

**Title:** Northwest Territorial Celebration Commission Letters

**Reference Code:** Mss-987

**Inclusive Dates:** 1937-1938

**Quantity:** 0.03

**Location:** Sm Mss.

**Abstract:** The Northwest Territorial Celebration Commission was created in 1937 to celebrate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787. The federal government appropriated \$100,000 for the event, which was no small matter in the depths of the great depression. Festivities centered around the town of Marietta, Ohio, where the government of the Northwest Territories was first organized on July 15, 1788. The celebration included a reenactment of the wagon train journey taken by the first white settlers to arrive in Marietta. The 1937 journey was taken by thirty-six men and lasted for five months, with the “settlers” reaching Marietta on April 7, 1938. The celebration (which was also referred to as the “Northwest Ordinance Sesquicentennial”) was a popular success that offered depression-era Americans an escape from modern hardships and gave an optimistic look at the nation’s history.

**Scope and Content:** Letters written by members of the sesquicentennial wagon-train journey during the five-month trek from Ipswich, Massachusetts to Marietta, Ohio.

**Access and Use:** No restrictions

**Language:** English