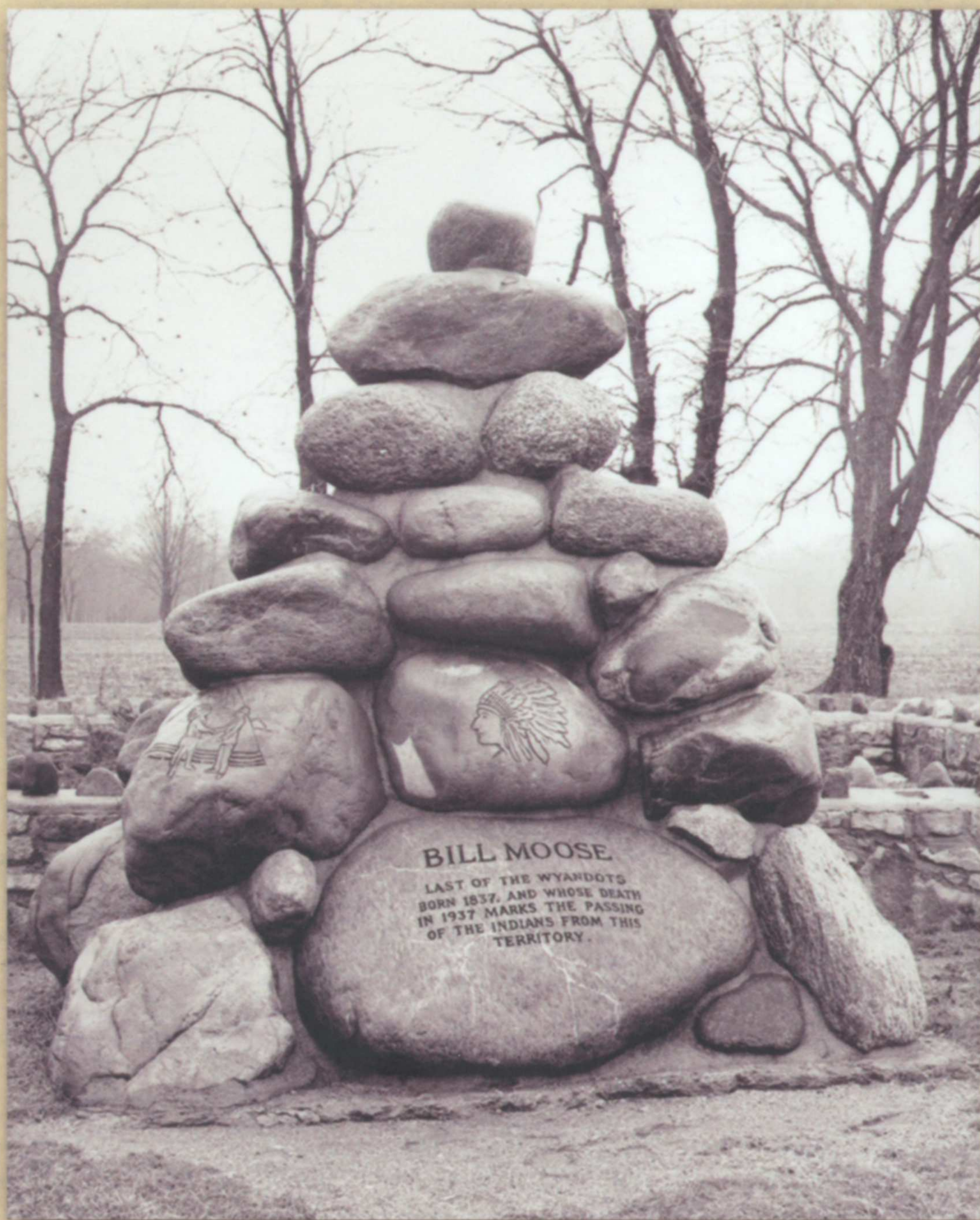


A Community Says Goodbye to Indian Bill Moose

THOUSANDS ATTEND FUNERAL FOR INDIAN BILL MOOSE...STATE, COUNTY, AND LOCAL VILLAGES PAY FINAL HONORS TO THE LAST OF THE WYANDOTS. These were the headlines in the local newspapers following one of the most moving burial ceremonies ever seen in Central Ohio. The Great "I Am" called Bill to his greatest adventure ever at 12:15am Monday, July 12, 1937, when he passed away in his sleep at the Franklin County Home at ninety-nine years, ten months.

The casket was furnished by P. E. Rutherford and designed especially for Bill by the Belmont Casket Company. The doors of Rutherford Funeral Home were opened for visitation Tuesday morning, July 13. Over 1600 people filed by his casket and paid their respects the first day. Bill lay in state for five days. During this time, combined with those attending the funeral, it was estimated that some 20,000 persons paid their respects to him.

The burial site, located at Lane Road and Riverside Drive, had been donated several years earlier by the Columbus City Council. The site was given the name "Wyandot Hill."



The unique monument known as "Granite Tepee" was 9 1/2 feet tall and constructed from 39 granite boulders picked up along the banks of the Scioto River.



Excerpts from address given by Earl H. Hanefeld Director of Agriculture, who in the absence of Governor Davey, came to represent the State of Ohio.

“It is always with a feeling of sadness we view the passing of the Indian. As they turned their faces westward before an advancing civilization and slowly but surely receded from the primeval forests, they left an example of courage, fortitude, and love of nature which has never been surpassed and seldom equaled in the history of mankind.

I like to think that the sterling qualities of mind and soul which dwelt in the heart of these first Americans were symbolized in the person of Bill Moose.

How fitting it is that such a person should be laid to rest on a windswept hill. No crowded cemetery or burial park, no granite mausoleum in the shade of evergreen trees and murmuring pines could be an appropriate resting place for such a one.

I make the prediction that the history of Bill Moose will be read by our posterity; and in future years, when parents tell their children stories of Indian lore, the life of Bill Moose will be a favorite tale.”