

## Freemasonry in the Old Northwest Territory – 1768 to ca 1836

Compiled by R. 'W.' Gary L. Heinmiller  
Archivist, OMDHS

Having already done a compilation, “Freemasons of the State of New York in the American Revolution” (59 pages, which may viewed at [www.omdhs.syracuseasons.com/history.htm](http://www.omdhs.syracuseasons.com/history.htm)) the present compiler came across some additional Brothers listed in the Transactions of the American Lodge of Research. Among them was Brother George Phyn, who was noted in previous a compilation. It was noted at that time that Bro. Phyn had an interesting perspective for the future of what was to become of the Old Northwest Territory, as witnessed by his correspondence with (Bro.) Sir William Johnson, who had apparently dispatched him to this territory for a mission to the New Orleans vicinity in 1767.

The transcripts of these interesting vignettes of American history in the area are below for your review. Of special note is his letter of 15 April 1768, wherein he notes, for example, “*The acquisition of the Country of the Illinois I am afraid will turn out to be but of small advantage to us,*” little knowing the course of events that history may now reveal to us.

Among the major characters on the stage we sometimes call ‘life,’ were several Freemasons, without whom, things could have been quite different. There biographical sketches are compiled below to reveal that in the short space of less than forty years, things appear to have turned out somewhat more than Bro. Phyn may have expected.



Northwest Territory - 1787<sup>1</sup>

The Northwest Territory, also known as the Old Northwest and the Territory North West of the Ohio, was a governmental region within the early United States. Passed by the Continental Congress on July 13, 1787, the Northwest Ordinance provided for the administration of the territories and set rules for admission as a state. The Ordinance was affirmed by the U.S. Congress on August 7, 1789. The territory included all the land of the United States west of Pennsylvania and northwest of the Ohio River. It covered all of the modern states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin, as well as the northeastern part of Minnesota. The area covered more than 260,000 square miles.

**Bro. Arthur St. Clair** was the Territory's only governor. The original supreme court was made up of **Bro. John Cleves Symmes**, **Bro. James Mitchell Varnum**, and **Bro. Samuel Holden Parsons**.

When the territory was created, it was inhabited by about 45,000 Native Americans and 2,000 traders, mostly French and British. Officially, American settlement began at Marietta, Ohio on April 7, 1788. Arthur St. Clair formally established the government on July 15, 1788 at Marietta. His original plan called for the organization of five initial counties.

On July 4, 1800, the Indiana Territory was carved out, reducing the Northwest Territory to the size of Ohio, to prepare for statehood. The Northwest Territory went out of existence when Ohio was admitted as a state on March 1, 1803.

**Arthur St. Clair** (see under Ohio Territory below)

**Parsons, Samuel Holden;** Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, CT, 25 Oct 1765; American Union, 21 Feb 1776; W.'M.'. 1779. Colonel, 6th Connecticut; Major General, Continental Army. Drowned 17 Nov 1789.

Samuel Holden Parsons<sup>2</sup>, b. 14 May 1737; d. 17 Nov 1789, was an American lawyer, jurist, and military leader. Parsons was born in Lyme, CT, the son of Jonathan Parsons and Phoebe (Griswold) Parsons. At the age of nine, his family moved to Newburyport, MA, where his father, an ardent supporter of the 'First Great Awakening,' took charge of the town's new Presbyterian congregation.

Parsons graduated from Harvard College in 1756 and returned to Lyme to study law in the office of his uncle, Connecticut governor Matthew Griswold (governor). He was admitted to the bar in 1759, and started his law practice in Lyme. In 1761, he married Mehitabel Mather (1743–1802), a great-great-great-granddaughter of Rev. Richard Mather. Well-connected politically, he was elected to the General Assembly in 1762, where he remained a representative until his removal to New London.

Actively involved in the resistance against British forces on the eve of the Revolution, he was a member of New London's Committee of Correspondence. In March 1772, he wrote to Massachusetts leader Samuel Adams, suggesting a congress of the colonies: "I take the liberty to propose for your consideration", he wrote, "whether it would not be advisable in the present critical situation to revive an institution which formerly had a very salutary effect – I mean an annual meeting of commissioners from the colonies to consult on their general welfare."

Parsons went on to suggest that the time for discussing colonial independence from Britain was at hand: "The idea of inalienable allegiance to any prince or state, is an idea to me inadmissible; and I cannot but see that our ancestors, when they first landed in America, were as independent of the crown or king of Great Britain, as if they had never been his subjects; and the only rightful authority derived to him over this people, was by explicit covenant contained in the first charters."

In April 1775, immediately after the battles of Lexington and Concord, Parsons, along with colleagues in the Connecticut legislature, began promoting a project to take Fort Ticonderoga from the British, securing commitments of both public and private funds to underwrite the expedition.

Like most active politicians of the period, Parsons served as a militia leader. He was appointed Major of the 14th Connecticut, Militia Regiment in 1770. In 1775, he was commissioned Colonel of the 6th Connecticut Regiment, a new regiment raised "for the special defense and safety of the Colony". In June he was ordered to lead his regiment to Boston, where he fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill. He remained in Boston until the British evacuated the city in March 1776.

In August 1776 Congress appointed Parsons Brigadier General in the Continental Army. He was ordered to New York with his brigade of about 2,500 men. Stationed in Brooklyn, Parsons was in the thick of the fighting with British troops under Lord Sterling at Battle Hill on 17 Aug 1776. He took part in the Council of War on 29 August, at which it was decided to retreat from New York. Parsons successfully transported his men from Long Island, joining the main body of the army as it withdrew from the city.

While in New York, Parsons played a central role in the American efforts to destroy the British fleet. David Bushnell, an inventor from Connecticut, had devised a submarine which he planned to use to place torpedoes on British ships. Parsons selected his brother-in-law, Captain Ezra Lee, to undertake this risky mission. Lee succeeded in reaching the British flagship *Asia* undetected, but was unable to attach the torpedo to its hull. The bomb exploded, much to the consternation of the British, but without causing any harm to the ship.

After the retreat from New York, Parsons' brigade was assigned to General Rufus Putnam's division north of the city. He fought in the Battle of White Plains. In January 1777, he returned to Connecticut to help recruit the Connecticut Line to bolster depleted Continental forces. He led raids on

Tory enclaves on Long Island, and took part in efforts to defend Connecticut towns against raids by British forces under General William Tryon.

In the winter of 1777–78, Parsons took command of West Point, and began rebuilding its fortifications. At the end of 1778, he joined Connecticut troops at winter quarters in Redding. In December 1779, Parsons took command of Putnam's Division, and spent the following months recruiting, training, and trying to engage British General George Clinton in battle. The high point of this period was the discovery, in September 1780, of Benedict Arnold's treacherous scheme to surrender West Point to the British. Parsons served on the board of officers which tried Arnold's accomplice, Major John Andre, and ultimately sentenced him to death.

On October 23, 1780 Parsons was promoted to Major General. In the winter of 1781 he helped suppress the mutinies of soldiers in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and took part in efforts to clear out Tory militias in Westchester, north of New York. After months of containing the British troops in New York, American forces, now bolstered by French reinforcements, departed for Virginia. Parsons and his troops were left behind to keep the British contained.

In July 1782, following the British surrender at Yorktown, VA, Parsons – broken physically and financially – tendered his resignation to Congress. Forty-five years old, he had served continuously since the Lexington Alarm of 1775.

On the eve of the war, Parsons had moved his family to Middletown, Connecticut, which was then a prosperous port on the Connecticut River. He returned there during the summer of 1782, hoping to revive his law practice, his political career, and his depleted finances. Something of a celebrity, Parsons was elected to the legislature, became involved in organizing the Connecticut branch of the Society of the Cincinnati, and was appointed by Congress to help with Indian diplomacy on the western frontier.

In March of 1787, Parsons became a director of the Ohio Land Company, a scheme that enabled ex-Revolutionary officers to trade their pay certificates for Ohio lands. Parsons played a leading role in persuading Congress to grant land to the company, and then jockeyed for appointment to a leading position in the territory. Though aspiring to the governorship -- which was later awarded to General Arthur St. Clair -- Parsons was appointed Chief Justice. In the midst of this, Parsons was also an active member of the Connecticut Convention for adopting the U.S. Constitution.

In March of 1788, Parsons and his son Enoch, who had been appointed Registrar and Clerk of Probate, set out for the Northwest Territory. They arrived at Marietta, Ohio -- a settlement of some fifty houses -- in May 1788. Parsons was one of the early pioneers to the Northwest Territory. Lacking a clergyman, Parsons filled in as leader of sabbath services. During the following months, Parsons busied himself with surveying the Ohio Company's lands and purchasing choice parcels for himself and his family.

On November 1, 1789, Parsons wrote to his wife in Connecticut from Pittsburgh, stating that he was about to "set out for Lake Erie to survey the Connecticut lands (Connecticut Western Reserve)."

A letter written by Richard Butler, dated November 25, 1789, relates the circumstances of Parsons' death:

"I am sorry to inform you that I have every reason to fear that our old friend, General Parsons, is no more. He left this place [Pittsburgh] in company with Captain Heart, (who is sent to explore the communication by way of the Beaver to Cuyahoga and the Lake), on the 5th instant, he had sent a man with his horses from the place where he had encamped the night before, and directed him to tell Lieut. McDowell, who commanded the Block House below the falls of Beaver, that he (General Parsons) would be there to dinner. A snow had fallen in the night which had retarded the progress of the man with the horses. At one place on the Beaver shore he saw where a canoe had landed, and a person got out to warm his feet by walking about, as he saw he had kicked against the trees and his tracks to the canoe again. The man did not get down till evening, but about noon the canoe, broken in pieces, came by the Block House, and some articles known to belong to General Parsons were taken up and others seen to pass. Lieut. McDowell has diligent search made for the body of the General, but made no discovery."

Parsons' body was found the following May and was buried with the expectation that it would be more suitably interred. Because of the series of mishaps, the location of his burial was lost. The General now lies in an unmarked grave on the banks of the Beaver River in Pennsylvania.

### **Parsons' children**

Parsons' surviving children included:

William Walter Parsons (1762-1802). Served as a midshipman during the Revolution, wherein he was taken prisoner by the British during the disastrous Penobscot Expedition. He eventually settled in Bangor, Maine.

Enoch Parsons (1769-1846). Accompanied his father to Ohio, where he served as Registrar and Clerk of Probate. Returning to Connecticut after his father's death, he served as High Sheriff of Middlesex County for 28 years and as President of the Middletown Branch of the Bank of the United States from 1818 to 1824.

Samuel Holden Parsons (1777-1811). Middletown merchant in West Indies trade.

Lucia Parsons (1764-1825). Married Stephen Titus Hosmer, Chief Justice of Connecticut.

Mehetable Parsons (1772-1825). Married William Brenton Hall, Middletown physician.

Margaret Parsons (1785-?). Married Stephen Hubbard of Middletown.

General Samuel Holden Parsons set out to purchase 25,000 acres of land from the state of Connecticut, which included parts of the current townships of Lordstown, Weathersfield, Jackson and Austintown, encompassing the salt springs. As a result this area became known as the Salt Springs Tract. Parsons traveled to the area and set up a station to extract the salt by the process of boiling, but drowned in November 1789 prior to fully completing the purchase of the land. Parson's holdings reverted to the state of Connecticut which later sold off the tract in parcels, including the sought after salt springs. Cabins were built near the springs to serve as shelter for those who sought out the mineral.

**John Cleves Symmes**, visited Grand Lodge of New Jersey, June 1788.

John Cleves Symmes<sup>3</sup>, b. 21 Jul 1742; d. 26 Feb 1814, was a delegate to the Continental Congress from New Jersey, and later a pioneer in the Northwest Territory. He was also the father-in-law of President William Henry Harrison. He was the son of the Rev. Timothy Symmes (1715–1756) and Mary Cleves (died c. 1746) of Suffolk County, NY on Long Island. John was born in Riverhead, NY on 21 Jul 1742. Symmes was educated as a lawyer and married Anna Tuthill (1741–1776) at Mattituck, NY on 30 Oct 1760. They had two children; Maria (born 23 Apr 1765) and Mary (born 30 Aug 1767) at Mattituck before moving to New Jersey sometime around 1770. Maria married Kentucky state senator Peyton Short. Another daughter Anna Tuthill Symmes was born in 1775 at Flatbrookville, Walpack Township, Sussex County, New Jersey before his wife died in 1776.

Symmes supported the revolution, becoming chairman of the Sussex County, NJ Committee of Safety in 1774. When the Revolutionary War began in earnest, he served as Colonel of the 3rd Regiment of the Sussex County militia from 1777 to 1780. The unit was called into service with the Continental Army on several actions. He served on the New Jersey Supreme Court in 1777 and 1778. Then, in 1778, Governor William Livingston appointed him to the State Council (now the New Jersey Senate). He was a frequent visitor to the Governor both in Elizabethtown and in Parsippany. In 1779, John married Livingston's daughter, Susannah. Besides being the governor's daughter, she was John Jay's sister-in-law.

Symmes represented New Jersey in the Continental Congress (1785–1786), then, in 1788, moved to the west, settling in what later became North Bend, Ohio. He served as a judge of the Territorial Court from 1788 until Ohio became a state in 1803. He also pursued an active career as a land developer and seller. He died on 26 Feb 1814 at Cincinnati, Ohio, and is buried at North Bend.

*Map of Ohio showing the Symmes Purchase >*

The **Symmes Purchase**<sup>4</sup>, also known as the **Miami Purchase**, was an area of land in Southwestern Ohio in what is now Hamilton, Butler, and Warren Counties. It was purchased by Judge Symmes of New Jersey from the Continental Congress. In the 1780s, Benjamin Stites, a friend of Symmes', was visiting Limestone (now Maysville, KY), and had some of his horses stolen by Indians. He pursued them through the wilderness of southwestern Ohio as far north as Xenia. He was so impressed with the fertility of the country he informed Symmes of its prospects and Symmes gathered a syndicate, known as the **Miami Company**, to buy the land.



The tract is bordered on the south by the Ohio River, on the west by the Great Miami River, and on the east by the Little Miami River. The northern boundary runs through Butler and Warren Counties about twenty-five miles north of the Ohio River. Sections of Todhunter and Garver Roads in Monroe, Monroe Road in Lebanon, and Oregonia Road in Turtlecreek Township run along the boundary.

Unfortunately, the survey conducted by Symmes's men was done poorly, e.g. the surveyors used magnetic north rather than correcting for true north. Further, Symmes sold much land that he did not own, some as far north as Dayton, meaning some early settlers found themselves squatters on the public domain. Symmes also sold some land that he did own more than once.

The Symmes Purchase survey is the only one in the United States where the ranges run from north to south and the townships from east to west. The section numbering is in accordance with the Land Ordinance of 1785. The survey here also was done to magnetic north rather than true north. Deeds in this area will refer to the Between the Miami Rivers Survey, M.R.s. and M.R.S. (M.R.S. is also used to describe the "Miami River Survey" a survey west of the Great Miami River.

**James Michell Varnum**, Visited St. John's Lodge, Providence, RI, 1778-79; visited Lodge No. 2, PA, 10 Sep 1781. Maj. Gen. RI Militia. d. 10 Jan 1789.

James Mitchell Varnum<sup>5</sup>, b. 17 Dec 1748; d. 9 Jan 1789, was a lawyer and a general in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. He was born in Dracut, MA. As a young man he went Rhode Island to attend Brown University and in Rhode Island he met his future wife. Along with Nathanael Greene he served in the Kentish Guards. He served as a Brigadier General in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, serving from 1777 until 1779.



Varnum advocated allowing African Americans to enlist in the Continental Army, which resulted in the reformation of the 1st Rhode Island Regiment as an all-black unit. Varnum was a disciple of General Charles Lee and a serious critic of the position of Inspector General held in 1778 by Baron Von Steuben, writing George Washington a letter expressing his concern with the power and security access of this position. After Varnum resigned his Continental Army commission because of personal business matters, he was appointed Major General of Rhode Island militia. He represented Rhode Island in the Continental Congress (1780-1781 and 1787).

Varnum was also well known as a jurist. He successfully represented the defendant in *Trevett v. Weeden* one of the earliest cases of judicial review. In 1787, Varnum was appointed a justice of the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territory, and moved to Marietta, Ohio, to take up his duties; he was one of the early pioneers to the Northwest Territory. He died less than two years later, and was buried just south of the Oak Grove Cemetery in Marietta.

-----

Lt. Phyn's Letters

**Phyn, George**<sup>6</sup> St. Patrick's Lodge No. 9, Johnstown, NY (it has had various other numbers); Lt., 21st Regiment of Foot.

PHYN TO [SIR WILLIAM] JOHNSON, September 19, 1767  
[Johnson MSS., 15:70—A.L.S.]

(George Phyn was at this time a lieutenant in the Twenty-first Regiment of Foot.)

FORT PITT 19th Sep<sup>r</sup> 1767

SIR

Since I had the Honor of bidding you Adieu at Johnson Hall, I have been kept pretty closely employed, in order to make up for the Idle time I spent at Johnson Hall & Schenectady; after very sudden Orders to march from New York, a long tedious & disagreeable Rout to this place, I was hardly settled here & put the affairs of 114 men of 21<sup>st</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> under my Command in some kind of Order, when I received Orders from the General to be in readiness to set off with a sufficient number of my men in boats in order to convoy 20,000 W<sup>t</sup> of Port a Quantity of Engineer Stores & a Chest of Dollers amounting to £1000 Ste<sup>r</sup> which would be delivered me by Cap<sup>t</sup> Edmonstone

then on his way to command here, all which I am to deliver at Fort Chartres, and leave the boats I carry there, for Colonel Reed, who is ordered with five Companys of the 34<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> to this place: I am there to be furnished with other boats to carry me down the Mississippi to the Iberville, *which Post is occupied by our Reg<sup>t</sup>*, here I leave the Mississippi & has a carrying place of nine or ten Miles into the River Iberville but should the river be low the carrying place is 18 Miles, over this carrying place I am to find smaller boats to carry me into Lake Mauripas, where the General says I will find a Schooner or some large Craft to transport me from thence through Mauripas Lake Ponchartrain & up the Bay of Mobile untill I arrive at that Fort, which is to Complete my Rout *of, as I am informed* three thousand miles. This Rout is, from Head Quarters laid down to me as easy to be accomplished, and for myself I never raise difficulties, altho' by the bye, I will be the first who ever went from the Iberville through the Lakes to Mobile with any body of Troops. I wish I knew where I am to Eat my Christmass Dinner. I take with me from here Eleven boats and Ninty men, without an Officer or noncomsnd offr with the Detachment but myself.

The Senica Indian Kaashuta who lives at the Mingo town below this, goes to Fort Chartres as my Conductor & Councillor, for which he gets 100 Dollers I have also an Interpreter one Nicolson, who I believe you once employed in that way.

M<sup>r</sup> McGee<sup>1</sup> tells me he writes you by this Express & gives you a particular Account of the news we have here, for which reason I will not trouble you with a Repatition of them, they don't startle me a bit, nor do I emagine I will meet with any difficulty or opposition from Indians, and the only thing that prevents my departure is the lowness of the Ohio, the rising of which I waite with much impatience. I am affraid I have tired your Patience with so long a detail, & of so little consequence to you: But from the Friendship & Countenance you have been always pleased to Honor me with, I emagined, some account of my intended Destination would not be disagreeable.

<sup>1</sup> Alexander McKee was a native Pennsylvanian who engaged early in the Indian trade on the Ohio. In 1772 he was made a deputy agent under Sir William Johnson. In the Revolutionary War McKee aided the loyalist cause. For a fuller notice, see Thwaites and Kellogg, *Revolution on the Upper Ohio*, 74.

At the same time I must beg leave to assure you Sir, that to what ever corner of the Globe it may be my lot to be ordered to, I can never be forgetfull of the favors & Services I have received from you, And of the many happy hours I have had the Honor to spend at Johnson Hall. Gratitude then, as well as the strongest Inclination, induces me to make an offer of the poor abilities of a weak head and a good Heart entirely devoted to your Service and Interest, And happy shall I be,—if it's ever in my power to contribute in the smallest degree, in any thing, either for your satisfaction or amusement.

Please present my Compliments to Captain Glaus, Guy & their Ladies, and assure them they have my best & warmest wishes for the success & prosperity of their Families. Should Sir John be arrived I very heartily give you Joey, and must beg to be most Respectfully mentioned to him. I have the Honor to be with much Esteem & Respect Sir

Your much Obliged & very Obed<sup>t</sup> Hurnb<sup>e</sup> Servant

GEO PHYN

To THE HON<sup>BLE</sup> SIR WILLIAM JOHNSON

[Endorsed:] Fort Pitt Sep<sup>t</sup> 19th 1767—From L<sup>t</sup> Geo. Phyn.

George Phyn appears as a lieutenant in 1759.

For his [very interesting] observations on the West see Phyn to Johnson. April 15, 1768. (below)

Phyn was made captain in 1771, but his name does not appear on the army list after 1775.

PHYN TO RAY, November 21, 1767<sup>7</sup>  
[B.M., Add. MSS., 21.728, p. 196— A.L.S.]

CAMP AT THE CONFLUENCE OF THE OHIO  
WITH THE MISSISSIPPI

Novr 21<sup>st</sup> 1767.

SIR

Having met with a French Battoe going to New Orleans, and as the Master informs me he intends to call at your Port, I have thought it my Duty to acquaint you I am thus far on my Route to Join the 21<sup>st</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>, *to which I have now the Honor to belong* with Ninty Volunteers from the 22<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> for the 21<sup>st</sup>.

My Orders from the Commander in Chief are after delivering the Stores & Provisions I have now under my Convoey at Fort Chartres, I am to apply for Boats there, to carry my Detachment to the Post [Fort Bute] occupied by our Reg<sup>t</sup> at the Ibberville; and my Route is from thence through the Lakes Mauripas & Ponchartrain into the Bay of Mobile ; He says I will have a carrying place of nine or ten Miles from the Post at Ibberville, at the end of which I will find small boats to transport my Detachment into Lake Mauripas, where I will meet with a schooner [*sic*] or some large Craft to carry me to Mobile.

But as the severe Season of the Year is fast approaching & as I have some doubts of meeting with more obstacles in my Route, than the General seems to express, I thought it best to advise you of my approach, & to beg you will take what steps you may think necessary, to facilitate my Junction with the Reg<sup>t</sup>.

I have been now a long while from the Inhabited part of the Country, consequently can write you no News. I left Fort Pitt the 29th Sept<sup>r</sup> and never did any party undergo more fatigue than mine has done, *through the lowness of the Ohio* I don't know if the Recruits I now bring the Reg<sup>t</sup> will add to its appearance, on a Parade, I believe not; but I daresay they are Men fit for any Service. However I long much to have the pleasure of showing them to you, And of having the Happiness to once [*sic*] Join my Reg<sup>t</sup>.

I shall make no appollagie for this confused Epistle, but referr that till I have the Satisfaction of Introducing myself to you, which will give real pleasure to one who is with the Greatest Respect Sir Your very Obedient and Most Humble Servant

GEO PHYN

L<sup>t</sup> 21st Reg<sup>t</sup>

To CAPT RAY

[Endorsed:] 1768 L<sup>t</sup> Phyn to Cap<sup>t</sup> Rea—from de Oio 21<sup>st</sup>  
November 1767 receivd 18<sup>th</sup> febr: 68. at Pensacola

Note<sup>8</sup>: The following is an interesting account of Lt. Phyn's impression of the Ohio and Mississippi Valley regions. — g.l.h

PHYN TO JOHNSON, April 15, 1768  
[Johnson MSS., 25:109—A. L. S.]

MOBILE 15<sup>th</sup> April 1768

SIR

I would much rather be thought troublesome, than deficient in showing and acknowledging that Respect and attention, which your goodness and friendly behavior to me, so much deserves. From that motive therefore, you have now the trouble of this Letter, which, from the circuite I have taken in joining my Regm<sup>l</sup> might, *from a more able pen* be filled with entertaining & perhaps usefull subject. However without ceremonie, I shall take the liberty to give you my sentiments of the very extensive Country I have so latly passed through.

That the lands on the Ohio River are generally Rich & beautifull, covered with variety of fine timber, is indisputable; and they are likewise plentifully watered by a number of commodious Rivers & creeks: But notwithstanding these advantages of nature, **I cannot reconcile to myself the propriety of making settlements there, were the Indians even to admitt of it.** The River Ohio can really only be said to be navigable from the braking up of the Winter to the month of June, except with very small Canoes, and the Prodigious land carriage to the sea coast from Fort Pitt, must, but bring a very small profit to the Planter. Should they take the Port of New Orleans, *for by no other communication can we carry produce to sea*, the distance is too great, as the whole summer months would be employed in such a Voyage, besides it is a forreign Port.

**The acquisition of the Country of the Illinois I am affraid will turn out to be but of small advantage to us;** we by no means command the Indian Trade there; as the French & Spanish Subjects can go & does, without interruption among the Indians every where, in the Country: owing to there not being Posts made at the mouths of these Rivers leading to their Towns particularly the Illinois River & Ohio: But really at present it is not very material, for as long as New Orleans is in the hands of an other Power, the whole produce of that country must center there, For our Merchants will always dispose of their Peltry or whatever the Country produces at Orleans, because they get as good a price there, as if they were to ship them off. So little attention has been paid in order to render the Country in any means servicable to us, for the expence it costs in keeping it; that you would emagine pains had been taken to enduce the Inhabitants to remove from our side. There is no settled administration of justice, but the whole depends upon the mear will & fancy of the Off<sup>r</sup> Commanding the Troops; and whose disposition is displeasing to all Ranks under his command, as well as an ensaciable desire to get money by any means ever so low. It's displeasing to me to give such a Character of a Man of his Rank, but I am affraid it will be found to be too just, and from the treatment the French inhabitants there received, most of them has left us; And those who remains seems to be in a state of suspense whether to go off, or waite for a more favorable change. About Fort Chartres, where there was on our taking possession of that Country, a very pretty settlement, there is not now three family's, & them wretchedly poor At the Village of Kaskaskia there is indeed several, who supports themselves chiefly by Hunting & in performing Voyages to & from New Orleans, but none of those would I believe, reamain, if their property & interest were not so materially concerned The Inhabitants of the Village of Caho which lyes about forty miles above fort Chartres are circumstanced in the same manner: But sure I am had that Country fallen under the Command & inspection of a sencible & moderate Man, we would have had, many of the French settlers come over to us in place of Deserting us.

In general the lands of the Illinois are pretty good, and no doubt capable to produce many necessary articles, if proper attention is paid to the Climate; yet perhaps there is not a River in the World, *for its extent*, less supplied with water falling into it; which induces me to believe **it will never be thoroughly settled unless on the banks of the Rivers. And that will never happen with any advantage to England, unless we can procure the Ideal Island of New Orleans;** I call it Ideal, because we have never yet been able to find water enough along the North East side of it, to transport a Canoe into Lake Ponchartrain, Except for about two months of the Year when the Mississippi overflows its banks, and furnishes many Gully's of the same sort with Water. Yet could we find a passage, *for even small craft*, to go to sea, the Country of the Illinois would be worthy of attention: But had we the Island of New Orleans, that Country in a very short time would I believe be equal to any of our Colonies. At present we are allowed the free Navigation of the River Mississippi, but the Spaniards may prevent us from Landing & we cannot



Anchor a Vessell in the River, but is obliged to make them fast alongside the Bank to trees. And from the Ibberville *where the Island of Orleans begins*, to the Town, it is near two hundred miles.

From the above confused scetch you may easily conjecture what the Illinois will turn out to be. The only Port for exportation, a foreign one, lyable to be put under many regulations to our dissadvantage, besides the encroachments they have it in their power to make, to the prejudice of our Colonie. On the other hand were we in possession of New Orleans we would have a fine harbour in the Bay of Mexico, & secure to ourselves the produce of a large & Extensive Country, happy in a Luxurient Soil, and which would not fail to be cultivated from the River Illinois to the Sea; And by the cultivation of the Fertile lands of the Mississippi, the Sea coast of this province would be of consequence and the Ports of Pensacola & Mobile would become I do believe flowrishing places of Trade when on the conterary, they will remain inconsiderable in every Respect, and only a Reseptacle for Men of broken fortunes.

But I have dwelt too long on this subject, to one who knows these circumstances much better, and who can judge with much more accuracy & perspecuity, than I dare pretend to. The Court Martial for the Tryal of Major Farmer has been sitting ever since my arrival in the Province, I beared the whole prosecution when I was at Pensacola, And there was not one Evidence said a thing in support of any of the many & heavy charges exhibited against him. And if I may be allowed to judge, I think Major Farmer has been greatly injured, by the mear surmise & chimera of a, mans brain.

Give me leave Sir to congratulate you on the safe arrival of Sir John, to whom I beg you will present my most Respectfull Compliments, as also to Cap\* Claws and Cap<sup>t</sup> Johnson and their Families.

General Haldimand is well and made very kind enquiry for you, and expressed the satisfaction he had in hearing from you.

I am sure I have tired your pacience & ought to be ashamed for troubling you with so long a Letter, but your known Goodness embolden'd me. Who has the Honor to be Sir your much Oblieged and very Obedient Serv<sup>t</sup>

GEO PHYN

[Endorsed:] Mobile 15th April 1768. From Lieut Phyn to S<sup>r</sup> W Johnson.

-----

It may be noted in the following pages that some of the Brothers mentioned were members of American Union Lodge. It apparently held warrants in Massachusetts and New York, and later reorganized in Marietta, Ohio. A brief history of this Lodge is as follows:

American (Military) Union Lodge<sup>9</sup>  
aka Military Union Lodge No. 1



American (Military) Union Lodge. In 1776 six Master Masons, four Fellow-Crafts, and one Entered Apprentice, all but one, officers in the Connecticut Line of the Continental army in camp at Roxbury, Mass., petitioned Richard Gridley, Deputy Grand Master of St. John's Grand Lodge, for a warrant forming them into a regular Lodge. On the 15th of February, a warrant was issued to Joel Clark, appointing

and constituting him First Master of American Union Lodge, "erected at Roxbury, or wherever your body shall remove on the Continent of America, provided it is where no Grand Master is appointed." The Lodge was duly constituted and almost immediately moved to New York, and met on April 23, 1776, by permission of Dr. Peter Middleton, Grand Master of Masons in the Province of New York. It was agreed at this meeting to petition him to confirm the Massachusetts warrant as, under its terms, they were without authority to meet in New York. Dr. Middleton would not confirm the warrant of American Union Lodge, but in April, 1776, caused a new warrant to be issued to the same brethren, under the name of Military Union Lodge, No. 1, without recalling the former warrant. They thus presented an anomaly of a Lodge holding warrants from and yielding obedience to two Grand Bodies in different jurisdictions. The spirit of the brethren, though, is shown in their adherence to the name American Union in their minutes, and the only direct acknowledgment of the new name is in a minute providing that the Lodge furniture purchased by American Union "be considered only as lent to the Military Union Lodge."

This Lodge followed the Connecticut Line of the Continental army throughout the War of Independence. It was Gen. Samuel Holden Parsons of American Union who returned to the British army Lodge Unity, No. 18, their warrant, which had come into possession of the American army at the taking of Stony Point in 1779. American Union participated in a convention at Morristown, N. J., January 31, 1780, when it was proposed to nominate Gen. Washington as "Grand Master over the thirteen United States of America," and it was on the suggestion of Rev. Israel Evans of American Union that the "Temple of Virtue." for the use of the army and the army Lodges, was erected at New Windsor (Newburgh), NY, during the winter of 1782-83. The Lodge followed the army to the Northwest Territory after the War of Independence, and participated in the formation of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. Shortly afterward the Lodge withdrew from the Grand Lodge of Ohio and did not appear on the roll thereafter, but pursued an independent existence for some years. The present American Union Lodge at Marietta, Ohio, No. 1 on the roll of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, was organized by members of the old Lodge. The first minute- , book, from the original constitution to April 23, 1783, is in the library of the Grand Lodge ' of New York. During the war many prominent patriots were members, and several times Washington was recorded as a visitor.

#### Postscript to Lt. Phyn's Letters

The experience and impressions of Lt. Phyn on his journey along the Ohio and Mississippi rivers in 1768 paints an interesting perspective of the time in which he lived. It is interesting to note some of the connections of the saga with Masonic Brethren.

Bro. Phyn made his journey on orders from Bro. William Johnson. Lt. Phyn was made an initiate or affiliated with St. Patrick's Lodge No. 4 on 7 Feb 1767, evidently just before for he left for the Ohio area. His first letter above was dated 19 Sep 1767.

#### *George Rogers Clark >*

The taming and populating of what was called the 'Old Northwest' was long and hard affair, for the Indians, French, Spanish, British and Colonists. In June 1776, the settlers in what is now Kentucky selected Bro. George Rogers Clark and John Gabriel Jones to deliver a petition to the Virginia General Assembly, asking Virginia to formally extend its boundaries to include Kentucky. Bro. Clark, along with Daniel Boone, secured Kentucky to the Colonial cause after a concerted effort. Clark believed that the best way to end the raids by the Indians was to seize British outposts north of the Ohio River, was appointed a Lieutenant Colonel and secured the Northwest ending in the Treaty of Paris in 1783. He has often been hailed as the "Conqueror of the Old Northwest."



In 1801, after discovering the transfer of Louisiana from Spain to France. Jefferson sent Bro. Robert R. Livingston (portrait on right - Grand Master, State of New York, 1784-1800) to Paris to pursue a purchase of New Orleans, but failed. With the increasing pressure on Napoleon in the Caribbean and Great Britain, on 11 Apr 1803, just days before the arrival of Bro. James Monroe's (portrait on left - Initiated 9 Nov 1775 in St. John's Regimental Lodge; member of Williamsburg Lodge No. 6), Marquess de Barbe-Marbois offered Bro. Livingston all of Louisiana (Territory) instead of just New Orleans. The American

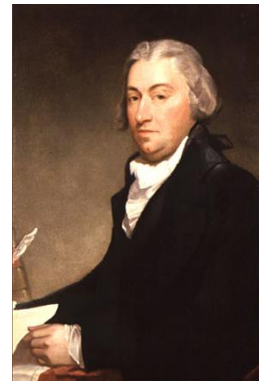
negotiators were prepared to spend \$10 million for New Orleans but were dumbfounded when the entire region was offered for \$15 million. The treaty was dated 30 Apr 1803, and signed on 2 May.



*James Monroe*



*Signing of the Louisiana Purchase - 1803*



*Robert R Livingston*

**Financing** - The American government used \$3 million in gold as a down payment, and bonds for the balance to pay France for the purchase. Because of the impending war with Britain, French banks would not buy or market the American bonds. The American diplomats Livingston and Monroe therefore recommended the firms of Baring Company of London and Hope and Company of Amsterdam for the transaction which France agreed upon.

<sup>10</sup>In late 1795 Baring dispatched his 22-year-old son, Alexander, to Boston to negotiate and execute the purchase of more than 1 million acres of land in Maine for £107,000. The investment was introduced by the land's owner, **Senator William Bingham**, son-in-law of Barings' Philadelphia correspondent, Thomas Willing, and yet another friend of Lansdowne. Francis Baring undertook the initial appraisal and commitment to the investment, and the negotiations were left to his son Alexander, who afterwards remained in North America as Barings' representative and who consolidated his position by marrying Bingham's eldest daughter, Ann Louisa. The link was further strengthened through the marriage of Baring's third son, Henry, to Bingham's other daughter, Maria, in 1802. Both marriages brought considerable wealth to the Baring family.

### ***Louisiana Purchase***



*Alexander Baring, 1st Baron Ashburton*

Considered to be an English house of the first reputation and solidity, Barings in 1803 was appointed London financial agent for the United States government, leaving Sir Francis Baring's influence in North American financial affairs unrivalled in London. At about this time, when a short interval of peace existed after the treaty of Amiens, Baring led his house, alongside Hopes, into its largest and most prestigious transaction yet, financing the Louisiana Purchase. The French government wanted to sell 1 million square miles of the Territory of Louisiana, and the United States administration wanted to buy it; the purchase price was \$15 million and Francis Baring was charged with finding it. He sent his son Alexander to Paris to negotiate with French and American representatives, and the eventual result was that on behalf of the French government Barings and Hopes sold US government bonds worth \$11.25 million. The business was of enormous size; 'my nerves are equal to the operation', Francis Baring reassured Hopes, but he added that 'we all tremble about the magnitude of the American account. Later he confessed that 'what I suffered can never be described and it completely overpowered my nerves for the first and I hope last time.'

Alexander Baring's direct descendent, Spencer Douglas David Compton, 7th Marquess Northampton, is the current **Pro Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England**.

The leading American house in London also acted as London banker for the Bank of the United States. Here again the close network of correspondents and friends which Baring so earnestly cultivated was vital. Thomas Willing, William Bingham's father-in-law and Barings' client at Philadelphia since 1774, was the bank's president and so its use of Baring's firm in making London payments, undertaking exchange transactions, and providing credits was seemingly inevitable.

<sup>11</sup>For a brief period from October, 1801, through the middle of May, 1803, Napoleonic France and the Great Britain of George III shared an uneasy peace. Mutual mistrust fed an appetite for building up armies and navies. Expenditures in turn fueled a great need for hard cash. The French had wasted thousands of men and vast sums trying to re-shackle the recently freed slave population in Haiti. That old imperial dream died hard. Napoleon needed cash to prepare for the looming war with England and her continental allies. His decision to sell not just the city of New Orleans and a duty-free port to Americans, but to convey the whole Louisiana Territory to the new democracy, was part of his strategy to raise funds for a new war and perhaps to acquire an ally. There were many uncertainties in the air--Napoleon was besieged by those who wished to restore the old colonial empire, or who wished him to renege on his promise to sell the Louisiana Territory.

President Jefferson and Albert Gallatin faced the challenge of delivering enough money to Paris to satisfy the First Consul's appetite, and to do it promptly. They issued certificates of public debt, or bonds. Bonds would be sold in various denominations at six percent. However, no French banking house would serve as intermediary in the transaction, for fear of British blockade and seizure. Marbois turned to the London-based merchant bankers, the House of Baring. It was a well known Anglo-American firm with strong ties to a major continental house and would be acceptable to all parties. Sir Francis Baring, scion of the house, in turn relied upon his son-in-law Pierre Cesar Labouchere, a partner not only in Baring but also in the prestigious Hope and Company of Amsterdam. The Dutch conduit would make prompt payment in Paris possible. **Alexander**, Sir Francis' second son, would handle the American end of the deal. Alexander had married Anne Louisa, the daughter of Henry Bingham [for whom Binghamton, NY is named], the richest man in America. The two younger men worked out the details. It was a tidy family arrangement. Strikingly, it was not a major challenge for these veteran financiers. Both had worked in this entangled international money market for some time.

Thus it was that a London banking firm sold American bonds on an international market to help France finance a renewed war with Great Britain. The U.S. Treasury sent \$11,250,000 in bonds to the French ministry of finance. The remainder of the \$15 million purchase price would be set aside to pay Americans' claims against France. **Robert R Livingston** and **James Monroe** had pledged an advance of \$2 million to be channeled through a Philadelphia banking firm, Willing and Francis. Baring bought a third of those bonds. Eventually all funds would pass through Barings. Every major player was happy: Napoleon bought arms; we doubled our territory; Great Britain controlled this financial pipeline and enhanced her national wealth.

Consider how a nation just emerged from its revolutionary fatigues could acquire such an increase in security and territory, and how it could pay for it right after another war largely fought on its own soil. The United States operated on a shoestring financially, but paid its way in an increasingly complex world of finance, and proved its worth. Gallatin's prudent budget administration meant that no additional taxes had to be levied upon citizens to pay off the bonds. Interest, and later redemption, payments came from selling public lands.

In late November 1803, the Spanish Governor of Louisiana presented a representative of the French government with a silver platter holding keys to important public buildings in New Orleans. (It was a comic-opera scene, of course; Spain had retroceded Louisiana to France three years before.) A few weeks later, the Frenchman handed the same silver platter and keys to an American official. When Lewis and Clark crossed the Mississippi from Camp DuBois on May 14, 1804, and started up the Missouri River, they entered a land that had been delivered on a silver platter.

Baring and Sons might have smiled at the irony. They, in turn, had found a pot of gold. It is estimated that after all the bonds were retired and all payments made, their company profited to the tune of \$3 million.



*[Note: the payment for the purchase was made in US bonds (The U.S. Treasury sent \$11,250,000 in bonds to the French ministry of finance. The remainder of the \$15 million purchase price would be set aside to pay Americans' claims against France], which Napoleon sold to Barings at a discount of 87 1/2 per each \$100. As a result, Napoleon received only \$8,831,250 in cash for Louisiana).*

*\$15,000,000 - \$8,831,250 = \$6,168,750; who received the rest of this money?*

And Marbois had gotten a better price for Louisiana than Napoleon expected!

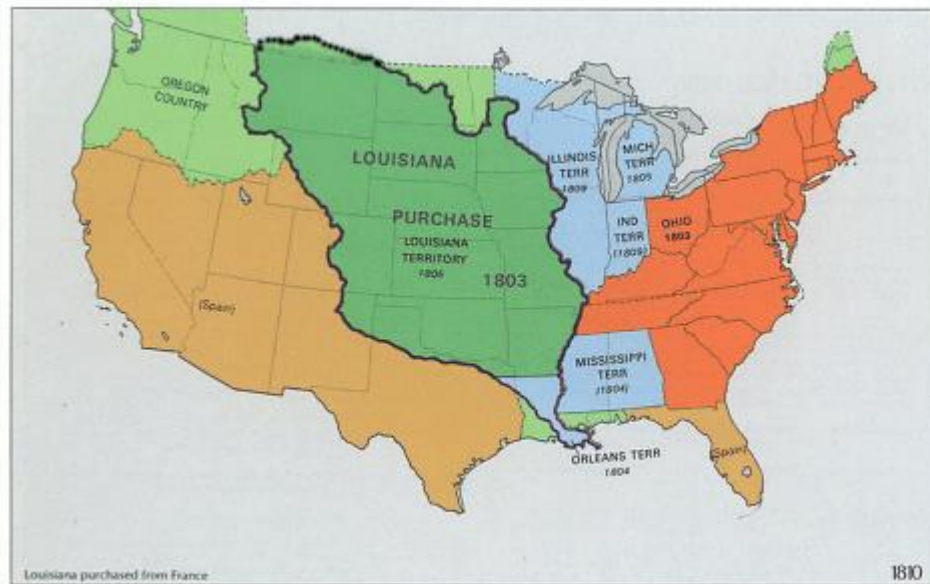


*William Clark*

On 31 Aug 1803 the expedition of the Corps of Discovery set off from Pittsburg to explore the Louisiana Purchase, headed by Bros. Meriweather Lewis and William Clark. William Clark's older brother, George Rogers Clark is noted above. Lewis and Clark were both members of St. Louis Lodge No. 111, with Bro. Lewis serving as its first Master in 1808.



*Meriweather Lewis*

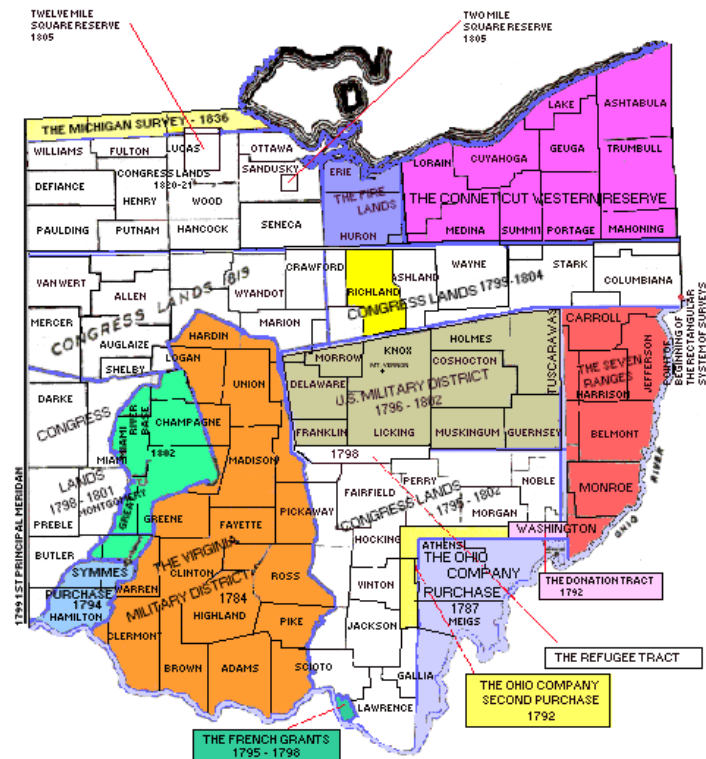


Map showing the principal territories of US as of 1810

On the above map, note to light green areas along the present boundary of the US. These areas were resolved in 9 Aug 1842 by the Webster-Ashburton Treaty with among other things reaffirmed the location of the border (at the 49th parallel) in the westward frontier up to the Rocky Mountains, originally defined in the Treaty of 1818. It also set the border of northern main and area around the Lake of the Woods (the source of the Mississippi River. In end the US picked up what would later be the rich iron ore deposits in northern Minnesota.

The 'Ashburn' of this treaty was Alexander Baring, 1st Baron Ashburton, who arranged the financing for the Louisiana Purchase and whose direct descendent is the present Pro Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England.

## Ohio Territory



The **Enabling Act of 1802**<sup>12</sup> was passed on 30 Apr 1802. This act authorized the residents of the eastern portion of the Northwest Territory to form the state of Ohio and join the U.S. on an equal footing with the other states. In doing so it also established the precedent and procedures for creation of future states in the western territories.

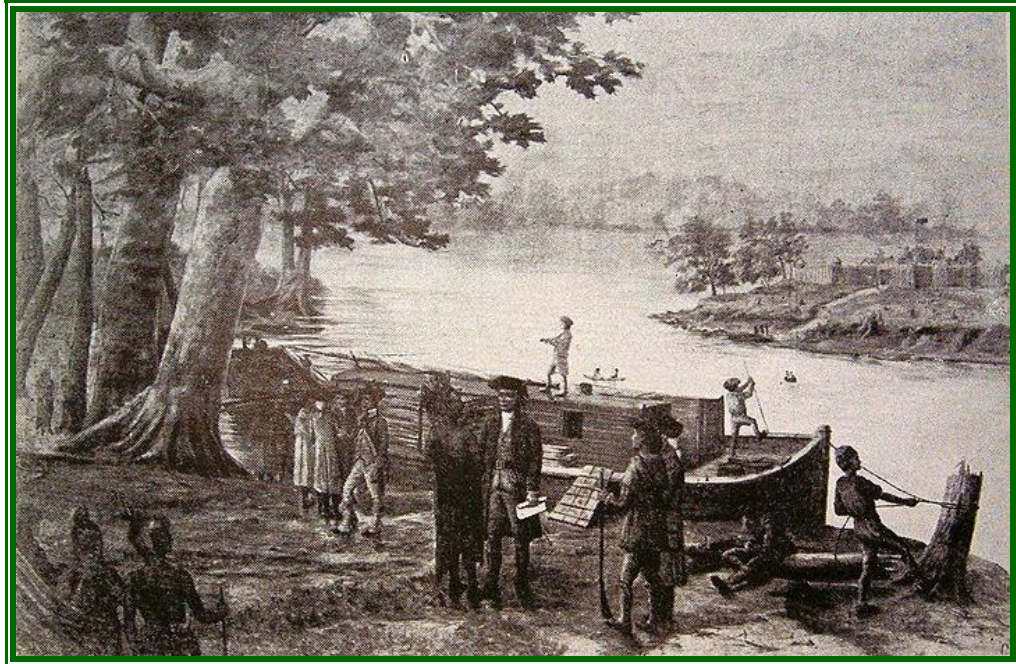
Ohio was the first state to be created out of the Northwest Territories, as established by the Northwest Ordinance in 1787. The Northwest Ordinance laid out the conditions for the creation of a state from a territory. By 1802 Ohio, in the easternmost part of the Northwest Territories, had reached a population of 60,000 and was entitled to begin the transition to statehood. The Enabling Act of 1802 set forth the legal mechanisms and authorized the people of Ohio to begin this process.

The act required the people of Ohio to elect a delegate for each 1,200 people to attend a constitutional convention. These delegates would meet in Chillicothe on 1 Nov 1802, and would decide by majority vote whether or not to form a constitution and state government, and, if so, either provide for the election of representatives for a constitutional convention or to proceed immediately with the matter. The new constitution and government of Ohio was required only to be "republican, and not repugnant to the ordinance of the thirteenth of July, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven, between the original States and the people and States of the territory northwest of the river Ohio." The new state was guaranteed to be equal in status to the existing states, and would have only one Representative to the Federal House until the next census. The act also granted certain lands held by the Federal government to the new state, notably those set aside for public schools, and provided that 1/20th of the proceeds from sale of Federal lands would fund creations of roads to and through Ohio. The convention agreed to form a state, subject to the agreement by Congress to several land-use proposals, and wrote the Ohio Constitution of 1802. On 19 Feb 1803, Congress recognized the State of Ohio.

On July 4, 1800, the Indiana Territory was carved out, reducing the Northwest Territory to the size of Ohio, to prepare for statehood. The Northwest Territory went out of existence when Ohio was admitted as a state on March 1, 1803.

## General Rufus Putnam

**Putnam, Gen. Rufus** Made a Mason in American Union Lodge (Initiated July 26; F. C., August 26; M. M., September 6, 1776) at the Robinson House, near West Point. He was at that time Colonel. He was the First Grand Master of Ohio.



Arrival of Gen. Rufus Putnam and American pioneers to the Northwest Territory at the mouth of the Muskingum River at the confluence of the Ohio and Muskingum rivers, on April 7, 1788.

The image view is looking south toward the mouth of the Muskingum River.

Fort Harmar is in the center-right background of this image, on the west side of the mouth of the Muskingum river.

These pioneers to the Ohio Country established Marietta, Ohio as the first permanent American settlement of the new United States, and opened the westward expansion of the new country.

This image is from the book by John T. Faris, *On the Trail of the Pioneers*, published in 1920.

**Rufus Putnam**<sup>13</sup>, b. 9 Apr 1738; d. 1824, was a colonial military officer during the French and Indian War, and a general in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. He was instrumental in the initial settling of the Ohio Country following the war. Putnam was born in Sutton, MA. His grandfather was a half-brother to the father of Bro. [Israel Putnam](#), the renowned General during the Revolution. Rufus's father died when he was 6 or 7, and he temporarily lived with his grandfather. Putnam's mother remarried two years later to John Sadler. Rufus lived with his mother and stepfather in Sutton, where the family ran an inn.

Putnam served with a Connecticut regiment during the French and Indian War. He served from 1757 to 1760. During the war, Putnam saw action in the Great Lakes region, near Lake Champlain.





After the war, Putnam relocated to New Braintree, MA. There, he worked as a millwright from 1761 to 1768. During this period he was married twice—first, in April 1761 to Elizabeth Ayers, the daughter of William Ayers, esquire of the Second Precinct of Brookfield, MA. Elizabeth died in 1762, and on 10 Jan 1765 he remarried to Persis Rice, the daughter of Zebulon Rice of Wesborough, MA. While Putnam worked as a millwright, he devoted his time to educating himself, learning vast quantities about geography, mathematics, and surveying.

In 1769, Putnam left his occupation as a millwright and became a farmer and surveyor. Rufus Putnam, along with Israel Putnam and two others, traveled in 1773 to near present-day Pensacola, Florida. There, Putnam surveyed and chartered lands along the Mississippi River that were to be granted to veterans of the French & Indian War.

After the shots at the Battle of Lexington were fired, Putnam immediately enlisted the same day, on 19 Apr 1775, in one of Massachusetts's first revolutionary regiments. Putnam later enlisted in the Continental Army as a Lieutenant Colonel, under the command of David Brewer. Brewer's regiment first engaged with the British Army in Roxbury, MA. Putnam, drawing from his knowledge and skill as a millwright, was essential in constructing the fortifications necessary for obtaining victory. His fortifications played as a key advantage for the Continental Army, securing victories at Sewall's Point, Providence, New Port, Dorchester Heights, Long Island, and West Point.

General Washington appointed Putnam to be the Chief of Engineers of the Works of New York. He was soon promoted to engineer with the rank of Colonel; however when the Continental Congress rejected his proposition to establish a corp of engineers in December 1776, Putnam resigned.

He reenlisted in the Northern Army and served under Major General Horatio Gates. Under Gates, Putnam commanded two regiments in the Battle of Saratoga. Putnam also constructed crucial fortifications, including Fort Putnam at West Point in 1778. In 1779 Putnam served under Major General Anthony Wayne after the capture of Stony Point. Putnam's remaining military career was rather uneventful. In January 1783 he was commissioned as Brigadier General.



After the war was over, Putnam returned to Rutland, MA. He had bought a confiscated farm here in 1780, and returned to reside upon it. Putnam returned to working as a surveyor, inspecting lands in Maine (then part of Massachusetts). Putnam was a strong advocate of granting lands to veterans of the Revolution. He was one of the authors of the army's Newbergh Petition, which was submitted to Congress requesting land disbursements.

His interesting Memoirs may be read at:

<http://rufusputnam.com/rufus/02genealogy.htm>,

a copy of which is in the archives of the OMDHS.

### **The Ohio Company**

Putnam's advocacy for land grants led him to establish the Ohio Company of Associates for the purchase and settlement of Western lands. The Ohio Company was established in Boston on 3 Mar 1786 by Putnam, Benjamin Tupper, Samuel Holden Parsons, and Rev. Manasseh Cutler. Its primary purpose was to settle the Northwest Territory, the land granted for colonization by the US from the Treaty of Paris (1783).

The Company bought 1,500,000 acres of land north of the Ohio River, between the present day sites of Marietta, Ohio, and Huntington, WV. Cutler had attempted to purchase all of the land between the Ohio and Scioto Rivers, but the western half of this tract was purchased by the Scioto Company.

Putnam led a group of Revolutionary veterans to settle the land in 1788. These American Pioneers to the Northwest Territory arrived at the confluence of the Ohio and Muskingum rivers, on April 7, 1788, and established Marietta, Ohio as the first permanent American settlement in the Northwest Territory. Putnam went on to serve as a Supreme Court Judge for the Northwest Territory.



He served in General Anthony Wayne's Ohio campaign against Indian tribes, and in 1796, Putnam was appointed as the first Surveyor General of the United States, a position he held until 1803. Putnam died on 4 May 1824. He was buried at Mound Cemetery in Marietta, Ohio.

Under the leadership of Rufus Putnam, two parties of pioneers comprising the first forty-eight men, departed New England, cutting trails westward through the mountains during an uncommonly severe winter. One party departed from the towns of Ipswich and Danvers, Massachusetts on December 3, 1787; the other party departed from Harford, Connecticut on January 1, 1788. The pioneers crossed the mountains and met at Sumrill's Ferry (present-day West Newton, Pennsylvania) on the Youghiogheny. During the bitterly cold winter, the men built two flatboats, the forty-five ton '*Adventure Galley*' also known as the '*Mayflower*' in honor of their Pilgrim ancestors, and the three-ton '*Adelphia*'. They also built three log canoes. This small fleet of boats carried the pioneers down the Youghiogheny River to the Monogahela River, and then to the Ohio River, and onward to the Ohio Country and the Northwest Territory. They arrived at their final destination, the mouth of the Muskingum River at the confluence of the Ohio and Muskingum rivers, on 7 April 1788.

The **Ohio Company of Associates**<sup>14</sup>, also known as the **Ohio Company**, was a land company which is today credited with becoming the first non-American Indian group to settle in the present-day state of Ohio. It was formed on 3 Mar 1786, by General Rufus Putnam, Benjamin Tupper, Samuel Holden Parsons and Manasseh Cutler, who had met in Boston, MA, to discuss the settlement of the territory around the Ohio River.

Cutler was sent to negotiate with the U.S. Congress to help the company secure a claim on the portion of land they were interested in. While there, Cutler aligned himself with William Duer, secretary of the U.S. Treasury Board. Duer and his associates formed a steadfast group of New York speculators determined for the settlement of the area west of the Appalachians. At this time, Congress desperately needed revenue. It was the economic strain and the pressure from Duer and Cutler that helped them to secure the incorporation in the Northwest Ordinance, for the government of the Northwest Territory of the paragraphs which prohibited slavery and provided for public education and for the support of the ministry.

After the creation of the Northwest Territory, Cutler suggested that the governor of the territory be **General Arthur St. Clair**, who was then serving as the President of Congress. Once St. Clair had been appointed to his new position, two new contracts were signed on 27 Oct 1787 between St. Clair, Cutler, and Major Wintrop Sargent, the secretary of the Ohio Company. The first was for the absolute purchase for the Ohio Company, of 1,500,000 acres (6,000 km<sup>2</sup>) of land at the confluence of the Ohio and Muskingum rivers from a point near the site of the present Marietta, to a point nearly opposite the site of the present Huntington, WVa, for a payment of \$1 million in government securities, then worth about 12¢ specie to the dollar. The contract also provided that one section of land in every township be devoted to the maintenance of public schools, another section be set apart for religious uses, and two entire townships be reserved for a university.

The second was an option to buy all the land between the Ohio and the Scioto rivers and the western boundary line of the Ohio Company's tract, extending north of the tenth township from the Ohio, this tract being preempted by Manasseh Cutler and Winthrop Sargent for themselves and others actually for the Scioto Company. Cutler's original intent was to buy for the Ohio Company only about 1,500,000 acres, but on the July 27, Congress authorized a grant of about 5,000,000 acres of land for \$3,500,000; a reduction



of one-third was allowed for bad tracts, and it was also provided that the lands could be paid for in United States securities. On the same day, Cutler and Sargent for themselves and associates transferred to William Duer, then Secretary of the Treasury Board, and his associates one equal moiety of the Scioto tract of land mentioned in the second contract, it being provided that both parties were to be equally interested in the sale of the land, and were to share equally any profit or loss. However, the interest of the Scioto Company was only speculative, and their contract lapsed before any land was purchased. In contrast, the Ohio Company held a genuine plan of settlement.

**In 1788, General Rufus Putnam laid out the plans for Marietta**, the first permanent settlement in the present state of Ohio. Pioneers were sent out by the Ohio Company from New England to Marietta. The first purchase was in Washington, Meigs, Gallia, Lawrence and Athens Counties.

In 1792, a second purchase was made of over 200,000 acres in Morgan, Hocking, Vinton and Athens Counties, but in 1796, the Ohio Company divided its shares and ceased to be a genuine land company.



The above painting was specially commissioned by the Grand Lodge of Ohio, entitled "From Whence We Came."

The painting depicts a meeting held on March 1, 1786, when eleven pioneers met at the Bunch of Grapes Tavern in Boston, to form the Ohio Company of Associates, four of whose prominent members were Freemasons.

From left to right are Gen. Benjamin Tupper, Col. John Brooks, Gen. Winthrop Sargent, Manasseh Cutler, and Gen. Rufus Putnam.

This association founded the city of Marietta, the first American settlement in what would become the state of Ohio.

Upon being elected as Grand Master of the newly formed Grand Lodge of Ohio in 1808, Bro. Putnam wrote the following letter:

"To the Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons, for the State of Ohio your Brother sendeth Greeting:

"It was with high sensibility and gratitude I received the information that the Grand Convention of Masons, convened at Chillicothe, in January last, elected me to the office of Grand Master of your most ancient and honorable society; but, however sensibly I feel the high honor done my by the Convention, and am disposed to promote the interest of the craft in general, and in this State in particular, I must decline the appointment. My sun is far past the meridian; it is almost set; a few sands only remain in my glass; I am unable to undergo the necessary labors of that high and important office, unable to make you a visit at this time. without a sacrifice and hazard of health which prudence forbids.

"May the Great Architect, under whose all-seeing eye all Masons profess to labor, have you in His holy keeping, that when our labors here are finished, we may, through the merits of Him that was dead, but now is alive, and lives forevermore, be admitted into that temple not made with hands, eternal in the heavens - Amen. So prays your friend and brother,

"RUFUS PUTNAM."

"Marietta, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>, 1808."

**Colonel John Brooks** received his E.A. degree in American Union Lodge (Military) on Aug. 28, 1779 and was later a member of Washington Lodge No. 10 (Military) under Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

Colonel Brooks<sup>15</sup> was baptized at Medford, Mass. 4 May 1752; died there 1 March 1825. He was the son of Captain Caleb and Ruth (Albree) Brooks. He married Lucy Smith. She was born ca. 1753; died at Medford, Mass. 26 Sep 1791.

At the age of 14 he was taken into the family of Doctor Simon Tufts, who educated him in surgery and 'physick'. At 21 he began practicing medicine in adjoining Reading, soon afterward was chosen Captain of a company of Minute Men of that town; marched at their head on 19 Apr 1775, to Lexington and Concord.

The following sketch for his service in the Revolutionary War appears in *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War* (2:576).

John Brooks, Reading (also given Medford). Major, Col. Ebenezer Bridge's regt. of Minute-men; marched April 19, 1775; service, 4 days; also, list of officers in Col. Bridge's (Middlesex Co.) regt.; commissioned May 27, 1775; also, list of officers; detailed as field officer of the picket guard May 8, 1775; also, lists of officers; detailed for main and picket guards at Cambridge, May 12-May 31, 1775; also, list of officers; detailed for picket guard June 8, 1775; also, Col. Bridge's regt.; engaged April 24, 1775; service to Aug. 1, 1775, 3 mos. 15 days; also, Lieutenant Colonel Commandant; Continental Army pay accounts for service from Jan. 1, 1777, to Dec. 31, 1779; also, Lieutenant Colonel, Col. Michael Jackson's regt.; return for supplies delivered Jan. 20, 1778; also, Lieutenant Colonel Commandant, 7th regt.; list of field officers; commissioned Nov. 11, 1778; also, return of officers in Col. Jackson's regt. dated Boston, Nov. 20, 1778; also, certificate stating service of Lieut. Isaac Parker dated Medford, Feb. 15, 1779; also, certificate stating service of Samuel Blaisdell dated Boston, Feb. 18, 1779; also, return of officers in Col. Jackson's (8th) regt. dated April 6, 1779; also, return of officers in (late) Col. Ichabod Alden's (7th) regt. made up to Dec. 31, 1779; commissioned Nov. 11, 1778; also, Lieutenant Colonel Commandant, 7th regt.; Continental Army pay accounts for service from Jan. 1, 1780, to Dec. 31, 1780; reported Division Inspector; also, returns dated Camp Totoway, Oct. 16-Nov. 23, 1780; also, returns dated Camp Hutts, Dec. 4-Dec. 22, 1780; also, return dated Camp near West Point, Dec. 28, 1780; reported acting as subinspector on the staff from Oct. 26, 1780; also, returns dated West Point, Jan. 5, Jan. 12 and Jan. 19, 1781; reported acting as Division Inspector on the staff; also, acting Colonel, 7th regt.; returns dated West Point and German Hutts, Jan. 26-May 25, 1781; reported on command at Boston; also, return of officers in Maj. John Graham's (3d) brigade dated May 25, 1781; also, 7th regt.; returns dated West Point, June 1-June 15, 1781; reported on command in Massachusetts; also reported settling accounts in Massachusetts June 1, 1781; also, returns dated Peekskill, June 22-June 29, 1781; reported settling accounts at Boston; also, returns dated Phillipsburgh and Peekskill, July 7-Sept. 1, 1781; reported on command at West Point; also, returns dated Peekskill, Sept. 21 and Sept. 28, 1781; also, muster roll for Oct. and Nov., 1781, dated York Hutts; reported commanding the brigade; also, muster rolls for Dec., 1781, Jan. and Feb., 1782, dated York Hutts; reported on furlough in Massachusetts from Jan. 5, 1782, by leave of Gen. McDougal (also given Gen. Heath); also, returns dated Hutts and West Point, March 1-July 26, 1782; reported attending court-martial in garrison; also, return dated West Point, Aug. 2, 1782; also, return dated Verplanck's Point, Aug. 13, 1782; also, returns dated West Point, Aug. 16 and Aug. 30, 1782; also, returns dated Verplanck's Point and New Windsor, Sept. 6, 1782-Dec. 20, 1782; reported on furlough in Massachusetts from Sept. 1, 1782, by leave of Gen. Washington; also, returns dated Camp at New Windsor, Dec. 27, 1782-Feb. 13, 1783; reported at Philadelphia by leave of Gen. Washington; also, returns dated March 14-June 13, 1783.







*On the above John Trumbull painting of the Surrender of Burgoyne, Col Brooks is depicted with his hand on cannon.*

John served as Brigadier General, United States Army, 11 Apr 1792; honorably discharged, 1 Nov 1796; had been one of the underwriters of the Ohio Company in 1786; as a member of the Convention of 1788 whereat the United States Constitution was adopted, he gave it his hearty support; was for some years United States Marshal for the District of Massachusetts; for several years was a State Senator from Middlesex County, and a member of the Executive Council. John received his degree from Harvard in 1787, and an honorary MD in 1810, and an Hon. LL.D. in 1817.

During the War of 1812 Governor Strong appointed him Adjutant General of the State. From 1816 through 1823, Colonel Brooks was Governor of Massachusetts, and, after his voluntary retirement, still continued to serve the community in various positions of trust and responsibility. He was President of the Massachusetts Medical Society; the Washington Monument Society; the Bunker Hill Monument Association; and the Massachusetts Bible Society. His portrait, by Gilbert Stuart, hangs in the west rotunda of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Colonel Brooks is one of the officers depicted in John Trumbull's well-known painting, *Burgoyne's Surrender at Saratoga*. He was an Original Member of the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati 1783-1825, and the first Secretary of the society: 1783 through 1785; a member of the Standing Committee, 1787 through 1791, 1800, 1801, 1808; President, 1810-25; and Vice-President-General of the General Society of the Cincinnati, 1811-25. John was granted a Bounty Land Warrant in March, 1792. Governor John Brooks is buried at the Medford Cemetery, Medford, Mass.

#### **The Rev. Dr. Manasseh Cutler**

Manasseh Cutler<sup>16</sup>, b. 13 May 1742; d. 28 Jul 1723, was a clergyman involved in the Revolutionary War and later a Congress representative and a founder of Ohio University. Cutler was born in Killingly, CT. In 1765, he graduated from Yale College and after being a school teacher and a merchant – and occasionally appearing in court as a lawyer – he decided to enter the ministry. From 1771 until his death, he was pastor of the Congregational church in what was the parish of Ipswich, MA until 1793, now Hamilton.

For a few months in 1776, he was chaplain to the 11th Massachusetts Regiment commanded by Colonel Ebenezer Francis, raised for the defence of Boston. In 1778, he became chaplain to

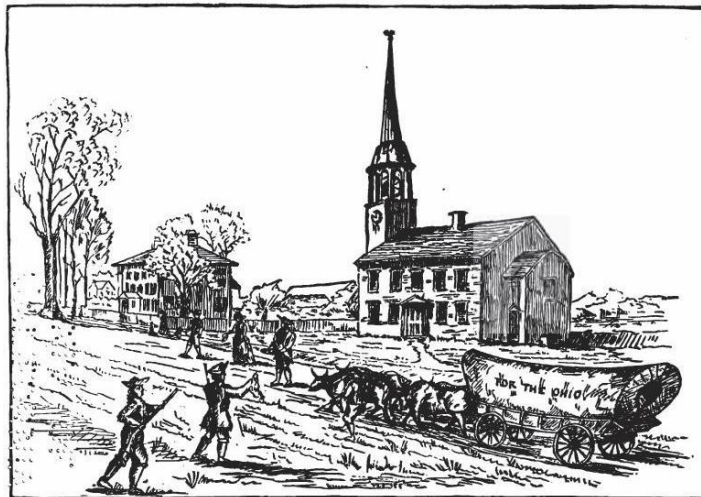


General Jonathan Titcomb's brigade and took part in General John Sullivan's expedition to Rhode Island. Soon after his return from this expedition he trained in medicine to supplement the scanty income of a minister. In 1782, he established a private boarding school, directing it for nearly a quarter of a century.

In 1786, Cutler became interested in the settlement of western lands by American Pioneers to the Northwest Territory. The following year, as agent of the Ohio Company of Associates that he had been involved in creating, he organized a contract with Congress whereby his associates (former soldiers of the Revolutionary War) might purchase one and a half million acres of land at the mouth of the Muskingum with their Certificate of Indebtedness. Cutler also took a leading part in drafting the famous Ordinance of 1787 for the government of the Northwest Territory, which was finally presented to Congress by Massachusetts delegate Nathan Dane. From 1801 to 1805, Cutler was a Federalist representative in Congress. He died in 1823 at Hamilton, Massachusetts.

Cutler was one of the early members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Besides being proficient in the theology, law and medicine of his day, he conducted painstaking astronomical and meteorological investigations and was one of the first Americans to conduct significant botanical research. He is considered a founder of Ohio University and the National Historic Landmark, Cutler Hall, on that campus is named in his honor.

He returned to Massachusetts in 1789 where he received the degree of Doctor of Laws from Yale University and played an active role in Massachusetts's government for the next two decades. In 1795, President George Washington offered him a position as judge in the Northwest Territory, but Cutler declined. He did not return to Ohio after his trip in 1788.



*Departure from Ipswich Hamlet of pioneers from Manasseh Cutler's parsonage in 1787*

**St. Clair, Arthur**, Petitioned the Grand Lodges and New Jersey, 8 Sep 1791, for Ohio Territory. Maj. General Continental Army, died 31 Aug 1818.

Arthur St. Clair<sup>17</sup> was a political and military leader in the Ohio country in the years of the American Revolution and the new nation. He was the first governor of the Northwest Territory.

St. Clair was born on March 23, 1736, in Scotland. Some sources list his birth year as 1734 or 1737. Little is known of his early years, and there still is some dispute over exactly who his parents were. He probably studied briefly at the University of Edinburgh and then left school to study anatomy with a man named William Hunter. By 1757, St. Clair had enlisted in the British army as an ensign and was serving in North America during the French and Indian War.

In 1762, St. Clair retired from the army with the rank of lieutenant. With funds from his father-in-law, Governor James Bowdoin of Massachusetts, St. Clair purchased approximately four hundred acres of land in the Ligonier Valley of Pennsylvania. This made him the largest property owner in Pennsylvania west of the Appalachian Mountains. Due to St. Clair's prominence, the governor of Pennsylvania made St. Clair his assistant for the frontier areas of the colony. St. Clair also served as a member of the

Westmoreland County court beginning in 1773. This position often put St. Clair at the center of controversy. Both Pennsylvania and Virginia claimed land in the Ohio Country, including Fort Pitt (modern Pittsburgh). While St. Clair tried to win control of this area for his state, Virginia usually emerged as the victor in their respective battles. St. Clair also preferred friendlier relationships with the Indians of the Ohio Country. He hoped to see Pennsylvania benefit from the fur trade, while the Virginians wished to settle the natives' land. St. Clair's actions in favor of the Indians may have spared settlers in western Pennsylvania some of the natives' wrath during Lord Dunmore's War in 1774.

As the American Revolution began, St. Clair became a supporter of the patriot cause. He served on his county's Committee of Safety and served as secretary to representatives from the Continental Congress sent to the Ohio Country to negotiate with the Indians. In 1775, the Congress appointed St. Clair to the rank of colonel in the Continental Army. St. Clair participated in America's attack on Canada in 1775. During the winter of 1776-1777, he assisted Washington at the battles of Trenton and Princeton.



In the spring of 1777, having attained the rank of brigadier-general, St. Clair became the commander of Fort Ticonderoga in New York. This fort served as a major deterrent to the British seeking to invade their former colonies from Canada. St. Clair evacuated the fort, allowing it to fall into English hands. The Continental Army held a court martial of St. Clair for his actions. He was found innocent of all charges. He continued to serve in the Continental Army, but higher authorities refused to place him in command of strategic locations such as Fort Ticonderoga.

In 1785, Pennsylvania elected St. Clair to represent the state in the Confederation Congress. He served as the president of the Confederation Congress in 1787, his last year in office. That same year, the Confederation Congress appointed St. Clair to be the first governor of the Northwest Territory. He remained in this position until 1802. One of St. Clair's most trying problems as governor was dealing with Native Americans who

believed that they were the rightful owners of the land. In 1789, St. Clair convinced at least some of the natives to sign the Treaty of Fort Harmar. This treaty required the Indians to give up much of their land in Ohio and open the region to white settlement. Most natives refused to honor the treaty, however. Many important Indian leaders were not invited to the negotiations or refused to participate. Those natives that did sign the document often did not represent their entire tribe. Rather than establishing peace with the Indians, the Treaty of Fort Harmar incited them to resist white settlement of their land.

To protect settlers and to force the Indians to abide by the Treaty of Fort Harmar, St. Clair ordered the construction of forts in western Ohio. St. Clair also dispatched General Josiah Harmar and an army of nearly 1,500 troops to conquer the natives. St. Clair ordered them to destroy the major village of the Miami Indians at present-day Fort Wayne, Indiana. Blue Jacket and Little Turtle led the Indians against Harmar's men and defeated them in October 1790, in a battle that came to be known as Harmar's Defeat. St. Clair decided that he had to deal with the Indians personally.

St. Clair moved against the Indians in September 1791. His men left Fort Washington, near Cincinnati, on September 17. The men marched twenty miles in two days and then built Fort Hamilton. St. Clair's army then advanced forty-five miles northward, where his men built Fort Jefferson. Leading primarily untrained militiamen, St. Clair faced problems with desertion from the beginning of his campaign. Although it was still early fall, his men faced cold temperatures, rain and snowfall. St. Clair also had a difficult time keeping his soldiers well supplied with food. His men became demoralized. Despite these problems, St. Clair continued to advance against the Miami Indians. By November 3, his men had arrived on the banks of the Wabash River, near some of the Miami villages.

Little Turtle led his warriors against the Americans on the morning of November 4. Many of the militiamen under St. Clair immediately fled. St. Clair led the regular soldiers in a bayonet charge. St. Clair had two horses shot out from under him. Several bullets passed through his clothing, and one took off a lock of his hair. The Indians surrounded the American camp. After three hours of fighting—the remaining



American soldiers fought through the Indians and began a lengthy retreat. The survivors reached Fort Jefferson late that afternoon and evening. With limited quantities of food and supplies at Fort Jefferson, St. Clair ordered his forces to Fort Washington. Of the 1,400 men who served under St. Clair, 623 soldiers were killed and another 258 wounded. One of the survivors stated, "The ground was literally covered with the dead." The Indians had soundly defeated St. Clair's army.

President George Washington demanded that St. Clair resign from the army. St. Clair did so on April 7, 1792, but remained governor of the Northwest Territory. He still faced problems with the natives. In 1794, Washington dispatched General Anthony Wayne to succeed where Harmar and St. Clair had failed. Wayne defeated the Indians at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in August 1794. In 1795, most natives in modern-day Ohio signed the Treaty of Greenville, relinquishing all of their land holdings in Ohio except what is now the northwestern corner of the state,

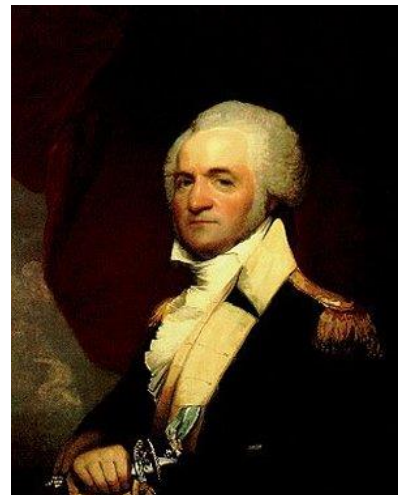
As governor, St. Clair was committed to establishing law and order. He was responsible for the adoption of Maxwell's Code, the Northwest Territory's legal code. St. Clair also hoped to model the Northwest Territory after the vision of the Federalist Party, which favored an elitist government. However, many Ohioans preferred the program of the Democratic-Republican Party. It called for a relatively democratic form of government. As Ohio moved towards statehood, St. Clair actively opposed Ohio's admittance to the United States. He hoped that what is now Ohio would not become a single state but rather two states. If this occurred, St. Clair believed that the Federalists would outnumber the Democratic-Republicans. This would allow the Federalists to continue to control the government of the new states. Democratic-Republicans in what was to become Ohio opposed St. Clair's efforts. Thomas Worthington, Nathaniel Massie, Michael Baldwin, and several others urged President Thomas Jefferson, the founder of the Democratic-Republican Party, to make Ohio a state. Jefferson and the Democratic-Republican-controlled United States Congress responded by issuing the Enabling Act of 1802. This act called on the people of Ohio to form a constitutional convention and to fulfill the other requirements of the Northwest Ordinance to become a state. St. Clair denounced the Enabling Act. Jefferson responded by removing St. Clair as governor. Ohio became the seventeenth state of the United States on February 19, 1803.

St. Clair then retired to his home in western Pennsylvania. He established a foundry and began to make stoves and castings. He was very liberal with his money, loaning money to his friends and family. The United States Congress failed to reimburse him for expenditures he had made while serving as governor of the Northwest Territory. Due to his financial problems, St. Clair lost most of his fortune and most of his vast land holdings. He eventually moved to a small log cabin where he died on August 31, 1818.

**Winthrop Sargent**, American Union Lodge, NC; Harmony Lodge No. 2, Cincinnati, Ohio, 24 Jun 1795. He was an Aide-de-Camp to General Howe. Died 3 Jun 1820.

Winthrop Sargent<sup>18</sup> was the first Secretary of the Northwest Territory. He was born in Gloucester, MA, on 1 May 1753. He graduated from Harvard College in the early 1770s. With the outbreak of the American Revolution, he joined the Continental Army and attained the rank of major by the war's end. In 1786, Sargent helped survey the Seven Ranges of townships in what is now eastern Ohio. Using the knowledge that he had attained while surveying parts of the Ohio Country, he helped organize the Ohio Company and Associates. He also was one of the principal shareholders of the Scioto Company. He became secretary of the Ohio Company in 1787 and assisted Manasseh Cutler in securing land from the Confederation Congress.

That same year, the Congress appointed Sargent as the secretary of the Territory Northwest of the River Ohio. He accompanied some of the first Ohio Company settlers to Marietta in 1788. During the late 1780s and early 1790s, Sargent played a major role in the governance of the Northwest Territory. Governor Arthur St. Clair was commonly away from his position, and Sargent served as de facto governor in his absence. He also served under St. Clair in



his expedition against the Indians living in western Ohio in 1791. At St. Clair's Defeat on November 4, 1791, Indians twice wounded Sargent.

In 1798, Winthrop Sargent resigned as secretary of the Northwest Territory to accept an appointment as the first governor of the Mississippi Territory. Sargent was a devoted member of the Federalist Party. In 1801, Thomas Jefferson, founder of the Democratic-Republican Party, became President of the United States. Jefferson removed Sargent from the governor's seat due to their differing political views. Sargent then retired from public life. He died in 1820.

**William Stacy (Stacey)** American Union Lodge. Major, Woodbridge's Massachusetts Regiment, 1775; Lt. Col. 7th Massachusetts, 1777; 4th Massachusetts, 1778.

William Stacy<sup>19</sup> (February 15, 1734 – August, 1802) was an officer of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, and a pioneer to the Ohio Country. Published histories describe Colonel William Stacy's involvement in a variety of events during the war, such as rallying the militia on a village common in Massachusetts, participating in the Battle of Bunker Hill, being captured by Loyalists and American Indians at the Cherry Valley massacre, narrowly escaping a death by burning at the stake, General George Washington's efforts to obtain Stacy's release from captivity, and Washington's gift of a gold snuff box to Stacy at the end of the war.

During Col. William Stacy's post-war life, he was a pioneer, helping to establish Marietta, Ohio as the first organized American settlement in the Northwest Territory. He was active in the Marietta pioneer community, and served as foreman of the first Grand Jury in the Northwest Territory, an event establishing the rule of law in the territory. At the age of 56, he ice skated thirty miles up a frozen river, warning two of his sons of a possible Indian attack, which occurred several days later as the Big Bottom massacre and marked the beginning of the Northwest Indian War..

William Stacy's surname has also been spelled as Stacey, Stacia, and Stacie; the correct spelling is Stacy. He is often referred to as Colonel Stacy, an abbreviation of his last rank of lieutenant colonel.

William Stacy was born in Gloucester, MA, in 1734 and died in Marietta, Ohio in 1802. Slightly different years of birth and death have been reported. Stacy grew up in Gloucester on the coast of Massachusetts and worked as a shoemaker, a trade learned from his father; he may also have worked in the seafaring business. William Stacy married Sarah Day in 1754. Subsequently, during 1757, they moved away from the coast to New Salem in western Massachusetts, and raised a large family. Stacy took up farming and continued his work as a shoemaker. He also became a commercial banker, loaning money at interest before there were any banks in the area. His customers were from New Salem and other towns in the Province of Massachusetts Bay. By the time of his early middle age, William Stacy was living a comfortable life; he was successful and widely known. During 1775, at the age of 41, William Stacy's life changed with the onset of friction between the Thirteen Colonies and the British Empire.

William Stacy was an active revolutionary from the beginning of the War of Independence. By one account, he entered service on April 19, 1775, the day of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, and the opening day of the war. Another account has William Stacy rallying the militia at his home village of New Salem, in the western portion of the colony, on April 20, 1775 upon receiving the news of Lexington and Concord. A memorial plaque was dedicated to Colonel Stacy in 1956 on the village common of New Salem. The story reflected on the plaque has been handed down for generations beginning with an early history in 1841, and was included in the publication of the New Salem Sesquicentennial Committee in 1904. The inscription on the plaque reads:

“Alarm bells called the citizens to this green April 20, 1775 to learn of the battle at Lexington. There was indecision until 1st Lt. Stacy stepped forward and said “Fellow soldiers, I don't know how it is with you, but for me I will no longer serve a king that murders my own countrymen.” Pulling out his commission from the crown he tore it to bits and trod it underfoot. Amid wild cheers a militia company of patriots was formed and under the gallant Stacy as Captain marched off to Cambridge. May such patriotism ever be with us.”

The New Salem Bicentennial Commission and town historian later speculated that this event might have occurred earlier, at the time of the Powder Alarm during 1774. The Powder Alarm was a precursor to the events at Lexington and Concord.



As the war began, William Stacy served as major in Colonel Benjamin Woodbridge's regiment of Minutemen, which was organized into Woodbridge's (25th) Regiment. During the Siege of Boston, Woodbridge's regiment was based at Cambridge, MA, near Boston, and participated in the Battle of Bunker Hill, the first large-scale battle of the war. An orderly book shows that on June 13, 1775, several days before the battle, Major Stacy was officer of the night guard, while Colonel William Prescott, who would be the primary leader of patriot forces during the battle, was officer of the day. Stacy was recommended for commission on June 16, the day before the battle. On June 17, 1775, Woodbridge's regiment of 300 soldiers arrived at Bunker Hill and took up positions immediately prior to the battle. A portion of Woodbridge's Regiment joined Colonel Prescott's Regiment at the redoubt and breastwork on the hill, and a company from Woodbridge's regiment deployed on the right flank.

The defenders on the right flank fought valiantly from behind what cover they could find. The men at the redoubt and breastwork fought until they had no more bullets, finally fighting with the butts of their guns, rocks, and their bare hands. Woodbridge's regiment "was not commissioned, and there are few details of it, or of its officers, in the accounts of the battle." A known detail related to the regiment was an affidavit signed by William Stacy with regard to a fellow patriot who was killed in action at Bunker Hill. Sergeant Benjamin Haskell (Haskall), also of New Salem and also a co-signer of that same affidavit, was reportedly in the center of the action near General Joseph Warren when Warren was killed during the battle. The New Salem Sesquicentennial Committee paid homage to Stacy, Haskell, and others of that village, proclaiming:

And in those days of darkness and disaster, which, as they come to all nations, will surely again come to us, he will tell us of another Jeremiah Meacham, of more Jeremiah Ballards, of another Benjamin Haskell, of another William Stacy...

#### **Cherry Valley massacre, and prisoner of war**

Subsequently during the American Revolution, William Stacy served as lieutenant colonel in Colonel Ichabod Alden's 7th Massachusetts Regiment during 1777 and 1778. The regiment was sent to Cherry Valley, NY, to protect the local population from Loyalists and Indians.

While serving with Colonel Alden at Cherry Valley during October 1778, William Stacy was transferred to the 4th Massachusetts Regiment, though remaining with Colonel Alden. During that time period, Lieutenant William McKendry, a Quartermaster in Colonel Alden's regiment, kept a journal with firsthand accounts of the actions at Cherry Valley. One of his lighter notes concerning Colonel Stacy was a journal entry for 6 Oct 1778: "Col. Stacy and Capt. Ballard had a horse race. Col. Stacy won the bet." However, one month later, Cherry Valley experienced the ravages of war. McKendry's journal entry for November 11, 1778 described the attack: "Immediately came on 442 Indians from the Five Nations, 200 Tories under the command of one Col. Butler and Capt. Brant; attacked headquarters; killed Col. Alden; took Col. Stacy prisoner; attacked Fort Alden; after three hours retreated without success of taking the fort." Three months later, in his journal entry for 12 Feb 1779, McKendry describes receiving a report from an Indian of William Stacy in captivity; Stacy was apparently concerned to reassure his fellow soldiers: "the last he knew of Col. Stacy he was well and in good spirits, and told him not to mind it for it was only the fortune of war."

Several accounts indicate that during the Cherry Valley massacre or thereafter, Colonel Stacy was stripped naked and tied to a stake, and was about to be tortured and killed, but was spared by Joseph Brant. William Stacy was a Freemason; Joseph Brant was an educated American Indian, and had also become a Freemason. It is reported that Stacy made an appeal as one Freemason to another, thus saving his life. Colonel Stacy was subsequently taken to Fort Niagara, the Loyalist base in New York and held prisoner under Colonel Butler during the summer of 1779. At Fort Niagara, Molly Brant, the sister of Joseph Brant, was hostile toward Stacy, and wanted Colonel Butler to return custody of Stacy to the Indians. She proclaimed dreams of her and the Indians using Stacy's head in an Indian football game. Colonel Butler placated Molly Brant with rum and protected his prisoner. Subsequently, from late-1779 through mid-1782, Colonel Stacy was held prisoner at Fort Chambly near Montreal.

As a prisoner of war, Colonel Stacy was the subject of high level correspondence and actions of General George Washington and other leaders of the Continental Army. During April 1780, General Lafayette of France, who fought with the Americans during the Revolution, hand-carried a letter from

Continental Army General Heath to General Washington, describing a reported Loyalist and British strategy concerning Stacy. The strategy was to continue holding Colonel Stacy as a prisoner of war, and to use Stacy in a prisoner exchange, should Colonel Butler or another ranking Loyalist officer, General John Johnson, be captured by the Continental Army. During September 1780, General Washington attempted to orchestrate a prisoner exchange for Colonel Stacy, but was unsuccessful. On 11 Nov 1781, the General Assembly of Massachusetts passed a Resolve urging Governor John Hancock to encourage General Heath to pursue a prisoner exchange for Stacy.

Colonel Stacy was not released from captivity until the end of the war, during August 1782. General Washington reportedly gave Stacy a gold snuff box as a personal memento after the war. William Stacy's nephew, Nathaniel Stacy, writes that his first memory of childhood was the return of Col. William Stacy to New Salem after the war.

During early 1788, at about 54 years of age, William Stacy joined with other Revolutionary War officers as a pioneer to the Ohio Country, and was involved in establishing Marietta at the confluence of the Ohio and Muskingum rivers as the first permanent American settlement in the Northwest Territory.. Colonel Stacy joined this venture as a shareholder in the Ohio Company of Associates, which was formed and led by Gen. Rufus Putnam and Gen. Benjamin Tupper. General Lafayette visited Marietta years later and described these pioneers and former officers: "They were the bravest of brave. Better men never lived. George Washington commented "I know many of the settlers personally, and there never were men better calculated to promote the welfare of such a community."

During the settlement of the Ohio Country, two of Colonel Stacy's sons were with a small group of pioneers attempting to establish a settlement on some good potential farmland known as Big Bottom, upriver from Marietta on the Muskingum River. Colonel Stacy ice skated thirty miles up the frozen river in late December 1790 and warned his sons about the danger of a possible Indian attack. His concerns were realized several days later on January 2, 1791 with the occurrence of the Big Bottom massacre, and the beginning of the Northwest Indian War. Twelve people were killed in the attack, including Stacy's son John. His son Philemon was taken captive and died later.

#### *Picketed Point stockade in Marietta >*

William Stacy was a prominent and active member of the pioneer settlement of Marietta. He superintended the construction of a stockade known as Picketed Point to protect the settlers from Indians, he was an officer in the militia, and he was an officer on the first board of police. Additionally, he served as an officer of the township of Marietta, and he owned one of two flour mills in the settlement. William Stacy was a member of the Society of the Cincinnati and an original member of the **American Union Lodge No. 1** (Freemasons) at Marietta; the name of this lodge was reportedly suggested by Benjamin Franklin, and the seal engraved by Paul Revere. Stacy was honored with the position of foreman of the first Grand Jury in the Northwest Territory. This was an important event, as this court was the first establishment of civil and criminal law in the pioneer country.

William Stacy lost his wife Sarah to smallpox during March 1790 after 36 years of marriage. He subsequently married Hannah Sheffield during July of that year. "A man highly esteemed for his many excellent qualities, and honored for his services and sufferings in the cause of freedom," William Stacy died in Marietta during 1802 at 68 years of age. He was buried in Marietta at Mound Cemetery, the site of an ancient Indian burial mound. Colonel Stacy has good company in his final resting place; Mound Cemetery reportedly contains the largest number of Revolutionary War officers buried in one location. A new memorial marker was dedicated to William Stacy in 1928 in Mound Cemetery.



**Benjamin Tupper** was member of Washington Army Lodge No. 10 and Union Lodge No.1, Albany, NY. He was Colonel in the 6th Massachusetts, Brevetted Brigadier General, dying on 1 July 1792.

Benjamin Tupper<sup>20</sup> was a prominent early settler of the Northwest Territory. Tupper was born in Stoughton, Massachusetts, on March 11, 1738. As a young boy, he served as an apprentice to a tanner. He remained an apprentice until he reached the age of sixteen. Tupper then became a farm hand. In 1756, he enlisted in a military company and fought for the English in the French and Indian War. He married in 1762 and supported his family by teaching school. Once the American Revolution began, Tupper enlisted in the Continental Army. He fought in several major battles and attained the rank of brigadier general before retiring in 1783.

At the end of the Revolutionary War, Tupper was one of the 288 officers who signed the Newburgh Petition. These men hoped that the new government would pay its soldiers with land from the Ohio Country. Following the war, Tupper served in the Massachusetts legislature and assisted the state militia in putting down Daniel Shays' rebellion in 1786. In the same year, he helped Thomas Hutchins survey the Seven Ranges. He used the knowledge he gained while surveying to help the Ohio Company of Associates. The Company soon received permission from the Confederation Congress to establish settlements in the Ohio Country.

Tupper traveled west with the original Ohio Company settlers and helped found Marietta. He served on various committees responsible for building roads, determining where new settlements were to be founded, and where various flour and sawmills were to be located. On September 9, 1788, Tupper and Rufus Putnam became the first judges in the Northwest Territory. Tupper lived in the Northwest Territory for the remainder of his life. He died on June 7, 1792.

**Benjamin Tupper**<sup>21</sup> (1738–1792) was a soldier in the French and Indian War, and an officer of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, achieving the rank of Brevet Brigadier General. Subsequently, he served as a Massachusetts legislator, and he assisted Gen. William Shepard in stopping Shay's Rebellion. Benjamin Tupper was a co-founder of the Ohio Company of Associates, and was a pioneer to the Ohio Country, involved in establishing Marietta, Ohio as the first permanent settlement in the Old Northwest Territory.

Benjamin Tupper, the youngest of eight children, was born in a precinct of Stoughton (now in Sharon), MA. His father died when he was young; Benjamin then worked as an apprentice to a tanner in Dorchester near Boston. At the age of sixteen, he began working on a farm in Chesterfield in western Massachusetts. As a young man, Benjamin Tupper served as a soldier during the French and Indian War for two or three years. During that time, he also ran a district school in Easton, MA, during the winters. At the age of 24, he married Huldah White in Easton, and they subsequently relocated to Chesterfield. He served as a lieutenant of the militia in Chesterfield.

Benjamin Tupper was in the field with the Continental Army throughout the Revolutionary War. He engaged as major with Col. John Fellows' Massachusetts regiment at the beginning of the war in April 1775, several days after the Battles of Lexington and Concord. Maj. Tupper participated in the Siege of Boston during 1775. During the siege he led an expedition against British forces on Castle Island and the Boston Light in Boston harbor. During the expedition, his troops skirmished with British and Tories, and burned the lighthouse to hinder the movement of British naval ships. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in late 1775.

After the Battle of Long Island in 1776, Lt. Col. Tupper commanded gunboats on the North River (the southernmost portion of the Hudson River) near New York City. Describing an engagement of Tupper's gunboats with the British, Gen. George Washington wrote "...our officers and men, during the whole of the affair, behaved with great spirit and bravery. Benjamin Tupper was promoted to colonel during July 1777. Later that year, Col. Tupper served under Gen. Horatio Gates at Saratoga. Col. Tupper and his 11th Massachusetts Regiment wintered at Valley Forge with Gen. Washington during the winter and spring of 1777 and 1778.

During 1778, Col. Tupper served with Gen. Washington at the Battle of Monmouth; during the action, Tupper's horse was killed under him. During 1780 he served in the Highlands Department and was in charge of the Great Chain across the Hudson River at West Point. He served in the northern frontier of

New York during the rest of the war as commanding officer of the 10th Massachusetts Regiment, and then the 6th Massachusetts Regiment. In 1783 he achieved the rank of Brevet Brigadier General.

At the close of the war Gen. Tupper returned to his family at Chesterfield, and became a member of the Massachusetts Legislature. During 1786, Benjamin Tupper and Bro. Rufus Putnam founded the Ohio Company of Associates. During 1787, he volunteered his services to Massachusetts militia Gen. William Shepard to assist in suppressing Shay's Rebellion; Gen. Tupper helped organize volunteers for the militia, and was with Gen Shepard defending the Springfield, MA, armory when Shays attacked and was defeated.

During 1788, Benjamin Tupper and other pioneers of the Ohio Company of Associates arrived at the confluence of the Ohio and Muskingum rivers to establish Marietta, Ohio, as the first permanent American settlement in the Old Northwest Territory. In August 1788, he invented a screw propeller, positioned in the stern of a boat, and turned with a crank. Manesseh Cutler wrote about the propeller that "It succeeded to admiration, and I think it a very useful discovery. During Sep 1788, Benjamin Tupper and Rufus Putnam were the justices of the first civil court in the Northwest Territory. Benjamin Tupper was a prominent member of the pioneer settlement of Marietta. He was a member of the Society of the Cincinnati, and an original member of the American Union Lodge No. 1 of Freemasons at Marietta, along with several others including his son Anselm Tupper, William Stacy, and Rufus Putnam.

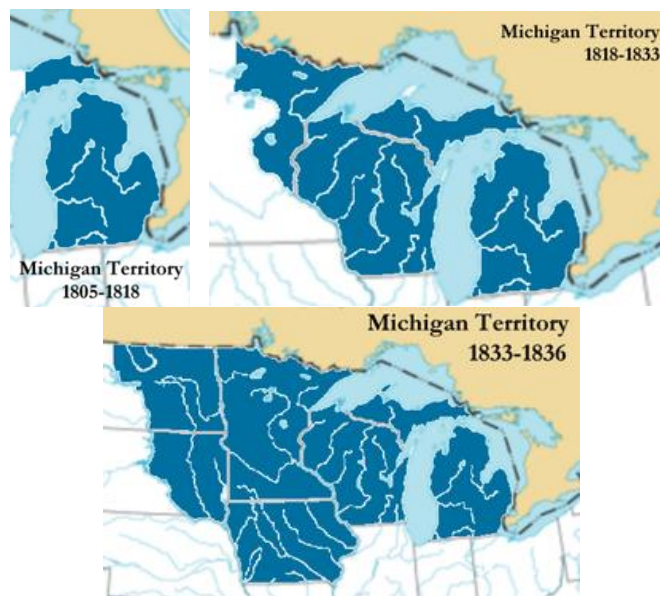
Benjamin Tupper's sons were Maj. Anselm Tupper, Gen. Edward W. Tupper, and Col. Benjamin Tupper, Jr. His daughters were Sophia, Minerva, and Roewena, who married Gov. Wintrop Sargent in the first marriage ceremony in the Northwest Territory. Another daughter, Huldah, died young.

Benjamin Tupper died in June 1792. A visitor to the Marietta settlement witnessed the funeral, and wrote that:

"Gen. Tupper, who had died the day before, was buried on the 17th. In consideration of the four different offices which he held, firstly as General in the service of the United States in the late war; secondly as member of the Cincinnati order; thirdly as director of the Ohio Company; and fourthly as master among the Freemasons, therefore, because of these positions, great honors were shown his remains at the funeral."

Benjamin Tupper is buried with many other Revolutionary War soldiers and pioneers at Mound Cemetery in Marietta.

#### Michigan Territory<sup>22</sup>



## Lewis Cass

**Lewis Cass**, American Union Lodge, Marietta, OH; Grand Master of Ohio and Michigan. Second Governor of the Michigan Territory

**Lewis Cass**<sup>23</sup>, b. 9 Oct 1782; d. 17 Jun 1866, was a military officer and politician. During his long political career, Cass served as a governor of the Michigan Territory, an American ambassador, and a U.S. Senator representing Michigan. He was the nominee of the Democratic Party for President of the US in 1848.

Cass was born in Exeter, NY, where he attended Phillips Exeter Academy. His parents were Major Jonathan Cass and Molly Gilman. In 1800 he moved with his family to Marietta, Ohio. On 26 May 1806, he married Elizabeth Selden Spencer, daughter of Dr. Joseph Spencer and Deborah Selden, grand daughter of Maj. Gen Joseph Spencer (1714-1789).



During the War of 1812, Cass served as a brigadier general and participated in the Battle of the Thames. As a reward for his service, he was appointed Governor of the Michigan Territory by President James Madison on 29 Oct 1813, and served until 1831. He was frequently absent, and several territorial secretaries often served as acting governor in his place.

In 1817, he was one of two commissioners (along with Duncan McArthur) who negotiated the Treaty of Fort Meigs, which was signed September 29 of that year with several Native American tribes.

In 1820, he led an expedition to the northern part of the territory, in the northern Great Lakes region in present-day northern Minnesota, in order to map the region and discover the source of the Mississippi. The source of the river had been unknown until then, resulting in an undefined border between the United States and British North America. The expedition erroneously identified Cass Lake as the source of the river. The source of the river was correctly identified in 1832 by Henry Schoolcraft, who had been Cass's expedition geologist, as nearby Lake Itasca.

On 1 Aug 1831, Cass resigned as governor of the Michigan Territory to take the post of Secretary of War under President Andrew Jackson, a position he would hold until 1836. Cass was a central figure in formulating and implementing the Indian removal policy of the Jackson administration. Next, Cass was appointed ambassador to France, which he remained until 1842.

Cass represented Michigan in the US Senate from 1845 to 1848. He served as chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs in the 30th Congress. In 1848, he resigned from the Senate to run for President. Cass was a leading supporter of the Doctrine of Popular Sovereignty, which held that the people who lived in a territory should decide whether or not to permit slavery there. His nomination caused a split in the Democratic party, leading many antislavery Democrats to join the Free Soil Party. He also supported the annexation of Texas.

After losing the election to Zachary Taylor, he returned to the Senate, serving from 1849 to 1857. He was the first non-incumbent Democratic presidential candidate to lose an election.

From 1857 to 1860, Cass served as Secretary of State under President James Buchanan. He was sympathetic to American filibusterers and was instrumental in having Commodore Hiram Paulding removed from command for his landing of Marines in Nicaragua and compelling the removal of William Walker to the United States. Cass resigned on 13 Dec 1860, because of Buchanan's failure to protect federal interests in the South and failure to mobilize the federal military, actions that might have averted the threatened secession of Southern states.

Cass died in 1866 and is buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Detroit, Michigan.

## LEWIS CASS<sup>24</sup>

by Henry M. Look

THE history of this distinguished man affords so broad a field of inquiry, that it is almost impossible to confine even a sketch of his life within the usual limits of a magazine article.

His career as a statesman, and his eminent services to his country in war and peace, are a part of our national history. His name is a household word in nearly every home in Michigan. I shall therefore pass as briefly as possible over his public life, and remark more particularly (as you requested me) upon his character and services as a Freemason.

Lewis Cass was born at Exeter, New Hampshire, October 9, 1782. He received a good English education, and at the age of seventeen sought a home in the western wilderness, settling at Marietta, Ohio. Here, on the night of his arrival, he found himself among utter strangers, his entire possessions consisting of a stout suit of homespun, five or six good books, and *two dollars and fifty cents* in silver. Yet he was rich, for he bore the wealth of a brave and noble heart, and as cool and clear a head as ever crossed the Alleghanies. He at once made friends, and having secured a favorable situation in an office, he began the study of law. He prosecuted his studies with that zeal which characterized all his efforts, and came to the bar soon after attaining his majority. He obtained a lucrative practice, and rose rapidly in his profession. At the age of twenty-five he was elected to the Ohio Legislature, where he originated and introduced the bill which resulted in the defeat of Burr's Conspiracy. He was Marshal of the State of Ohio, by appointment of President Jefferson, from 1807 to 1811, when he entered the military service against the Indians on the frontier. On the breaking out of the War of 1812, he entered the service as Colonel of the Third Regiment of Ohio Volunteers, he was the first to enter Canada at the head of U. S. troops, and he fought and won the first battle on the enemy's soil. He was soon after promoted to the rank of a Brigadier General, having in the meantime been elected a Major General of Ohio Volunteers. In 1813 he was appointed, by President Madison, Governor of Michigan, (then a territory,) which position he held until July, 1831, when he entered the cabinet of President Jackson as Secretary of War. In 1836 he was appointed, by Jackson, Minister to France, where he remained until 1842. In 1845 he was elected a Senator of the United States from Michigan. In 1848 he was the candidate of the Democratic party for the Presidency. In 1849 he was again elected to the United States Senate. Upon the accession of James Buchanan to the Presidency, Mr. Cass was placed at the head of his cabinet as Secretary of State, which position he resigned in 1860, and lived afterwards in retirement until his death.

He was the cotemporary of Clay, Calhoun, Webster, and Benton. He bore a leading part in all the public measures of his time, and ranks in history as one of the purest and greatest of American statesmen.

The institution of Ancient Freemasonry afforded to the mind of Mr. Cass a calm and welcome retreat from the turmoil of public life, and within its peaceful precincts he was accustomed, during all his adult years, to meet his brethren of the Craft in fraternal conclave.

**He was made a Mason at Marietta, Ohio, at the age of twenty- two.** In 1804, when he was in his twenty-second year, he assisted in the formation of the first Grand Lodge of Ohio; representing, in that body, Amity Lodge No. 105. He was the first Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. I am aware that the impression widely prevails that Lewis Cass was the first *Grand Master* of Ohio. Upon a careful examination of the best authorities, I believe this impression to be erroneous. The early records of the Grand Lodge of Ohio show that General *Rufus Putnam* was the *first* Grand Master, and that Lewis Cass succeeded Samuel Huntington as Grand Master; which would make Mr. Cass at least third *upon* the list of Grand Masters of Ohio. I know that some very intelligent brethren, including one of our most eminent Past Grand Masters, differ with me, and believe that Lewis Cass was the *first* Grand Master of Ohio, as he certainly was of Michigan. If any brother is in possession of proofs showing anything different from my conclusion, I will thank him to set me right.

After his removal to Michigan, Mr. Cass continued to be actively identified with the Order. He assisted in the formation of the first Grand Lodge of Michigan, and on the 31st of July, 1826, was elected its first Grand Master. In 1827 he was re-elected Grand Master of Michigan. He was also one of the original incorporators of the Grand Lodge of Michigan, under the act of incorporation adopted in April, 1827. This act of incorporation was passed at a time when Masonry had more open enemies here than at any other period. The anti-Masonic excitement, amply fed by unprincipled demagogues, had been fanned into a flame



in New York and New England, and for a number of years not only the Grand Lodge of Michigan, but all subordinate Lodges within its jurisdiction, with one exception, ceased active operations. Stoney Creek Lodge, in Oakland county, was the only Lodge in Michigan that continued its work during the Grand Lodge interregnum. But with the sober second thought reason returned to the people, and Masonry revived throughout the country.

In 1862, after the retirement of Mr. Cass from active life, the Grand Lodge of Michigan appointed a committee to wait upon him at his residence in Detroit, to convey to him the compliments of the fraternity, and request his presence in the Grand Lodge. He was then too feeble to leave his house, but in his conversation with the committee he took occasion to refer to the history of the Order in Michigan, and especially to the scenes of the anti-Masonic excitement.

"I well remember," said he, "the ordeal through which we then passed. I was at the time Grand Master of Michigan, and was present when the Grand Lodge voted to temporarily suspend its labors. We never *disbanded*," he said, earnestly; "we only agreed to *suspend* our work until the passions of men should subside. Every hand was faithful, every heart remained true." In speaking of those who urged on the crusade against Masonry, he said: "They had no honorable motive whatever. They only sought to fan, by the breath of slander, a popular feeling upon which they might ride into power."

At the time of the reorganization of the Grand Lodge of Michigan, in 1841, Mr. Cass was in France, as the Foreign Minister of the United States, but by his valuable counsels he materially aided in rebuilding the fallen altars.

Although he was never, after his mission to France, an officer in any Masonic body, yet his personal attendance was frequent, and his interest in this institution never wavered, to the day of his death.

In 1857 he wrote to the Hon. John T. Heard, of Boston: "I am glad to learn that the Masonic Fraternity is doing so well in Massachusetts. It is a green spot for the eye to rest upon. I consider the Institution admirably calculated to soften the asperities of life, and to encourage a spirit of philanthropy and good feeling among nations and individuals."

After his retirement from the cabinet of President Buchanan, his failing health confined him constantly to his house. Yet nowhere could a sweeter prison have been found, for it was in that refined and happy home circle to which he had always returned with so much affection. His last days were crowned with such love, and peace, and honor as seldom fall to the lot of man.

Day by day his strength declined, and on the 17th of June, 1866, he expired. His final departure was from his residence in the beautiful City of the Straits—the city which his taste, enterprise and wealth had done so much to improve and beautify.

The funeral ceremonies were solemnly impressive. All the civil and military organizations of the city and surrounding country, with tens of thousands of citizens, united to form one of the most imposing pageants ever seen in Michigan. But the immediate obsequies were entrusted to his brethren of the Mystic Tie. It is one of the highest evidences of the excellence of Freemasonry that this great and good man, this life-long craftsman, who had "sounded all the depths amid shoals of honor," requested in his dying hour that his ashes might be laid to rest under its simple and beautiful ritual.

Thus closed the earthly career of the great statesman, the pure patriot, the brave soldier, the true Mason, the faithful friend, the upright citizen, Lewis Cass.

The limits to which I am here restricted forbid any extended review of his character, and I shall only say that the Northwest, and especially Michigan, owes more to him than to any other man. While his great abilities commanded the admiration not only of his countrymen, but also of the Courts of Europe, his private virtues endeared him to all who were so fortunate as to possess his personal friendship.

I cannot better close this hasty sketch than by quoting the language used by Grand Master S. C. Coffinbury in announcing the death of Mr. Cass to the Grand Lodge of Michigan, at the annual communication of that body in January, 1867:

"The character of General Cass combined many remarkable traits. As a private member of society he was distinguished for the purity of his morals and his circumspect conduct — the courteous, yet rarest simplicity of his manners — his amiable, yet elegant social habits — his warm and disinterested friendship

— his sincere devotion to the advancement of mankind in all those virtues which to palliate the stringency of social necessities, modify and regulate social conventionalities and elevate and give moral dignity to the human character. His literary attainments were high — his taste pure. In his intercourse with his fellow men he was amiable, polite and kind. In his sphere, as a private citizen he was a model."

When before has the fraternal benediction been better deserved— *Peace to his ashes, and rest to his soul?*

**William Hull**, American Union Lodge, Master Mason, 13 Mar 1776; Washington Army Lodge No. 10, Junior Warden. Lt. Col. 3rd Massachusetts Regiment; Major General, War of 1812. Died 29 Nov 1825. First Territorial Governor of Michigan.

**William Hull**<sup>25</sup>, b. 24 Jun 1763; d. 29 Nov 1825 was an soldier and politician. He fought in the Revolutionary War, was Governor of Michigan Territory, and was a general in the War of 1812, for which he is best remembered for surrendering Fort Detroit to the British. He was born in Derby, CT and graduated from Yale in 1772, studied law in Litchfield, CT and passed the bar in 1775.



At the outbreak of fighting in the Revolution, Hull joined a local militia and was quickly promoted to captain, then to major, and to lieutenant colonel. He was in the battles of White Plains, Trenton, Princeton, Stillwater, Saratoga, Fort Stanwix, Monmouth, and Stony Point. He was recognized by George Washington and the Continental Congress for his service.

Hull was a friend of Nathan Hale and tried to dissuade Hale from the dangerous spy mission that would cost him his life. Hull was largely responsible for publicizing Hale's famous last words, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." After the American Revolution, he moved to his wife's family estate in Newton, MA and served as a judge and state senator in Massachusetts.

On 22 Mar 1805, President Thomas Jefferson appointed him Governor of the recently-created Michigan Territory as well as its Indian Agent. As almost all of the territory except for two enclaves around Detroit and Fort Michilimackinac were in the hands of the Indians, Hull undertook the goal of gradually purchasing more Indian land for occupation by American settlers. He negotiated the Treaty of Detroit with the Ottawa, Chippewa, Wyandot and Potawatomi nations, which ceded most of present-day Southwest Michigan to the United States. These efforts to expand American settlement began to generate opposition, particularly from the Shawnee leaders Tecumseh and his brother Tenskwatawa, the Shawnee Prophet, who preached resistance to the American lifestyle and to further land giveaways.

By February 1812, it was becoming clear that war with Great Britain was imminent, and the British were attempting to recruit the Native American tribes in Canada, Michigan, and elsewhere as their allies against the Americans. While Hull was in Washington, Secretary of War William Eustis informed him that President Madison wished to appoint him a Brigadier General in command of the new Army of the Northwest. Hull, then nearly 60 years old, expressed his disinterest in a new military commission, and a Colonel Kingsbury was selected to lead the force instead. Kingsbury fell ill before taking command, and the offer was repeated to Hull, who this time accepted. His orders were to go to Ohio, whose governor had been charged by Madison with raising a 1,200-man militia that would be augmented by the 4th Infantry Regiment from Vincennes, Indiana, to form the core of the army. From there he was to march the army to Detroit, where he was to also continue serving as Territorial Governor.



< *General William Hull, portrait by Rembrandt Peale.*

Hull arrived in Cincinnati on 10 May 1812, and on 25 May took command of the militia at



Dayton. The militia comprised three regiments, who elected as their commanding Colonels Duncan McArthur, Lewis Cass, and James Findlay. They marched to Staunton and then to Urbana, where they were joined by the 300-man 4th Infantry Regiment. The men of the militia were ill-equipped and lacked military discipline, and Hull relied on the infantry regiment to quell several instances of insubordination on the remainder of the march. By the end of June, the army had reached the rapids of the Maumee River, where Hull committed the first of the errors that would later reflect poorly on him.

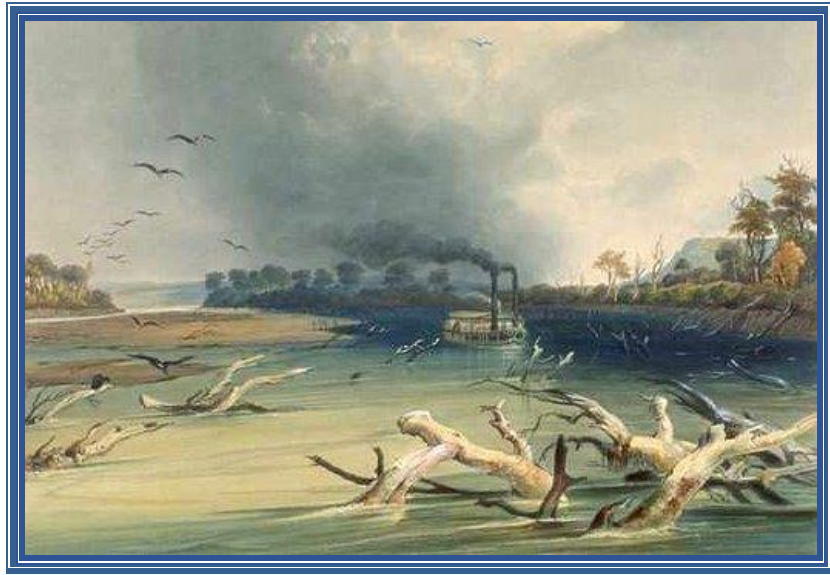
The declaration of war on Great Britain was signed on 18 Jun 1812, and that same day Secretary Eustis sent two letters to General Hull. One of them, sent by special messenger, had arrived on 24 June but did not contain any mention of the declaration of war. The second one, announcing the declaration of war, was sent via the postal service, and did not arrive until 2 July. As a result, Hull was still unaware that war had broken out when he reached the rapids of the Maumee, and as the army was now on a navigable waterway, he sent the schooner *Cuyahoga Packet* ahead of the army to Detroit with a number of invalids, supplies, and official documents. Unfortunately for Hull, the British commander at Fort Amherstburg had received the declaration of war two days earlier, and captured the ship as it sailed past, along with all of the papers and plans for an attack on Fort Amherstburg.

Hull was, at least in part, the victim of poor preparation for war by the U.S. government and miscommunication. While governor, Hull's repeated requests to build a naval fleet on Lake Erie to properly defend Detroit, Fort Mackinac, and Fort Dearborn were ignored by the commander of the northeast, General Henry Dearborn. Hull began an invasion of Canada on 12 Jul 1812. However, he quickly withdrew to the American side of the river after hearing the news of the capture of Fort Mackinac by the British. He also faced unfriendly Native American forces, which threatened to attack from the other direction.

Facing what he believed to be superior forces thanks to his enemy's cunning stratagems such as instructing the Native American warriors to make as much noise as possible around the fort, Hull surrendered Fort Detroit to Sir Isaac Brock on 16 Aug 1812. Accounts of the incident varied widely. A subordinate, Colonel Lewis Cass placed all blame for the surrender on Hull and subsequently succeeded Hull as Territorial Governor. Hull was court-martialed, and at a trial presided over by General Henry Dearborn, with evidence against him given by Robert Lucas, a subordinate and the future governor of Ohio and territorial governor of Iowa. Hull was sentenced to be shot, though upon recommendation of mercy by the court, Hull received a reprieve from President James Madison.

Hull lived the remainder of his life in Newton, MA and wrote two books attempting to clear his name. Some later historians have agreed that Hull was unfairly made a scapegoat for the embarrassing loss. The publication of his *Memoirs* in 1824 changed public opinion somewhat in his favor, and he was honored with a dinner in Boston on 30 May 1825. That June, Lafayette visited Hull and declared, "We both have suffered contumely and reproach; but our characters are vindicated; let us forgive our enemies and die in Christian love and peace with all mankind." Hull died at home in Newton several months later, on 29 Nov 1825.

## Epilogue

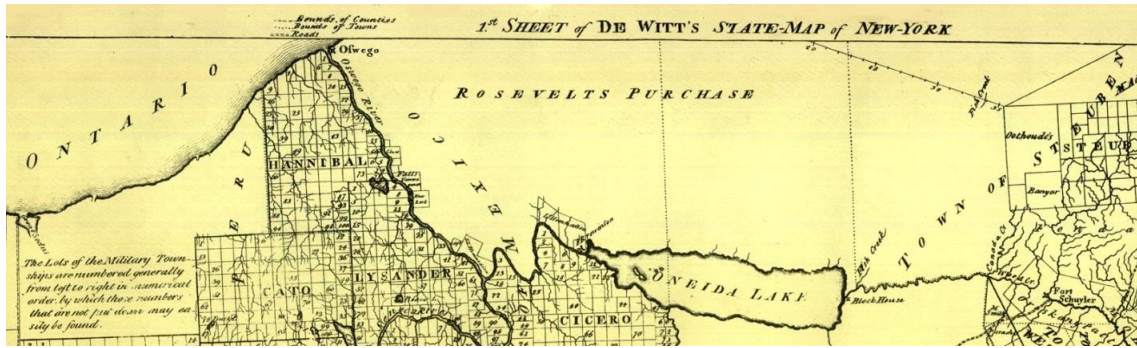


Lt. Phyn left Fort Pitt on 29 Sep 1767 and wrote to Sir William Johnson from Mobile (now in Alabama) on 29 Sep 1867. There were no locks to control the level of the Ohio or Mississippi Rivers; the journey was no doubt high adventure. With the passage of time and considerable effort the area, as noted above, was tentatively tamed, but civilization as we now know it was still in its infancy.

In September 1811, 43 years later, another epic voyage from Pittsburg to New Orleans occurred. This one was undertaken in a relatively more civilized time, but of somewhat more epic proportions. This was the year of the 'Great Comet of 1811' which was first noted in March. By January 1811 its brightness has faded, but it accompanied the journey of Bro. Nicholas J Roosevelt and his wife on the first steamboat voyage down the same Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. This was also the year of the great 'New Madrid Earthquake' which was felt strongly over 50,000 square miles, beginning on 16 Dec 1811 with aftershocks through 7 Feb 1812. The above painting portrays the riverboat "New Orleans" attempting to navigate the river, which had considerably changed its course from when Bro. Roosevelt has earlier navigated it in a flatboat.

Bro. Nicholas J. Roosevelt, born 27 Dec 1767 in New York City and died in Skaneateles, NY, on 30 Jul 1854. His life eventually led him to the concept of vertical wheel steam propulsion for river craft in the period between 1797 and 1809. He was intimately associated with Robert Fulton and Bro. Robert R Livingston on the development on this mode of transportation. In Sep 1811 he embarked from Pittsburg and navigated the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, arriving at New Orleans on 12 Jan 1812.

By about 1828 he had retired to Skaneateles with his family. A Land Patent of 500,000 acres in northern Central New York bore his name in 1791. It was later sold to Col. George Scriba in 1794, who was an escort for George Washington at his inauguration in 1778.



From the seemingly dim view of Lt. Phyn in 1768 to the development of the Old Northwest Territory into a vibrant, if tenuous frontier to statehood in less than forty years would appear to be quantum leap from one point to another, but Freemasons were there to significantly assist in its realization.

-----

### Gary L. Heinmiller

Right Worshipful Gary L. Heinmiller [aka Lee Miller] was raised in Liverpool Lodge 525 [now Liverpool Syracuse Lodge 501] in 1987, where he has served as Master [1997-98] and Secretary [1996, 98-09]. He was a Trustee of The Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library of Grand Lodge of New York [1996-2002] and is a member of Royal Arch Masons, Cryptic Council, and Masonic Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis (MSRICF). He previously published in the 1997 Transactions of the American Research Lodge.

Brother Heinmiller is Area 11 Historian for the Onondaga Masonic Districts GL NY, and is Director of the Onondaga & Oswego Masonic Districts Historical Societies [OMDHS], of which he was the Founder [1995]. He maintains the OMDHS website, by the good graces of a fine webmaster, at [www.omdhs.syracusemasons.com](http://www.omdhs.syracusemasons.com).

Author of *Freemasonry and a View of the Perennial World Philosophy*, 1997, he has actively studied allegory, symbolism, contemplative geometry, comparative religion, genealogy, ancient civilizations and related subjects for over 40 years. Brother Heinmiller has written and compiled numerous essays, poems and other works. He has lectured for over 25 years. His favorite quote: "All of my best thoughts were stolen by the ancients."

### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Map: <http://en.wikipedia.org>

<sup>2</sup> Hildreth, S. P., *Early Pioneer Settlers of Ohio*, 1852. pages 186-216.

<sup>3</sup> *Ohio History Sketches*, by Francis Bail Pearson, 1909. pages 73-79.

<sup>4</sup> *Ohio History Sketches*, by Francis Bail Pearson, 1909. pages 73-79.

<sup>5</sup> Hildreth, S. P., *Early Pioneer Settlers of Ohio*, 1852.

<sup>6</sup> "Trade and Politics, 1767-1769," by Clarence Walworth Alvord, Clarence Edwin Carter, page 21.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=p40UAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA21&lpg=PA21&dq=%22george+hyn%22&source=bl&ots=sWb2e7TAWb&sig=bP1VCNMr8R05mMI7n2hMCSNsSck&hl=en&ei=XJSzSb nTJovltgee4tHDBw&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&resnum=1&ct=result#PPA21,M1](http://books.google.com/books?id=p40UAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA21&lpg=PA21&dq=%22george+hyn%22&source=bl&ots=sWb2e7TAWb&sig=bP1VCNMr8R05mMI7n2hMCSNsSck&hl=en&ei=XJSzSb nTJovltgee4tHDBw&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=1&ct=result#PPA21,M1) .

<sup>7</sup> Ibid. page 117

<sup>8</sup> Ibid. page 242

<sup>9</sup> Mackey's Encyclopedia, 1912. Page 53.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=cdoSAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA53&lpg=PA53&dq=%22American+Union+Lodge%22&source=bl&ots=JkmTb35nOS&sig=8ZBp4PHK5Vd9e2UaLDvmdOkBEyQ&hl=en&ei=D3GuSbmRGYyPngeljdm3Bg&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&resnum=10&ct=result](http://books.google.com/books?id=cdoSAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA53&lpg=PA53&dq=%22American+Union+Lodge%22&source=bl&ots=JkmTb35nOS&sig=8ZBp4PHK5Vd9e2UaLDvmdOkBEyQ&hl=en&ei=D3GuSbmRGYyPngeljdm3Bg&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=10&ct=result)

<sup>10</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis\\_Baring](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Baring)

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.lewis-clark.org/content/content-article.asp?ArticleID=316>

<sup>12</sup> <http://ohiohistorycentral.org/entry.php?rec=1490&nm=Enabling-Act-of-1802>

<sup>13</sup> Hildreth, S. P., *Early Pioneer Settlers of Ohio*, 1852.

---

<sup>14</sup> Hildreth, S. P., Early Pioneer Settlers of Ohio, 1852.

<sup>15</sup>

[http://www.newenglandancestors.org/database\\_search/msc.asp?f=RESEARCH%5CDATABASE%5CMSC%5CCONTENT%5CJOHN%20BROOKS.HTM](http://www.newenglandancestors.org/database_search/msc.asp?f=RESEARCH%5CDATABASE%5CMSC%5CCONTENT%5CJOHN%20BROOKS.HTM)

<sup>16</sup> Appleton's cyclopædia of American biography, Vol. 2, edited by James Grant Wilson, John Fiske. page 47.

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/entry.php?rec=354&nm=Arthur-St-Clair>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/entry.php?rec=331&nm=Winthrop-Sargent>

<sup>19</sup> Hildreth, S. P., Early Pioneer Settlers of Ohio, 1852.

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/entry.php?rec=386&nm=Benjamin-Tupper>

<sup>21</sup> Hildreth, S. P., Early Pioneer Settlers of Ohio, 1852.

<sup>22</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michigan\\_Territory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michigan_Territory)

<sup>23</sup> <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=C000233>

<sup>24</sup> "Freemason's Monthly," 1873. page 25.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=O6tLAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA27&lpg=PA27&dq=%22lewis+cass%22+%22grand+master%22&source=bl&ots=pXt40WUBgF&sig=y7GDpBTYg-R4-Mf8zwAg84sOlUM&hl=en&ei=yBm3SaDLItKgtwf\\_7MWsCQ&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&resnum=5&ct=result#PPA25,M1](http://books.google.com/books?id=O6tLAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA27&lpg=PA27&dq=%22lewis+cass%22+%22grand+master%22&source=bl&ots=pXt40WUBgF&sig=y7GDpBTYg-R4-Mf8zwAg84sOlUM&hl=en&ei=yBm3SaDLItKgtwf_7MWsCQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=5&ct=result#PPA25,M1)

<sup>25</sup> Revolutionary Services and Civil Life of General William Hull, by Maria Campbell, James Freeman Clarke. 1848.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=43oEAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbg\\_summary\\_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=43oEAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbg_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false)