

**SKETCH OF MOUND
CEMETERY,
MARIETTA, OHIO**

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Sketch of Mound Cemetery, Marietta, Ohio by Willia Dawson Cotton

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WILLIA DAWSON COTTON

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SKETCH
OF
MOUND CEMETERY

MARIETTA, OHIO.

BY
WILLIA DAWSON COTTON.

PREPARED IN HONOR OF THE
SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION
OF THE
OHIO FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS.

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THERE is no spot west of the Alleghenies of more historic interest than the old Mound Cemetery of Marietta, for in it are buried many of the Pioneers of the Great Northwest. Sturdy and true were the men who bade "Good-bye" to the old Bay State, and wended their way westward to establish a new home in the wilderness. Under the leadership of Rufus Putnam they followed the Indian trail over the mountains, and in rude bateaux floated down the Ohio to the mouth of the Muskingum, where they landed on the 7th of April, 1788, and laid out a little city which they called Marietta in honor of the Queen of France, Marie Antoinette.

Too much praise cannot be given to that little band which thus laid the foundations of the great state of Ohio. It was composed

of remarkable men. "Energetic, industrious, persevering, honest, bold and free,—they were limited in their achievements only by the limits of possibility." Many of them were officers of the Revolution. At the end of that long struggle, finding themselves almost penniless and with occupations gone, they hailed with delight the idea of founding a colony in the far away country on the Ohio. They had often heard of its beauty and richness from their old commander, General Washington, who, as a young surveyor, had explored its vast forests and picturesque rivers, and later had bought large tracts of land in its fertile valleys. He was much interested in the Ohio Company, and wrote: "No colony in America was ever settled under such favorable auspices as that which has just commenced at Muskingum. Information, property and strength will be its characteristics. I know many of the settlers personally and there never were men better calculated to promote the welfare of such a community."

The place selected for the little town con-

tained some of those remarkable earthworks whose origin is shrouded in mystery. The Indians could give no information concerning the mounds and squares which lay on an elevated plain above the east bank of the Muskingum, save that they were the remains of an ancient people, who had long since vanished from the face of the earth. The settlers were much interested in these vast monuments, which showed that they were erected by a race of men greatly superior to the aborigines of the country. The sides of the ramparts and mounds were covered by grand old trees, the growth of centuries. One day, in the presence of Governor St. Clair, some trees were felled, and the number of concentric circles counted in order to ascertain their age. One of the largest, a poplar tree, contained 452 circles, and therefore was more than 452 years old. The Rev. Manassah Cutler, from whose journal the above facts were taken, wrote, "Admitting the age of the present growth to be 450 years and that it had been preceded by one of equal size and age, which as probably as

otherwise was not the first, the works have been deserted more than 900 years. If they were occupied 100 years, they were erected more than 1000 years ago."

The worthy pioneers gave evidence of their wisdom and culture by laying out broad streets and ample lots, and above all by reserving some of the most perfect of the ancient earthworks for public grounds.

With their country's struggle for liberty still fresh in their minds they could not honor sufficiently the name of the beautiful Queen of France, who had helped them during that weary period by her love and sympathy; and at an early meeting it was decided to call the square which contained the conical mound Marie Antoinette Square. It bore this name until 1791, but after that it was designated simply as Mound Square. The Great Mound, or Conus, as it is sometimes called, is as perfect to-day as it was when first discovered by Putnam's little band. Its perpendicular altitude is 30 feet, and its base is a regular circle, 375 feet in circumference. It is surrounded by a moat

