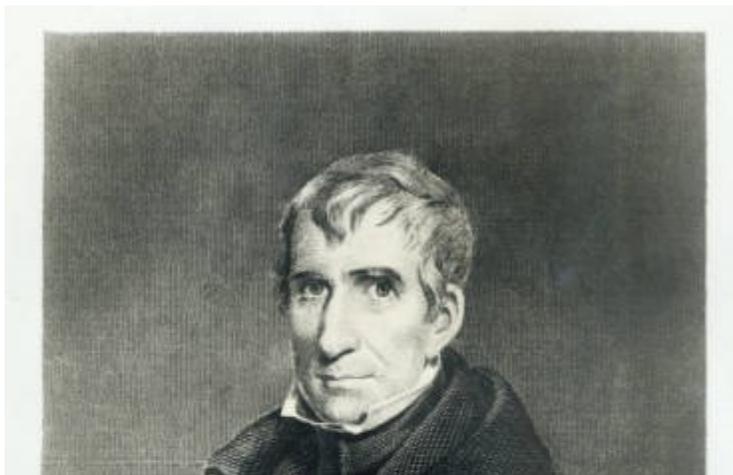


Battle of the Thames

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Engraved portrait of William Henry Harrison, by R.W. Dodson from an original portrait by J.R. Lambdin painted for the National Portrait Gallery.

The Battle of the Thames was a pivotal American victory during the War of 1812.

On October 5, 1813, General William Henry Harrison, who also was the governor of the Indiana Territory and a future president of the United States of America, led an army of 3,500 American troops against a combined force of eight hundred British soldiers and five hundred American Indian warriors at Moraviantown, along the Thames River in Ontario, Canada. The British troops were under the command of Colonel Henry Procter. Tecumseh, a Shawnee chief, commanded many of the American Indian warriors. The British army was retreating from Fort Malden, Ontario after Oliver Hazard Perry's victory in the Battle of Lake Erie in September 1813. Tecumseh convinced Colonel Procter to make a stand at Moraviantown.

The American army won a total victory. As soon as the American troops advanced, the British soldiers fled or surrendered. The American Indians fought fiercely, but lost heart and scattered after Tecumseh died on the battlefield. The identity of the person who killed Tecumseh is still vigorously debated.

The Battle of the Thames was an important land battle of the War of 1812 in the American Northwest. Since the early 1800s, Tecumseh had sought to form a confederacy of American Indian tribes to stop Anglo-Americans from seizing American Indian land. Tecumseh's death marked the end of Tecumseh's Confederacy. Over the next three decades, Native Americans in the old Northwest were made to sign treaties, forsaking claims to the land in this region.

See Also

References

1. Hurt, R. Douglas. *The Ohio Frontier: Crucible of the Old Northwest, 1720-1830*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1996.

