margaret Wight Allen)

Cleveland Topics  
 Aug. 5, 1916

## Clevelanders Mark Old Indian Trails

**A** GROUP of Cleveland men has organized the Indian Pathfinders' Association, because its object is to find Indian paths or Indian trails.

Some of the oldest and most important of these trails are right here in Ohio. These are the trails the Indian Pathfinders are most directly interested in. On opportune occasions they don hiking paraphernalia and, armed with the power of observation, delve into the early history of this continent by means of actual field work. Oftentimes they have been mistaken for tramps and set upon by dogs. As frequently have they come upon new sources of information.

While wondering about near Earlville, Ohio, inquiries were made of a farmer who subsequently proved to be a collector of interesting Indian relics he had picked up on the trail which ran through his farm. The farmer was approached while driving cows by Pathfinder R. K. Pelton. They got to reminiscing, whereupon it turned out that they were on the very spot where Mr. Pelton, when a farmer boy, had met the farmer driving cows just forty years before.

Mr. Pelton wears an arrowhead fob of Tennessee jasper, found at Brecksville. It proves, incidentally, that Indians from Tennessee passed through. Mr. Pelton didn't find the arrowhead himself. He has been trying to find arrowheads for forty years, but has been unsuccessful. Some of the members, according to the trail-hunters, have a sixth sense by means of which they locate objects underfoot.

Thus while Mr. V. D. Allen, a member of the association, picked up valuable specimens from about a tree to which one of the pathfinders' identifying tablets was being fastened at Northfield, Mr. Pelton couldn't locate an arrowhead.

First, the present members of the Pathfinders' Association delved individually into the extraordinary love of early American and Ohio history, merely as a personal hobby. Then, as they came across brother travelers on the highways of Indian history and history of Indian highways, they banded together for the enlargement of their facilities for research.

The charter members of the association were Mr. Elmer D. Wight, president of the association and a Cleveland surveyor; Mr. Virgil D. Allen, secretary, an engineer; Mr. R. K. Pelton, manager of the Rose estate; Mr. F. M. Barton, book publisher, and Attorney De Lo E. Mook, the boy scout commissioner.



MR. ELMER B. WIGHT AN ENTHUSIASTIC INDIAN PATHFINDER



MR. F. M. BARTON, A CHARTER MEMBER OF THE INDIAN PATHFINDERS' ASSOCIATION

These men derive pleasure and educational benefit from their hobby. It is a fact that the civilization of this continent has developed along old Indian paths. A study of these paths is a history of not only of what has come since then, but of much that has gone before. It is such a field of knowledge that is open to the pathfinders, and which they ac-

It has been found that a Delaware Indian village existed on the site of Willow Station, southeast of Cleveland. Mr. F. M. Barton discovered it here by poking about with a stick. First he unearthed some ashes, which led to buried pottery and also to a skeleton with an Indian pipe bearing the insignia of the turtle, proving the old village to have been occupied by the Delaware tribe.

On the Tuttle farm in the same vicinity a big stone was run into the plowing. Investigations are being made in the hope of finding an Indian sepulchre.

Another object of the association is the tracing of the origination of names of streams in Ohio. Many of these are Indian names, or names of Indian names. Some of them have been changed by successive Indian and Caucasian settlers. It has been found that there were at one time three Miami rivers in Ohio and that the Cuyahoga (by heroic accident not called the "muddy" Cuyahoga) has been called White River since the De Saguin.

Eventually, it is the plan of the association to personally mark the trails with suitable plates. The engineering contingent is continually engaged on charts, which will eventually form the most complete map of its kind ever published.

The members have already traced some of the trails and have marked them. They use large aluminum plates for the marking, these plates being screwed to trees and having on them wording that tells their purpose. In the woods and on the farms in northern Ohio persons occasionally come upon these plates.

The members are tracing the trails from Pittsburgh to Cleveland and westward, and from Akron and other points northward to Cleveland. All this just as the result of a hobby, undeniably most interesting; besides, says Secretary Allen, "the walking's good for us fellows."

CONSTITUTION OF  
THE INDIAN PATHFINDERS' ASSOCIATION  
OF  
CLEVELAND, OHIO.

Preamble.

Before the coming of the White Man, the forests of Ohio were traversed by paths, or trails, many of which were used as main lines of travel for centuries, some unquestionably originating in the days of the mound builders.

All the important Indian villages were located on, or close to these paths, and likewise all the events connected with the passing of the Indian and the coming of the White Man were controlled by the paths.

Practically every military expedition of the Indian and 1812 wars followed these paths.

Most of the early forts were built at points which commanded one or more of them. Therefore, a knowledge of these paths is of first importance to the student of early Ohio history.

No map of Ohio exists, which shows with any degree of accuracy the location of these paths, Indian villages, routes of military expeditions and fort sites.

Objects.

The Indian Pathfinders' Association of Cleveland is organized for the purpose of locating, monumenting and recording these paths and the historic incidents connected with them.

Organization.

The organization shall consist of a President, Secretary, Treasurer and two Directors, elected annually, who shall be authorized to transact the business of the organization during the intervals between meetings.

ROSE BUILDING  
BROWNING BUILDING  
BUILDING A.  
" B.  
" C.  
EAST NINTH STREET

Benjamin Rose Estate

R. K. PELTON, AGENT

1006 ROSE BUILDING

TELEPHONES:  
MAIN 2373  
CENTRAL 6376

CLEVELAND

June 19th, 1914.

P. P. Cherry,  
Akron, O.

Dear Sir:-

The following named gentlemen having all read your Portage Path and being much interested, instructed and stimulated thereby, have formed the

Indian Path Finders  
Association No. 1.  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Viz: Virgil D. Allen, Com'r of Buildings Cleveland.  
Fred M. Barton, Publisher "  
Chas. Orr, Ex-Director Public Schools "  
Elmer S. Wight, Civil Engineer "  
and Russell K. Pelton, the writer.

We have already found the location at Tinkers Creek, Cuyahoga County, of the settlement of the Moravian or Christian Indians in 1786 and are preparing an accurate as possible map of all the Indian trails or paths of northeastern Ohio. We are having splendid success. We hope to erect tablets at points thereon in Cuyahoga County, and to interest the public in such matters. We think that five men who are active, congenial and mutually interested, are enough for any County association.

My friend Mr. W. S. Kent of Kent, Ohio, is much interested and will no doubt form an association at Kent of five men for Portage County; and as you well know the "Standing Stone" in the Cuyahoga river at Kent was the crossing place of an ancient Indian Trail coming up from the Mahoning River country. Association No. 2 will be formed by five gentlemen in Youngstown, and I write to ask if you will kindly be enough interested to form No. 3 in Akron? I feel sure that my friend Mr. Cash and three others whom you can suggest will join you.

In reading the history of Indian Paths in Ohio by Arthur Hurlbert I find in a foot note his indebtedness for information furnished by John Hovey of Akron. As this was written about twelve years ago Mr. Hovey may have passed over the Great Divide.

Can I hear from you if you are interested and greatly oblige so I can give you additional information. We will all feel very grateful if you can help us.

Yours truly,

Russell K. Pelton

*834 Colburn St Akron  
out - S. many  
to location*

*JK*

A F F I D A V I T.

*compiled by Robert A. Burn*

THE STATE OF OHIO )  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY. ) ss.

Elmer B. Wight of the City of Cleveland, in said county, being duly sworn, says:

That about thirty-five years ago, Mr. John Geisendorfer, who at that time was an old man accompanied me to his farm which was a part of Tract 3, Lots 18, 24 and 30 of Independence Township, and by word of mouth imparted to me the tradition as herein set forth and which relates to the large Sycamore Tree near the River Road and directly west of the confluence of the Cuyahoga River and Tinkers Creek:

"PILGRIM'S SYCAMORE

In 1786 this tree sheltered Moravian Missionaries, while in council, after disembarking from canoes on nearby Cuyahoga river. Pilgerruh Village occupied site of an Ottawa Indian town on plateau above Canal and Dunham Roads".

and further saith not.

*Elmer B. Wight*

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of March, 1930.

*Roland A. Baskitt*  
*Roland A. Baskitt*  
Notary Public.

ROBERT BURNS JR  
14114 KENNEPDOWN AV  
CLEVELAND OHIO 44137

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