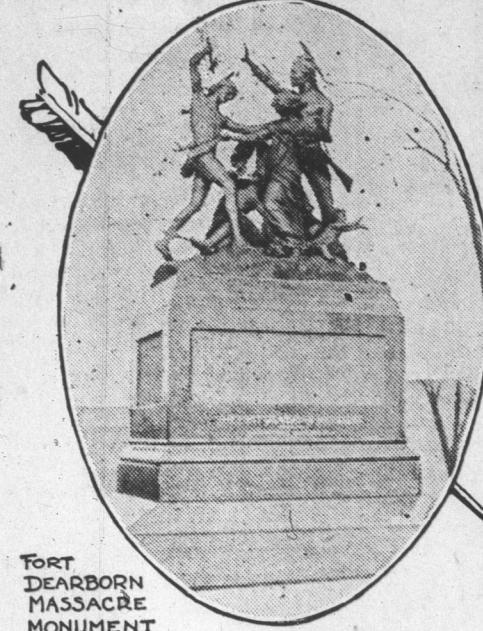


Two Historic Massacres

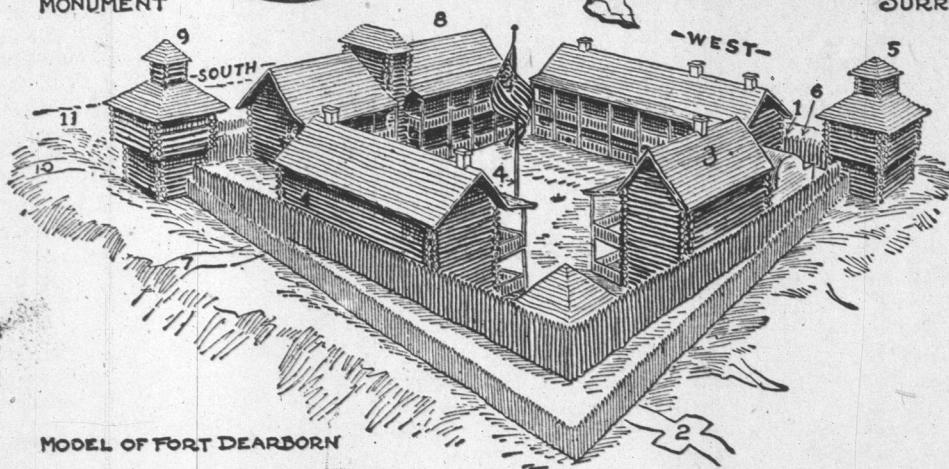


FORT DEARBORN MASSACRE MONUMENT



SURRENDER OF FORT WILLIAM HENRY

PAINTING BY TERRIS COURTESY, GLEN FALLS (N.Y.) INSURANCE CO.



MODEL OF FORT DEARBORN

By ELMER SCOTT WATSON

THE coming of August—“August, America’s Month of Battles,” it has been called because so many dramatic and important engagements in our history have been fought during that month—brings the anniversaries of two famous massacres which offer an interesting study in “historical parallels.” In both cases

the commander of a fort, putting his faith in the word of an enemy, led out from the shelter of its log walls his little garrison of men, women and children, who were set upon by a horde of savages, who killed until the waters in the lake, on whose shores the fort stood, figuratively ran red. In both cases the commander realized fully the danger into which he was leading his people and in both cases he was compelled to evacuate by orders from his superior officer.

And upon the heads of these “superior” officers—who were certainly incompetent or stupid, if not actually cowardly—the blood of the unfortunate victims whom they sent to their deaths must rest until history finds some new facts to avenge their guilt. The two massacres were those which took place at Fort William Henry on the shores of Lake George in New York on August 9, 1757, and at Fort Dearborn on the shores of Lake Michigan in Illinois on August 15, 1812.

Fort William Henry was built in 1755 by Sir William Johnson, the gallant Irish-American baronet, who won the powerful Iroquois confederacy of Indians to the side of England in her struggle with France for possession of North America. It was the base of his operations during the futile campaign of 1755 against the French, was abandoned when winter came, repaired again the next spring and was again the base for General Winslow’s equally futile campaign against the French at Crown Point in 1756. When the campaign of 1757 opened, Fort William Henry, which had again been repaired and strengthened, was the most advanced British post in the direction of Canada and was the one which would bear the brunt of the attack by an army of 8,000 men which the able French general, Marquis de Montcalm, was preparing to launch against it. In the face of this threat, the earl of Loudon, British commander in chief, had weakened the possibility of resisting Montcalm’s attack by sending a large part of the British and Colonial forces on a useless and doomed-to-failure expedition against Louisbourg in Nova Scotia.

Fort William Henry was held by Lieutenant Colonel Moore with a force of 2,140 men. Eighteen miles away his superior officer, Gen. Daniel Webb, held Fort Edward with an army of 6,000, but, although Webb knew in advance of Montcalm’s plans, he made no attempt to summon the colonial militia to his aid and even when he learned from his scouts that the French general was concentrating his forces at Ticonderoga, he made no attempt to concentrate his own forces at either William Henry or at Edward.

Montcalm appeared before Fort William Henry on August 4 and after the usual formal demand for its surrender, which was refused, opened fire upon it with his battery of 12 and 18-pounders. For five days Moore held out gallantly against the superior forces and the superior artillery of the enemy, hoping all the time that Webb would “march to the sound of the guns.” But no help came. The fort was being pounded to pieces, his garrison was weakened by sickness as well as by death from the Frenchman’s artillery, and half of his cannon had been rendered useless. On the morning of August 9 Montcalm planted his heaviest guns within such close range that further resistance would have been futile, so Moore was forced to surrender with the honors of war.

Under the terms of the capitulation the garrison of Fort William Henry was to march out, unarmed but retaining their personal belongings, and to be escorted to Fort Edward, after giving their promise not to serve in the British army again for eighteen months. As a token of their

brave defense, the chivalrous Frenchman allowed them to take along one piece of artillery, a six-pounder. Unfortunately they left in the fort a supply of liquor and the Indians, who swarmed into the fort as the garrison left it, found this “firewater.” Their thirst for blood aroused by the stubborn defense of the garrison during the siege and maddened by the liquor, the Indians gathered in a threatening mass along the column of marching English.

One of the most vivid descriptions of what then took place is found in a classic in American literature, J. Fenimore Cooper’s “The Last of the Mohicans.” Although that book is fiction, there is probably an element of truth in the dramatic scene in which he depicts an Indian attempting to steal a shawl from one of the women, who wrapped her baby in it, whereupon the savage seized the child, dashed its head against a rock and then tomahawked the mother. From that point Cooper continues:

At that dangerous moment, Magua placed his hands to his mouth, and raised the fatal and appalling whoop. The scattered Indians started at the well-known cry, as couriers bound at the signal to quit the goal; and directly there arose such yell along the plain, and through the arches of the weeds as seldom burst from human lips before. They who heard it, listened with curling horror at the heart, little inferior to that dread which may be expected to attend the blasts of the final summons.

More than two thousand savages broke from the fort at the signal, and threw themselves across the fatal plain with instinctive alacrity. We shall not dwell on the revolting horrors that succeeded. Death was everywhere, and in his most terrific and disgusting aspects. Resistance only served to inflame the murderers who inflicted their furious blows long after their victims were beyond the power of their resentment. Women and children were likewise the victims of a torrent, and as the natives became heated and maddened by the sight, many among them even kneeled to the earth and drank freely, exultingly, hellishly of the crimson tide.

The trained bodies of troops threw themselves quickly into solid masses, endeavoring to awe their assailants by the imposing appearance of a military front. The experiment in some measure succeeded, though far too many suffered their unloaded muskets to be torn from their hands, in the vain hope of appeasing the savages.

To the credit of the French commander it must be said that he did all in his power to restrain the Indians. At the risk of their lives, he and members of his staff threw themselves between the savages and their victims and he immediately summoned his French regulars who stopped the massacre. But before that could be accomplished more than fifty of the English, including some of the wounded men who lay in a temporary hospital, were killed and scalped, and some two hundred were carried away into captivity by the Indians who took them to Montreal to be ransomed. Not all of the two hundred survived, however, for, according to one authority, some perished at the stake and as a final touch to the horrors of the Fort William Henry massacre, one band, called the Cold County Cannibals, roasted some of their prisoners and ate them. So the exact loss of the English on that fatal day will never be exactly known, although it is certain that Cooper’s statement that “between 500 and 1,500 fell in this unhappy affair” is an exaggeration, as is often the case with the creator of “Leatherstocking.” Aside from the fact that the Fort William Henry massacre was one of the most tragic events in American history, it was also a significant one. For France’s failure to control her savage allies, as illustrated by this instance, nerved the colonists to the resolution to resist to the utmost an enemy which used such allies and in the long run that resolution contributed to the downfall of the French power on this continent.

Fort Dearborn, whose log walls were to be the genesis of the second largest city in the United States and the metropolis of mid-America, was built in 1803 by Capt. John Whistler of the United States regular army, in line with the government’s policy of establishing posts on the new western

frontier to protect the wave of settlement which was sure to follow the Louisiana Purchase. In 1810 Capt. Nathan Heald took command of the post and within a short time began hearing alarming reports of the activities of the great Shawnee chief, Tecumseh, who was dreaming the old dream of Pontiac of uniting all the Indian tribes to wipe out the white invaders of their lands.

In June, 1812, the United States went to war with Great Britain and Tecumseh, temporarily foiled by the defeat of his boasting brother, the Prophet, at Tippecanoe, cast his lot with the British, which meant savage warfare on the northwestern frontier. On July 29 Gen. William Hull, commander of the U. S. fort at Detroit and Heald’s superior officer, sent an order to Heald to evacuate the post, destroy all surplus arms and ammunition, but to give the goods in the United States factory there to the friendly Indians around the post and proceed at once to Fort Wayne, Ind. It was this Hull, it is remembered, whose blundering and general incompetence was soon to lead to the surrender of Detroit to the British General Brock without firing a shot in its defense.

Hull’s force at the time the order from Hull was received on August 8 consisted of 54 regulars and 12 militia. Various hostile acts committed by Indians around the post during the preceding months indicated that the abandonment of the fort and the march to Fort Wayne would be a dangerous undertaking, whereas if he remained, he could no doubt count upon help from militia, which the governors of Illinois and Indiana would raise, should the Indians attack. But Hull’s orders were positive and left nothing to Heald’s discretion. Being a soldier, he could do nothing but obey. So preparations were made for the evacuation of the fort on August 15. On the previous day the goods in the factory were distributed among the Indians with the understanding that in return for these goods they were to protect the garrison on its retreat. According to orders Heald had destroyed the surplus arms and a large stock of liquor. It was disappointment over loss of these which is believed to have invited the Indians to the attack the next day. On the other hand, to have given the sullen tribesmen the liquor and arms would have insured the destruction of the whites, so in either case the garrison of Fort Dearborn was doomed.

While preparations for the evacuation were taking place, Capt. William Wells, a famous scout and an uncle of Mrs. Heald, had arrived from Fort Wayne with a small force of friendly Miami Indians to help guard the retreating garrison. When the march started the next morning, Wells and his Indians led the advance to guard against the treachery which he felt sure would follow. In fact, Black Partridge, a friendly Pottawatomie chief, had warned Heald on August 14 that “Indians had been singing in his ears and the white men should be careful on the march they were about to make.” But it was too late then to turn back and, even though fearing the worst, Heald reluctantly followed the crimson tide.

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Egyptian Statues Found by Excavators

Digging 60 feet beneath a tourist headquarters at Sakkara, Egypt, the expedition of the Metropolitan Museum of Art has unearthed a number of stone sphinxes and statues. The building stood close to the ruins of the temple of Queen Hatshepsut, and was recently vacated so that archaeologists might explore the site. The stone sculpture, roughly broken, dates back to the Sixteenth century, B. C.

when Queen Hatshepsut was overthrown by Thutmose III. By the new king’s orders, all statues of the fallen queen were ordered mutilated and smashed, and the beautifully carved, smiling faces of the queen were thoroughly battered by workmen wherever they found representations of her. Of the various statues found in the quarry underneath the tourist resthouse, only two have been restored to their

original state. These are red granite statues about 8 feet high.

Use of Gas in War

The War department says that Germany has been credited with the first use of gas in the World War. Gas had been used in previous wars. The first instance in the World War on record when gas was released by the German military forces was on April 22, 1915, at 4:30 p. m. on the Belgian front between Bixchoote and Langevin, north of Ypres.

Keep Books From Sunlight

Bookcases should be so arranged that at no time of the day will direct sunlight shine on their contents, as it has a distinctly harmful effect upon the bindings.

Relief Corps Older

The Woman’s Relief Corps of the Grand Army of the Republic was organized in 1883. The Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic was organized in Chicago, September, 1883.

Around Orchard

NEW STRAWBERRY GIVES FINE CROP

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.) Radical changes in poultry management practices the last few years are having a marked effect in lengthening the production season, according to Rob R. Slocum of the bureau of agricultural economics, United States Department of Agriculture, addressing the American Institute of Refrigeration at Washington.

As a matter of precaution every new variety must be thoroughly tested out in a wide range of soil and climatic conditions before it can be recommended for general planting, writes J. H. Clark, associate professor of pomology of the New Jersey experiment station. Aberdeen has been grown on the experiment station grounds at New Brunswick since 1923, it has been tested in a small way by numerous growers, and during the season of 1927 it fruitied in commercial quantities on several farms in the state.

Aberdeen originated in Monmouth county and so joins a rather famous list of varieties (including Joe, Linton, Gandy, etc.), which claim New Jersey as their native state. J. E. Kuhns of Cliffwood, N. J., a man who has been raising strawberry seedlings for many years, is responsible for this new addition to the desirable fruit varieties of the state. The variety originated about 1919, but has not been pushed very rapidly, as Mr. Kuhns realized the necessity for a thorough trial before commercial planting is justified.

The two things about Aberdeen which commend themselves to the practical grower are its prolific plant-making quality and its productivity. It is an extremely heavy bearer and should be thinned for best results. During 1927, on two farms Howard 17 and Aberdeen were compared as to yield produced on adjoining rows and in each case the latter variety yielded a decidedly larger crop.

The fruit of this variety is very attractive in appearance and quite uniform in size, shape and color. It is medium to large, narrow wedge-shaped, and a sprightly light red. The flavor is surpassed by that of some varieties, but it is decidedly above the average. The season is late.

The greatest fault of the Aberdeen, and the one which may prevent its becoming one of our important commercial varieties, is the fact that it is a little soft and cannot stand rough handling or distant shipment. However, because so many New Jersey berries are sold locally or are taken into New York or Philadelphia on comparatively short hauls, it would seem that it might find an important place in our variety list. It can be recommended as an excellent variety for the home garden, fine for a local market, and worthy of careful trial for the New York or Philadelphia markets.

Summer Poultry Feeding

Plan of Ohio Specialist

Summer feeding schedule for laying hens calls for reduction in the amount of grain and increase in the amount of mash, say poultry specialists.

“Gradually reduce the amount of grain feed and increase the mash consumption in order to maintain summer production,” says one of the specialists, P. B. Zumbro of Ohio. “It is wise to feed all the grain in the evening in order to make the birds hungry for mash during the day.

“Another good plan is to keep the birds confined in the house until afternoon, if the house can be properly ventilated. This will stimulate mash consumption and at the same time allow ample opportunity for green feed.

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“Another way is to put mash hoppers where you find the birds during the day—under a tree in a shed, or wherever they congregate.

“Now is the time to start wet mash. Mix enough milk with the ordinary mash to make it crumbly wet, and feed such quantities as the hens will consume in a half hour.”

Poultry Notes

Cleanliness is one of the chief factors in success with poultry.

Keep the coops for the small chicks at a distance from the hen house.

Now that the warm days have come the young chicks will appreciate plenty of shade and fresh water.

The nesting boxes should be in the darkest part of the hen house, and should all face away from the door.

On alfalfa or clover is the best place to raise chicks. Too valuable for that? Shucks, no. An acre, divided in two fields, so the fowls can be rotated, will take care of 500 chicks.

Skim milk and yellow corn meal are good feeds for young chicks if there is plenty of tender green feed within reach.

Inbreeding seems to be more harmful with turkeys than any other species of fowls. A gobbler can ordinarily take care of 15 or 18 hens.

Keep down the weeds and do not allow the strawberry plants to become too thick in the row if the best production is to be secured.

The care we give our nursery stock often determines what success we will have with our plantings.

Too many strawberry patches are neglected all summer and allowed to grow up to weeds. Then the next spring there is some surprise when the yield is somewhat disappointing.

Grapes have various troubles, both insects and diseases. These are quite well controlled by the use of standard bordeaux mixture, 4-4-50, with 1/2 pounds powdered lead arsenate added.

It is perfectly satisfactory to leave some of the small shoots on the trunk of the tree for shade and photosynthetic purposes, but it is a mistake to allow the long succulent shoots to remain and use nourishment that should be going into the grafts.

From one to six applications of arsenate of lead spray are needed to control the codling moth, the most serious apple insect. The most important spraying is when the blossoms have dropped and before the calyx cups have closed.

Growing chicks need plenty of fresh water, a clean range and shade. An orchard that is sodded is one of the best chicken runs.

The collection of flowering cherry trees that was presented to the city of Washington by Japan in 1912 consists of almost 2,000 trees.

One of the best foods for making hens lay is lean meat. When the supply of eggs begins to fail, stop all other foods and feed lean meat or liver.

POULTRY

EGG PRODUCTION SHOWS INCREASE

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Radical changes in poultry management practices the last few years are having a marked effect in lengthening the production season, according to Rob R. Slocum of the bureau of agricultural economics, United States Department of Agriculture, addressing the American Institute of Refrigeration at Washington.

Increasing egg production at an earlier date in the winter than usual and the production of out-of-season broilers have caused apprehension in the cold storage industry over the possibility of a decrease in the amount of cold storage space required for poultry and eggs, but Mr. Slocum assured the institute that the volume of these products produced and stored during the normal season will continue to be as great as at present, or even increase with the normal increase in population.

“It is probable,” he said, “that both increased production of eggs during the fall and early winter and increased production of broilers out of the normal season will continue to expand. On the other hand it must be remembered that the great bulk of the annual egg and poultry crop of the United States is the product of general farms of the Middle West and only a relatively small part the product of specialized poultry farms. While specialized farms are increasing in number and importance there is no reason