

In the early 1800's men of the frontier thought the British were enticing Indians to attack the settlers. Henry Clay was sent to the Federal House of Representatives and quickly became a leader of the younger men in the House known as the War Hawks. Making constant verbal attacks against the British Henry Clay helped bring on the War of 1812. Troops recruited from the Elkhorn and Lexington gathered at the Georgetown Courthouse on the hill above Royal Spring and was given a fiery speech by Henry Clay. Having sent the troops off to war Clay went back to Washington, D.C. Most rabble rousers who bring on wars don't fight in them.

Marching through Ohio to Michigan the Kentucky men suffered a terrible defeat at French Town on the River Raisin. Over six hundred men were lost there; many of them were butchered by the Indians after they surrendered. The men of the Elkhorn sought revenge by joining the army. The story of one of these soldiers will be told through the testimony of Daniel Crumbaugh. Daniel said he had little schooling when, "in 1813 he enlisted in the Army under the command of Richard M. Johnson to fight against the British and Indians. He went first to Fort Meigs on the Miami Rapids above where Toledo (Ohio) now stands, where General Harrison had a garrison. From there they went to Lower Sandusky on Lake Erie, then back home to recruit horses." Daniel had been in an infantry unit but once they had horses they became a cavalry unit.

"They were then sent to Kaskaskia, Illinois. This town was threatened by Indians, and it seemed that the place which was afterwards to be the first capital of the Sucker State was to be blotted out entirely. But the Indians were headed off, and the regiment---and Crumbaugh---were sent back to Fort Meigs. While they were there they heard the roar of guns during the battle when Commodore Perry gained his celebrated victory over the British on Lake Erie. Shortly after they went to Detroit, crossed over into Canada at Windsor and followed the British and Indians under the command of General Proctor and the Chief Tecumseh."

"At the River Thames the enemy made a stand and here was fought the battle which practically closed the contest in the north. The enemy was completely defeated, with the loss of baggage and eight hundred prisoners, and a large number killed and wounded.---The muskets used by the Americans in the battle were the old flintlocks, and the cartridges contained a ball and two buckshot. The regiment opposed to the one in which Mr. Crumbaugh served was the Forty-fourth Irish Regiment."

"When the battle was over, the company to which Mr. Crumbaugh belonged was sent as a guard for General Harrison and the captured British officers, down to Lake St. Clair where they took shipping and came to Detroit. There they remained until Harrison made a treaty

with the Indians and then returned home to Georgetown. There Mr. Crumbaugh lived a rough- and- tumble life for some years." Soldiers of most wars return home with little to show for their fighting. A few come home and prosper.

A second view of Battle of the Thames has General Harrison's infantry leaving Detroit and crossing a river into Ontario, Canada on keelboats while the Johnson brothers swam the horses of their cavalry battalions across. They then set out to catch up with the retreating General Proctor. Tecumseh kept urging Proctor to stop and make a stand against the Americans but Proctor had to be shamed into doing so by the Shawnee Tecumseh. Proctor's army had not been paid in six months, couldn't afford soap to bathe and wash their uniforms which were in rags, they were weak from hunger, dispirited and overrun with rumors that 10,000 men were coming to attack them, They had no confidence in General Proctor feeling he would sacrifice them to save his family and himself.

At last Proctor made a stand at the Thames River. It was a good defensive position and it would be difficult to dislodge them in a straight on attack as there was a swamp to provide a defensive barrier. However Colonel Richard Johnson's chief scout, Jacob Stucker (yes, that Jacob Stucker) found a secret way through the swamp. Once through the swamp General Harrison tells Richard and James Johnson, "Damn them! Charge them!"

Outranking his brother Richard turned to James and told him to take his men to charge the weakest part of the line which was held by the British. He explained why he wanted James to take the weakest part. "You have a family. I have none." James' two sons, ages 17 and 15 were serving with him. Except for the officers and a few men the 'British' were actually Canadians.

Daniel Crumbaugh was among the soldiers that formed a line and then began roaring out, "Remember the Raisin! Remember the Raisin!" The men charged and after a few volleys the British turned and ran. They well understood what was meant by the chant of Remember the Raisin. If overtaken they could expect no quarter from the revengeful and blood thirsty Kentuckians.

The troops under Richard faced a tougher foe in the combined Indian force led by Tecumseh. Every man led by Richard had volunteered to serve with him. Men like Otto McCrackin from the Forks of the Elkhorn. Richard did not wish to lose a large number of his men if they made a mad rush towards the Indian line. He knew the Indians would discharge all their rifles once the first shot was fired. If a small group of men would charge the line drawing the Indians fire the rest of his men could charge while the Indians were slowly reloading their single shot rifles.

So Richard called for twenty men to volunteer for a "Forlorn Hope" or suicide squad that would draw the Indians fire. One of those who came forward was William Whitley who'd

fought Indians for close to forty years. Earlier that day Whitley had shot and scalped an Indian. Holding up the fresh scalp Whitley roared out, "This is my thirteenth scalp I have taken and I'll have another by night or lose my own."

The Forlorn Hope plunged into the mud and water and rushed towards the Indians. Fifteen of the twenty brave men fell dead at the Indians first fire. Whitley died with the Indians scalp in his belt. He didn't get another scalp but then he kept his own.

Bleeding from four wounds Richard Johnson ordered the main body of his men to dismount and charge the Indian line which gave way as the crazed Kentuckians fell on the Indians with clubbed rifles, tomahawks and long knives. At this time Richard Johnson received his fifth wound. A bullet struck his knuckle and came out his wrist. He had to be carried from the battlefield in a blanket. Hearing that he was dying his friend Major Barry came expecting to see a corpse but the live Richard tells him, "I will not die Barry. I am mighty cut to pieces, but I think my vitals have escaped."

Richard was taken to Detroit by water and all the way back to Kentucky on a horse litter. He would suffer pain from his wound for the rest of his life. He would gain political office by being known as the killer of Tecumseh; an act he may or may not have done. Five men, William Whitley, David King, George Cardwell, John Cardwell and Richard Johnson were said to have killed Tecumseh.

Otto McCracklin would later say he saw the body of Tecumseh but it's not known if he had ever seen Tecumseh before the battle so could he know it was Tecumseh? One man who had seen Tecumseh; he knew him well, was Simon Kenton. Kenton was asked to point out Tecumseh's body from amongst the warriors bodies scattered over the battlefield. Suspecting what the white men intending on doing he pointed to a body he knew wasn't Tecumseh. Men skinned the body's legs to make tobacco pouches.

In the book 'Land of Promise' Simon Kenton was said to have scouted at the Battle of Thames and, "afterward he wanted to visit an old friend who lived on a little farm near Ambersberg (in Canada near Detroit). While a captive of the Indians Kenton's life was saved when his friend had pled to have Kenton turned over to him. His friend was away so he missed him. His friend was an old man now, crippled and Rheumatic. His hair had turned white, his skin hung loose and his eyesight was nearly gone. Mostly he sat beside his cabin beside the river waiting to die. Few who seen him would have recognized the most hated man on the frontier---Once frontier mothers kept their children from misbehaving by telling them", Simon Girty will get you.

The village of Georgetown thrived after the War of 1812 as it was on the main road from Lexington to Cincinnati and the freight wagons flowed over the road buying feed for their horses and the teamsters stayed at the inns. Stagecoaches ran daily through the town. In the bitter cold of winter hot bricks were rented to passengers for ten cents a brick. When they put the brick at their feet the brick retained heat for four or five hours. At the next rest stop the passengers turned the cold brick in and got back five cents. On one bitterly cold day a stage pulled up at the Georgetown Post Office and the driver was found

































