

OTTAWA INDIAN FOUR MILE SQUARE RESERVATION

The Four Mile Square reservation was created by the signing of the Treaty of Detroit on 17 Nov 1807. This treaty was made by William Hull, governor of Michigan Territory and superintendent of Indian affairs with members of the Chippewas, Ottawas, Pottawatimas, and Wyandots.

Article vi of that treaty states in part; "A tract of four miles square on Miami Bay (now Maumee Bay), including the villages where Meshkeman and Waugau now live".

The Ottawa Tribe occupied the reservation for several years. Over the years I have seen a number of Indian artifact collections that were found in this four mile square.

In 1807, this reservation was completely in Michigan Territory. Today the four mile square is in Bedford and Erie Townships, Monroe County, Michigan and Washington Township, Lucas County, Ohio. The north boundary was about 1/2 mile south of Sterns Road, the west boundary about 3/4 mile east of Telegraph, the south boundary around Manhattan Blvd. (Toledo, Ohio) area, and the east boundary the Maumee Bay.

The four mile square reservation would include 10,240 acres, however, much of this was under water, including Ottawa River and Maumee Bay.

The Ottawa Tribe released their claim to all of the reservation and "Quit Claimed" their title to the United States on 08 Feb 1833. Found no record of the consideration for this release.

The United States then granted 5,740.29 acres of the former four mile square reservation to the Wabash and Erie Canal Development Company.

The lands that had been given to the Wabash and Erie Canal Development Company were sold to private investors. This provided the means of financing the construction of the canal system to connect other canals with Lake Erie at the mouth of the Maumee Bay.

This research came from an effort to find record of sale of land within the Four Mile Square Reservation from an Indian or Indian tribe. The research proved there is no such record. During this research information was exchanged with Barbara McCarty and Fred LaVoy.

Of interest to the LaVoy family, info was found that Marie (Gouin) "White Feather" LaVoy (1790-1852), acquired from the United States, 77.68 acres in the south fraction of Section 20, T9S R8E, with patent date 07 Jun 1821, and patent certificate #62. Record reflects, "This parcel lay south of the Indian Reservation, and is stated to be used for herself and children; Mary, Charles, Lambert, and Francois." The parcel was joined on the east by Maumee Bay. White Feather was the child of a Pottawatomie Indian woman and Charles Gouin, a French pioneer in the Detroit, Michigan area.

Research by; Donald R. Adams
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Addendum to P.C. 696

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History of the Gouin-LaVoy Detroit Property:

Charles Gouin, father-in-law of Francois LaVoy, both of Detroit, deeds certain property over to Francois LaVoy at 5 PM on 26 June 1822 in consideration for the sum of \$345.

The land consists of 207.03 acres and is situated on the Detroit River, being described as follows:

"from a post on the border of the Detroit River between this tract and J.E. Lapiere, thence north 29° West sixty seven chains to a post; Thence North 61° East 35 chains, 50 links to a post; thence South 29° East 45 chains, 23 links to a post standing on the River St. Claire between this tract and that of John Little; and thence along the border of the said River South 2° West 6 chains, 7 links; thence South 10° West 7 chains, 22 links; thence South 25° West 8 chains, 25 links; thence South 82° 30" West seven chains, 87 links; thence South 28° West 16 chains, 50 links to beginning post". (Liber 6, p. 242)

Mortgage Deed (Liber 6, pp. 260-62)

At 5 PM on 5 July 1822 Francois LaVoy signs two promissory notes to Charles Gouin, mortgaging his newly acquired farm property. The farm mortgage is to be made nul and void if the terms of the notes are met:

One note for \$172.50 payable on 1 January 1823 or before, with interest accruing from January 1, 1822; a second note for the same amount (\$172.50) payable on or before 1 January 1824, with interest accruing from January 1, 1822.

Mortgage Discharge (Liber 7, pp. 6-7)

At 2 PM Francois LaVoy discharges the above mortgage to Charles Gouin for \$382.08 and regains his land (24 July 1823).

Sale of Land (Liber 7, pp. 119-120)

Francois LaVoy and his wife Mary deed their land to Louis Beaufait (Beufait) on the next day, 25 July 1823 for a consideration of 429.62½ dollars. Francois LaVoy is said to be of Monroe County at this date.