

A total of 37 objects such as snakes, fish, birds, human effigies and footprints of both man and animal are found on the sandstone slab.

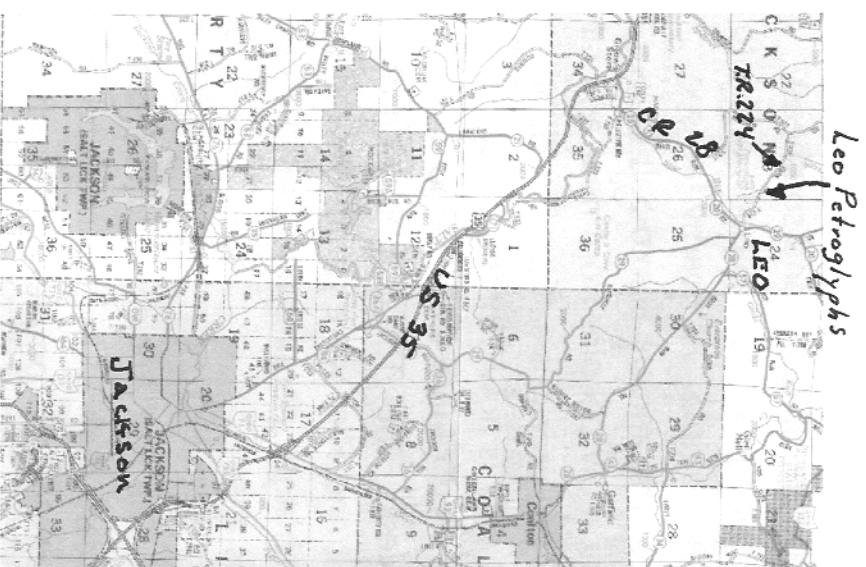
The petroglyphs may have been made by shamen as a part of some kind of ceremony, or they may be nothing more than ancient graffiti.

We shall never know.

The Fort Ancient tradition of people were the last of the prehistoric people before the coming of the white man. Archaeologists are not sure what happened to these people. However, with the arrival of the white man the prehistoric period of Ohio's history came to a sharp and abrupt end.

## LEO, OHIO

This little hamlet in Jackson Township was laid out in 1844 by Samuel Swift, who named the village Swiftsville. The first post office was established in 1861. Postmaster G. H. Greene gave the post office the name Leo (after Pope Leo.) At one time Leo had two general stores, a doctor, and several churches.

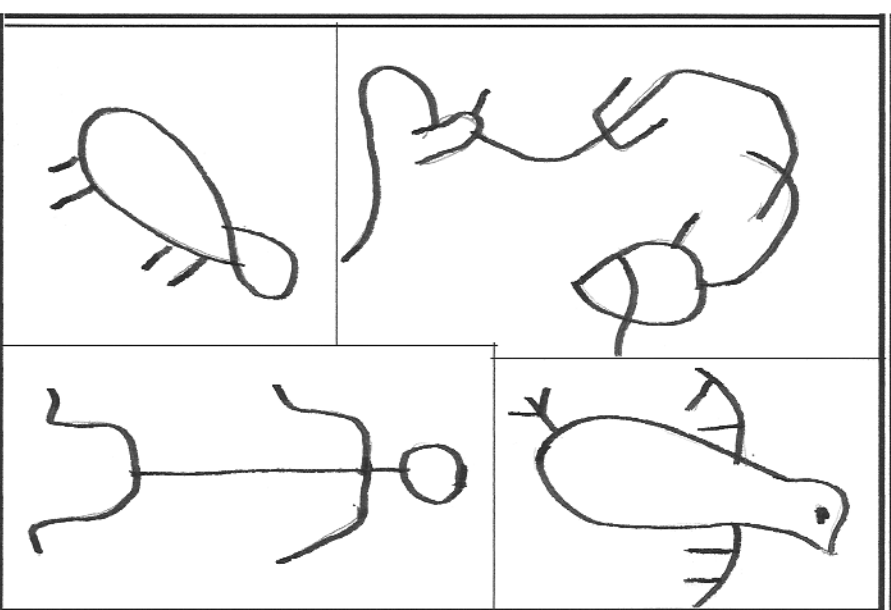


MAP SHOWING  
LOCATION OF  
LEO PETROGLYPHS

Provided by  
The Jackson Historical Society  
The Jackson Tourism Board  
The Jackson Genealogical Society

# LEO PETROGLYPH

## State Memorial



Perched on a ridge among the hills and hollows of Jackson County in Southern Ohio, 8 miles north of Jackson on U.S. 35, 3<sup>3</sup> miles east on C. R. 28 and about .5 miles west on T. R. 224 , is the Leo Petroglyph State Memorial. It is a monument to a people long gone from the surrounding hills. At the park is an impressive shelter built by the W.P.A. in the 1930s. Within the shelter house is a large sandstone slab surrounded by a covered walk, part of the shelter, where prehistoric people cut "rock pictures", or petroglyphs, onto its face.

From artifacts recovered on this site, archeologists believe these petroglyphs were made by a people now identified as the Fort Ancient Culture, who were part of the late Mississippian group of peoples. The word "petroglyph" means rock-writing or rock-picture writing. It is not known when or why these people made these petroglyphs. Adjacent to this area a major Indian trail ran in a northwest direction

toward Chillicothe and southeast through Jackson, Gallipolis, and into West Virginia. At nearby Jackson were the ancient Scioto Salt Licks that drew peoples from near and far for the precious salt it offered. North, in what is now Vinton county, deposits of flint were found known as Zaleski Flint. The combination of Salt and Flint were greatly valued by prehistoric peoples and drew them to this area.

The Fort Ancient Tradition of Indians derived their name after an Earth Works complex in Warren County. These people lived in Southern Ohio from about 100 A.D. - 1500 A. D. Their cultivation of corn, beans, and squash enabled several hundred people to live in a single large village, a much larger population than was possible by hunting and gathering. A village of this type contained several rectangular houses around a central plaza. There might be one or several mounds with wooden temples on top

of them. The village was surrounded by palisades made of upright logs set in the ground. The cultivated fields were outside of the palisades.

The studies of these village sites have given us a good picture of these people. Archaeologists can tell differences among groups living in different river valleys and differences through time from early to late periods. These villages were located on terraces overlooking rivers. The houses were built of upright wooden poles and most likely faced with wattle and daub. The roofs were probably thatched with a smoke hole in the top.

Archaeologist excavations at the Leo Petroglyphs have uncovered spear and arrow points along with several types of pottery fragments. These objects can be associated with middle and late woodland traditions (Adena and Hopewell). Some could even be older archaic types. The majority of items recovered are of the Fort Ancient type, however.