

camped beyond the stream about a quarter of a mile in the advance, on a high flat; sentinels posted around the camp, about fifty paces distant from each other, formed the principal security. About half an hour before sunrise on the next morning (November 4), and just after the troops had been dismissed on parade, a horrible sound burst forth from the woods around the militia camp, resembling, says an officer, the jingling of an infinitude of horse-bells. It was the direful Indian yell, followed by the sharp reports of the deadly rifles. The militia returned a feeble fire and then took to flight, dashing helter-skelter into the other camp. The first line of Continental troops, which was hastily forming, was thrown into disorder. The Indians were close upon the heels of the flying militia, and would have entered the camp with them, but the sight of troops drawn up with fixed bayonets to receive them checked their ardor, and they threw themselves behind logs and bushes at the distance of seventy yards, and immediately commenced an attack upon the first line, which soon was extended to the second. The great weight of the attack was upon the centre of each line, where the artillery was placed. The artillery, if not well served, was bravely fought; a quantity of canister and some round shot were thrown in the direction whence the Indians fired. The artillerymen themselves were exposed to a murderous fire, and every officer and more than two-thirds of the men were killed and wounded. Twice the Indians pushed into the camp, delivering their fire and then rushing on with the tomahawk, but each time they were driven back. General Butler had been shot from his horse, and was sitting down to have his wound dressed, when a daring savage, darting into the camp, tomahawked and scalped him. General St. Clair, unable to mount his horse, was borne about on a litter, and preserved his coolness in the midst of the peril and disaster. Great carnage was suffered from the enemy concealed in the woods; every shot seemed to take effect; all the officers of the 2d Regiment were picked off excepting three. The contest had now endured for more than two hours and a half; half the army was killed, and the situation of the remainder was desperate. There appeared to be no alternative but a retreat. "Having collected in one body the greatest part of the troops," writes one of the officers, "and such of the wounded as could possibly hobble along with us, we pushed out from the left of the rear line, sacrificing our artillery and baggage." Some of the wounded officers were brought off on horses, but several of the disabled men had to be left on the ground. The poor fellows charged their pieces before they were left; and the firing of musketry heard by the troops after they quitted the camp told that their unfortunate comrades were selling their lives dearly. It was a disorderly flight. The troops threw away arms, ammunition, and accoutrements. The general was mounted on a pack-horse which could not be picked out of a walk. By seven in the evening the fugitives reached Fort Jefferson, a distance of twenty-nine miles. The retreat was continued to Fort Washington, where the army arrived on the 8th at noon. In this disastrous battle the whole loss of regular troops and levies amounted to five hundred and fifty killed, and two hundred wounded. Out of ninety-five commissioned officers who were on the field, thirty-one were slain, and twenty-four wounded. Of the three hundred and nineteen militia, Colonel Oldham and three other officers were killed, and five wounded; and of non-commissioned officers and privates, thirty-eight were killed, and twenty-nine wounded. Fourteen artificers and ten pack-horsemen were also killed, and thirteen wounded. So that, according to Colonel Sargent's estimate, the whole loss amounted to six hundred and seventy-seven killed, including thirty women, and two hundred and seventy-one wounded.

FORT HAMILTON.

Fort Hamilton, a view of which is found in the Atlas, was built by St. Clair's army in 1791. It was the first in a proposed chain of fortresses from Fort Washington to the Maumee. "The circuit of that fort," says St. Clair, "is about one thousand feet, through the whole extent of which a trench about three feet deep was dug, to set the pickets in, of which it required about two thousand to inclose it; and it is not trees taken promiscuously that will answer for pickets; they must be tall and straight, and from nine to twelve inches in diameter, for those of a larger size are too unmanageable; of course, few trees that are proper are to be found without going over a considerable space of woodland; when found they are felled, cleared of their branches, and cut into lengths of about twenty feet. They were then carried to the ground and butted, that they might be placed firm and upright in the trench, with the axe or cross-cut saw. Some hewing upon them was also necessary, for there are few trees so straight that the sides of them will come in contact when set upright. A thin piece of timber, called a ribbon, is run around the whole near the top of the pickets, to which every one of them is pinned with a strong pin, without which they would decline from the perpendicular with every blast of wind, some hanging outward and some inward, which would render them, in a great measure, useless. The earth thrown out of the trench is then returned, and strongly rammed, to keep the pickets firmly in their places, and a shallow trench is dug outside, about three feet distant, to carry off the water and prevent their being removed by the rains. About two thousand pickets are set upon the inside, one between every two of the others; the work is then inclosed. But previously, the ground for the site of the fort had to be cleared, and two or three hundred yards around it, which was very thickly wooded and was a work of time and labor. The ground where this fort stands is on the east side of the Miami River, on the first bank; but there is a second bank, considerably elevated, within point-blank shot, which rendered it necessary to make the pickets, particularly along the land side, of a height sufficient to prevent an enemy from seeing into the area, and taking the side of the river in reverse, and a high platform was raised in one of the bastions, on the land side, to scour the second bank with artillery. Another made with the trunks of trees, and covered with plank as that was, was raised in one of the bastions toward the river, in order to command the ford and the river for some distance up and down. Planks were sawed for the platforms and the gate and barracks for one hundred men; a guard-room, two store-houses for provisions, and barracks for the officers, were constructed within it, and all this was done in about fourteen days, almost entirely by the labor of men, though some use was made of oxen in drawing the timber. The woods were so thick and encumbered with underwood, it was found to be the most expeditious method to carry it." The fort was opposite the place where the bridge over the Miami River has since been built, extending from Stable Street to the site of the United Presbyterian Church, and from the river as far east as the ground on which the Universalist Church is built. The ground east of the fort extending as far as Second Street, including the public square and High Street, had been occupied as a burying-ground for the garrison, and numerous rude grave-stones and graves were dotted over the surface. A natural terrace, eight or ten feet high, ran along the west side of Front Street, separating the upper from the lower plane. When this bank was excavated in grading High Street, several skeletons were taken up entire and many human bones disinterred, which were all removed and buried. Many more doubtless lie in this space. As late as 1812 a paling inclosing a single grave stood in the middle of High Street, opposite Hamilton Hotel, but was removed that year.

During the erection of the fort, the army was encamped at the south end of Front Street, where it strikes or intersects the river-bank, which point may yet be known by some mounds of earth then thrown up. This was in the month of September, 1791. An addition to the fort, on the north side, was made by Gen-

eral Anthony Wayne in 1793. The entrance to the fort was on the west side, next the river, a few feet north of Mr. John W. Sohn's malt-house; and the well which supplied the garrison with water is the one now used, situated twelve or fifteen feet from the west door of Mr. Sohn's residence. At this well often appeared General St. Clair, General Wayne, General Wilkinson, Lieutenant William Henry Harrison, afterwards General Harrison, Major Rudolph, Major Cass, father of Lewis Cass, deceased, formerly of Detroit, Colonel John Armstrong, Lieutenant E. P. Gaines, afterwards Major-General Gaines, who served sixty years in the army of the United States, Isaac Paxton, who died a few years ago at this place, Piomingo, an Indian chief, from the South, who, with others of his tribe, accompanied our army to the North, and participated in the battle of the Fallen Timbers, at the foot of the Rapids, on the Maumee River, then called "Miami of the lakes." The chief and his followers were probably Cherokees or Choctaws. When the army under General St. Clair marched out of the fort, on its way north, it passed south, and immediately crossed the Great Miami River, at the fording-place, being at the place where the present ford is, nearly opposite the Associate Reformed meeting-house. This fort was covered by a cannon in the southwest bastion of the fort. St. Clair's army struck across the hills northwest of Hamilton, and crossed Four-Mile Creek, then called Joseph's Creek, near the old "Fear not" mill, and encamped the first night near what was latterly called Scott's tan-yard, on Seven-Mile Creek, sometimes called St. Clair's Creek. When General Wayne's army passed out of the fort, it turned northward, and passed over the ground now occupied by Snider's paper mill, Nile's tool-works, and Cape & Maxwell's works, and crossed Old River, west of the stone bridge, on the railroad, and thence around the west end of what is called the "Devil's backbone," on L. D. Campbell's Island, which island was then a peninsula, as the river had not then formed the channel of New River, west of the wooden bridge, on the railroad. There was then a margin of level land one hundred feet wide around the "Backbone," between it and what was then called Four-Mile Creek. Wayne's army encamped the first night at the Five-Mile Spring, southeast of the village of Seven-Mile; from thence northwest over the ground where that village stands, keeping east of Seven-Mile Creek the whole way to Fort St. Clair, or to where Eaton now stands.

An expedition under Colonel Boyd, in 1780, consisting of six hundred Canadians and Indians, with four pieces of cannon, left Canada, passed up the Maumee and St. Mary Rivers, crossed over to the Lorainie Creek, thence to the Great Miami, down that, past this place, to the Ohio River, up that to the Licking, which they ascended, and, after reducing one or two stations, returned by the same route to Canada, with prisoners and plunder, being on the trip several months.

GENERAL WAYNE'S CAMPAIGN.

On the 28th of July, 1794, General Wayne, having been joined by General Scott with sixteen hundred mounted Kentuckians, left his quarters at Fort Washington (now Cincinnati), and moved forward to the Maumee. By the 8th of August the army had arrived near the junction of the Auglaize with that stream, and commenced the erection of Fort Defiance at that point. The Indians having learned from a deserter of the approach of Wayne's army, hastily abandoned their headquarters at Auglaize, and thus defeated the plan of Wayne to surprise them, for which object he had cut two roads, intending to march by neither. On the morning of the 20th he moved forward to attack the Indians, who were encamped on the banks of the Maumee, at and around a hill called "Presque Isle," about two miles south of the site of Maumee City. From Wayne's report of the battle, we make the following extract:

The legion was on the right, its flank covered by the Maumee. One brigade of mounted volunteers on the left, under Brigadier-General Todd, and the other in the rear, under Brigadier-General Barbee. A select battalion of mounted volunteers moved in front of the legion, commanded by Major Price, who was directed to keep sufficiently advanced so as to give timely notice for the troops to form in case of action, it being yet undetermined whether the Indians would decide for peace or war. After advancing about five miles, Major Price's corps received so severe a fire from the enemy, who were secreted in the woods and high grass, as to compel them to retreat. The legion was immediately formed into two lines, principally in a close, thick wood, which extended for miles on our left, and for a considerable distance in front, the ground being covered with old fallen timber. The savages were formed in three lines, within supporting distance of each other, and extending for nearly two miles at right angles with the river. I soon discovered, from the weight of the fire and extent of their lines, that the enemy were in full force in front, in possession of their favorite ground, and endeavoring to turn our left flank. I therefore gave orders for the second line to advance and support the first, and directed Major-General Scott to gain and turn the right flank of the savages, with the whole force of the mounted volunteers, by a circuitous route. At the same time I ordered the front line to advance and charge with trailed arms, and rouse the Indians from their coverts at the point of the bayonet, and when up, to deliver a close and well-directed fire on their backs, followed by a brisk charge, so as not to give them time to load again. I also ordered Captain Campbell, who commanded the legionary cavalry, to turn the left flank of the enemy next the river. All these orders were obeyed with spirit and promptitude; but such was the impetuosity of the charge by the first line of infantry that the Indians and Canadian militia and volunteers were driven from all their coverts in so short a time that, though every possible exertion was used by the officers of the second line of the legion, and by Generals Scott, Todd, and Barbee of the mounted volunteers to gain their proper positions, but part of each could get up in season to participate in the action, the enemy being driven, in the course of one hour, more than two miles through the thick woods, by less than half their numbers. From every account the enemy amounted to two thousand combatants. The troops actually engaged against them were short of nine hundred. This horde of savages, with their allies, abandoned themselves to flight, leaving our victorious army in full and quiet possession of the field of battle. The loss of the Americans in this battle was thirty-three killed and one hundred wounded. The loss of the Indians was far more. The woods were strewn for a considerable distance with the dead bodies of Indians and their white auxiliaries, the latter armed with British muskets and bayonets. We remained three days and nights on the banks of the Maumee, in front of the field of battle, during which time all the houses and cornfields were consumed and destroyed for a considerable distance, both above and below Fort Miami, as well as within pistol shot of the garrison.

General Anthony Wayne was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania, January 1, 1745. After leaving school he became a surveyor, and paid some attention to philosophy and engineering. He entered the army of the Revolution in 1775, and was made Brigadier-General in 1777. He was in the army during the war, and particularly distinguished himself in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown, and Monmouth. His attack on Stony Point, in July, 1779, an almost inaccessible height, defended by six hundred men and a strong battery of artillery, was the most brilliant exploit of the war. At midnight he led his troops, with unloaded muskets, flints out, and fixed bayonets, and without firing a single gun carried the fort by storm, and took five hundred and forty-three prisoners. The crowning acts of his life were his victory over the Indians on the Maumee, and

the treaty of Greenville, in 1795. His life of peril and glory was terminated in 1796, in a cabin at Presque Isle (now Erie, Pennsylvania). His remains were there deposited, at his own request, under the flagstaff of the fort, on the margin of Lake Erie, and were removed in 1809, by his son, to Radnor church-yard, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. Wayne was certainly a remarkable man, and one of the most gallant officers of the Revolution.

WORKS OF THE MOUND-BUILDERS.

The mound-builders, whether Aztecs, Toltecs, or Northmen, appear to have been numerous in the valley of the Great Miami and its tributaries, and particularly in Butler County. Within five miles of Hamilton are seven earthworks, consisting of embankments and mounds of earth, in the Miami Valley, and one near Colerain, Hamilton County.

Two of these earthworks are on high hills, which overlook many miles of the valley; the others are on the level bottom-lands. There are three on Seven-Mile Creek, one at Somerville, one north of Seven-Mile Village, and one south of said village, near the mouth of Seven-Mile Creek.

There is one on Four-Mile Creek, near Oxford, one on the farm of James Beatty, near Jones's Station, and one in Union Township, making thirteen in number. Drawings and descriptions of these works were furnished the Smithsonian Institution many years ago, and they are to be found in the first volume of the "Contributions to Knowledge" of said institution. There are also many mounds or tumuli throughout the County, the highest about forty feet, situated on the west bank of Elk Creek, north of Miltonville, one on the high hill, north side of Elk Creek, near its mouth. Two were on the plain where Hamilton stands, and two or three on the hill at and near the residence of Pollock Wilson, Esq., two hundred and fifty feet above the Miami River, and many on the adjacent hills along the river.

AGRICULTURAL.

The following are the number of entries and premiums awarded at the Butler County Fair, held in October, A.D. 1873:

	NO. ENTRIES.	PREMIUMS.
Cattle.....	86	\$276
Horses.....	430	727
Hogs.....	157	228
Sheep.....	108	127
Poultry.....	52	26
Agricultural Machinery.....	35	109
Farming Implements.....	22	45
Implements for soil.....	90	85
Vehicles, etc.....	52	78
Mechanics' work, not metals.....	56	45
" " in ".....	49	26
Domestic Manufacture.....	112	52
Domestic Articles.....	193	75
Sugar and Molasses.....	25	22
Needle and Fancy Work.....	155	73
Grain, Seed, etc.....	132	52
Roots and Vegetables.....	212	60
Articles Preserved, etc.....	414	80
Fruits, etc.....	146	47
Flowers in Pots.....	207	93
Cut Flowers.....	62	44
Fine Arts, etc.....	87	40

The principal crops of Butler County are wheat, corn, and barley; of stock, horses and hogs; few cattle and sheep of fancy kind. The wheat crop has been a full average, and corn and barley above an average yield. Peaches, an entire failure. Apples, plenty in certain localities, depending on variety of location and soil, and in a great part on the kind of trees planted. Roots and vegetables uncommonly plentiful and unusually fine quality. Small fruits of all kinds in unusual abundance.

RECLAIMED LANDS IN BUTLER COUNTY.

In Fairfield and Union Townships were several thousand acres of inundated or swamp-lands, covered with a dense growth of timber, such as ash, elm, sycamore, and burr-oak. The "Swamp," as it was called, was a terror to the people living on the elevated lands adjoining, causing fever and ague every fall. In their then condition, the lands were considered of little value. About the year 1836 an act was passed by the Legislature authorizing the County Commissioners to levy a tax on certain adjacent lands for the purpose of raising money sufficient to reclaim the lands, and thus render the district healthy. A letting took place, but the funds in hand were not sufficient to effect the object. The act was amended so as to authorize the Commissioners to levy a tax on all lands lying within two and a half miles of the drain. On the 30th of April, 1839, John W. Erwin, now living in Hamilton, was the engineer appointed by the Board of Public Works of Ohio to locate the drain or drains to effect the object. Where the ice-houses are west of the Change Bridge, on the south side of the canal, was a very large pond or lake, covering some sixty acres or more of land, and immediately opposite, on the north side of the canal, was another lake of nearly the same size. About one mile west of these ponds the drain on the north side of the canal commenced, and, passing down the canal, intersected another located on the south side, which passes its water under the canal where the aqueduct now is, and which was, some years ago, built to give more space for water to pass. The water of these ponds, before the construction of the Miami and Erie Canal, when they were raised by heavy rains found an outlet through Pleasant Run to the great Miami River, near Alston's paper-mill; and the better to facilitate its passage, the State excavated a ditch, in 1826, from the pond on the south side one mile and seventy chains long, which crossed the Hamilton and Carthage Turnpike Road a short distance north of Butler's Tavern; this drain cost one thousand dollars, and may be traced through the farms all the way at the present day. Pleasant Run, at that day, headed near the village of Princeton. At the time the canal was constructed an embankment was thrown up from the canal across the valley of Pleasant Run to the high ground so as to turn the water of said run into the "Swamp," and from thence it found its way into one of the branches of Mill Creek. This old embankment can yet be seen a short distance west of the bridge across the ditch near the Change Bridge. The main drain commenced at four feet in width on bottom, then made eight feet, twelve feet, fifteen feet, and widened to twenty feet on bottom towards the lower end, and is in length over five miles, having a total descent of about nineteen feet. Several lateral drains were cut, one from the Cattail Pond, a few rods north of Valentine Clark's house to the main drain, east of the Change Bridge; this drain is nearly one mile long.

Another drain was cut from Long Pond or Buskirk's Pond, which was on the farms now owned by Mr. More Vinnedge and Mr. Dingfelder; this drain is over two hundred rods long. Several other drains were dug, in all over eight miles in length. When the survey was made the whole country along the line of the drains was inundated, and the men were frequently to their waists in water; and on the morning of the 4th of May, 1839, ice an eighth of an inch in thickness was formed in the "Swamp;" this was the day the survey was completed. What is now one of the finest farming districts in Butler County was then one of the most *unweaving* and *repulsive*. The whole country along the present drain