

# Working Towards Community-Engaged Research with American Indian Tribes

Christine Thompson  
Applied Anthropology Laboratories,  
Ball State University  
October 4, 2019



LEARNING IN ACTION: STUDENT CENTERED RESEARCH

LEARN. WORK. DISCOVER.

APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY LABORATORIES

Betsy Helder's request: "present on your experience with the process of consulting with American Indian tribes during your investigation of the battles at Fort Recovery. Ideally, the session would cover not just what you did, but what you learned from the process that can be helpful to historical sites as they work on their own similar projects."

# Abstract

The Northwest Indian War Battles of the Wabash (1791) and Fort Recovery (1794) involved multiple tribes and the U.S. military.

Archaeological research supported by the Fort Recovery Historical Society has evolved from sharing to reviewing to collaborating with descendent American Indian tribes. We share our many lessons learned as we work towards community-engaged research with all stakeholders.

# Topics

1. Battle of the Wabash (1791)
2. Battle of Fort Recovery (1794)
3. Archaeological and preservation research
4. Community-engaged research
5. Evolution of tribal involvement
6. Lessons learned and tips

# My Experiences – Huge Team

- Introduction
- Fort Recovery Historical Society
- Ohio History Connection
  - battlefield, museum, fort, monument
- Ball State research team
- Tribal partners
- Community of Fort Recovery
- Funding agencies

BSU Applied Anthropology  
Laboratories Research Team

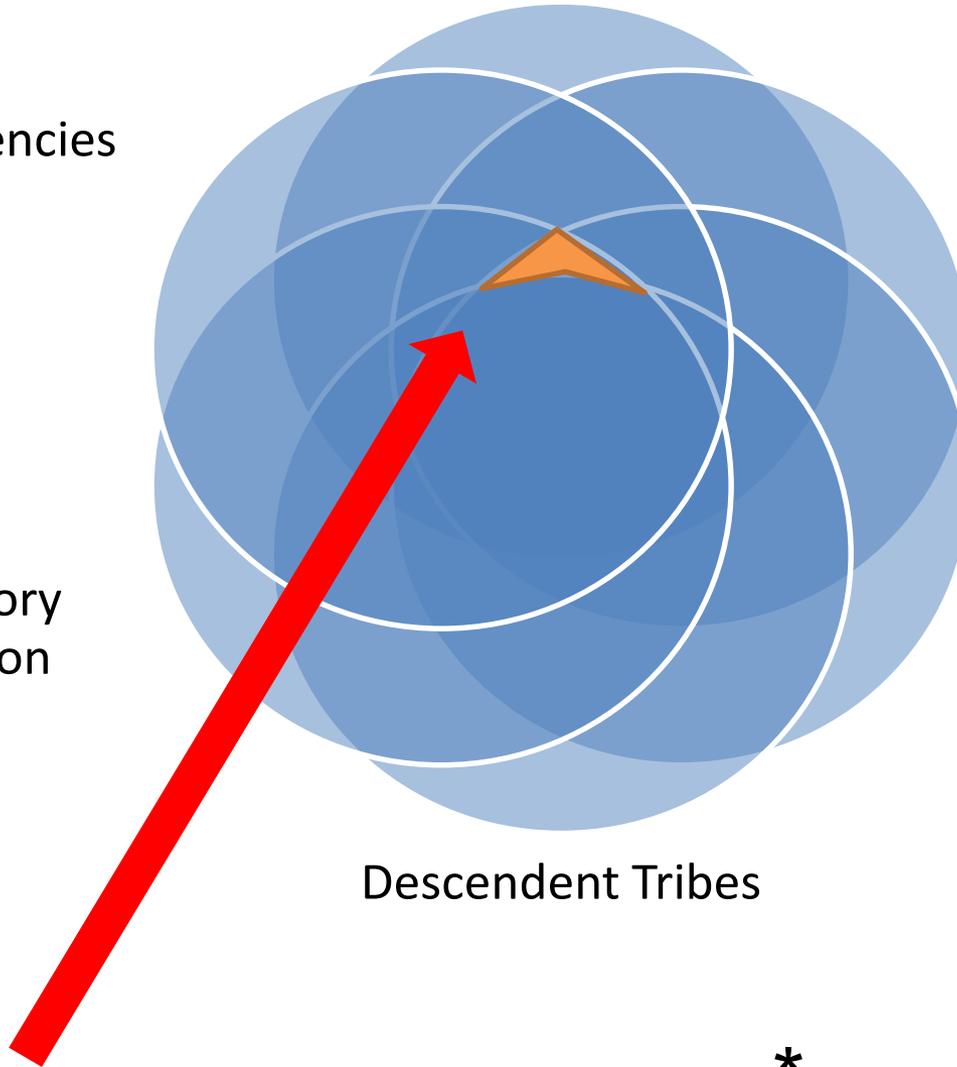
Funding Agencies

Fort Recovery  
Historical Society

Ohio History  
Connection

Community of  
Fort Recovery

Descendent Tribes



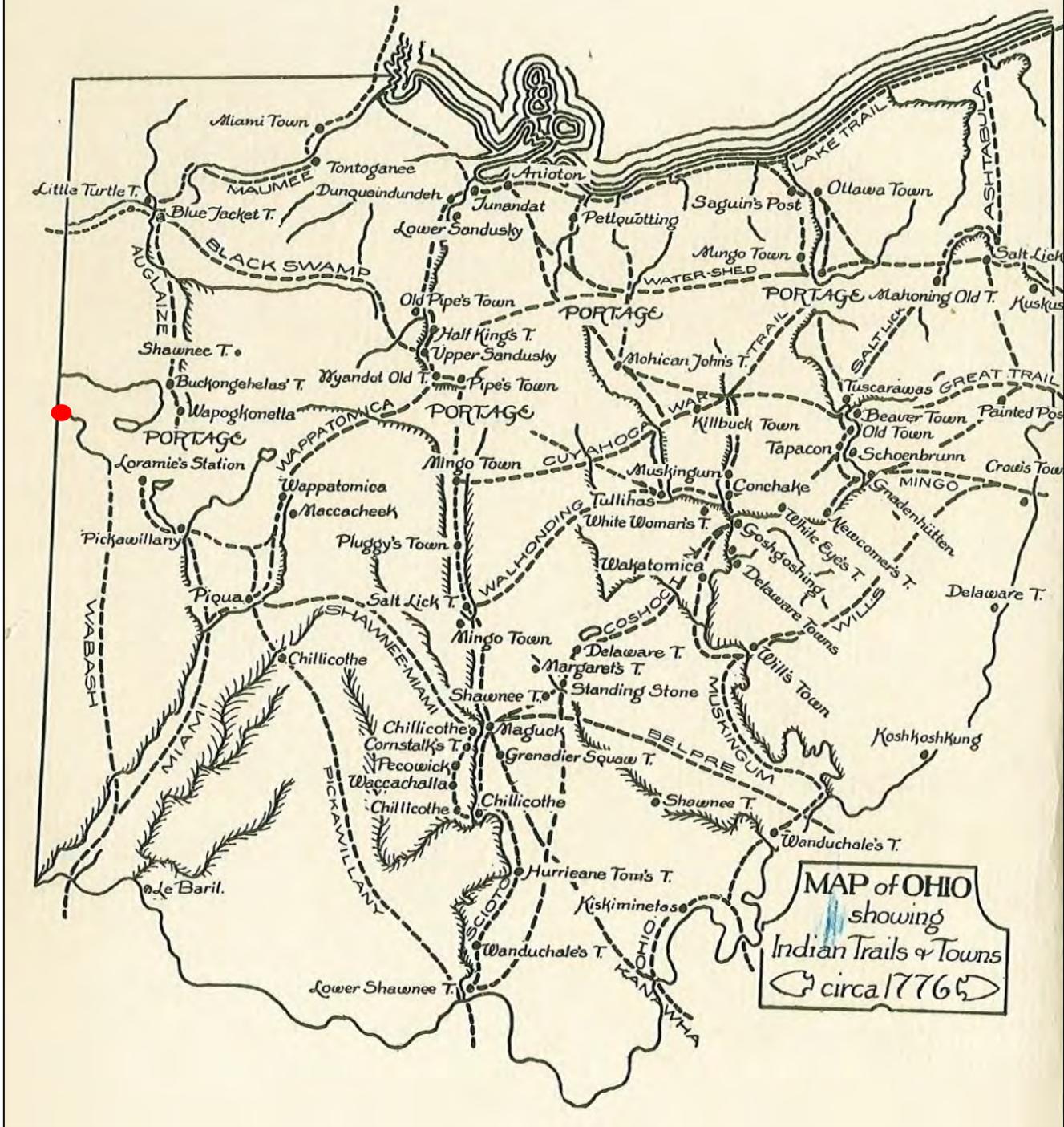
\* Relationships not to scale

# Topics

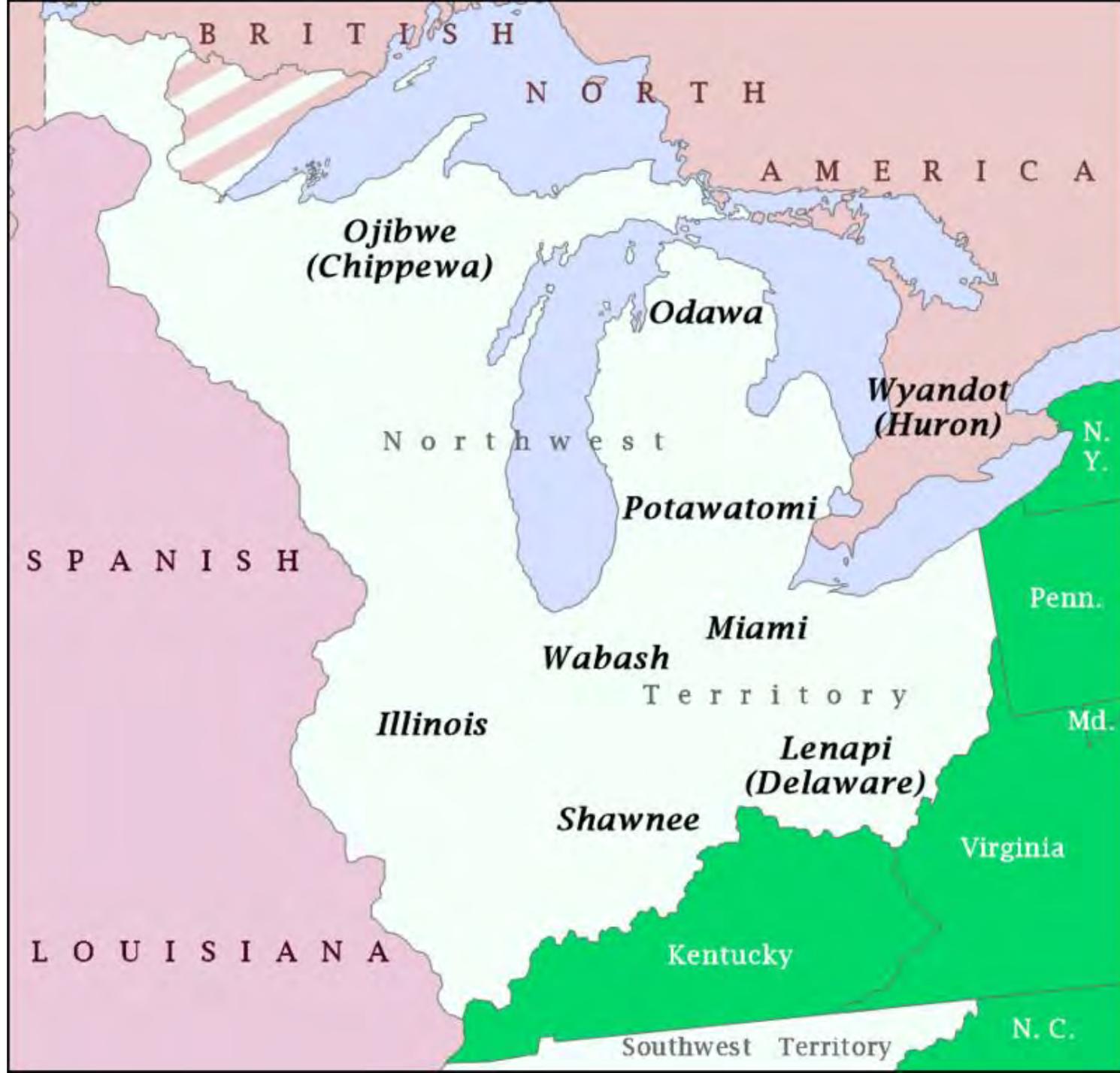
- 1. Battle of the Wabash (1791)**
2. Battle of Fort Recovery (1794)
3. Archaeological and preservation research
4. Evolution of tribal involvement
5. Community-engaged research
6. Lessons learned and Tips

# Northwest Indian War Timeline

- 1783 – Treaty of Paris
- 1785/6 – Western Indian Confederacy formed
- 1787 – Northwest Ordinance
- 1790 – Harmar's Campaign
- 1791 – St. Clair's Campaign
  - ***Nov 4, 1791 – Battle of the Wabash***
- 1793 – Wayne's Legion
  - December 1793 – built Fort Recovery
  - ***June 30, 1794 – Battle of Fort Recovery***
- 1794 – Battle of Fallen Timbers
- 1795 – Treaty of Greenville
- 1803 – Ohio Statehood



MAP of OHIO  
 showing  
 Indian Trails & Towns  
 circa 1776





Minnesota

Lake Superior

Wisconsin

Lake Michigan

Michigan

Lake Huron

Lake Erie

Mississippi River

kiikayonki

Indiana

Ohio

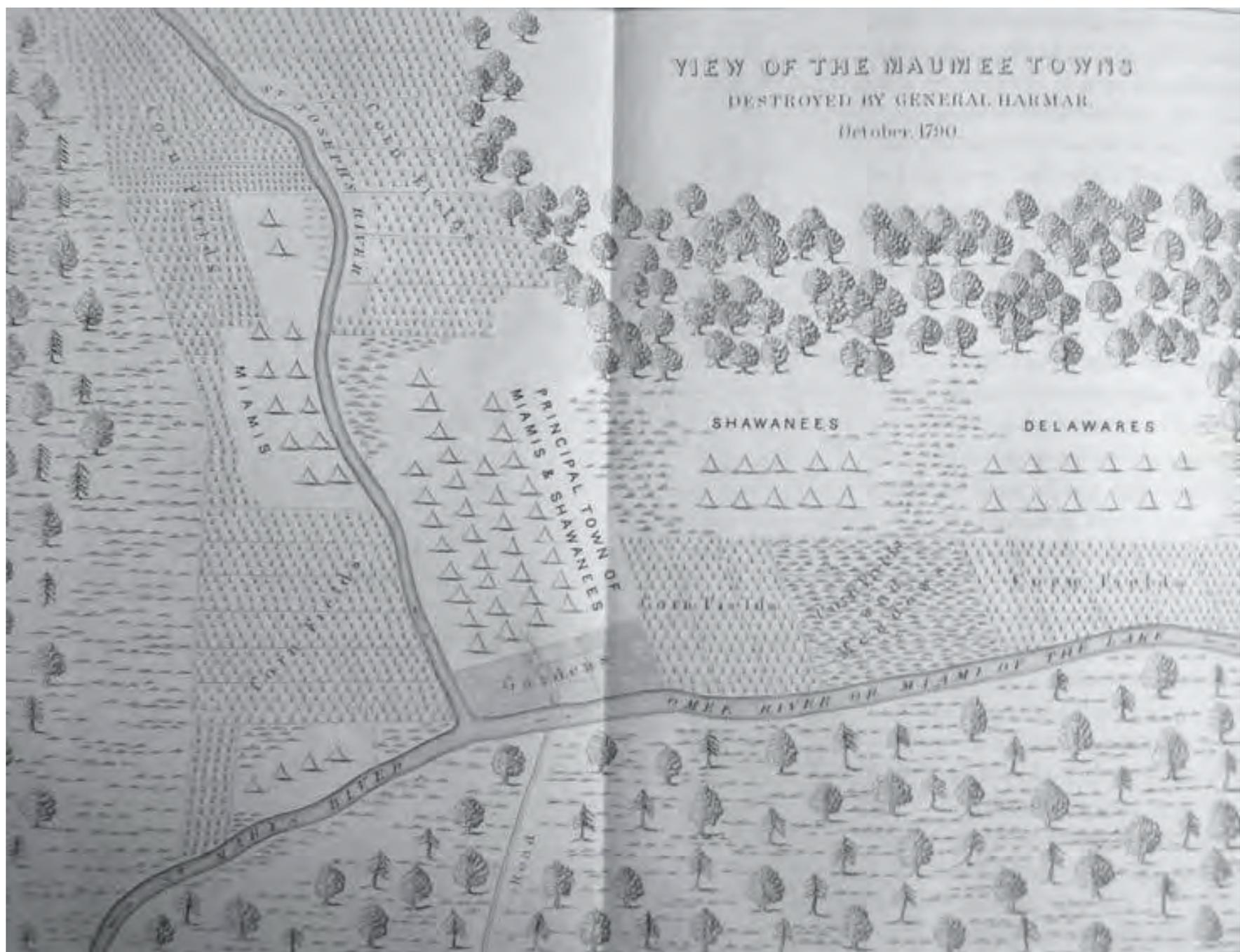
Illinois

Fort Washington

Ohio River

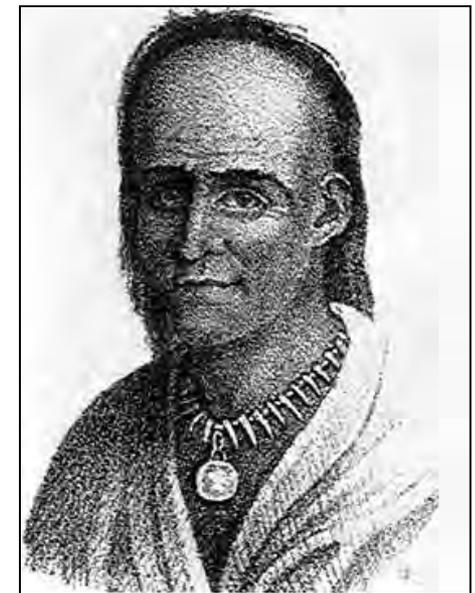
VIEW OF THE MAUMEE TOWNS  
DESTROYED BY GENERAL HARMAR.

October, 1790.



# Battle of the Wabash – Nov 4, 1791

- U.S. Army 1,400 soldiers & camp followers, Gen. Arthur St. Clair
- Devastated by American Indian confederacy of ~1,400+ warriors
  - Weyapiersenwah (Blue Jacket, Shawnee)
  - Mihšihkinaahkwa (Little Turtle, Miami)
- Worst defeat ever of U.S. Army at the hands of the American Indians
  - 632 soldiers plus nearly all camp followers killed; 250+ wounded
  - ~20-30 Native Americans killed



Battle of the Wabash  
Militia Retreat and Camp Encirclement

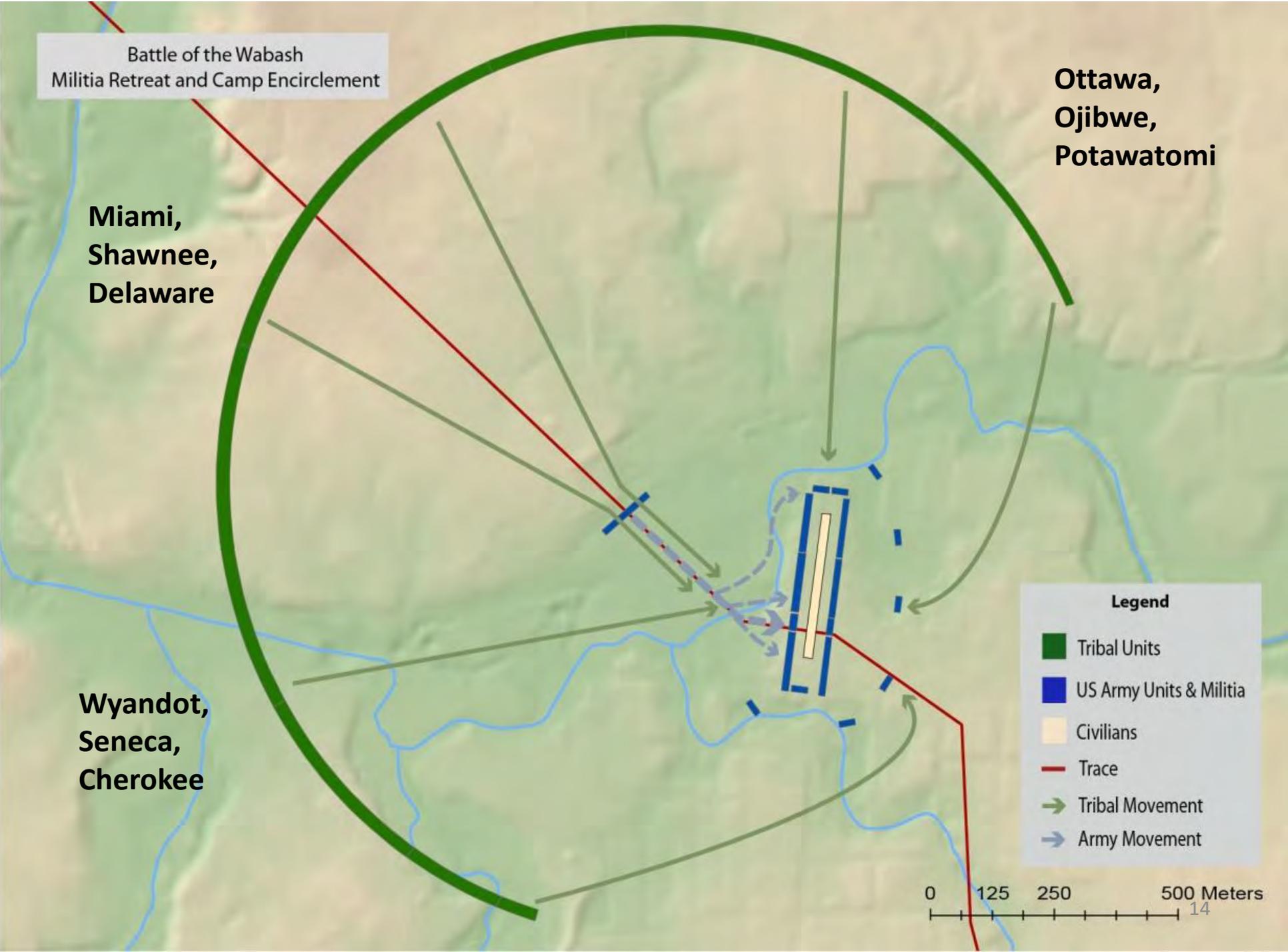
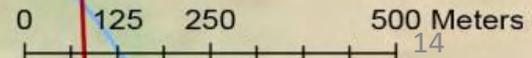
Miami,  
Shawnee,  
Delaware

Ottawa,  
Ojibwe,  
Potawatomi

Wyandot,  
Seneca,  
Cherokee

**Legend**

- Tribal Units
- US Army Units & Militia
- Civilians
- Trace
- Tribal Movement
- Army Movement



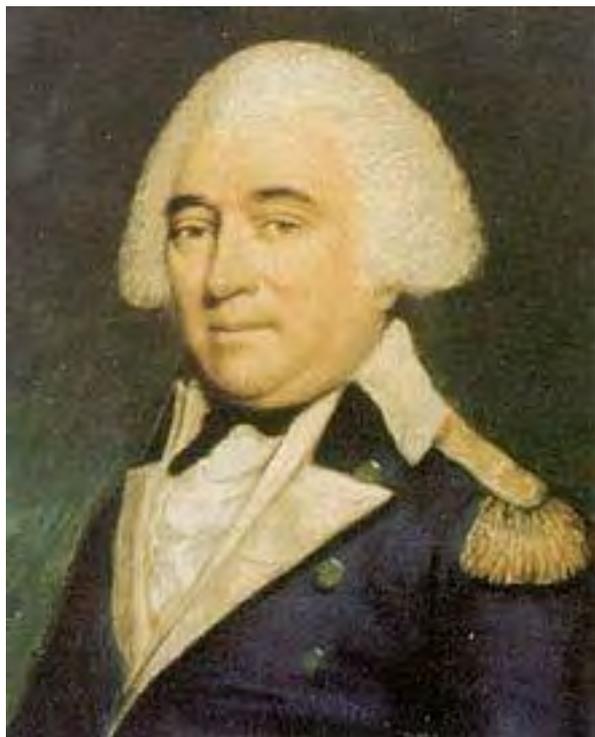
# Casualty Rates

- Battle of the Wabash, 1791
  - U.S. (1,400) = 632+ and camp followers killed / 250+ wounded
  - Native Americans (1,400) = ~20-30 killed / unknown wounded
- Braddock's Defeat, 1755
  - British (2,100) = 500+ killed / 450+ wounded
  - Native Americans (900) = 30 killed / 57 wounded
- Battle of the Little Bighorn, 1876
  - U.S. (~700) = 268 dead / 55 severely wounded
  - Native Americans (1,500-2,500) = 31 dead / up to 160 wounded

# Topics

1. Battle of the Wabash (1791)
- 2. Battle of Fort Recovery (1794)**
3. Archaeological and preservation research
4. Community-engaged research
5. Evolution of tribal involvement
6. Lessons learned and Tips

# Restructuring of Wayne's Legion 1792-1793



# Wayne to Burbeck - Dec 22, 1793

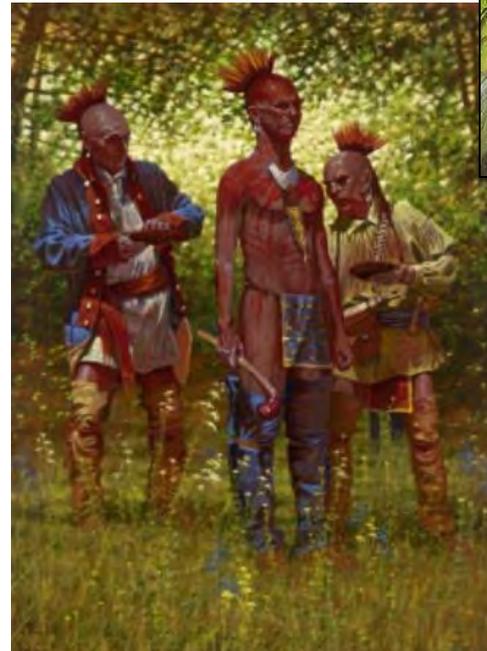
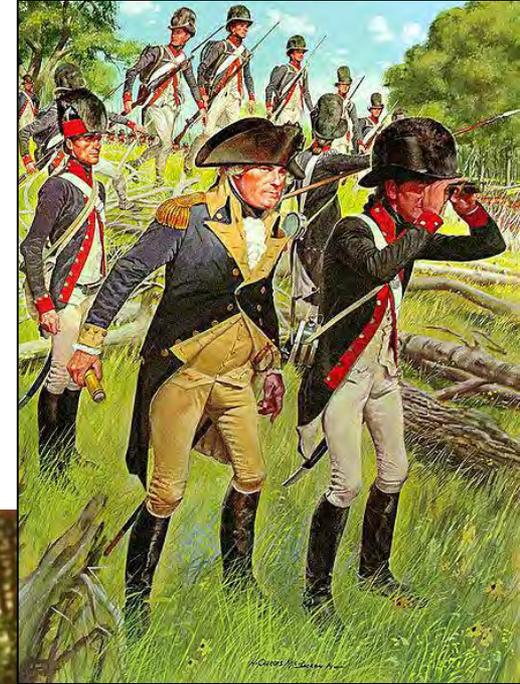
<p>Head Quarters Greenville 22. Decemr. 1793.</p> <p>Sir,</p> <p>You will march tomorrow morning at Reveille with the Detachment of Infantry &amp; artillery assigned you, keeping proper flank &amp; rear Guards. you will reach as far as a small creek about three or four miles on this side Genl. St. Clair's field of battle; where you will encamp tomorrow evening, felling a breast work of timber, so as to cover the main body of picket-guard; and for securing you against surprise.</p> <p>You will advance at the dawn of day next morning &amp; possess yourself of the most favorable ground on the south side of the Wabash or water upon which the battle was fought and immediately proceed to erect four block-houses of twenty feet square in the clear, connecting them with pickets, agreeably to the inclosed plan or draught.</p> <p>Order your front, flank &amp; rear guards to cover themselves by felled trees, at a proper distance from where you erect the works: with orders to keep out small parties, and to defend themselves to the last extremity; whilst you are employed raising the houses &amp; preparing the pickets.</p> <p>Let</p>	<p>Let all your houses be under way at the same time: by which you can cover your detachment from all the Indians in the wilderness in the course of two hours after laying the ground tier.</p> <p>A judicious disposition of your working parties will soon complete this essential business: in the interim, send a few men with Mr. May to search for the artillery lost upon that ground on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 1791. — there are two six pounders in the track probably within a few yards of the place that you will fix upon for the fort; there are or were three, three pounders hid by the side of an old fallen tree, same distance on the opposite side of the Creek with an old dead tree standing by it, however Mr. May will be able to point out the place. — there, on the creek he has seen, and had his hand in the mouth of one of them, a six pounder.</p> <p>Let the ends of the block houses present outwards, with three embrasures in each for a small howitzer, the shutters of which must be musket proof as well as the door or doors of the sally ports.</p> <p>But your own good judgement and experience will best direct these minutia; as will as the most suitable position for the Fort, which</p>	<p>I purpose to call it in due season with a comfortable Garrison supplies for three months.</p> <p>You may therefore expect to be from me by the time you are under cover. — wishing you success in all your undertakings.</p> <p>I am with esteem an affectionate your most Obedt Servant M<sup>rs</sup> J. H. Hargreaves</p> <p>Major Burbeck.</p>
--	--	---

“You will march tomorrow morning at reveille.....” “You will advance at the dawn of day the next morning and possess yourself of the most favorable ground on the south side of the Wabash or water upon which the battle was fought and immediately proceed to erect four blockhouses of twenty feet square in the clear, good connecting with pickets, **agreeably to the enclosed plan or draught.**” “Let the ends of the block houses present outwards, with three embrasures for a small howitzer; the shutters of which must be musket proof as well as the door, or doors of the sally ports.....” “But your own good judgement and experience will best direct these minutia, as will the most suitable position for the Fort...”

# Battle of Fort Recovery

## June 30, 1794

- As many as 2,000 Native Americans
- Two day battle, U.S. victory
- U.S. victory at Battle of Fallen Timbers 6 weeks later
- Effectively ended Indian resistance in Northwest Territories and led to the Treaty of Greenville



# Treaty of Greenville 1795

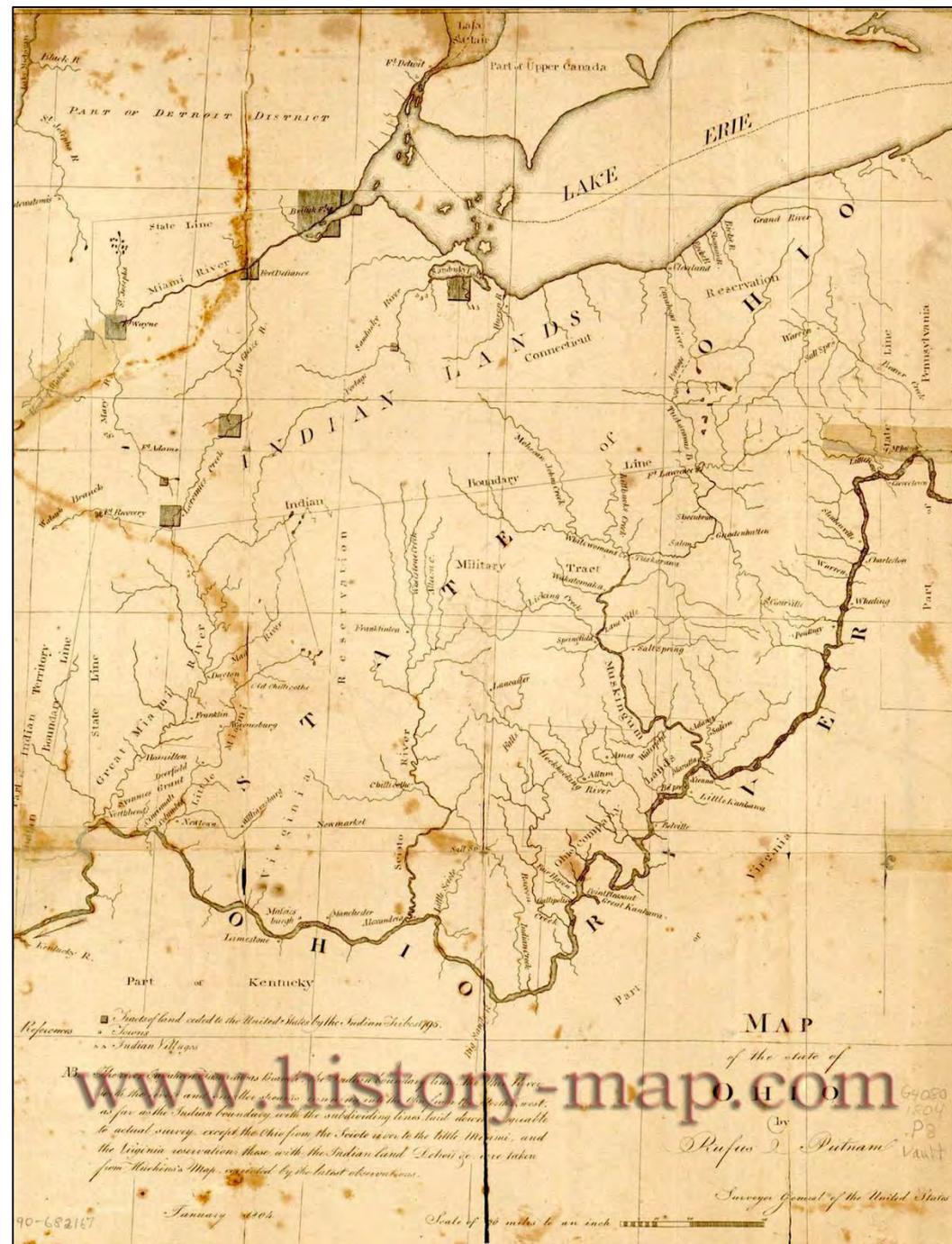


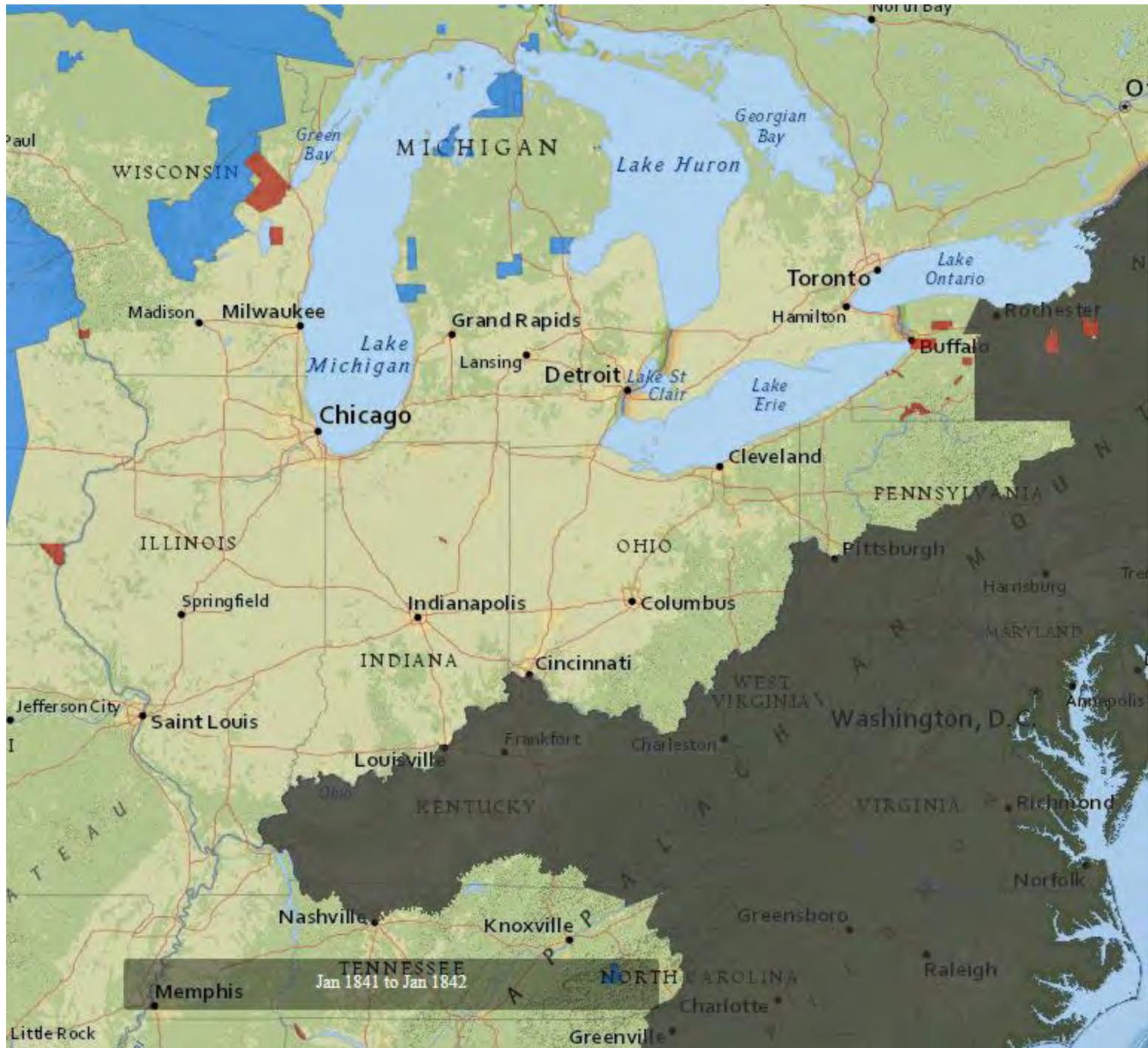
A Treaty of Peace  
BETWEEN THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
AND THE  
TRIBES OF INDIANS,  
CALLED THE  
*Wyandots, Delawares, Shawanoes, Ottawas,  
Chipewas, Putawatimes, Miamis, Eel-  
river, Weeás, Kickapoos, Pian-  
kashaws, and Kaskashias.*

TO put an end to a destructive war, to settle all controversies, and to restore harmony and a friendly intercourse between the said United States, and Indian tribes; Anthony Wayne, major-general, commanding the army of the United States, and sole commissioner for the good purposes above-mentioned, and the said tribes of Indians, by their Sachems,

# 1803 - Ohio

- Ended Northwest Territory
- Mix of towns and Indian villages
- “Fort” Recovery was destroyed most likely ca. 1814
- Fort Recovery, the town, was settled in 1817, incorporated in 1858





# Topics

1. Battle of the Wabash (1791)
2. Battle of Fort Recovery (1794)
- 3. Archaeological and preservation research**
4. Evolution of tribal involvement
5. Community-engaged research
6. Lessons learned and Tips

**Research Focus:** landscape analysis, both in the context of the location of recovered artifacts and in the role the landscape played in the battle strategies of both the American Indian alliance and U.S. forces.

**Research results:** a more nuanced interpretation of the battle, one that more fully recognizes and balances the involvement and decisions of both the American Indian tribes and the U.S. military.

# KOCCOA Analysis – GIS Data Modeling

## NPS American Battlefield Protection Program

- **K**ey and Decision Terrain
- **O**bservation and Field of Fire
- **C**over and Concealment
- **O**bstacles
- **A**venues of Approach/Withdrawal

Based on the U.S. military's process for evaluating significance of battlefield terrain and use of the landscape in battle strategy.

Approximate 1791  
Core Battlefield Area



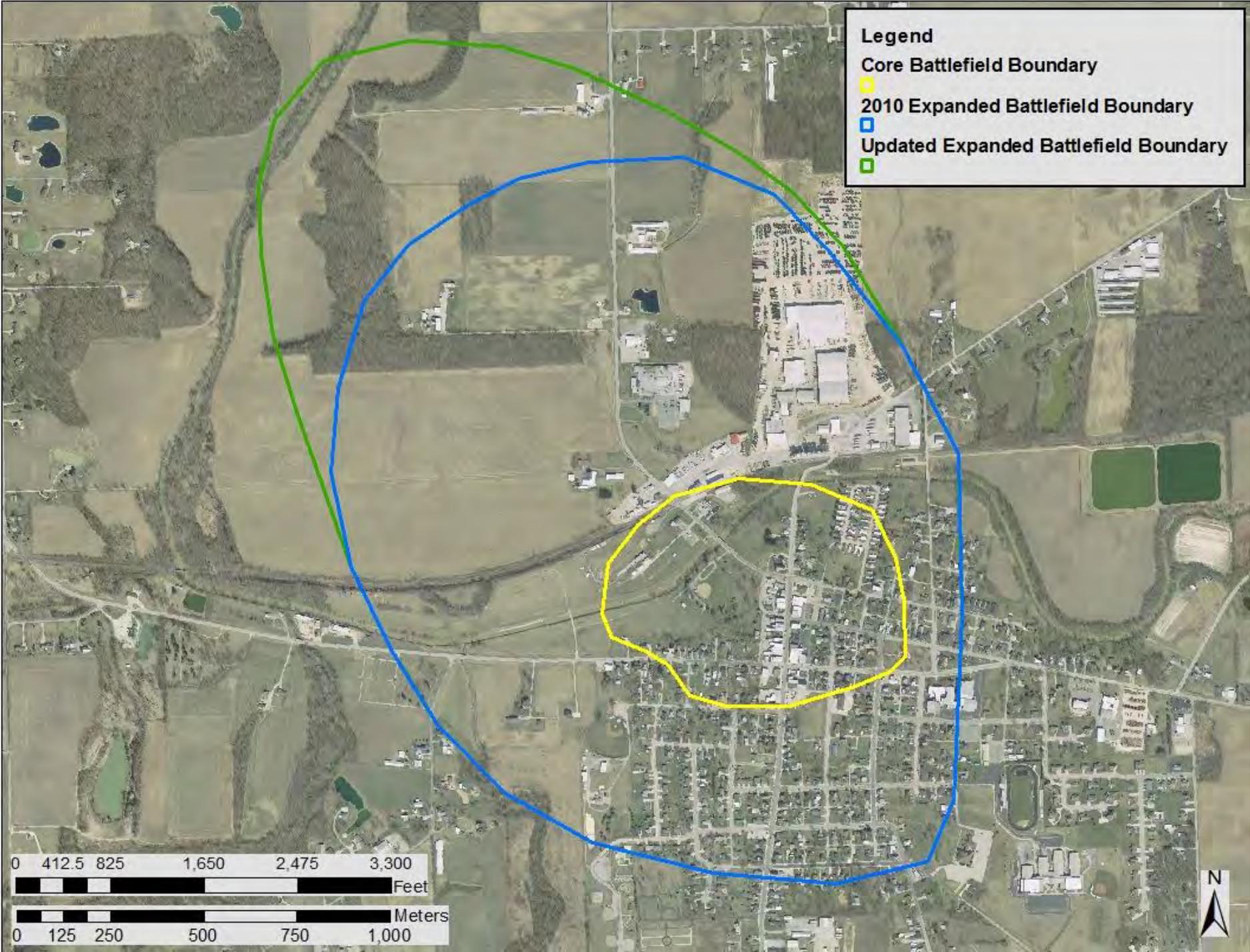
**Legend**

Core Battlefield Boundary

2010 Expanded Battlefield Boundary

Updated Expanded Battlefield Boundary

Core Battlefield Boundary



0 412.5 825 1,650 2,475 3,300

Feet

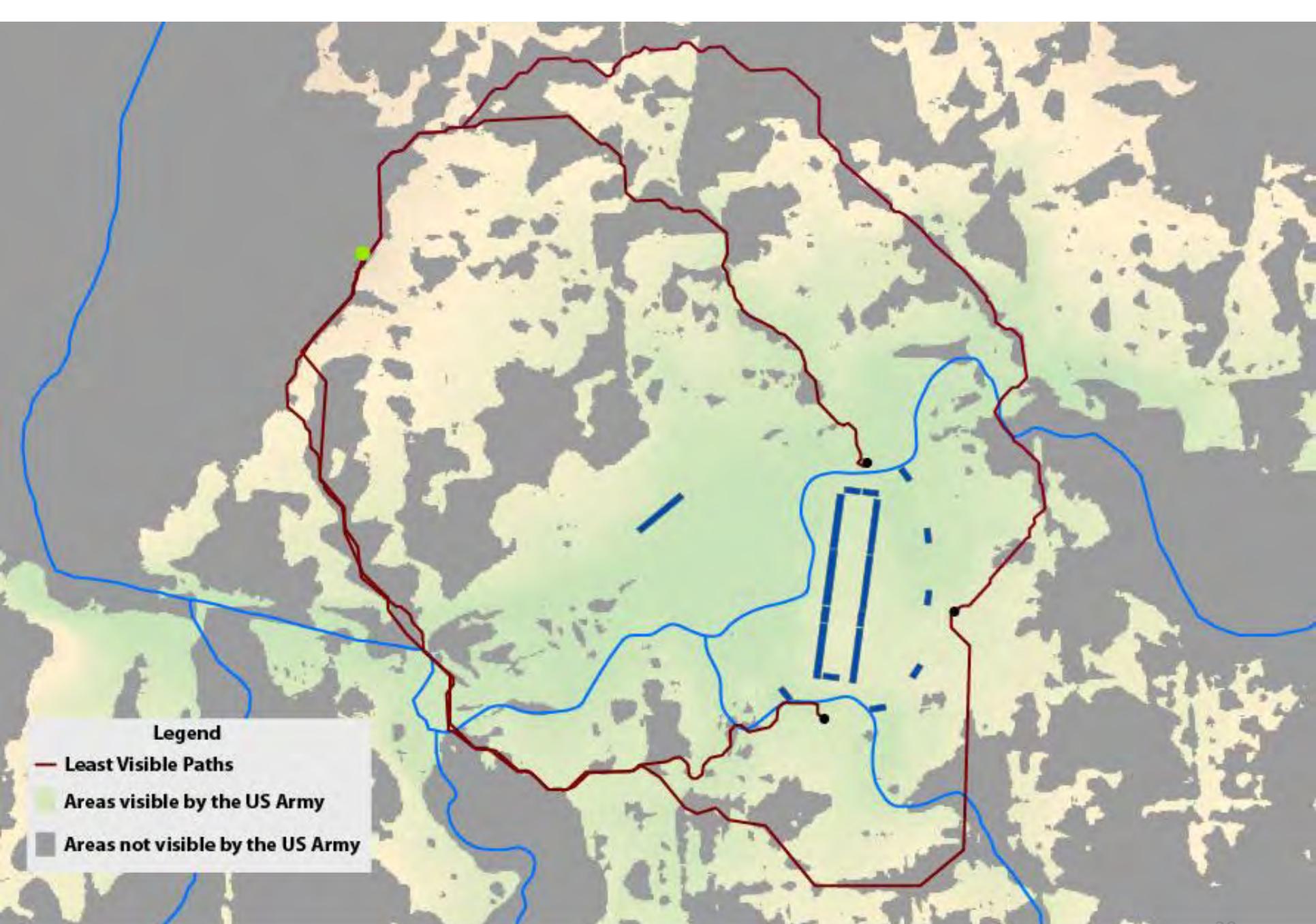
0 125 250 500 750 1,000

Meters









**Legend**

- Least Visible Paths
- Areas visible by the US Army
- Areas not visible by the US Army

**Legend**

St. Clair's Encampment



NAC Crescent and Avenue of Approach

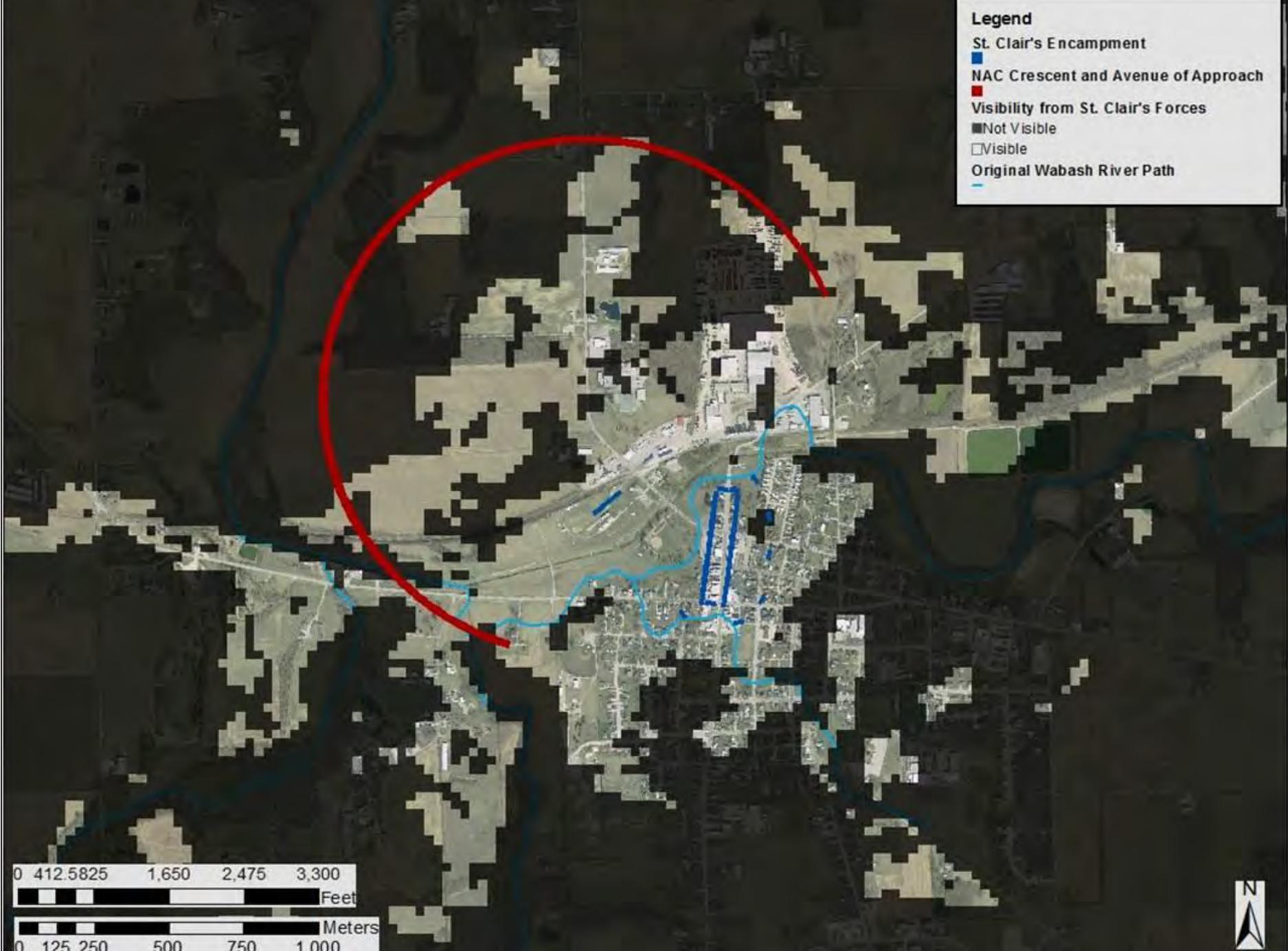


Visibility from St. Clair's Forces

■ Not Visible

□ Visible

Original Wabash River Path



0 412.5825 1,650 2,475 3,300  
Feet

0 125 250 500 750 1,000  
Meters





BSU Archaeological Field School 2011

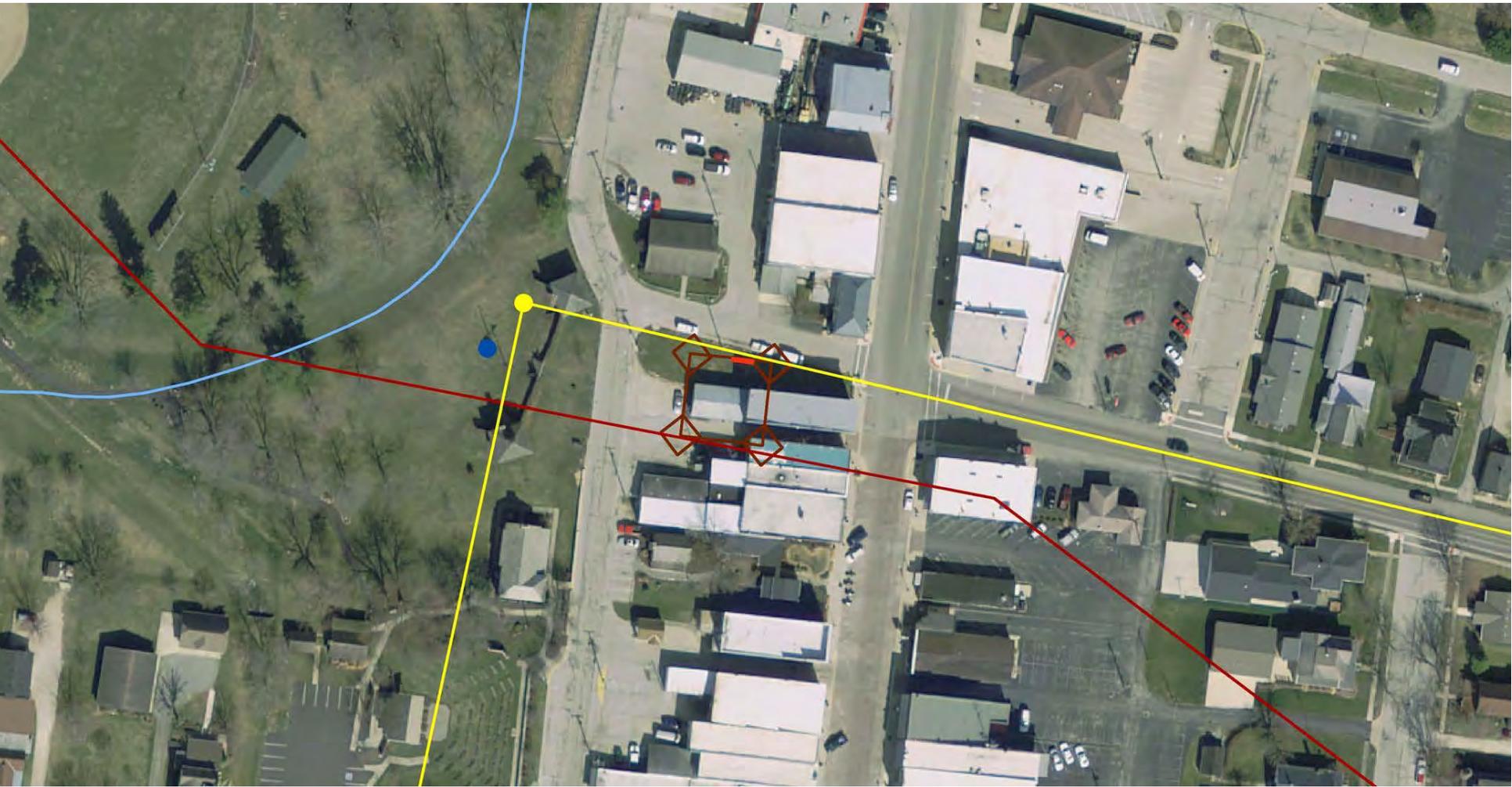




# Parcel 8 Unit 9 Feature 3 Trench

- 17 ft. segment
- 2 ft. wide
- 3 ft. below ground surface
- Large postholes every 5 ft.
- Small split pale-like post holes in between







## THE BATTLE OF THE WABASH AND THE BATTLE OF FORT RECOVERY:

### MAPPING THE BATTLEFIELD LANDSCAPE AND

### PRESENT DAY FORT RECOVERY, OHIO

A Cooperative Project with  
National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program  
Grant # GA-2255-12-001; GA-2287-13-001; GA-2287-13-002  
Ball State University  
Ohio History Connection  
Fort Recovery Historical Society



By:

Christine K. Thompson, Principal Investigator  
Erin A. Steinwachs  
Kevin C. Nolan, Co-Principal Investigator

Contributions:

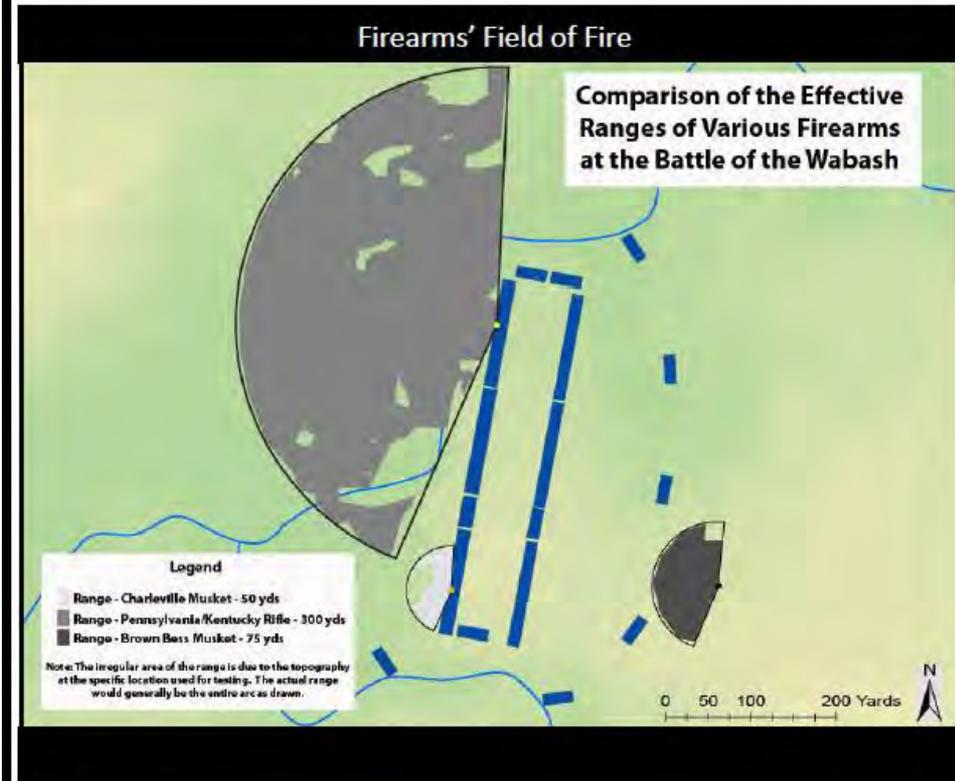
Shelbi Long  
Debra Hollon  
Erin Donovan

March 2016

Reports of Investigation 94  
Applied Anthropology Laboratories, Department of Anthropology  
Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306  
Phone: 765-285-5328 Fax: 765-285-2163  
Web Address: <http://www.bsu.edu/aal>

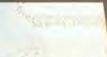
For copies: Kristen L. McMasters, Archeologist Planner and Grants Manager, National Park Service, American Battlefield Protection Program, 1201 Eye Street NW (2287), Washington, DC 20005  
(202-354-2037)

## Battle of the Wabash – Field of Fire Map A



The ability to see the enemy and the ability to effectively fire upon the enemy are not necessarily the same thing. In this analysis, the field of fire of individual weapons was considered. Field of fire calculations include variables such as height between the muzzle and ground, effective range of the firearm, and general accuracy of the firearm. A comparison of the relative fields of fire for the Charleville musket (carried by most of the U.S. Army), Brown Bess musket (carried by most of the Native Americans), and Pennsylvania Kentucky rifles (carried by most of the Kentucky militia) reveals the obvious advantage of a rifle in effective range.

1770 1780 1790 1800 1810 1820 1830 1840 1850 1860 1870 1880 1890 1900 1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010 2020



### Prologue to 1771

The site of the present-day school is a place of historical significance and is the site of the first school in the area. The school was founded in 1771 and has since become a prominent institution in the community. The school has a long and rich history, and its buildings are a testament to the hard work and dedication of the people who have built it over the years. The school is a source of pride for the community and is a place where many students have learned and grown. The school is a place of learning and discovery, and it is a place where the future is being built.

2

# Battlefield Tour Story Map

<http://fortrecoverymuseum.com/>



**Welcome to the Battles of ...**  
This 1.5 mile battlefield tour loop with 15 stops can be enjoyed on any computer, smart phone, or t... Museum



## 7 The Battlefield, It's Bigger Than You Think!

Since 2010, the Applied Anthropology Laboratories (AAL) at Ball State University has conducted archaeology research on the battlefield with funding from the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP). These investigations have shaped a new perspective of the battlefield by using the ABPP's KOCO analysis, which is based on the U.S. military's process for evaluating battlefield terrain and the use of landscape in battle strategy. The battlefield is currently defined as 787 acres.

Wayside Exhibit 7 KOCO Analysis  
[View of Battlefield West of Town](#)



**1 Welcome to the Battle...**  
This 1.5 mile battlefield tour loop with 15 stops can be enjoyed on any computer, smart phone, or t... Museum



**2 Northwest Indian War 178...**  
The Northwest Indian War pitted the U.S. against an alliance of American Indian tribes. In 1790, President Georg...



**3 The Battle of the Wabash, ...**  
In spring 1791, Major General Arthur St. Clair became leader of the U.S. military campaign. St. Clair was to build...



**4 The Old Wabash River**  
The Wabash River (since rerouted) played a key role in the Battle of the Wabash. Major General Arthur St. Clair...



**5 Kentucky Militia Encampm...**  
St. Clair's Kentucky Militia camped across the Wabash River from the main encampment. The 1,500 warriors of th...



**Research Focus:** landscape analysis, both in the context of the location of recovered artifacts and in the role the landscape played in the battle strategies of both the American Indian alliance and U.S. forces.

**Research results:** a more nuanced interpretation of the battle, one that more fully recognizes and balances the involvement and decisions of both the American Indian tribes and the U.S. military.

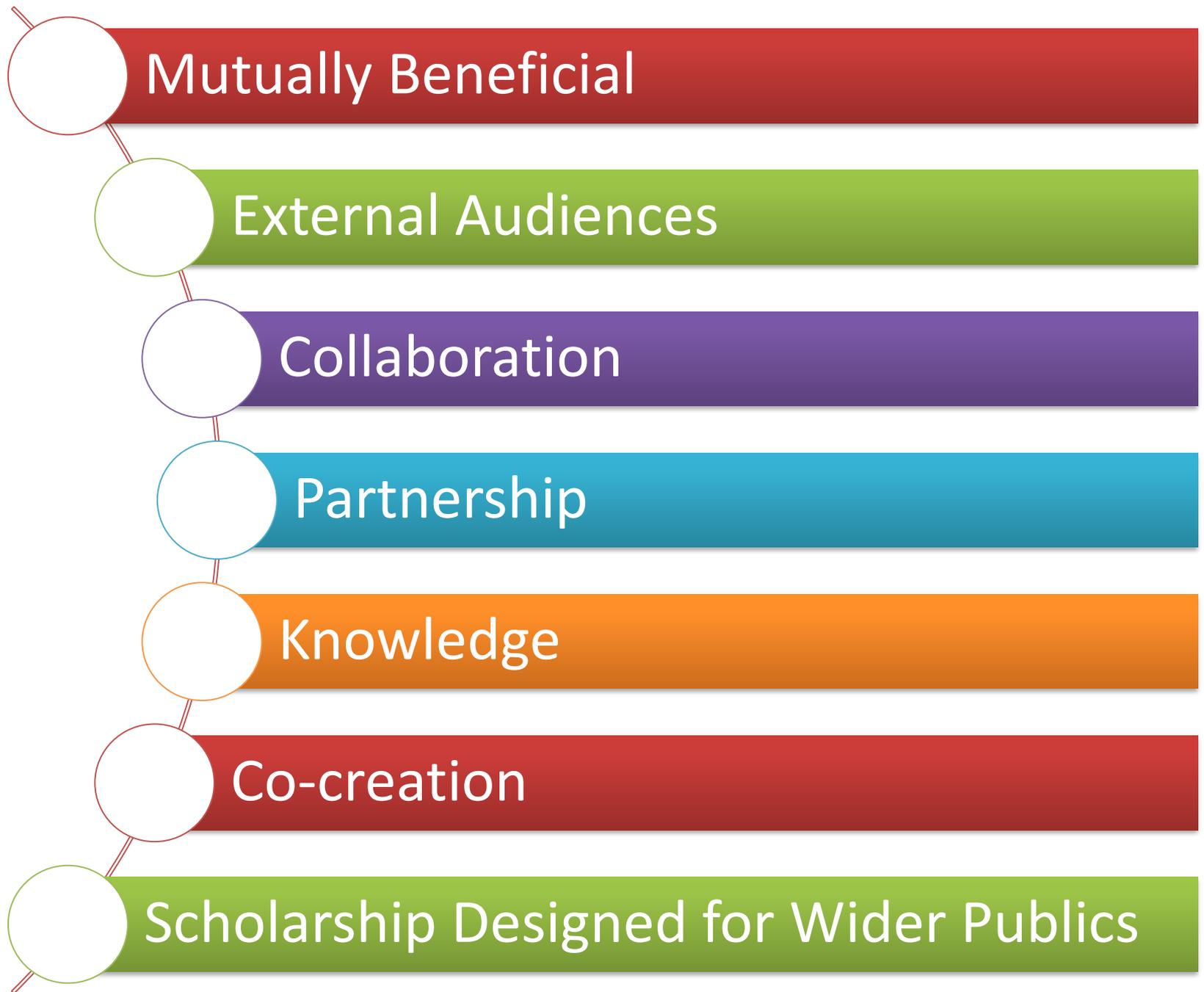
# Topics

1. Battle of the Wabash (1791)
2. Battle of Fort Recovery (1794)
3. Archaeological and preservation research
- 4. Community-engaged research**
- 5. Evolution of tribal involvement**
6. Lessons learned and Tips

# What is Community Engaged Research and Scholarship?

“The goals of community engaged scholarship are the generation, exchange and application of mutually beneficial and socially useful knowledge and practices developed through active partnerships between the academy and the community.”



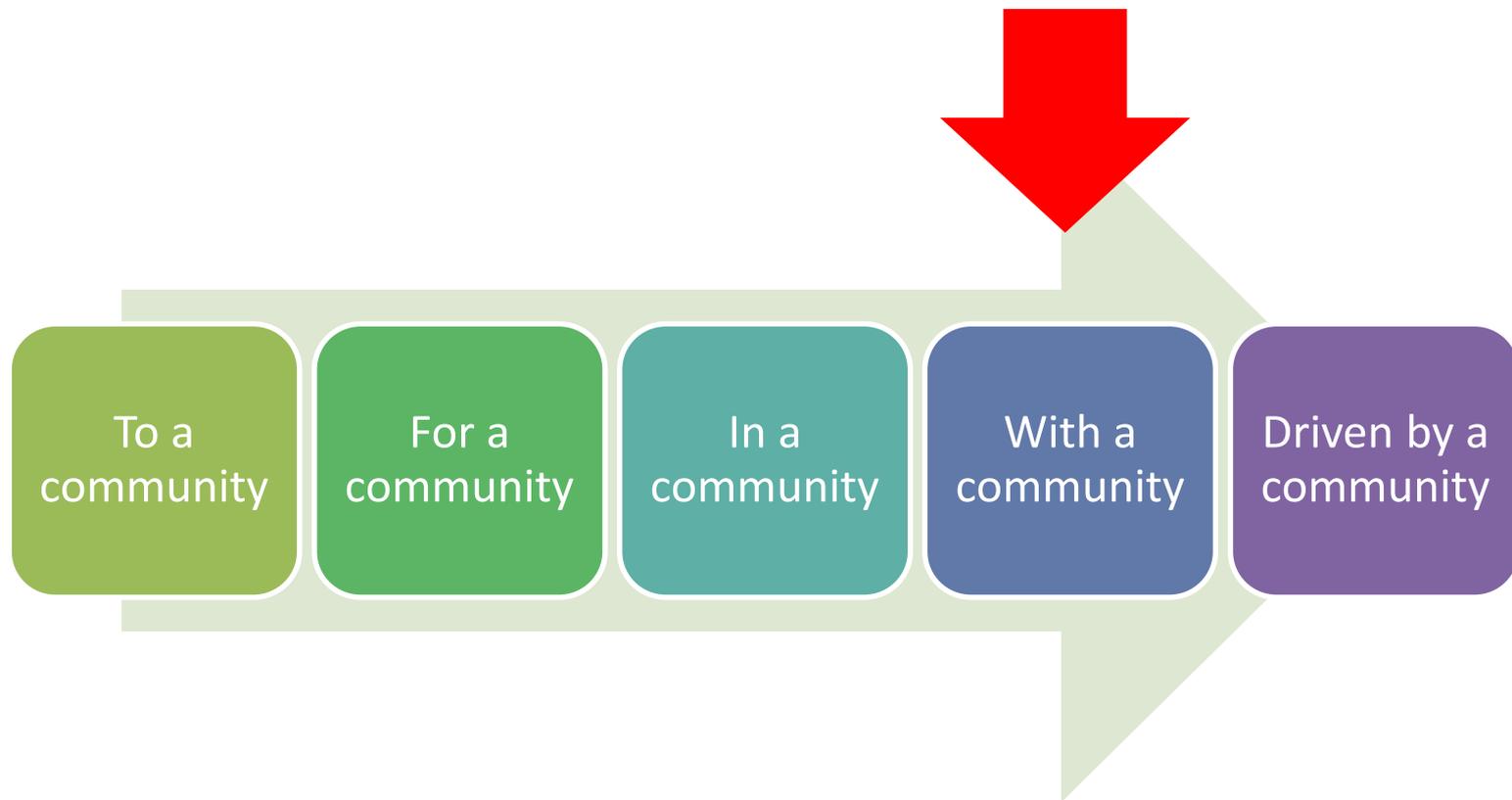


# Levels of Engaged Scholarship

## Doing Research:



# Levels of Engaged Scholarship In Fort Recovery



2016 - hadn't heard term CES, innately doing this + community support requirements

# Topics

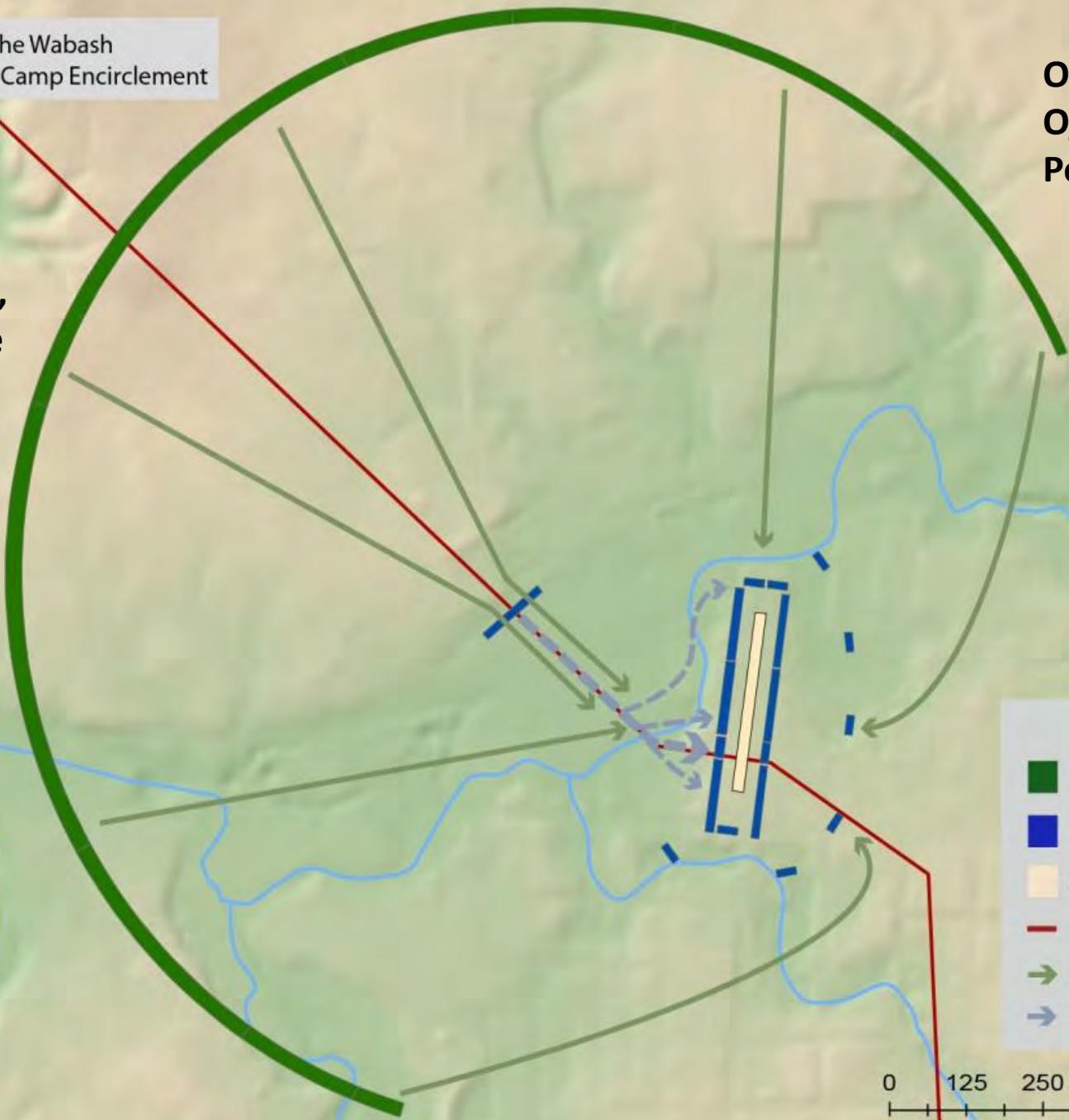
1. Battle of the Wabash (1791)
2. Battle of Fort Recovery (1794)
3. Archaeological and preservation research
4. **Community-engaged research**
5. **Evolution of tribal involvement**
6. Lessons learned and Tips

Battle of the Wabash  
Militia Retreat and Camp Encirclement

Miami,  
Shawnee,  
Delaware

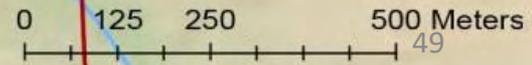
Ottawa,  
Ojibwe,  
Potawatomi

Wyandot,  
Seneca,  
Cherokee



**Legend**

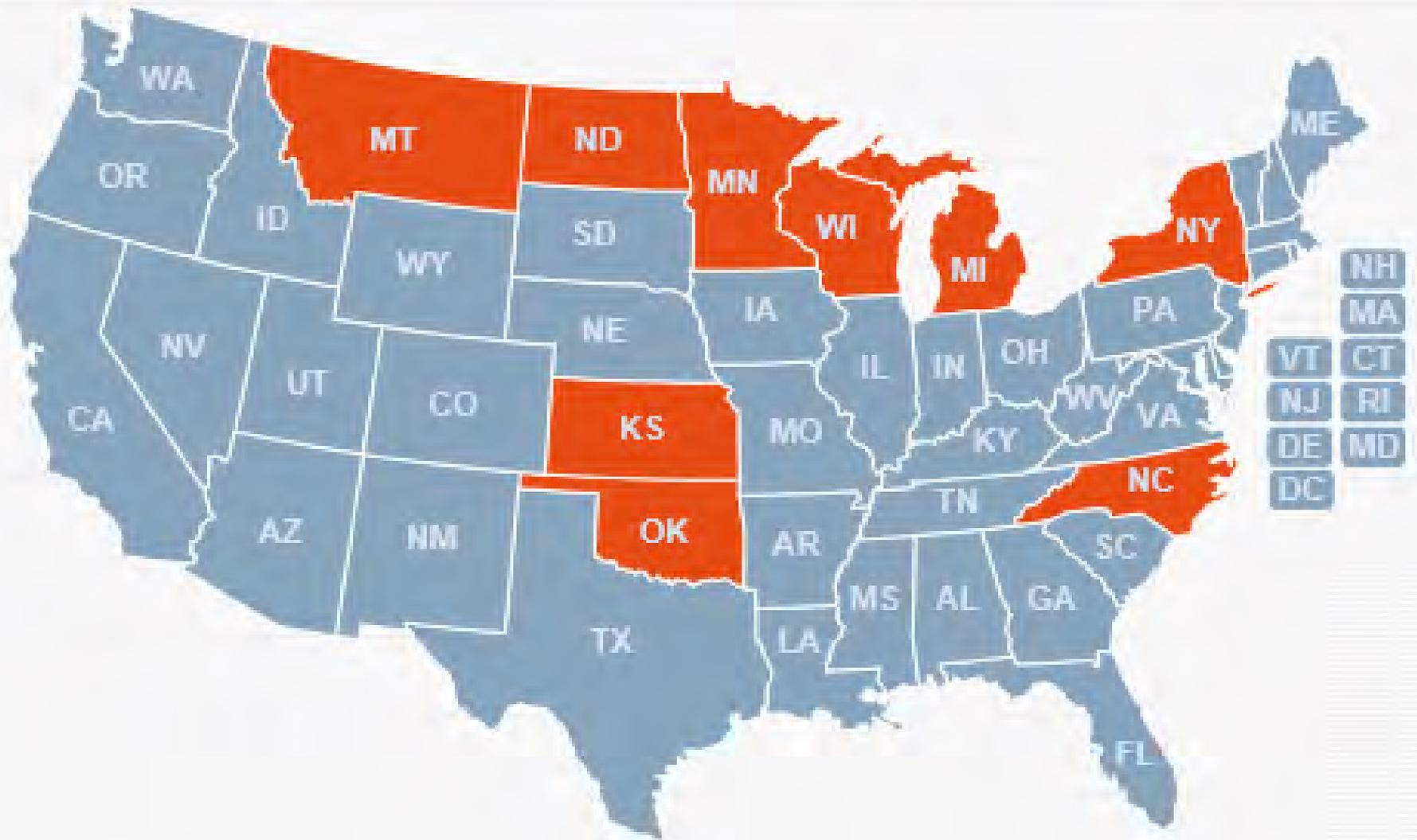
- Tribal Units
- US Army Units & Militia
- Civilians
- Trace
- Tribal Movement
- Army Movement



9 Tribes in American Indian Alliance  
on Nov 4, 1791

= at least 39

federally recognized tribes today



<https://simplemaps.com/custom/us/8rPcoObk>

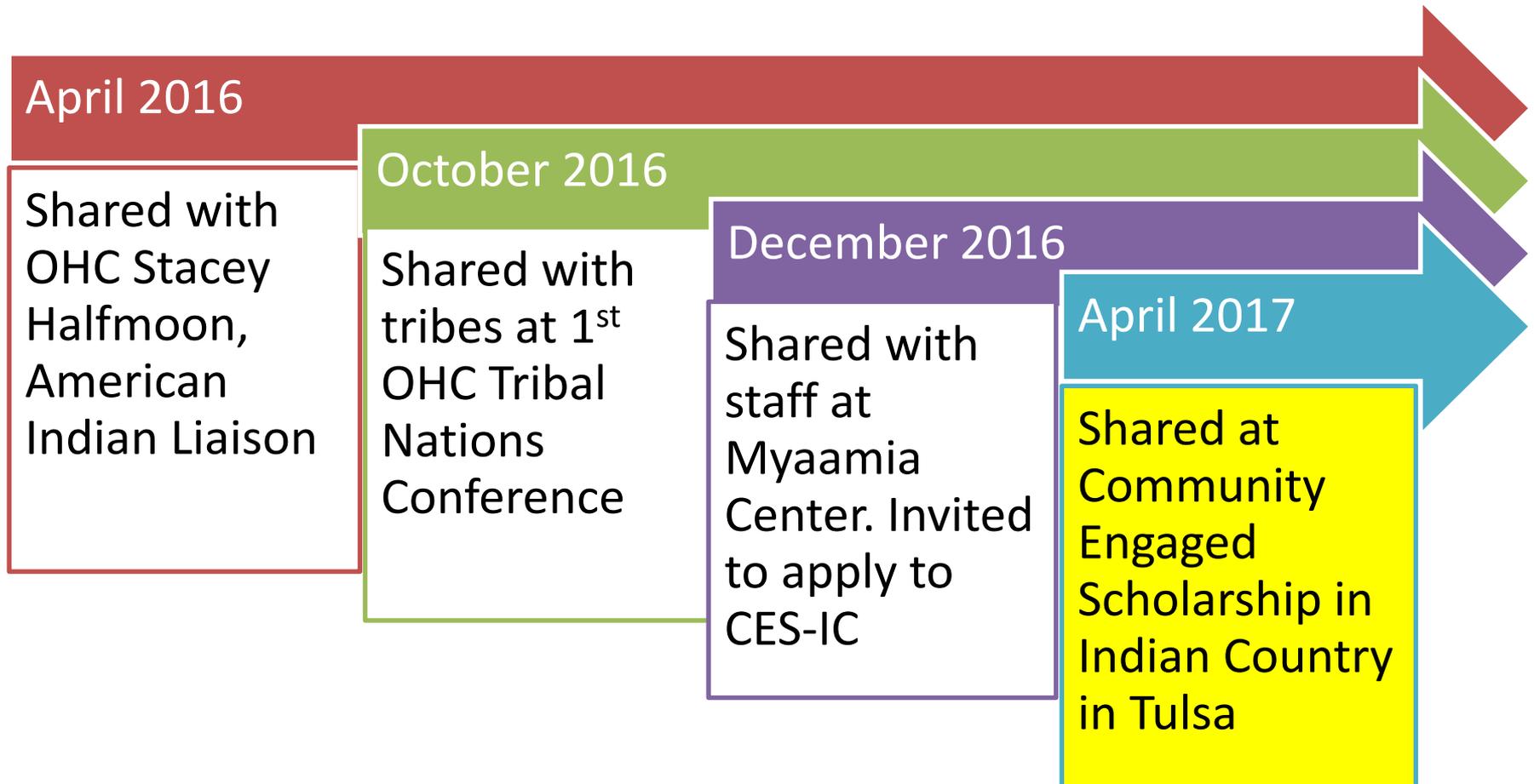
“evolved from **just doing to**  
~~sharing to reviewing to~~  
~~collaborating~~”

- 2010 – “no federally recognized tribes in Ohio”, so no notification of tribes needed for grant application
- Everyone has evolved

# “evolved from **sharing** to reviewing to collaborating with American Indian Tribes”

- BSU building NAGPRA relationships at same time
- Shared first results with NAGPRA tribes
- Didn't really know if tribes would find our research useful – but once they did, we shared at every meeting **\*\*KEY\*\***

# “evolved from **sharing** to reviewing to collaborating”



# Community Engaged Scholarship in Indian Country: Two Communities to Engage!!

- Community of Fort Recovery
  - Local
  - Euro-American perspective of battle
  - Great pride in history and interest in our research
- Tribal Nations
  - Dispersed
  - Multiple tribal histories of battle
  - Great pride in history and interest in our research

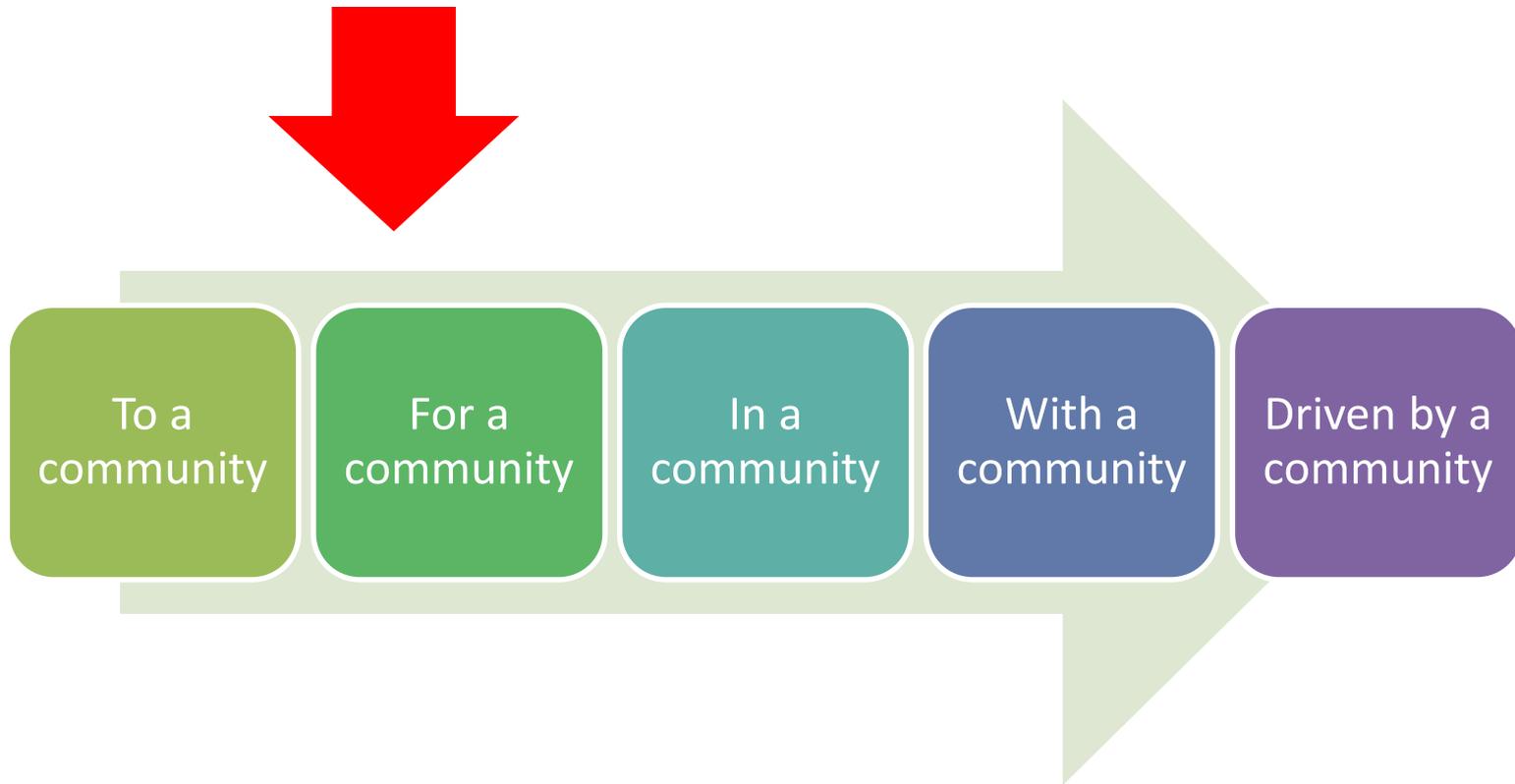
In American Indian and/or indigenous communities, best practices in Community-Engaged Scholarship ensure:

- that the research undertaken is **meaningful and genuinely desired** by the Indigenous community concerned;
- that Indigenous people and academic researchers **work collaboratively to co-design and co-execute** research projects;
- that Indigenous communities and scholars **co-create and disseminate the knowledge** that emerges from the research and analysis.

Projects of this kind result from **sustained conversations** between **Indigenous and academic partners**. They derive from **trusting relationships** that transcend the life of a single research project.

One measure of success is the extent to which Community-Engaged Scholarship “builds capacity” within the Indigenous communities that host scholarly projects.

# Levels of Engaged Scholarship with Tribal Nations



**We needed to get better!  
Tribes wanted to collaborate and co-create.**

# “evolved from sharing to reviewing to collaborating”

May 2017

Reviewed Wayside Exhibits with OHC

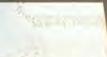
June 2017

Reviewed Wayside Exhibits with Tribal Nations at OHC Interpretive Summit in Miami OK

October 2017

Reviewed Wayside Exhibits at 2<sup>nd</sup> OHC Tribal Nations Conference

1770 1780 1790 1800 1810 1820 1830 1840 1850 1860 1870 1880 1890 1900 1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010 2020



### Prologue to 1771

The first European settlement in the Midwest was established in 1669 by French fur traders at Ste. Marie de la Minneapota. The settlement was located on the western shore of Lake Superior, near the present-day site of Soudan, Illinois. The settlement was founded by Jean Nicoit, a French explorer and fur trader. The settlement was the first of many French settlements in the Midwest. The settlement was the first of many French settlements in the Midwest. The settlement was the first of many French settlements in the Midwest.

2



# “evolved from sharing to reviewing to collaborating”

October 2017

Tribes agreed to collaborate on NEH grant to create Traveling Exhibit of Battle of the Wabash

January 2018

Collaborated on NEH application with five Tribal Humanities Scholars and OHC, involving all 39 tribes

Jan, July, Oct 2019

Collaborated at Tribal meetings to design Traveling Exhibit that will go to Tribal museums

# NEH Public Humanities Project

## *A New View of the Battle of the Wabash*

We build upon our trusting relationships with tribal partners to co-create and co-design a traveling exhibit that truly represents and reflects the views of American Indians. **The end product will be a traveling exhibit and presentations created *with* tribal communities *for* tribal communities.**



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities

## BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Introduction

Tensions leading to War

Northwest Indian War

## BATTLE

St. Clair's Defeat

Tribal and Settler Weaponry and Artifacts

Different Worldviews; Different Strategies

## AFTERMATH

Immediate Aftermath, Treaty of Greenville

Treatment and Expulsion of American Indians

Erasure of Memory / Loss of Identity

## PERSISTENCE

Effects Reverberate to the Present

Recreating Lost Memories/ Filling in the Loss of Identity

Tribes Today

# Topics

1. Battle of the Wabash (1791)
2. Battle of Fort Recovery (1794)
3. Archaeological and preservation research
4. Community-engaged research
5. Evolution of tribal involvement
- 6. Lessons learned and tips**

*“Things I wish I had automatically known or understood better in 2010”*

# Understand the Basics of Federally Recognized Tribes

- Sovereign Nation
- Government-to-government relationship with US
- Specific responsibility, powers, services and protections
- 567 federally recognized American Indian tribes in US
- ~44 have ties to Ohio – treaty claims, lived here, removal, hunting territory, etc.
- Not a club or group, a Sovereign Nation - citizens

# Always Remember: Individual Tribes

- You are dealing with specific Tribes not American Indians as one large group
- Each Tribe will have different collective experiences, histories, and opinions
- Be aware of this in interpretation, use specific Tribal names when you can
- Deal with Tribes individually when you can
- Learn a little about each tribe's history – tribal website

# Learn Your Geography

- What tribes lived in, hunted in, traveled through, or had a treaty claim in your area?
- A subset of the 44 Ohio Tribes will most likely be most interested in your project
- Review tribal websites - history
- Good place to start

<https://www.ohiohistory.org/learn/american-indian-relations>

# Make Contact

- Have a project that involves tribes?  
Contact them!
- Look for: Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), Cultural Resource Officer or if NAGPRA, specific NAGPRA person
- Personal contact is best, vs. mass correspondence
- If OHC site, ask their advice first

# Do Good Research

- Tribes expect and deserve scholarly research based on best practices
- Researchers in your organization or existing partnership or form partnership
- Look for research partner with existing Tribal relationships
- OHC site, involve them!
- OHC American Indian guidelines/policy

# Stop Talking. Start Listening

- Be prepared to think about things very differently
- Do not assume your worldview is the only worldview
- Seemingly innocuous questions or statements may spur answers that you never imagined. Be open and patient.

# Building Lasting, Trusting Relationships

- Building relationships IS doing something
- Long-term investment
- Networking
- We build “visiting” into our OK trips
- Take a real interest in your Tribal collaborators culture and events, etc.

# Watch Your Language!

- Word choice is very important Words are packing with meaning based on our experiences and worldview
- Tribal trust, so they can point these things out to you so your interpretation is respectful and imparts the correct meaning
- See your mistakes as opportunities to learn

# Keep Showing Up

- Go hear citizens from Federally Recognized Tribes speak – introduce yourself
- Conferences (you're here today!)
- Special events involved Tribes
- OHC offerings
- Seek at academic partners
- Wonder what we would have missed had we not showed up for some things?

# More on Community Engaged Research

- All of this takes time, better end product
- People are busy, plan ahead
- Be prepared to “unlearn” some things, so you can think differently
- “become an expert at not always being the expert” = sharing power (Jennifer Blatz, StriveTogether)

# Be Prepared and Plan to Let Things Happen

- No idea in 2010 where this would end up
- If I would have predicted and planned it all, it would have been wrong
- Good Research
  - + Tribal Relationships
  - + Keep Showing Up
  - + Keep Listening and Collaborating
  - = Let Good Things Happen

# Learn More

- <https://www.ohiohistory.org/learn/american-indian-relations>
- <https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/resources/American-Indian-Removal-What-Does-It-Mean-Remove-People.cshtml>
- <http://teachmyaamiahistory.org/>
- <https://www.wyandotte-nation.org/culture/history/>

# Contact Info

- Fort Recovery State Museum – [www.fortrecoverymuseum.com](http://www.fortrecoverymuseum.com) or Facebook
- Christine Thompson – ckkeller2@bsu.edu

# Acknowledgements

- National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)
- National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP)
- Ohio History Fund & Ohio Humanities Council
- Ball State University Immersive Learning, ASPIRE, ADVANCE grants
- Ohio History Connection & Ohio State Historic Preservation Office
- Myaamia Center
- Fort Recovery Historical Society & State Museum
- Village Administrators, Community & Landowners



Eastern Shawnee Tribe  
of Oklahoma



Delaware Nation



kiiloona myaamiaki

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma



National Park Service



# American Battlefield Protection Program

Cultural Resources  
National Park Service



## History Fund

A competitive matching grants program supporting local history in Ohio.



*Fort Recovery Historical Society*



BALL STATE  
UNIVERSITY