

” . . . an Indian House where there were a family of Wyandots hunting. . .“

At the point where the east branch, which flows about west from its source, makes nearly a right-angle turn and flows north, Rogers altered his course slightly and swung about south for what he called five miles—it is nearer seven—until he came again to the west branch of the Huron, east of the present-day city of Plymouth.

The west branch rises on the height of land in Richland County, flows northwest for a distance to cross the south boundary of Huron County (hence to enter the Firelands) at the southeast corner of Ripley Township. Then it flows west-northwest; then southwest; then south-southwest into New Haven Township; then southwest, to make a sharp bend out of the Firelands, then in again at Plymouth. Rogers reported that he crossed this portion of the stream at a point where it flowed west-northwest, which would make his crossing about where the Old State Road bridges the river today. An old Ottawa fort, marked on the 1764 map of Thomas Hutchins, lay just off the Firelands in Richland County in this region. The old Couchake trail also swings southeast, then south, here, and Rogers encountered it again to follow it across the Black Fork of the Mohican near the present town of Ganges, in Richland County. From here the trail goes southeasterly along the west side of the river to Perrysville, in Ashland County, where it again crosses the Mohican.

Rogers called the Black Fork of the Mohican the “Maskongom,” Near Perrysville, he found “an Indian Town about 20 Yards on the East Side of the Creek, this is called the Mohigon cabbins . . . the Indians here had plenty of Cows, Horses & Hogs &ca.” This town is sometimes called Mohican John’s prior to 1762. After that date, Mohican John’s appears to have moved north a few miles to Jeromesville. From Mohican John’s Town, Rogers went to the Indian village at the junction of Sandy Creek and the Tuscarawas river and from here to Fort Pitt.

Thus Major Robert Rogers completed his assignment and could report to General Monckton that his mission had been accomplished. The trip had been almost without incident. He and his Rangers had traversed the territory of the treacherous Wyandots with the same ease they might have gone on a hunting expedition. As has been said, his report to Monckton shows plainly that Rogers did not realize the implications of his journey.