

population of Detroit was around 800, but declined during the War of 1812. By 1818 it was up to 1100. Two events that helped promote Detroit were a surprise visit by President Monroe in 1817, and the first steamboat (Walk-in-the-Water) arrived as a symbolic opening of the Great Lakes. Interestingly, the population at Mackinac Island at times surges to 2000 during this period.

Several additional forts were built in the Michigan section of the Northwest Territory after treaties began to open some areas for settlement. Fort Gratiot was built at the site of Port Huron in 1816. Fort Saginaw, at the present site of Saginaw, and Fort Brady, at Sault Ste. Marie, were built in 1822. Michigan was slow in settling partly because of a reputation for poor land, and partly due to its weather. An Eastern rhyme was: "Don't go to Michigan, that land of ills; The word means ague, fever and chills."

In order to help combat the negative publicity, General Lewis Cass organized a grand tour that included 42 men. In this group were geologist Henry R. Schoolcraft and geographer David B. Douglass. They went to Mackinac Island, Sault Ste. Marie, the Pictured Rocks (now a national Lakeshore) on the southern shore of Lake Superior, Schoolcraft went to Ontonagon to see the copper boulder that had already been reported upon (now in the Smithsonian), sought the source of the Mississippi (later discovered at Lake Itasca in Minnesota by Schoolcraft), crossed into present-day Wisconsin, down to Fort Dearborn (Chicago) and across to Detroit. Some of the group went to present-day Green Bay and crossed on a more northerly route.

A series of events—the Walk-in-the-Water steamboat in 1818, the development of the Erie Canal in 1825, improved roads, progress in surveys, opening of land offices and better public relations all combined to make Michigan America's most popular western destination from 1830 to 1837.

SOME FOOTNOTES ABOUT WISCONSIN IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY PERIOD

The Wisconsin area of the Northwest Territory had few Americans for a long time. Fort Howard in the Green Bay area was garrisoned in 1816 on the Fox River. Fort Crawford was built at the mouth of the Wisconsin River at Prairie du Chien. John Jacob Astor, the fur trader, was a key player in the northern lakes area from his outposts at Mackinac during this period. Wisconsin only developed after the frontier period ended for the original Northwest Territory of the Great Lakes.

SOME BASIC FACTS ABOUT INDIANA IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY PERIOD

A short article in a booklet by Arville Funk entitled *A Sketchbook of Indiana History* (which includes many interesting essays on Indiana history) calls Chief Little Turtle the greatest Indian who ever lived in Indiana. He was certainly its greatest warrior: in fact, his war record exceeds Tecumseh and the famous western Indians. He won not just one significant battle, but three. And he was correct in forecasting the critical losses at Fallen Timbers and Tippecanoe.

LITTLE TURTLE OF THE MIAMIS

Probably the greatest Indian who ever lived in what became the Hoosier State was ME-SHE-KIN-NO-QUAH, or Little Turtle, the great chief of the Miami tribe. This great Indian was not only a famous war chief, but also the white man's best friend in Indiana after he and his tribe left the warpath.

Little Turtle was the son of AQUENACKQUE, or The Turtle, a famous Miami war chief during that tribe's many wars with the Iroquois tribe. Finally, the

Miami tribe was driven west to Indiana by the Iroquois, and settled along the Eel River and near the site of "Three Rivers," where Fort Wayne now stands. Little Turtle was born about 1752, probably at the site of his father's main village, Turtletown, about five miles east of present day Columbia City, along the KEN-A-PO-CO-MO-CO, or Eel River.

Little Turtle first came to the attention of the whiteman when he celebrated his first victory over a whiteman's army at a skirmish known as "LaBalme's Massacre" that occurred in November of 1780. LaBalme was a French "soldier of fortune," who led a small band of Creoles from Vincennes to attack the British garrison at Detroit. The Creole army stopped long enough at Kekionga (now Fort Wayne) to destroy that Indian village, and then journeyed over to nearby Eel River and captured and looted the Miami trading post there. On November 5th, the Indians, under the Leadership of Little Turtle, attacked LaBalme's group and massacred the entire force. This victory must have established the reputation of Little Turtle as a warrior, because he served as the chief of the Eel River tribe from then on.

Little Turtle was next heard from when he won two more victories over the "whites" near Eel River in October of 1790. Within a three-day period, he twice defeated the militia troops under the command of Colonel John Hardin. Hardin's force was a part of the army of General Josiah Harmar who was leading an expedition to destroy Indian towns around Kekionga. In the three days' action, Hardin lost over two hundred militia troops.

However, Little Turtle's greatest triumph over the Americans was to come the next year in western Ohio. On November 4, 1791, at a site 11 miles east of Portland, Indiana, and just across the state border in the Buckeye State, Little Turtle led his Indian army in an attack on General Arthur St. Clair's expedition. St. Clair was the governor of the Northwest Territory and commanded an army of 2700 in an expedition against the Indian tribes in northern Ohio. In a complete surprise attack and rout, Little Turtle inflicted the greatest defeat that an American army had met up to that time. In this action, which became known as "St. Clair's Massacre," the American army lost over one-third of its force.

Three years later, another American army, commanded by General Anthony Wayne, advanced into northern Ohio to engage the Miami Indian confederation. Little Turtle realized that this new army was much stronger and better trained than St. Clair's force and he refused to join forces with the other tribes to attack Wayne's army. The other tribes, led by Bluejacket, the Shawnee chief, did attack Wayne's command at Fallen Timbers and were soundly defeated by the American army.

After defeating the Indian army, Wayne invited the leading chiefs of the Northwest Territory to meet with him at Fort Greenville, Ohio, to sign a peace treaty under which the Indian tribes would be paid for their land, that would then become open to settlement by the whiteman. The eleven tribes present, including Little Turtle's tribe, sold over 25,000 square miles of land to the new government of the United States. Little Turtle signed the treaty and never again took the war-path against the whites.

Wayne had invited Little Turtle to visit the national capital and meet with the "great white father," President Washington. The great Miami chief, along with his adopted son, William Wells, travelled to Philadelphia (then the capital) and visited with the president in 1797. The president presented Little Turtle with a very expensive sword

and the national government hired the famous artist, Gilbert Stuart, to paint a portrait of the great chief.

Little Turtle returned to the nation's capital later to visit two other presidents, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. On one of his visits, the Miami chief persuaded the Society of Friends (Quakers) to help him in stopping the sale of liquor to the tribes in Indiana, and also to establish an agriculture school for the Indians to teach the whiteman's ways of farming. This historical school was established in 1804 near the little town of Andrews, just a few miles west of Huntington, but was never really successful and finally closed down when Tecumseh and the Prophet organized the tribes against the Americans in the years preceding the War of 1812.

In 1811, the Tecumseh confederation was openly planning war on the whites and was seeking to combine all of the tribes of the Northwest Territory in their confederation. Little Turtle, who was by then the whiteman's best friend in Indiana, succeeded in keeping his tribe from joining the Indian confederation and taking part in the Battle of Tippecanoe. By this time, the 60-year-old chief was in ill health, and crippled from rheumatism and gout. He was soon forced to leave his home on the Eel River and move to the house of his adopted son in Fort Wayne.

When the War of 1812 erupted, the great chief was on his death bed at the Wells' home at Fort Wayne. After several weeks of illness, the old chief died at Fort Wayne on July 14, 1812. He was given a military funeral by the American garrison at the fort and was buried in the old Indian cemetery on Spy Run, near the banks of the Wabash River. He was buried with Washington's sword and the medals and other honors that had been bestowed on him by the Americans. One hundred years later, in 1912, the grave was accidentally discovered, and the sword and other awards were put in the Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society Museum at Swinney Park.

Jacob Piatt Dunn, the famous Indiana historian, has paid the following tribute to the great chief, "he was the greatest of the Miamis, and perhaps, by the standard of achievement, which is the fairest of all standards, the greatest Indian the world has known." All Hoosiers should be proud of this great Indian chief, and he deserves to be remembered with the greatest of the historic figures in the history of our state.

The critical nature of controlling the junction at Kekionga and the pacification of the Indian nations of northwest Ohio and northern Indiana is a lesser known story of American history. Yet it is extremely important. Few have told it as well as historian John Ankenbruck of Fort Wayne. In one of his numerous books, *Five Forts*. He discusses the humiliating defeat of General Josiah Harmar at what is now Fort Wayne. Harmar destroyed the villages at Miamitown (Kekionga), and then, after two days, moved his army to Chillicothe (a Shawnee town today located about where Anthony Boulevard crosses the Maumee). Other soldiers were sent northwest toward suspected villages at Eel River. The Indians were hidden in an area near where U.S. 33 crosses Eel River. The troops were ambushed, with only 6 regulars surviving (22 regulars and 9 militia were killed). Harmar then burned the Shawnee town, and marched southeast to camp near the present-day town of Hoagland. Upon hearing that the Indians had come back to Miamitown, Harmar sent 500 troops back up to the Indian villages. Mounted riflemen crossed the St. Mary's at about where motorists today go over the Spy Run Bridge. They hoped to catch the Indians by surprise from the rear but instead Little Turtle nearly