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Historical Memoranda
of the
Territory of Michigan
1904.

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Historical
Memoranda

of the

Territory of
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Gift.

Mr. J. H. Russell

17Ja '05

**THE
DETROIT
GAZETTE,**

THE FIRST NEWSPAPER published west of Buffalo was started as a weekly paper in the year 1817.

In 1819 there was published in the Gazette a short history of the territory under the title of Historical Memoranda of the Territory of Michigan, in serial form, beginning May 21, 1819, and continuing through several succeeding numbers.

The following pages contain a reprint of this little history.

The chief value of the article lies in the fact that it was written shortly after the conclusion of the War of 1812, and it relates the details of the surrender of Detroit as only could be narrated by one who was an eye-witness or a participant in that inglorious event.

As the work has never before been printed in book form, it can be considered a rarity well worth preserving, and, as such, I commend it to your notice.

C. M. BURTON.

DETROIT, Oct. 30, 1904.

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Historical Memoranda

OF THE

Territory of Michigan.



THE earliest period at which, from authentic data, we are able to fix the first settlement of any importance by white people in this territory is the year 1683¹; at this period the French Government in Canada, in pursuance of their policy of gaining an ascendancy over the Indian tribes, thereby to secure to themselves the benefits of the fur trade, to the exclusion of the colonies of New York and New England, as well as the alliance of the Indians in their wars with these colonies, had extended their settlements to Detroit and Michilimackinac. From this period, merged in the history of Canada, and possessing no individuality of character, it remained under a colonial military government until after the capitulation of Quebec, in the year 1759, and of Montreal in the year 1760, when Detroit and Michilimackinac were surrendered by the governor of Canada to his Britannic majesty.

(1) This part of the country (Detroit) was¹ visited by white men as early as 1649, and there were a number of Jesuit missions established in the neighborhood, but not exactly at the location of Detroit, as early as 1655. The post of Detroit was founded by Antoine de La Mothe Cadillac July 24, 1701.

and were immediately garrisoned by English troops.²

The civil chief magistracy of the country was then vested in a military commandant, under the governor of Canada.

Although Great Britain, by the success of her arms, had obtained the whole of the French possessions in Canada, the Indians within its limits were by no means satisfied with the change—they still retained that predilection for the French which it had been the policy of that government and of the Jesuit priests to inspire. Consequently, in 1763, a confederation of the Hurons, Miamis, Chippewas, Ottawas, Pottawatomies and the Messaugies, with, perhaps, some other tribes, was formed to act against the British posts. The Indians, under the command of Pontiac, a celebrated chief of the Miamis, surprised and took Michilimackinac by one of those stratagems which so peculiarly distinguish the savage character, but, contrary to the custom of the Indians, few, if any, lives were taken on this occasion, and the garrison and traders were sent to Montreal.

Emboldened by this success, Pontiac with his army proceeded to Detroit, in force about 3,000 strong. Having succeeded so well in his former stratagem, he determined to capture Detroit by similar means. He approached the town under pretense of trade, and, "to brighten the chain of Peace," proposed a council. He selected a number of the most daring of his followers to accompany him to the fort, in which the pretended council was to be

(2) Detroit was surrendered by the last French commandant, Picote de Belestre, to the New England scout and ranger, Major Robert Rogers, in the fall of 1760.

held, having sawed off their guns sufficiently short to be concealed under their blankets. It was arranged that at a given signal they were to fire upon the officers, let in their companions, and commence a general massacre. The execution of this daring plan was, however, prevented by an Indian woman, who communicated it to Major Gladwin, the commanding officer. The Indians went to the council according to the plan preconcerted, but from the disposition made by the commanding officer to receive them they were diverted from attempting to execute their design, and the commanding officer, having openly charged them with their treachery, permitted them to retire unmolested. Ungrateful for this ill-judged magnanimity, they soon after invested the place, and a siege was continued, with occasional skirmishes, for more than a year.

Of these skirmishes, the most disastrous to the British was the defeat of Captain Dalyell, at a place since called Bloody Bridge, about two miles above Detroit. The party of Captain Dalyell consisted of 200, of which a great proportion, including himself, fell victims to the savages. Thus reduced, it was with great difficulty the commanding officer continued to maintain the place until he was relieved by a British schooner, with a reinforcement and supplies. This vessel had narrowly escaped capture, having been attacked and boarded by a large number of Indians, who surrounded her in canoes opposite the head of an island, since called Fighting Island. Her escape from capture was owing to some one on board calling out to set fire to the magazine; this having been communicated to the Indians

by a Frenchman of their party, they left the vessel with precipitation.

Soon after this the Indians raised the siege and separated.

A short time after this period, difficulties between Great Britain and her colonies began to arise, and led to the war which broke out in 1775. During this struggle, and before its commencement, strong appeals had been made to the people of Canada by the other colonies to induce them to join in the cause of liberty, but without effect. This is probably to be accounted for in the difference of their relative laws and government. The people of the colonies, particularly of New England, having fled from oppression in the old world, were, from their first emigration into the new, particularly jealous of civil liberty, and could not but be disposed to resist with indignation any attempt to tax them without their consent. On the contrary, Canada from its first colonization appears to have been governed by a military commandant—hence, the people knew little of the benefits, and relished still less the trouble, of self-government.

From the commencement to the close of the revolutionary war, little of interest is presented to the notice of the historian. Remote from the scenes of action, and separated by an immense wilderness, the people of this territory had probably little direct agency in the affairs of the revolutionary war, and from its close, in 1782,³ the British continued to hold the territory, together with several posts on the American side of the lakes, until 1796, when, in pursuance of Jay's treaty, this country was delivered

(3) Hostilities ceased under the preliminary treaty of peace in 1782, but the final treaty was not signed until a year later.

up to the United States. But previous to this, wars had been carried on with the Indian tribes with various success, during which occurred the defeat of Colonel Crawford, at Upper Sandusky, in 1789⁴; of General Harmar, on the Scioto, in 1791, and of General St. Clair, in the latter part of the same year,⁵ near Fort Jefferson.

The Indians, emboldened by these frequent advantages, began to increase their depredations and incursions upon the frontier settlements on the Ohio, and began to assume so serious an aspect that Congress raised a force of five thousand men, and General Wayne was appointed commander-in-chief, in room of St. Clair, who had resigned. While preparations were making, attempts at negotiation were renewed, and Colonel Harden and Major Freeman were sent into the Indian country with proposals for peace; they failed, and both were inhumanly murdered by the Indians. At length, on the 8th of August, 1794, General Wayne with his army reached the confluence of the Miami and Auglaize, where he halted and threw up some works of defense, being about thirty miles from the British post on the Miami of the lakes, in the vicinity of which the Indians were collected to the number of about 2,000. The legion commanded by Wayne was at this time of about equal force, exclusive of 1,100 mounted men from Kentucky, under General Scott. From the 14th to the 20th of August, General Wayne cautiously advanced down the Miami, and on the latter day a general and decisive action took

(4) Col. William Crawford was captured by the Indians and burned to death June 11, 1782.

(5) Gen. Harmar was defeated near the villages of the Miamis Oct. 19 and 22, 1790, and Gen. St. Clair was defeated Nov. 4, 1791.

place. The Indians were posted behind trees, and the General directed his legion to advance with trailed arms, and with their bayonets to drive the enemy from their shelter, and then deliver their fire. So rapid was the charge and so entirely were the enemy broken, that in the course of one hour they were driven more than two miles. The General pursued them, burnt their houses, and laid waste their cornfields within pistol shot of the British fort. The victory had so decisive an effect that General Wayne was enabled to conclude a treaty with the hostile Indians at Greenville, on the 3d of August, 1795, and soon after the posts of Detroit and Michilimackinac⁶ were delivered to the Americans.

Immediately after the surrender of these posts, in 1796, this territory fell under the government and formed a part of the territory northwest of the Ohio. After the admission of Ohio into the Union as an independent State, this territory and Indiana became the North-Western Territory,⁷ until they were separated and formed two distinct territories, in 1805, this by the name and title of the Territory of Michigan, over which William Hull was appointed governor, and Detroit became the seat of government.

Nothing of importance occurs in the history of this territory until after the commencement of the war with Great Britain, in June, 1812. General Hull having been appointed a brigadier-general in May, left the City of Washington for Detroit, with orders from the War Department anticipating the declaration of war. He was clothed with discretionary

(6) Now called Mackinac.

(7) Called Indiana Territory. The name "North West Territory" ceased on the admission of Ohio in 1802.

powers to commence operations in Canada as soon as the declaration of war should reach him, if, in his opinion, his force would warrant him. On his route through Ohio he was joined by three regiments, who had enrolled themselves under the proclamation of the President; they were commanded by Colonels McArthur, Cass and Finlay. On his arrival with his army at the Miami of the Lake, he dispatched his hospital stores and the baggage of the officers on board a schooner for Detroit, but the enemy having had information of the declaration of war, the vessel with the property was captured at Malden.⁸

On the 12th of July, General Hull having made the preliminary preparations passed over into Canada, and established his headquarters at Sandwich, and on the same day issued his famous proclamation, in which he announced his force to be the vanguard of a much greater, and invited the Canadians to join his standard, or remain quiet, assuring them of protection. At this time the enemy's force at Malden was very diminutive and their works of defense in a weak and unfinished state. Had General Hull advanced immediately upon Malden, it is believed he would have met with very little opposition; on the contrary, by his vacillating policy and the *petit guerre* which he carried on, so little comporting with the high ground he had taken in his proclamation, and so far short of the prompt and decisive movements which were expected from so respectable a force, that the enemy, after their first alarm had subsided, began to gather confidence.

(8) This little boat was called the Cuyahoga.

which, as the character of General Hull was gradually developed, continued to increase.

The army lay inactive from the 12th of July to the 8th of August, nothing having been attempted but to send out small detachments to reconnoitre the enemy and secure the passage of the bridge aux Canard, a few miles above Malden on the road to that place. On one of these expeditions, commanded by Colonel Cass, the guard at the bridge were surprised, and with difficulty effected their retreat. The capture of the bridge secured a passage to Malden. Nothing, however, seems to have been further from the mind of the General than to have availed himself of this opportunity of advancing, and he appeared to be waiting for a plausible pretext to retreat back to Detroit; and a pretext was not long wanted. Lieutenant Hanks,⁹ a brave and intelligent officer, had been entrusted with the command of Michilimackinac, but, owing to the unpardonable negligence or treachery of those whose duty it was to have forwarded the information, was not, until the 9th of July, informed that the United States were at war with England; and was then only informed of it by finding himself closely invested by a body of British regulars, Canadian militia and Indians, amounting to 1,000 men, under Captain Roberts, who had seized on an eminence and erected a battery in the night, which would have completely raked the parade ground within the fort. Under such circumstances, he found himself compelled to capitulate, and the garrison, amounting to 57, including officers, surrendered prisoners of war.

(9) Lieut. Porter Hanks was killed on the morning of Aug. 16, 1812, by the bursting of a shell in the Fort at Detroit just before the surrender.

On the 8th of August, General Hull determined to return to Detroit. When this was announced to the army it was received with universal surprise and disgust. The volunteers who had so early enrolled themselves under the banner of their country from motives of purest patriotism—who had left their homes (many of them of ease and affluence) to encounter the toils and privations of a long and tedious march through a wilderness country, supported by the hope that they should immediately be led to meet the enemies of their country, could scarcely restrain their indignant feelings within the limits of subordination.

Soon after General Hull entered Canada he received information of the near approach of a quantity of provisions under the escort of Captain Brush,¹⁰ of Ohio, and that a number of Indians had crossed from Malden with a design of cutting off the escort. On this he detached Major Vanhorn with 200 men to protect the convoy. This detachment was surprised near Brownstown, and having received a severe fire, in which fifteen were killed, retreated back to Detroit. Intelligence of this disaster having been communicated to the General, he immediately detached Lieutenant-Colonel Miller, of the Fourth Regiment, with 600 men, consisting of regular infantry, one company of artillery and a detachment of Ohio and Michigan volunteers, with orders to proceed to the River Raisin and meet the provisions and troops, and open communication to Detroit.

On the 9th of August, about the middle of the afternoon, a few miles above Brownstown, Colonel

(10) Capt. Henry Brush was a cousin of Elijah Brush, then a prominent citizen of Detroit and an officer in the militia.

Miller encountered a large force of British and Indians, who had posted themselves securely behind a thicket of woods and a breastwork of logs. Captain Snelling, who commanded the vanguard, received the first fire of the enemy, and, though his command suffered severely, they maintained their ground until supported by Colonel Miller with his whole force. The Colonel having formed his line, advanced to within a few paces of the enemy, gave his fire and then charged with the bayonet; the enemy gave ground and fled to Brownstown, keeping up a fire on their retreat, but they were pursued until night put an end to the action. The British regular force was about 400, their whole force about 1,000. Colonel Miller was compelled to forego the advantages resulting from this victory, in consequence of his being destitute of provisions, which General Hull had assured him would be forwarded after and overtake him on his march, but which was neglected, and he returned to Detroit.

A few days after this Colonels McArthur and Cass were detached on different routes to meet the troops at the River Raisin, which consisted of the companies commanded by Captain Brush and Captain Rowland, a part of Captain Campbell's company of volunteers, commanded by Lieutenant Day, a small detachment of Colonel Cass' regiment under Lieutenant Davidson, which had been left at a block house at Miami, and a few regular soldiers of the Fourth Regiment, in all about 250. These troops, with all the ardor which distinguished the times, were burning with impatience to join General Hull's army, and only waited his orders to advance and attempt a passage through.

At length, on the 15th of August, the enemy, consisting of regulars, Canadians and Indians, amounting to about 1,000 men, under the command of General Brock, commenced movements which indicated an intention to cross the strait opposite Springwells. At this time General Hull was urged to plant a battery at that commanding eminence, which, from its advantageous situation, would, had it been well supported with infantry, have cut the enemy to pieces before they could have made good their landing. This course, the propriety of which was so obvious to all, was unaccountably neglected by the General, as some vainly persuaded themselves, with a design to let the enemy place themselves more effectually in his power; for, even after the enemy had, unopposed, effected their landing, they must have been either captured or destroyed had General Hull permitted his troops to have fought, for, whilst General Brock was marching his column along the road to Detroit, which was narrow, the river running on his right and a line of palisade fence on the left, several field pieces, charged with grape and canister, were placed in a position to have completely enfiladed his column in front. The men were ready at the guns with their matches burning, and eagerly waiting the signal to fire; at the same moment the infantry were out under arms, and could in a moment have wheeled to attack them in flank, whilst the detachment of Colonel Cass, then on its return, would have assailed them in rear. Under such circumstances, it is rational to suppose that nothing less than a miracle could have saved the British army from capture or destruction. At such a moment, when the arm of the patriot was nerved for

contest, when the enemy which he had so long and so eagerly sought was before him, under circumstances so favorable, and he exulted in the hope of a proud triumph for his country, with what agonized sensations did he behold a white flag flying over the Star-Spangled Banner. The General, as Colonel Cass observed in his letter to the War Department, must have taken counsel of his own feelings alone, as no one anticipated a surrender; even the women were indignant at so shameful a degradation of the American character. The volunteers were paroled and sent to their homes, and the regulars were sent to Quebec.

The General in his articles of capitulation included the troops and public property at River Raisin, and Captain Elliot was despatched with an escort of Indians to that place, bearing a copy of the articles of capitulation. As soon as information was communicated to that garrison that a British officer, accompanied by Indians and bearing a flag, was approaching, a short council was held, the result of which was a conviction in the minds of the officers that it was a stratagem on the part of the Indians to capture the garrison and get possession of the supplies designed for General Hull. It was believed that the Indians were hovering round in force to take advantage of circumstances, and it was not thought advisable to suffer the flag to approach the place. Captain Rowland, therefore, volunteered with a small detachment to meet them some distance from the garrison. On approaching, Captain Elliot, the bearer of the flag presented the articles of capitulation. The circumstances appeared so improbable that Captain Rowland was the more con-

firmed in his first impressions that it was a stratagem. He therefore disarmed the party, and blindfolded and conducted them into the fort. In the evening of the same day, which was the 17th, some stragglers of our army, who had escaped from Detroit, arrived and brought a full confirmation of the painful and disgraceful fact. The same night a council was held, in which it was determined immediately to commence a retreat to the State of Ohio, which, after encountering innumerable difficulties, was safely effected.

On hearing the news of the surrender of Detroit, the States of Kentucky and Ohio and the western parts of the States of Virginia and Pennsylvania flew to arms. A considerable force was collected at Urbana, under General Tupper, and in September a brigade of Pennsylvania and one of Virginia militia were on the march to join General Harrison, who had been appointed a major general, and was at Piqua, preparing to march an army to recover the country which had been surrendered. Owing to the delays which attended the transportation of cannon from Pittsburg (in the fall of the season and over newly cut roads), it was the latter part of December before General Harrison was able to concentrate the right division of his army at Upper Sandusky. The left division, consisting of the Kentucky militia and a few regulars, under the command of General Winchester, having learned that there was a quantity of forage at the River Raisin, of which the army, owing to the remoteness of their depots and the difficulties of transportation, were greatly in want, detached Colonel Lewis on the 18th of January, who attacked and defeated a body of

Indians at that place. On the next day the General, with the greater part of his division, which united amounted to about 1,000 men, moved on to the River Raisin, where he encamped until the 22d. In the interim he was informed that a large body of British and Indians were advancing from Malden¹¹ and Detroit to attack him. It does not, however, appear that the General placed any reliance on this information, as no measures were taken to fortify his camp or otherwise guard against such an event. His army was encamped in a line parallel with the river, which ran a short distance in his rear. His left, under the command of Major Madison, was posted behind a fence of palisades. His right wing was unprotected, it would seem, from choice, as the same protection was accessible to it as the left had obtained. At the dawn of day on the 22d the left wing was attacked. The troops of this wing being in a great measure protected from small arms, fought with confidence, and gave their fire with deliberation and effect, insomuch that the enemy suffered severely. They made several charges, and were as often foiled and driven back with loss, and it was with the greatest difficulty the officers of the enemy could induce their men to keep their ground. At length they drew off from the left wing and concentrated their whole force upon the right, which, being unprotected, soon gave way. It is said that an order was given by the General to retreat, with a view of taking a position under the protection of the bank, in rear. The result, however, was most disastrous, for the savages, who until this moment had kept aloof, now pressed upon their retiring steps

(11) The fort at Amherstburg was called Fort Malden.

with hideous yells and all the terrific accompaniments of savage war. Under such circumstances, the utmost exertions of the officers to rally the men were in vain. Then commenced a scene the most shocking to humanity, and which beggars all description. The savages having kept a little aloof with a view to separate them the more effectually from their companions on the left, and not too suddenly to check their hopes of safety in flight, now gradually closed in upon them, and deliberately commenced the work of slaughter. So effectually did this plan succeed that, of the whole number who attempted it, not more than three or four made good their retreat to the Rapids. The left wing still kept their ground and maintained the action, although by the destruction of the right the enemy were enabled to turn their flank and rear.

In this critical situation, having been summoned repeatedly to surrender, at length, at the solicitation of General Winchester, who had been captured, Major Madison consented to capitulate, on condition of being protected from the savages, of retaining their private property, and the officers their side arms. On these terms this ill-fated division, amounting to four hundred and fifty, surrendered to the enemy. General Proctor, on being reminded by General Winchester of his engagements, reiterated his assurance that the wounded should the next day be carefully conveyed in sleighs to Malden. So ill did he keep his faith that on the next day the wounded who were unable to walk were inhumanly butchered in cold blood by the savages. Amongst the number was Captain Hart, a man highly esteemed as an officer and a gentleman.

General Harrison, soon after this disaster, determined to fortify and take up his winter quarters and await reinforcements. On the 1st of May the enemy made an attack upon his position, which was continued until the 5th, when General Harrison was informed of the near approach of General Clay with reinforcements of Kentucky militia of 1,200 men. He sent orders to General Clay to detach 800 of his men to storm the enemy's batteries on the opposite side and spike the cannon. This service was performed with great gallantry; but, not content with doing all they were ordered to do, they pursued the retreating enemy until they were led into an ambuscade, and the whole detachment except 150 men were killed or taken. At the same time a sortie was made by Colonel Miller against a battery that had been erected near the Fort on the same side of the river, which from its commanding situation greatly annoyed the troops. Colonel Miller succeeded in driving the enemy from their battery, spiked their cannon and returned with 42 prisoners.

In August General Harrison, having been reinforced by the 26th, 27th and 28th Regiments, which in the course of the summer had been raised in Ohio and Kentucky, was encamped at Seneca, waiting the operations on Lake Erie.

On the 10th of September the American fleet found the enemy's, gave battle, and by the gallantry of Commodore Perry and the officers and men of his fleet a signal victory was obtained.

On the 23d of September, 1813, General Harrison landed his army near Malden, which he found evacuated by the enemy and their fort and shipyard and other public buildings consumed. General

Proctor, with such of the inhabitants and Indians as still adhered to him, retreated towards York by the route of the River Thames. Owing to the contractor having no means of transportation, few provisions could be obtained, and General Harrison, that he might be unencumbered with baggage, which, in consequence of the deficiency of transports, would have delayed the landing of the troops, had directed the tents and knapsacks to be left at Put-in-Bay, so that the troops were not only nearly destitute of provisions, but entirely so of camp equipage. Under these circumstances, a question arose on the expediency of pursuing the enemy, particularly when to those difficulties was added the improbability, if not impossibility, of overtaking Proctor, who had left Sandwich on the 26th of September. But the zeal of the troops overcame all these difficulties, and on the 2d of October General Harrison took up his line of march in pursuit of the enemy, and on the 5th overtook, routed and captured them near the Moravian town. Before the fate of the day was decided General Proctor with his staff effected their retreat.

In this action fell the celebrated chief, Tecumseh. He is represented to have been no less distinguished for his humanity and generosity than for his bravery and devotedness to the cause he had espoused. Though identified with the savages by birth and education, and through life our most determined enemy, yet the brave man will hail him as a brother, and shed the tear of sympathy for his fate. Six hundred British regulars were taken in this action, and all their baggage and camp equipage. General Harrison soon after returned to De-

troit. The result of this campaign was that all the territory surrendered in 1812 was recovered, except the post of Michilimackinac.

General Harrison having entered into treaties with the neighboring tribes of Indians who came forward and made their submissions, moved with a part of his army to the Niagara frontier, and the command of this division was given to General Cass. The barracks which had been burned by the enemy were partially rebuilt, and Malden was occupied by a detachment of United States troops. During the succeeding winter little of moment occurred in the quarter. A violent epidemic disease prevailed among the troops, and no hostile operations were carried on against the enemy, except occasional reconnoitering parties, the most considerable of which was a detachment of 300 men under Major Holmes, who penetrated to within a short distance of Oxford. He was attacked in his encampment, which he had secured by a temporary breastwork, by a superior force of British regulars and Canadian militia. Major Holmes obtained a decisive victory; the regulars were nearly all killed or wounded; one officer was taken, and near fifty men left dead on the ground, while the loss of Major Holmes was only one killed and two wounded. This affair occurred on the 4th of March, at a place called Stony Creek.

In the month of July, 1814, an expedition was planned and fitted out to Michilimackinac, the command of which was given to Lieutenant-Colonel Croghan, who had distinguished himself by his gallant defense of Fort Stephenson, or Sandusky, in 1813. The naval force was commanded by Capt.

Sinclair. In this affair Colonel Croghan did not support the reputation he had previously acquired. Instead of sailing directly to the island of Michilimackinac, and thereby surprising the enemy before he had time to strengthen himself by fortifying and collecting the Indians from the mainland, the fleet showed itself some days before the island, and sent an expedition up the Sault of St. Mary's.

In the meantime Colonel McDowell, the British commandant, was vigorously employed in preparing to receive an attack. It is likewise thought that Colonel Croghan's plan of attack, and particularly the place selected to make his landing, were injudiciously chosen; for, by landing on the back part of the island he had several miles to traverse, over a rocky, rough country, with a thick growth of brushwood, which, being filled with Indians, could from their concealment kill his men at their leisure without exposing themselves. It would have been morally impossible (as it turned out) for him to have reached the fort; and, could he have effected this, he would in all probability have been so crippled and his men so disheartened as to have extinguished all desire for storming the works. On the contrary, it is believed that had he sailed directly to the island, and effected a landing under the guns of the fort, his loss would not have exceeded the actual loss sustained in the partial encounter with the Indians, in which nothing was gained but mortification and disappointment. In this affair fell Major Holmes, Captain Vanhorn and Lieutenant Jackson, all highly respectable and esteemed officers. Major Holmes added to a courage which no danger could dampen, a fund of talents and skill in his profession which,

had he lived to pursue the career which he had commenced, would have shed a lustre upon his name, and rendered signal service to his country.

Soon after this period, commenced the civil government of this territory, which had in a great degree been suspended from 1812, and General Cass was appointed Governor. The return of peace, in 1815, was joyfully hailed by the people of Michigan, who had been long harassed and disturbed by a savage border war with all its frightful concomitants, during which the inhabitants of the territory, although many of them were strangers to our language, laws and government, have borne every species of privation and distress that savage malice could suggest. True to the country of their adoption, they have been prodigal of their blood and treasure in defense of its injured rights, alike heedless of the appalling alarms of plunder, conflagration and death, as deaf to the insidious arts of their neighbors in Canada, they have evinced throughout the trying ordeal a constancy and fortitude in every varying change highly creditable to them as patriotic citizens, and equally honorable to them as soldiers.



Read by J. B. Robinson

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