

The Indians would parade American prisoners through the dirt streets of Detroit and all of the Indians even the squaws and children would beat on the prisoners. Inexcusable cruelty.

“On arrival of the prisoners at Detroit, the inhabitants used great exertions to procure accommodations for the wounded, and to ransom the prisoners from the Indians. Thirty-four or more were ransomed here, seven by Colonel Elliott of Malden, and one by Colonel Francis Baby. Day after day for a month the prisoners were brought in and with the characteristic sympathy of their sex, the women left ordinary duties undone that they might watch at their doors to bargain for the ransom and relief of the sick and wounded. “The unfortunate prisoners were literally hawked about the streets for sale, the price ranging from ten dollars to eighty dollars. The only question with the Indians seemed to be, whether they could get more goods for a live captive than for a fresh scalp. In their efforts to satisfy the savages and release the noble Kentuckians who had volunteered for the rescue of Detroit, many citizens absolutely impoverished themselves. Household valuables, clothing, shawls, and blankets from the beds, were given in exchange for the captives.” (Farmer 280)

From the Indian’s perspective their ancestors lived here for 12,000 years. Their belief was that no man owned any land. That Michigan was the property of all inhabitants to live in. And if ownership was to become the rule this was Indian land for 12,000 years and no drunk chief spoke for all Indians or owned anything he could sign over in a foreign language that the Indians did not read and understand. Also the white man made broke every treaty whenever he wanted. The Indians were cheated, lied to, then driven off of their lands (even lands given them by treaty) or murdered. The same was true even for peaceful Indians who chose to become farmers.

By the 1815 the few Indians still in Warren had to live by American law and American culture as they no longer knew enough of their Indian culture to hunt and fish and survive by Indian methods.

Looking at the big picture. Warren was part of the Province of Quebec during the US Revolutionary War. Antoine de La Mothe Cadillac had a fort there since 1701 as part of New France under the governor-general at Quebec. The French lost the war with the British leading to Robert Rogers occupying Detroit in 1760. The Americans finally beat the British in the American Revolutionary War 1775-1783. The Treaty of Paris in 1783 recognized US sovereignty all the way to the Mississippi River and north to Canada. But as mentioned earlier: the British still controlled the Detroit area captured over 1000 of our ships and kidnapped over 10,000 of our sailors forcing them to be their slaves. The British marched on Washington DC. They burned the Capitol and they still attacked American Forts. Then the battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794 cut down much Indian resistance.

The Michigan territory had been declared on paper by act of the US Congress in Jan of 1805. The First governor was William Hull who surrendered Detroit back to the British in August 16, 1812.

The Battle of Put-in-Bay, was fought on 10 September 1813, in Lake Erie off the coast of Ohio during the War of 1812. Nine vessels of the United States Navy under command of Oliver Hazard Perry defeated and captured six vessels of Great Britain's Royal Navy.

Detroit was under British General Henry Proctor’s control. Victory on Lake Erie cut British General Proctor’s supply lines. He had to retreat from Detroit but he first burned the public buildings. American General William Harrison with 3,500 men defeated Proctor whose starving army of 850 British Troops and 800 Indians during the Battle of the Thames October 5, 1813. Indian chiefs Roundhead and Tecumseh and were also killed demoralizing the Indians ending Indian uprisings.

On Oct 9 General Duncan McArthur arrived in Detroit with 700 mounted riflemen to protect the Detroit Area. Only scattered resistance remained.

On October 29 1813 President James Madison appointed Lewis Cass governor of the Michigan territory a position he was to have for 18 years. (Willis F Dunbar 218) Governor Cass had to feed an average of 400 begging Indians a day for several years. They would just walk into your house and demand things posing a threat to the citizens, but he did not have the forces to expel them. (Farmer 323) General Andrew Jackson beat the British in the Battle of New Orleans in 1814. The British and most Indians finally withdrew from Michigan. Of course on the wilderness frontier it took awhile for the supporters of the British and the Indians to remove themselves or settle down and realize that the United States was now in charge.