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Pleasant Ohio: Songs of Ohio's History Accompanied by Mountain Dulcimer

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SIDE A

1. Iroquois Lullaby • 0:45

Members of several of the tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy lived in the Ohio area during the late 1600's and 1700's. The Iroquois who migrated to Ohio and chose to settle there became known as Mingos. This traditional Iroquois lullaby was sung by women to calm their babies.

2. Farewell to the Warriors • 1:00

Several Chippewa villages were present in northern Ohio during the 1700's. This traditional Chippewa song was sung by the women as the men of the village departed for battle.

3. Pleasant Ohio • 2:40

This traditional song of the settlement era of the late 1700's describes the beauty and abundance of the land and encourages Easterners to "move out west" to Ohio.

4. Perry's Victory • 3:38

This traditional ballad tells the story of the decisive American victory in the Battle of Lake Erie — which was the turning point of the War of 1812. Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry commanded the *Lawrence* and several other American ships, and the Americans were victorious due largely to the fact that the wind shifted in their favor during the course of the battle.

5. Shawneetown • 2:12

This song describes a trip down the Ohio River on a keelboat. The keelboats were the among the earliest commercial vessels on the river and were in use until around 1820.

6. On the Banks of the Ohio • 2:07

Written and sung by the Nightingale Serenaders, a group which performed on the steamboats, this lively song presents a pleasant picture of life on a small farm along the Ohio River during the 1820's.

7. The Old Skipper • 1:55

(tune: *Whiskey Waltz*, words Pearl R. Nye)

The Ohio and Erie Canal, which ran from Cleveland to Portsmouth, was completed in 1832. This song describes the start of a trip on the canal and mentions some of the cargoes that were typically carried by the nineteenth century Ohio canalboats.

8. Last Trip in the Fall • 1:51

(tune: *Between Me and the Wall*, words Pearl R. Nye)

This song describes a canalboat crew's hurried effort to reach Cleveland before the Ohio and Erie Canal was closed and drained for the winter.

9. Old Tippecanoe • 2:51

This campaign song from the presidential election of 1840 encourages voters to choose William Henry Harrison, a retired military officer and Ohioan, over his opponent, New York farmer Martin van Buren.

SIDE B

1. The Wyandotte Farewell Song • 2:22

(tune: *Fare Ye Well, Inniskillen*, words James Rankin)

In 1843, the United States government forced the Wyandot Indians who lived in the area of Upper Sandusky to leave their farms and homes and move to reservations west of the Mississippi River. This song describes their sadness at their forced removal.

2. Simple Gifts • 3:35

The Shakers, a religious group that lived communally and practiced celibacy, reached the peak of their growth in the late 1840's. Four Shaker villages were located in Ohio at that time.

3. Darling Nelly Gray • 3:20

(words and music by Benjamin R. Hanby)

This song, written in 1856, tells the tragic story of the forced separation of runaway slave Joseph Selby and his sweetheart Nelly Gray, who had been sold to a new owner in Georgia. It is based upon an actual historical incident and was sung to dramatize the evil of slavery and to promote underground railroad activity and the abolitionist movement in Ohio.

4. How Are You, John Morgan? • 3:41

(tune *Here's Your Mule*, C.D. Benson; words anon.)

Morgan's Raiders, a Confederate cavalry, terrorized rural southern and eastern Ohio during July of 1863. This song describes General John Morgan's capture by Union forces, his incarceration in the Ohio state penitentiary, and his subsequent escape from prison.

5. Red Iron Ore • 3:21

By the 1880's, manufacturing had become an important part of the Ohio economy. Iron ore from the Lake Superior region provided the raw material for many of Ohio's growing industries. This song describes the journey of an ore boat from Chicago to Escanaba, Michigan, where the iron ore was loaded, and then on to its final destination of Cleveland.

6. The Hills of Ohio • 2:01

(words and music by Alexander Auld)

A great deal of beauty can still be found in twentieth century Ohio. This song expresses a heartfelt love of Ohio which knows no barriers of time.

Due to the fact that many of the songs were learned through the oral tradition, slight variations may occur in tunes and words from the printed forms of the songs as they appear in *Buckeye Heritage*. On several of the longer songs, some verses have been omitted. Tunes not attributed to an author are traditional. All arrangements for mountain dulcimer are by Elizabeth Anne Salt.