A HIKING GUIDE TO CULTURAL ARTIFACTS IN THE CHARLES DEAM WILDERNESS

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INTRODUCTION

This hiking guide is designed to provide an introduction to the cultural artifacts and relics of the Charles Deam Wilderness area.

The Deam Wilderness consists of 13,000 acres, all of which was at one time in private ownership. Starting in 1936 the United States Forest Service began buying individual land holdings and incorporating them into the National Forest. By the 1970's almost all of the land now in the Deam Wilderness was owned by the United States. Land acquisition accelerated as the Corps of Engineers acquired land for construction of Lake Monroe.

The Deam Wilderness was established by Act of Congress in 1982 after several years of protracted negotiations with neighboring landholders. It is the only official Federal wilderness area in Indiana.

As a wilderness the Deam has limited access. Normally there are no vehicular roads through a wilderness. The Deam is an exception to that rule. Tower Ridge Road traverses the wilderness from east to west. This exception was the result of negotiations with neighboring landowners. The wilderness area itself is available for foot traffic and horses only. No wheeled vehicles are allowed. The forest in the wilderness is to remain untouched in perpetuity. No logging or improvements are to take place.

There are only three legal places to park within the wilderness and the 3 hikes included in this guide each begins and ends at one of these three trailheads. It is also possible to park on National Forest land just outside the wilderness boundaries.

CULTURAL ARTIFACTS

Because the entire wilderness area was at one time privately owned there are numerous traces still evident of the former activities of the people who lived on this land. There are former homesites that may still show foundation stones for homes and various outbuildings--garages, sheds, barns; old wells, privies, root cellars, gate posts, or spring houses. In addition there may be naturalized plants, especially daffodils in the Spring, but also onions, iris, yucca, periwinkle, blueberries and fruit trees.

Some building sites were at one time general stores, schools, or post offices. There are many old roads still evident.

This guide is meant to be just an introduction to what can be seen in the wilderness. Interested hikers, depending on their persistence and hiking ability, can see many more sites than are
included here. We regard this booklet as a guide to what to look for and how to see these sites.

THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE

Most of the Dean Wilderness is in Polk Township in Monroe County, with smaller tracts in Brown and Jackson counties. Polk Township was the last area of Monroe County to be settled, largely because the terrain was generally unfavorable for agriculture. Some of the land was not purchased from the Federal government until well after the Civil War. Much of the wilderness consists of long parallel ridges that have narrow crests, steep slopes, and narrow valleys between ridges. Thus, arable land is at a minimum.

Most of the inhabitants were farmers, engaged in subsistence farming. Hay and corn were the main crops. Pastures were established where fields could not be developed. The heavily wooded areas provided a source of income. Early settlement residents cut the bark from oak trees and sold it to tanneries for cash money. There was one or possibly two tanneries in the wilderness area during the 19th century. Ginseng collecting may also have provided income.

In the 20th century one of the main sources of cash was the felling and trimming of trees for railroad ties, and cutting of hickory saplings for barrel hoops. The saplings were cut to eight foot lengths and sold in bundles. The ties were cut by hand and sold from $0.50 to $2.00 each, depending on demand and the kind of wood. Ties were hauled to Columbus, saplings to Martinsville.

Access to the area was difficult and some residents probably did not venture outside of Polk township many times a year. We have heard stories from oldtime residents of isolated people who were virtually recluses or hermits, who rarely if ever visited Bloomington.

Finally, we asked one old-timer if he was aware of any local residents who may have made moonshine as a source of income. With a smile he replied, "Oh, only about half the folks did that".

WARNINGS

Two words of caution. First, you should always carry a compass when walking in the wilderness and refer to it regularly. Small inexpensive compasses are available at many outdoor stores. Although we provide small maps of the specific areas where the hikes take place, we strongly urge walkers to obtain a copy of the U.S. Geological Survey 7.5' topographic maps of the area where they hike. These can be obtained from the Publication Office of the Indiana Geological Survey, in the Geology Building, in the 1000 block of 10th street on the IU campus in Bloomington. The maps are also available in Bloomington at the J. L. Waters store. The two maps that cover 90% of the wilderness are the Allens Creek quadrangle to the west and the Elkinsville
quadrangle to the east. The very southern part of the wilderness is on the Norman and Bartlettsville maps. The maps cost $3.00 each. Each map covers 7.5 minutes of latitude and longitude. A mile is approximately 2 inches in length on the maps.

Secondly, we warn hikers that removing objects from, or disturbing, cultural sites is against the law. If you pick up some relict you detract from the pleasure of all future hikers.

Finally, we can assume no responsibility for the safety or well-being of hikers who use this guide. The trails in the wilderness are not marked. It is quite easy to become confused as to distance and direction you have travelled. Confusion as to your location is a common problem. Only experience with map and compass and with hiking in this kind of terrain will help you keep from making errors in judgement.

WILDERNESS ETHICS

A prime reason for having wilderness areas to provide as natural an outdoor setting as possible. To this end it is important not to discard any materials in the wilderness. All cans, bottles, wrappers, or other potential "trash" should be carried out with you. Many hikers carry a small plastic garbage bag with them and pick up any trash they may see. You will find most of the wilderness quite free of trash, largely because of responsible hikers. Unfortunately, during hunting seasons shotgun shells, snuff boxes, and beer cans tend to be left behind. You will also find that the farther you hike away from a trailhead the less trash you will encounter. This is because most hikers who walk only short distances into the wilderness tend to leave behind much of the trash.

DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS

From Bloomington take Indiana State Road 46 east to junction with Indiana State Road 446 south, on the east edge of town. Proceed south on SR 446 across Lake Monroe to the junction with Tower Ridge Road, approximately 4 miles south of the causeway over Lake Monroe. You will pass roads on the west (right) to Ransburg Scout Camp, Allens Creek boat ramp, and Hardin Ridge recreational area. You will pass roads on the left to Circle M ranch and Burgoon Church. The turnoff to Tower Ridge Road is 0.85 miles south of the Hardin Ridge turnoff and is marked by a Charles Deam Wilderness sign, a sign for the Maumee Scout Camp, and Blackwell Church with a rising sun symbol.

The three trailhead parking places are, in order:

1. Blackwell Horse Camp. This large pasture-like area is used by horse riders but is available for any public parking. You will pass by a turnoff to the right to Blackwell Picnic Area, which is a short distance before you reach the turn into the horse camp on the left.
Charles Deam Wilderness area included in this hiking guide. The three trailheads for beginning each hike are indicated. Dark lines indicate wilderness boundaries and approved trails. Adapted from U.S. Forest Service Charles C. Deam Wilderness map.
2. Grubb Ridge trailhead. This parking area is 4 miles past the Blackwell Horse Camp. It is on the left and the area for parking is small. This trailhead provides access to Frank and John Grubb ridges as well as to the Axsom Branch drainage area. On the way you will pass a gravel road on the left that leads to the Todd Cemetery. Parking is allowed here only if you are visiting the cemetery.

3. Hickory Ridge trailhead. This parking area is 1.5 miles past the Grubb trailhead. It is easily identified by the old forest service fire tower adjacent to the parking lot. The fire tower was built in 19xx and was used during the fire season until 19xx, when it was abandoned.

HIKE NO. 1

CULTURAL SITES NEAR THE BLACKWELL HORSE CAMP

HIKING INSTRUCTIONS AND SITE DESCRIPTIONS

The total walking distance for this hike is approximately 1.5 miles.

Drive to the northwest corner of the horse camp and park. You will see the start of the horse trail marked by a brown Forest Service post. Just outside the fence around the horse camp you will see an eroded old north-south road that extends north down into Saddle Creek valley. About 10 feet beyond this old road there is a fork in the trails. Take the trail to the right. Walk about 200 feet to next brown signpost. The trail curves around the side of the hill, but look to your left and see a wildlife pond. Walk south off the trail and just west of the wildlife pond. This pond was constructed by the Forest Service prior to wilderness designation. There are many such ponds scattered throughout the wilderness. They show on the topographic maps as blue (water) areas. Many of the ponds were built at or near old homesites. Just west of the pond is the old Blackwell family home site, which is Site 1.

Site 1. The Blackwell family homesite was identified for us by a former resident of the wilderness area. Just west of the pond is a large mound of a trash pile. Walk south of trash mound about 100 feet to large depression. This is the basement of the house. There are scattered foundation stones south and west of the pit. Now look towards Tower Ridge Road to the south. Here you can see two large trees (oak and maple) along the road that formerly were in the front yard of the residence. There are also many yucca plants along the roadside that were planted by the Blackwells or that have escaped from such plantings. There are cut bank areas off of the main road both east and west of the home site that were probably driveways into the property. This site was initially purchased by John Shotwell from the Federal
government in 1845 and was owned by Joshua Blackwell in 1856. It was purchased by the Forest Service from Charles R. Fishel in 1951.

From between the two large trees walk onto Tower Ridge road. You will see a horse trail and a large wildlife pond (Blackwell Pond) across the road. Walk west (to the right) on the main road about 800 feet. You will see a steel fence post along the road on your right (north), and up ahead, the turnoff into the Blackwell Picnic Area. Look for a large, low mound on your right just beyond the steel post. This is Site 2.

Site 2. This mound was the original site for the Blackwell School. Examine the mound carefully and you will see that it is made up of many brick fragments, many of which appear to have been burned. There are also some pieces of melted glass. If you examine the soil around the mound carefully you will see that the earth is black and appears to have been burned. This was identified as the school site by a former resident. Apparently the school structure had a brick foundation or a brick chimney or both and was destroyed by fire. The Blackwell Church was originally established in this school and services were held in the school until the current church building was established. The present church building was originally a general store at Yellowstone, just south of the wilderness along Hunter Creek road, and was moved to the present site to become the Blackwell Church.

From the school site walk north, downhill, to the horse trail. Walk east (to your right) along the horse trail, past Site 1, to the horse camp. Now either walk or drive to the southeast corner of the horse camp. Here you will see an old north-south road that bounds the east edge of the camp. The road has been badly eroded over the years, originally by wagon wheels. Follow this road south, cross Tower Ridge road and you will be at Site 3.

Site 3. First look at the bank along the road. Here you will see two stone steps up onto the site, just east of a foot trail. On the other side of the foot trail there are stone blocks that appear to be part of a foundation. There are also daffodils and iris along this bank. Walk south towards small stream valley. You will see 6 large foundation stones on either side of the trail. This may have been the home site. Now walk west from the stones keeping to the same elevation. First you will see a large pile of elongate cut limestone blocks. These do not appear to be part of a structure. Just west of these stones there is a rectangular depression cut into the bank of the valley. This is a collapsed root cellar. The pile of stones may have been intended to line this cellar or to be used as fence posts. The cut limestone indicates that the residence here was occupied within fairly recent years. Older sites commonly exhibit only local fieldstones
that may be hand-trimmed but not cut by a saw. Now return east to the large foundation stones and turn south into valley. Note two large stones, a trash pile, and old fencing. Walk east, downstream, along valley, to a circular pile of logs and trash. Look immediately south into the stream at this point. You will see a small spring issuing from the bank on the far side of the stream and below the spring there is a circular basin cut into the bedrock to hold water. Walk again downstream and you will find another trash pile. Turn north along west edge of small ravine and start back towards Tower Ridge road. There are old bedsprings, another trash pile and 3 foundation stones in this area. At the road there is some old fencing and an old cut bank leading into this area that may have been a driveway to a garage or shed. This site was originally purchased from the Federal government in 1844 by Henry Todd; it was purchased by the Forest Service from Herschel and Lois Blackwell in 1967.

Return to Tower Ridge Road, and walk east on a slight uphill grade. At crest of hill the road curves slightly to the left. Look for a large sinkhole, about 200 feet across, on your left. Also look for daffodils along the road bank. This is the beginning of Site 4.

Site 4. Walk off the road to the left. You will see a small concrete slab with concrete block foundation stones behind the slab for two structures or rooms. There is a small iron pipe projecting vertically out of the ground on the west side of the foundation. There is also a large metal door frame behind the small slab. Now look just east of the slab and you will see an area of broken up tiles and a much larger concrete slab and more concrete blocks. There is a deep pit on the northeast side of the site, and a large pile of limestone boulders, apparently placed there by the Forest Service, perhaps to fill another pit. Just northwest of these pits look into a briar patch for a broken concrete base of a toilet on a square concrete base. There is much trash just north of the toilet and also in the large sinkhole to the west. This site and Site 5 below were purchased from the Federal government in 1837 by William Newton and owned by Thomas Todd in 1856. It was purchased by the Forest Service from Thomas Fleetwood in 1940. Local residents tell us that this was the site of a general store within recent years.

Now return to Tower Ridge road and walk directly across the road (south) from the general store site. Notice the following: posts set into the ground to prohibit parking, two brown Forest Service posts to the southeast on either side of horse trail, and a large mound of dirt that blocks off vehicle access to an old road extending due south. This is the original old Tower Ridge road. The location was changed during the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Walk southwest around large briar patch through grassy area to area of small saplings, a distance of about 100 feet. You are now at Site 5.
Site 5. First you will see a large concrete slab. This has a 6 inch diameter vertical iron pipe extending through it (a drilled well?). There are also concrete blocks. Look just southwest of this slab and there is another, even larger, concrete slab and sheets of roof metal. This may have been the home of the grocery store owner. Ownership is the same as for Site 4.

Return to old Tower Ridge road and the dirt mound blocking that road. Walk south along the old road about 350 feet to two wooden posts blocking road and a wilderness sign. Look back to your right, towards the west, into the small stream valley--this is the same stream that you saw at Site 3. You will see a large old pine tree along the stream. Walk to this tree. This is Site 6.

Site 6. There is a mound of trimmed stones and some old bricks. There are also scattered foundation stones and scattered metal trash. Just west of the site is a collapsed root cellar with some stones along the side walls. Now walk downstream and look at edge of terrace along stream. There are numerous old, large foundation stones supporting this part of the terrace. We believe that this site was that of the Todd schoolhouse and later the Todd postoffice. In 1853 Thomas and Sara Todd gave a half acre of land, in the SW 1/4 of NW 1/4 of Section 26, to Polk Township to establish a school. The school opened in 1856. We believe this was that site. On the 1890 atlas of Monroe County a post office is shown at this site. The postoffice operated from 1886 to 1911, when it was removed to Allen Creek. The post office may have been moved to the general store at Site 4 in its later years.

Return to the posts in the old Tower Ridge road and go south, to the right, along this old road. You will see an old white auto trunk lid alongside the road as you walk along. The road curves slightly to the left and downhill. At the foot of the hill cross a major horse trail and take a trail due east. Ignore a trail down the valley to the southeast and a trail back up the hill to the northwest. You will see a Y fork in the trails with a large mound in the fork of the Y. Take the fork to the left and walk about 100 feet to an old quarry. This is Site 6.

Site 6. This limestone quarry was used by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Depression for road metal to re-align Tower Ridge Road. Note that a large spring issues from the limestone at the mouth of the quarry. The quarry has been abandoned for at least 60 years--notice the size of the trees now growing in the quarry. We believe that the old Tower Ridge road passed up the hill alongside the spring and quarry and that this portion of the old road has been completely obliterated.
LOCAL GEOLOGY

This is a good place to point out some of the interesting geology that occurs in this area. As you will note, the old quarry contains a considerable thickness of limestone. If you walk along new Tower Ridge Road either direction from the quarry you will see several sinkholes—circular depressions in the ground that drain water directly down into the bedrock rather than into a stream. The spring at the base of the quarry clearly drains sinkholes on the hillside east of and above the quarry.

The limestone formations here are the Ramp Creek limestone at the base of the quarry and the Harrodsburg limestone in the upper part of the quarry. These rocks are never used for building stones but do serve as crushed rock for road building.

The limestones here are "out of place" in that this chunk of the wilderness has been dropped down between two faults or fractures of the earth’s surface. The faults are named the Heltonville fault, the one to the west; and the Mt. Carmel fault, to the east. They are parallel to each other, extend north and south for some distance and are about xx miles apart. For several miles west of the Heltonville fault and for many miles east of the Mt. Carmel fault the bedrock consists of several hundred feet of siltstones that are called the Borden Group. These rocks are fine-grained and weather a rusty brown color, as opposed to the gray-weathering limestone that commonly contains fossils and geodes. In a normal sequence the two limestone formations occur above the siltstones, but the earth’s crust here, being broken and moved, has had the area between the two faults dropped down, so that the limestones are adjacent to, rather than on top off, the siltstones. Such a geologic feature is called a graben. We refer to this structure in the wilderness as the Frog Pond graben, because Frog Pond ridge (see your map) occupies the center of the graben. If you were to walk north along the crest of Frog Pond ridge you would encounter many sink holes as well as an additional higher limestone formation, the Salem limestone, which occurs in large massive blocks. This is the famous building limestone of the Bloomington-Bedford area.

The Heltonville fault passes through the center of the Blackwell horse camp and trends slightly east of south. The rock basin mentioned at site 3 is in siltstone west of the fault.

The Mt. Carmel fault passes up a valley east of the Todd cemetery and can be see in small ravines slightly farther east where one encounters siltstone at higher levels to the east and limestone at lower levels to the west within a single small east-west flowing ravine.

Now walk into the quarry and see a long, low ramp that extends along the east side of the quarry walls. Walk up this ramp to the southeast corner of the quarry, turn north at this point and walk along the west side of a pine grove. About 100 feet after leaving the quarry you will shortly come to an old
road that we believe is part of the original Tower Ridge road. Trees line both sides of the old road and there has been some erosion. The road terminates abruptly at the top of the east quarry wall. Walk along this old road to the east. Notice row of large old red cedar trees along left (north) side of old road and new Tower Ridge road about 100 feet to the north. From these trees walk north to the present roadway. As you do you may notice some old trash. There may have been a homesite here, facing the old road, that was obliterated when the road was re-positioned in the 1930s.

Walk southeast on new Tower Ridge road. The road curves slightly from southeast to east and downhill. If you look to your right (south) along this stretch of road you will see old Tower Ridge road, deeply eroded, just south of the new road. About one-half way between curve to the west and the bottom of the hill to the east, leave road and walk about 20 paces to the north (left). You will find a large pile of trimmed stones. This is Site 7.

Site 7. We believe that this was the original John Todd homesite. The stone may be a foundation or a stone fireplace and chimney. There are many daffodils along the stream and the road.

Now return to Tower Ridge road and continue walking downhill to the east. In a short distance you will come to a culvert under the road with a small stream flowing from left to right (north to south). This spot is marked as a Ford on the topographic map. You will encounter this stream again later in the hike. Continue east on road, slightly uphill, to a small grassy clearing on the right (south). This is an important road junction. You will see 2 posts blocking parking and a large dirt mound blocking vehicular access to an old road extending due south. This is Tanyard road. Now look north across from the mound and you will see an extension of Tanyard road to the north of Tower Ridge road. There is a wilderness boundary sign marking the road. There are three large trees around the clearing and a large dead tree in the center of the clearing. An old atlas shows a tanyard in the valley to the south. The stream in this valley is also called Tanyard branch. We have been unable to discover any trace of this old tanyard.

Walk south on Tanyard road. As you start you will notice a road coming into the clearing from the east. This is an old forestry road that extends to the east for about 300 feet and then turns south down a ridge (see sketch map). Go about about 200 feet down Tanyard road, past two posts blocking road, to a cut bank in the west (right) side of road. This is the beginning of Site 8.

Site 8. Turn into this bank and walk a short distance to see 9 large foundation stones that clearly supported a very large building, probably a barn. From this structure walk south about 200 feet to two large pine trees and a large arbor vitae (white
cedar) tree along the west side of the road. Just north of the cedar and about 12 feet west of road see a 6 inch wide vertical iron pipe projecting from the ground, presumably the casing for a drilled water well. Now walk about 50 feet west. There is a pit lined with cut blocks of limestone, a large pile of stone blocks, scattered stones, and concrete blocks. This clearly was the homesite. There are also daffodils between this site and the road. This land was purchased by George Todd in 1826 from the Federal government. The land was owned by John Todd in 1856. The land was purchased by the Forest Service from Herschel and Lois Blackwell in 1967.

Now return north on Tanyard road to Tower Ridge road. Before proceeding with the detailed description of the hike, we here offer a side excursion that you might want to make, but we do not offer detailed walking descriptions. This side trip is to view a large old millstone in the valley east of this junction. Walk a short distance east on Tower Ridge road and you will see the old Tower Ridge road once again, this time extending due east as the new road trends slightly north of east, going into a curve to the north. See the accompanying sketch map. The old road is deeply eroded and has many trees fallen across it. It lies between the forested road mentioned above, which is just to the south for a short distance, and the new road just to the north. If you walk the old Tower Ridge road it will extend some distance to the east and then curve to the right and go down into a small valley. Look over the side of the road as it goes down into the valley and you will see a large millstone lying on the valley floor. It is about 4 feet in diameter and 6 inches thick with a square hole cut in the center. We have no explanation for the presence of this stone. There is no record of a grist mill anywhere near here, and we have been unable to find a second stone, which would have been needed to operate a mill. Return to the grassy clearing by Tanyard road.

Now walk north of the new Tower Ridge road along the short northward extension of Tanyard road. There is a wilderness boundary post in the road. Walk north on this old road about 200 feet to a major horse trail and a brown Forest Service sign. If you continue walking straight north you will come to the west edge of the Todd cemetery. That is a side trip option that you may want to make. If you do, return to the sign post where the horse trail turns sharply to the west, at right angles to Tanyard road. Follow this horse trail to the west (to your left if you do not go to Todd cemetery, to your right if you do return from Todd cemetery).

The horse trail goes through a small pine grove, downhill into a small valley. You will come to a small stream, flowing south (right to left). Cross this stream and immediately turn off the trail to the right (north). Follow along the stream upstream to Site 9.
Sketch Map of Section 26, Hike No. 1, Deam Wilderness, Showing Roads and Cultural Sites.
Site 9. First you will come to a pile of cut stones that mark presence of some kind of small structure. A short distance farther the stream ends at a large spring issuing near a large sycamore tree. There are several pieces of cut stone around the spring, indicating the former presence of a spring house. We believe this is Todd’s Big Spring that is mentioned in early histories of Monroe County. According to Blanchard’s History of Monroe County, the election to establish Polk Township was held at or near this spring in 1849. There also may have been a Todd school located near here at one time.

This is the final site on the hike. Return along the small stream downstream to the horse trail. This stream is the same one that you encountered running through the culvert under Tower Ridge road just below the John Todd homesite. You have two choices for returning to the Blackwell horse camp and your vehicle. You can follow the stream to Tower Ridge road and walk back along the road. Or you can follow the horse trail back to the horse camp. If you do this you will first encounter a small valley coming in from the right. There is a very large ash tree on the side of this valley and a limestone bed that may have an intermittent spring in wet weather. There is also trash, a mound, and some evidence for an outbuilding just above the ash tree. From this point the trail goes uphill. On your left, between the trail and the road, is Site 7, the John Todd site. The horse trail goes through a large pine plantation, probably an old eroded field, and large grassy areas that may have been pastures. It passes just behind Site 4, the grocery store site.

This is the end of Hike No. 1.
HIKE NO. 2
GRUBB TRAILHEAD AND AXSOM VALLEY
HIKING DIRECTIONS AND SITE DESCRIPTIONS

The hiking distance for this hike is about 2.5 miles.

We term this entire valley Axsom Valley. Axsom Branch on the topographic map is the easternmost stream in the valley. Axsom Branch is joined by a network of other streams from the west, that together constitute the Axsom Valley.

From the trailhead walk a short distance to the north on an old gravel road to a brown Forest Service sign that indicates a horse and hiking trail that crosses the old road. The trail to the left (west) parallels Tower Ridge road to the west. The old gravel road straight ahead goes out onto John Grubb ridge. You should take the trail to the right (east), that will take you, via a series of switchbacks, down into Axsom valley. The remainder of the hike will be in this valley and you will return to the trailhead by returning up these switchbacks to the Grubb ridge crest beside the parking lot.

The first switchback goes south until you are just below the parking lot. You may notice painted blue diamond blazes on trees here and elsewhere on the hike. These mark an old, pre-wilderness, Forest Service horse trail.

The second switchback goes north for some distance. Note that this small valley contains many ferns and wildflowers. The third and fourth switchbacks are shorter and take you down onto the valley floor. You are on the nose of small ridge with a stream on either side.

Walk on the horse trail down the valley. The valley extends to the northeast (45°). Cross a small stream flowing from right to left. The trail is on the south side of the valley. In a short distance you will see a steep old road coming down into the valley from the right. This road junctions with Tower Ridge road just east of the parking lot. It is the original road into the valley.

Cross small stream flowing left to right. Large stones are in stream. There is a steep outcrop of slitstone along stream to the right. The trail is now on the north side of the valley.

The trail and valley now extend almost straight east (80°). Watch for old rusted car body with fenders, dashboard and other parts just to left of trail. This is the beginning of Site 1.
Site 1. This site was owned by William Lentz in 1856, and was purchased by the Forest Service from xxx, in 19xx. About 50 feet beyond car see trimmed foundation stones on both left and right sides of trail as well as trash (old bedsprings). Another 50 feet there are 6 large foundation stones close together and a pile of large stones beside a tree. There are a few daffodils near these stones. We believe this was the original homesite. The stones just passed farther up the valley probably supported some sort of outbuilding.

Now notice a small ravine coming into the main valley from the left, just downstream of the homesite. At the mouth of this ravine there is a circular pit filled with water. This may have been a well or springhouse. The ravine exhibits a steep old road up the east side of the ravine, that goes to old fields on top of the ridge to the north. Just east of the mouth of the ravine you will see five large foundation stones that supported a relatively large building, probably a barn.

Note that in this entire area, from the rusted car to the barn, the valley floor is grassy. Such grassy areas are typical of old home sites or old fields. They contrast strongly with the brown leaf litter on forest floors that have not been disturbed.

Continue east on trail. Trail crosses stream at a Y stream junction, then crosses stream again very shortly, with part of an old car body in stream just to the right of the trail. The trail extends east, on the north side of the valley, with stream to right.

You will see an old road angling uphill to the left, with the trail curving to the right, with a wide grassy valley with tree saplings straight ahead. At the point where the stream is directly underneath the right side of the trail, cross the stream, leaving the trail, and proceed at a bearing of 130° through the grassy area. On the far (east) side of the grassy clearing you will come to an area with lots of wild roses, a large stand of daffodils. This is Site 2.

Site 2. Just south of the daffodils and along a stream that comes into the valley from the southeast, there is a large pile of large, trimmed stones. These represent the homesite and may have been foundations, fireplace and chimney. There is also a lot of trash in this area. We believe that this site was at one time occupied by William Hall, who is buried in the small Hall/xxsom cemetery on the hillside above the homesite. This area was purchased from the Federal government by Burton Elliott in 1855 and sold to the Forest Service by Elmer Murphy and William Eads in 1950.

From the stone pile walk straight east, across stream, and find a foot trail on east side of stream. Turn right (south) on this trail and walk about 100 to 150 feet to large tree fallen across trail. Just beside base of fallen tree there is another
tree with a large black blaze on the side. From this point walk uphill bearing 90° to small flat area on side of hill. This is Site 3.

Site 3. You will see a sign indicating the Hall/Axsom cemetery and renovation of the site by volunteers. There is only one headstone with William Hall's name. There is one cut limestone block with no inscription and several small field stones that may be head or foot markers. Records in the Monroe County library indicate that there are four burials in this cemetery from 1849 to 1952.

Go downhill and return to the trail. Turn right (north) and follow this trail downstream with stream on left. After a short distance this trail crosses stream and in about 25 feet joins the main horse trail. There is a brown Forest Service post at this juncture. Walk north (to right) on main trail. The trail is now on the west side of the valley and straight for some distance. Walk about 1/5 to 1/4 of a mile along trail to point where trail crosses stream and there is a small ravine coming into the valley from the west on the left. The trail crosses stream on large stones.

Walk about 75 feet to where trail crosses stream again from east to west side of stream. However, at this point do not cross stream. Instead leave trail and go east (90°) through brush and brambles to grassy area on east side of valley. You will see a small tributary stream on your left entering the main valley from a ravine on the east side of the valley. Cross this stream. Site 4 is straight ahead on a low terrace just north of the tributary stream.

Site 4. There is a long row of daffodils and some wild garlic along what may have been an old road. Just east of the daffodils there are four large foundation stones. From these stones walk a short distance to the southeast and see a rectangular excavation cut into the side of the hill. This is the remnants of a large root cellar. West of the daffodils there are three foundation stones marking site of an outbuilding.

From Site 4 walk west to main stream, cross stream and continue to main horse trail along west side of stream. You will see an old white Wildlife Improvement sign overgrown on the side of a tree.

Continue north on main trail for several hundred yards. There is a brown Forest Service trail post along the way. The distance from Site 4 to Site 5 is about 1000 feet, or 1/5 mile. There is a large side ravine coming into the main valley from the west (left). Trail crosses tributary stream from this side valley. Immediately on far side of stream, leave trail and walk a few feet to left (up side valley). This is Site 5.
Site 5. This is probably a very old site. There is little evidence of recent habitation and the valley floor shows no indication of recent fields. There are about 8 old foundation stones that probably supported a log cabin. Behind these stones and just along edge of stream, there is a circular depression that make mark an old well site. There is little trash and no daffodils at this site. This site was purchased from the Federal government in 1833 by John Helton. It was owned by William McBride in 1856 and was sold to the Forest Service by Mary Alice Axsom in 1948.

Return a few feet to trail and continue walking north along west side of valley. You will come to a sudden transition between the mature trees you have been walking through and an old field with dense stands of saplings. Trees along the edge of this old field still have pieces of metal fencing attached. Trail curves to the northeast, with stream on right and old field on left. There is a brown Forest Service sign.

In about 50 feet trail crosses creek to east side and parallels creek. Trail continues along rock outcrops along edge of stream. There is another Forest Service sign on far side of rock outcrop. About 20 feet beyond sign trail departs from creek. Creek flows north, and the trail curves to the northeast and then to the east as it curves around nose of prominent north-south ridge. Old fields are to the left, and steep ridge slope to the right.

The trail now enters a large valley coming in from the south. There is a large pine plantation on the valley floor. This stream is Axsom Branch proper as marked on the topographic map. On the map you are standing just north of the tip of the large A in NATIONAL. This is Site 6.

Site 6. Very little remains of what was once a prominent homesite. The 1949 topographic map shows an occupied dwelling on this site. We believe this may have been the old, original Axsom home site. It was owned by Samuel Axsom in 1856. It was sold by the Saddle Creek Corporation to the Forest Service in 1969. Just before you cross the stream there are two old apple trees, one on each side of the trail. Look across the stream and downstream and you will see old metal fence posts on both banks of stream. There is a small stand of daffodils and in amongst a thicket of wild roses there is a stand of day lilies. Other than a few pieces of trash this is all that we have been able to find of this home site.

After you cross the stream you will see two brown Forest Service signs close together. Note that just beyond the second sign there is a foot trail diverging to the left (north). Leave the main trail and take this foot trail. It skirts to the right (east) of the wild rose patch and at the north end of the
clearing veers sharply to the left and then to the right. At the left turn you will see another trail extending sharply uphill to the right (northeast). This trail ultimately comes to the top of Terril ridge and the Terril cemetery. At the right turn you will see another trail coming in from the left (south). This trail crosses Axsom Branch northwest of where you crossed it and if followed would take you back to the main horse trail. Looking ahead, to the north, you will see that the trail you are to follow crosses a large mound of dirt. This mound was put there by the Forest Service before the wilderness was created to block vehicular traffic on the old Axsom Branch road to the north.

Walk north (340°) on old Axsom Branch road. As you walk north Axsom valley is on your left and a slope of mature forest is on the right. If Lake Monroe is high this part of the valley may be flooded. From the mound you walk about 600 feet along road to point where tributary valley comes in from the right (east). Note two small trails extending up this valley. Follow one of these to Site 7.

Site 7. Note long row of daffodils along east side of road. The main feature here is the ruins of a modern two story stone structure just to the east, with standing stone walls and stone fireplace and chimney. A small room on east side of house apparently contained a fuel oil tank for heating. The main entrance to the second floor is a set of curved steps just beside the fireplace on the south side of the house.

This structure was apparently built in the post-World War II area as a summer or vacation home when this property was still private property. The site was probably abandoned when Lake Monroe was formed. An older homesite may have occupied a large mound of cut stones just west of the stone house. In this mound there is an iron standpipe plugged with concrete that may have been a drilled well.

This is the farthest point of the hiking guide for this trail. If you wish, you may continue north along old Axsom Branch road for a better view of Lake Monroe. There are records of old homesites in the side valleys along the east side of this road. However, very little evidence remains of these sites and we have not included them in this guide.

Return south on old Axsom Branch road. When you come to the mound blocking the road, cross over the mound, turn left and then right on trail, skirting to the left (east) of the large wild rose patch. Continue to junction with main horse trail and two brown Forest Service signs. Turn right (west) on main trail, cross stream, and proceed along main horse trail south and then west, re-tracing your steps to the switchbacks that lead up to the Grubb Ridge parking lot and trail head. This is the end of Hike 2.
Return south on old Axsom Branch road. When you come to the mound blocking the road, cross over the mound, turn left and then right on trail, skirting to the left (east) of the large wild rose patch. Continue to junction with main horse trail and two brown Forest Service signs. Turn right (west) on main trail, cross stream, and proceed along main horse trail south and then west, re-tracing your steps to the switchbacks that lead up to the Grubb Ridge parking lot and trail head. This is the end of Hike 2.

HIKE NO. 3
TOWER (HICKORY RIDGE) TRAILHEAD FOR TERRILL RIDGE
HIKING DIRECTIONS AND SITE DESCRIPTIONS

This hike requires approximately 4 miles of walking.

Even though the trailhead is signed as Hickory Ridge by the Forest Service, the topographic map shows the ridge that you will walk to the north as Terrill Ridge and many folks identify with the old fire tower at the parking lot. Thus, either Tower site, or Terrill Ridge are both better names than Hickory Ridge. We also note that the topographic map misspells Terrill. The name on the map is Terrill, but every gravestone in the cemetery on this hike is spelled Terrill. We assume the families knew how to spell their name and we will use Terrill, rather than Terrill, in this guide. The road and sites described below will all be based on Terrill Ridge road.

From the locked gate at the parking lot, road boundary walk about 100 yards north to the Tower keepers house. Note that there are relics on both the east and west sides of the road. This is Site 1.

Site 1. The house is on the right (east). There were two rooms, as well as a basement entered by outside steps on the west side of the house. The front door and concrete porch were on the east side.

Now walk about 30 feet to the southeast and see a large, broken down, concrete structure with no door or entrance. Some pipes are visible. There are iron ladder step rungs down into this structure, which is quite deep. This was apparently a cistern, water storage structure.

On the west side, there is a concrete floor that was apparently a garage. There was some sort of small storage room behind the garage. Now look just west of the garage and see a small square depression. This may have been a toilet pit.

This site is shown as occupied on both the 1947 and the 1950 Elkinsville topographic maps.

The tower was built in 1936. For 26 years the tower keeper was Raymond Axsom. Originally lived close by. He was the keeper
in 1936 and 1937. He then took over again, after a 2 year lapse, in 1940 and continued for 24 more years, until 1964, when the tower was closed. He had a telephone to call in forest fires (no evidence of telephone lines are now visible in this part of the wilderness). The worst forest fire he witnessed was in 1952 when there was a 2000 acre fire that burned within 1/2 mile of the tower. The fire wall was 30 to 40 feet high and a solid blaze.

From the tower keepers site continue north and start downhill and up to the crest of the next hill. Here you will see a sign for a hiking trail to the right. This is the Sycamore Branch hiking trail. It is for foot traffic only. Horses are not supposed to use this trail. You will also see an old, eroded road on the left. This is an old version of Terrill Ridge road. It will re-unite with the present road a short distance to the north at the base of the hill.

Continue north on the main road. You will go downhill first and then up a gentle rise. Here you will note a road diverging to the left (northwest). This is the terminus of Axsom Branch road, the other end of which you encountered in Hike No. 2. There are two Forest Service posts at this junction. Continue along the main Terrill Ridge road, which now extends to the northeast. Now you will walk along a long flat stretch. Along this part of the trail you will pass from Monroe County into Jackson County. As you approach the northeast end of this straight stretch you will see a very large oak tree.

Site 2. At the large oak you will see an old road, deeply eroded, extend to the south in front of the tree. A short cut road, a homesite driveway, is behind the tree. The main road veers sharply to the left just beyond the tree. There is also a small foot trail to the right just beyond the tree. This trail leads in a very short distance to a wildlife pond on the left and a pine plantation on the right. This was a homesite, for which very little evidence remains. The thicket of briars and scrub trees behind the large oak was apparently the front yard. Daffodils bloom here in the Spring. There are a couple of small stones in the thicket, and a couple of other stones in the clearing just south of the pine plantation. We have been unable to find any other traces of this site. This is shown as an occupied dwelling site on both the 1947 and the 1950 Elkinsville topographic maps. The house is shown to be just south of the pine grove.

Return to main road and continue north. The road makes several curves to the left and right. After about 1/2 mile you will come to a T junction. About 50 feet south of this T junction you will see an old, deeply eroded road extending both east and west of the main Terrill Ridge road. This old cross road is the county line road, separating Jackson County to the south and Brown County to the north. At the T junction the main road makes
a right angle turn to the left and there is an old road extending to the right. The entrance is blocked by downed trees to indicate horses are not to use this trail, but foot traffic is acceptable.

At the T junction follow the foot trail to the right, around the cut trees and into the road bed. Continue east through a large, mature pine plantation. You will walk about 1/4 mile along this road. At the east edge of the pine plantation you will see, on the left (north), a clearing with grass and large and small hardwood trees. Look to the right and you will see the old county line road gradually converging with the road you are on.

There is another pine plantation on the far side of this clearing. The clearing itself is about 300 feet along the road. This is Site 3.

Site 3. First look at the sketch map of this clearing. You will note that there is a small stream in the center of the clearing that drains to the north. Walk about 30-40 paces into this drainage. You will see a rectangular depression, which may have water in it. This is clearly man-made but we do not know the function of the pit. Now look about 30° to the northeast and see a pile of large stones. This is one of the largest such stone piles we have seen in the wilderness. Some of the stone blocks are 4 feet by 1 foot by 6 inches. These are some of the largest hand-trimmed stone blocks we have ever seen in the wilderness. We believe that this is a very early and very impressive early home site. From this stone pile look about 20 feet to the north and see a large depression. [If you are having problems with this, look again at the accompanying sketch map.] This may have been a stone pile. Walk south from this mound and there are scattered foundation stones for outbuildings. Now return to the large rectangular depression where you started. Walk to the northwest, to the northwest corner of the clearing. You will pass two small square depression and about 50 feet farther find another pile of stones, much smaller than the one you have just seen. This may have been an outbuilding of some sort. Note the line of very large, old, dead, or dying red cedar trees northwest of this mound. This is either an old fence line or an old farm road. You may also note that this clearing generally contains many large walnut trees and old red cedars. No introduced plants like daffodils or yuccas have been found, which generally indicates a very old site. From this small mound walk northeast down into the small valley. Walk downstream to find a stone pile beside the stream and a foot trail crossing the stream. These stones may have been a spring house or water trough. The foot trail is the northwest extremity of the Sycamore Branch trail. Follow it to the left (west) and it will end at the main Terrill Ridge road, or you can return to the trail you came in on, and walk that back to the Terrill Ridge road. Topographic maps shown no structures at this site.

Now walk north (to the right if you take Sycamore Branch
SKETCH MAP OF SITE 3, HIKE NO. 3. D STANDS FOR DEPRESSION.

SKETCH MAP OF SITE 4, HIKE NO. 3
trail, straight ahead if you return on the old road) on Terrill Ridge road.

Terrill Ridge road will gradually curve from west to northwest to north and the curve again to the northwest. This section is about 1/4 mile long. The road will turn straight north. It becomes a section line road at this point, separating Sections 8 and 9 in Brown County. At this point, if you look to the left, you will see that the section line road initially also extended to the south (where it intersected the old east-west county line road you have already seen).

Now walk north along the section line road for about 1/3 mile. You will come to a point where the road makes a right angle turn to the left. An old road (filled with cut trees) and a foot trail both extend straight ahead. Take the main road to the left and walk about 300 feet. You will see the Terrill Cemetery straight ahead and a large grassy clearing to the left (south). This is Site 4.

Site 4. This is a large, fairly recent, homesite. Walk into this big clearing. You will see a collapsed basement with poured concrete walls. Just on the east side of this is a large poured concrete slab. Walk south from this and see large, trimmed field stones. Continue farther south and see square poured foundations in the ground. South of this are stands of daffodils and some yucca (the front yard?). Continue south to an old east-west road, eroded, along which there are several large trimmed field stones. Despite the relatively modern appearance of this site, no structures are shown here on either the 1947 or the 1950 topographic maps.

Return to the road to the north. Walk farther down this road to the cemetery. This is Site 5.

Site 5. This is one of only two active cemeteries in the wilderness. The cemetery is generally very well kept. Perhaps the saddest stone in the cemetery is the one with the five small Axson children. We have been told that they died of spinal meningitis.

Now walk back to where the road turned to the cemetery. Walk north on the foot trail for about 1/8 mile. The trail goes straight north and switches between the old section line road on the right (which is usually very wet and muddy), and a foot trail along the left (west) side of the old road. You will come to a point where the foot trail splits into three. The trail to the west goes out onto a ridge. Both the trail straight to the north and the trail to the northwest lead to what we call Terrill Pond. This is the largest pond in the wilderness. It has many water lilies. There are pine groves on the east and north sides.

This is one of the very favorite camping places in the Deam
Wilderness. The trail you have been following along Terrill Ridge road is undoubtedly the most popular and most widely used trail in the entire wilderness.

At this point you should turn around and re-trace your steps along Terrill Ridge road back to the trailhead and your vehicle.

This is the end of Hike No. 3 and the end of the Hiking Guide.

We hope that you have enjoyed learning about the cultural sites and history of the Charles C. Deam Wilderness. The wilderness offers opportunities for many different kinds of outdoor recreational activities—hiking, camping, backpacking, bird watching, tree and flower identification, animal tracking, fishing, hunting, and horseback riding.