

Late 1700's Frontier Forts of Anthony Wayne

After the resounding defeat of generals, Harmar and St. Clair, President George Washington sent General Anthony Wayne to the Ohio Territory to settle the violence that was preventing further westward settlement. Washington respected Wayne's military abilities. "Anthony Wayne was a prudent and careful officer. He was a systematic organizer who paid careful attention to basic military problems such as supply, training, and the comfort of his men in the field. He never undertook an operation without thorough advance planning and minute attention to detail. Wayne took care to learn from the mistakes and successes of his predecessors." Nelson, Paul David, Anthony Wayne: Soldier of the Early Republic. Indiana University Press, Bloomington, 1985.

It was Wayne's plan to build small forts between Fort Washington (now Cincinnati) and wherever the new permanent fort would be located. Wayne would use these forts to protect and re-supply his legion. Starting from Pittsburgh, Wayne's first fort was some 22 miles down- stream. Built in October 1792, it was named Legionville. There, his troops had a safe and healthy place to train and prepare for the next step north.

Arriving at Fort Washington in May, 1793, Wayne thought the village was unhealthy and would not be a safe place to continue training his troops. He moved one mile farther down the river and built Hobson's Choice. They left the area on October 7, 1793

Wayne continued north toward Fort Hamilton, the first station on the line of forts from the Ohio River to Fort Jefferson. From Fort Hamilton, they preceded on to Fort St. Clair and then Fort Jefferson. Using Ft. Jefferson as a supply depot, Wayne found a high ground overlooking a vast prairie approximately 8 miles north of Ft. Jefferson. In November, 1793, he began the construction of a permanent military installation. He named it Greene Ville. It was 55 acres with strong bastions with some 300 log huts for his men. It was an unassailable post. Greene Ville was never attacked.

December 29, 1793, the army reached the site of General St. Clair's defeat. They built a small fort in just a few days. They called it Fort Recovery because they recovered the bones of St. Clair's slain army (some 900 individuals). They also recovered three cannons from the river.

On July 28, 1794, Wayne started north again and left Greene Ville, past Ft. Recovery. They forged into the wilderness at the end of the prepared road through "thickets, morasses, marshes defiles and beads of nettles more than waist high and miles in length". Near the St. Mary's River he built Ft. Adams on August 1, 1794.

Fort St. Mary's was built in August 1794 as a supply fort prior to the Battle of Fallen Timbers. Fort Defiance was also built in 1794. It was built as a stronghold to command the confluence of the Auglaize and Maumee Rivers.

Fort Deposit was built in 1794 within ten miles of the British stronghold of Ft. Miami and used to deposit the military stores and equipment and stores not used in the battle of Fallen Timbers. Fort Industry was built in 1794 as a supply depot on the left bank of the Maumee River at Swan Creek (later Toledo, Ohio).

In 1794, Wayne completed Fort Wayne at the confluence of the St. Joseph, St. Mary's and Maumee Rivers.

Fort Roudy, close to present day Covington, Ohio, was a small stockade built at the portage around Greene Ville falls to protect men, equipment and supplies for transport up Greenville Creek from the Stillwater River.

Fort Loramie was a supply fort on the site of the old trading post occupied by Peter Loramie.

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Fort Briar the location for bullock pens used for the slaughter of cattle for meat for all the forts under Wayne's command. This camp was built on the banks of the Stillwater river in Richland Township, in Darke County, Ohio.

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