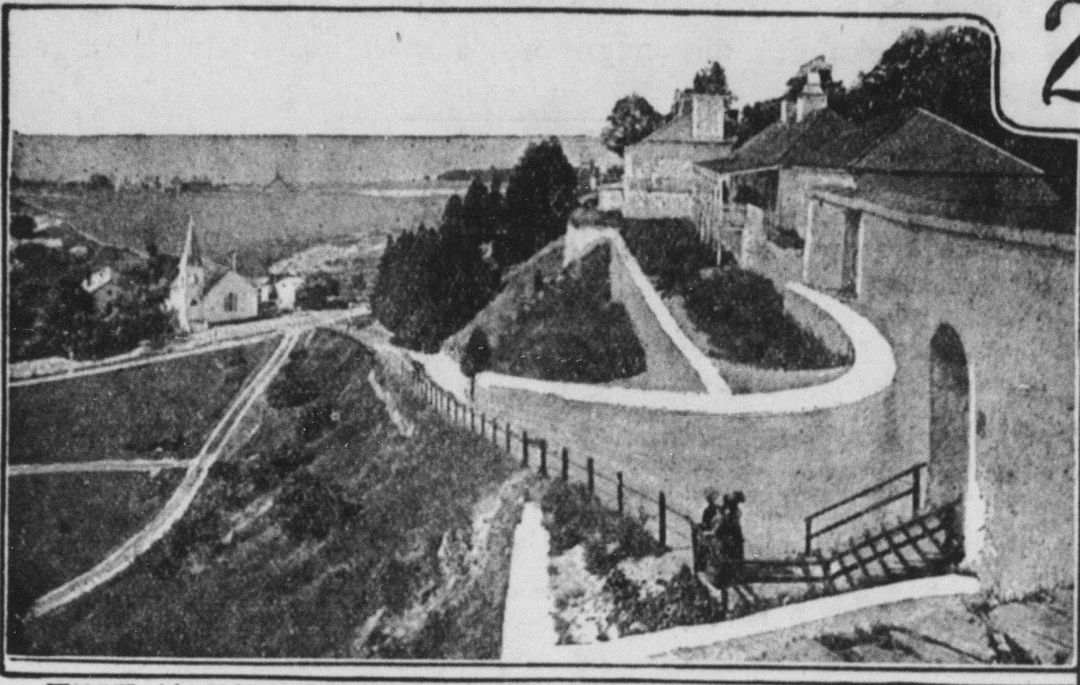
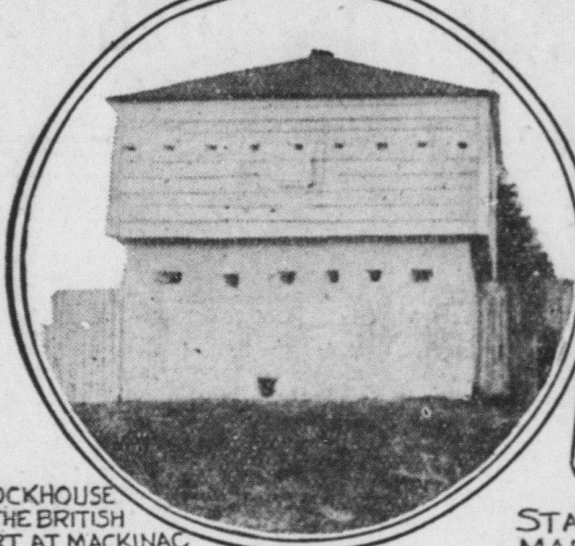


The Ball Game that Cost 22 Lives



FORT MACKINAC



BLOCKHOUSE OF THE BRITISH FORT AT MACKINAC



STATUE OF MARQUETTE AT MACKINAC



PONTIAC (taken from only original painting known)



INDIAN BALL PLAYER (after Catlin)

DURING the past month there was played in Chicago a baseball game which attracted widespread attention throughout the nation. Played by all-star teams from the two major leagues, it was hailed as "the game of the century." At about the same time there was played in northern Michigan another ball game which did not attract nearly so much attention even though it recalled for a brief moment one of the most thrilling and spectacular events in American history.

This was the re-enactment of the Indian ball game played outside the walls of Fort Michilimackinac on June 4, 1763, a ball game which ended in a swift tragedy that cost the lives of more than a score of white men. The occasion for the re-enactment of this game was the dedication by Governor Comstock of Michigan of a replica of the little palisaded fort that once stood on the present site of Mackinaw City, the forerunner of later forts in the Mackinac region over which, during the three centuries of its history, have flown the flags of three nations.

The tragedy which took place at Fort Michilimackinac 170 years ago was one of the events in the larger drama of the conspiracy of Pontiac, the famous chief of the Ottawa Indians, to "drive the hated English into the sea." Pontiac's plan was a simultaneous uprising of the confederated tribes, the swift capture of all the forts in the West, the massacre of their garrisons and a general attack on the frontier settlements, and he all but succeeded in his ambitious plan.

Because of its location on the south side of the Straits of Mackinac between Lake Huron and Lake Michigan, Michilimackinac for more than a century had been one of the most important outposts of the frontier. Connected with its early history are the names of Jean Nicolet, Radisson, Groselliers, Joliet, Perot, La Salle, Father Allouez and Father Marquette, who founded the Mission of St. Ignace nearby in 1671. Two years later it was selected by the French as the site for a fort and from that time until 1759, when France lost her empire in America to England, the flag of France floated over a fortress of one kind or another at Michilimackinac. In 1763 it was garrisoned by some 35 British officers and soldiers under the command of Capt. George Ethrington. Grouped around the little fort were the homes of a number of French and English traders and it was some of the former who first gave the commander a hint of the tempest that was brewing among the Indians.

But Ethrington disregarded their warnings, even going so far as to threaten to send as a prisoner to Detroit the next person who should disturb the inhabitants of the place with such evil tidings. The final warning, and one which he should have heeded even if he had disregarded the others, came from Alexander Henry, an English trader, who had been adopted as a "son, brother and friend" by Wawatam, a Chippewa chief.

Henry, one of the survivors of the massacre, has left us an interesting account of the events leading up to the tragedy and of the massacre itself, of which he was an eye-witness. It follows, in part:

"On the second of June Wawatam came to my house in a temper of mind visibly melancholy and thoughtful. He told me that he had just returned from his wintering-ground and I asked after his health; but without answering my question he went on to say that he was very sorry to find me returned from the Sault; that he had intended to go to that place himself, immediately after his arrival at Michilimackinac; and that he wished me to go there along with him and his family the next morning.

"To all this he joined an inquiry whether or not the commandant had heard bad news, adding that during the winter he had himself been disturbed with the noise of evil birds; and further suggesting that there were numerous Indians near the fort, many of whom had never shown themselves within it. Wawatam was about forty-five years of age, of an excellent character among his nation, and a chief.

"Referring much of what I heard to the peculiarities of the Indian character, I did not pay all the attention which they will be found to have deserved to the entreaties and remarks of

my visitor. I answered that I could not think of going to the Sault so soon after the arrival of my clerks. Finding himself unable to prevail with me, he withdrew for that day; but early the next morning he came again, bringing with him his wife and a present of dried meat. At this interview, after stating that he had several packs of beaver, for which he intended to deal with me, he expressed a second time his apprehensions from the numerous Indians who were around the fort, and earnestly pressed me to consent to an immediate departure for the Sault.

"As a reason for this particular request, he assured me that all the Indians proposed to come in a body that day to the fort to demand liquor of the commandant, and that he wished me to be gone before they should grow intoxicated. I had made, at the period to which I am now referring, so much progress in the language in which Wawatam addressed me, as to be able to hold an ordinary conversation in the language in it; but the Indian manner of speech is so extravagantly figurative that it is only for a very perfect master to follow and comprehend it entirely. Had I been further advanced in this respect, I think I should have gathered so much information from this, my friendly monitor, as would have put me into possession of the designs of the enemy, and enabled me to save others as well as myself; as it was, it unfortunately happened that I turned a deaf ear to everything, leaving Wawatam and his wife, after long and patient, but ineffectual efforts, to depart alone, with dejected countenance, and not before they had each let fall some tears.

"The next day, being the fourth of June, was the king's birthday. The morning was sultry. A Chippewa came to tell me that his nation was going to play at baggaway, with the Sacs, another Indian nation, for a high wager. He invited me to witness the sport, adding that the commandant was to be there, and would be on the side of the Chippewas. In consequence of this information, I went to the commandant, and expostulated with him a little, representing that the Indians might possibly have some sinister end in view; but the commandant only smiled at my suspicions.

"The game of baggaway which the Indians played upon that memorable occasion is the most exciting sport in which the red man could engage. It was played with bat and ball. The bat, so-called, was about four feet in length and an inch in diameter. It was made of the toughest material that could be found. At one end it was curved, and terminated in a sort of racket, or perhaps more properly a ring, in which a network of cord was loosely woven. The players were not allowed to touch the ball with the hand, but caught it in this network at the end of the bat. At either end of the ground a tall post was planted. These posts marked the station of the rival parties, and were sometimes a mile apart. The object of each party was to defend its own post and carry the ball to that of the adversary.

"At the beginning of the game the main body of the players assembled halfway between the two posts. Every eye sparkled and every cheek is already aglow with excitement. The ball is tossed high into the air, and a general struggle ensues to secure it as it descends. He who succeeds starts for the goal of the adversary holding it high above his head. The opposite party, with merry yells, are swift to pursue. His course is intercepted, and rather than see the ball taken from him, he throws it, as the boy throws the stone from the sling, as far toward the goal of the adversary as he can. An adversary in the game catches it, and sends it whizzing back in the opposite direction. Hither and thither it goes; now far to the right, now as far to the left; now near to the one, now as near to the other goal; the whole band crowding continually after it in the wildest confusion, until finally, some agile figure, more fleet of foot than the others, succeeds in bearing it to the goal of the opposite party.

"In the heat of the contest, when all are running at their greatest speed, if one stumbles and falls, fifty or a hundred, who are in close pursuit and unable to stop, pile over him, forming a mound of human bodies, and frequently players are so bruised as to be unable to proceed in the game.

"This game, with its attendant noise and violence, was well calculated to divert the attention of officers and men and thus permit the Indians

to take possession of the fort. To make their success more certain, they prevailed upon as many as they could to come out of the fort, while at the same time their squaws, wrapped in blankets, beneath which they had concealed murderous weapons, were placed inside the enclosure. The plot was so ingeniously laid that no one suspected danger. The discipline of the garrison was relaxed and the soldiers permitted to stroll about and view the sport without weapons of defense. And even when the ball, as if by chance, was lifted high in the air, to descend inside the pickets, and was followed by four hundred savages, all eager, all struggling, all shouting in the unrestrained pursuit of a rude, athletic exercise, no alarm was felt until the shrill war-whoop told the startled garrison that the slaughter had actually begun.

"I did not go myself to see the match which was now to be played without the fort, because, there being a canoe prepared to depart on the following day for Montreal, I employed myself in writing letters to my friends; and even when a fellow trader, Mr. Tracy, happened to call upon me, saying that another canoe had just arrived from Detroit, and proposing that I should go with him to the beach to inquire the news, it so happened that I still remained to finish my letters, promising to follow Mr. Tracy in the course of a few minutes. Mr. Tracy had not gone more than 20 paces from my door when I heard an Indian war-cry and the noise of general confusion. Going instantly to my window, I saw a crowd of Indians within the fort, furiously cutting down and scalping every Englishman they found. In particular I witnessed the fate of Lieutenant Jamette.

"I had, in the room in which I was, a fowling piece, loaded with swan shot. This I immediately seized and held it for a few minutes, waiting to hear the drum beat to arms. In this dreadful interval I saw several of my countrymen fall and more than one struggling between the knees of an Indian who, holding him in this manner, scalped him while yet living.

Henry saved himself from the massacre by hiding in the home of a French trader but he was later captured and eventually was ransomed by his friend, Wawatam. Of the garrison Lieutenant Jamette, 15 soldiers and the trader, Tracy, were killed inside the fort. Captain Ethrington, Lieutenant Leslie and 11 soldiers were taken prisoners, 5 of whom were later killed. A few days after the massacre a party of Ottawas arrived at Michilimackinac. They were furious at the Chippewas for making the attack without consulting them. So they took English captives away from the Chippewas and carried them to L'Arbre Croche where they were kept as prisoners until the end of the war when they were released or ransomed at Montreal.

During the Revolution Michilimackinac was one of the most important British posts in the West and in 1780 Major Sinclair, commandant of the post, transferred part of his troops to Mackinac Island where a new fort was built with blockhouses at the corners to protect the palisaded walls. By the treaty of 1783 which ended the Revolution Mackinac became an American post and the Stars and Stripes became the third national flag to fly over it. In 1796 the first American troops under Maj. Henry Burbeck occupied the post but early in the War of 1812 it was captured by the British who held it until the close of the war. On July 18, 1815, Colonel Butler of the United States army took formal possession of the fort and from that time until 1805, a period of 80 years, when the government abandoned it, Fort Mackinac was an American army post. It is now a Michigan state park.

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Current Wit and Humor

INNOCENCE
The enthusiastic angler was relating a fishing story to some of his neighbors.
"Yes," he said proudly, "I caught the biggest fish of my career last night. It was a bass, and what a whopper, too. Do you know, fellows, believe it or believe it not, that fish weighed about seven pounds. Some fish, what?"
His son, who had remained interested throughout the story, now spoke up.
"Yes, and do you know, daddy was so kind, he gave it to my little kitten," he said.

Dust and All
Kumme—Is your wife saving?
Backe—Very—when she sees any loose tobacco under my writing table she sweeps it up carefully in a dustpan and puts it back in the tobacco jar.—Brooklyn Daily Eagle.

It's the Rule!
Chief—Smoking in the office?
Clerk—It is a pencil, not a cigar, sir.
Chief—Pencil or not, no smoking in the office.—Venice Gazzettino Illustrato.

Slow Worker
Jean—What sort of a chap is Fred?
Jill—Well, when we were together last night the lights went out, and he spent the rest of the evening repairing the switch.

He Should Talk
"Sorry, but I can't pay my losses."
"You're a fraud, sir, to play without money—how am I going to pay for my drinks?"—Berlin Berliner Illustrierte.

Even Exchange
Mother (to six-year-old smoking cigar)—Harold, what on earth—
Harold—That's all right, mother; father is playing with my train.

Holding Out
"Does your new boy friend know your age?"
"Well, part of it."—Smith's Weekly.

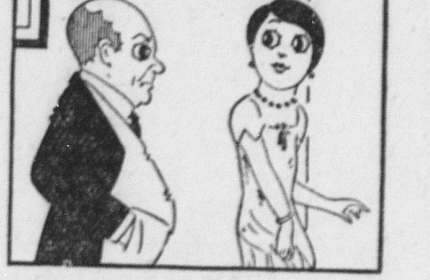
ALL SETTLED

The young man who had been calling so frequently on Helen came at last to see her father. Finally the suitor made this announcement: "It's a mere formality, I know, but we thought it would be pleasing to you if it were observed in the usual way."
Helen's father stiffened.
"And may I inquire," he asked, "who suggested that asking my consent to Helen's marriage was a mere formality?"
"Yes," replied the young man. "It was Helen's mother."—London Tit-Bits.

Something in Common
"Darling, I could not afford that antique jewelry for you, but I bought you a car."
"That is sweet of you, but it is not the same thing."
"Well, it is old, anyway."

WHY, OF COURSE!
Dad—I don't see why you have accounts in so many stores.
Daughter—Because, you see, dad, it makes the bills so much smaller.

All Explained
"We get salt from the sea!"
"And pepper, dad?"
"Certainly."
"And oil?"
"No, we get oil from sardine tins."—Florence II 420.



Observer
"Have you seen the cashier this morning?"
"Yes, sir. He came in without a moustache and borrowed the railway timetable."—London Everybody's Weekly.

Bad News Keeps
Client—Have you told the gentleman that I am musical? That I play five instruments?
Matrimonial Agent—No, I am breaking it gently to him.—Munich Fliegende Blaetter.

Writer
"You say you earn money with the pen?"
"Yes, I write my uncle every week for a check."

CROSSWORD "TEASER"

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| Horizontal. | Vertical. |
| 1—A large bird | 1—A preposition |
| 2—Used for smoking | 2—A numeral |
| 3—Not many | 3—To tease |
| 4—Lubricated | 4—To make a noise like a dove |
| 5—Used in boating | 5—One who employs |
| 6—Winner | 6—Trials |
| 7—Part of the area of a circle | 7—Common name of a fur-bearing animal |
| 8—Circles | 8—The load of a ship |
| 9—One of the articles | 9—Otherwise |
| 10—Dejected | 10—To grant |
| 11—An exclamation | 11—Large woody plants |
| 12—A wriggly inhabitant of the sea | 12—Island near Greece |
| 13—Devoiced | 13—Movement of the ocean |
| 14—Recent | 14—Power of attraction |
| 15—Instrument used by doctors | 15—Keenest |
| 16—Fear | 16—Man's name |
| 17—A titled personage | 17—Organ of the body |
| 18—Part of a ship | 18—Distorted |
| 19—Maker | 19—Regret |
| 20—A South American snake | 20—Part of a circle |
| 21—Existed | 21—To court |
| 22—A tool | 22—A traveling star |
| 23—A foreign ruler | 23—To knock |
| 24—A small, sharp bit of metal | 24—To be in debt |
| 25—A popular modern invention | 25—Like |
| 26—One who examines ore | 26—A visitor |
| 27—Put together | 27—Small |
| | 28—A popular modern invention |
| | 29—One who examines ore |
| | 30—Put together |
| | 31—A parent |
| | 32—Myself |