Introduction

Lifelines of the Western Reserve: Transportation Land, Water, Air is the twelfth in the series of Western Reserve Studies Symposia. Begun in 1985 and designed to provide a forum for students and scholars of northeastern Ohio’s history and culture, the objective of the symposia is to advance the exploration of the distinctive aspects of Ohio’s Western Reserve.

The 1997 Symposium hosted by the American Studies Program at Case Western Reserve University took its subject as an outcome of the 1996 Symposium Remarkable Happenings in the Western Reserve. Clearly, this region was a highly desirable destination for those seeking a place to live and work. One of the first questions asked in making a move to a new home or job is, “how will I get there?” A network of roads, rails, canals, rivers and airways have moved people to Northeastern Ohio for two centuries in search of a better life. This year, we wanted audiences to think about where people came from, what attracted them to the area, what it took to get here and what followed in the place that drew them.

The following persons assisted in planning the Symposium:

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Virginia Dawson, History Enterprises
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For their efforts in implementation, special thanks and appreciation are extended to Case Western Reserve University personnel John Bassett, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Barbara Klante, Director of Conferences and Special Events, Susan Griffiths, Public Relations, Stuart Kollar and Sue Harris, Publications, Dwayne Bible, Network Services and Edith Schwede, American Studies. At the Western Reserve Historical Society, we acknowledge with gratitude the cooperation of Museum Director, Dianne King.

Our exploration of “lifelines of the Western Reserve” will be guided by scholars, authors and commentators. Included here is a program for the Symposium in its entirety, a list of presenters, their papers and abstracts in the order of presentation.

Gladys Haddad
Director
Western Reserve Studies Symposium

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