



the  
**GARST**  
museum

discover our history  
**DISCOVER OUR HISTORY**

# the GARST museum

Celebrating, Preserving and Interpreting  
the Crossroads of the American Experience.

The Garst Museum is dedicated to preserving the history of the county and fostering education on its relevance to the American experience. Our mission is to collect, preserve, exhibit, study, and interpret materials relating to the history and culture of Darke County, Ohio, as it represents a Crossroads of the American Experience.

The DCHS operates the Garst Museum, a 35,000-square-foot campus housing over 300,000 artifacts. Permanent exhibits of national significance include Annie Oakley, the Treaty of Greenville, Lowell Thomas, and Ohio Native Americans. The Garst Museum offers programs for all ages and walks of life.

In its effort to address the needs of the community, the museum offers an opportunity for all fourth grade students in Darke County to participate in educational programs aligned with Ohio's fourth grade curriculum standards at no charge. Due to their popularity, programs are expanding to include students from the surrounding counties.

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The Garst Museum, located in Greenville, Ohio, is just a short drive away from many of the urban centers of Ohio and Indiana. This historical museum provides a quality experience that rivals much larger museums throughout the United States with a focus on the famous sons, daughters and historical events of the region. The Garst Museum is a must see for the entire family.

Please visit our website at:  
[www.GarstMuseum.org](http://www.GarstMuseum.org)  
to learn more



## HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday  
10:00am-4:00pm

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Closed  
Sundays & Mondays  
Holidays  
Month of January

## EXHIBITS

The Annie Oakley Center  
Crossroads of Destiny  
Lowell Thomas Collection  
Keepers Of Freedom  
Village Wing  
Americana Wing  
Pioneer Wing  
Genealogy Library

## ADMISSION

Adults	\$12.00
Seniors (60+)	\$11.00
Youth (6-17)	\$9.00
DC Genealogy	\$9.00
Children (Under 5)	FREE
Museum Member	FREE

## CONTACT

The Garst Museum  
205 North Broadway  
Greenville, Ohio 45331

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Phone: 937-548-5250  
Email: [information@garstmuseum.org](mailto:information@garstmuseum.org)

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Call The Garst Museum for...  
Group Tours  
School Tours  
Personal Guided Tours

# VENUES & HIGHLIGHTS

## NATIONAL ANNIE OAKLEY CENTER

Annie's Personal and Professional History

## CROSSROADS OF DESTINY

The Treaty of Greene Ville  
Anthony Wayne, Tecumseh & Little Turtle  
Meeting of Lewis & Clark

## LOWELL THOMAS

Lawrence of Arabia

## KEEPERS OF FREEDOM

Commander Zachary Lansdowne  
Darke County Veterans

## THE VILLAGE WING

Longtown  
Early Main Street Experience  
Kay Brown Photo Gallery

## AMERICANA WING

Currier & Ives Collection  
Period American Furnishings

## PIONEER WING

Early Agricultural Equipment  
Early Domestic Equipment

## DARKE COUNTY RESEARCH CENTER

Genealogy

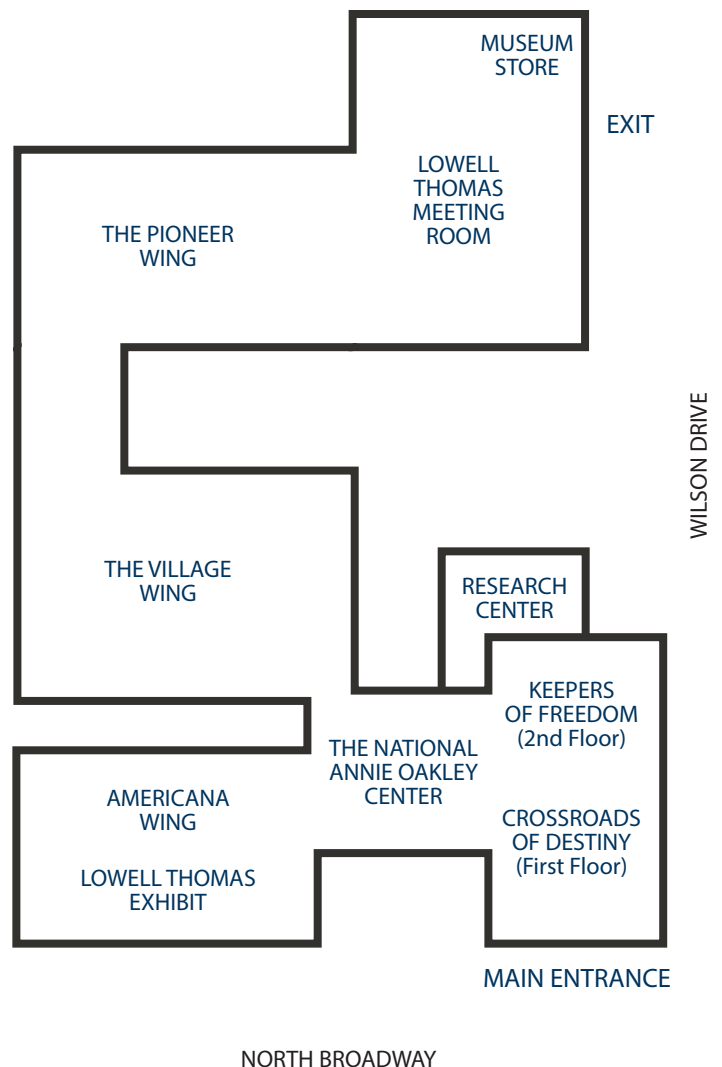
## GARST MUSEUM STORE

Books, Souvenirs & Memorabilia

# the GARST museum

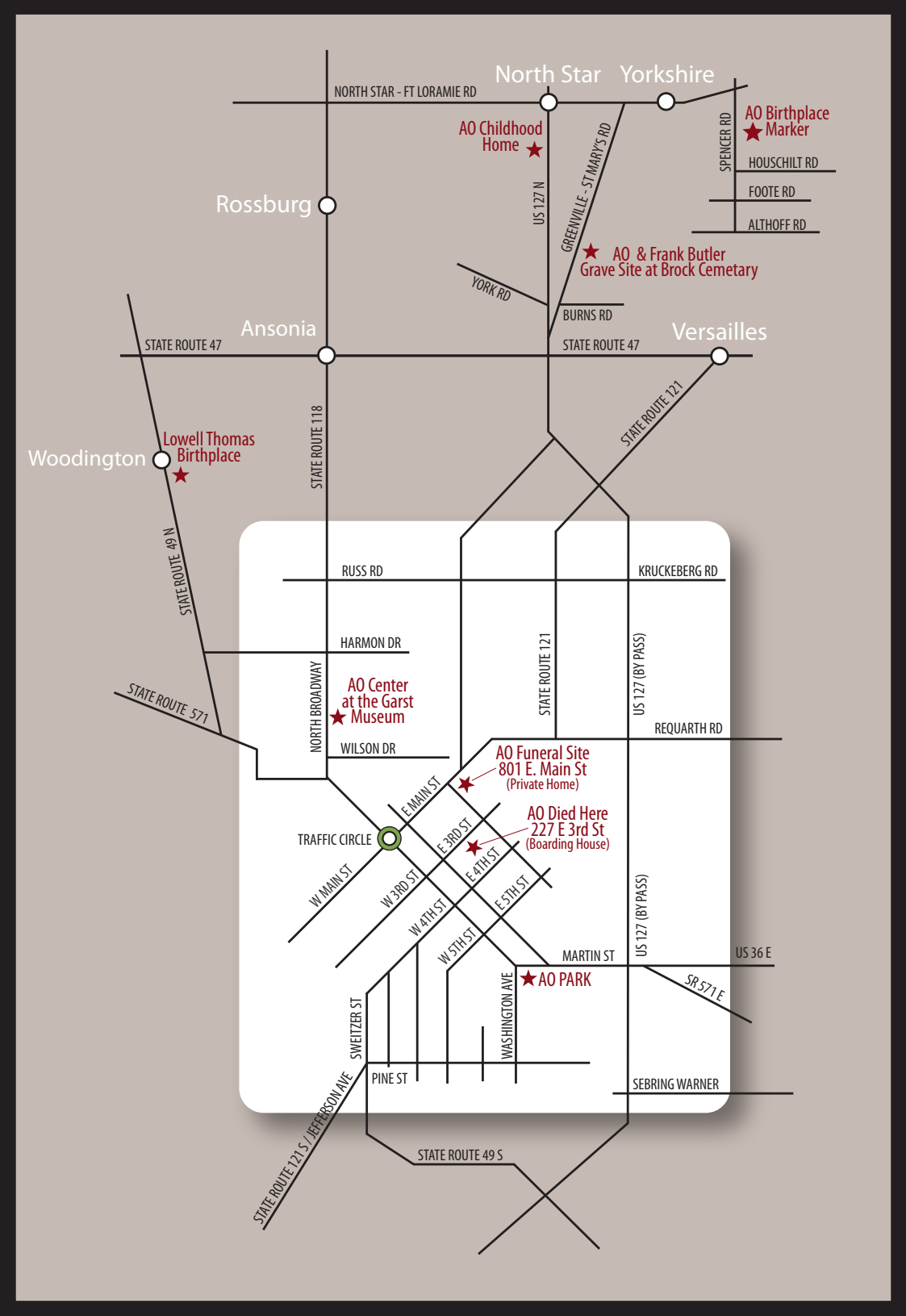
Ohio's Best Historical Museum

The Garst Museum, a historical museum with roots in the American Experience, houses over 300,000 artifacts on display in 35,000 square feet of exhibit space within six major and two minor venues. The Garst House, which earlier served as an inn, has six additional building wings. The house was donated to the Darke County Historical Society in 1946 by the Garst family.



# POINTS OF INTEREST

Around Greenville and Darke County



the **GARST** museum

Many historic sites are within a short 15-20 minute drive of the Garst Museum. Visit the Annie Oakley birthplace marker near Yorkshire and her gravesite at Brock Cemetary as well as the birthplace of Lowell Thomas in Woodington and the AO Park located at the end of Broadway in Greenville.

# SUPPORT the GARST museum

Supporting the Garst Museum through a monetary donation, endowment or volunteerism helps guarantee that the history of our region is preserved for future generations.

As a significant player in the history of our nation, Darke County has hosted a number of historic events and characters that have impacted the progress of our region, our nation, and the world.

Thank you for your interest in the Garst Museum and the history of the Darke County region.

**We appreciate your support,**  
Clay Johnson, Ph.D.  
Garst Museum President & C.E.O



## DONATE

Become a Museum Member

Museum Membership benefits include:

- Garst Museum Newsletter
- 10% Discount in the Garst Museum Store
- Exclusive Invitations to Museum Events
- Free Admission to the Museum

### Annual Membership Levels

- Individual ~ \$30
- Family ~ \$50  
(Household Family Members)
- Copper ~ \$100  
(Includes 4 One-Time Entry Passes to the Museum)
- Bronze ~ \$250  
(Includes Donor Recognition)
- Silver ~ \$500  
(Includes Donor Recognition)
- Gold ~ \$1000  
(Includes Donor Recognition)
- Platinum ~ \$2000  
(Includes 4 Family Memberships + Donor Recognition)

To make your charitable contribution, please visit our website at [www.garstmuseum.org/donate](http://www.garstmuseum.org/donate) or contact our business office to request a donation form by mail at 937-548-5250



## VOLUNTEER

Contribute Your Time & Skills

We have amazing volunteers that dedicate countless hours to maintaining and preserving our collections, developing and planning our annual events and supporting the Garst Museum in various ways.

If you are interested in joining a great group of people who believe in preserving our history for future generations, please contact the Garst Museum business office to learn more about how you can contribute your time and skills.

### Volunteer Opportunities Include:

- Receptionist
- Garst Museum Docent
- Educational Docent
- Cataloging/Accessioning
  - Exhibits
- Genealogy Office Worker
  - Special Events
- Museum Store Sales
- Hospitality (non-tours)
- The Gathering at Garst
- Annie's Annual Gala

### Join Us...

Volunteers play an important role in the day-to-day events at Garst Museum.

To learn more about our Volunteer options contact the museum at 937- 548-5250

# ANNIE OAKLEY

Little Miss Sure Shot



To learn more about  
Annie Oakley

Please visit:  
[www.GarstMuseum.org](http://www.GarstMuseum.org)



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Annie Oakley's motto was, "Aim at a high mark and you will hit it. No, not the first time, nor the second and maybe not the third. But keep on aiming and keep on shooting for only practice will make you perfect. Finally, you'll hit the Bull's Eye of Success."

She was born in Darke County, Ohio, just a few miles north of Greenville. Her date of birth was August 13, 1860. Her mother named her Phoebe Ann Moses. Annie's younger years were marked by the loss of her father and the dire poverty the family endured after his death.

In 1866, Annie's father, Jacob, was caught in a blizzard as he was returning home from the mill. It was very late and the family was worried. When they heard the wagon pull up, they saw their father, seated upright in the wagon. His hands and feet were frozen and he could not speak. They took him inside and tried to comfort him. Unfortunately, there was little that could be done. He did not recover. Annie often recalled the horror of that night. It was a defining event for the family. Shirl Kasper describes the family's plight in the following excerpt from her book, *Annie Oakley*, (University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Publishing Division of the University, 1992).

"The destitute family moved to a rented farm, but life did not improve. Annie's oldest sister, Mary Jane, came down with tuberculosis and died and Susan Moses sold Pink, the family cow, to pay doctor and funeral bills." Unable to provide for her children Susan was forced to send them to live with others. Annie had to live at the county infirmary. Later, she was sent to work in the home of an abusive family. Annie described this time as slavery and the family as the "wolves."

Annie learned to shoot at the age of eight. She had a natural athletic talent that enabled her to hit small game, usually quail and rabbit, with a clean shot through the head. This made her the favorite game provider at the Katzenberger Brothers General Store in Greenville, who traded and purchased from Annie. They, in turn, supplied hotels in Cincinnati.

Annie was an excellent marksman and she eventually began to take part in shooting contests. It was at one of these events that she met another competitor, Frank Butler, whom she would later marry.

The Annie Oakley Center at Garst Museum is a wonderful place to learn more about this remarkable woman. See guns, medals, personal clothing, and gifts given to her by kings, queens, and Indian chiefs. Read about her career and see that this hero was not a wild west girl as many have portrayed her, but an inspirational role model who overcame childhood adversity with a rare talent that set her apart and enabled her to become a legend. Annie died in Greenville, Ohio on November 21, 1926. Her husband, Frank Butler, followed her in death just eighteen days later.

# LOWELL THOMAS

Adventurer...Explorer...World Traveler...Author

The name Lowell Thomas evokes a number of images...adventurer, explorer, world traveler, and author. However, he was probably best remembered as a radio news commentator, whose crisp and authoritative voice was heard over the CBS Radio Network stations across the nation. His nightly newscast was one of the longest continuously run of any program of any kind in the history of broadcasting. Possibly his innate desire and drive to seek a life of adventure, and to explore remote areas of the globe where few others had ventured, stemmed from his place of birth and early years. Lowell Thomas was born April 6, 1892, in Woodington, Ohio, a small hamlet in Darke County, Ohio. Thomas' father taught school, then became a mining surgeon and moved his family west to the gold fields of Colorado. There, in the booming mining town of Cripple Creek, among the colorful frontier prospectors, who drifted in, dug for a time, told stories for a while, and then wandered away, young Lowell's appetite for adventure was whetted.

So intrigued with these men and their lives, he returned to Colorado after graduating from the University of Northern Indiana at Valparaiso. Once again he went to work in the gold mines, and his life of adventure was launched. Soon he took a job as editor of a local daily newspaper where years before he had worked as a newsboy. From the Cripple Creek District, where for a year he edited two daily papers, he went on to Denver, Chicago and Princeton as a graduate student and instructor, while continuing his career as a journalist. When World War I came, he went overseas as a correspondent with a camera crew to film the war. He particularly distinguished himself in the Near East by filming the campaign in which the Turks were driven from Jerusalem and for discovering and authoring an account of the adventures of Lawrence of Arabia. From that time his life was one of searching every nook and corner of the world.

Yet, for all his unique adventures, Lowell Thomas was always more interested in others than himself. As a TV and Cinerama producer and author of more than fifty books, he flew around the world over thirty times, with journeys to Nepal, Siberia, and forbidden Arabia, Afghanistan, and Tibet.

Lowell married Frances Ryan in 1917 and they had been married for fifty-seven years, when she died in 1975. They were the parents of one son, Lowell Jr. On January 5, 1977, Mr. Thomas married Marianna Munn of Darke County, Ohio, and they made their home in Pawling, New York.

Through his 88th year Lowell showed no signs of slowing down; he still pursued lecturing, traveling, writing and skiing. Lowell's last trip to Greenville was November 21, 1980, when he spoke to the local Business and Professional Women's Club.

Lowell Thomas died August 29, 1981 and was buried in Pawling.



Lowell Thomas's NBC Broadcast from Greenville, Ohio - 1938



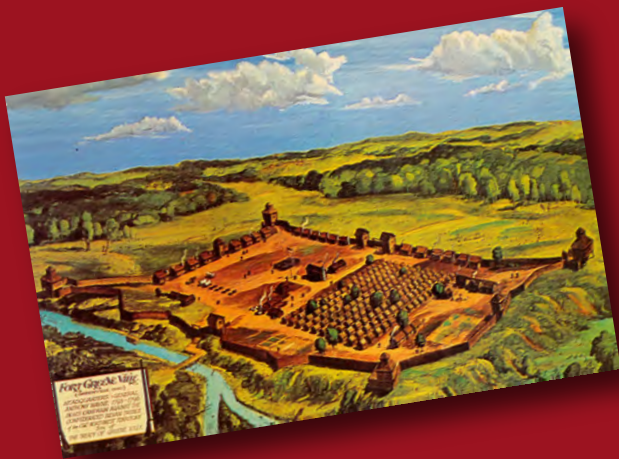
In 1987, Lowell Thomas's birthplace was moved to the Garst Museum grounds.



The Crossroads Exhibit is located on the first floor of the Garst House near the Garst Museum entrance.

To learn more about this amazing exhibit, please visit our website at:

[www.GarstMuseum.org/exhibits](http://www.GarstMuseum.org/exhibits)



Fort Greene Ville was the largest log fortification ever built in the Northwest Territory.

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## CROSSROADS

### Opening the Northwest Territory to Settlement

Crossroads of Destiny is a stunning exhibit telling the history of the Treaty of Greene Ville. Fort Greene Ville was the largest stockaded fort ever built in North America and it was the scene of the most significant American Indian treaty ever negotiated. The Treaty of Greene Ville of 1795 opened the door to the settlement of the Midwest and resulted in Ohio statehood eight years later. The Treaty also ended forty years of conflict over the upper Ohio Valley.

Conflict was inevitable. The American settlers were moving onto Indian hunting grounds in the territory northwest of the Ohio River and threatening their villages, their crops and their way of life. The frontier was aflame with attacks from the Indians. Chief Little Turtle, of the Miami tribe, became the leader whose genius resulted in the destruction of two American armies. However, in the years following, his wisdom and counsel aided in establishing a lasting settlement of all disputes.

### CROSSROADS EXHIBIT NOTABLES

**General "Mad" Anthony Wayne** built the largest log fortification ever built in the Northwest Territory. Visit Garst Museum's display of recently discovered artifacts from the old fort.

Anthony Wayne was a military genius, a systematic organizer and a skilled negotiator with the Indians. Wayne took calculated risks that no other man would dare try, thus earning his "Mad" nickname. His military contributions opened up the heart of America to settlement, further aiding the development of the United States and stabilizing the new country's future.

**Shawnee Chief Tecumseh** is considered one of the greatest Indian Chiefs of his day. He refused to sign the Greene Ville Treaty in hopes of creating a new Indian Nation. He died at the battle of Thames during war of 1812. His dreams died with him.

**Little Turtle's** wife died on August 4, 1795 during the treaty proceedings. On August 5, 1795, General Wayne assisted with her burial with military music and a cannon salute. His men carried her to her grave and chaplain David Jones delivered a short sermon. Little Turtle gave his thanks to Jones in appreciation for his words.

### Lewis Meets Clark in Ft. Greene Ville

William Clark was stationed at Greene Ville and took part in Anthony Wayne's Fallen Timbers campaign of 1794. In 1795 Meriwether Lewis joined the Second Sub-legion of the regular army. He was sent to Greene Ville in time to be present at the signing of the great treaty. We proudly present a tribute to the people, places and events of the American frontier during the late 18th century. A new nation, pursuing plans for westward expansion of the lands granted to them by the Paris Peace Treaty of 1783, collided with numerous eastern tribes of native American Indians, who rightfully felt they were being driven from the lands and territories that belonged to them.



# THE GATHERING AT GARST

Celebrating our History

Each year the tree-lined lawn of the Garst Museum plays host to an ever-expanding list of artists, antiques, craftsmen, primitive folk artists, garden exhibitors, musical performances, unique food vendors, and Living History Encampment reenactors portraying eras ranging from the French-Indian War to the American Civil War.

Be a part of the experience by planning to join us, rain or shine, on the last full weekend in July as the Garst Museum grounds are transformed into a true reflection of our American Heritage with the sights, sounds and scents of the past mingling with the quality juried vendors, amazing food choices and plenty of activities for all ages.

Don't forget to visit our website to find hospitality, lodging, and parking information or contact the Garst Museum for additional details at [www.GatheringatGarst.com](http://www.GatheringatGarst.com)

## Living History Encampment

Stroll through the by-gone eras of our Living History Encampment, and mingle with the shopkeepers, artisans, pioneers, and soldiers of the past.

## Quality Vendors

While visiting you can enjoy our juried vendors offering handcrafted quality wares and goods for your shopping pleasure. We're sure that they will surprise you with their delightful displays and unique creations.

## Entertainment & Food

We have plenty of food and entertainment for every taste. Whether you take in a performance at the main stage or bump into one of the wandering entertainers, you are sure to enjoy the creative atmosphere and specialty food vendors while you visit our event.

## Best of Ohio

Since 2016 the readers of Ohio Magazine have voted our annual event "Best Summer Festival in Ohio" and we agree. With deep roots in the history of our region and nation, Darke County has played host to many of the significant events and figures that helped to shape our early nation by opening the Northwest Territory to settlement, during the earliest formative years of our nation.



The Gathering at Garst is about Celebrating our Community and sharing our History with visitors

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