

Battle of Monguagon

War of 1812

Historical Marker Restoration Project



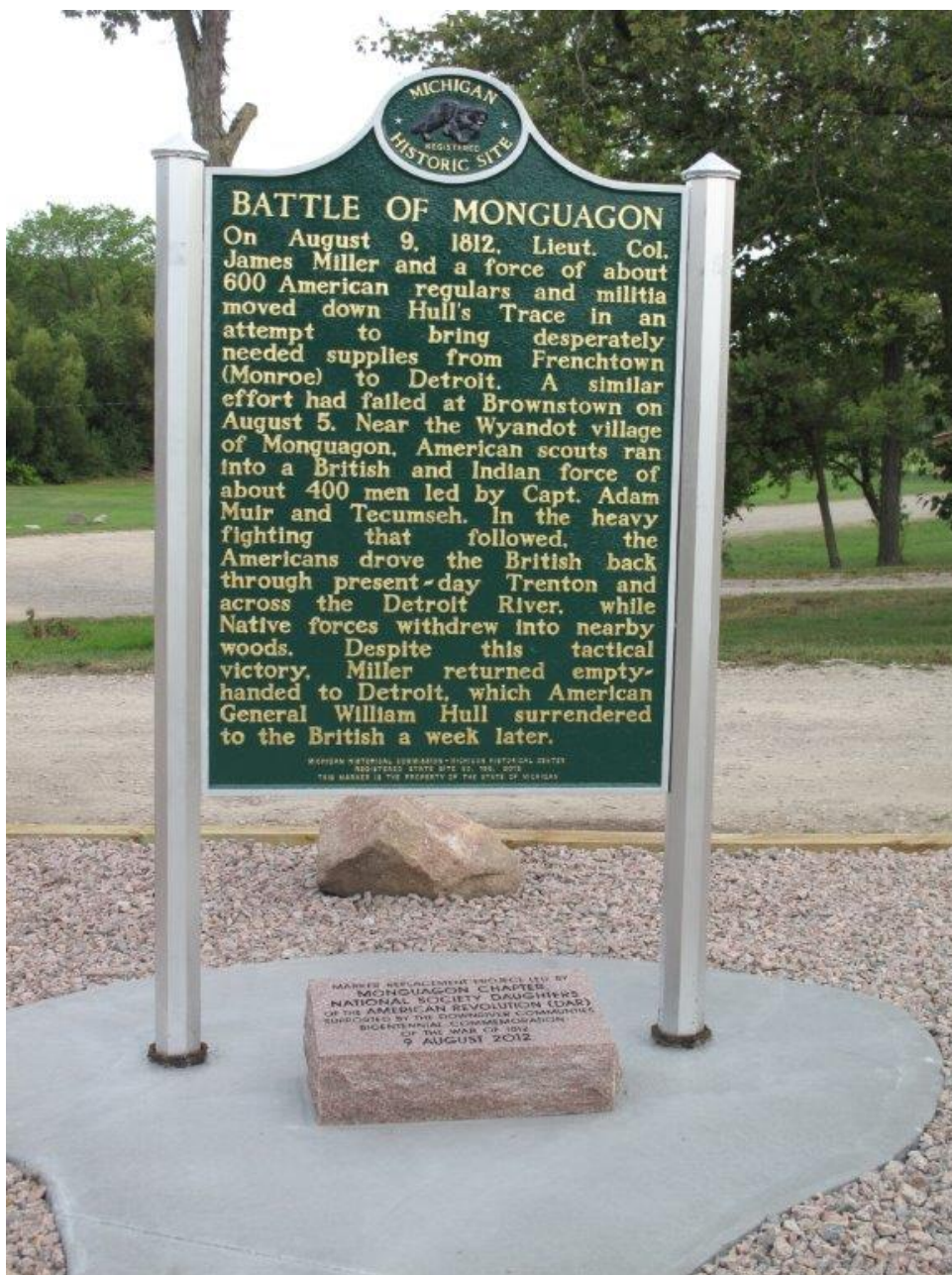
Erected in 1962 by the State of Michigan, the Battle of Monguagon historical marker is located in Trenton, Michigan on West Jefferson near the Grosse Ile free bridge and is historically significant to the entire downriver community as it commemorates the only battle won by American forces in Michigan during the War of 1812.

BATTLE OF MONGUAGON

On August 9, 1812, a force of about 600 American troops, regulars and militia, moved down the River Road in an attempt to reach Frenchtown (Monroe) and bring back supplies needed desperately by the Americans in Detroit. At a point that cannot now be exactly located, near the Indian village of Monguagon, American scouts ran into a British and Indian force of about 400, led by Capt. Adam Muir and Tecumseh, blocking the road south, Lieut. Col. James Miller quickly brought up his Americans and, in a running battle drove the enemy back through present-day Trenton until the British pulled back across the river into Canada. Losses were heavy. Ironically, this, the only battle won by the Americans in Michigan during the War of 1812, was followed a week later by Hull's surrender of Detroit.

DAR Project

As a chapter project, the Monguagon Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, took on the project of restoring this historical marker. On August 9, 2012, the Monguagon Chapter held a re-dedication ceremony on the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Monguagon. The beautiful new marker pictured below has inscriptions on both sides which correct some of the information in the old inscription above.



BATTLE OF MONGUAGON

On August 9, 1812, Lieut. Col. James Miller and a force of about 600 American regulars and militia moved down Hull's Trace in an attempt to bring desperately needed supplies from Frenchtown (Monroe) to Detroit. A similar effort had failed at Brownstown on August 5. Near the Wyandot village of Monguagon, American scouts ran into a British and Indian force of about 400 men led by Capt. Adam Muir and Tecumseh. In the heavy fighting that followed, the Americans drove the British back through present-day Trenton and across the Detroit River, while Native forces withdrew into nearby woods. Despite this tactical victory, Miller returned empty-handed to Detroit, which American General William Hull surrendered to the British a week later.

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Registered State Site No. 199, 2012

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MICHIGAN WYANDOTS AND MONGUAGON

The Michigan Wyandot who fought at Monguagon were neutral at the beginning of the War of 1812. In the years leading up to the war, their villages at Monguagon and Brownstown had not joined the loose coalition led by the Shawnee brothers Tenskwatawa (the Prophet) and Tecumseh in its fight against American expansion onto Indian lands. However, in early August 1812, Tecumseh and Roundhead, his leading Wyandot supporter, convinced the Michigan Wyandot and their head chief, Walk-in-the-Water, to join them and the British. The Anglo-Native alliance was repulsed, but the Wyandot villages continued to block Hull's Trace, the American's supply route from Ohio to Fort Detroit.

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MARKER REPLACEMENT PROJECT LED BY
MONGUAGON CHAPTER,
NATIONAL SOCIETY DAUGHTERS
OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (DAR)
SUPPORTED BY THE DOWNRIVER COMMUNITIES
BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION
OF THE WAR OF 1812
9 AUGUST 2012