

Cover Sheet

Overview

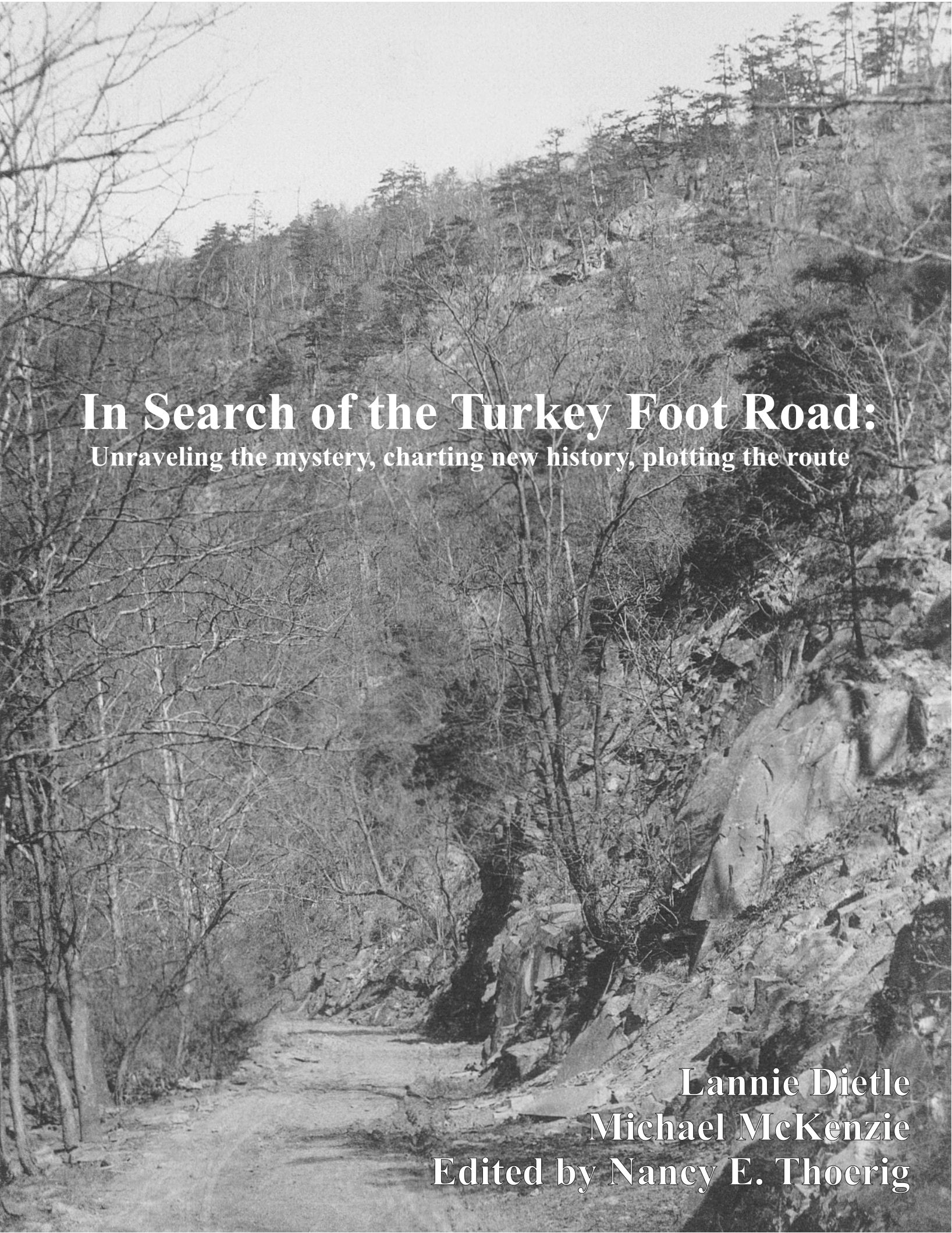
This is the front matter of the fourth edition of the e-book “**In Search of the Turkey Foot Road: Unraveling the mystery, charting new history, plotting the route**” (2014). To access other parts of the book, see the [online table of contents](#).

As described on pages 3 to 6 of [Addendum A](#), the fourth edition mistakenly claims that a dashed line route on the 1755 Fry and Jefferson map is an antecedent to the Turkey Foot Road. Shortly after publication, I realized that the dashed lines actually represent Christopher Gist’s second Ohio Company Tour. If that or another known mistake affects this or another part of the book, the relevant text will be highlighted in yellow, and the mistake will be briefly described in a comment that is accessible via a clickable comment icon.

In this and other parts of the book, any supplemental information will be provided via clickable comment icons, inserted yellow sheets, or other readily identifiable means.

L. Dietle

August 23, 2026



In Search of the Turkey Foot Road:

Unraveling the mystery, charting new history, plotting the route

Lannie Dietle
Michael McKenzie
Edited by Nancy E. Thorig

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Fourth Edition

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Published by: **The Mount Savage Historical Society**

P.O. Box 401

Mount Savage, Maryland 21545

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This book is dedicated to our wives, Cheryl and Laura. We are truly blessed to be traveling life's road with them. Thank you for tolerance, patience, and support, and most of all, for treasured companionship.

History is written for the most part from the outside. Truth often suffers distortion by reason of the point of view of the narrator, some pre-occupation of his judgment or fancy not only as to relative merits but even as to facts in their real relations.

Major-General Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, in “**The Passing of the Armies**”, 1915.

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Authors' Preface

The research began with a disagreement

The research that led to this book began with a disagreement over the meaning of an early record that mentioned the Turkey Foot Road. After many hours of research, it became apparent that the results should be organized and published for the benefit of others. The intent is to share the historical information that has been found, so that others can weigh the evidence for themselves.

About Lannie Dietle

Mr. Dietle lives in Houston, Texas. He is the Principal Designer at an engineering firm in Sugar Land, Texas, and works primarily with seals used in oilfield equipment. His ancestral roots are in the various southern townships in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. He was raised in Mercer County, having moved there from Southampton Township at age four. His interest in history began as a youth, from discussions with his Grandmother Gladys Korns, and the chance purchase of two mid-1860s books about the Civil War at a rural auction.

About Michael McKenzie

Mr. McKenzie is a diesel locomotive mechanic at CSX in Cumberland, Maryland, and lives in nearby Barrelville. He is intimately familiar with the local area, where he has lived his entire life, except for seven years of military service. His interest in history was sparked by his grandfather, Daniel Ricewick of Barrelville, who regaled him with stories and took him to see various local historical sites. Mr. McKenzie's vast knowledge of the local mountains, forests, farms, and roads comes from hunting ginseng, Morel mushrooms, and wild game, and from mountain dirt biking expeditions as a young man.

About Nancy E. Thorig

Ms. Thorig is a native of Mount Savage, Maryland, where she has lived, except a few months in Vienna, Virginia and ten years in Cumberland. Her first job was engineer's assistant, editing maps and narratives for FEMA's flood insurance program. Next, as staff writer and City Hall reporter for the "**Cumberland News**", she especially enjoyed topics of local history. One of her most memorable assignments was a frontier encampment at Green Ridge State Forest. She has worked in public relations, marketing, taught college freshman English for two semesters, and enjoyed 16 years as community director for a national non-profit. Now retired, she enjoys writing on timely topics, and editing for friends.

Antecedent research

Before writing this book, Mr. Dietle and Mr. McKenzie jointly researched a number of Southampton Township historical subjects, and published their findings on the Internet. Some of the more intensely developed subjects were the Wellersburg and Jennings Run Railroad, the Wellersburg iron

furnace, the Wellersburg pumping station, and various local mills. This previous work helped to provide the basis for the part of this book that concerns the Hay's Mill Path. Following the Southampton Township work, Mr. McKenzie identified a new objective: To research and promote the history of nearby areas of Allegany County, Maryland that he felt were underrepresented in published literature. This steered the collaborative research effort in a direction that ultimately led to the Turkey Foot Road.

Work on this project

Mr. Dietle served as the principal writer on this project, and provided the bulk of the historical analysis. Mr. McKenzie identified many of the core topics and early references, and it was through his initiative that contact was established with nearly all of the individuals who were interviewed in Allegany County and Somerset County. One of his key contributions has been the local knowledge that can only be gained by assimilation. He introduced Mr. Dietle to most of the local historical characters and Mount Savage area landmarks that the book references. He performed the boots-on-the-ground Mount Savage area research, the courthouse research, and much of the local library research. He has spent countless hours in review of the draft as it evolved, providing input—and when necessary, tactful redirection. He was also the first to suggest that the research be published, back when it was just beginning to reach a stage that might have made a respectable magazine length article.

Influences

Mr. Dietle's two decades of Somerset County genealogical studies provided useful knowledge of the area, despite not having lived there since the late 1950s. Part of his interest in the Turkey Foot Road was driven by his desire to understand the local markets and routes that permitted his ancestor Michael Korn to accumulate locally significant wealth while living at a farm in southern Southampton Township that is still very isolated today. As part of his extensive research on the Korns family, Mr. Dietle encountered J. Roderick Korns' 1951 book on pioneer trails titled "**West From Fort Bridger**". That encounter led to the realization that the Turkey Foot Road was a worthy subject for a book length project.

An editor joins the project

Contact was first made with Nancy E. Thorig to ask a question about her 2004 book "**History of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Mount Savage, Maryland**". This led to occasional e-mail exchanges regarding Arnold's Settlement. Through this correspondence, she became aware of the book project. As a courtesy, she sent an e-mail concerning earlier research by Alice Carney. This led to a telephone call, and an offer for her to review the draft. As a result of this exposure, she agreed to serve as editor. In this role, she painstakingly expunged countless dangling participles, errant hyphens, and grammatical inconsistencies, and suggested alternate language and organization to improve readability. She also contributed to the overall accuracy of the book by challenging conclusions and assumptions, and pushing and prodding and making suggestions where information was unclear or incomplete. The remaining inaccuracies, unpolished language, and confusing passages can be credited to the authors alone. Thank you, Nancy, for sharing your editing skill, knowledge of regional history, and passion for this particular topic.

Why subsequent editions?

This book is the first detailed look at a complex, obscure, and largely unexplored topic. Researching, writing, and editing the first edition were laborious, time-consuming processes that were driven by a passionate desire to understand the topic. When the first edition was completed, there was no illusion of perfection, and the passion for the topic did not suddenly evaporate. There is always an error lurking somewhere, more material to discover, and better ways to organize and interpret.

The second edition

The second edition provides improved organization by breaking a complex chapter into several smaller ones, and by presenting several topics in a more logical sequence. Several first edition errors are corrected, and a modest amount of new material is included. Goodman's 1871 interpretation of Evans' 1755 map is scrutinized. The first edition interpretation of another early British map is suspended, based on review of several other early maps.

The third edition

The primary contributions of the third edition are scrutiny of Greve's 1904 interpretation of the trading route from Harris' Ferry to Three Forks, and continued scrutiny of Goodman's 1871 interpretation of Evans' 1755 map and other colonial records. Much of the trade with the Twightwee Nation is traced to Pennsylvania, weakening some of Goodman's positions; however, a 1752 English report indicates that the first French attempt to attack Pickawillany was motivated in part by the desire to eliminate a particularly successful Virginia trader. Evidence substantiating the 1754 Logstown attack is presented, along with supplemental background information on the causes of the French and Indian War. The third edition also corrects several mistakes, and significantly expands the chapters on the Hays Mill Path and the route north of Harnedsville.

The fourth edition

The fourth edition has grown by more than 70 percent over the third edition. The key contributions are insights into the military factors that led to Morgan's road cutting activities during the Revolutionary War, a better understanding of the route north of Ursina, proof of an alternate route in Greenville Township, and additional anecdotes about people and places along the route. The date of publication of the Fry & Jefferson map has been determined to be 1755, rather than the 1751 date that is prominently displayed on the map. The understanding of connecting routes in Ohio has been expanded. Documentary evidence of Braddock's road being referred to by Nemacolin's name has been found. An increased understanding of events at Pickawillany precipitating the French and Indian War is provided, including Scarrooyady's declaration of war against the French.

The fourth edition also provides an improved interpretation of the 1755 road from Fort Cumberland to Raystown via Brothersvalley, an increased understanding of routes to the Ohio valley, identifies the "*Glade Road*" that is illustrated on the 1939 W.P.A. "*survey warrant*" map of Greenville Township, proves that the Greenville Road existed in the eighteenth century, expands the chapters on the Glade Road, the Hays mill path, and the southern fork traditions, clarifies Washington's 1785 letter to Richard Henry Lee, explores the route of the Mud Pike, provides additional evidence that the Turkey Foot Road was preceded by an Indian and packer's path, expands the chapter on Fort Cumberland, and expands the study of other Turkeyfoot roads. As expected, the additional analysis and review has allowed several factual and interpretive errors to be identified and corrected.

Editor's Preface

Alice Carney told me about the Turkey Foot Trail in the early 1980s. Her description of the Indian path that crossed Arnold's Settlement (early Mount Savage), on its way to the Forks of the Ohio and beyond, intrigued me, even as years passed.

About four years ago, my cousin Barry Thorig, whose wife is Alice's daughter, told me he was digitizing the Carney papers. I asked Barry to let me know if he found a map of the Turkey Foot Trail that Mrs. Carney had shown me. I thought it would be interesting to see again.

Barry sent me a copy of a survey that had to do with the 1827 closure of part of the Turkey Foot Road, the subsequent travel route that largely followed the old Indian trail. While not the map I had in mind, this survey captured the interest of authors Lannie Dietle and Mike McKenzie.

I came in late to the first edition project as editor. The authors had been in the process of composing their first draft of **"In Search of the Turkey Foot Road,"** and the majority of the research and writing was already done. Any writing project, though, is work in progress; and so it was, as we edited, researched, revised and rewrote, right up to deadline.

When I brought the 1827 survey map to the authors' attention, again (unbeknownst to me, they had searched for it earlier, and then gave up), Mike made a trip to the courthouse to document it, and Lannie revised the text to incorporate it, in a sort of *"surprise ending"* scenario.

Saying "yes" to review the first edition of this book, and then to edit each of the four editions, has been my pleasure. The elusive, and perhaps otherwise lost Turkey Foot Road now – with Mike's and Lannie's thorough research and documentation, and help on the ground from good guides – is known to all. Assisted with GPS coordinates along the route, a dedicated motorist (or hiker) might set out to trace it from Cumberland, Maryland to Turkeyfoot, and beyond.

As editor, I strove with Lannie, as writer, for clarity in style and completeness in content. Lannie's gift for clear communication, along with his drive to pursue a lead, and his persistence to hammer the facts until they make sense (or until he figures out why they don't), along with his humor and patience, made my role easy and enjoyable. Though I advised Lannie to straighten out some convoluted verbs, I eased up a bit (perhaps reluctantly) on split infinitives; and I got a new view from Lannie on use of the semi-colon. I didn't question his punctuation marks outside the quotes. He likes them that way, and some old rules can bend for the modern writer's prerogative.

The book is a fascinating read through time in our own backyards. Flavored with bits of interest in anecdotes and footnotes, and illustrated with copious maps and curious photos, **"In Search of the Turkey Foot Road"** is a critical analysis of primary sources that will cause you to marvel at the magnitude of information processed by Dietle and McKenzie.

"In Search of the Turkey Foot Road" is not a light read, but it is a worthy read. It will teach you amazing things about the land, events and people around you, and perhaps something about yourself.

Nancy E. Thorig
Mount Savage, Maryland
June 20, 2014

Acknowledgements

This research, like most research in any field, rides on the shoulders of many individuals who came before and took the time to document their labors and observations. We owe the authors and cartographers whose work we draw from a tremendous debt of gratitude.

We thank the Mount Savage Historical Society for their interest in publishing this material, and thank the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for granting permission to quote from Chapter 115 of Dr. Paul A. W. Wallace's 1965 book "**Indian Paths of Pennsylvania**". We owe a special debt of gratitude to our editor Nancy E. Thoerig for her thousand or more hours of critical and substantive input in grammatical and historical matters, and for her marketing and promotions expertise. Harry Ringler, Senior, Harry Ringler, Junior, and Francis Bridges were particularly instrumental to our research, and we are very fortunate to have had access to their knowledge and experience.

We are also grateful for the assistance received from the many other individuals who have helped us in one way or another. While it entails the risk of accidentally leaving someone out, we wish to name the individuals who presently come to mind, including (in alphabetical order) T. M. Babcock, Robert Bantz, Donald Bartgis, Jerry Beachy, Harriet Berg, Kim Brown, Chris Carney, Steve Colby, Thomas Conn, Karen Davis, Richard Day, Luann DeMarco, Irvin Dietle, Junior, Ralph Dietle, Roy Dietle, David Dorsey, Gene Drees, Jan Edwards, Polly Finnell, Robert Fulton, Margaret Gagliardi, Kay Garsnett, Jeffery Lee Goodlove, Steven Haldeman, Don Hammon, Andy Hershberger, Herbert Hostetler, Tuesdai Ingulia, David L. Jackson, Dorothy Jeffrey, Becky Korns, Dolores Korns, Melvin Korns, Warren Korns, Dennis Lashley, Earl Lepley, Cynthia Mason, Barry Maust, Laird May, Tom Millhouse, Mark A. Minor, David R. Mizner, Dale Moore, Greg Nicholson, Jessie Nicholson, Wilbert Paul, Clinton Piper, Howard M. Pollman, Julia Prokop, Rome Richardson, James Robison, Margaret Robison, Ernie Schultz, Glen Schumaker, Harton S. Semple, Jr., Pat Sherman, Patrick Stakem, John Stangarone, Henry Taliaferro, Barry R. Thoerig, Jim Thoerig, Mary (Weimer) Thoerig, Vaughn Trexler, Ted Walke, Mark Ware, Sam White, Alan Wilson, and Richard Witt. We gratefully acknowledge the help received, and do not mean to imply that the named individuals endorse our research and conclusions.

