

SURVEY OF HISTORIC GROUNDS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING

Reports submitted by the Chief of Engineers of the results of an examination of historic grounds, locations, and military works in the Maumee Valley, with an estimate of the probable cost of their purchase by the United States.

DECEMBER 13, 1888.—Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, December 12, 1888.

The Secretary of War has the honor to transmit to Congress a report of the Chief of Engineers, dated November 21, 1888, together with a report of the 14th ultimo and accompanying maps from Col. O. M. Poe, Corps of Engineers, embracing the results of an examination and inspection of certain historic grounds, locations, and military works in the Maumee Valley and an estimate of the probable cost of the purchase and improvement of these grounds, works, and burial places, the same being transmitted in compliance with the provisions of the act of Congress approved May 24, 1888.

WILLIAM C. ENDICOTT,
Secretary of War.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE,
Detroit, Mich., November 14, 1888.

SIR: By act of Congress approved May 24, 1888, it was enacted—

That the Secretary of War be, and is hereby, authorized and directed to cause to be made, by an officer of the Engineer Corps, in co-operation with the Maumee Valley Monumental Association, an examination and inspection of each of the following-named historic grounds, locations, and military works, to wit:

- 1. The burial-place on Put-in-Bay Island of the sailors of the Navy in the war of 1812.
- 2. Fort Industry, at the mouth of Swan Creek, on the Maumee River.
- 3. Fort Miami, on the north and west side of the Maumee River, 7 miles above Fort Industry.

Fort Meigs, and the burial grounds of the soldiers of the war of 1812, near the same, on the south and east bank of the Maumee River, 10 miles above the mouth of Swan Creek.

A suitable portion of the battle-field of Fallen Timber, on the north and west bank of the Maumee River, 4 miles above Fort Meigs, where Anthony Wayne defeated the allied Indian nations under Turkey Foot, August 20, 1794.

Fort Defiance, at the confluence of the Auglaize and Maumee Rivers, erected by General Wayne in August, 1794.

Fort Wayne, at Fort Wayne, Ind., at the confluence of the Saint Joe and Saint Mary's Rivers, which was erected by General Wayne in October, 1794.

And he shall cause to be made a survey and full report to Congress of the location, situation, and condition of the same, and the amount of grounds necessary for the protection and improvement of the aforesaid works, forts, battle-fields, and burial-places in and near the same, as well as the probable cost thereof; and the said report shall be accompanied with the necessary maps and drawings.

SEC. 2. That the sum of \$150 is appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the expense of the examination and inspection provided for in this act.

By letter dated Headquarters Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, June 25, 1888, I was designated to take charge of the contemplated survey, and was instructed to confer with General John C. Lee, of Toledo, Ohio, for any information needed.

After sufficient correspondence with General Lee, I prepared and submitted to the Chief of Engineers a project for the prosecution of the work, which was duly approved. The amount of the appropriation was so small that, in order to produce results of any value, it was imperative that the strictest economy should be observed, and that much of the work should be done by me personally. It was not practicable to hire and send trained topographers to the several localities, as the amount of funds available would not suffice to pay the resulting expenses. Accordingly I visited each point in person, and by employing local surveyors saved the cost of transportation.

The maps herewith transmitted, six in number, embody the results obtained, and, as prescribed by the act, show the location, situation, and present condition of such military works as have not been obliterated, together with the historic grounds named and the amount of grounds necessary for their proper protection and improvement. They are:

- (1) Map to illustrate the historic grounds of the Maumee Valley and vicinity.
- (2) Map showing the present condition of Fort Miami, Ohio.
- (3) Map showing the present condition of Fort Meigs, Ohio.
- (4) Map showing the location and present condition of a portion of the battle-field of Fallen Timbers, Ohio.
- (5) Map showing the present condition of Fort Defiance, Ohio.
- (6) Plat of grounds at Fort Wayne, Ind.

The following is a report, in detail, in regard to the several localities:

(1) BURIAL-PLACE ON PUT-IN-BAY ISLAND.

Upon my visit I found Mr. Valentine Doller, mayor of the corporation of Put-in-Bay, and visited the burial-place in company with him.

The ground where the interments were made is now marked by a circular inclosure about 30 feet in diameter, consisting of badly decayed wooden posts connected by an iron chain, while a rough block of stone at the foot of a willow tree is said to mark the exact location of the graves.

The shore of the bay is about 60 feet distant from the inclosure, and a road, sunken some 18 inches, passes between the two. Mr. Doller stated to me that in grading this road some years ago, human remains were dug up and re-interred within the inclosure.

The burial-ground is included in an area which was conveyed by Mr. J. De Rivera to the corporation, in trust, for the public. It is understood that the nature of the conveyance is such as to assure the spot against obliteration, but no steps appear to have been taken to specially mark it. About all that could be done would be to inclose it with an iron chain supported by iron posts of neat design, and replace the rough block by a block of granite, suitably inscribed. As the site would cost nothing, the improvement indicated could be made for about \$2,500. Because a map could give no additional information, none is transmitted.

(2) FORT INDUSTRY.

The site of this work is now in the busiest part of the city of Toledo— at the intersection of Monroe street with Summit avenue. All trace of it was long ago obliterated, but the fact of its location at the point indicated, is preserved in the designation of a block of buildings named Fort Industry Block.

Probably no better way of now marking it is possible than to erect upon one of the street corners a granite monument, with a suitable inscription. It is presumed that the city of Toledo would grant the necessary site, and, if so, the suggestion could be carried into effect at a cost of about \$5,000. No map of this locality is transmitted because it could give no additional information, and it is therefore deemed unnecessary to incur the resulting expense.

(3) FORT MIAMI.

The northeastern angle of this work and a portion of each adjacent curtain, together with the greater part of the demilune in advance of the northern front, are still in a fair state of preservation, and were readily traced. The northwestern bastion can be fairly inferred, and is therefore indicated on the map, but the southern or river front has been destroyed, and the information in regard to it is insufficient to warrant an attempt to now outline it. The site is comprised in the town plat, and would have to be purchased, in part, at least. The probable cost could not be ascertained, but the land can not be of great value. The area required would be about $5\frac{98}{1000}$ acres, as indicated upon the map. The buildings shown are of little value, certainly not worth more than \$1,000. A portion of the site is in orchards, and therefore would slightly increase the cost. A granite monument, with suitable inscription, erected upon the parade of the fort at some point slightly to the southwestward of the northeastern bastion would properly and sufficiently mark the work. Estimating the cost of the site at \$2,500 and of the monument at \$5,000, gives \$7,500 as the probable aggregate cost of all that would be required.

(4) FORT MEIGS.

This work, situated about a mile above Perrysburgh, on the right bank of the Maumee, is entitled to special consideration, from the facts that during 1813 it sustained two sieges, and that in its immediate vicinity were buried not only those who were killed in its defense, or died during its occupation, but also the dead who fell in the attack of Colonel Dudley upon the British batteries on the opposite bank of the Maumee.

The present condition of the fort is well shown by the map, and therefore no extended description is given. The lines are still readily traced, except where they have been destroyed by roads opened through them,

or by processes of cultivation. Unfortunately these include some of the most interesting portions, such as the battery at the eastern end of the fort, and the works, of whatever character, at the southwestern corner, together with the connection between these latter and the nearest lines still traceable.

The fact is well established that interments were made at three points adjacent to the fort. These are, to the eastward, the burial-place of the dead recovered from Dudley's disastrous fight; to the southward, the burial-ground of the "Pittsburgh Blues," and to the westward, the garrison burial-ground. It is not now possible to ascertain the whole number of interments, but they must have amounted to three hundred or more, the greater portion of them being Kentuckians, of Dudley's command.

The area of land that would be required to include the fort and all the burying-grounds in the immediate vicinity is about 55 acres. It would probably cost at least \$100 per acre, and might possibly be held at a considerably higher price.

The works themselves, notwithstanding their ruined condition, constitute their own best monument. But something more is required to preserve the salient facts in their history and to mark the several burial-places. It is suggested that a suitable monument of granite might be erected upon the parade of the fort, with a minor monument in each of the burying-grounds, all to be suitably inscribed. If this general idea were adopted the cost of executing it would probably be as follows:

Fifty-five acres of land, at \$100 per acre.....	\$5,500
One principal monument in Fort Meigs.....	10,000
Three minor monuments in the burial-places, including suitable fencing.....	15,000
Total.....	30,500

(5) BATTLE-FIELD OF FALLEN TIMBER.

I visited the battle-field of Fallen Timber in company with two of the three members of the executive committee of the Maumee Valley Monumental Association, one of them being the second vice-president of the association. The survey platted on the accompanying map was made to cover the boundaries indicated by these gentlemen as including the most interesting points of the battle-field, and therefore the portion most desirable to preserve. The area is about $12\frac{1}{2}$ acres, and the land will probably be held at not less than \$100 per acre, a considerable portion of it being in orchards.

The sum of \$5,000 ought to be sufficient to purchase the area indicated, and to place at some point within it a granite monument with appropriate inscription.

(6) FORT DEFIANCE.

The trace of this work is well defined. The site belongs to the city of Defiance, and is inclosed by a fence which was found in good condition.

The situation of the fort, in the angle formed by the Maumee and Auglaize Rivers, has subjected it to injury from the erosion of the river banks at high water. Portions of the northern and eastern salients have thus been washed away, and the point is evidently slowly receding. While it is not possible to fix the rate of erosion, it is yet probable that many years will elapse before the destruction is complete.

Inasmuch as the site for a monument at this locality will cost nothing, the expense of erecting one of granite, with suitable inscription, will probably not exceed \$5,000.

(7) FORT WAYNE, INDIANA.

A considerable portion of the site of old Fort Wayne belongs to the city of Fort Wayne, the remainder being now occupied by the New York, Chicago and Saint Louis Railroad as successors to the old Wabash and Erie Canal. Except the well, no trace of the fort now exists, and the part of the site not occupied by the railroad or by city streets is reduced to a small triangle, as shown by the map. A patriotic and public-spirited citizen has inclosed the triangle by a neat iron fence, and erected a flag-staff within it, but so far as I could learn, either by observation or inquiry, the city, as a corporation, has done nothing toward marking or preserving the site.

Any monument placed here should be similar to such as may be selected for Fort Miami and Fort Defiance. Its cost would be about \$5,000.

SUMMARY OF ESTIMATES.

For Put-in-Bay	\$2,500
For Fort Industry	5,000
For Fort Miami	7,500
For Fort Meigs	30,500
For battle-field of Fallen Timber	5,000
For Fort Defiance	5,000
For Fort Wayne	5,000
Total	60,500

In preparing this report my first impulse was to follow my inclination and compile a history of each of the works and localities named. I was deterred from doing so only by the fact that all the information likely to be of any value is already in print, and therefore easily accessible, and, upon reflection, it seemed unsuitable to swell the report by any matter not absolutely prescribed by the law, or necessary to show "the location, situation, and condition of the" several "historic grounds, locations, and works," "and the amount of grounds necessary for" their "proper protection and improvement, as well as the probable cost thereof."

I take great pleasure in referring to the several maps accompanying this report. My only regret is that, because of the small amount of the appropriation, I was not able to make them in still greater detail.

The map to illustrate the historic grounds of the Maumee Valley and vicinity I believe to be the most complete yet made as a historic map of the region in question. Much of the information given on it has never before been compiled on any single map.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

O. M. POE,

Colonel of Engineers, Bvt. Brig. Gen., U. S. A.

The CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY,
Washington, D. C.

SURVEY OF HISTORIC GROUNDS.

[First indorsement.]

OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS,
U. S. ARMY, *November 21, 1888.*

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War.

By act approved May 24, 1888, the Secretary of War was authorized and directed to cause to be made, by an officer of the Corps of Engineers in co-operation with the Maumee Valley Association, an examination and inspection of certain named historic grounds, locations, and military works; and the Secretary of War was, by the act, directed also to cause a survey and full report to be made to Congress of the location, situation, and condition of the same, and the amount of grounds necessary for the proper protection and improvement of the aforesaid works, forts, battle-fields, and burial-places in and near the same, as well as the probable cost thereof; and it was further directed that the said report shall be accompanied with the necessary maps and drawings.

In accordance with the above-mentioned directions this report has been made and submitted by Col. O. M. Poe, Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, and is accompanied by the necessary maps and drawings, the results of the examinations, inspections, and surveys made by Colonel Poe or under his direction.

The estimates and recommendations of Colonel Poe are approved.

THOS. LINCOLN CASEY,
Brigadier-General, Chief of Engineers.