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Monument at Fort Recovery, Ohio.

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MONUMENT AT FORT RECOVERY, OHIO.

MARCH 18, 1896.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. CUMMINGS, from the Committee on the Library, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 7411.]

The Committee on the Library, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1437) for the erection of a monument at Fort Recovery, Ohio, after having carefully considered the same, respectfully report as follows:

Fort Recovery is a thriving village of about 2,000 people on the south bank of the Wabash River, in western Ohio. It was so named after a fort built on the present site of the village by Gen. Anthony Wayne in 1794. Here, where the fort was built and where the village now stands, on the 4th of November, 1791, was fought one of the most sanguinary and disastrous battles in the history of our country. It was between our troops and the Indians, and resulted in a total loss of about 1,000 soldiers killed, wounded, and missing, over two-thirds being killed outright.

The United States troops were commanded by Gen. Arthur St. Clair, a hero of the Revolutionary war, one of the first Presidents of the Continental or Confederate Congress, and the first governor of the territory northwest of the Ohio. The savages were under the command of Blue Jacket, Little Turtle, and other noted chiefs of that period. So complete was the rout and defeat of the American troops that it was months afterwards before the dead could be buried. Most of them had been scalped and stripped of their clothing. The bodies were more or less decomposed, and hence could not be identified. They were all buried in shallow trenches. Some of these soldiers belonged to the Regular Army, but the great majority were volunteers from Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, and Kentucky, and from settlers in the territory northwest of the Ohio.

The citizens of Fort Recovery, by permission of the general assembly of the State, have carefully collected the bones of these dead soldiers, and after placing them in numerous boxes consigned them to a grave, with proper ceremony, in a park within the village limits. It is the exact spot where most of them met their untimely death.

On November 4, 1891, the centennial of this battle, called "St. Clair's defeat," was duly observed. A rough wooden memorial was placed over the bones.

The object of this bill is to make a suitable appropriation for the erection of a monument over the graves of these soldiers in memory of their heroic deeds and of their brave general, whose fidelity and devotion to our country in its early history seems to demand recognition.

Your committee therefore recommend the passage of the following substitute for said bill, viz:

A BILL for the erection of a monument at Fort Recovery, Ohio.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the sum of forty thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, or so much thereof as may be necessary, out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, for the erection of a suitable monument at Fort Recovery, Ohio, to commemorate the memory of the many hundred American soldiers who fell in battle at this place with the Indians on the fourth day of November, seventeen hundred and ninety-one, and of their gallant commander, General Arthur Saint Clair: Provided, That no part of the sum hereby appropriated shall be so expended until a suitable lot of land in said village of Fort Recovery, Ohio, shall be provided for said purpose free of all expense to the United States: And provided further, That the money appropriated as aforesaid shall be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War, and the plans, specifications, and design shall first be approved by him.

