



River Raisin National Battlefield Park

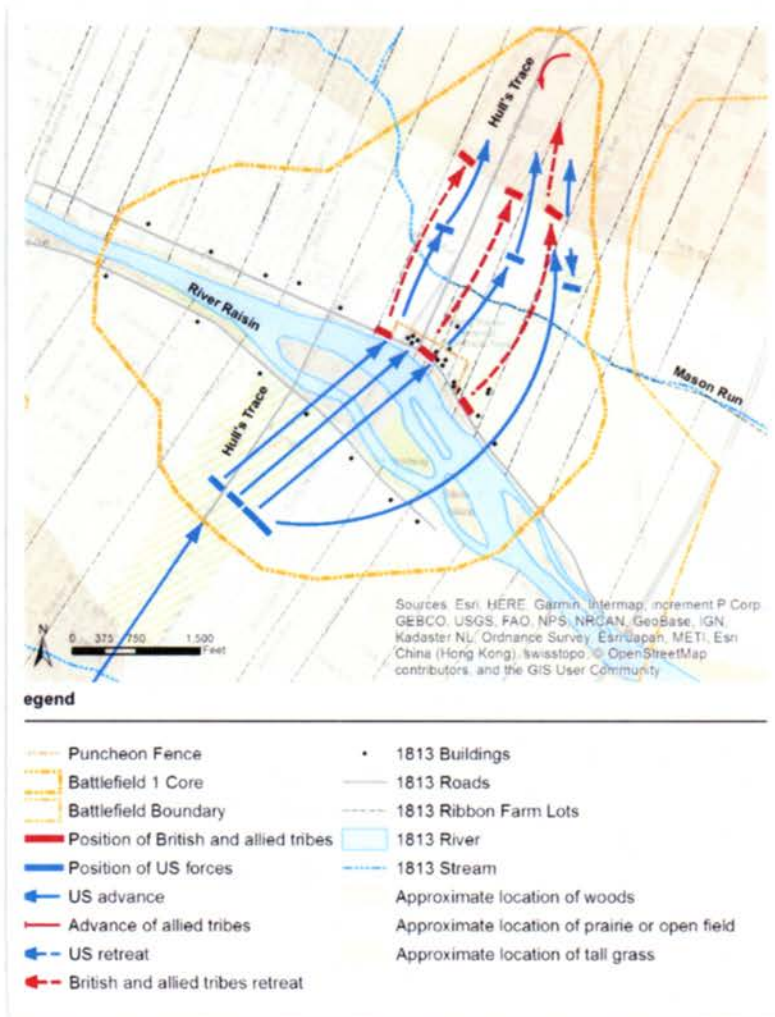
River Raisin National Battlefield Park preserves, commemorates, and interprets the January 1813 battles of the War of 1812 and their aftermath in Monroe and Wayne counties in Southeast Michigan. The Battles of the River Raisin resulted in the greatest victory for Tecumseh's Confederation and the greatest defeat for the United States during the War of 1812. Although American forces were victorious in the January 18th battle, however the January 22nd battle ended in what was described as a "national calamity" by William Henry Harrison, then General, and later the 9th President of the United States. The battle cry, "Remember the Raisin!" inspired a massive U.S. victory at the Battle of the Thames (Canada), that concluded the War of 1812 in the western theater for the U.S., claimed the life of the great Shawnee War Chief Tecumseh, and resulted in the end of the American Indian Confederation. The aftermath of the Battles resulted in the passage of the 1830 Indian Removal Act, implementing the removal of all Native people west of the Mississippi River, an aftermath that continues to influence the United States today.

Frenchtown, or *Rivière aux Raisins Settlement*, as referred to by the habitants that lived there, was one of the last French influenced settlements in North America. The habitants, descended from the French-Canadians who settled Detroit. Approximately 1,100 people lived in long, narrow, "ribbon" farms on both sides of the River Raisin from its mouth at Lake Erie, 13 miles upstream, giving water access to everyone.

Most of the settlers were engaged in the trade business in some way but nearly all farmed their plots. The settlement was a thriving center of trade. Their methods of farming were questioned by the Anglos in the Territory but to the habitants, with no markets to sell to, subsistence farming was adequate for their needs.

The January 1813 fighting that took place amongst their homes was very disruptive. Homes were pillaged and the property of six families were burned. Almost half of the residents left the settlement, not returning until after the war.

For more in-depth information about the Battlefield please visit www.nps.gov/rira/ or www.battlefieldfoundation.com



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Rivière aux Raisins Unit

Trail Map

U.S. Department of the Interior
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