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TECUMSEH, THE SHAWNEE

E. O. RANDALL IN *The Kit-Kat*



OHIO was the greatest center of that prehistoric race, called the Mound Builders. Later it became the habitat of many of the most famous Indian tribes, and in what is now the State of Ohio there were born and flourished the most distinguished heroes and chiefs of the red race: Pontiac, Cornstalk, Little Turtle, Blue Jacket, Logan, Tarhe, and, greatest of all, Tecumseh. Restless and fearless, wary, warlike and nomadic, the Shawnees were the vagrants of the trackless forest, the aboriginal Arabs, ever seeking and always the most implacable foe of the intruding white man. The Ohio Shawnees were immigrants from the South in the early years of the Eighteenth century. They first made settlement in the Scioto Valley and later in the valleys of the Miamis.

Tecumseh first saw the light of day on the banks of the Mad River, in the Shawnee village of Piqua, in the Spring of 1768, and here he spent his boyhood until the summer of 1780, when his native town was utterly destroyed by the expedition from Kentucky led by that redoubtable Washington of the West, Colonel George Rogers Clark. Ever after that event, Tecumseh was a wanderer in the wilderness of the West, having sworn eternal enmity to the Pale Face. Nor was he without justifiable cause for that hatred. His father, Puckeshinwau, a chief of the Shawnees, was killed in the battle of Point Pleasant, October 10, 1774, the first battle of the American Revolution. The chief Puckeshinwau, on receiving his mortal wound addressed his eldest son, Cheeseekau, who was fighting by his side, and committed to his keeping the promising young brother, Tecumseh, then but six years old. Cheeseekau sacredly carried out the father's request. Tecumseh, endowed with unusual ability, bravery and aptitude, was thoroughly schooled in all the accomplishments of Indian life—dexterity with the bow and arrow and