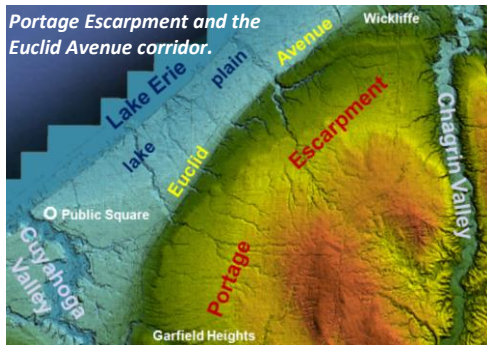


## Portage Periplus Journal

### Exploring the Portage Escarpment with Blackmore (1852) and Hopkins (1912)

With the *Portage Periplus Journal*, Bluestone Heights and the Morgan Conservatory engage Clevelanders with the deep history of an important local place.



East of downtown Cleveland, the Portage Escarpment is the gateway to “the Heights.” The escarpment is a major Ohio natural feature and it carries more than 200 years of Cleveland area cultural history.

On the escarpment, early settlers found drier soils and Lake Erie’s climate gentling effects. Deep ravines gave water, building stone, and easy links between plain and upland.

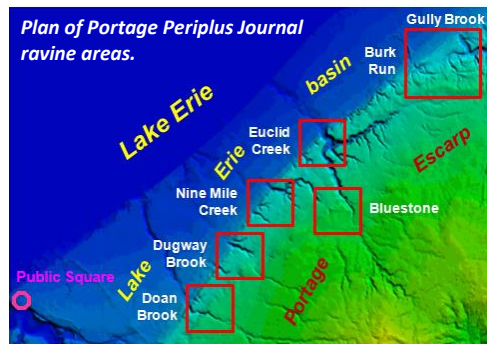
A major transport corridor traced the escarpment base. In 1800, the *Euclid Road* cut through a wilderness. By 1900, *Euclid Avenue* anchored a continuous line of settlement.

In 2013, the escarpment’s nature and early history is buried within the multi-layered built environments of Euclid Avenue and related highways. The cumulative richness of place is difficult to see and appreciate.

Bluestone Heights explores escarpment natural and cultural history with online mapping and onsite walking tours. To frame the presentations, we use the literary device of periplus, a narration of voyage along a shoreline. Conceptually, the *Portage Periplus* navigates the escarpment front to tell its deep history.

#### Octavofest 2013 event: *Portage Periplus Journal*

For Octavofest 2013, the Morgan Conservatory adds paper art to the project. The *Portage Periplus Journal* presents historical cartography and the periplus narrative on handmade map papers. On Oct 23, the Morgan will unveil the journal on premises. On Oct 26, Bluestone Heights will run a walking tour of Murray Hill in Little Italy, part of the Doan Brook ravine area.



The journal narrates travel eastward on Euclid Avenue, from Cleveland to Wickliffe. The periplus stops comprise six escarpment ravine areas with significant nature and culture: Doan, Dugway, Nine Mile, Euclid, Bluestone, and Burk-Gully. The ravines are products of the last glacial retreat, 14,000 years ago.\* The areas around the ravines have focused Euro-American settlement from 1797 to the present.

The journal builds upon important actual maps published in 1852 and 1912. The period character of each map helps organize stop histories as well as the dynamics of change between the datum years.



The voyages and voyagers take the names of the antique map publishers: Blackmore, ‘the explorer’ (1852), and Hopkins, ‘the developer’ (1912).

In publishing Cuyahoga County’s first map in 1852, Blackmore reifies a natural landscape not yet fully understood. The tentative depictions (of streams ponds, property lines and roads) read as an explorer’s sketch.

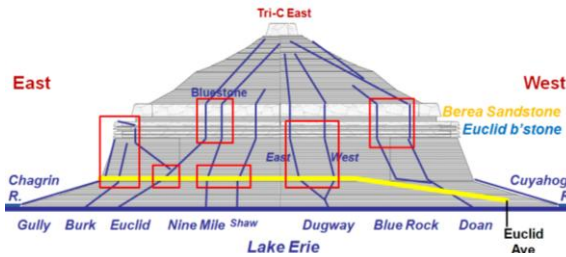


In 1912, Hopkins travels a well settled Euclid Ave and he maps the way with confidence. Hopkins has come-to-terms with nature and now faces the era of development. In this year, the built environment is complex enough to require color-coded lot and building types. Hopkins looks to corridor real estate as a means to profit.

*Blackmore, 1852 (above) and Hopkins, 1912: details of the Burk Run / Gully Brook ravine area*

#### Hybrid Maps

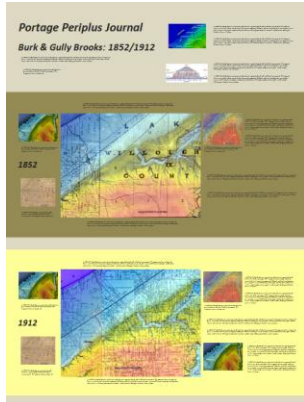
The antique maps represent the period landscape in two dimensions. We add the third dimension (elevation) to create informative hybrid maps for journal presentation.



**Profile of periplus journal ravine areas.  
View south from Lake Erie (exaggerated vertical scale).**

Digital Elevation Models (which accurately represent current elevations and incorporate color shading) provide the third dimension. Each journal hybrid shows an antique map as a digitally translucent overlay on an opaque DEM underlay.

The DEM underlay makes the antiques come alive. The hybrids help show how Clevelanders have developed nature and how cartographers have tackled escarpment terrain at two very different times.

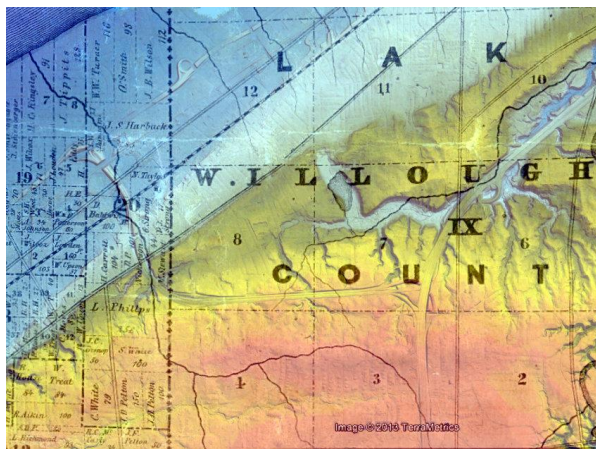


### Periplus Panels

The journal comprises six 16 x 20" panels, each representing a periplus stop. The panels have upper and lower graphic registers to hold the hybrid maps (~8 x 10") and surrounding images and text. Each register has infused period paper qualities.

For the Morgan Conservatory unveiling, the panel series will be hung left (west) to right (east), illuminating the periplus from Doan to Gully Brooks. For the viewer, the two voyages play out simultaneously along the panels. In shifting between upper and lower registers, one takes in 60 years of landscape change. Surrounding graphics and text help identify the wilderness of early settler times and the fast pace of early twentieth century cultural development.

**Portage Periplus Journal panel 6: the Burk Run/Gully Brook ravine area. Blackmore, 1852 (above) and Hopkins, 1912.**



**In 1852, at the Euclid-Willoughby Line, Blackmore struggled with the divergent drainage patterns of Euclid Creek east branch, Burk Run, and Gully Brook.**

The journal's humanities achievement is in pairing, on paper, the hybrid maps and the periplus literary device. The hybrids reflect on the nature and culture of Cleveland's formative years. The literary device reveals escarpment development through the eyes of the early cartographers who had to make sense of change on paper.

With the paper art component, the hybrid maps appear as if the DEM underlay derives from the original cartography. Each feels as if produced at its publication date.

### Significance

The *Portage Periplus Journal* navigates the urbanized Portage Escarpment to tell stories of local nature and culture. The resulting deep history puts the trends and events of change into larger perspective. On the surface, the journal pairs evocative historical imagery with a periplus narrative to create an engaging presentation. Under the surface, the journal looks backward to get Clevelanders looking forward, with change in mind, as we face current issues of urban redevelopment.

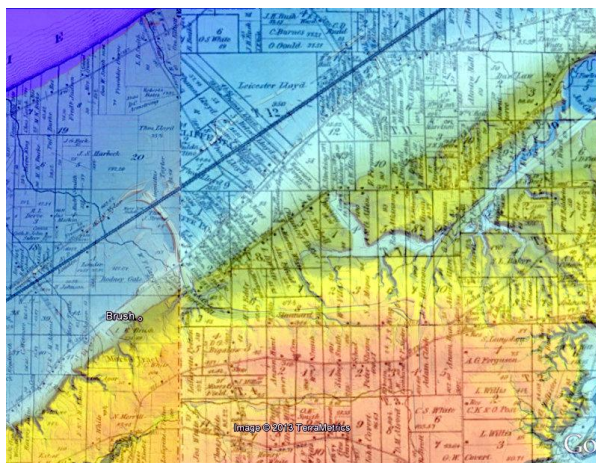
### Contributors

Archaeologist **Roy Larick** investigates escarpment deep history and the long term human-nature interaction.

Historian **William C. Barrow** builds the periplus human narrative on the history of place development.

Cartographer **Stephen Titchenal** produces the maps and graphic animations that bring people to comprehend.

Papermaker **Tom Balbo** fabricates journal rag papers to have true and palpable qualities of the antiques.



**In 1912, Hopkins drew basic stream course locations much more accurately. Nevertheless, Hopkins scaled back on representing natural features. Property subdivision lines had already overwhelmed the nature.**

\*On October 26, 2013, Larick and Barrow will lead a walking tour of Murray Hill/Little Italy, part of the Doan Brook ravine area and an important area for local stone quarrying and production carving.