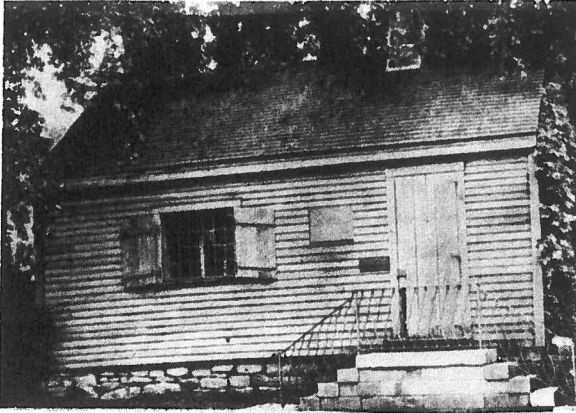


Chapter II

How the White Men Gained Possession of Indian Land



INDIANS POSSESS LAND

When the white men came to this territory the Indians were in possession. We have learned from the study of history that wherever and whenever the white people landed they found the Indians there to greet them. They gave these new comers a helping hand and often saved their lives by teaching them how to live in a new and undeveloped country. So the meeting of Peter Navarre and his brothers with the Ottawa Indians on Presque Isle in 1807, was friendly. Even previous to this date in other parts of the country this friendly relationship had been severed because the white people failed to consider the rights of the Indians.

TREATY OF 1783

After much suffering and bloodshed the treaty of September 3, 1783, was signed and the English acknowledged the Independence of the United States making the Mississippi River the western boundary.

A hasty view of what had taken place previous to this and even later has been given in the first chapter.

PROBLEMS FACING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

The government now faced these problems:

1. The white people were pressing the govern-

ment to get possession of the land.

2. The Indians were the rightful owners of the land.
3. Many of the early traders and settlers had taken advantage of the Indians.
4. The Indians were now suspicious of all white people even those who would befriend them.

HOW THE UNITED STATES MET THE PROBLEM

The first step necessary was to establish a policy. The first one established stated that:

"The United States in Congress assembled shall have the exclusive right and power of regulating the trade and managing all affairs with the Indians not members of any of the states, provided that the legislative right of any state within its limits be not infringed or violated." Under this provision Congress issued a manifesto forbidding all persons to settle upon Indian lands. Another act provided that no purchase or grant of lands shall be valid unless the same be made by a treaty or convention be entered into according to regulations of the Constitution.

Thus, the government took action to prevent adventurers from trespassing on Indian lands and to establish a system by which the Indians could transfer their lands.

TREATY OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP

The first treaty was an expression of peace and friendship.

However, as the population increased more land was needed by white settlers so more treaties were negotiated in which the Indians ceded certain tracts of land to the government.

TREATY OF GREENVILLE

Little Turtle was the chief spokesman for the Indians in negotiating this treaty with the United States which was signed August 3, 1795. It settled the boundary line between the United States and Indian lands north of the Ohio by a line zigzag-

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ing southwestward from the mouth of the Cuyahoga river to near Cincinnati. All the country south and east of this line was ceded to the United States, to be opened to white settlement. The portion of Ohio north and west of the line remained the domain of the Indians, except sixteen small tracts which were ceded to the United States for military purposes. For details of the sixteen sections see *Killetts Toledo and Lucas County, Ohio*.

By the treaty of Greenville which includes the first cessions made by the Indians to the United States, about two-thirds of the State of Ohio became the property of the white race. This left the remaining one-third in the hands of the Indians.

TREATY OF FORT INDUSTRY

On July 4, 1805, the chiefs of the Chippewa, Delaware, Munsee, Ottawa, Potawatomi and Shawnee tribes met with representatives of the United States at Fort Industry and ceded all claims to the Connecticut Western Reserve including land the western boundary of which was a line drawn due south from the shore of Lake Erie not far from what is now Port Clinton to the boundary established by the treaty of Greenville.

The northern half of this cession was known as the Western Reserve and 500,000 acres of the "fire lands." These lands had been granted to citizens of Connecticut for the loss of property burned by the British during the Revolutionary War. For these lands the Connecticut Land Company agreed to pay the Indians \$16,000 and an annuity for a given number of years of \$1,000. The southern half was ceded to the United States which opened more land to white settlers.

TREATY OF DETROIT

In 1807, during the term of William Hull as governor of Michigan Territory, a treaty was made with the chiefs of the Chippewa, Ottawa, Potawatomi and Wyandot tribes at Detroit in the presence of the superintendent of Indian affairs. The United States agreed to pay the Indians \$10,000 "in money or good and animals for the improvement of husbandry, at the option of the Indians." The Chippewas and Ottawas were to receive \$3,333.33 each and the remainder was to be divided equally between the Potawatomi and Wyandot tribes. In addition to this an annuity of \$2,400 was to be

given "forever" and divided as follows: "Chippewa \$800; Ottawa \$800; Potawatomi \$400; and Wyandot \$400. However, by later treaties the annuity was discontinued.

Another portion of the treaty which is of interest describes the boundaries of eight reservations given to the Indians. See *Killetts*.

TREATY OF BROWNSTOWN

On November 25, 1808, a treaty with the Chippewa, Ottawa, Pottawatomi, Shawnee and Wyandot Indians was concluded. This land was in Michigan with the exception of a roadway 120 feet wide from the rapids of the River Miami of Lake Erie to the western line of Connecticut Reserve. This road began at Fort Meigs and followed a southeasterly course by the way of Fremont to Norwalk.

TREATY OF MAUMEE RAPIDS

The portion of Lucas County east of the Maumee was ceded to the United States by a treaty signed at Maumee Rapids on September 29, 1817. The tribes that were a party to this treaty were Chippewa, Delaware, Ottawa, Pottawatomi, Seneca, Shawnee and Wyandot.

The Wyandot and other tribes ceded to the United States a large tract of land in Ohio and Indiana. For details on boundary see *Killetts*.

TREATY OF 1831

A council was held with the Ottawa chiefs on August 30, 1831. The Indians ceded to the United States two tracts on the Maumee. The first was the reservation six miles square above Roche de Boeuf which included the village of Tondagamie and the other a tract three miles square at Wolf's Rapids for the same amount of land at Presque Isle.

TREATY OF MAUMEE

This is an important treaty in which we are interested since part of the treaty pertains to land in Oregon. Therefore, these reservations will be given. Those on the north side of the river will be omitted. If interested, see *Killetts*.

This treaty was made at Maumee on February 8, 1833, with George B. Porter acting as commissioner of the United States.

The Indians ceded to the United States all the

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lands granted to them by the treaties of 1807 and 1817, except 1,520 acres on the south side and 1,040 acres on the north side of the Maumee River, near the mouth.

The tracts on the south side (east) are as follows:

1. To Chief Autokee 320 acres at the mouth of the Maumee, to include Presque Isle.
2. To Jacques, Robert, Peter, Antoine, Francis and Alexis Navarre 800 acres, to include present improvements.
3. To Way-say-on of Tush-que-gan 160 acres to include his father's old cabin.
4. To Petau 80 acres, and if practicable, to include her cabin and field.
5. To Cheno, a chief, 80 acres, above Petau or higher up the little creek.
6. To the heirs of Joseph Le Cavalier Rangard, deceased, 80 acres.

The chiefs and other Indians receiving reservations agreed that the lands granted to them should not be alienated or sold without the approval of the United States.

THE NAVARRE RESERVATION

The government ceded the Navarre Reservation to the Navarre brothers, Jacquet, Robert, Peter, Antoine, Francis and Alexis because they had lived among the Indians and established a friendly relationship between the Indians and white people.

SPECIFIED SUM PAID TO DEBTORS

In the treaty of Maumee the government of the United States agreed to pay \$29,440 which the Indians agreed should be used to pay their debts. The money was appropriated as follows:

To—Hollister and Company	\$7,363.00
John E. Hunt	9,929.00
Robert A. Forsyth	10,890.00
Louis Beaufit	700.00
Pierre Menard	400.00
John King	100.00
Louis King	56.00

SALE OF LAND

The government gave a number of the Indian chiefs permission to sell their land after the treaty of 1833 was signed. Some of the Indian chiefs took advantage of this and sold their land under the direction of the government. Since the

Indians were wards of the United States, great care was taken in supervising all dealings with them whenever sales of land were made and any other business transacted.

Autokee was the first chief to sell. His deed was given on August 4, 1835.

AN INDIAN DEED

State of Ohio)

Wood County) SS

“Know all men by these presents: That I, Autokee, a chief of the Ottawa tribe of Indians, and son of Tush-que-gan, in consideration of the sum of \$1,000, to me in hand paid by James W. Knaggs, of the County of Wood and State of Ohio, do hereby give, grant and convey to said James W. Knaggs, and to his heirs and assigns forever, all that certain tract or parcel of land contained in the west half of my tract, lying in said County of Wood at the mouth of the Maumee River (south side) adjoining Presque Isle, which I lately granted to Robert A. Forsyth and George B. Knaggs, and bounded by said Presque Isle on the west; on the north by Lake Erie; on the east by the east half of said tract; and on the south by land granted to Alexis Navarre by the United States at the treaty with said tribe of Indians in February, 1833, at which treaty this said tract was granted to me, the west half of which, containing 125 acres, I hereby grant to James W. Knaggs. And I further covenant and promise with and to said James W. Knaggs, the above premises to him, his heirs and assigns forever, to warrant and defend.

“In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this 4th day of August, in the year of our Lord, 1835.”

Au-To-Kee (L.S.)

SOURCE

This deed and the sworn statement of the Justice of Peace were taken from Volume I *Toledo and Lucas County, Ohio* by Killets.

You will note that at this time Lucas County had not been organized and all this territory was included in Wood County.

INTERPRETER

Jacques Navarre acted as interpreter for Chief Autokee. H. Conant was the Justice of Peace. A copy of his statement follows:

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State of Ohio)
Wood County) SS

"On the 4th day of August, in the year of our Lord 1835, personally came Autokee, Indian chief of the Ottawa tribes, the maker of the within deed; and the purport and meaning of the within deed being fully explained to him, he acknowledged that he signed and sealed the same and was content and satisfied with the consideration therefor; and that he executed said deed and makes the above acknowledgement without any circumvention of undue influence or persuasion of the grantee, or of any other person whomsoever.

"Before me, Horatio, a Justice of the Peace in and for said County; and I further certify, that I

was present at the execution of the within deed, and counted out and delivered to the said Autokee the consideration mentioned in said deed, \$1,000. Witness my hand and seal, the day and year above written.

"H. Conant,
Justice of the Peace"

OTHER TRANSACTION

During the same day Autokee signed another deed under the same type of supervision. He sold the property known as Presque Isle to Robert A. Forsyth and George B. Knaggs for \$1,000. This included the remainder of his reservation.