

By Frederic Remington, Harpers Magazine April, 1897.

**The Attack!**

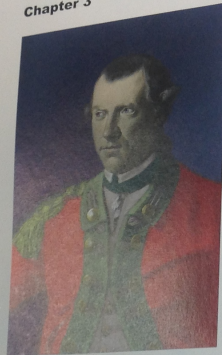
Two days later, yells and war cries came from the woods. Soldiers shouted, "Here they come!" Indians rushed up to the fort. They tried to chop a hole in the wall with their **tomahawks** (TOM ah hawks)! The British shot back. Many Indians died trying to get into the fort at Detroit.

That night the Indians crept up to the walls. They started fires against the wooden fort. British soldiers raced back and forth. They carried buckets of water to pour on the fires.



A tomahawk is like a hatchet. It was used to cut wood and in war as a weapon.

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In 1763, Major Gladwin was in charge of the British fort at Detroit when Pontiac attacked. From Archives of Michigan 13832

The battle for Detroit went on for weeks and weeks. Pontiac's warriors could not get in the fort. The British could not leave. The British became desperate. They did not have many bullets or much food left. They could not get any more supplies. Which side would give in first? Time was also against the Indians. It was now fall. They needed to go hunting and gather food for the winter. Warriors began to leave with their families.

**Longest in Our History**

It was now late October. Pontiac got a message from the French. It said France and Britain had made peace. The French would not come back. Pontiac decided to stop the attack. The fight lasted 153 days. This was the longest Native American battle in our country. It showed Pontiac's skill as a leader.

**War Spread Far and Wide**

The British still had worries. Many of their forts were attacked. The tribes worked together. Pontiac sent messages urging them to fight. The British lost five forts! Only Fort Detroit and two others held out. Then there was sad news for the British. The tribes had captured **Fort Michilimackinac** (MISH ill eh MACK in aw)! That was the fort across from Mackinac Island.

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### What Happened at Michilimackinac?

One day many Native Americans came into the fort. They all wanted to trade. Some British were puzzled. The only thing the Indians wanted were tomahawks! One trader was Alexander Henry. He went to talk to the commander of the fort. Two tribes were going to play a kind of ball game. People were betting money on which tribe would win. Mr. Henry was worried. He thought there could be trouble. The commander of the fort did not listen to him. **This is what Mr. Henry wrote in his diary.**

"A Chipeway came to tell me that his nation was going to play at **bag gat i way** with another Indian nation for a large bet. He invited me to witness the sport. He said the commandant was to be there, and would bet on the side of the Chipeways. I went to the commandant and talked with him a little. I wondered if the Indians might possibly have something evil in mind. The commandant only smiled at my suspicions."

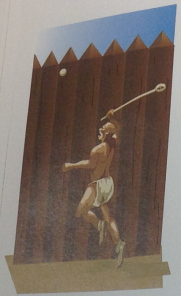
### The Big Game

Many of the soldiers came out to watch the game. It was a great sight! The British commander made his bet on the Ojibwa side. It was a warm day, but the Indian women seemed to be cold. They sat wrapped in blankets near the gate.



**This is a primary source. Mr. Henry was there when it happened.**

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Suddenly the ball went over the wall and into the fort. The players rushed in after it. As they ran, they grabbed weapons from under the women's blankets. Few of the soldiers had time to defend themselves. It was a quick victory for the tribes. Many soldiers were killed. Alexander Henry ran into a house and hid. He was really scared, but he survived.

### Another Fort Taken

The tribes captured **Fort St. Joseph**. This happened in May, 1763. The fort was along the St. Joseph River. The fort was a small one. The city of Niles is there today. Most of the soldiers were killed. The commander was taken prisoner. The Indians marched him back to Detroit.

### The Fighting Ends but the British Still Worry

It took awhile for all the tribes to make peace. Not until 1766 did everything calm down. This war is called Pontiac's **Rebellion**. Pontiac showed courage. He tried to help his people.

The British moved back into their forts. Still, they worried about more trouble with the Indians. The tribes were still angry. **Settlers** were tak-



Students dig at the site of old Fort St. Joseph. This work helps us understand what happened and how people lived long ago.



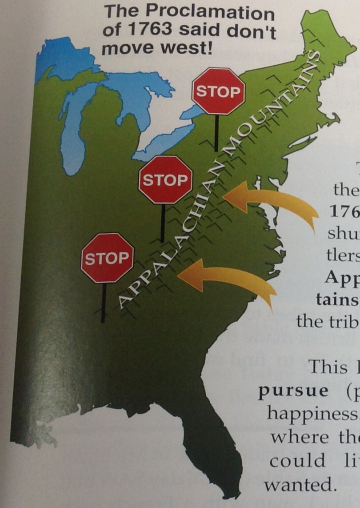
This rusted keyhole is an example of what they found. Photos courtesy Dr. Michael Nassaney at Western Michigan University.



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### The Proclamation of 1763 said don't move west!



ing their land. So, the British passed a law to stop settlers going west.

The law was called the **Proclamation of 1763** (prok la may shun). It said no settlers could go past the **Appalachian Mountains**. Would this keep the tribes happy?

This law let the tribes **pursue** (per SOO) their happiness. They could hunt where they wanted. They could live where they wanted.

**Pursuit of happiness** is a core democratic value. *It means let people do what they want. Let them be happy as long as it does not bother anyone else.*

#### Think Like a Historian

There are often two sides to each event. This makes history interesting. Now settlers could not move west. The tribes were happy, but the settlers were not. The settlers could not pursue their



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happiness. They wanted to have more land. They wanted to start farms. They wanted to get away from the crowded towns in the East. The new law made the settlers mad at the British. It led to problems later.

First- the cause

Second- the effect

In history, one event can cause another. The first event is the cause. The second event is the effect. Historians call this "cause and effect."

Here is an example. The French lost the war with the British (the cause). The British took control of Michigan (the effect).

Pontiac led the tribes to attack the British (the cause). The British made the Proclamation of 1763 (the effect). Try to find more examples as you study Michigan.



Jean de Sable by Aaron Zenz.

#### The Black Trader

In the 1760s a fur trader came to Michigan. His name was **Jean de Sable** (jHAN day SAW bul). De Sable was a black man with a French background. He was born in **Haiti**, an island in the Atlantic Ocean.



Jean de Sable was a friend of Chief Pontiac. He lived near Pontiac's camp. He traded with the tribes. When Pontiac left Michigan, so did de Sable. In 1779, de Sable settled along the shore of Lake Michigan. Over time his settlement became a huge city. Today we call it **Chicago**.

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## Questions

- 1) What caused Pontiac to stop the attack on Detroit?
- 2) What happened at Fort Michilimackinac?
- 3) What did the Proclamation of 1763 say?
- 4) Using your knowledge and thinking skills, did the Proclamation of 1763 last forever? How do you know?
- 5) In your own words what does Pursuit of Happiness mean?