

PRESIDENTIAL PATHWAYS



William Henry Harrison 9th President of the United States

Prepared for use along the
Presidential Pathways Scenic Byway
and
Whitewater Canal Scenic Byways

by
Bonita Porter
© 2008

(insert website here)



WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON,

9th President of the United States

The Whigs, in 1840, chose their candidate, William Henry Harrison. The Whig Party described Harrison as a frontier Indian fighter, living in a log cabin and drinking cider. In fact that log cabin was positioned not far away from the point of land formed where the Great Miami River joins the Whitewater River and the Ohio River in North Bend, Ohio.

William Henry Harrison had not always lived that way. He was born on the Berkeley Plantation in Virginia in 1773, to a family of the Virginia planter aristocracy. Virginia was still a colony under British rule at this time. William Henry's father, Benjamin Harrison V, was active in colonial politics. He was appointed a delegate to the Continental Congress that began one year after William's birth. In 1776, William's father, Benjamin, became one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

He studied classics and history at Hampden-Sydney College, then began to study medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

When his father died in 1791, Harrison dropped out of medical school and joined the army. He began his military career as an ensign in the First Infantry of the Regular Army, and headed to the Northwest Territory, where he spent much of his life. As aide-de-camp to General "Mad Anthony" Wayne, he fought to push the Miami and Shawnee people out of their tribal lands. That land is now called Ohio and Indiana.

After leaving the army in 1798, he became Secretary of the Northwest Territory which included Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and much of Minnesota. This land had been given to the United States by the British in the Treaty of Paris in 1783. The Northwest Ordinance allowed for the land in this territory to be surveyed. It also laid out a way for the territory to break into individual states and be represented in Congress equal to the original states.

William Henry Harrison purchased 640 acres of land between the Great Miami and the Little Miami Rivers from Congress. That land met the Ohio River near what is now North Bend, Ohio. He believed it to have a good natural port along the Ohio River, and fertile land for farming. It was on this land that he married Anna Symmes and began raising his family.

In 1801, Harrison became Governor of the Indiana Territory and moved his family to Vincennes. Anna's father, John Cleves Symmes, had also purchased land near North Bend. He did not like his daughter moving even further into the western wilderness, but he finally let her go.

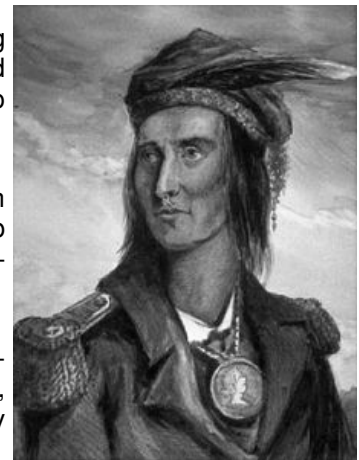
As governor of the territory, he was asked to obtain title to Indian lands so settlers could press forward into the wilderness. It was thought then, that Native Americans and European settlers could not live together because of

differences in language and culture. The removal of native people from their lands was the policy of the United States. This policy was supported by land speculators, missionaries and settlers alike. Land speculators saw the value of the rich farm land and knew that they could sell it to settlers for top dollar.

The Miami and Shawnee had already given up rich hunting and farming grounds in the east and would not give up more land easily. They had to feed their families too. When the Indians retaliated, Harrison sent military troops to defend the white settlements.

In 1809, a charismatic chieftain, Tecumseh, with his religious brother, known as 'the Prophet', began building alliances among many tribes in order to stop more white settlers from taking their land. In 1811, Harrison received permission to attack the Indian Confederacy.

While Tecumseh was away seeking more allies, Harrison led about a thousand men toward the Prophet's town. Suddenly, before dawn on November 7, the Indians attacked Harrison's camp on the Tippecanoe River. After heavy fighting, Harrison repulsed them, but suffered 190 dead and wounded.



*Painting of Tecumseh by
Benson Lossing*

The Battle of Tippecanoe broke apart Tecumseh's confederacy, but small Indian raids on white settlers continued. By the spring of 1812, they were again terrorizing the frontier. The battle however became part of the Whig Party's rallying cry when Harrison ran for President of the United States.

The Miami and Shawnee found allies in the British, still fighting skirmishes with the new breakaway nation who claimed their territory. Finally full war broke out in 1812. William H. Harrison was given command of the Army in the Northwest with the rank of brigadier general to fight the British and their native allies along Lake Michigan and Lake Erie. In the War of 1812, Harrison fought many battles. At the Battle of the Thames, north of Lake Erie, on October 5, 1813, he defeated the combined British and Indian forces. Tecumseh lay dead. The Indians scattered, never again to offer serious resistance in what was then called the Northwest.

Harrison returned to North Bend to farm and build up the area. But Politics would not leave him alone. Harrison served as an Ohio state senator, then as a representative and, later, a Senator from Ohio. In 1828, Harrison gave up his senate seat to accept an appointment as Minister to Columbia, South America.



*Artist rendering of the mouth of the Canal
Tunnel near Cleves, Ohio*

Harrison's success in politics however did not match with success for his dream of a port in North Bend. Due to heavy spring flooding, North Bend proved unsuitable as a port on the Ohio River. Losantiville, modern day Cincinnati, possessed a far better natural port. Harrison sold part of his farm to purchase land for the Canal which he donated to the canal company. The canal would take advantage of the water from the Whitewater & Miami Rivers. Connecting Indiana farms with markets in Cincinnati, the canal would serve many people and towns along the Ohio River.

A mix of private and state money allowed construction of the canal linking Cincinnati to the Whitewater Canal in Indiana in 1839. It took four years to build. The biggest problem along the way was how to get the canal through a hill, rather than building expensive locks to lift and then lower the canal boats up and over the hill. The locks would drastically slow the time it took to get to Cincinnati. The engineers decided a tunnel would be cheaper than digging a deep channel in the hill. This

For more information about the building of the canal tunnel can be found at the Harrison-Symmes Memorial Museum, Main Street, Cleves, OH.

Also, check out the following websites which were used as sources for this booklet.

William Henry Harrison

<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0760594.html>

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/wh9.html>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Henry_Harrison

<http://www.ipl.org/div/potus/whharrison.html>

<http://ap.grolier.com/article?assetid=0132910-0&templatename=/article/article.html>

Ohio's Canal history

<http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/>

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Prairie/6687/>

William Henry Harrison—Fast Facts

Ninth President elected in 1841 as the Whig Candidate while resident in North Bend, Ohio.

Born: February 9, 1773 in Charles City County, Virginia

Wife: Anna (Symmes) Harrison

Occupation(s) before he was President: Army Officer

Other ways he served: Governor of the Territory of Indiana
Ambassador to Columbia
U.S. Senator, Congressman from Ohio

Height: 5 feet, 8 inches

Pets: A goat and cow

School(s) attended: Hampden-Sydney College, University of Pennsylvania Medical School

Died: April 4, 1841. He died in Washington D.C. of pneumonia a month after taking office. He was the first president to die in office.

A monument in his honor stands in North Bend, OH, just off US 50, east of Cincinnati.



Ohio Educational Content Standards and this booklet.

Fourth Grade Social Studies

- Plan a trip along the Presidential Pathway Scenic Byway.
 - Measure the distance on a map to get to the first stop, to the second and so forth. Identify the Ohio River, the Whitewater River, the Great Miami and Little Miami Rivers.
 - What are the cities you will pass through as you drive toward the first stop?
 - What cities will you see along the way? What states will you be near?
 - Which direction will you be driving on each section of the byway?
 - What natural resources will you see as you travel the byway?
 - Describe the land features as you pass them?
- Make a time line of William Henry Harrison's Military participation and the offices he held. They are listed on his tomb in North Bend, Ohio. This was a time of U.S. expansion into Ohio.
 - Why did the people from the east coast want to expand into this area?
 - What were William Henry Harrison's duties in the different offices he held? Which branch of the government did each office belong to?
- Read about the causes and effects of the wars between the Miami & Shawnee Tribes and the United States.
 - How did the expansion of the United States affect the Miami and Shawnee people?
- Read about the Northwest Territory. How did it become a territory of the United States and when?
 - What was the Northwest Ordinance and how did it affect the creation of Ohio?
- Learn about the Cincinnati-Whitewater Canal. Where was it and when was it built?
 - Why did people want to build canals in Ohio
 - What affect did the steam engine and railroads have on the development of canals?
 - How did the canals and railroads affect where people lived in Ohio?
 - How did the canals and railroad affect the economy and political status of Ohio?

Fourth Grade Science

- Stop in any of the parks along the Presidential Pathway Scenic Byway.
 - Group common plants according to their traits (tree leaves, flowers, seeds, roots)
 - Relate plant structures to their specific functions such as growth, survival and reproduction.
 - Can you identify these plants, trees and bushes using a common reference book?
 - If this is not your first visit, compare what the plant looks like now to what it looked like before. What part of its life cycle is it in now? (germination, maturity, reproduction, death)
 - How were these plants used by early settlers in southwest Ohio?
 - Walk along the creeks to find fossils.
 - Take rubbings of them using crayons across newsprint paper. Can you identify them?
 - What type of environment existed when these fossils were actually living animals? How does that environment differ today?
- The technology of canals and covered bridges
 - Visit the two covered bridges along the byway. Draw the truss structure used to build the bridge.
 - Why do you think it was built this way?
 - What problems were solved by having a bridge with a roof?
 - How did covered bridges improve the lives of the people in the area?
 - Follow the Whitewater River canal way along Kilby Rd.
 - What would interfere with a canal boat floating down the river? How was each problem addressed?

Ohio Educational Content Standards and this booklet.

Eighth Grade Social Studies

- Visit the various museums and other historic sites along the Presidential Pathways Scenic Byway.
 - Where did the settlers in southwest Ohio come from?
 - What reasons brought settlers to southwest Ohio?
 - What were the interactions between the Miami and Shawnee and the U.S. government? And the new settlers?
 - What treaties were signed that effected the native peoples of Ohio? What were the rights and responsibilities of each side of these treaties? What effect did prejudice and stereotyping play in these treaties? What influence did these treaties have on settlement of southwest Ohio?
 - What was the Northwest Ordinance? How did William Henry Harrison influence the Northwest Ordinance and the move toward Ohio statehood?
 - Did the Northwest Ordinance permit slavery or indentured servitude? Did Ohio? What rights were held by non-white peoples in the Northwest Ordinance? In Ohio? By women?
 - How did the Northwest Ordinance differ from the U.S. Constitution?
 - What factors contributed to enslavement in the U.S. and how did these factors play out in the creation and livelihoods of settlers in southwest Ohio?
 - How did the Northwest Ordinance affect the expansion of the United States?
 - What forms of early government emerged? What democratic institutions were established?
 - What foreign powers threatened the people of Ohio in the early 19th century?
 - What was the basis of the early Ohio economy? Can you see evidence of this early Ohio economy today?
 - How did the search for religious freedom effect the settlements along the Presidential Byway?

Eighth Grade Math and Science

- Covered Bridge Building.
 - Why put a roof on a bridge? What effect would sun, wind, water and extremes in temperature have on a wooden bridge? What effect would vibration by moving horses, wagons, etc. have on the bridge?
 - Bring a protractor to measure the angles of trusses used inside covered bridges. Why did different bridges use different truss types? Why use triangles of different angles and dimensions? What does the truss type have to do with the span of the bridge or the soils and other support structures used beneath the bridges? See http://dot.state.oh.us/se/coveredbridges/truss_types.htm
 - Experiment with the different angles you discover to try to make a bridge from toothpicks. How does a design for a covered bridge use translations, reflections, rotations and dilations of triangles. How are these same angles used in modern-day bridge building?
- Canal Building
 - Water was used to carry canal boats from Indianapolis to Cincinnati. What problems did the canal builders discover? What limits did the builders have to work within?
 - What angle of slope was needed to keep enough water flowing to keep the canal boat moving? What was the top speed of a canal boat?
 - What environmental problems might a canal builder encounter? What solutions were used?
 - Make a model similar to southwest Ohio's geography and test portions for their appropriateness for canal building.
- Fossils and the Environment. Any creek bed in southwest Ohio contains fossils.
 - What environmental changes have taken place since these animals were living? Earthquakes? Global warming? Glaciers?