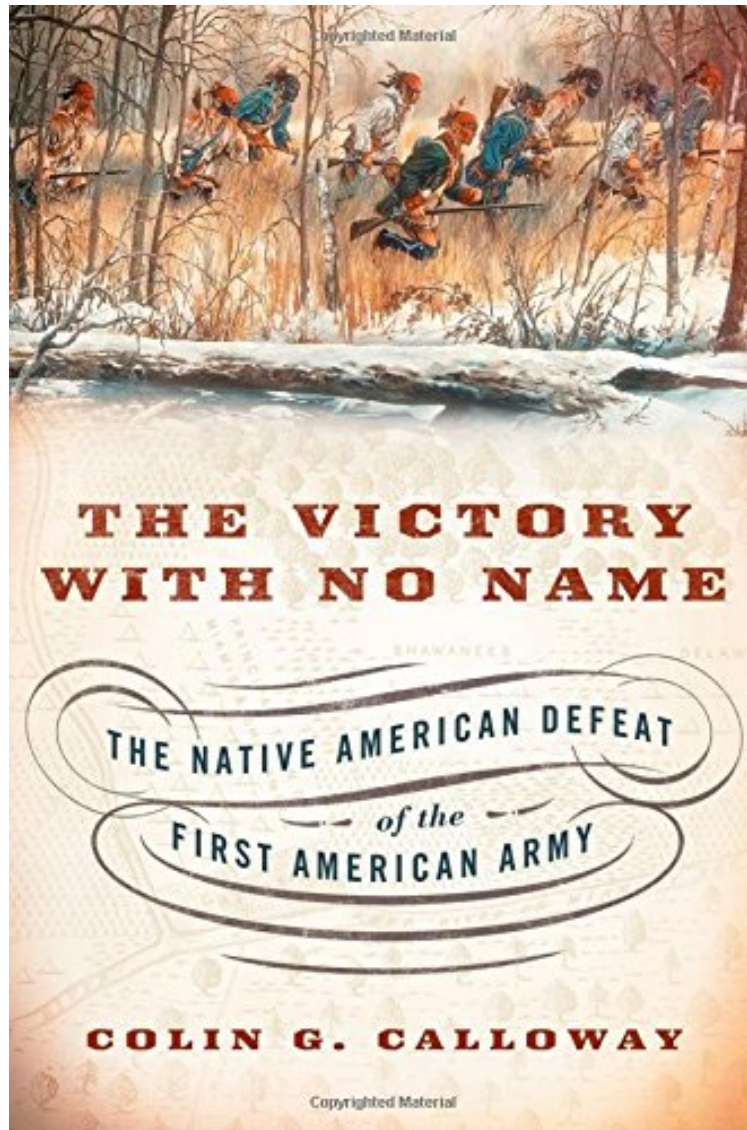


The Victory with No Name: The Native American Defeat of the First American Army

Colin G. Calloway

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34 of 36 people found the following review helpful. Excellently Researched and Written Book on a Little Known US

History Event By J. Groen Here's an interesting trivia question to ask about the US Military: what is the worst defeat that the US Military has experienced at the hands of the Native American Indians. Most answers would be the Little Big Horn or Custer's Last Stand. And, there have been hundreds, probably even thousands of books written on this topic. This would be a wrong answer, however. The worst defeat of the US Military at the hands of the Native American Indians occurred on November 4, 1791 in Western Ohio on the banks of the Wabash River. This is the worst defeat because more than 750 soldiers and civilians were killed in this battle, and along with the wounded this accounted for more 50% of the US Military's combatants on the field. Further, the survivors fled and didn't stand their ground. After 4 miles the Indians stopped following them, and killing them in order to loot the battlefield. If they had continued to follow the survivors, the loss would have been much greater and may have included all the US combatants. Finally, the Indian casualties were minimal, no more than 30-40 dead and about the same number wounded. This was truly a one sided defeat for the US Military. The book tells the story of this battle, the lead up to it and the results. For example, there was a follow-up US Victory at Fallen Timbers that resulted in the defeat of the Indians and the opening up of Ohio for settlers. Unlike the Little Big Horn battle, this battlefield is in the downtown of a Ohio town (per my research from other sources). However, there are markers of the major events and you can still see some of the terrain where the battle was fought today. I highly recommend this book. It is well researched and written about a little known historical event. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is a nice piece of history By Steven Peterson This is a nice piece of history. Back in the day, George Washington, as President, authorized a force under General Arthur Saint Clair to clear out the native Americans from the Ohio territory. The campaign did not go so well, to put it mildly. The American government wanted the land to be used for new settlers, to help pay off the debt from the Revolutionary War. And, as well, to provide veterans of that war with land at a reasonable price. First, the force moved out toward the Indian territory later in the year, 1791. The expedition began later than desired. Second, the force of about 1400 men (not well trained, including unreliable militia) was attacked by about 1,000 Indians. The latter triumphed, handling the American forces rather easily. The end result was about as easy as the wreckage visited upon General Braddock decades earlier. This volume chronicles the story behind the battle, the battle itself, and the aftermath. All in all, a fine work. . . 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Indians won this one and ended up losing everything By 68Eagle My wife's direct ancestors were both killed by the Indians here, interesting to read another perspective. This book is superior to Wabash 1791. It takes you on a journey with the young American country, empire building. Reading through the pages you will see how the US military was charged with taking the land from the Indians. You will be driven to disdain the Indian tribes for what they did in a few hours. But please read the book to the end. You will come away with an understanding of those days and a greater appreciation of the Indian tribes and peoples of a proud nation.

In 1791, General Arthur St. Clair led the United States army in a campaign to destroy a complex of Indian villages at the Maumee River in northwestern Ohio. Almost within reach of their objective, St. Clair's 1,400 men were attacked by about one thousand Indians. The U.S. force was decimated, suffering nearly one thousand casualties in killed and wounded, while Indian casualties numbered only a few dozen. But despite the lopsided result, it wouldn't appear to carry much significance; it involved only a few thousand people, lasted less than three hours, and the outcome, which was never in doubt, was permanently reversed a mere three years later. Neither an epic struggle nor a clash that changed the course of history, the battle doesn't even have a name. Yet, as renowned Native American historian Colin Calloway demonstrates here, St. Clair's Defeat--as it came to be known-- was hugely important for its time. It was both the biggest victory the Native Americans ever won, and, proportionately, the biggest military disaster the United States had suffered. With the British in Canada waiting in the wings for the American experiment in republicanism to fail, and some regions of the West gravitating toward alliance with Spain, the defeat threatened the very existence of the infant United States. Generating a deluge of reports, correspondence, opinions, and debates in the press, it produced the first congressional investigation in American history, while ultimately changing not only the manner in which Americans viewed, raised, organized, and paid for their armies, but the very ways in which they fought their wars. Emphasizing the extent to which the battle has been overlooked in history, Calloway illustrates how this moment of great victory by American Indians became an aberration in the national story and a blank spot in the national memory. Calloway shows that St. Clair's army proved no match for the highly motivated and well-led Native American force that shattered not only the American army but the ill-founded assumption that Indians stood no chance against European methods and models of warfare. An engaging and enlightening read for American history enthusiasts and scholars alike, *The Victory with No Name* brings this significant moment in American history back to light.

"In *The Victory With No Name*, Colin Calloway recounts the largely forgotten campaign that ensued in crisp, sometimes gripping prose. His account of the intertribal diplomacy and generalship that led the Indians to victory is revelatory."--*Wall Street Journal* "Colin Calloway takes a largely forgotten episode, the rout of green American soldiers by Ohio Indians in 1791, and makes of it something larger and more telling. We see a grappling of two loose collections of peoples--a native coalition struggling to hold onto land and lives, and a hungry young republic in search

of its identity. The story of a bloody three hours becomes one of tragedy and ascendance, full of revelations about the nation's emergence."--Elliott West, author of *The Last Indian War: The Nez Perce Story*"The author ably explains the winner's side of [the 1791 Battle of the Wabash, a largely forgotten clash]--a herculean task since the Native Americans had no written records."--Kirkus"A new spin on the old adage about the winners writing history... Calloway presents keen observations on the link between business interests and the government's land policy that, underpinned by its racial assumptions, made Gen. Arthur St. Clair's 1791 defeat a complex event."--Publishers Weekly"Colin Calloway has written a brilliant and haunting book, one that encourages us to confront entangled ironies fundamental to America's past and present. This battle 'with no name' transformed the course of American nationhood, as a devastating defeat compelled the new nation to yoke its future to conquest of Indians in the West. For Indians, a resounding victory presaged losses that were to come. In one final irony Calloway leaves us with the descendants of these Indians, people who would find an enduring place--even to this day--in the service of American arms."--Patrick Griffin, University of Notre Dame"Succinct, well-researched and informative..."--*The Journal of America's Military Past*About the AuthorColin G. Calloway is Professor of Native American Studies at Dartmouth College. He is the author of many books, including *Scratch of a Pen* and *Pen and Ink Witchcraft*.