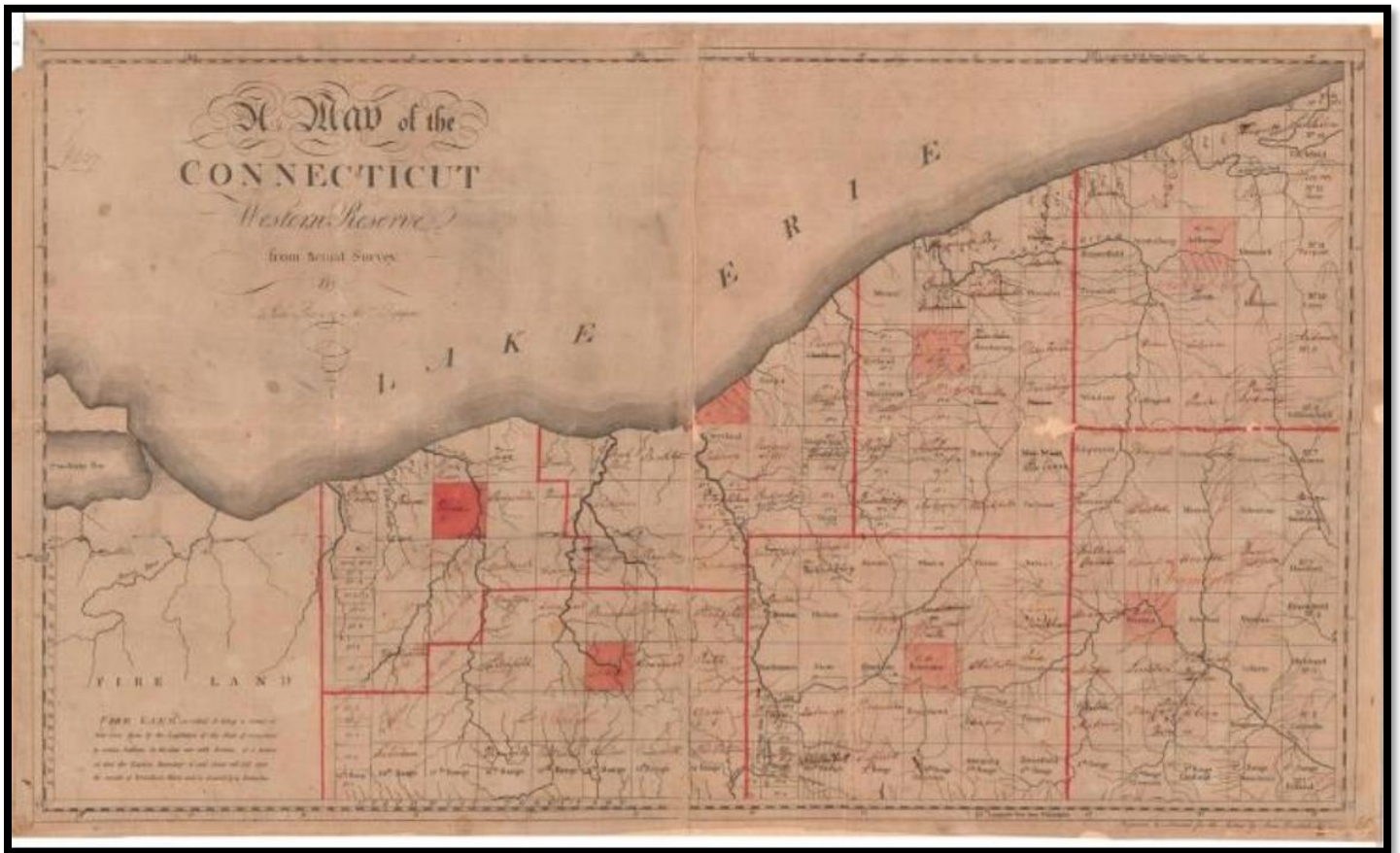


Artifacts Tell the Lake County Story 1: Seth Pease

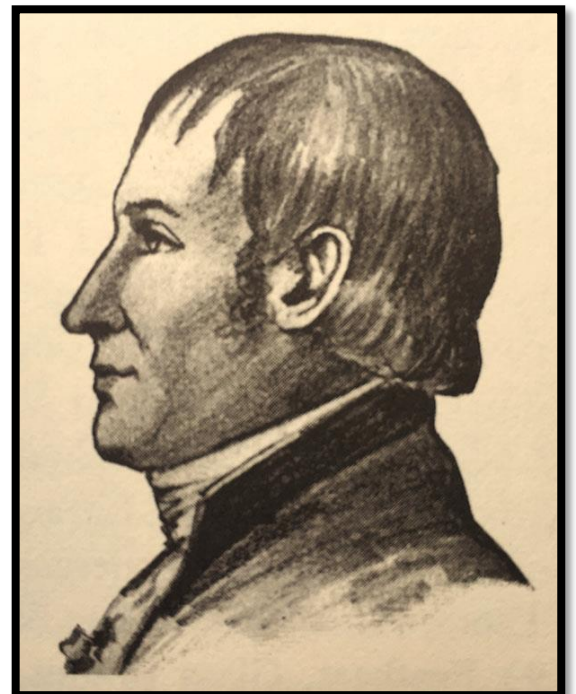


Mundane objects can be time travelers and storytellers. As in the classic novel *The Time Machine* (H.G. Wells, 1895), historic remnants can connect the past with the present. This month, we will examine the stories behind three county artifacts available for local history buffs of all ages to view at local heritage sites.



#1: Seth Pease, Concord Township & The Stone School

This pony skin travel trunk belonged to **Seth Pease (1764-1819)**, one of the early lead surveyors of the Western Reserve. (*Pony hair leather is most commonly cow skin. Using the hair side of the hide, the material is shaven to mimic the hind of a pony.*) Pease first came to the area with **Moses Cleaveland** around September 1796 as a member of the **Connecticut**





Land Company. The expedition produced the first maps around the current downtown Cleveland lakefront. In the spring of 1797, Pease returned to Northeast Ohio with a nine-member party to survey and lay out all the townships east of the Cuyahoga River. His field notes, journals, and letters offer a detailed description of his experiences, and indicate that he surveyed the future Concord Township during the last week of May 1797. Prior to his work here, Pease had

surveyed a township in present-day Maine. He worked on the Holland Purchase in New York in 1798-99. In 1806-07, he was U.S. Surveyor General in the Mississippi & Orleans Territory, and ran the government survey of the southern boundary of Western Reserve



lands west of the Cuyahoga River. He was named Assistant Postmaster General in 1814. He and his wife Bathsheba Kent Pease had no children. Pease died in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His travel trunk is a fascinating artifact from Northeast Ohio's history. It is on display at the Stone School Museum on Ravenna Road in Concord Township, along with many other pre-county artifacts. In 1797, Pease produced the first published map of the Western Reserve.

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