

# Cover Sheet

## Overview

This is a chapter from 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 chapters, 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 chapter 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 chapters of the book, any supplemental information will be provided via clickable comment icons, inserted yellow sheets, or other readily identifiable means.

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## 42. In support of an Indian path antecedent

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### Introduction

Several chapters, including Chapter 2, describe Indian path traditions associated with the southern part of the Turkey Foot Road. In Chapter 3, Christopher Gist's 1751 journal is interpreted as identifying a trader's path that followed the Jennings Run valley. The path implied by Gist is illustrated on the 1755 Fry and Jefferson map of Chapter 4, and passes through the Arnold's settlement, Salisbury, and Confluence regions on its way to the mouth of the Hocking River<sup>809</sup> near the Indian village of Wanduchale's town. History tells us that such trading paths typically followed Indian paths. Along the way, the path from Wills Creek connected with paths to various Indian villages in Ohio, including Pickawillany.

This chapter reviews the evidence that the antecedent to the Turkey Foot Road began as an Indian path. The evidence primarily takes the form of the Indian villages from the historic period<sup>810</sup> that were located along the path.

### At the mouth of Wills Creek

As reported in Chapter 4, Lowdermilk's 1878 book "**History of Cumberland**" indicates that an Indian town named Caiuctucue was located at the mouth of Wills Creek. If true, then it would be illogical if there were no Indian path through the nearby Narrows. Documented Indian villages at Oldtown and Corriganville provide further circumstantial evidence of a connecting path through the Narrows.

### The Wills Creek valley

Chapter 12 references several property surveys, such as the Hertz Field survey, that document an Indian warpath on the west side of Wills Creek. In a discussion of the treaty of Lancaster at the June 1752 Logstown treaty, the warriors' road at the foot of the Allegheny ridge is described. A portion of this path is illustrated on the 1755 Evans map (Figure 0003).

### Corriganville

As described in Chapter 12, Thomas Bladen's 1745 Wills Town survey documents an Indian town and an associated field at Corriganville, Maryland. An unidentified document referenced by Volumes 12 to 17 of the 1942 "**Pennsylvania Archaeologist**" indicates that the village was located along an old path. Bladen's survey, which was performed by Thomas Cresap of Oldtown, Maryland, provides circumstantial evidence that white men were traveling through the Narrows by 1745.

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<sup>809</sup> The mouth of the Hocking River is at Hockingport, Ohio.

<sup>810</sup> Technically, the historic period began with the first contact between Indian and European culture. In much of Pennsylvania, European trade goods make their earliest appearance at archeological sites dating from the 1550s. In this book, the term "*historic period*" is typically used in the context of Indian occupation sites that are proven by surviving documentary evidence.

As documented by Mason and Dixon's map of their 1766 boundary line survey ([Figure 0978](#)), a building was already located at the mouth of Jennings Run in 1766, providing further support for the existence of an early path.

### **The Jennings Run water gap**

With a documented Indian village at Corriganville, it would make little sense if there were no Indian path through the Jennings Run water gap, which is located between Corriganville and Barrelville. As described in Chapter 4, an annotation on the Library of Congress copy of the Mayo map ([Figure 0988](#)) shows an early path running through the Jennings Run water gap.

### **Arnold's settlement**

As described in Chapter 17, the Robison family found a half bushel of grinding stones and other Indian implements on their farm, which once belonged to the pioneer Archibald Arnold. They also found traces of a circle of poles, which is evidence of an Indian hut. The hut was located near two springs and a small stream. Some of the arrowheads that have been found on the farm have shapes that could be from the historic period, while others may be as old as 7,000 years. The farm was clearly occupied by Indians at some point in time.

### **Salisbury**

As described in Chapter 8, the Salisbury area was settled well before the Turkey Foot Road was cut as a military road in 1779. The forage available from the settlers' fields was the reason the military road passed through the area. Pownall's March 1776 map ([Figure 0640](#)) and the 1776 Sayer and Bennett map ([Figure 0639](#)) show a portion of the route that the settlers must have followed to reach the Salisbury area. **This route is shown more completely on the 1755 Fry and Jefferson map ([Figure 0007](#)).**

As described in Chapter 29, when the earliest settlers came to the Salisbury area, they found an abandoned Indian field on the south side of Ord Street, near the fording site. This abandoned Indian field became known as the Long Field, and is proof of an Indian village from the historic period.

As recorded in Chapter 8, Peter Livengood found an Indian clearing on his farm when he settled along the path in 1775. Harry Ringler found a rich supply of Indian artifacts on both sides of the Casselman river fording site, indicating Indian villages from an unknown period. Artifacts indicate that the village on the east side was several acres in size. This village at the Long Field was located near a recently rediscovered spring.

### **Confluence**

As described in Chapter 4, the 1755 Mitchell map shows an Indian village at Turkeyfoot ([Figure 0791](#)), and a number of Indian skeletons were found there by Jacob Sterner. **This village was located along the path that is shown on the 1755 Fry and Jefferson map ([Figure 0007](#)).**

### **Harnedsville**

As described in Chapter 31, there was an unpalisaded Indian village from an unknown time period where the Turkey Foot Road crossed the Casselman River near the mouth of Whites Creek. The village was excavated in 1935, and is known as the Hanna Site. The May 1998 "**Laurel Messenger**" reports that there are Indian graves that used to be marked at the Six Poplars Cemetery.

## **Ursina**

As described in Chapter 33, abundant evidence of Indian occupation, such as “*Arrow and spear heads and other stone implements*” have been found along the Laurel Hill Creek at Ursina.

## **The Jersey settlement north of Ursina**

As described in Chapter 33, documentary evidence shows that the Jersey settlement had already founded a church congregation in 1775. As described in Chapter 9, the 1779 military road was routed through this area because of the forage that could be obtained from the settlement. The existence of this early settlement is an indication of an early path.

## **Conclusion**

Indian villages from the 1700s at Corriganville, Salisbury, and Confluence, and the early Casselman valley and Jersey settlements, provide reasonable evidence that the **path on the Fry and Jefferson map** began as an Indian path. Terrain, Gist’s 1751 journal, the Indian villages at Oldtown and Corriganville, the 1755 Evans map, and the annotation on the Mayo map, provide reasonable circumstantial evidence of an Indian path through the Narrows and the Jennings Run water gap. The portion of the path through the Wills Creek valley is a documented Indian war road. The documentary evidence is further supported by the Indian and packer’s path traditions that have survived in the Mount Savage, Salisbury, and Turkeyfoot regions.

