

PIGEON ROOST MASSACRE LESSON PLANS

By Candace T. Carr

GRADE LEVEL: Elementary

Prepared in partial fulfillment of requirements for
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On the afternoon of September 3, 1812, twenty-four pioneers living in a typical scattered settlement on the southern Indiana Territory frontier, were brutally murdered and mutilated by a band of marauding Indians. This was a tragic but familiar scene in the history of the westward expansion. In the context of the War of 1812, this attack on a small, unprotected settlement was NOT a surprise. Men were gone to war, Detroit had just been captured by the British and the Indians, and Harrison had negotiated several unpopular treaties with the Indians. In the narrower scope of Indiana's history, this massacre was perhaps the most atrocious of any Indian-settler conflict; its impact was felt for several years afterward. However, it is important that the history student study the Pigeon Roost Massacre in context so that the student is not prejudiced by the violence or by one side of the conflict.

Through background information on the historical setting, and through details of the massacre itself, from a site visit, and through classroom discussion these lessons will shed a great deal of insight on this period of history, and it should give students a better understanding of how political conflicts can become personal tragedies.

The content of these lessons include:

- 1) background material on the settler/Indian conflict of America, especially the Indiana territory in the early 1800's
- 2) introduction of the political decisions, national policies, and war strategies that resulted in attacks on settlers on the frontier
- 3) perspectives of both sides of the conflict; both the settler and Indian (as much as can be allowed using white man's resources)
- 4) details of the massacre, aftermath, and pursuit of perpetrators

The objectives are that students will:

- 1) determine the cause and effect of the Pigeon Roost Massacre
- 2) analyze the reliability of sources; discriminating between primary and secondary sources; identifying personal bias
- 3) apply written accounts to a variety of maps, locating landmarks, the route and geographic features
- 4) appreciate the resourcefulness of their pioneer and Indian ancestors
- 5) experience a visit to a historic site, recognizing the importance of preservation

Grade level: 4th grade Social Studies, prior to statehood
5th grade Social Studies, movement west
8th grade, American History
11th grade, American History

Teaching strategies used:

- 1) Lecture, due to scarcity of material at an appropriate reading level
- 2) Reading documents (personal accounts, newspaper article)
- 3) Discussion, for sharing feelings and opinions; large group and small groups should be used due to sensitivity of subject matter

Lesson # 1 -- Overview; Indian Conflict in the Indiana Territory
around 1813

Objectives: Students will:

- 1) recognize events of early 1800's that led to conflict in 1813
- 2) determine the cause and effect of the Pigeon Roost massacre
- 3) describe the historic and geographic setting of events of Indian conflict in 1813 and locate on a map

Materials: Quote by Zebulon Collings
TimeLine with dates, but no events
Classroom map of Indiana or Great Lakes region

Introduction:

Teacher reads quote by Zebulon Collings; ask students what event might generate such remarks

Development:

Teacher lectures on the conflict of culture in the Indiana Territory from 1800 to 1813

Students can fill out a timeline with the dates written in, they can fill in the events as the teacher covers them

Conclusion:

Students locate sections of land gained by treaties, Battle of Tippecanoe, site of Pigeon Roost Massacre

Students and teacher should recall and retell the sequence of events leading up to the massacre

Teacher should present the material matter-of-factly with sensitivity to the brutality; the moral issue will be dealt with in Lesson # 4.

Quote by Zebulon Collings

"The manner in which I used to work in those perilous times was as follows: On all occasions I carried my rifle, tomahawk, and butcher knife, with a loaded pistol in my belt. When I went to plow, I laid my gun on the plowed ground and stuck up a stick by it for a mark, so I could get it quickly in case it was wanted. I had two good dogs. I took one into the house, leaving the other out. The one outside was expected to give the alarm, which would cause the one inside to bark. I would then be awakened, and my guns were always loaded. I kept my horses in a stable close to the house, which had a porthole so that I could shoot to the stable door. During the two years, I never went from home with any certainty of returning--not knowing the minute I might receive a ball from an unknown hand; but in the midst of all these dangers, God, who never sleeps nor slumbers, has kept me."

from John Dillon History of Indiana, Indianapolis: Bingham & Doughty, 1859, pp. 492-494. These words are from a family member of the settlement raided in the Pigeon Roost Massacre. Dillon states, "many settlers on the northern and western frontiers of Clark, Jefferson, Harrison and Knox counties lived in a state of alarm" after the massacre "until the close of the war (of 1812) in 1815."

Indian Conflict Timeline

- 1763 White settlement forbidden in the Ohio valley by the Proclamation of 1763
- 1783-1789 Treaty of Paris allows Americans to settle west of the Appalachian Mountains; Both Indians and settlers claim land
- 1785 Land Ordinance claims that before land can be sold publicly, Indian claims must be purchased and surveyed
- 1787 Northwest Ordinance is put into place, creating the Northwest Territory
- 1795 Treaty of Greenville; first part of Indiana is negotiated with the Indians; the Shawnee migrate to North Carolina; Tecumseh and the Prophet begin plans for Indian confederation
- 1800 Harrison becomes the Governor of the Indiana Territory
- 1803-1809 Series of land cessions are made with Harrison
- 1811 Battle of Tippecanoe
- June 1812 War is declared on Britain
- August 15 Fort Dearborn Massacre
- August 16 Detroit is surrendered to British/ Indians
- Sept. 3 Pigeon Roost Massacre
- Sept. 4-12 Siege on Fort Harrison
- Sept. 5-12 Siege on Fort Wayne
- Oct./Nov. Major Hopkins Expeditions, resulting in Spurs Defeat
- Dec. 1812 Battle of Mississinewa
- Dec. 28 Harrison resigns as Governor/ Gibson takes over
- Mar., 1813 Battle of Tipton's Island
- April 1813 Thomas Posey becomes Governor of Territory

June, 1813 Bartholomew's raid

Oct., 1813 Battle of Thames/ Tecumseh is killed

Dec. 1814 Treaty of Ghent ends War of 1812

Indian Conflict Timeline

1763 _____

1783-1789 _____

1785 _____

1787 _____

1795 _____

1800 _____

1803-1809 _____

1811 _____

June 1812 _____

August 15, 1812 _____

August 16, 1812 _____

September 3, 1812 _____

September 4-12, 1812 _____

September 5-12, 1812 _____

October/November, 1812 _____

December, 1812 _____

December 28, 1812 _____

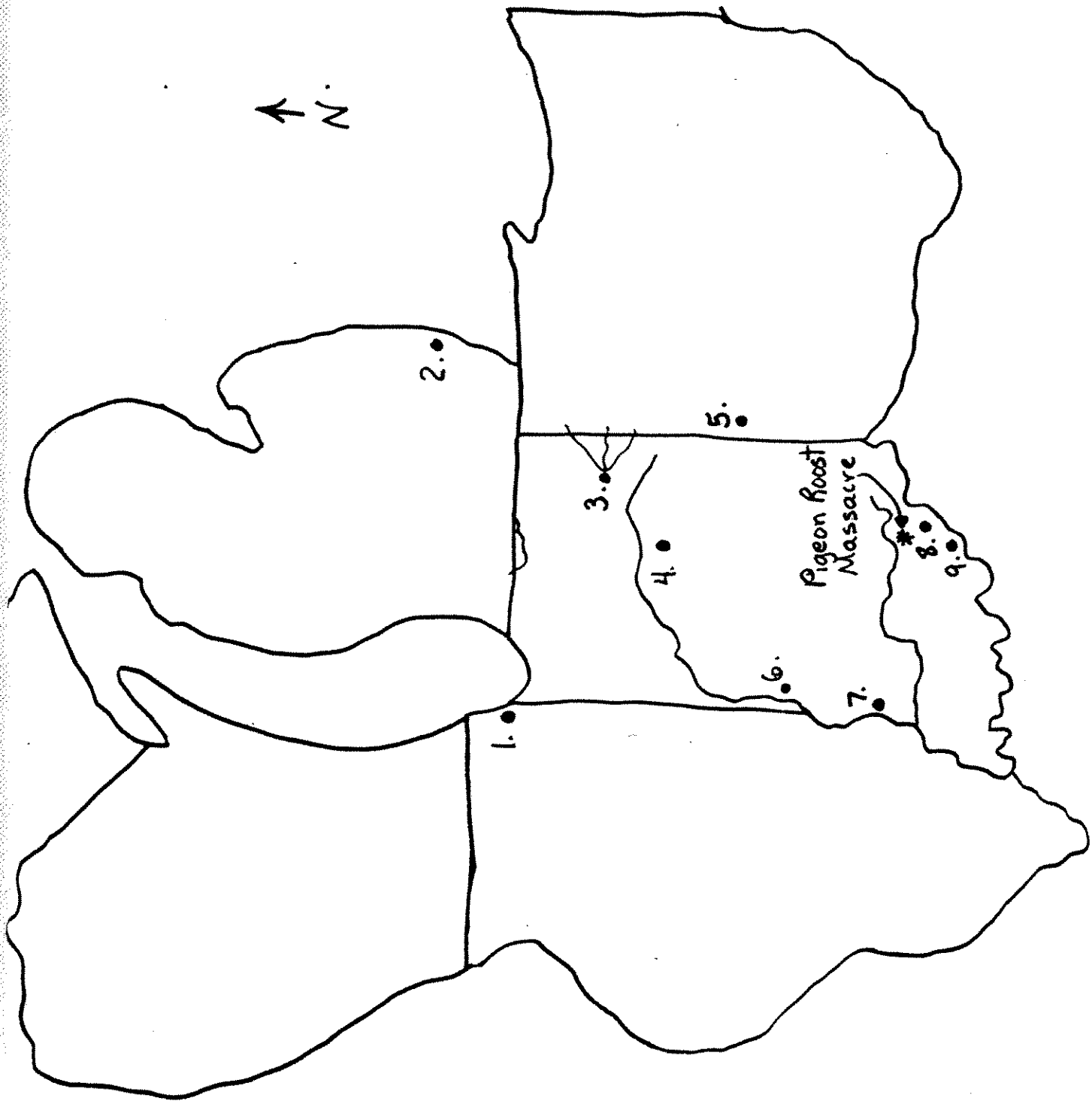
March, 1813 _____

April, 1813 _____

June, 1813 _____

October, 1813 _____

December, 1814 _____



INDIANA during the WAR OF 1812

Indiana and during the War of 1812

- Map Key:
1. Fort Dearborn massacre, August 1812
 2. Fort Detroit surrender
 3. Fort Wayne seige
 4. Battle of Mississinewa
 5. Fort Greenville
 6. Fort Harrison seige
 7. Fort Knox (Vincennes)
 8. Charlestown
 9. Clarksville

Lesson # 2 -- The Pigeon Roost Massacre

Objectives: Students will:

- 1) compare and contrast eye witness and scholarly accounts of the massacre
- 2) determine biases and differences in accounts
- 3) transfer knowledge from a written text to a variety of maps

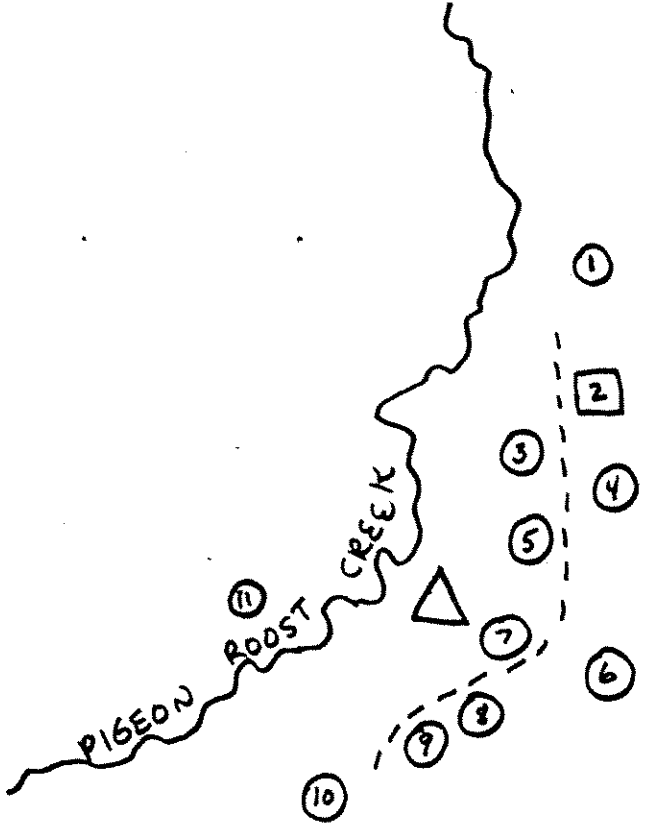
Materials: Teacher prepared site maps (1 per student)
pencils, markers or crayons
copy of Indiana Sentinel account, Dillon account,
and Funk article

Introduction: Locate site on large classroom map of Indiana, finding Muscatatuck River and Charlestown
Teacher reads aloud Indiana Sentinel account while students record names of victims

Development: Teacher reads the Dillon account while students record names of victims (this time it can be done at the board)
Discuss any discrepancies of facts, reliability of author, develop criteria for judging reliability

Conclusion: Give students a copy of the Funk article; this can be done in small groups or individually
Have the students answer questions comparing and contrasting all three accounts


TRAIL of the
PIGEON ROOST
MASSACRE



12

13

Trail of the Pigeon Roost Massacre

- Map Key:
1. Elias Payne home, family killed
 2. Vienna Blockhouse
 3. Elias Payne and Isaac Coffman killed
 4. Jeremiah Payne's home
 5. Mrs. Henry Collings killed
 6. Richard Collings' home, family killed
 7. Henry Collings' home
 8. William E. Collings' home
 9. John Morris' home, family killed
 10. Dr. John Ritchie's home
 11. John Bigg's home
 12. Zebulon Collings' home and Blockhouse
 13. Charlestown
-  Present Pigeon Roost Monument

9. How did the massacre change the lives of those who still lived in the Indiana Territory?

Arville Funk article, from The Hoosier Scrapbook, 1981, page 4.

10. Find three facts that add to your knowledge or change your knowledge about the massacre.
11. Which of the three accounts is the most emotional? personal? factual? Tell why you chose each answer.
12. Why should students of history read more than just one account of a historic event?

THE MASSACRE
AT
PIGEON ROOST

FOREWORD

Fort Wayne was relatively undisturbed by the outbreak of the War of 1812. Although the Indian allies of the British opened hostilities elsewhere, most of Indiana remained quiet.

That quiet, however, was shattered by the attack on Pigeon Roost in Scott County, September 3, 1812. While a group of Indians murdered the inhabitants of the little hamlet, others were gathering to lay siege to Fort Wayne.

The following accounts of the Pigeon Roost massacre vary in some details. Messrs. Paine and Moffit in the first account may be the same persons referred to as Payne and Coffman in the second account. Likewise, the names Collins and Dewalt appear as Collings and Devault in the second account. These items are reprinted as published, except that the staff of the Public Library of Fort Wayne and Allen County has reconciled grammar, punctuation, and spelling with current practice.

Prepared by the staff of the
Public Library of Fort Wayne and Allen County
1953

from The Massacre at Pigeon Roost
by the Public Library at Fort Wayne
and Allen County, 1953. Reprinted
with the editor's permission.

Indiana State Sentinel

Mr. Editor: A little fiction once appeared in one of the Bedford papers, founded upon the enormities which the Indians committed on the settlement of Pigeon Roost. It showed its author to be ignorant of the whole transaction to one who was a settler of the same settlement.

Until near the close of 1812, the settlers of Pigeon Roost in Scott County in this state lived in comparative peace with the red man. We had conciliated his favor and studiously avoided giving offense. The Indians were likewise seemingly peaceable; prior to this time, they had committed no grievous outrage upon any of the settlers. But near the close of the memorable year of 1812, there were some slight whisperings of danger to be apprehended from a neighboring tribe of Indians. As such reports were frequently put in circulation for the purpose of alarming the credulous, we gave them but little credence. We knew that the Battle of Tippecanoe had just been fought and that the celebrated Shawnee Prophet, at the head of the combined Indian forces, had been defeated by General Harrison; therefore, we foolishly supposed that we now had nothing to fear. But a short time convinced us, to our sorrow, that there is sometimes truth even in "flying reports."

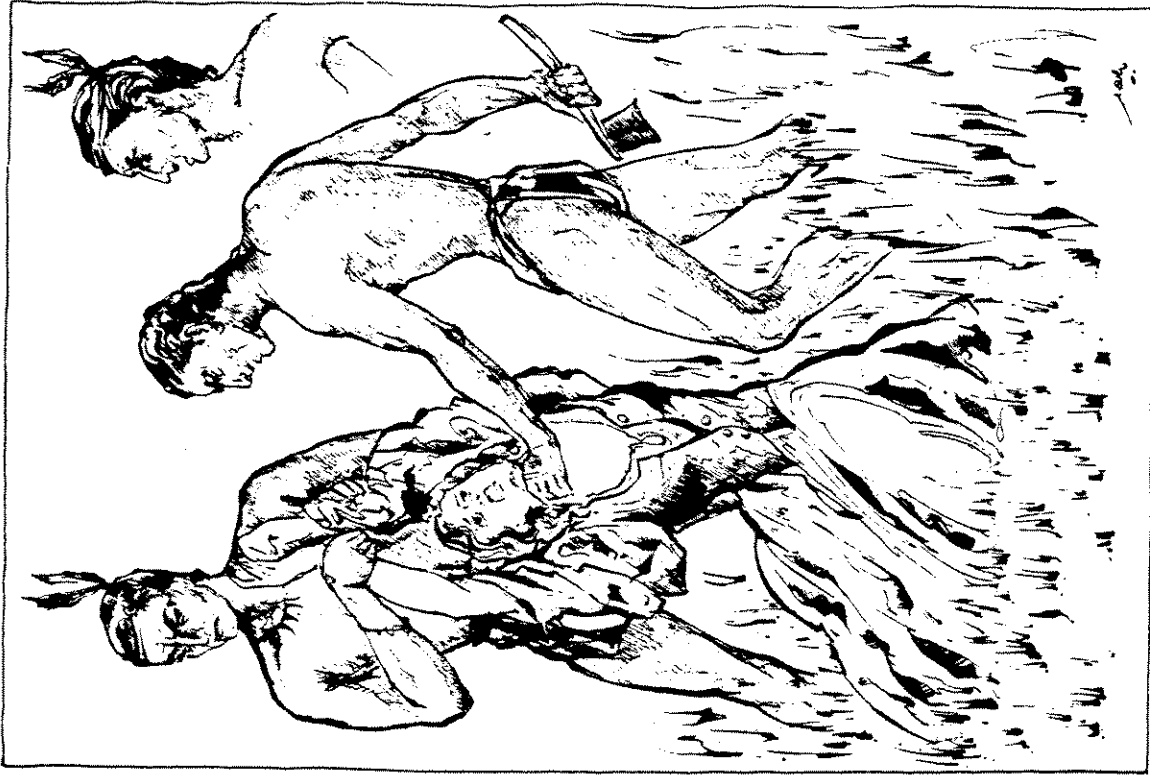
On the third day of September, a party of eleven Indians came into our vicinity, and the outrages and savage brutality then and there perpetrated upon innocent helplessness made an impression on my mind that can never be effaced. Although this has been years ago, still I remember its details as distinctly as though it were but yesterday.

About four o'clock in the evening, they came to the house of Elias Paine

on the Pigeon Roost fork of the Muscatatuck. Messrs. Paine and Moffit, brothers-in-law, were out a short distance from home when they were attacked by the Indians and assassinated; Paine's wife and six children shared the same fate. From here, they pursued the path leading to the house of Richard Collins, and on the way, they met the wife of Henry Collins on an errand to her relations. She fled some three hundred yards before she was captured, though the Indian is remarkable for fleetness. Mrs. Collins was inhumanly butchered and left in the woods to feast the savage beasts of the forest.

Pursuing their merciless way, they arrived at the snug little farmhouse of Richard Collins, who was then on a campaign into the interior. They entered the dwelling and, with pitiless cruelty, slaughtered in cold blood the wife and seven children of one who, though far distant from home, was no doubt at the same moment contemplating the domestic happiness of an endeared family circle, for it was the silent hour of rest. A more melancholy spectacle could not be imagined than was here presented--beautiful and bright-eyed little girls and boys lying side by side in death, their lovely little forms horribly mutilated. The youngest was three months old; its little head was struck from its body and placed to its mother's nipple, presenting a most revolting sight.

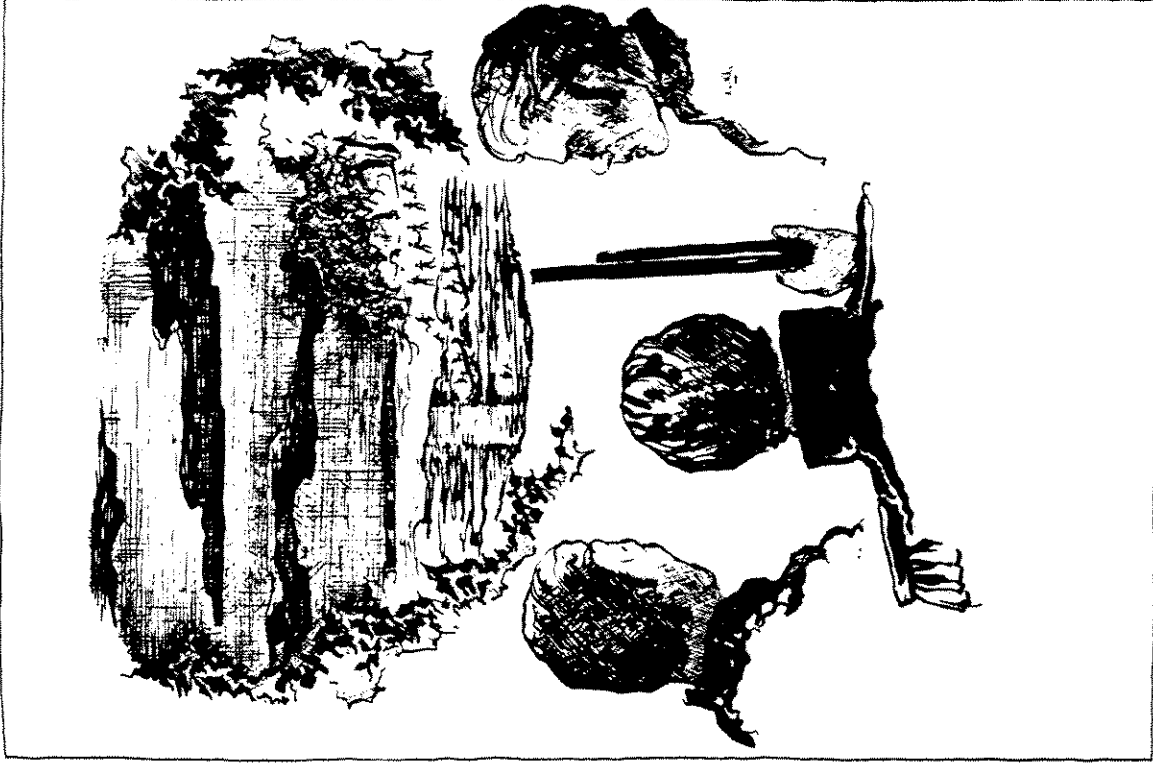
I am tracing this bloody trail, not because it gives me pleasure to recite those cowardly deeds, but to rescue to some degree from oblivion the memory of those who were the unfortunate victims. I have since often regretted that we were not more zealous in keeping in readiness a protective



Finding her father's house surrounded by savages, she fled to the residence of Robert Biggs, a distance of two miles, and gave the first alarm about the hour of midnight. Soon a company of nine men marched to the scene of action with all possible speed. We arrived at the spot where, but a few hours previous, had stood the pleasant little residence of William Collins, now a heap of glowing embers. We were here joined by others, until our little band became quite formidable. We were soon upon the trail, but had not pursued it long before we arrived at the dwelling of Richard Collins. What a scene was presented for our vision! For cruelty and pitiless barbarity, it beggars description. Here was one of the largest and most respectable families of the settlement, "a slaughtered heap." Indignation and revenge took possession of our hearts. "Foul fiends and savage barbarians, we will avenge the dead!" was the universal cry. Leaving a number of our little party to perform the melancholy ceremonies of an interment, we continued in hot pursuit; and, about 3:00 p.m., we were three miles in their rear.

Captain Dewalt, who was out with a scouting party from Salem, discovered the same Indians; and, though he was ignorant of their heartless atrocities, a skirmish ensued, which resulted only in the retaking of the plunder and the wounding of three Indians with the loss of one white man by the name of Sinks. The Indians now separated. We pursued them till they crossed the Muscatuck, when all their traces were lost, and we were compelled to abandon the pursuit as hopeless.

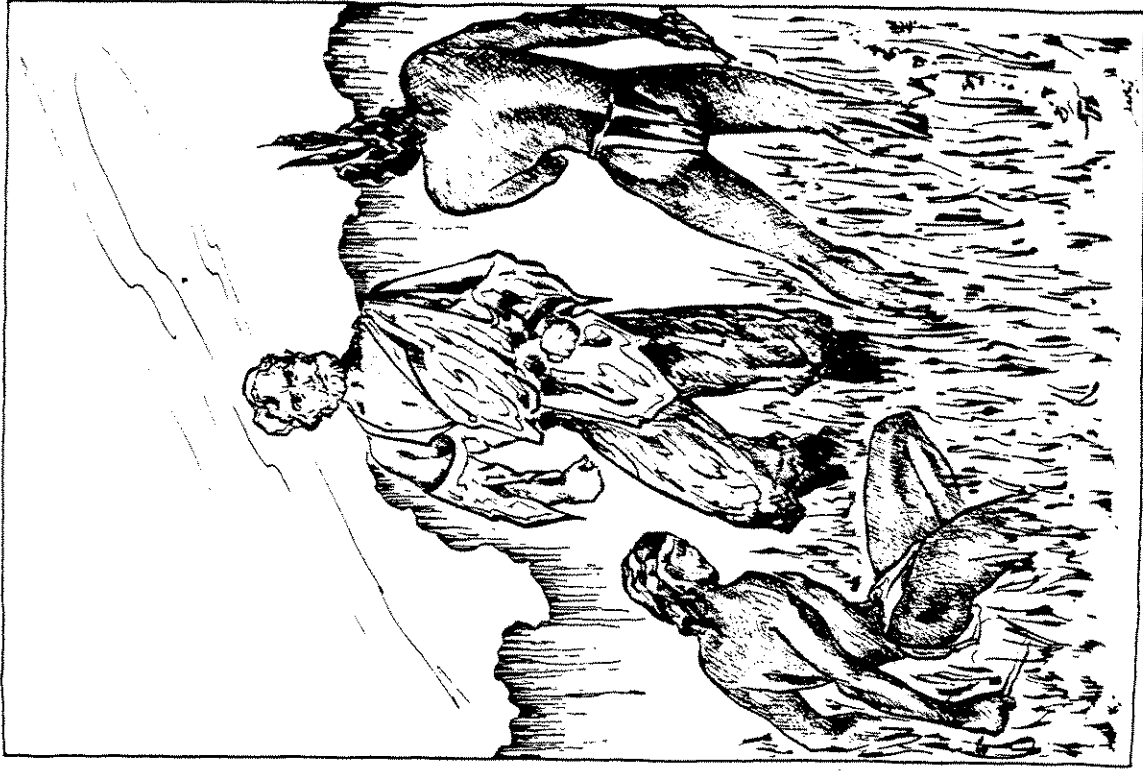
INDIANA STATE SENTINEL, January 24, 1853



force. Five men could have defeated them and saved to country and friends the lives of many valuable citizens. It was the want of consideration. We were reposing secure, as we supposed, unconscious of the treachery around us.

The peaceful abode of Mr. Morris was the next to suffer. He too was in the service of his country. Mrs. Morris, her mother, and their innocent little children were tortured to the extinction of life. Hard by was the house of William Collins; and, on their way thither, two of the Indians fell in with Henry Collins. He was a man of Herculean proportions and fought his antagonists long and hard with nought but the weapons given him by the God of nature. He conquered but died soon afterwards from his wounds. Mr. Morris and his family were visiting at the residence of William Collins; and here, for the first time, the Indians were resisted. Four of their number were immediately shot down and another badly wounded. Under cover of the night, these two families were enabled to escape by retreating into a cornfield. The Indians buried their dead under a large log and concealed their wounded one in the brush with provisions and water for a month. At the expiration of that time they came and took him away, as it was afterwards ascertained. They had now collected together considerable plunder; and, after firing the house, they beat a retreat, starting about three o'clock in the morning.

During the evening of the third the wife of John Biggs, hearing the report of firearms in the direction of Collinses', concealed her children and, with the heroism of a woman, ventured her life to learn the suspected cause.



Dillon Account

Within the present limits of the county of Scott, there was, in 1812, a place that was called the "Pigeon Roost" settlement. This settlement, which was founded by a few families in 1809, was confined to about a square mile of land; and it was separated from all other settlements by a distance of five or six miles. In the afternoon of the third of September, 1812, Jeremiah Payne and a man whose name was Coffman were hunting for "bee trees" in the woods about two miles north of the Pigeon Roost settlement and were surprised and killed by a party of Indians. This party of Indians, which consisted of ten or twelve warriors, nearly all of whom were Shawnees, then attacked the Pigeon Roost settlement about sunset on the evening of the third of September; and, in the space of about one hour, they killed one man, five women, and sixteen children. The bodies of some of these victims of savage warfare were burned in the fires that consumed the cabins in which the murders were perpetrated.

The persons who were massacred at this settlement were Henry Collings and his wife; Mrs. Payne, wife of Jeremiah Payne, and eight of her children; Mrs. Richard Collings and seven of her children; Mrs. John Morris and her only child; and Mrs. Morris, the mother of John Morris. Mrs. Jane Biggs, with her three small children, escaped from the settlement, eluded the vigilance of the Indians, and, about an hour before daylight on the next morning, arrived at the house of her brother, Zebulon Collings, who lived about six miles from the scene of the carnage. William Collings, who had passed the age of sixty years, defended his house for the space of three-quarters of an hour against the attacks of the Indians. In



this defense, he was assisted by Captain John Morris. There were two children in the house. As soon as it began to grow dark, Mr. Collings and Captain Morris escaped with the two children (John Collings and Lydia Collings) from the house, eluded the pursuit of the Indians, and, on the morning of the next day, reached the house of Zebulon Collings.

A number of the militia of Clark County immediately proceeded to the scene of the Pigeon Roost massacre, where they found several of the mangled bodies of the dead surrounded by the smoking ruins of the houses. These remains of the murdered persons were brought together and buried in one grave.

On the afternoon of the fourth of September, about one hundred and fifty mounted riflemen, under the command of Major John McCoy, followed the trail of the Indians about twenty miles, when "the darkness of the night" compelled them to give up the pursuit. A small scouting party, under the command of Captain Devault, discovered and made an attack upon the retreating Indians, who, after killing one of Captain Devault's men, continued their flight through the woods and eluded the pursuit of the scouting party.

On the sixth of September, the militia of Clark County was reinforced by sixty mounted volunteers from Jefferson County, under the command of Colonel William McFarland; and, on the evening of the seventh, about three hundred fifty volunteers from Kentucky were ready to unite with the Indiana militia of Clark and Jefferson counties, for the purpose of making an attack on the Delaware Indians -- some of whom were suspected of having been engaged in the destruction of the Pigeon Roost settlement. It seems, however,

that a spirit of jealousy which prevailed among some of the officers defeated the intentions of those who, at that time, proposed to destroy the towns of the friendly Delawares who lived on the western branch of the White River.

After the time of the Pigeon Roost massacre, many of the settlers on the northern and western frontiers of Clark, Jefferson, Harrison, and Knox counties lived in a state of alarm until the close of the war in 1815. Mr. Zebulon Collings, who lived within six miles of the Pigeon Roost settlement, says: "The manner in which I used to work in those perilous times was as follows: On all occasions I carried my rifle, tomahawk, and butcher knife, with a loaded pistol in my belt. When I went to plow, I laid my gun on the plowed ground and stuck up a stick by it for a mark, so I could get it quickly in case it was wanted. I had two good dogs. I took one into the house, leaving the other out. The one outside was expected to give the alarm, which would cause the one inside to bark. I would then be awakened, and my guns were always loaded. I kept my horses in a stable close to the house, which had a porthole so that I could shoot to the stable door. During the two years, I never went from home with any certainty of returning -- not knowing the minute I might receive a ball from an unknown hand; but in the midst of all these dangers, God, who never sleeps nor slumbers, has kept me."

John Dillon, HISTORY OF INDIANA (Indianapolis: Bingham & Doughty, 1859), pp. 492-94.

Pigeon Roost massacre

24 settlers are slain in 1812 Indian raid on Scott County area

The first and most tragic of several Indian raids and massacres in the Indiana Territory during the War of 1812 occurred at the little settlement of Pigeon Roost in Vienna Township of Scott County a few miles south of present-day Scottsburg.

The Pigeon Roost community had been settled by an old rugged frontiersman and soldier, William E. Collings, who brought his family and relatives plus several neighbors from Kentucky to Indiana in the spring of 1809. The settlement was named after the roosting place of thousands of passenger pigeons who provided a plentiful food supply for the settlers and were slaughtered and sold for 25 cents per bushel to settlers at Jeffersonville. The founder of the settlement had served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War and had become known and respected for his marksmanship with a rifle. Although there were no Indians living around the Pigeon Roost community, several groups hunted in that vicinity and the settlers were accustomed to seeing them.

With the outbreak of the War of 1812, many of the men of the Pigeon Roost community went off to war with Gen. William Henry Harrison's Indiana Militia. By August of 1812, the British had captured Ft. Michilimackinac, Ft. Detroit and Ft. Dearborn (at Chicago) and were in command of much of the old Northwest Territory. Several of the Indian tribes in the Northwest rushed to join the British victors and this started the raids on the scattered settlements in the Indiana Territory.

As a precaution, three blockhouses—one six miles north of Pigeon Roost near Vienna, one 8 miles southeast of Pigeon Roost at Silver Creek and one at Zebulon Collings' farm 5 miles south of Pigeon Roost—had been built for the protection of the settlers.

On the first of September 1812, a party of Indians (mostly Shawnees) crossed White River near present-day Sparksville in Jackson County. Traveling southeasterly, the party moved into present-day Scott County on Sept. 3. This group of a dozen or more was thought to be on a hunting expedition.

(Although it has been thought that they were all Shawnees, there is evidence that a few Miamis and at least one Delaware brave were involved in the massacre. A month after the massacre, Gen. Harrison, in a letter to the U.S. secretary of war, stated that he was holding a Miami braves prisoner at Ft. Wayne who had admitted being with the war party at Pigeon Roost. Also, one of the Pigeon Roost settlers identified a Delaware

brave who had hunted around the settlement as a guide for the group.)

In the late afternoon of Sept. 3, the war party arrived at the farm of Elias Payne who lived northeast of present-day Vienna. Payne's wife and seven children were the first victims. The Indians scattered household goods and burned the cabin. Circling westward to avoid the Vienna blockhouse, the party came upon Isaac Coffman and Elias Payne, who were hunting bee trees and were unarmed. Coffman was killed instantly, but Payne, though mortally wounded, succeeded in fleeing some distance. His body was found the next day and buried beside the Salem Road a mile west of Vienna. The grave is no longer in existence, as it was demolished during the construction of Interstate 65. The hostile party continued south along the old settlement road toward the cabin of Elias's brother, Jeremiah Payne. However, Jeremiah's cattle, which were grazing in woods north of the cabin, were stampeded by the Indians and the noise warned them and they escaped to the blockhouse in Vienna.

Just south of the Jeremiah Payne house, the war party surprised Mrs. Henry Collings, who was returning on horseback to her home at Pigeon Roost from a visit with Mrs. Jeremiah Payne. Mrs. Collings was murdered and her body mutilated.

Just before sundown, the party arrived at the Pigeon Roost settlement.

The home of Richard Collings, a son of the settlement's founder, was at the east end of the community. While Richard was serving with Harrison's militia at Vincennes, his wife and seven small children, were attacked and killed by part of the group within a few minutes. The remaining members of the war party raided the Henry Collings cabin. Henry was pulling flax in a field near his cabin when he was shot and wounded. However, he managed to crawl under a large pile of flax where he hid until the next day. His wound was severe and he died within a week, but not before identifying Little Killbuck, a Delaware brave, as the Indians' guide and the one who had shot him.

Just west of Henry Collings' cabin was the cabin of William E. Collings. Old Capt. Norris, of Charlestown, who had been wounded in the shoulder and disabled at the Battle of Tippecanoe the year before, was staying at the cabin. Also, there were the youngest children of Collings: Lydia, 15, and John, 13.

At the first sight of the Indians,

John rushed toward the cabin. William Collings upheld his fame as a marksman when he killed the pursuing Indian with a well-directed shot just as he was about to tomahawk the boy. Of the four trapped in the cabin, only William provided armed resistance since Norris could not fire effectively because of the shoulder wound. William Collings proved to be the only resistance the war party was to meet during the entire massacre and he is credited by family tradition with killing four of the Indians in defending his cabin home.

As darkness approached, William Collings realized the Indians would set fire to the cabin, so the four remaining members of the settlement decided to slip out after dark and try to reach Zebulon Collings' blockhouse south of the settlement. Zebulon was another son of the founder of Pigeon Roost. During the escape, William became separated from Norris and the two children and finally reached Zebulon's house the next morning. Norris and the children wandered in the woods all night and finally returned to Pigeon Roost after the Indians had departed.

After meeting the armed resistance of William Collings and losing part of their number, the Indians turned west and after a few miles came to the cabin of John Morris. Morris also was away with Gen. Harrison's army and the war party killed Morris' mother, wife and child.

The family of John Biggs lived just west of the Morris home. Biggs also was away with the army at Vincennes and had left his wife and three children at home. Mrs. Biggs, who was a daughter of William Collings, fled with the children to the woods near the cabin. One of the children was just an infant and, when the mother attempted to keep the baby from crying out, she accidentally smothered the child with her shawl. However, she and two other children escaped.

By the morning of Sep. 4, the war party headed north to escape the posse of settlers they knew would soon be in pursuit. That morning, Jeremiah Payne rode into Charlestown in Clark County and brought the news of the massacre. In a few short hours, over 200 armed men under Maj. John McCoy left Charlestown in pursuit of the Indians. The militia trailed them as far as the forks of the Muscatuck where they wound the river flooded and could not cross. They then turned back and marched to Pigeon Roost for the sad task of identifying and burying the victims of the massacre.

Lesson # 3 -- Field Trip to Pigeon Roost Memorial

Objectives: Students will--

- 1) recall sequence of events concerning the massacre upon arrival at the site
- 2) note the inscription on the memorial, the location and upkeep of the site
- 3) collect data from the cemetery
- 4) reflect upon the event in a period of silence

Materials: camera
Indiana road map
Scott County map
dark crayons and large sheets of newsprint

Introduction:

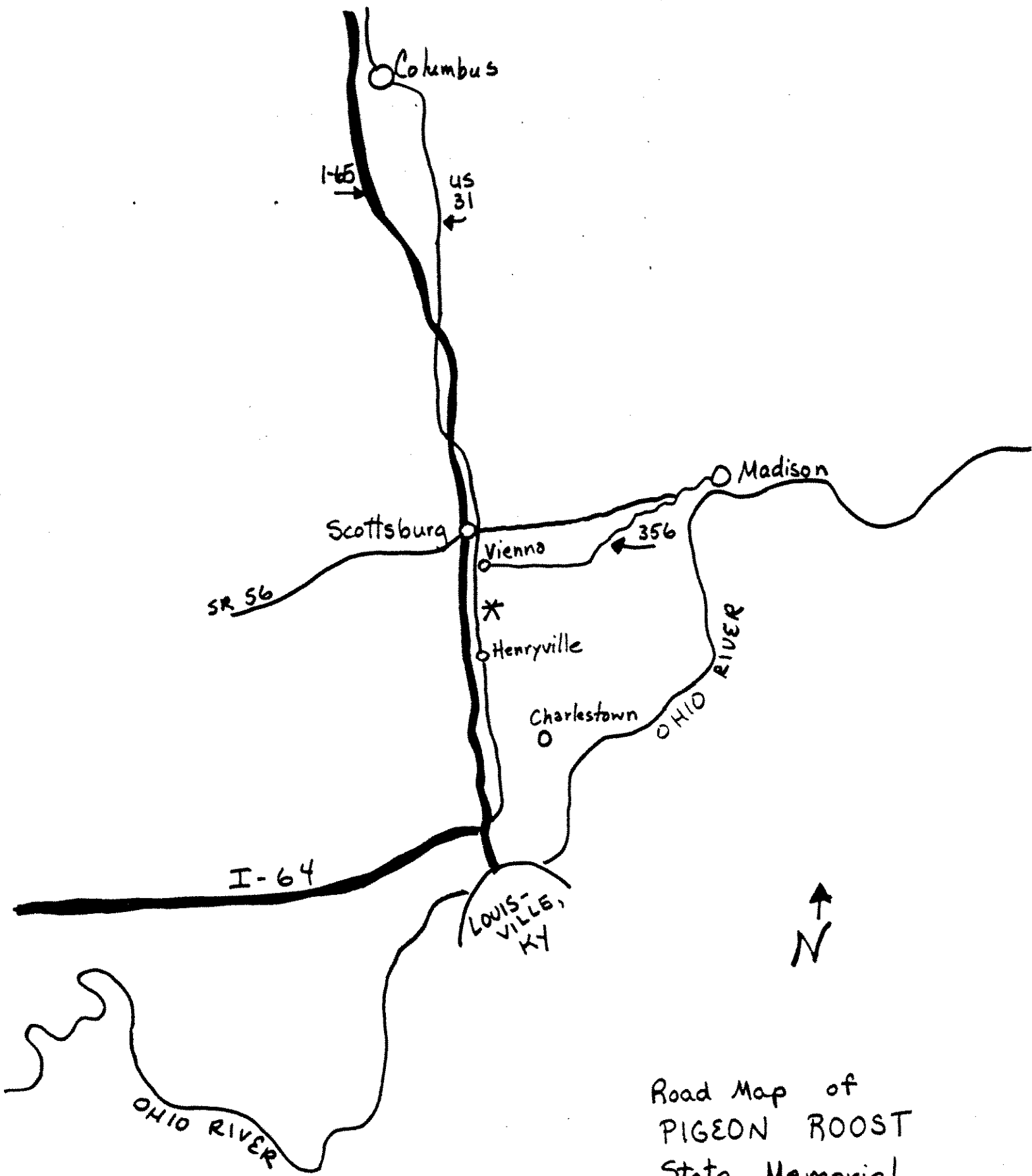
Students will trace the travel to the site on an Indiana road map.
Students will trace the route of the raiding Indians on a Scott County map and locate the site.
Review the list of victims and survivors and the Pigeon Roost maps done in class for lesson #2.

Development:

Visit the site. Walk around the memorial, noting inscriptions, upkeep of the site.
Tour the cemetery, making rubbings of tombstones with the same family names of victims and survivors.
Engage the assistance of a Friends of Pigeon Roost resource person to speak to the group at the site.
(Contact Mrs. Helen Trueblood, Pigeon Roost Massacre Association, R.R. #3, Scottsburg, Indiana 47170)

Conclusion:

Reflect upon the event in a period of silence before leaving the site.
Analyze the data collected in the cemetery. Discuss the feelings of being on the site, the condition of the site, the appropriateness of the location, and future of the site.



Road Map of
PIGEON ROOST
State Memorial

Lesson # 4 -- Cause and Effect of the Pigeon Roost Massacre
RESOLUTIONS

Objectives: Students will:

- 1) analyze events that ultimately resulted in the Pigeon Roost massacre
- 2) make associations of cause and effect
- 3) evaluate the immediate solutions at the time of the massacre
- 4) generate solutions in light of hindsight

Materials: pencil
paper

Introduction:

Read list of events leading up to the Pigeon Roost massacre from the time line

Divide class into groups of 3 to 5; each group will determine a facilitator and recorder

Development:

Within each group come to consensus on the three major causes of the massacre (5-10 minutes, record)
Within each group come to consensus on the three major results of the massacre (5-10 minutes, record)
Within each group discuss the success of the solutions to the Indian conflict in the early 1800's; record a group opinion about these solutions
Generate two or three "better" solutions to the conflict; record

Conclusions:

Reassemble as a large class, each recorder reports on the groups findings
As a class, evaluate the solutions to the Indian conflict in the early 1800's; discuss the best solutions
Ask students for any insights achieved as a result of this study

Pigeon Roost Massacre

Victims

1. Isaac Coffman
Elias Payne
2. Mrs. Elias Payne
Seven Children
4. Mrs. Henry Collings
5. Mrs. Richard Collings
Seven Children
6. Henry Collings
8. Mrs. John Morris
child
mother-in-law
9. Child of Mrs. John Biggs

Others:

John Zink--ranger from Washington County, killed in pursuit of Indian raiders

Survivors

3. Jeremiah Payne and family
7. William Collings
Lydia and John Collings
Captain Norris
10. Mrs. John Biggs
Two children
11. Dr. John Ritchie
wife Siche

Others:

Mrs. Beal, two children
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Yount
two children, another born
that night
Mrs. Betsy Johnson

Total lost: twenty-five (9 adult, 16 children)

William Collings, patriarch of the settlement, lost one son (Henry), two daughters-in-law (Mrs. Henry, Mrs. Richard), and eight grandchildren in the raid

PIGEON ROOST MASSACRE

Enrichment activities

- Make a timeline of all the events concerning American/Indian conflicts from 1893 to 1816.
- Write a letter to a relative living in another area from the viewpoint of a survivor of the Pigeon Roost Massacre.
- Make a salt and flour map of the area around Pigeon Roost, including the three blockhouses.
- Write a tall tale about William Collings and his heroic deeds on the Indiana frontier.
- Make a map of the Indiana or Northwest Territory showing all the Indian conflicts and where they occurred.
- Design a better monument for the massacre site. Write an original epitaph and dedication ceremony.
- Write a poem or ballad about the massacre.
- Write your own newspaper article or radio news script as an on-the-spot reporter the day after the event.
- Create a crossword puzzle with clues that can be answered with facts about the event.
- Organize a debate over the land issue.
- Made a model of one of the family cabins OR of one of the blockhouses.
- Write a one to two page essay telling everyone what we should learn about conflict, settling conflict and compromise.
- Make a bulletin board for your class about this event.
- Prepare questions for an oral history interview with William Collings, Mrs. John Biggs, and Captain Devault. Make sure each list relates to that person's experiences.
- Write a chapter for the book, Indiana's Frontier Tragedies, which tells of the massacre.
- Write a one-page defense paper from the perspective of an Indian on the raid. Give his reasons for participating in the massacre.
- Design some artwork and write an epitaph for each of the victims of the massacre.
- Paint or draw a mural of the Pigeon Roost settlement before the massacre

Pigeon Roost Lesson Plans Bibliography

Books

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4. Naylor, Judge Issac. "An Account of Pigeon Roost Massacre." Indiana Historical Society Publications. Volume 2. No. 4. Bowen-Merrill: Indianapolis, 1895. pages 129-130.
5. Wilson, William E., Indiana: A History. Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Indiana. 1977. page 28.

Magazines

1. Parsons, Joseph A., Jr., "Civilizing the Indians of the Old Northwest, 1800-1810." Indiana Magazine of History. Vol. LVI. No. 3. (Sept. 1960): pages 198+.
2. Hill, Herbert R. "By Parley, or If Not by Arms; Tribal Treaties Gave Us Indiana." Outdoor Indiana. Vol. 43. No. 1. (February 1978. pages 36-37.