



ARTICLE NO. . . . . 594 . . . .  
 DATE ACQUIRED 10/94  
 SHEET . . . . . 290 (1)  
 OF . . . . . File D. Archives

Published  
1949

THE RAISCH-SMITH SITE, AN EARLY INDIAN OCCUPATION  
 IN PREBLE COUNTY, OHIO

by Ross MOFFETT

Location and Description of Site

The Raisch-Smith village site is located along Fourmile Creek in Israel Township, Preble County, Ohio, three miles from the western boundary of the state and five miles north of the town of Oxford, on the farms of Ben Raisch and Jake Smith. Fourmile Creek, it may be said, is a rather beautiful small stream flowing over interbedded shale and limestone in a generally southeasterly direction and emptying into the Great Miami River at a point about sixteen miles below the site and some twenty-five miles above the confluence of the Great Miami and the Ohio. Hills of moderate height, often wooded, rise steeply on both sides of the creek valley, and here and there the stream lies against somewhat striking, nearly perpendicular, clay banks cut into the Wisconsin drift. This fertile, well watered region was much favored by the Indians, and signs of their occupancy may still be found in almost every corn-field.

In the general locale of the Raisch-Smith site an important physical feature, as concerns the Indian sojourn, is a nearly level, gravelly terrace situated on the southerly side of Fourmile Creek and elevated twenty feet, well above the reach of flood waters (see map). Northwest of the terrace is Little Fourmile Creek, a shallow, rapid stream coming from a westerly direction and entering the main stream near the site. Bisecting the terrace is the east-west Jones Road, and extending from this road south to the Smith farm house is a narrow lane. Also of present interest is a point of high ground which lies north of the smaller creek and overlooks the terrace.

The stippled area on the accompanying map shows the main part of the site as lying on the terrace in an area stretching from near the creek bank southward about two hundred yards to a sharp

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