

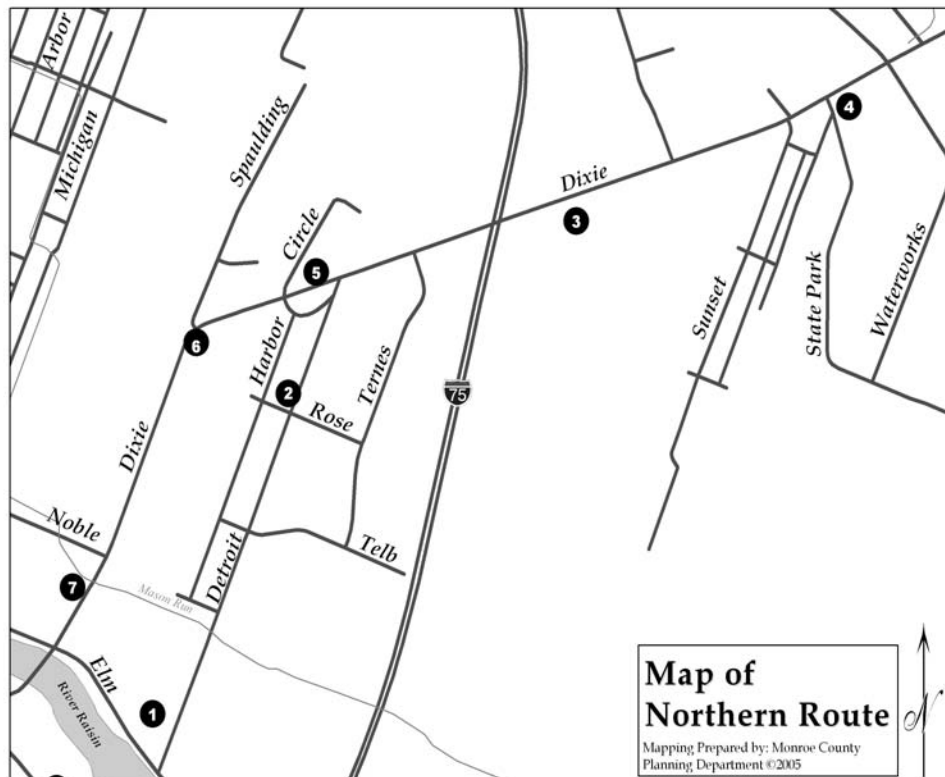
# RIVER RAISIN BATTLEFIELD DRIVING TOURS



RIVER RAISIN BATTLEFIELD VISITOR CENTER (#1 on Map)

Described here are 3 basic driving tours covering sites related to the Battle of the River Raisin, starting from the parking lot at the River Raisin Battlefield Visitor Center, located at 1403 E. Elm Avenue, just a quarter mile west of I-75 at Exit 14 in Monroe, Michigan.

Visitors should first view the exhibits and watch the 15-minute fiber-optic map presentation inside the Visitor Center, which gives an overview of the Battle of the River Raisin. Outside on the grounds, there is a historic walking trail with maps, historic markers, and a replica cannon.



## NORTHERN TOUR

Your starting point, the Visitor Center parking lot, is near the approximate location of the camp of the 17<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry. (See #1 on the map.) This position was the weak link in the disposition of the American army on January 22, 1813. It exposed Winchester's most disciplined unit to surprise attack away from the immediate support of the rest of his troops.

To leave the parking lot, follow the curving driveway and exit left onto Detroit Avenue. We will be heading north towards Sandy Creek, the site of a small settlement that figured in the fighting which took place on January 18, 1813. The 2.6-mile trip out to Sandy Creek normally takes about 6 minutes of actual driving time.

For the first quarter mile of this journey, you are crossing the eastern edge of the historic battlefield, where fighting occurred on both January 18 and January 22, 1813.

To your left would have been open fields, farm fencing, and some out buildings, such as barns and storage sheds. The main line of the U.S. 17<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was formed on the south edge of this field on January 22, 1813. The British approach route was from the tree line along Mason Run to the north.

To your right was a swampy wooded area through which mounted Indians moved to outflank the 17<sup>th</sup> Infantry and force them to retreat across the river. This was one of the key maneuvers of the January 22 battle, resulting in the destruction of the right wing of General Winchester's American army.

As we proceed along Detroit Avenue, we will be passing through Monroe's light industrial park. In 1813, this would have terminated in a forested area where the running battle took place during the afternoon and evening of January 18. On that date, Colonel Lewis led 600 Kentuckians and about a hundred French Town citizens against a few hundred British, Canadians, and Indians under Essex Militia Major Ebenezer Reynolds.

Reynolds conducted a fighting retreat out of the village, across the fields and into the woods. Imagine the fight continuing from tree to tree until darkness eventually ended the action. As the Kentuckians rushed forward, Indians would fire and then run off to another sheltered position to reload.

As you cross the railroad tracks and approach North Dixie Highway, you will notice some Darinton houses (#2 on map) on the left side of the street. These were built to house defense workers during WWII.

Proceed eastward on North Dixie through several sets of traffic lights as you cross over I-75. Once past these lights, you will see the Raisin River Golf Course on your right. The sign there marks the Old Hull Road. (#3) You are basically travelling on it right now, although the name has been changed to North Dixie.

In fact, in 1813, this was not just the main road to Detroit, but the only road. Surveyors laid it out just before the War of 1812. As soon as the war started, local volunteers under the leadership of Captain Hubert Lacroix cut trees along the route and laid them crossways in swampy areas so that General Hull could transport his American army to Detroit.

Continuing past the golf course, you are now well on your way to Sandy Creek, a small settlement about 2 miles north of the battlefield, where a tragic incident took place on the night of January 18, 1813. Watch for Sterling State Park on your right. (#4) Sterling State Park offers a sandy beach, boat launch, and nature trails. There is an entry fee. If you choose to enter the park, you can find the marker for Sandy Creek at the boat launch site.

Another resident of Sandy Creek, Francois Gandon, told of the destruction in an affidavit written after the war. He said that his house and even his fruit trees had been destroyed. In the ruins he found the charred skeletons of several Kentuckians who had been killed by the Indians. His wife was so horrified by the scene that she made him give up his land in exchange for a less valuable property further upstream.



SANDY CREEK – LA CRIQUE AU SABLE (# 4)

Returning to Dixie Highway, the road passes north over Sandy, Stony, and Swan Creeks, where events took place during the British approach march and the later retreat of the British and Indians with their prisoners from French Town. The sites are not currently marked, however, so the general traveler should now head back southwest on North Dixie Highway, returning towards downtown Monroe. This is the route the British forces took from Stony Creek, where they had camped the night before the Battle of January 22, 1813. Their route took them past Sandy Creek all the way down to Mason Run, from where they launched their attack on Winchester's army of Kentuckians.

After you proceed back through the series of hotels, restaurants, and traffic lights on either side of I-75, you will notice a park on your right, where you will see a large "Welcome to Monroe" sign. (#5) This is Heck Park, named after one of Monroe's first casualties of the Vietnam War. Here is Monroe's memorial to those who served in the Vietnam War, including a memorial wall and two vintage helicopters.

In addition, the park contains two signs related to the War of 1812. One sign, next to the parking lot, gives a comparison of the numbers of soldiers killed in the War of 1812, along with the casualties of America's other wars. The other sign, which is near the highway underpass, talks about the British victory at the Battle of the River Raisin. This will be a good opportunity for you to stop, get out of the car, and take a short walk to read the signs.

When you're ready, leave the park and turned right onto Dixie, go about a mile to the Monroe City Ice Arena. You should get there in a couple of minutes, unless you stop at the Carter Lumber Company parking lot to visit the historical marker there. (#6) The marker is entitled "*The Murder of Captain Hart.*"

Take Dixie on southward and turn right into the parking lot of the Monroe Multi-Sports Complex & Ice Arena. (#7) In 1813, this property belonged to Godfroy and Beaugrand. They were merchants, fur traders, and land speculators with holdings along the Huron, Raisin, and Maumee Rivers.

On this property, south of the parking lot and down towards the river, were a barn, stable, dwelling house, and a storehouse, all surrounded by a fence of boards laid between 2 rows of upright posts. Godfroy's storehouse was used by the American army to keep their salt and other supplies.

This property sheltered the left flank of General Winchester's forces, namely elements of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Kentucky Volunteer Infantry Regiments under the commands of Majors Graves and Madison. These troops were able to hold their own against the British assaults which came across this very lot from the north. They were unable, however, to keep Indians from sweeping around their left flank and infiltrating the army's rear areas across the River Raisin.

This portion of French Town was occupied by troops of the 1<sup>st</sup> Kentucky Volunteer Infantry and the 1<sup>st</sup> Kentucky Rifle Regiment under Major Garrard and Colonel Allen. Further east, beyond the protection of French Town's fences were Colonel Well's battalion of regular infantry, mostly from the 17<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment, under the temporary command of Major McClenahan. Since General Winchester was headquartered at Francois Navarre's house on the other side of the river about ¾ of a mile away, Colonel Lewis was in immediate command of the troops.

Turning to look north across the present parking lot, we can see a small stream crossed by a bridge. This is what's left of Mason Run, which is thought to be the 4 ½ foot deep hollow marked on

British battle maps, about 150 yards north of the American position on the northern fence line. The British launched their predawn assault on January 22, from the other side of this stream.



MASON RUN – MILL CREEK (Stop # 7)

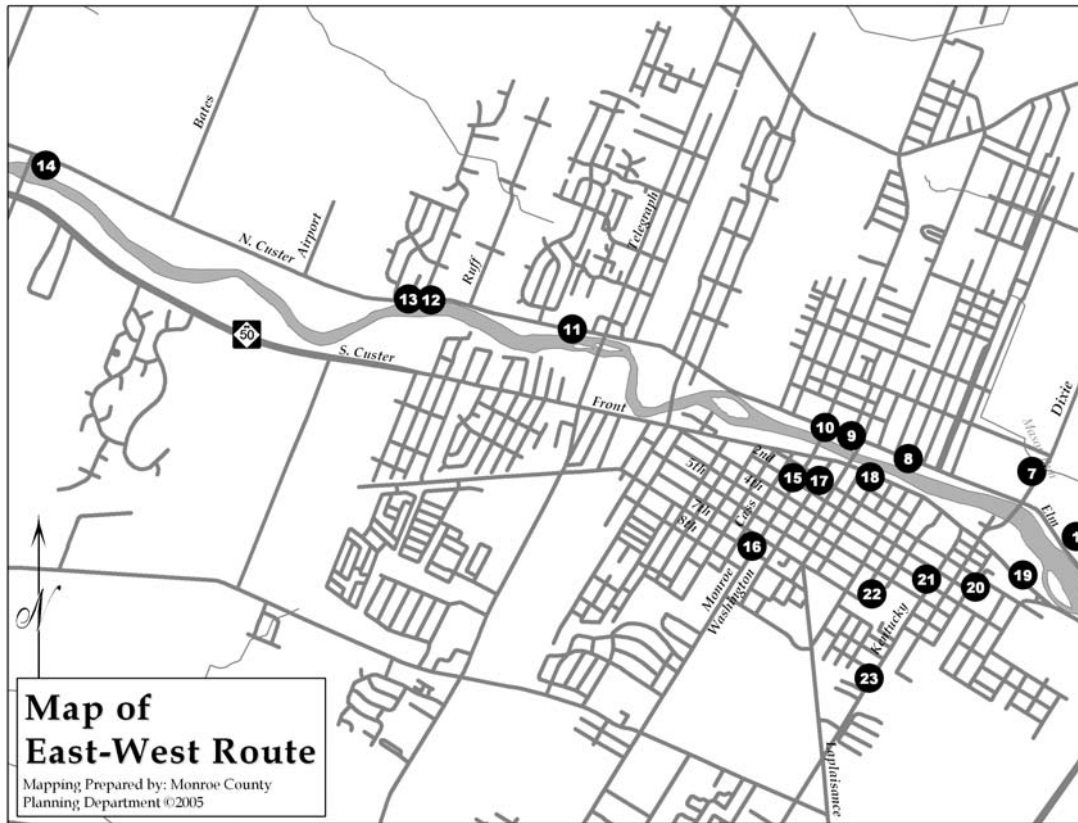
There was a barn situated just this side of the stream, which gave cover to some of the attacking British and Canadians. Kentucky volunteers successfully ran through a hail of bullets to burn the barn before it could be occupied by the enemy.



1904 BATTLEFIELD OBELISK – ON GODFROY & BEAUGRAND PROPERTY (Stop # 7)

If you walk across the stream to the northwest corner of Dixie Hwy and Noble Ave., you will find an historical marker describing "*The American Surrender.*" If you have time, you may also want to walk south to the bank of the River Raisin. On the corner of Dixie and Elm Avenue, you will find a stone obelisk erected in 1904 by Monroe's Civic Improvement Society.

Across Dixie Highway from the obelisk is currently an old factory building scheduled for demolition and removal for an expanded battlefield park. Along Elm Avenue in front of the building is a sign indicating the location of Jerome's house, which served as a hospital during and after the battle, and was the scene of the murder of some of the wounded Kentuckians.



### EAST-WEST TOUR

A good chunk of the history of Monroe County took place along the banks of the River Raisin. To begin this tour, you can proceed from the terminus of the Northern Tour (#7) or from the Battlefield Visitor Center parking lot (#1) and follow Elm Avenue westward for the next 10 to 12 minutes, covering about 7 miles to reach the Navarre-Anderson Trading Post.

On the corner of Elm & Dixie, you will see the obelisk monument and historical marker, which were described while we were in the ice arena parking lot (#7) at the end of the northern tour. This area was developed into *Rivière aux Raisins* Park in honor of our early settlers.

As you continue in a westerly direction, with the river on your left, you will be crossing French Town's western fence line. Just beyond, about the railroad tracks was Lenfant's property, which contained a mill. Local residents sniped at the British from this position until a shell from a British howitzer set the mill on fire. British artillery was also set up in this area to bombard the American militia in French Town.

The street we are following right now was originally named the River Road. The name was changed to reflect the rows of stately elm trees that grew up along both sides of the street. These trees are mostly gone now, however, due to the ravages of Dutch Elm disease.

At the time of the Battle of the River Raisin, this road was only a dirt track, impassable for any wagons larger than the 2-wheeled cart which the French called a charrette. Most of the Kentuckians captured at the battle were taken north along Hull's Road to Fort Malden and Detroit. Some of those taken by the Indians, however, were led west along this road. The narrow French ribbon farms stretched for miles along this trail, almost to the Macon Reservation, which had been established in 1807 for the Potawatomi near present-day Dundee.

Start looking off to your right for Riverview Avenue. (#8) On the corner is an historical marker for the "*Death of Captain Woolfolk.*" Woolfolk was General Winchester's secretary, and his death is often confused with that of Captain Hart.

Our next historical marker will be just past Lincoln Ave., next to the driveway for the Allore Funeral Home. This is the site of one of John Anderson's trading posts in 1813. It was here that his wife, Elizabeth Knaggs Anderson had a well-known confrontation with the Indians. Her husband John had left town after the Indians threatened to cut off his hands and cut out his tongue. His wife and children, however, stayed behind to mind the store. When Indians broke in, they found Mrs. Anderson sitting on a chest with her 3-year-old child on her lap. Unfazed by the threat of their upraised tomahawks, Mrs. Anderson defied the Indians' orders to move. Impressed by her bravery, the Indians left her unmolested. Unknown to them, inside the chest was the family fortune. Mrs. Anderson would later use the money to ransom Kentuckians who had been captured by the Indians at the River Raisin.

Once you make it through the traffic light at Elm and Macomb Streets, glance quickly to your left to see the white columns of the 1833 home of our nursery baron, James Ilgenfritz. Many homes in this area date to the early or mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

To your right, you will immediately notice another marker, on the corner of Tremont & Elm. (#9) This one is "*Tecumseh's Headquarters.*"

If you keep a sharp eye on the lawns of the homes to your right, you will notice a small rock with a plaque. This marks the original location of the Navarre-Anderson Trading Post, which you will be visiting at the far end of this tour.

The next traffic light marks the intersection of Elm Avenue and North Monroe Street. (#10) North Monroe was formerly named Anderson Street, in honor of Colonel John Anderson. There is an equestrian statue of General Custer on the southwest corner.

This intersection was the general location of the Wayne Stockade, which was burned early in 1812 after General Hull surrendered Michigan Territory to the British. It may also have been the site where the first American flag was raised on Michigan soil in 1796.

On the northwest corner is St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church. It is the descendant of the original church organized by the settlers in 1788 and called St. Antoine's. St. Antoine's was relocated here in the 1830's and renamed St. Mary's in 1845. In the 1840's, St. Mary's Academy was set up by the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Looking ahead, we will be traveling along this road for another 4 miles. After crossing under the Telegraph Road viaduct, the name of this street will change to North Custer Road. Before reaching that point, we will pass St. Mary's Academy, a traffic light and another set of railroad tracks. After going through the "underpass," we still have about 3 miles more to go before reaching our next stop. We are passing the Veterans Memorial Park where you will see monuments for the Korean War and World Wars I & II. They contain the names of Monroe County men who died in those wars. This park is a favorite for picnics. (#11)

West of the park, the River Raisin makes a scenic curve. (#12) To the right at the entrance to a modern subdivision will be a marker for the "*Deloeuil Blacksmith Shop.*"

Just beyond Frenchman's Bend subdivision, look for a small park with a stone cross. That is the site of our settlement's first church, *St-Antoine de la Rivière aux Raisins.* (#13) Behind the present cross was St. Antoine's Cemetery. It was here that Jean-Baptiste Solo and René LeBeau were buried after being killed by Indians at Sandy Creek on January 18. Other local settlers who became casualties of the Battle of the River Raisin were also buried there, although sometimes not until years later. Among these were Henry Chovin and Captain Jean-Baptiste Couture.

After St. Antoine's Church was relocated and renamed St. Mary's, this cemetery fell into disuse. Eventually, the graves were overgrown and disappeared. Decade followed decade for well over a century, and the cemetery was forgotten, except for some vague stories that the bodies had all been removed.

In 1999, however, the land was developed into a subdivision. As the land was graded, bones suddenly began to appear. Archaeologists and a dog trained to locate human remains were brought in. They were able to re-establish the boundaries of the early cemetery. Plans call for the area to be landscaped and preserved as a memorial park.



SITE OF ST-ANTOINE'S CHURCH & CEMETERY (# 13)

Although you may have passed it by now, keep an eye out for some old red barns to the west of the airport. These mark the old Custer farm where General Custer's horse, Dandy, is buried.

Up ahead, we'll soon be reaching the Navarre-Anderson Trading Post and Martha Barker Country Store. (#14) To find the trading post, look for a barn, a picket fence and some old-looking buildings on your left. Those buildings should look old, since they date from before the War of 1812. One of them is the 3<sup>rd</sup> oldest wooden structure still standing in the State of Michigan. Just past them is a brick building on the corner of North Custer and Raisinville Road. The brick building was built as a one-room school house. It was called Papermill School because it once served students whose families worked at the McDowell Papermill, once located across the river. When you get there, turn left into the parking lot next to the building and park. You will then be able to visit the older buildings as well.



NAVARRE-ANDERSON TRADING POST – ca. 1789 (# 14)

We hope you enjoy seeing the Navarre-Morris kitchen building which was reportedly used as a hospital during the War of 1812. The mysterious bullet holes in the side of the Trading Post, which was then occupied by Dr. Joseph Dazette, are another souvenir of that war.

From here, you can cross the River Raisin on the Raisinville Bridge and turn back eastward on M-50, and take it 5 miles back across Telergraph Road and all the way downtown to the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> and South Monroe Street. Turn right onto S. Monroe. You will be heading south, past the Monroe County Historical Museum on the corner of S. Monroe & 2<sup>nd</sup> St. (#15)

As we approach 7<sup>th</sup> Street, you will see on your right a large monument erected to the memory of the Kentuckians who died at the River Raisin. (#16)



MEMORIAL PLACE (# 16)

Turn right onto 7<sup>th</sup> Street and right again onto Cass. Take Cass 5 blocks down to 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and turn right, again passing the Monroe County Historical Museum (#15), which is well worth a stop. Count on a half hour or an hour for the visit.

Proceeding east on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, we pass straight through the intersection and head toward Washington Street. In the distance, you can see the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor bridge by which prisoners are brought from the county jail over the top of 2<sup>nd</sup> St. to the county courthouse.

You will soon be approaching the seat of government for all of Monroe County. Continue east on 2<sup>nd</sup> to Washington Street, where you should turn left onto northbound Washington Street. In the years just after the War of 1812, large numbers of settlers arrived from New York and New England. They brought the idea of laying out the new village of Monroe south of the River Raisin in a classic checkerboard pattern, numbering the east-west streets, and naming many of the north-south streets after early presidents and public figures.

Look for a place to pull over to your right and stop for a few moments at the end of this block, before entering the intersection of Washington and 1<sup>st</sup> Streets. (#17)

As we approach the historic intersection of Washington & 1<sup>st</sup>, you will see off to your left, a Presbyterian Church and the Dorsch Library. The library was once the home of a leading member of Monroe's 19<sup>th</sup> century German-American community. Active in the anti-slavery movement, local legends claim this house was a stop on the Underground Railroad and that a secret escape tunnel led from there to the nearby Presbyterian Church where General Custer married Elizabeth Bacon in 1864.

The courthouse square is also known as Loranger Square, after Joseph Loranger, the man who laid out most of the downtown on his property, and gave this portion over for public use. The present courthouse was built in 1880, after its predecessor was destroyed by fire.

On the corner in front of the courthouse sits a British 6-pounder cannon whose markings indicated it was cast during the reign of King George II. There are many local legends about how this cannon, weighing over 1200 lbs., came to Monroe.

According to one story, it had been abandoned by the British after the January 18, 1813, battle in which the American army drove the British and Indians out of French Town. Local settlers seized it, hid it in a barn, and brought it out in later years for public celebrations. At one of these celebrations, a premature discharge killed Joseph Steiner and tore off Christian Beck's right thumb.

Another theory claims it was abandoned by the British after the main battle on January 22. It had broken through the ice and sank when the British attempted to move it across the frozen River Raisin. Burdened with prisoners and believing General Harrison was about to launch a counterattack to avenge the American defeat at French Town, the British hurried off towards Fort Malden without trying to salvage the gun.

Yet another local legend insists that it came off one of the British ships that fought Commodore Perry's fleet at the Battle of Lake Erie in 1813. A Frenchman found it along the lakeshore south of Monroe and brought it into town.

A far more likely version, however, indicates the cannon was abandoned by the British at the end of the War of 1812 and was deposited in the State Arsenal. In the 1840's, a local militia unit, the Smith Guards, obtained it and later sold it to a foundry, which used it as a counterweight. The foundry eventually restored the cannon and gave it to the city. It was almost melted down during a World War II scrap drive.

You may now continue into the intersection, turning right onto 1<sup>st</sup> Street. You will pass the Detroit Edison building on your left and our city hall building on the right. This will bring you to the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> & Macomb. We will go on to the next intersection, before we make our next left turn.

As we continue straight across Macomb Street, you should prepare to turn left at the next intersection, at Scott Street. Both Macomb and Scott were heroes of the War of 1812. Macomb, being able to speak French, served as liaison officer between General Harrison at Fort Meigs and a loosely organized company of scouts made up of French Town refugees after the Battle of the River Raisin. When you reach Scott Street, you will need to turn left. Take Scott north to the river and turn right onto Front St. (Other streets named after War of 1812 leaders are Harrison, Cass, Hull, Winchester, & Monroe.)

After you make the right turn onto Front Street, look off to the right and you will notice a spacious lot with a large Victorian brick mansion just beyond the alleyway. (#18) There will be an historical marker and a rock with a small plaque in the front yard. This is "*A storied homestead. Here, Francis Navarre, built his home. His 500-acre farm, acquired by deed from the Potawatomies in 1785, afforded a center for the River Raisin colony... General Winchester made the Navarre house his headquarters before the disastrous Battle of the River Raisin in 1813, in which Winchester was taken prisoner.*

As you continue east on Front St., think back to those cold, pre-dawn hours of January 22, 1813, when General Winchester was awakened by Francis Navarre's son, Robert, yelling that the British were upon them. Unable to press through the confused throng army staff and household inhabitants, Winchester opened the window of his room and crawled out, just as Navarre brought up his best horse, which he kept saddled in the stable in case of a surprise attack. Leaving behind his watch and other valuables, as well as his heavy overcoat, Winchester mounted Navarre's horse and galloped off towards the sound of the guns.

Winchester rode along the trail on the south bank of the River Raisin, just as we are now. His nearest troops were on the other side of the river, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile away, where you can now see the railroad bridge in the distance. We are heading from here to the spot where the right wing of Winchester's army retreated crossed the River Raisin. To get there we will be crossing some railroad tracks, Winchester Street, and yet another set of tracks.

As you cross Winchester Street and climb over the hill and across the last railroad crossing, you will see a park off to your left. For 20 years this was the site of a large historical festival called Old French Town Days, which occupied these grounds as well as Sterling Island, which was connected to the mainland by a pedestrian bridge. Today, Hellenberg Park contains a ball diamond and a boat ramp. Go past the first few houses and turn left into the drive that leads into the parking lot for the public access boat ramp. (#19)

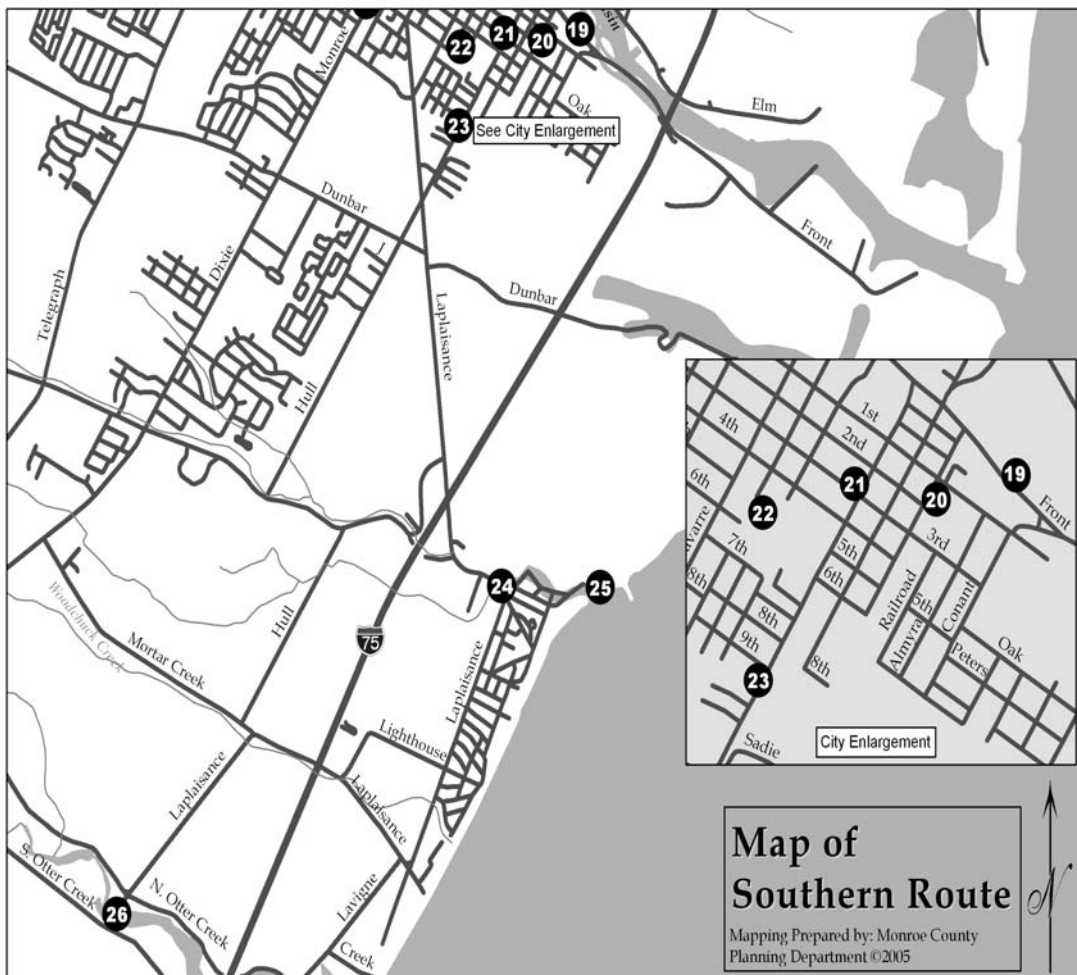


STERLING ISLE & HELLENBERG PARK ON THE RAISIN – LA RIVIERE AUX RAISINS (# 19)

When you get to the end of the lot, you'll see a marker at the approach to the footbridge. The marker talks about the "1<sup>st</sup> Battle of the River Raisin. Over this ground, Jan. 18, 1813, 667 Kentuckians and nearly 100 local Frenchmen charged across the frozen river toward the British and Indian positions. The 63 British and Canadian soldiers and 200 Potawatomi Indians made a brief stand there, then retreated with their cannon into a wooded area a mile to the north where the fighting raged for several hours...

Across this ground during the second battle, Jan. 22, the Indians closely pursued the retreating U.S. 17<sup>th</sup> Infantry and its reinforcements. They tried to reform on the south bank, but became disorganized among farm lot buildings and fence rows. Constantly out flanked by mounted Indians, they fled south along a narrow lane, being fired on from both sides."

While visiting this site, you may wish to leave the car and take a short walk over to Sterling Island. This general area housed the old city docks built by Commodore Sterling in 1835, after the government canal made the River Raisin accessible to large boat traffic. The current port facilities are located one mile east of here, where a turning basin was dug in 1932. Monroe is Michigan's only port on Lake Erie.



### SOUTHERN TOUR

As you leave Hellenberg Park, turn left and then take the first right. This will lead you to Front Street. Turn right again and cross the railroad tracks. At the next intersection, turn right onto 1<sup>st</sup> Street.

At the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> and Winchester, we will make a left turn. This will take us past the spot where Colonel Allen was killed. We will follow Winchester Street south for only one block before turning right

onto 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. The marker for the Death of Colonel Allen will be in a small park on your left, right at the corner where you are to turn onto 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. (#20)

As we reach 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, turn right and proceed west one block over the railroad tracks to Kentucky Avenue. We will turn left on Kentucky and head south just as the remnants of the fleeing Kentuckians did on that fateful day of January 22, 1813. Kentucky Avenue approximates the route of Hull's Road as it went south towards the Maumee River in what is today the state of Ohio. At the end of the block, on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, there is a rock memorial to Hull's Road and a marker designating the traditional spot where General Winchester was captured by the Indians. (#21)

My research indicates Winchester was captured much further south, so let's continue across 3<sup>rd</sup> St. and we'll follow the retreat southward along Kentucky Avenue, as the fleeing Kentuckians dispersed into smaller and smaller groups. At 4<sup>th</sup> St., we can make a right and head westward to Jerome St. Turn left at Jerome and proceed southward into Woodland Cemetery. (#22) The large hill in front of you was mentioned at the 1872 veterans reunion as a place where some of the retreating Kentuckians surrendered. Make a circular pass through the cemetery, where you may notice the Custer plot. General Custer's father was a militia veteran of 1812 and is buried here. Exit back out Jerome St., turn right, and retrace your path along 4<sup>th</sup> St. to Kentucky.

Turn right and continue south along Kentucky Avenue. As Kentucky passes over tiny Plum Creek, look down to the right to see a sign marking the site of an ambush which claimed the lives of a couple dozen soldiers. (#23)

At Kentucky and LaPlaisance Road, you can turn left. This will take you east on LaPlaisance to I-75. In 1813, this was the approach route initially taken by the Kentuckians as they advanced to the River Raisin from Lake Erie on January 18, 1813. To your left, was a small settlement along the Grande Coulee. Today, you will pass a series of railroad tracks, malls, fast food places, motels, and a golf course.

If you still have a bit of curiosity and would like to explore the area where the Kentuckians arrived after marching off the ice of frozen Lake Erie, stay on LaPlaisance Road past the I-75 entrance ramps.

Once beyond I-75, the road will curve to the left and then to the right. You will quickly come to a fork in the road next to a bar and a restaurant. At the yield sign, turn off to your left. As you do so, you will see a marker for the LaPlaisance Bay Settlement on the traffic island in front of a small café. (#24)

From here we will continue along North Lake Street as it makes a turn to the left and heads toward the final destination on this tour, the Hoffman Memorial Site. Once you go over the access ramp to the Hoffman Site, you will find a large parking lot, along with a breakwater that goes into Lake Erie. (#25)



KENTUCKY LANDFALL – LAPLAISANCE BAY (# 25)

A marker put up by the LaPlaisance Bay Chapter of the Daughters of the American Colonists claims that *"LaPlaisance Bay, or Pleasant Bay, was named in 1679 by Robert de la Salle."*

You can now retrace your path back to LaPlaisance Rd. and make a left turn to head south to Woodchuck Creek. My research indicates General Winchester, mounted on horseback, made it almost to this stream, although he was captured perhaps a mile west of this point. Continue over the creek and follow LaPlaisance as it curves westward. When it makes another sharp turn to the south, this is where I believe Winchester was taken. Just beyond are some trees, which mark the course of Woodchuck Creek itself.



WOODCHUCK CREEK (not numbered on Map)

Follow LaPlaisance Rd. south one more mile, and you will come to Knab Rd., which crosses Otter Creek. This was the farthest point that any of Winchester's men got before being cut off and overwhelmed by the Indians. (#26) You can take Knab Rd. across the creek and turn left onto South Otter Creek Road. A short distance further west will put you onto I-75.

We hope you have enjoyed your trip into Monroe's early 19<sup>th</sup> century history, and that you will come back to visit us again some time. Till we see you again, have a safe journey and a "bon voyage." .



OTTER CREEK – RIVIERE AU LOUTRE (#26)