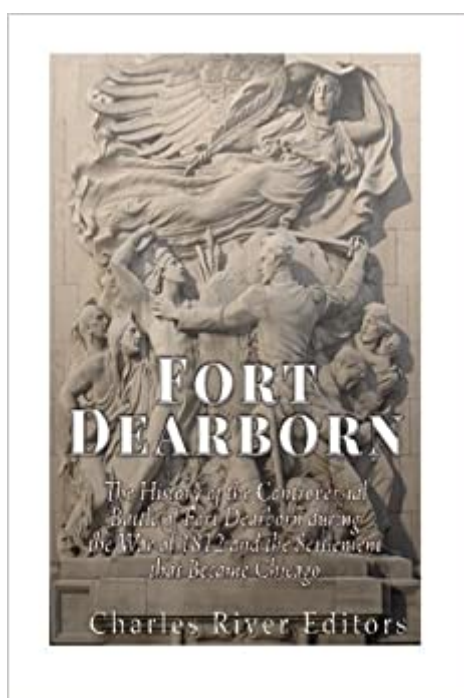


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Fort Dearborn: The History Of The Controversial Battle Of Fort Dearborn During The War Of 1812 And The Settlement That Became Chicago



Synopsis

*Includes pictures *Includes an account of the Dearborn Massacre by an American soldier *Includes online resources, footnotes, and a bibliography for further reading *Includes a table of contents

“We had marched half a mile, when we were attacked by 600 Kickapoo and Wyanbago Indians. In the moment of trial our Confute savages joined the savage enemy, Our contest lasted ten minutes, when every man, woman and child was killed except 15. Thanks be to God I was one of those who escaped.”

Walter K. Jordan, one of the men present at the Battle of Dearborn

Tucked safely away in storage is an unnamed sculpture commissioned by George Pullman and sculpted by Carl Rohl-Smith depicting the Fort Dearborn Massacre. It was originally installed near the mansion of the creator of the Pullman Palace Car Company, which manufactured railroad sleeping cars in the mid-19th century. Although placing such a sculpture at that location may initially sound weird, the Pullman mansion had been built on the site of a controversial battle that took place at an old, historic European fort along the Chicago River in Illinois in 1812. The ongoing fighting between white settlers, militias, Army units, and Native Americans not only bled into the War of 1812 but was one of the main causes of it. Many Americans chafed at the fact that along the Northwestern frontier, the British in Canada were supporting Indian resistance to American settlement. So-called War Hawks from that region in Congress pushed for a declaration of war, and many hoped that a war would not only stop Indian depredations but evict the British from Canada and lead to completion of some unfinished business from the American Revolution, namely Canada joining the U.S. Although there had been treaties and seemingly cordial trading between the Native Americans and the new settlers in that area, recent fighting in nearby areas like the Battle of Tippecanoe less than a year earlier kept all sides on edge, and the British aim to maintain a barrier between America and Canada by propping up Native American tribes led to a controversial battle in the Illinois Territory at Fort Dearborn, a fort built along the Chicago River, shortly after the War of 1812 broke out. When the war came, the close proximity of British forces compelled American military officers in the area to attempt to evacuate the garrison at Fort Dearborn, but misunderstandings and a lack of time resulted in Potawatomi warriors ambushing the soldiers and several civilians before they could retreat back to Fort Wayne, Indiana. In the wake of cutting down dozens of whites, the Potawatomi laid waste to Fort Dearborn itself, and though the fighting was technically a battle, in America the Battle of Fort Dearborn was known colloquially as the Fort Dearborn Massacre. Thus, even as the conflict was relatively minor in scale, it had far-reaching implications. Although Americans wouldn't be able to rebuild the fort until after the war ended, the memory of what occurred there increased the hostility towards Native

Americans and helped ensure policies of removing the area's natives were popular among settlers. The most noteworthy result was the way in which events there culminated in the Treaty of Chicago, which led to the creation of one of America's biggest cities and the westward movement of the region's native inhabitants. Fort Dearborn: The History of the Controversial Battle of Fort Dearborn during the War of 1812 and the Settlement that Became Chicago chronicles the history of the fort and examine the notorious fighting in August 1812. Along with pictures of important people, places, and events, you will learn about Fort Dearborn like never before, in no time at all.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

My Short Blurb for Readers in a Hurry to Find a Good Read Most of the booklets by Charles River Editors are short, to the point, and interesting. Only a very few are laden with typos or inaccuracies. Fort Dearborn, though, is one of the very best they have published, among more than one thousand titles. It includes a number of sketches and engraving reproductions that help communicate the information provided. If you are still interested, but have time to chat, please pull up a chair while I fetch some coffee or tea. I will provide some more specifics about this booklet and even an excerpt for your review.

Length: Print, 78 pages. Target Audience/Genre: This is a nonfiction book of history during its earliest days as a nation.

Q - What was the Rank on the date this review was published? A - 79,468.

Q - How was this book obtained? A - Bought at .

Q - Is this a book that I can read without having to read others first? A - Yes.

Q - If this is a recurring character or a series, does it have a cliffhanger ending? A - This is a stand alone, brief history.

Q - Are there a lot of

typos/misspellings, grammatical errors or other editing failures? A - No. Q - Is this a fast, easy read or is it more of a leisure read? A - This is a quick read for commuting or for the lunch hour at work. Q - What sort of language does this writer use to amplify the points made? A - Plain English with no profanities; no sex, no graphic sexual violence, although the facts of the battle, or massacre, are not pleasant, they are not relayed in any specially graphic detail. Q - My biggest pleasure or disappointment? A - I found this an informative read and was especially interested to learn of Chicago's earliest days. With no Fort Dearborn, it can be argued there would never have been a Chicago. I wonder if this means Ernie Banks would not have been an all star major league second baseman? To give a feel for the editing, and the style and flow of this work, I am posting a brief excerpt below.

Excerpt

On August 13, 1803, Kaskaskia chiefs signed yet another treaty. The Kaskaskia, who had been all but ignored in previous treaties, now ceded to the United States the entire area formerly possessed by all the tribes of the Illinois Indians, with the exception of the Peorias. With the stroke of a pen, 8 million acres of land was transferred from its native inhabitants to the United States.[19]The question of the leasing of the salt spring on the Saline River was no longer a sticking point. The Kaskaskia sold it to the U.S. government, along with most of what is now the State of Illinois. Altogether, the Kaskaskia sold these vast lands for \$ 896.66. Given inflation, the amount would have been a little more than \$ 14,000 in today's currency; throughout Illinois today, that represents the cost of about a half an acre. The Kaskaskia was a highly civilized tribe, having embraced European customs. Most of the tribe had been baptized and received into the Catholic Church. Along with this latest treaty, the U.S. promised to build a house for the chief on a 100-acre lot, and to pay \$ 100 a year toward the support of a Catholic priest for the tribe, to perform as both priest and schoolteacher. The government gave \$ 300 toward the construction of a Catholic church.[20]By 1804, the renegade Piankishaws signed a treaty acknowledging the right of the Kaskaskias to sell the Illinois lands to the U.S. government. That year, three Europeans were murdered by the Sack tribe. There were also contentions between the Sack and Fox tribes and the United States. Harrison negotiated yet another treaty, transferring the largest tract of land, delineated by a single treaty, since the settlement of North America. The treaty effectively turned 51 million acres of fertile soil--largely Illinois lands--into U.S. property. The price was less than \$ 3,000, with \$ 600 being paid to the Sacs, and \$ 400 to the Foxes. The treaty also promised the protection of tribes on U.S. land, provided the tribes agreed not to sell any land to any other entity. The law was intended to treat Indians and Europeans alike. The Sacs and Foxes were guaranteed the right to continue to hunt on the ceded property, and if they no longer wanted unlicensed traders to live

among them, they had the right to have them removed. There was also a provision in the treaty for the U.S. to build a fort on a two-mile square tract of land. The U.S. planned to build a factory or a trading house where goods were to be sold at lower prices than the private traders were charging. Things seemed fine until August 1804, when Little Turtle incited the Potawatomi, the Miami, and the Eel River Indians over the

Charles River Editors (2016-04-04). *Fort Dearborn: The History of the Controversial Battle of Fort Dearborn during the War of 1812 and the Settlement that Became Chicago* (Kindle Locations 351-374). Charles River Editors. Kindle Edition.

Bottom Line: This brief work is worth the price for anyone interested in earliest Chicago History and/or in the effects of a new nation's encroachment upon the frontier Northwest Territories of the 18th Century. I loved this booklet and would read more like it, by this author or others. Comments regarding your opinion of this book or of my review, whether favorable or unfavorable, are always welcome. If you buy the book based on my review and become disappointed, especially, I do want to know that and I want to understand how I can improve as a book reviewer. Just please be polite. Thank you.

This is a rather abbreviated record of the Fort Dearborn Massacre. It does get into the major characters but not to any depth. For a general overview of the event it serves the purpose but a much better read would be Alan Eckert's book on the subject.

Good historical background and narrative.

Very well written and easy to read

Very good information

Good

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