



## Ohio Hanging Rock

A recreational treasure  
then and today

When timber-cutting, iron furnace and clay factory workers had a rare chance to enjoy their limited time off work, the sandstone boulders of the Ohio Hanging Rock region were popular destinations for picnics and hubs from which to exploring. This particular rock is known as Noah's Ark and is still a nostalgic natural feature for local residents. It lies within the boundaries of the Ohio Hanging Rock Preserve.

*The photo above was published by the Scioto Voice newspaper in 1993. The photo below, taken by John Jaeger, was taken this year.*



Noah's Ark

## photo gallery

Brian K. Fenton is a neighbor of Ohio Hanging Rock with family roots preceding the operation of nearby Scioto Iron Furnace. His great grandfather was Albert B. Fenton who was the superintendent of Buckeye Steel Brick Factory in Scioto Furnace, OH, working at the plant from 1900 to the factory's closure in the 1930's.

Brian has always had a keen interest in the clay and brick industry. Around age 12, he took his Kodak Brownie camera and snapped pictures of the local clay factory, unknowingly capturing a valuable piece of his community's cultural history. Years later, his love came full circle when he built his residence around the clay factory remains. Brian feels a deep connection to the land and its history, and is grateful to see that renewed efforts are being taken to preserve it.



*View of clay factory, circa 1920, with the hills of Ohio Hanging Rock Preserve behind it. From Brian K. Fenton.*



*View of Clay Factory from the opposite side of the factory complex. Photo taken in the 1970s by Brian K. Fenton.*

# of the past



Lumber-filled flat cars leaving Frederick Road sawmill in 1974. Vast numbers of trees were harvested to convert wood into hotter-burning charcoal. Photo by Brian K. Fenton.



Refractory brick was designed to withstand the high temperatures of the interiors of furnaces, ovens, and locomotive fireboxes. Photo from the Brian K. Fenton Photo Collection.



Brian's current residence on Frederick Road, surrounding the elevator of the old clay factory. Photo from Scioto County Auditor.



## ohio's historic iron towns

When Ohio's iron ore industry was in its heyday, each furnace was rimmed with a bustling village in which the furnace workers lived, went to church, and raised their families.

**Hanging Rock, Ohio.** We acknowledge and pay tribute to the proud village of Hanging Rock, which is located in Lawrence County east of Portsmouth. The village was named for the Hanging Rock Iron Furnace built there in the 1820s. Current population of this historically rich village is 221, about 1/4 of what it was in 1890.

**Scioto Furnace, Ohio.** The closest blast furnace to Ohio Hanging Rock was in Scioto Furnace, a town located on a road connecting Portsmouth with Jackson. The furnace was in operation from 1828 until 1892.



Remains of the old Vesuvius Iron Furnace