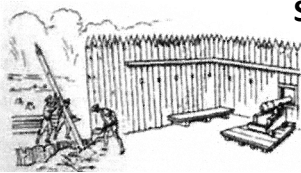


BUILDING THE FORT

Construction of the new fort was assigned to a Company of Kentucky volunteers. Men from other Companies who had carpentry skills were also sent to aid in building the new fort. With the site chosen and the workforce in place, construction began around the second week of October 1812.

The fort was to be built as a square—198 feet by 198 feet—with blockhouses at each corner and stockade walls enclosing an area of slightly less than one acre.

With winter approaching, the first buildings needed were cabins for the men. The cabins would likely have been 20 feet by 20 feet. Their back walls may have served as a section of the stockade wall.

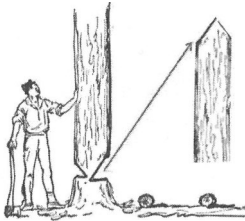


SETTING THE STOCKADE WALLS

The stockade walls were made of logs from six inches to one foot in diameter and 15 feet long.

They were placed upright side by side in a two-foot-wide and three-feet-deep trench. Once the logs were in place and secured, dirt was shoveled back around the base and tamped down. To help strengthen the wall, a board spanning several of the upright logs would be nailed or pegged in place for added strength.

Contrary to popular opinion, the timbers cut for stockade walls were not tapered at the top to slow down an enemy trying to climb over the wall. The shape was simply the result of how the tree was cut down.



Once on the ground, the log was measured to 15 feet and cut off forming a flat end. The log was set with the flat end in the trench and the tapered end facing up. The flattened end was more stable and less likely to sink down into the trench.

WAR OF 1812 MAJOR EVENTS



June 1812

The United States declares war on Britain; disputes over territorial expansion in North America, British restrictions on US trade with France, and impressment of US sailors.

July 1812

US Army invades Canada from Detroit.

December 1812

USS Constitution defeats British ship HMS Java; it would defeat four British ships during the war; it earned the nickname “Old Ironsides”.

September 1813

Commodore Oliver H. Perry wins the naval Battle of Lake Erie; US gains control of the Great Lakes.

October 1813

US victory at the Battle of the Thames in Ontario; Shawnee Chief Tecumseh is killed during the battle.

April 1814

Britain’s ongoing war with France ends; it turns its full focus on the war in America.

August 1814

British capture Washington DC; they burn the White House and other buildings; negotiations to end the war begin.

September 1814

British 25-hour bombardment of Fort McHenry in Baltimore Harbor fails; Francis Scott Key writes a poem about the attack; it is later set to music and becomes “The Star-Spangled Banner”.

December 1814

The Treaty of Ghent to end the war is signed in Belgium.

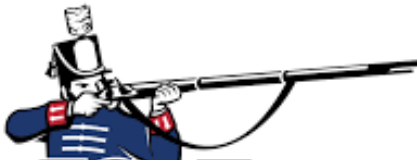
January 1815

Battle of New Orleans; US General Andrew Jackson’s army defeats the British as they attack the city; Jackson was not aware a peace treaty had been signed; the war officially ended in February 1815.

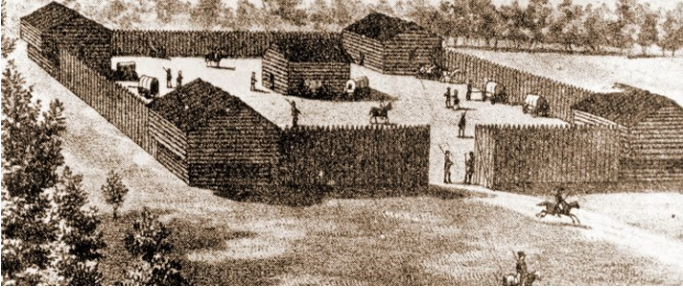
After the war, the US Army began plans to close Ft. Amanda. By 1817 early pioneer families were living in the former fort.



The Fort Amanda Memorial Obelisk Monument was erected in 1915 to mark the site of the original fort.



FORT AMANDA on the Auglaize River War of 1812



Fort Amanda was the first fort in the US Army’s supply chain in Ohio during the War of 1812. It was built at the north end of a trail in western Ohio at the head of navigable waters—where the water was deep enough to float boats—on the Auglaize River.

What was needed was a fort that was defensible, large enough to house soldiers plus adequate facilities for storing materials, corrals for animals, and a place to build boats. It was to be more than a typical frontier fort. It needed to be a major production and warehousing facility that also served as a quartermasters depot for the Army. The site for the new fort had to provide easy access to the river.

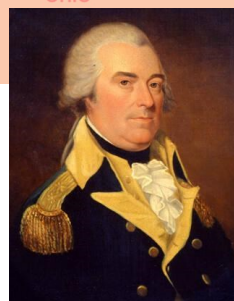
The site selected had three natural defenses, a deep wide ravine to the northwest, a drop off to the south-east, as well as a steep drop off to the river on the northeast. The area facing the southwest, once cleared of trees, would provide a good field of vision for the sentries watching for anyone approaching the new fort.



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General Anthony Wayne was a general in the American Revolution. In the 1790s, President George Washington called Wayne from his retirement back into service to secure the Northwest Territory—including what became the State of Ohio—for American settlement.



GENERAL ANTHONY WAYNE

Wayne faced a major obstacle—the Great Black Swamp. He knew that marching an army across the swamp would be dangerous, time consuming and costly. He also knew he needed a dependable supply chain in place to support his troops.

Wayne knew that supplies could be shipped by water from the Ohio River up the Great Miami River to Shelby County and then hauled by wagon to the Auglaize River. He sent soldiers to search for a spot on the Auglaize where the water was deep enough to float heavy boats with soldiers and supplies on to the Maumee River and Lake Erie. This could be done without marching across the swamp.



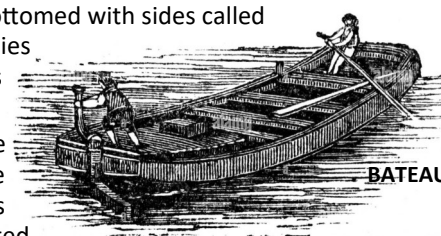
TREATY OF GREENVILLE—1795
Signed at current Greenville, Ohio

Wayne's campaign had great success. After the defeat of the Native tribes at the Battle of Fallen Timbers, the Treaty of Greenville was signed and it brought peace to the region until the War of 1812.



Building boats was a major goal at Fort Amanda. Soldiers and civilian contractors created a large boat construction area on the opposite side of the river from the fort. The boats built at Fort Amanda had to be able to navigate a winding and shallow Auglaize River. The most likely types of boats built at the fort were flat-bottomed with sides called punts for transporting supplies and bateaus for transporting troops.

When completed, they were pulled to the fort-side of the river and loaded with troops and supplies to be transported to other forts along the Auglaize River.

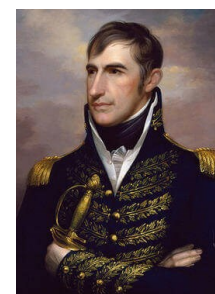


BUILDING BOATS

Building boats was a major goal at Fort Amanda. Soldiers and civilian contractors created a large boat

GENERAL HARRISON VISITS FORT AMANDA

William Henry Harrison was a Major General in the War of 1812. He led the American Army to victory at the Battle of the Thames in Canada on October 5, 1813. He defeated Shawnee Chief Tecumseh's Confederacy and their British allies.



GENERAL WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Fort Amanda was a flurry of activity on April 8, 1813. General Harrison and his senior staff arrived at the fort around 1PM. His objective was to load men and supplies for a journey to Fort Meigs, the US headquarters for the war in the Great Lakes region.

It is estimated the trip would have involved 25 boats for his troops and another ten boats for supplies and ammunition—a total of 35 boats. Without doubt, this was the largest armada of boats to ever navigate the Auglaize River before or since.

When Harrison and his men left Fort Amanda on April 9, it is likely they went 23 miles to Fort Jennings. The next day they continued 30 miles to Fort Brown. On April 11 they traveled 17 miles to Defiance and then continued on the Maumee River. They arrived at Fort Meigs on the morning of April 12. The fort was located near the present city of Perrysburg, Ohio.



FORT AMANDA'S COMMANDER

Robert Pogue was 46 years old when the War of 1812 began. He and his wife Jane lived near the village of Mayslick, Kentucky. They had seven children. In the 1790s, Pogue had served in General Anthony Wayne's army as a quartermaster. He was one of the men sent by General Wayne to find the location for a fort on the Auglaize River.

Lieutenant Colonel Pogue received orders to assemble his regiment of Kentucky volunteers and leave for Ohio. General William Henry Harrison assigned the task of building a new fort on the Auglaize River to Pogue, who was familiar with the area. When it came time to name the fort, Pogue chose to name it after his eldest, surviving daughter, Amanda.

After the war, Robert Pogue went on to become a very successful tobacco farmer in Mason County, Kentucky. He died on August 14, 1833 at the age of sixty-five.

A VISITOR TO THE FORT

Francis Duchouquet and the Shawnee often came to Fort Amanda to sell fresh meats, fish, fruit and vegetables to the soldiers.

Duchouquet was born around 1751 near Presque Isle in Pennsylvania. His father was French and his mother was Native American. He was a fur trapper and translator. He served as a translator for Native Tribes at several peace treaties signed in Ohio.

His home and trading post, during the War of 1812, was in Wapakoneta on the north side of the river where the Hamilton Street bridge is today. In 1831, he was traveling with a group of Shawnee to Washington to appeal for a new peace treaty. He died of disease on the trip near Cumberland, Pennsylvania.

When Allen County was first surveyed in 1832, one of its new townships that included the village of Wapakoneta, was named in honor of Francis Duchouquet.



Much of the information in this pamphlet came from David R. Johnson's book **Fort Amanda: A Historical Redress** Published in July 2017