



The Frog Leg Eagle News

Battlefield Attendance on the Rise



Since its official opening in October of 2015, the number of visitors to the Fallen Timbers Battlefield has steadily increased. Despite some brutal winter weather and a Visitor Center which is still being developed, the attendance is better than anyone had expected.

On average, about 600 people per week walk the grounds, which comes to over 13,000 so far this year! We hope everyone is enjoying the area and the trail, hopefully learning and appreciating the people and events which transpired here over 222 years ago.



Taking History on the Road

A delegation of FTPBC board members took the story of the battle on tour this past January, as they visited the Monclova Historical Foundation's annual dinner. Presenters included Frank Butwin, Julia Wiley, and Dave Westrick.

In the interest of educating, and hopefully entertaining, our fellow history enthusiasts; the Fallen Timbers Battlefield Preservation Commission is pleased to introduce a new feature. We will be presenting original articles, book excerpts, and maybe even some opinions about the Battle of Fallen Timbers, its participants, and circumstances surrounding life in the Northwest Territory during the late 1700s era. We invite your comments, suggestions, or follow-up discussion of topics presented, as well as any original article for consideration of being published in a future newsletter.

Are You Ready to Ruuuuumble?

A little remembered verbal battle; after the battle.

by Frank Kuron

As the Battle of Fallen Timbers was simmering down in the afternoon of August 20th, a new conflict was just beginning to heat up. It was between the United State's Major General Anthony Wayne and Britain's Major William Campbell who was commanding forces in a British post known as Fort Miamis. This fort was just a few miles downstream from the battlefield along the Maumee River.

As the battle progressed, the Indians were forced into a retreat toward this British fortress with Wayne in hot pursuit. Upon reaching the fort, Wayne taunted Major Campbell and the 200 men under his command, by parading about the area, very close to the fort. Essentially, Wayne, with ten times the manpower, dared Campbell to start a fight.

At this time the United States was a mere eleven years old, and neither side officially wanted to start a new conflict. However, the events of this day put a confident Anthony Wayne in the presence of a fort which had no legal right to be where it was, according to the terms of the recent peace treaty. Major Campbell was determined to stay his ground. He knew he was outnumbered, but was not willing to surrender his men or his self esteem.

Through a series of letters written by what could almost pass for petulant children rather than superior officers, threats were thrown back and forth. One can almost hear the unwritten measuring of their urination streams. Feel the sarcasm drip off the page in their "polite" closings. Although they seem almost comical in their bravado, the situation they addressed was deadly serious, and these two representatives found themselves alone, deciding if a new war would begin.

These letters appeared in the Kentucky Gazette on December 4, 1828, courtesy of notes from an anonymous citizen of Lexington, KY. They are presented here with only superficial editing.

Campbell to Wayne, August 21, 1794

"SIR,

An army of the United States of America, said to be under your command, having taken post on the banks of the Miami, for upwards of the last twenty hours; almost within reach of the guns of this fort, being a post belonging to his majesty the King of Great Britain, occupied by his majesty's troops, and which I have the honor to command, it becomes my duty to inform myself, as speedily as possible, in what light I am to view your making such near approaches to this garrison.

I have no hesitation on my part to say that I know of no war existing between Great Britain and America.

I have the honor to be, sir, with great respect, your obedient and very humble servant."

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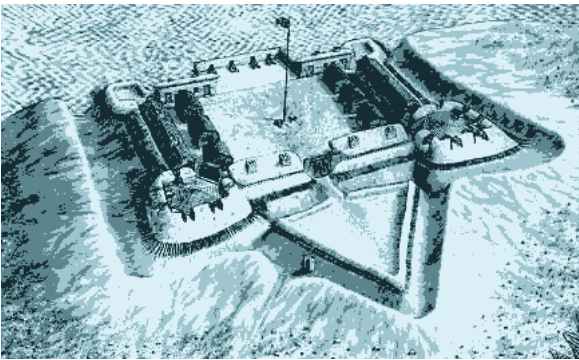
Wayne to Campbell, August 21, 1794

“SIR,

I have received your letter of this date, requiring from me the motives which have moved the army under my command, to the position which they at present occupy, far within the acknowledged jurisdiction of the United States of America.

Without questioning the authority, or the property, sir, of your interrogatory, I think I may without breach of decorum, observe to you, that were you entitled to an answer, the most satisfactory one was announced to you from the muzzles of my small arms yesterday morning in the action against the horde of savages in the vicinity of your post, which terminated gloriously to the American arms. But had it continued until the Indians etc. etc. were drove under the influence of the post and guns, you mention, they would not have much impeded the progress of the victorious army under my command; as no such post was established at the commencement of this present war between the Indians and the United States.

I have the honor to be, sir, with great respect, your most obedient and very humble servant.”



*Artist
Tom Hohl's
rendering of
Fort Miamis*

Campbell to Wayne, August 22, 1794

“SIR,

Although your letter of yesterday's date fully authorizes me to any act of hostility against the army of the United States of America in this neighborhood under your command, yet still anxious to prevent that dreadful decision, which perhaps is not intended to be by either of our countries.

I have forborne for these two days past, to resent those insults you have offered to the British flag flying at this post, by approaching it within pistol shot of my works, not only single, but by numbers with arms in their hands.

Neither is it my wish to wage war with individuals; but should you after this, continue to approach my post in the threatening manner you are this moment doing, my indispensable duty to my king and country, and the honour of my profession, will oblige me to have recourse to those measures, which thousands of either nation, may hereafter have cause to regret; and which I solemnly appeal to God, I have used my utmost endeavours to arrest.

I have the honor to be, sir, with much respect, your obedient, and very humble servant.”

And so the taunting continued. Wayne's response to this letter was the continued circling of his troops on all sides of the fort, easily in pistol shot range of the inhabitants. The next day, Wayne responded in writing again.

Wayne to Campbell, August 22, 1794

“SIR,

In your letter of the 21st inst. you declare, “I have no hesitation on my part to say that I know of no war between Great Britain and America.”

Upon my part, I declare the same; and the only cause I have to entertain a contrary idea at present is, the hostile act you are now in the commission of; that is, recently taking post, far within the well known and acknowledged limits of the United States, and erecting a fortification in the heart of the settlements of the Indian tribes, now at war with the United States.

This, sir, appears to be an act of the highest aggression and destructive to the peace and interest of the Union. Hence, it becomes my duty to desire, and I do hereby desire and demand in the name of the President of the United States, that you immediately desist from any further act of hostility or aggression by forbearing to fortify, and by withdrawing the troops, artillery and stores under your orders and direction forthwith, and removing to the nearest post occupied by his Britannic Majesty's troops at the peace of 1783, and which you will be permitted to do unmolested by the troops under my command.

I am with very great respect, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant.”

Campbell to Wayne, August 22, 1794

“SIR,

I have this moment the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, in answer to which, I have only to say, that being placed here in the command of a British post, and acting in a military capacity only, I cannot enter into any discussion either on the right or impropriety of my occupying my present position; these are matters that I conceive will be left to the Ambassadors of our different nations.

Having said this much, permit me to inform you, that I certainly will receive orders to that purpose from those I have the honour to serve under, or the fortune of war should oblige me.

I must adhere, sir, to the purport of my letter, that my situation here is totally military, yet let me add, that I am much deceived if his Majesty the king of Great Britain had not a post on this river, at, and prior to the period you mention.

I have the honour to be, sir, Your most obedient and very humble servant.”

Wayne's response to this final letter, was to burn and destroy everything within Campbell's sight. This included acres of corn fields supporting the Indian villages of the area, and the trading post and warehouse of Alexander McKee on the opposite side of the river. McKee was a well established trader and Indian agent of the British government who was supplying goods and arms to the Indians defeated at the Battle of Fallen Timbers. ■

Memorial Day 2016 -- Once Again, the Participants Are Saluted



*LEFT:
A Native American contingent presents a spray of cedar boughs, tobacco, feathers, and ribbons to honor the Native Americans who lost their lives here in 1794.*



ABOVE: Anthony Wayne presents a wreath to honor the Americans who lost their lives in this historic battle.

*ABOVE:
Michael Sheehy, Ohio State Representative of District 46, was one of several dignitaries to recognize the veterans of this battle.*



*LEFT:
Jamie Oxendine, of LumbeelCreek heritage performs a traditional rhythmic tribute.*

**Plan to attend
our Annual Meeting
on October 4, 2016
7:00pm at the new
Visitor Center!**

Membership Form

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____ EMAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

() INDIVIDUAL - \$15.00 () SENIOR/STUDENT - \$10.00 () RENEWING MEMBER?

ADDITIONAL DONATION _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
Fallen Timbers Battlefield Preservation Commission (FTBPC)
P.O. Box 758
Maumee, OH 43537

FTBPC Board & Contact Information

President: Dave Westrick
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Follow us on Facebook at: *Fallen Timbers Battlefield Preservation Commission*
 or at our website: fallentimbersbattlefield.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 2nd -- 7:00pm -- **FTBPC Meeting**

August 12th -- Visit our booth at the
2016 Maumee Summer Fair

August 20th -- **222nd Anniversary Celebration**
 Noon - 5:00pm -- *Live Historical Performance & Guided Tour / Ongoing display of battlefield artifacts / Re-enactors of Wayne's legion on site / Various demonstrations*

September 6th -- 7:00pm
FTBPC meeting

September 25th -- 1:00pm
 Dave Westrick presents
"The Renegade Returns"
(The Story of Simon Girty)

October 4th -- 7:00pm -- **FTBPC Annual Meeting** --
 Guest Speaker: Maura Johnson of the
 Maumee Valley Heritage Corridor



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