

## MARINE SOUNDINGS

### The newsletter of the Provincial Marine of Amherstburg, Ontario A Re-enactment Group dedicated to helping Keep History Alive

SNB 1406-6506/AUGUST 2011



Bank issuing notes in place of gold hoarded by government to pay for war. (cartoon 1797)

### 1798-1816---not an easy time for Britain

The Income Tax was first implemented in Britain by William Pitt the Younger in his budget of December 1798 to pay for weapons and equipment in preparation for the Napoleonic Wars. Pitt's new graduated income tax began at a levy of 2 old pence in the pound (2/240 pence or .83 %) on incomes over £60 (£5,077 as of 2011), and increased up to a maximum of 2 shillings (2/20 shillings or 10%) on incomes of over £200. Pitt hoped that the new income tax would raise £10 million, but actual receipts for 1799 totalled just over £6 million. (From Wikipedia's article on Pitt's use of income tax) Pitt's income tax was levied from 1799 to 1802, when Henry Addington abolished it during the Peace of Amiens. Addington had taken over as prime minister in 1801, after Pitt's resignation over Catholic Emancipation. Addington

reintroduced the tax in 1803 when hostilities recommenced, but again abolished it in 1816, one year after the Battle of Waterloo.

The UK income tax was reintroduced by Sir Robert Peel in the Income Tax Act 1842. Peel, as a Conservative, had opposed income tax in the 1841 general election, but a growing budget deficit required a new source of funds. The new income tax, based on Addington's model, was imposed on incomes above £150 (£11,468 as of 2011).

**Observations: This income tax helped Britain fight the much larger France—with 24 million people, France had by far the largest population in Europe, even without considering the many countries annexed or subjugated. Fighting a war without an income tax would be like boxing with one hand tied behind your back. Just as firing twice as fast as the French allowed British 3<sup>rd</sup> rate ships to take on larger French vessels, so it helped the smaller country using income taxes as a source of income.**

#### *Inside This Newsletter:*

*P1-2 Strain on UK fighting Napoleon, Income Tax, Movement of people into slums, toll on way of life; the US has gone into default, but not recently.*

*Pp 3,4 Wayne Mickle's Improvements, Changes at the commissariat, This year's staff, Discussion of Stuart legacy*  
*Pp 5,6 Dr. Taylor's visit, Pride of Baltimore visit*  
*Pp7,8 The Rest of the story, Photo pages*

Compounding these problems were the many people displaced by the enclosure movement—landlords found it more profitable to evict tenants from their land or enclose lands available to tenants to grow extra crops called commons and allocated by the tenants themselves—these people, often rural people of different racial stock from the wealthy, drifted into the big town and cities looking for work. The conditions in the factories were deplorable, and for those doing piecework at home scarcely any better.

Between 1797 and 1821 Britain also entered a period known as the Restrictive Period whereby people were issued notes instead of gold coins. These coins were kept to pay the expenses of war. Bullion was coming into Britain from their trade with the former colonies of Spain and from smuggling goods into Europe, a practice Napoleon tried to stop. Now in 1821 Britain was finally at peace and paying down some of its enormous war debts. The decision was taken to allow once again the convertibility of notes for cash (Hard cash in those days meant bullion coins.) Now there were runs on some of the smaller banks. However, England and Scotland had proven that people could be made to accept paper currency for a long period of time provided that there should be convertibility eventually and provided the issuance was controlled. This example was the one that other nations sought to follow. British economists (called political economists at the time) provided the theory for a workable paper money,



**We celebrate the stupendous history of Ontario**

**bankrupt.** The bankruptcies were reflected in bank closings, not the federal government. When the American Civil War broke out both sides resorted to paper money. Both governments hoarded

bi-metal standard and the minting of large numbers of silver coins—to raise the value of silver or to keep it from falling below the traditional 16 to 1 ratio. Sixteen ounces of silver were traditionally worth one ounce of

and are still highly regarded at this time. One was David Ricardo and the other was Adam Smith—men whose work is regarded as the bible of Capitalism today.

The US experience with paper money was not so happy. One of the grievances of the thirteen colonies was the lack of hard cash. One of the first things they did was issue paper currency to finance the Revolutionary War under the authority of the Continental Congress. These “Continental” (see above) were obliged to be recognized as the same value as silver coinage from the Spanish colonies (Silver dollars or pieces of eight from Brazil). In fact being way over issued they were always discounted. Would Congress redeem them for full value or at the usual discounted value? In fact they were finally redeemed at a ruinous 40 paper dollars to one silver dollar—at 2 ½ cents, a 97 ½ % confiscation! So the US experienced its first terrible **default!** So the early experience with paper money had not been kind. The US Federal Government was in no hurry to repeat the experiment. Bank notes were, however, issued by private banks with beautiful engravings to reassure the public. So the War of 1812 was fought on the American side without the issuance of printed money by the Federal Government. It still went



A typical private bank issue of currency—the bank is promising to pay cash on demand—that is, gold!



The Confederate States issued paper and lots of it; even before they lost the war, the currency was heavily discounted. Afterwards it was valueless.



After the failure of the continentals, top left, the US government relied on silver and gold coins from various sources. Then in response to the Civil War, they issued their first paper dollars.(at left)

their gold to deal with foreigners. The North used a note known as the greenback and it was not convertible but beautifully engraved. The Civil War left the country horribly indebted and convertibility was not resumed **until 1873.** The Confederate notes of course became **valueless.** Incidentally the California Gold Rush added large amounts of gold to the coffers of the Federal Forces.

Incidentally there was a short period when the greenback party campaigned to keep paper money rather than reverting to the gold standard. There was also a huge amount of silver mined in the western states with a number of consequences: the US contemplated a

gold. The fall in value of silver meant a staggering blow to countries using silver as their bullion standard. On the other side of the world where the rupee was made of silver and it was India's currency, the economy was dealt a staggering blow—one from which it took a long time to recover. And this may partially account for the Indians love of gold bullion and almost pure **gold jewellery.**

# MARINE SOUNDINGS--THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PROVINCIAL MARINE

THE LEAD UP TO 2012

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To go to our newsletter directly use: [www.provincialmarine.org](http://www.provincialmarine.org) When the home page opens, then click on "newsletter"; the latest newsletters appear first. Just Googling "Provincial Marine" will bring you to over one hundred items.

## Commissariat Report

By Wayne Mickle and George Marshall

Since joining our group Wayne has made our little Commissariat his special project.

One of first projects was to add shelving in our little lockable storage locker. Now everything has its place and items are easily found. In addition he installed a large mirror so that people can see how costume items look. Things are so well organized that you can try them inside the locker. Next he turned his attention to the two display areas. Wayne has constructed all sorts of useful shelves, furniture legs and other devices to make use of every available space in the Commissariat. Each one, on its own, adds only a little additional room, but added together it makes



place look a lot less cluttered and more enjoyable to visit.

Our block and tackle set has been mounted on the wall in front of a west-facing window. It's no longer on the floor, and by taking the free end of the rope you



can test for yourself its remarkable ability to multiply your strength. Our summer staff understand why it works. It takes a few minutes of a visitor's time to

the learn about one of mankind's most useful tools. It was a device that made sailing ships possible and helped build cathedrals and churches.

Thanks to Wayne we have a laser printer to do our newsletter and our meeting agenda, and we plan to print our newsletter directly from computer to copier. The results should be a lot clearer.

Besides buying and donating the printer, Wayne built a secure and inconspicuous mount for it so that it and the filing cabinets on which it sits are located securely against the wall. The improvement most visible to the public is the installation of chandeliers which Wayne supervised. The florescent fixtures are replaced in the two public rooms by eight chandeliers. Three are controlled by one standard dimmer switch; the five in the main room and the entrance way required a larger special order dimmer switch. This Wayne ordered and installed on his own.

Of some concern to us is the deteriorating state of the exterior of our building; lack of flashings and crumbling window sills are responsible. Wayne documented the deterioration in photos so that officials at the fort could see the damage. Perhaps an annual check up by staff at the fort could have prevented the damage. Perhaps a little waterproof cement would have done the job. Now those cracks are visible fissures and damage is occurring inside as

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well. The plaster is breaking up



and becoming porous. At this point it looks like a major job. So thanks to Wayne for all his concern and work on the Commissariat.

**New Staff at the Commissariat**  
By *George Marshall*

Our two summer students were extensively interviewed this spring by Jennie Lajoie and Wayne Mickle with a view to get staff that would engage with the public rather than sitting around and waiting for questions. We wanted a staff who would improve themselves when they were not busy with the public. To that end we have CDs and books on various subjects. I've come in from time to time to see if we got what we were looking for.

Our two students are from university; Kayla Bondy, a 1<sup>st</sup>-year student, and Brynn Goegebeur, a 4<sup>th</sup>-year University of Windsor student. They show more maturity than high school students. They can share the dialogue; that is, one can pick up from the other during a visit. Kayla found out about the job prospect from her parents. Brynn is studying French language literature and culture and

finds it very interesting to talk to people about their history. It's a chance for both of them to talk to new people. People have a lot of misconceptions and sometimes these are important in history. Brynn gets a kick out of exploding some of these myths.

**Myths in Quebec and Scotland**



The visit of some Questors got some of us history buffs talking. We talked about Jacobites, and Scottish nationalists. I did some digging.

Myths are important in maintaining the nationalists in both Quebec and Scotland. You meet Scottish nationalists in re-enacting.

Some are astounded to learn some very basic facts. For example, James I is famous and revered for his King James Bible, Charles I is considered a martyr by many in the Church of England, and Queen Ann is remembered well for giving sanctuary to many people fleeing oppression of Europe. The biggest myth concerns the House of Stuart.

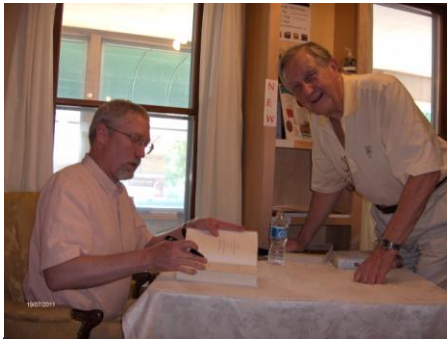
Now it is true that James II was driven from his throne, but it was not because he was a Stuart, but because he turned Catholic. England and Scotland had decided that they were Protestant with toleration for other religions—including Catholics. No longer would the whole country have to undergo a wrenching change because one person had a change of heart. The British Empire was worth a few masses. (To paraphrase what Protestant Henry said when he took Catholic France's throne and became Henri IV.) And it is true that there were more **Scots fighting against** Bonnie Prince Charlie in the battle of Culloden than for him. The Act of Settlement made it clear that the heirs of the throne were to

come from the grandchildren of Charles I and their descendants and so it is today. The house of Stuart is still on the throne, by the female line, it is true, but still all Stuarts! In the same way Quebec Nationalists use myths to keep their movement alive. The motto of Quebec is seen as menacing; that was not its intent. The author of the phrase, Taché, the architect responsible for the parliament buildings in Quebec, did not leave anything official to explain the carving; however, to his friend Siméon Lesage, he wrote on he wanted people to remember those responsible for what Quebec had become: Jacques Cartier, Samuel de Champlain, de Maisonneuve, Brébeuf, Frontenac, **Wolfe**, Montcalm, the native Canadians, and some of the early governors including some of the English governors General sympathetic to the French Canadians including **Murray, Dorchester, Prevost, Bagot and Lord Elgin**. His contemporaries understood what he meant.

Thomas Chapais, during the erection of a statue to the duc de Lévis, suggested that the phrase eloquently expressed in just three words the past and the future of the only French province in Canada. Elsewhere a poem expressed the idea that the flower was French but that it had bloomed under the English rose. In other words the colony had bloomed and prospered under the English crown and in Confederation.

Myths go on today because we lack the will to counter them. Say this! Canada became a confederation of separate provinces with sovereignty in their own areas to please Quebec. The Federal Government has not used its power of disallowance since the 1940s, seventy years ago. The repatriation of the constitution in 1980 was legal with the approval of 9 out of 10 provinces and the support of the Quebec MPs under a French Canadian PM from Quebec. The 2<sup>nd</sup> vote on sovereignty failed--by about 48 to 53 percent because 80,000 votes were illegally not counted. Not such a near thing as the nationalists would lead you to believe! Yet they would have you believe that if by chance they got a vote of 50% plus one they could have independence.

**MARINE SOUNDINGS** promotes the history of the Provincial Marine, most particularly in the War of 1812, and is available as part of the membership of the Provincial Marine. For members not on the web we mail their copies and send it to organizations at cost for \$ 6.00 CAD or US including postage and handling. MARINE SOUNDINGS/AUGUST 2011 p5



Dr. Taylor signed his book at the historic Anglican church in Amherstburg and at the bookstore  
**Page 233.**

The visits of Taylor and *The Pride of Baltimore* marked the beginning of Amherstburg's lead up to celebrating the Bi-centennial of the War of 1812. For Canada this war determined that we would not be absorbed into the US; for the United States it was almost a second revolution; for the British it was a lesson in diplomacy. The War is very poorly understood by Canadians and Americans alike. For the British it is a footnote in the much larger contest of survival against Napoleonic France.

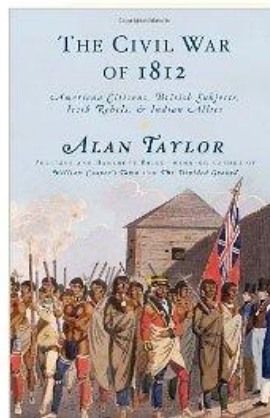
Our visiting author has written some very well reviewed books which have always succeeded in giving new insights into US history. I found the book gave me real insights into the war. I was born in Canada of parents from England. All our relatives were in England. Were we Canadian? Or overseas British? It was our choices that defined us. In her retirement, my sister returned to London. My son moved there for a few months. Several nephews ended up living in the UK. I found the book absolutely riveting, a real page turner. I could understand their situation. If you want to truly understand the War of 1812 I recommend buying it. (At the American price at [amazon.ca](http://amazon.ca) plus HST with free shipping!)

Alan Shaw Taylor (born 1955 Portland, Maine) is a Pulitzer-Prize-winning historian specializing in early American history. He is the author of a

number of books about Colonial America, the American Revolution, and the Early American Republic.

Taylor graduated from Colby College, in Waterville, Maine, in 1977 and earned his Ph.D. from Brandeis University in 1986. His thesis advisor was Marvin Meyers, a historian of Jacksonian America, whom Taylor praised in the preface of his book *Writing Early American History* (2005). Currently he is a professor of history at the University of California, Davis, having taught previously at Boston University.

Taylor is best known for his contributions to microhistory, best exemplified in his Pulitzer-Prize winning history of William Cooper and the settlement of Cooperstown, New York. Using court records, land records, letters, and diaries, Taylor



painstakingly reconstructs the economic, political and social history of New England and the settlement of New York. Taylor is also part of a generation of historians committed to the revival of narrative history, rejecting the method-driven, quantitative work of the previous generation of "new social historians" and the theory-laden work of more recent "new cultural historians." In

addition to writing books for a wide public readership, Taylor is a regular contributor of book reviews and essays to *The New Republic*.

Taylor's current research includes a borderlands history of Canada and the United States in the aftermath of the American Revolution. His book *The Civil War of 1812: American Citizens, British Subjects, Irish Rebels, & Indian Allies* was published by Alfred A. Knopf in October 2010.

*"The British insisted that the citizens of the United States were as much traitors to their king in 1812 as they had been in 1776."*  
By **ANDREW CAYTON**

Flanking the quiet disappearance of the turbulent Niagara River into Lake Ontario are restorations of two military posts. Many visitors no doubt find Fort George on the western bank and Fort Niagara on the eastern incongruous intrusions into such a tranquil landscape, but they once bustled with activity. Two centuries ago, the Niagara flowed through bloody ground and was bitterly disputed by Americans and British Canadians eager to dominate the Great Lakes and, by extension, the continent as a whole. In the end, neither side triumphed, and that, as Alan Taylor argues in the richly detailed "The Civil War of 1812," made all the difference in the history of North America.

Historians generally narrate the War of 1812 from national perspectives as an episode in the history of either the United States or Canada. In both cases, the war

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Reports are due from various departments according to when they are most active.

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is consequential mainly as a manifestation of national pride. The lyrics of "The Star Spangled Banner," written during the defense of Baltimore, reflect Americans' commitment to their new republic in the face of disasters—such as the burning of Washington—and crippling disorganization and internal dissension. Canadians honor their successful defiance of imperial schemes to conquer Upper Canada (essentially the province of Ontario) and annex it to the United States. Mr. Taylor instead describes a war of irregular and nasty raids among the residents of a borderland. Like many historians, the author prefers the word *borderland* to **frontier** because it connotes a place of instability, a place of conflict among several sources of power.

**THE VISIT OF THE PRIDE OF BALTIMORE**

I was back in Amherstburg to see Art by the River. Could I also get some pictures of the topsail schooner *The Pride of Baltimore*?

The Baltimore clipper holds a special place in the history of sailing. With their sharpened bows and long lean lines, they showed the way to extend the life of the sailing ship. Depending on the waters where they sailed they could be square-rigged or fore 'n aft as was this early example. Fore 'n aft schooners required fewer crewmen and fewer trained to go up to handle the square-rigged sails above. As the ships got bigger and longer, to get the strength they required, special reinforcements were required. The keelson—long timbers added to the top of the keel—got higher and higher. Until they reached five feet or more! The most famous of these ships were used in the China trade where speed was essential to preserve

the freshness of the tea. There quite a rivalry between the Americans and the British to build the fastest clippers. The only surviving ship from this era is the *Cutty Sark* on the Thames near Greenwich, London and it has an iron frame.

However, it is important to remember that the genre of clipper started in the War of 1812 with the impetus coming from the Americans but with the British responding quickly. This can be seen in the naval war on Lake Ontario with the lines of ships gradually sharpening as the War progressed.

So this ship, *The Pride of Baltimore*, a reproduction built in 1988, is both a monument to the skill of the builders of Baltimore and to the bravery of the men who sailed her as a privateer during the War. The ship makes very few concessions to the modern day. It has an engine, but it's muscle power that's working her. During the early part of the War, with only 2 ships in the navy capable of going to sea versus hundreds and thousands of ships in the British Navy, the United States relied on commerce raiding to have an impact on the British. The Baltimore vessel had 35 captures to her credit—an amazing accomplishment—mostly in British waters.

The British quickly learned to convoy to cut down on raiding and generally sailed their warships in groups to deal with the oversized frigates that the Americans had. In the end they blockaded the whole coast of the US from Maine to New Orleans.



1. Showing the use of ropes to gently pull the ship to the pier.(engines, rudder, and current assisting)
2. Showing the ship under full sail coming down the river
3. Departure, Sunday September 24, engine power.



## Marine Soundings

is published by the Provincial Marine Amherstburg, a Re-enactment Group.

Membership at \$15 a year includes the right to go on encampments, training with equipment, sailing on our vessels plus an insurance component and our quarterly newsletter. In addition we have many social events each year. Active re-enactors pay an additional \$10.00 towards insurance.

Members of similar organizations may apply for just a newsletter subscription. At \$6.00 Canadian funds and \$6.00 US, we simply recover our costs.

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*To submit articles, questions, ideas e-mail*

**NEW:** [gtmar3@bell.net](mailto:gtmar3@bell.net)

To Read articles in our newsletter on the web, visit [www.provincialmarine.org](http://www.provincialmarine.org)

To contact Marty Burnet, our events coordinator

[Martyb17@hotmail.com](mailto:Martyb17@hotmail.com)

## Our history influences us still

In the eighteenth century, the British had effectively removed the rival traders from the Indian subcontinent except for their longtime ally, Portugal. They had a tiny enclave known as Goa. The British did not so much conquer the subcontinent; they made themselves indispensable to it. The maharajas farmed out their taxes much the same as the Old Regime had in France. The British could do that for them. Few areas were ruled directly by them; elsewhere they provided services—canal building, railways, minting of coins very accurately but using symbols acceptable to the Indians by fast accurate steam powered machines. These new coins were very difficult to counterfeit or clip. They gradually pushed the old coinage out of circulation.

But India was still responsible for a large section of the world's gross domestic product. It sold ivory, gems, silks, spices, carvings, tea, teak; it built ships for the British; maintained an army that made it a regional power in the East.

Meanwhile the British had added many islands to their empire: tiny West Indies islands that grew sugar cane, limes, and other exotic crops, islands in the Indian ocean that added exotic spices, and coconuts, larger islands and island chains discovered or charted by Sir James Cook—Australia, New Zealand, Tonga—and older acquisitions like St Helena, the Falklands. All of these provided some products and required some British goods to survive. So the loss of the American colonies had been a blow to the Empire but it had been more than compensated by India.

So in 1800 roughly 26% of the world's production was in the British Empire. And so it remained for over a century. Even in the nineteen thirties, 10% of world trade was British, 18% was Indian. Canada parlayed that advantage into gaining an auto industry. The US wanted access to the British Empire. Imperial preferences gained them that through Canada.

The saying during the Napoleonic Wars “the Continent is cut off” smacks of arrogance, and isolationism. It also reflects the vast number of products that the continent was deprived of.

### LIST OF PM 1812 EVENTS FOR 2011

*Submitted by Marty Burnet.*

**Fort Malden, July 30, 31**

**Siege of Fort Erie, August 6, 7**

**Battle of Cook's Mill, Welland, August 20, 21**

Fairfield, Thamesville, September 3, 4

Backus Mill, Port Rowan, September 10, 11

Fort Willow, Minesing, Ontario, Sept 17, 18? + approved but not necessarily a PM event

Fanshaw, London, October 1,2

Mississinewa, INDIANA, Oct 8,9 +

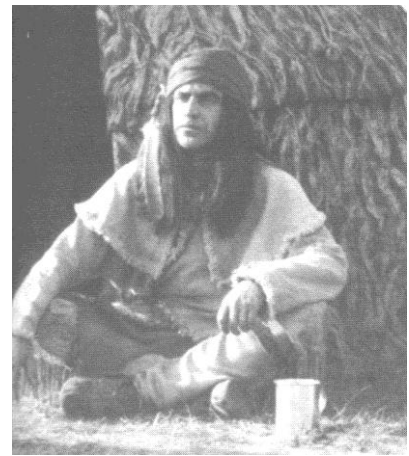
Battle of Tippecanoe, La Fayette, INDIANA Nov 5, 6 +?

+ approved events but not necessarily PM events

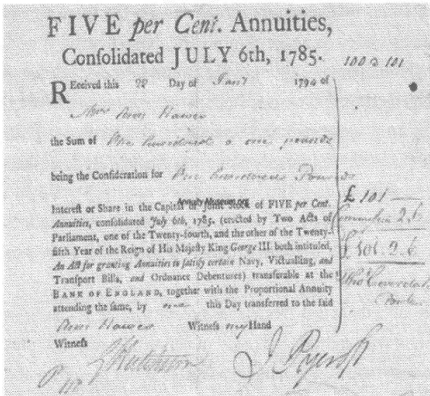
? Date as yet not finalized

**MARINE SOUNDINGS** promotes the history of the Provincial Marine, most particularly in the War of 1812. It is grateful for the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Questors, Windsor Charity Bingos, Windsor Community Futures Corporation, and the Windsor Essex Community Foundation. It is also grateful to the many volunteers whose work makes us eligible for grants from these organizations. Sales in yards and in the Commissariat, bingos, and other volunteer work make us eligible for these awards.

**PICTURE PAGE 8**



A consol purchased in 1796 frequently went down as the tide of War turned against Great Britain.



A 5 per cent consol purchased by Anna Hawes in January 1796



- 1<sup>st</sup> picture: the Cuyahoga being captured at Fort Amherstburg.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> picture: Early machine struck rupees accepted by the Indian population
- 3<sup>rd</sup> picture: Ontario Trillium grant photo
- 4<sup>th</sup> picture: A consolidated annuity issued in Britain serving pensioners and state's need for money.
- 5<sup>th</sup> picture: showing Kayla and Brynn by a restored hunting canoe.
- 6<sup>th</sup> picture: Peter Rindlisbacher's painting of the Nancy in front of Moy House.
- 7<sup>th</sup> picture: David May by our 3-pounder on a sled created by Vern Coon.
- 8<sup>th</sup> picture: Picture of the **PRIDE OF BALTIMORE**
- 9<sup>th</sup> picture: Tecumseh as portrayed by David Morris.

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