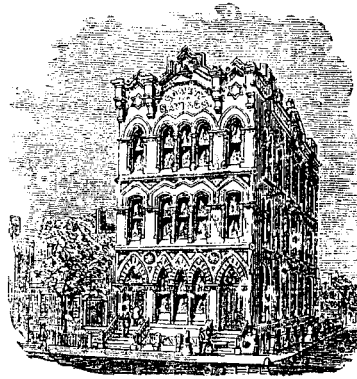


WESTERN RESERVE  
AND  
NORTHERN OHIO  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

CLEVELAND, OHIO.



*Tracts 1 to 36*

1870-1877.

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# Western Reserve HISTORICAL

## BATTLE AND MASSACRE JANUARY 1813

BY REV. THOMAS P. DUDLEY

The following incidents relating to the march of a detachment of Kentucky troops under Colonel Lewis to Frenchtown, on River Raisin, Michigan, January, 1813; battles of the 18th and 22d; the massacre of the prisoners, and the march to Fort Genesee on the Niagara river, were written by Rev. Thomas P. Dudley, of Lexington Ky., May 26th, 1870, and indorsed as follows:

A. T. Goodman, Esq., Secretary Western Reserve Historical Society:

DEAR SIR: I take pleasure in forwarding to your society an interesting and reliable narrative by the Rev. Thomas P. Dudley of this city. Very truly yours,

LESLIE COOMBS

LEXINGTON, June 1, 1870.

On the 17th day of January, 1813, a detachment of 550 men, under command of Colonel William Lewis, with Colonel Allen, and Majors Ben. Graves and George Madison, from the left wing of Northwest army, was ordered to Frenchtown, on the river Raisin, where it was understood a large number of British had collected, and were committing depredations on the inhabitants of that village. On the 17th, at night, the detachment encamped at the mouth of Swan creek, on the bank of the lake. On the 18th, they took up their line of march, meeting a number of the inhabitants retreating to the American camp, opposite to where Fort Mifflin was subsequently built. Our troops inquired whether the British had any artillery, to which the reply

MAY 29 1905

# Western Reserve and Northern Ohio HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

TRACT No. 36—JANUARY, 1877.

## Memoranda and Notes by the late Alfred T. Goodman.

Among the papers of our late secretary are many unfinished articles on various historical and biographical subjects. They all bear the marks of his capacity in gathering materials of this kind, and, incomplete as they are, possess too much value to be lost. With so much industry and a memory that seemed to retain everything that he read, had his life been spared there is no part of our local and personal history which he would not in process of time have made perfect in all its details. We shall publish occasionally from these fragments, a portion of which are presented here:

First—The bison or buffalo on the Ohio.

Second—Statements of General George Sanderson, Lancaster, O., April, 1870. War of 1812.

Third—Major Amos Stoddard, killed at Fort Meigs.

Fourth—General Harrison at Cleveland, O., 1812.

### On the Bison and Buffalo in Ohio.

FORT HARMAR, Nov. 9, 1789.

General Harmar to General Thomas Mifflin, writes that he is about to move to Fort Washington, opposite mouth of Licking, and in describing the neighborhood says that buffalo are in abundance.

FORT WASHINGTON, Feb. 25, 1790.

Harmar to Jonathan Williams, Philadelphia, (extract)—“Buffalo, venison, turkeys, fish, of uncommon size (when the season arrives), we have in the greatest abundance.”

FORT WASHINGTON, March 1, 1790.

Harmar to Daniel Clymer, of Reading, Pa., inviting him to visit the West, says—“We can afford you buffalo and venison in abundance.”

Denny's Journal, October 4th, 1787—“Passed over a great deal of poor land, particularly near the Great Lick, (presumed to

be in Indiana) which is not far distant from the road. When within a few miles of the Lick our hunters had leave to go ahead. Presently we heard the report of both their guns, and in a few minutes five buffaloes made their appearance, bearing furiously toward the head of the column. When within fifty paces the men in front were permitted to fire. This turned the heads of the animals; they passed along and received the fire of the whole line. Those only were shot down near the rear, where they approached within twenty paces.”

Bison were found by James Smith in Southern Ohio in 1750. 1746—Seen by General Croghan near Lake Erie. 1772—Rev. D. Jones found them on the Scioto and at the mouth of the Great Guyandotte. M. de Vandreuil, in a memoir on Canada, 1687—“Buffaloes abound on the south shore of Lake Erie, but not on the north.”

Ninety leagues up the Miami river at a place called La Glaise, (Dehance, O.) buffaloes are always found. They were observed “to wallow in the mud and eat the dirt.”

Charlevoix writing in 1721, under date of June 1st, at Long Point on Lake Erie, says “I know that on the south side of the lake there are vast herds of wild cattle.”

1787, March 27th. “Some of the hunters brought into the fort a buffalo that was eighteen hands high and weighed one thousand pounds.” Journal Sergeant John Bruck, Fort Harmar.

The same year a company from Fort Harmar left for Vincennes, on their return to the Falls of Ohio. Under date of October 4th, Sergeant Bruck says: “On our march to-day we came across five buffaloes. They tried to force a passage through our column. The General ordered the men to fire on them; three were killed and the others wounded.”

In a letter of Thomas Morehead, of Zanesville, Ohio, dated February 13th, 1863, he

says: "Captain James Ross, who has resided here fifty-five years, says that Ebenezer and James Ryan often talked with him of having killed buffaloes on the branch of Will's creek, which still is called "Buffalo Fork," twenty miles east of Zanesville."

Dr. S. P. Hildreth, of Marietta, O., in a letter dated February 25th, 1863, says: "I came to Marietta in 1806, and have seen many of the old inhabitants who have killed them (buffaloes) and eaten their flesh. Near the vicinity of Salt Springs their paths or roads were very distinct and plain after I came to Ohio, and to this day, on the hills there are large patches of ground, destitute of bushes and trees, where they used to congregate to stamp off the flies, digging the surface into deep hollows, called "Buffalo Stamps."

Albert Gallatin, when a young man surveying in West Pennsylvania and Virginia, observed buffaloes. He says: "In my time, 1784-5, they (buffaloes) were abundant on the south side of the Ohio, joining the great and little Kanawha. I have during eight months lived principally on their flesh."

As he describes the buffalo "tracks" or roads leading from the buffalo pasture-ground in Ohio to the Onondaga Lake, a distance of over 200 miles.

Filson mentions the buffalo as an inhabitant of Kentucky in 1784.

#### HARMAR TO KNOX.

Nov. 24, 1787.

"We arrived on the 7th of October at the rapids of the Ohio. The distance from Fort Vincennes is about 130 miles. We saw no Indians or signs of Indians. We had an action with five buffaloes, who would have run through the column had they not been prevented by the men facing and firing a volley at them. They killed three of them."

#### HARMAR TO MICHAEL HILLEGAS, N. Y.

FORT HARMAR, April 30, 1789.

DEAR SIR: I had the pleasure of receiving your letter by Captain Bradford, and now send you some more of the buffalo wool of a superior quality to the former. In the months of February and March is the time the wool is in proper season. I am apprehensive what was at first sent will not answer your purpose. But few buffalo are killed in the vicinity of Muskingum. \* \* \* \* \*

I am, &c.

Jos. HARMAR.

The last buffalo were killed in Ohio at Jackson county, in 1802, by a man who was living in 1838. Their paths or roads were then visible on the waters of Salt creek.

#### Statement of General George Sanderson, of Lancaster, O.

APRIL, 1870.

I was born at Carlisle, Cumberland county, Pa., January 10th, 1789, and removed to Kentucky with my parents in 1797. In 1800 we came to Ohio, and settled at Lancaster.

#### DEATH OF TECUMSEH.

At the battle of the Thames I commanded a company of Ohio Volunteers raised in Fairfield county. My command numbered 142 men. I remember Tecumseh. I saw him a number of times previous to the war. He was a man of huge frame, powerfully built, and was about six feet two inches in height. I saw his body on the Thames field before it was cold. Whether Colonel Johnson killed him or not I cannot say. During the battle all was smoke, noise, and confusion. Indeed, I never heard anyone speak of Colonel Johnson's having killed Tecumseh until years afterward.

Johnson was a brave man and was badly wounded in the battle in a very painful part—his knuckles, and also, I think, in his body. He was carried past me in a litter. In the evening I was appointed by Harrison to guard the prisoners with my company. The location was near a swamp. There is no doubt about the fact the Kentuckians skinned Tecumseh's body. *I saw them in the act.* They would cut strips about a half a foot in length and an inch and a half wide, which would stretch like gum-elastic. I saw a piece two inches long, which, when dry, could be stretched nearly a foot in length. That it was Tecumseh's body which was skinned there can be no question. I knew him, and the Indian prisoners under my charge continually pointed to his body, which lay close by, and uttered the most bewailing cries at his loss. By noon the day after the battle the body could hardly be recognized, it had been so thoroughly skinned. My men covered it with brush and logs, and it was probably eaten by wolves. Although the officers did not like the conduct of the Kentuckians, they dare not interfere. The troops from that State were infuriated at the massacre at the River Raisin, and their battle cry was, "Remember the massacre of the River Raisin." It was with difficulty that the Indian prisoners could be guarded, so general was the disposition of the Kentuckians to massacre them.

#### HULL'S SURRENDER.

In 1812 I raised a company in Fairfield county and formed a part of the regiment of Colonel Lewis Cass. Was surrendered at Detroit by General Hull. My opinion of General Hull's conduct, formed at the time, was—and events since have not changed it—that

Hull was an imbecile, not a traitor or a coward, but an imbecile, caused by drunkenness. He was an ardent drinker. On the day before the surrender, his son, Captain Abraham F. Hull, came among my men in a beastly state of drunkenness.

The British had erected fortifications across the river, which kept up a continuous fire upon us. Hull should never have allowed the enemy to construct those works.

On the day of the surrender I saw Hull frequently. His face about his mouth and chin was covered with tobacco juice, and I thought, in common with other officers, that the General was under the influence of liquor. He was surrounded with a military family, the members of which were fond of high times, wines and liquors. After his surrender, and before the enemy had entered, many officers begged Colonel James Findlay to take command of the American forces and resist the enemy, but he declined to take command. Colonel James Miller was also requested to take command, but he was unwilling to assume the responsibility, saying, "Matters have gone too far, but had Hull signified to me his intention of surrendering I would have assumed command and defended the fort to the last." Miller would have done so, too.

After the surrender General Isaac Brock, the British commander, came into the fort. We were ordered to the parade ground, and there piled up our muskets, swords, pistols, knives, cartridge boxes, etc. A heavy guard was placed over us, and we were then sent to the "citadel," where we were kept until released on parole. Hull and the regular officers were sent to Quebec. Brock was a heavily built man, about six feet three inches in height, broad shoulders, large hips, and was lame, walking with a cane. One of his eyes, the left one I think, was closed, and he was withal the ugliest officer I ever saw. He wore a scarlet uniform, with a sash wrapped tight around his waist.

When he came to my company, he said to me, "If your men attempt to escape, or to complain of their treatment, I cannot be answerable for the consequences, but if they remain quiet and orderly, will shortly be released and no harm shall befall them."

All the officers of our army who conversed with Brock; spoke of him as a very gallant and agreeable gentleman, who had seen much service in India and in the East.

Colonel George Paull, who commanded the Twenty-seventh United States Infantry, was a lawyer, and resided at St. Clairsville, O. I think he was born about the year

1775, in Pennsylvania. His father, of the same name, was a major of Pennsylvania Militia in Harmar's campaign. Colonel Paull was a man of small frame; light complexion, and did not enjoy good health while in the service. He was rather unpopular with the men, but was a gallant soldier, and fearless in the discharge of duty.

He died many years ago at St. Clairsville.

CHARLES T. SHERMAN.

Judge Sherman was a man of genial temperament, kind, social and agreeable, very popular with members of the bar. He was a lawyer of fine talent. In 1810 he came to Lancaster from Connecticut, and in 1811 returned for his wife and child. I have heard it stated that Mrs. Sherman carried her infant son from Connecticut to Ohio, (now Judge Charles T. Sherman, of Cleveland) on a pillow in front of her on horseback. Judge Sherman had been revenue collector for the Fairfield district, and became a poor man through the negligence, carelessness, and fraud of his deputies. He had the respect of citizens of every range of politics, and when elected Judge of the Supreme Court received every vote in the State House of Representatives. I revere his memory.

April 16, 1870. GEORGE SANDERSON.

MAJOR AMOS STODDARD, KILLED AT FORT MEIGS IN MAY, 1813.

Born in Woodbury, Conn., 1759, son of Anthony Stoddard, of Woodbury, and grandson of Rev. Anthony Stoddard, of Woodbury. Entered the Revolutionary army, 1779; served till 1783, when he settled at Boston, Mass., as Clerk of the Supreme Court. Studied law with Theophilus Parsons, admitted, and settled as a barrister at Hallowell, Me., in 1791. In 1799 appointed captain of artillery, promoted to major, June 7th, 1807; served in Louisiana as Military Governor of that Territory after the purchase from France. He was a man of ability. Early in the war of 1812 he was appointed by Harrison Chief of Artillery, Northwestern Army. At Fort Meigs, May 11th, 1813, he was wounded by a shell, which produced lock-jaw. Author of "Political Crisis" and Sketches of Louisiana.

It is reported that by his own request his body was buried in one of the bastions. As yet the place of burial has not been identified.

His dirk, an elegant weapon, which he carried at Fort Meigs, is in possession of the Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, O.

A brother resided in Boardman, Trumbull

