

**LITTLE TURTLE (ME-SHE-KIN-NO-QUAH)
THE GREAT CHIEF OF THE MIAMI INDIAN
NATION; BEING
A SKETCH OF HIS LIFE, TOGETHER WITH
THAT OF WILLIAM WELLS AND SOME
NOTED DESCENDANTS**

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CALVIN M. YOUNG

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BY

CALVIN M. YOUNG

ILLUSTRATED ✓

1917

Historical facts should not be a burden to the memory,
but an illumination to the soul.

—*Lord Acton.*

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CALVIN M. YOUNG

Was born in Franklin Township, Darke County, Ohio, in 1858. Is a member of both State and County Historical Societies, and is a local Historian of considerable note. During several years past, Mr. Young has devoted much time and research to collecting historical facts relative to Little Turtle, the Great Miami Indian Chief. He has spared no time or expense in making the following sketch as near complete as possible.

FOREWORD.

Every great crisis in tribal or national life makes a forceful appeal to the bold and aggressive spirits found in all political bodies and calls forth leaders from among these to meet the new and changing conditions of the hour even at the hazard of life, property and personal comfort.

This fact is forcibly illustrated in our own national history by the lives of Washington, Lincoln, Grant and many other heroic characters who established, fostered and conserved our country.

We are not surprised, therefore, that the rapid expansion of the New England and Coast Colonies and the encroachment of the white man on the virgin domain of the lower lake region and the Ohio valley in the latter part of the eighteenth century and later called forth three great Indian chieftains in three successive generations, viz: Pontiac, the Ottawa, in 1762; Little Turtle, the Miami, in 1790; and Tecumseh, the Shawnee, in 1811. All these were distinguished characters scarcely excelled for bravery, military genius and statecraft by any other American Indian chiefs from the earliest white settlement to the present time.

Parkman has given us a vivid description of the life and times of Pontiac; Drake has set forth in elegant language the illustrious career of Tecumseh; but the student who desired a comprehensive and complete account of the life of Little Turtle the great chief of the Miamis, has heretofore been doomed to disappointment.

It was this fact that stirred the author of this book to collect, compile and publish in a readable form all of the authentic information about this great chieftain that he could reasonably secure. As a boy, some fifty years ago, the writer lived near the site of Little Turtle's birthplace where he became

intimately acquainted with some of the early trappers and hunters who had lived in this vicinity while the Miamis were still there. From these backwoodsmen he learned many interesting tales of the early days which he treasured up in his retentive memory and now utilizes in the preparation of this historical sketch. Thus has been rescued from oblivion many interesting and important facts which are embodied in this work.

The cordial reception given to an article entitled "The Birthplace of Little Turtle", prepared by myself for the Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society, and published in Vol. XXIII of the works of that society, and the earnest entreaty of several worthy and influential friends have also been largely responsible for my decision to compile and publish this volume.

On account of his previous valuable experience in compiling, editing and publishing various books and sketches of early Ohio valley history I have associated with myself in the editorial work of this book Mr. Frazer E. Wilson, who is largely responsible for the form, style and arrangement of the material collected by myself. It has been his aim to present the historical data in a readable, pleasing and forceful style and the reader may judge to what extent he has succeeded in this matter.

It has taken considerable travel and original research to secure the historical data embodied in this volume besides the careful perusal of many works on Indian and pioneer history. The author herewith gratefully acknowledges his special indebtedness to the following authorities for valuable information pertaining to his subject:

- Brice's History of Fort Wayne;
- Howe's History of Ohio;
- Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society Reports;
- Abbott's History of Ohio;
- Atwater's History of Ohio;
- Allen's History of Civilization;
- Dillon's History of Indiana;