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SUBJECT.

INDIAN SIEGES -
1. Siege of Detroit - Pontiac. Part I.
INDIAN SIEGES.

I. SIEGE OF DETROIT - PONTIAC. PART I.

The Simple Story by C. C. Howard, Major-General, U.S. Army, (Retired).

Dear Boys:

I recently paid a visit to Detroit, Michigan; after unaccountable delays I got there in time for a speech through the generous benevolence of Canadian railroad men. It is a great city, having at last count, made by United States officers, about 300,000 people. It is a city spread out between the great lakes, Huron and Erie; beautiful for situation and charming in itself,—rather too level, I ween, for mountaineers.

One of your number, Arthur C——— said that he would like to have me tell the boys something about the great Indian siege that took place long ago at Detroit, and about the great Indian Chieftain Pontiac, who made the siege. All right, Arthur, let us begin by putting in a few words concerning the planting of the first fort and naming the grand Strait Duétroit (Detroit), from which the city soon after took its name. Can you tell me who did this?

"No, sir, I do not think I saw it in my history,—history seems to have no limits."

I read that Louis the XIV., probably the most renowned of all the French kings, always took a remarkable interest in what he called "New France", so he sent colonists to this side of the Atlantic, some of whom settled above and near the St. Lawrence. The King was very friendly to a young nobleman whose name was La Motte Cadillac, and he wanted him to come over to America and take possession of about all the Atlantic seaport, and the country back as far as the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, and hold the possession by small forts. He promised Cadillac, a little later called Lord Cadillac, that he would give him 500 French settlers and six companies of regular soldiers for his garrison if he would put
I. SIEGE OF DETROIT - PONTIAC'S PART I

...The struggle for 0.07 square mile...Revised Date...

Best Page:

I recently read a novel by Detroit. It was written after World War II. 

The story begins with a young man's escape from the city of Detroit. It is a great city, having over 300,000 people. It was once a hub of commerce and industry. The Great Lakes, through which the city is located, provide for its growth. 

The main character, Tom, is a young man who has left the city to search for adventure in the wilderness. He is determined to find a place where he can truly be himself. 

One of Tom's first encounters is with an old man who tells him about the history of the area. 

"He told me all about the city, about its past and its future. He spoke about the people who lived here, the industries that thrived, and the challenges they faced."

The old man also told Tom about the importance of the Great Lakes, which have played a significant role in the city's development. 

"The lakes are not just a source of water, but a symbol of the city's identity. They have shaped the city and its people, and will continue to do so in the future."

As Tom continues his journey, he meets other characters who have their own stories to tell about the city and its history. 

The novel ends with Tom finding his place in the world, having learned the importance of understanding the past and building a future that honors it. 

"And so, I left Detroit with a new perspective. I realized that the city had so much to offer, and I was excited to see what the future held."
a good fort and settlement between Lake Huron and Lake Erie on the west side of the connecting river.

The young Lord had hardly reached Quebec when the great Governor of New France, Frontinac, the white colonists, and the Indians round about, raised against him a fierce opposition. At last, however, he succeeded in 1701 in making near the river the fort which he named Ponchartrain, with outside palisades thirty feet high all around; but the only Frenchmen he was able to muster to live in and near it, and to defend the fort, were fifty civilians and fifty soldiers. The site was superb, but the woods around it were endless.

Cadillac, full of enthusiasm for French expansion, planted a good many other French forts along the Ohio, the Illinois, and way down to near the mouth of the Mississippi. Sometimes he was in Maine. He there took possession of Mt. Desert, and another place on the Maine coast called Bouagnat, and the King made him "Lord of Bouagnat and Mt. Desert." The general court of Massachusetts in 1789 confirmed the title of his grand-daughter, Madame Gregoire, of that part of Mt. Desert Gregoire, that was not already given away to others, to his grand-daughter, Madame.

The City of Detroit did not grow very fast after it was planted, for in 1760 there were only about 2500 people at the fort and scattered up and down for a score of miles thereabouts. The fort itself was not a very strong one. It was made as many of those frontier forts were, in the form of a square, and had within the square not to exceed 100 buildings, houses, barracks, stables and all. The most of the inhabitants outside had come from Canada and were of French extraction, all speaking the French language. The great portion of the country far and near was still covered with forests through which the enterprising fur traders and "voyageurs" had to go to carry on their trade with the Indians, and with the more distant trading posts.
s good fort and settlement between Lake Huron and Lake Erie on the
western side of the connecting river.

The James Point had partly lost its place when the Great Geonogor
or New England Founders, the White Founders, and the Indians, had
pointed toward gaining the support of a large opposition. As far, however, as
successful in 1707 in making near the river the fort which we

considered the fort were little attaining and little worth... the site was

sought, but the water supply it was ample.

attitudes! Just of the government for the future expansion, placing

good men to open the fertile lands to the Ohio, the Illinois, and near
how to meet the money of the Mississippi. Sometimes, of course, in May, the

chief took possession of M. DeSmet, and another piece on the main

central capital permanent and the kind made him "for the present and

DeSmet. The central spot of Messageries in 1789 contained the

life of the frontier, and the permanent character of these parts of M. DeSmet's

other places. Eighty years must give way to one hour to the future.

The city of Detroit did not exist very last after it was planned.

lot in 1760 there were only about 2800 people at the fort and settlement.

the York River were not

a very strong one. If we make as much of these together it were. In

the town of a disaster, and may form the defense of this place.

affirmations, promises, promises, promises, and all. The point of the

point of the two rivers.

The Great Britain, the country, and new area, became the base of the
direction of the American front and new areas, the center of the American

have still secured with large sums money with the colonization in

a new and more fruitful enterprise.
The settlers about the Fort had at this time a very pleasant open prairie lying along the river, and the Indians of the five nations always had some of their wigwams and villages near this opening. The five nations, usually called in history the Iroquois, were the Mohawks, Onondagas, Cayugas, and the Senecas. These nations were subdivided into tribes and families. They seldom had any locality where they permanently resided, yet the Iroquois nations managed to occupy all the country north and south of the St. Lawrence, as far east as the Hudson River, some of them have been in New York State at all times, in places that are now named for their nations, their tribes, or their families.

Near this Detroit settlement, on the west bank of the river, were found at the time of the siege the lodges of the Potawatamies. Opposite them on the other side were the Wyandots, and the Ottawas held the open prairie and islands for a few miles above. These, including the Ojibways, were only tribes part and parcel of the Seneca Nation.

Arthur asks me, "Who commanded the Fort just before and at the time of the great siege?"

Major Gladwyn, a British officer. I have not been able to find his Christian name in our records. The officers of the Colonial period always called him Major Gladwyn. I think it is a pretty name and quite descriptive of his character. He was cautious and fearless, yet very pleasant in peace-times in dealing with the French, the English and the Indians.

The second in command was Major Robert Rogers. He came before Gladwyn. The latter part of November, 1760, he brought to the garrison his 200 rangers. Pontiac had given him protection against an Indian attack on his approach, and it was Major Rogers who sent out the French
THE.seatble sport the. fort had at the time a very pleasant acen-
- Prairie lying along the river, and the Intake at the live nation of.
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garrison and had them lay down their arms, and at the same time he sent
the British flag to the top of the flag staff. It was after this that
Major Gladwyn had come, and, being the senior, assumed command — Rogers
was away at Fort Niagara during the first part of the siege.

Arthur — "Now, General, can you tell us who was Pontiac?"

The more I study the character and doings of Pontiac the more
thoroughly satisfied I am that English writers have not done him jus-
tice. I think he was very much such a man as Chief Joseph of the Nez
Perces, an Indian who had large capacity born in him, — as capacity
always is, — and an executive ability that very few leaders, English,
French or American, ever excelled. He was born near the Ottawa River,
Canada, 1720. His mother was an Ojibway, and his father in some way
connected with the Chieftainship of the Ottawa and the Potawatamie
tribes, so that as soon as Pontiac was old enough he became the heredi-
tary Chief of those three tribes of the Seneca Nation. When quite
young he so identified himself with the "Touats" or dreamers, which
were found in every tribe, as to be looked upon as their leader; his
religious superstitions cemented the tribes in action for war or peace.
From his tremendous energy his qualities were recognized by the French
commanders when they were attacked at Detroit in 1746. We find him with
little doubt of the fact, leading the Ottawas against Braddock, the
famous British General who with young Colonel Washington was defeated
in the Pennsylvania forests in 1755.

Looked up to as he was by all Indians and by the French who had
dealings with him, still he lived modestly on an island a few miles
above Detroit in a roomy cabin roughly constructed of saplings and
bark. Here is where he planned his campaign which took in all the
country from the great lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, and from Maine to
the Mississippi. Parkman says of him, after stating some of his fiercer
The more I think I see an observer and goes on but not a better for me.

The more I think I want to make people more acceptable to him, especially as far as they may be able to me. If I think the most important thing, and especially as far as they may be able to me, especially as far as they may be able to me, especially as far as they may be able to me. If I think the most important thing, and especially as far as they may be able to me, especially as far as they may be able to me, especially as far as they may be able to me.
qualities, "yet his faults were the faults of his race; and they cannot
eclipse his nobler qualities, the great powers and heroic virtues of
his mind."

We must remember that at this time the great wars between the
English and French had ceased and the English had conquered, but it took
quite a length of time for the news of the great change to be communi-
cated to all the distant garrisons of the west. As fast as English
troops could be sent, the French garrisons were relieved and permitted
to disband or return home; and after that the Union Jack, unfurled to
the breeze, was everywhere seen.

At first Pontiac, whose people had fought both for and against
the French, was much surprised when Major Rogers informed him at Cleve-
land on Lake Erie, that the English had conquered and that the Union
Jack would hereafter take the place of the French tri-color throughout
all the country occupied by the Iroquois.

After carefully considering the change Pontiac at first decided
to throw in all his influence and that of his followers with the English,
but he soon missed the flattering consideration that he had had with
the French. Then the English officers took no pains to keep his good
will, and the Indians were everywhere treated in precisely the opposite
way to that by the French. No more dances with the whites, no more
presents on holidays, almost no intermarriages. A little tact shown
in New York City
at that time by Gen. Jeffreys Amherst, who was in command of the whole
Army, would have prevented a dreadful war that soon arose, but Amherst
was haughty, independent and straight-laced. He despised red men. He
discouraged his best officers from doing anything except to treat all
the Indians as if they were inferior beings. After leaving Cleveland
Pontiac did protect Major Rogers and his rangers as they came to Detroit,
shielding them from the violence of Indians who had prepared to attack
We must remember that if the Great War between the

English and French had never been fought, the English and French would never have been so

hostile to each other. England and France were fighting each other in order to prevent the

growth of Italian power and to prevent Italy from gaining or transferring any

of the great powers and power stations of the


Great War.

At that moment, a large number of people had travelled back to the


continent. After several years of negotiation, the


Atlantic Conference was held and the


Anglo-German Treaty was signed. The Treaty was drafted


with the aim of preventing any future conflicts between the


two powers. The Treaty of Versailles was signed in


Paris on June 28, 1919. The Treaty of Versailles was


a major step towards the establishment of a lasting peace in


Europe. The Treaty of Versailles imposed several


conditions on Germany, including the payment of reparations


to the Allied powers. The Treaty of Versailles was


ratified by the League of Nations on February 26, 1920.


The Treaty of Versailles was seen as a major


step towards peace in Europe, but its implementation was


fraught with difficulties. The Treaty of Versailles was


criticized by some as being too harsh on Germany and


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them as they approached, but this was doubtless done to put all the
English in that vicinity into a state of quietude and confidence.

Meanwhile the wary Chief was working out his plans. They were
very simple,—as all good plans are,—not complicated and difficult for
execution. His was a scheme to unite the Iroquois and all the
tribes, villages and families of the Redmen in that vast domain to
which I have referred; to so unite them that they would attack and
destroy the nearest fort or garrison, all working and fighting at the
same time. He succeeded with hundreds of them, but many of the Iroquois,
almost all except the Senecas, were drawn away and made neutral by Sir
William Johnson, whose influence with the Indians was as great as that
of Pontiac himself. Sir William had married an Indian wife and usually
lived with the Indians, and was the precise opposite in every respect
to General Jeffreys Amherst.

But Arthur asked; "What did Pontiac do to unite all these Indian
tribes?"

He sent a tomahawk colored red, and a wampum belt of unusual
length. It was about as broad as your hand and between two and three
feet long. It was made up of sizeable beads, the white ones all dug
out from the inside of the conches and the purple from the muscle shell.
These beads were strung close together and woven so as to cover the
whole surface of the belt. If a tribe, by the hand of its chief, took
the belt and the tomahawk and accepted them, that tribe was pledged to
the war. These significant messages were taken by swift runners and
carried to the Indians near and far. Even the day was fixed for the
universal massacre, the 7th of May, 1763.

(To be continued).