

boundary line running through the middle of the Great Lakes, but not until a generation later, when drafting the Treaty of Ghent, did that government finally resign the hope of confining the United States to the south side of the Ohio River and erecting the territory which has since come to be known as the Old Northwest, into a permanent Indian barrier state which should forever be dedicated to savagery and to the mission of keeping the growing American nation at a safe distance from Canada. Fortunately, a better way was found of maintaining peaceful relations between the two countries, however, and over a century has passed since the extended boundary line between them has known other protection than the mutual agreement, honorably observed, drafted by their representatives at Ghent in 1815.

Until 1760 Detroit was, of course, a purely French settlement. The advent of the British conqueror involved the addition to the community of a veneer of English officials and merchants, who intermarried, frequently, with the French element, producing thereby a certain admixture of Anglo-Saxon and Gallic civilizations. But so great was the French preponderance that until the end of the British régime Detroit continued essentially French in culture and outlook. The advent of the American government, in 1796, accentuated the Anglo-Saxon influence, which gradually waxed until in time the older Gallic civilization was submerged by the newer tide of race and culture. Although submerged, it was not banished. As recently as 1860 a well-informed foreign visitor to Detroit wrote that the French language, pronounced "with a decided Norman accent," prevailed in the market place, and he even fancied that the men's cloaks and the headdresses worn by the women resembled those commonly seen on the banks of the lower Seine. Today, as a great and prosperous industrial center, Detroit has attracted to her limits representatives of many races and countries, yet the blood of the early French settlers flows in the veins of thousands of present-day citizens of Detroit, and family names which have been represented here for half a score of generations, are of frequent occurrence in the daily press.