



05.1989.1 Godfroy Reserve
Blackford County
Marker Text Review Report
7/27/2011

Marker Text

Reserved by U.S. to Chief Francois Godfroy of the Miami Nation of Indians by treaty at St. Mary's, Ohio, 6 October 1818, 3,840 acres on Salamonie River at La Petite Prairie, Harrison Township, Blackford County; reserve lands sold 1827, 1836.

Report

With the exception of one date, the marker text for the Godfroy Reserve is correct. Indian treaties, maps, and the John Tipton Papers verified that Godfroy was a leader of the Miami Nation of Indians; in the Treaty of St. Mary's, the U.S. granted Godfroy six sections of land along the Salamonie River at La Petite Prairie; La Petite Prairie was located in Harrison Township, Blackford County; and he sold his reserve lands in 1827.¹ According to the *National Atlas of the United States*, a section in a township is 640 acres and that number multiplied by six equals 3,840 acres.²

According to Charles Kappler's *Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties* (1903), the U.S. had treaties with the Miami Nation in 1818, 1826, 1834, and 1838.³ After the 1826 treaty, Indian Agent John Tipton recorded an "Abstract of Lands Purchased of Indians, 1827," which included two sections of land on the Sallamanna/[Salamonie] River in Indiana from Francis Godfroy on June 15, 1827.⁴ Further research into the John Tipton Papers and Indian treaties do not record the 1836 purchase date; therefore, a look into the Blackford County land and deed records would be the next step to verify if such purchase occurred.

The "Map of Blackford County" in the *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Indiana* (1876), indicates that the six sections in the Godfroy Reserve is located at an diagonal angle, protruding into Jay County.⁵ The marker text lacks acknowledgement of this fact.

¹ For reference to Godfroy as leader of the Miami, see Charles J. Kappler, ed., *Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties* Vol. 2, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1903), 384-386; Nellie Armstrong Robertson and Dorothy Riker, eds., *The John Tipton Papers*, 3 vols. (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau, 1942), II:446; for reference to Kappler, *Indian Affairs*, 119-121; for reference to La Petite Prairie in Harrison Township, see "Map of Blackford County, Indiana," *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Indiana* (Chicago: Baskin, Forster and Co., 1876), Maps in the Indiana Historical Society



05.1989.1 Godfroy Reserve
Blackford County
Marker Text Review Report
7/27/2011

Collections, Indiana Historical Society. (accessed online at <http://images.indianahistory.org>); and for reference to the purchase of his reserve lands in 1827, see Robertson and Riker, eds., *The John Tipton Papers*, I: 826.

² "The Public Land Survey System (PLSS)," *National Atlas of the United States and The National Atlas of the United States of America*, U.S. Department of the Interior, 2011.

(Accessed online 26 July 2011 at http://nationalatlas.gov/articles/boundaries/a_plss.html); and Stewart Rafert, *The Miami Indians of Indiana: A Persistent People, 1654-1994*, (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society Press, 1996), 80-82.

³ Kappler, *Indian Affairs*, 119-121, 199-201, 315-317, 384-386.

⁴ Robertson and Riker, eds., *The John Tipton Papers*, I: 826.

⁵ "Map of Blackford County, Indiana," *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Indiana* (Chicago: Baskin, Forster and Co., 1876), Maps in the IHS Collections.