

Indians divided about \$20,000 in goods and were promised \$9,500 in annuities. Tecumseh refused to attend this council. After the treaty, he split with Blue Jacket. He and his followers withdrew to Indiana to continue resistance to white advances.

Thus Tecumseh found himself acknowledged as leader of the Shawnees and other Indians who still wanted to resist the white. He was then 27 years old. In 1796 he married a half-breed named Manete who bore him a son, Pugeshashenwa. His son was supposed to be the father of Wapameepto (Big Jim).

Somewhat later he left Manete and came under the influence of a white girl named Rebecca Galloway. She taught him English and read to him from the Bible and Shakespeare and other great European writers. Although Tecumseh did not like white people in general, it is reported that he came to love this girl and eventually asked her to marry him. She had a great respect for him and finally agreed to accept him on condition he leave his people and live among the white people. Tecumseh thought this over for a long time, but finally decided he could not live as a white man.

Meanwhile, the Treaty of Greenville did not halt conflict between whites and Indians. The Indians, many of them, continued to live and hunt on their old lands, and whites were pressing for the opening of new Indian lands. In 1800 the government established the administrative machinery for a Territory of Indiana. Tecumseh and his people feared another huge movement of whites to the area.

Tenskwatawa, the Prophet, and His Revelation

During this period conditions were changing rapidly and the Indians were being exposed to many unsettling influences. Perhaps the worst thing for them was the liquor which was brought in in huge quantities and traded to the Indians. The Indians for the most part could not resist liquor when they could get it, and many whites took advantage of them. Indians often traded land, possessions, and services for alcohol. Many Indian groups became demoralized and their members succumbed to drunkenness and diseases. Poverty set in. Many Indians died, and the survivors were weakened and living in increasing miserable conditions. Those Indians living near the white settlements were the worst off.

The Indians living far from the traders were better off. Tecumseh himself refused to drink whiskey and constantly preached against its use. His brother, the Prophet, however, was reported to drink heavily for some time.

This brother's original name was Lalawethika. One day, while lighting his pipe in his cabin, he fell back and seemed to be lifeless. He remained in this condition until his friends had assembled for the funeral. Then he revived from his trance and announced that he had been conducted to the spirit world. This was in November, 1805 and he was about 30 years of age. He called his tribesmen and their allies around him at the Shawnee town of Wapakoneta. There he announced himself as the bearer of a new revelation from the Master of Life. From then on he regarded himself as bringing a new religion to the Shawnees and to the other tribes of Indians. Basically his message was that the Indians should purify themselves by giving up customs introduced by white men, and return to the way of life of their fathers and grandfathers.

He said that the cause of the misery and suffering among the Indians was that they had forsaken their Indian god. He preached against witchcraft and medicine men. He said that the firewater of the whites was poison and accursed, and that those who continued in its use would be tormented after death with all the pains of fire.