

Transcript of my Talk on “Davis Floyd and the Anti-Slavery Struggle in the Indiana Territory from 1802 to 1809” ...

...taken from Chapters 8, 9, 10, and 11 of *Davis Floyd and Southern Indiana at the Crossroads of America in the Early 1800's and His Florida Connection* written by Ernest W. “Bill” Smith, Esq. and put on-line at www.davisfloyd.info.

Let’s learn something this evening about the struggle in the Indiana Territory over the imposition of slavery in Southern Indiana from 1802 to 1809. I have written extensively about what happened during this time in my Davis Floyd biography in Chapters 8 through 11. I am neither a professional historian and nor a trained writer. I retired from 42 years of practicing law in Jeffersonville in 2007 at the age of 70. I am a trained “wordsmith” because those were the tools of my trade as a lawyer. I wrote my Davis Floyd biography between 2007 and 2010. I then moved to Florida in 2011 and moved “back home again in Indiana” in 2019—My wife, Janet, and I love being back in Southern Indiana—our roots are here. My biography is based upon the earliest “first sources” I could find, and everything I say therein is “documented.” A historian friend of mine says “my biography reads like a lawyer’s brief.”

My best time for cerebral activity is not in the evening so be patient with me tonight. Here is an abbreviated review of that struggle and I apologize if I read parts of it, but I will try to read it with passion because I’m passionate about this episode of mostly Southern Indiana history. It’s worth knowing about! Please stay to the end of the meeting if you want to hear “the rest of the story.” It’s not in this transcript.

(1) Who were the “primary participants” in this struggle?

As you can see, lawyers like me like to ask questions but I’m going to answer most of my questions. In 1802 the Indiana Territory included the modern states of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and part of Minnesota. **William Henry Harrison** (Remember in March-April 1841, he was the US President for one month; does anyone want to tell me anything about him?) was appointed by John Adams as the first governor of this Territory in 1800. He was a Virginian who owned slaves even though slavery was illegal in the Indiana Territory by virtue of the sixth article of the governing document for this Territory, the *Northwest Ordinance of 1787*,

passed by the Continental Congress in that year. Next on the list of participants were Gov. Harrison's attorney general, **Benjamin Parke**, and their cronies. I'll get to those later or you can read my biography and discover them for yourselves. Next, were the two delegates from Clark County who attended the 1802 Convention in Vincennes (you'll hear more about that convention later). The delegates were **Charles Beggs** and **James N. Wood** from Clark County. By the way lawyer **Dave Lewis** from Charlestown is a lineal descendant of one of the three **Beggs brothers**. I'll be talking about them later. Some people believe **Davis Floyd** was at the 1802 Convention as a delegate, but he wasn't, but he probably attended the meeting as an ardent anti-slavery man. Next was **Rev. James Lemen, Sr.** who lived in the Illinois Country. He founded a colony by the name of New Design. It was similar to New Harmony in Indiana. Next was **John Badollet**, whom Pres. Thomas Jefferson appointed as the "register" of the federal land office in Vincennes in about 1804 at the recommendation of Badollet's boyhood friend in Switzerland, **Albert Gallatin**. Does anybody know who Albert Gallatin was at this time. The next participants were first (1st), one man from Jeffersonville, **Davis Floyd**, and (2nd), a group of six men from Charlestown and its environs, **John Beggs, Charles Beggs, James Beggs, Abraham Little, John Owens, and Robert Robertson**. The last name I want to mention was **General Washington Johnston** who was a lawyer in Vincennes, the Vincennes federal Postmaster, and Davis Floyd's brother-in-law. Davis Floyd's younger brother, **Charles Floyd**, carried the US Mail between Louisville and Vincennes between 1800 and 1803 when he volunteered to accompany his friend, Capt. William Clark, and Captain Meriweather Lewis on their westward journey from 1803 to 1806. But that's another story. I say again, Sgt. Floyd was Davis Floyd's younger brother! Davis Floyd married Mr. Johnston's sister in 1794 in Louisville. She was 14 years old, a widow, and pregnant. Floyd adopted her son when he was born in 1795. Her son fought in the War of 1812 and I acquired his sabre and scabbard in 2010 at an auction in Cincinnati. Photos of it are in the appendix in my Davis Floyd biography. It has etchings of Indian scenes on the blade.

(2) So, what happened first in this struggle?

(a) First, I am reading from The Laws of the Indiana Territory 1801-1809. *In the year 1802, at a special convention of delegates from the respective counties, a petition was forwarded to [the US] Congress to repeal (abolish) the sixth (6th) article of compact contained in the [1787] ordinance; but the representation of all of the Territory east of Vincennes were present and were decidedly opposed*

to that part of the petition.” In other words, Southern Indiana as we know it today didn’t want slavery in their Territory.

(b) Five years later, the “Clark County Anti-Slavery Committee” meeting in Springville, Clark County, on Saturday, October 10, 1807, issued its famous Clark County Anti-Slavery Counter-Petition condemning the 1802 Convention and its petition as follows: ***“In the year of 1802, at a special convention of delegates from the respective counties, a petition was forwarded to the [US] Congress to repeal the sixth article of compact contained in the [1787] ordinance; but the representation of all that part of the [Indiana] Territory east of Vincennes were present, and were decidedly opposed to that part of the petition.”*** We have two documents condemning this meeting. The language in The Laws of the Indiana Territory mimic the language of the Clark County Anti-Slavery Counter-Petition.

(c) I am next reading from The Territorial Papers of the United States, Volume VII, 1800-1810. ***“Accordingly, last fall the Governor [William Henry Harrison] visited the two western counties [Randolph and St. Clair in the Illinois country] During his visit to [the] Illinois [country], he let the people know that it would be agreeable to him if they would petition him... [to consider] the expediency [feasibility] of the admission of slavery in the [Indiana] Territory.”***

(d) On May 3, 1803 at New Design, Illinois country, Rev. Lemen entered the following in his diary: ***“As [Pres. Thomas Jefferson] predicted they would do, the extreme southern slave advocates are making their influence felt in the new [Indiana] Territory for the introduction of slavery and are pressing Gov. William Henry Harrison to use his power and influence for that end. Steps must soon be taken to prevent that curse from being fastened on our people.”*** The preceding diary entry and others herein are from Dunn’s Indiana and Indianans, Vol. I. I’m building my case.

(e) Next are my words: In 1803 Gov. Harrison and his two judges enacted **A Law concerning Servants**, found at Philbrick, The Laws of the Indiana Territory 1801-1809, that is too long for me to read here. The law was adopted from the Virginia code and was published in the Territory on September 22, 1803 and went into effect on November 1 that same year. A little less than a month later Lewis and Clark and the nucleolus of the Corps of Discovery including Clark’s slave, York, left Clarksville destined for the Western ocean. Davis Floyd was sheriff of Clark County at that time. And a slave law was now in force on the books in the Indiana Territory.

(f) Next, I am reading from Goeble's biography, William Henry Harrison—A Political Biography: ***"The part by [William Henry] Harrison in the enactment of these laws brought down upon his head the anger of the anti-slavery faction. In February 1803, a [counter-]petition was sent to Congress by the citizens of Clark County, a section in the southeastern part of Indiana. The purpose of their petition was to counteract the impression that [Gov.] Harrison deserved the confidence of the people. They stated boldly that his principles were 'repugnant to Republicanism [in other words he was a monarchist],' and [his principles supported] his sanction of the law regulating the relation of master and servant. The petition closed with a request for a governor with 'principles of liberty' and sentiments 'more congenial with those of the people.'"*** I'm still building my case.

(g) Now things get a little more complicated (dicey) so I am going to read from my biography, *In 1803 a US Congressional committee in Washington City headed by a Southerner recommended against altering the 1787 Northwest Ordinance on the issue of slavery. And then in 1804, another US Congressional committee this time headed by a Northerner played flip-flop and decided to recommend the suspension [not repeal] of the Article prohibiting slavery for 10 years. John Badollet expressed his frustrations over these actions in a letter to his friend, Albert Gallatin, and Davis Floyd was sued for delivering husband and wife slaves to the Jefferson County jail in Louisville. As the Clark County Sheriff, he was legally obligated to perform this duty under federal law when ordered to do so by a federal court. There were other political issues in the new Territory, but the fight against slavery was the defining issue.*

(h) The following is another entry from Rev. Lemen's diary dated May 4, 1805, in New Design, Illinois country: ***"At our last meeting, as I should have expected he would do, Gov. Harrison asked and insisted that I should cast my influence for the introduction of slavery here, but I not only denied the request, but I informed him that the evil attempt would encounter my most active opposition in every possible and honorable manner that my mind could suggest or my means accomplish."***

(i) Six days later, Rev. Lemen wrote in his diary, ***"Knowing President [Thomas] Jefferson's hostility against the introduction of slavery here [in the Indiana Territory] and the mission he sent me on to oppose it, I do not believe the pro-slavery petitions which Gov. Harrison and his council are pressing [the US] Congress for slavery here can prevail while he is President, as he is very popular with [the US] Congress and will find means to over-reach the evil attempt of the pro-slavery power."*** Do you get the big picture here?

(j) The following are my words: Up to this time, Harrison and his two federal judges were running things in the Indiana Territory. It was called the "first grade" of

government under the 1787 Ordinance. In early 1805, things changed, and the Territory entered into the “second grade” of governing itself. The second grade consisted of an appointed governor, like it was before, but an elected House of Representatives and a Legislative Council nominated by the US President and appointed by the Governor. Davis Floyd was elected Clark County’s first and sole member of the Territorial House of Representatives and was sworn in.

(k) The following are my words again, During the First Session of the first General Assembly held in Vincennes during the summer of 1805, Attorney General Benjamin Parke who happened to be representing Knox County (by the way, Parke County, Indiana is named for him) and Davis Floyd (Floyd County, Indiana is named for him) representing Clark County (there was no Floyd County until 1819) these two men were appointed to a committee by Gov. Harrison “to examine into the propriety of enlarging the privilege of introducing Bond servants of color into the Territory from any of the states or Territories of the United States. So, Harrison puts both men on the same committee to discuss the slavery proposition in the First Session of the first General Assembly.

(l) The footnotes of the *Journals of the General Assembly of the Indiana Territory 1805 to 1815* say, ***“This memorial [or petition] was not adopted by the General Assembly as an official part of its proceedings, though the committee of the United States House of Representatives to which it was referred spoke of it as the “petition of the Legislative Council and the House of Representatives of [the Indiana Territory].” It received approval of only three members of the Territorial House.... Floyd an outright antislavery man would not support it.... The U. S. House [of Representatives] to which this petition was referred acted favorably, their report concluding with the resolution that the sixth article of the Ordinance which prohibited slavery in [the] Indiana Territory [should] be suspended for ten years ‘so as to permit the introduction of slaves, born within the United States, from any of the individual States.’”*** So, another petition from Gov. Harrison, AG Parke, and their cronies found its way to the US Congress, but it was never approved by the Territorial General Assembly and today, the records of that part of the proceedings are missing from the official journals during the time it was allegedly approved. But the Congressional Committee approved the suspension of the sixth article for a period ten years. So now we have one Congressional committee voting “no change,” one voting “repeal,” and one voting, “suspension for 10 years.” It’s still 1805.

(m) Author Dunn had the following to say about this petition in his book entitled *Indiana—A Redemption from Slavery*, ***“The territorial house refused to adopt this petition, but their action was not due to the anti-slavery sentiments of the members, for only one of them who was not a pro-slavery man was Davis Floyd of Clark [County].”*** It is pretty well established by this time (summer of 1805) that Davis Floyd is an anti-slavery man.

(n) Two years later, the “Clark County Anti-Slavery Committee” issued its famous *Clark County Anti-Slavery Counter-Petition* of October 10, 1807 that condemned the 1805 petition that issued from the First Session of the First General Assembly of the Indiana Territory as follows, ***“In the year 1805, the subject [of slavery] was taken up and discussed in the General Assembly, and a majority of the [Territorial] House of Representatives voted against said memorial [petition] on the aforesaid subject, and consequently the memorial was rejected, as the journals of that house doth sufficiently evince [show]; but a number of citizens thought proper to sign the same...and by some legislative legerdemain it found its way into the Congress of the United States, as the legislative act of the [Indiana Territory].”*** Davis Floyd was the secretary of this 1807 Clark County Anti-Slavery Committee. He was also in the full attendance of this First Session of the first General Assembly in the summer of 1805. He personally knew what happened. In 1805 Lewis and Clark deliver Sacagawea’s child and are continuing their journey up the Missouri River from Ft. Mandan. In the meantime, Davis Floyd’s younger brother, Sgt. Charles Floyd, died on the trail on August 20, 1804, near the modern city of Sioux City, Iowa. And in 1805 Davis Floyd had his first contact with Col. Aaron Burr in Jeffersonville. But that’s another story.

(o) Here next are two letters from John Badollet, Land Officer (or Register) in Vincennes, to Albert Gallatin in Washington City. The first is dated August 31, 1805, just after the conclusion of the first session of the Territorial House, to-wit, ***“The introduction of Slavery into the Territory continues to be the hobby horse of influentials here. The members of the legislature have signed a petition to Congress praying for some reasonable modification of the ordinance, but this topic of Slavery, will I trust meet with a general disapprobation in [the US] Congress. Shallow politicians, who to obtain a temporary good are willing to entail on their Country a permanent evil.”*** The second such letter was dated January 1, 1806. Lewis and Clark and the Expedition members, including Clark’s slave, York, and also Sacagawea and her baby, Pomp, were encamped in Fort Clatsop near the Columbia River and the Western Ocean. The letter read as follows,

to-wit: ***“I will I suppose end my days here, provided the inhabitants, when arrived at the third grade of government [statehood] do not admit the odious system of slavery, on account of which they betray the greatest uneasiness, they have brought the Southern States their prejudices & fondness for that nefarious (evil), that measure would perhaps be attended with a few transitory & present advantages, but would entail on the country serious and permanent evils.”*** These two letters come from Author Thornbrough’s book entitled, *The Correspondence of John Badollet and Albert Gallatin 1804-1836*. Badollet did not mention the Territorial slavery issue again in his letters to Gallatin for two and one-half years.

(p) On February 14, 1806, another US Congressional Committee headed this time by James M. Garnett, a Southerner, said, ***“Resolved, That the sixth article of the ordinance, which prohibits slavery within the Indiana Territory, be suspended for ten years, so as to permit the introduction of slaves, born within the United States, from any of the individual states....”*** This is from the American States Papers, Misc., Vol. I, 1789-1809. By the way, Mr. Garnett was a member of the grand jury that indicted Col. Arron Burr for treason during the summer of 1807.

(q) Here’s another entry from Rev. Lemen’s diary in 1806, to-wit, ***“As Gov. William Henry Harrison and his legislative council have had their petitions before [the US] Congress several sessions asking for slavery here, I sent a messenger to Indiana to ask the churches and people there to get up and sign a counterpetition to Congress to uphold freedom in the [Indiana] territory and I have circulated one here and we send it on to that body at [the] next session or as the work is done.”***

(r) These are my words again, *The Second Session of the First General Assembly of the Territorial House began on November 3, 1806 and ended on December 6, 1806*. Davis Floyd attended the entire session while Parke didn’t because he had resigned from the House in 1805 when he was elected the Territorial Delegate to the US Congress. Lewis and Clark were in Vincennes on October 30, 1806 because Capt. Lewis executed a Bill of Exchange at that place and on that date, which was recently discovered in Montana. That means that Lewis and Clark returned from their journey to the Western Ocean on their way to Washington City via St. Louis, through the Illinois Country, Vincennes, the Buffalo Trace in Southern Indiana (also called the “Old Vincennes Road”), through the northern part of Harrison County, down to what would become Main Street in New Albany, to Clarksville and eventually to Locust Grove in Louisville where Lewis and Clark dined on the evening of November 9, 1806. During this same period of time Col. Aaron Burr’s first trial

in Frankfort, Kentucky for a high misdemeanor was being conducted. The grand jury exonerated Burr of any wrongdoing. Floyd would join Burr and his adventurers on their downriver voyage at the conclusion of the aforementioned second session of the Territorial House. Burr and Floyd would end up being arrested in the Mississippi Territory in early 1807 this time for treason but Burr was fully exonerated by the grand jury there just like he was in Frankfort, Kentucky, but then arrested and sent to Richmond for trial. Floyd returned to Indiana and was never tried on the treason charge there. But those two trials are another story too, but you never hear about them. They are documented in my Davis Floyd biography and you'll never guess who the star witness was supposed to be in the Frankfort trial.

(s) From the **Second Session** of the **First General Assembly** held from November 3 to December 5, 1806 of both the Territorial House and the Legislative Council (like an unelected Senate) came an undated resolution, which in part resolved as follows, ***“Resolved, unanimously, by the Legislative Council and the House of Representatives of the Indiana Territory, That a suspension of the sixth article of compact [the ordinance] between the United States, and the Territories and States northwest of the river Ohio, passed 13th of July, 1787, for the term of ten years, would be highly advantageous to the said Territory, and meets with the approbation [approval] of at least nine-tenths of the good citizens of the same.”*** The latter clause was an exaggeration to say the least.

(t) The following are my words: On February 12, 1807, Mr. Parke, as the Territorial delegate (he was from one of the Territories in the northern United States) as chairman of a House Committee to whom a letter from Gov. Harrison and several resolutions were referred, made a report favorable to the ten-year suspension of Article 6 of the 1787 Ordinance. The report was read to the US House and the US Senate. Harrison and his cronies weren't going to give up. This was the third time a House Committee of the US Congress recommended either the repeal or suspension of Article 6.

(u) The following may be something you probably don't know about. On March 7, 1807, the US House of Representatives and the Senate passed a law outlawing the importation of slaves to the United States and it was enacted into law under Pres. Thomas Jefferson's administration. (Slaves were first brought to Jamestown in 1619.). This was a US law that applied to all the US States and Territories at the time. During this time Davis Floyd was in the Mississippi Territory with Col. Burr

fighting treason charges. He was not convicted of any crimes there and returned to Indiana. But that is also another story.

(v) These are my words: After his return to Southern Indiana, Davis Floyd was elected as the Clerk of the Territorial House of Representatives in June 1807; it was three days after his conviction for a high misdemeanor in federal court in Jeffersonville, but that's another story too. During the First Session of the Second General Assembly, a "Law concerning servants" was allegedly adopted by the Territorial House and Legislative Council and approved by Gov. Harrison on September 17, 1807. This law was similar to the law concerning servants that went into law in the Territory in 1803. Two days later a petition from the Territorial Legislative Council and the House was sent to the US Congress. It resolved...***"to suspend for a given number of years the sixth article of the 1787 Ordinance."*** This was the second time this slave law was passed by the official legislative body of the Indiana Territory at the time and the fifth time a petition was sent to the US Congress.

(w) These are my words: At this point the real demons in Southern Indiana were Gov. Harrison, US Congressional Delegate Parke, Territorial House Speaker, Jesse B. Thomas, and Legislative President, Benjamin Chambers. These were the bad guys! Who were the good guys? What would happen next?

(x) These are my words again: It's Saturday, October 10, 1807 in Springville, Clark County, Indiana Territory. Meetings of the Indiana Territorial House of Representatives and Legislative Council had met in the First Session of the First General Assembly in August 1806, in the Second Session of the First General Assembly in November and December 1806, and in the First Session of the Second General Assembly in September 2007. In the last Session Floyd was there as the Clerk of the House I say again: On Saturday, October 10, 1807 a group of men met in Springville, Clark County, Indiana Territory. The men there were John Beggs from Charlestown, Davis Floyd from Jeffersonville, Abraham Little probably from the Charlestown area, John Owens from Rolling Hills, Charles Beggs from Charlestown, Robert Robertson from Charlestown, and James Beggs from Charlestown. John Beggs was the Chairman and Davis Floyd was the Secretary of the meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting these seven men issued what in my opinion might be the greatest proclamation against slavery (not about the importation of slaves from outside the United States, but against slavery itself) in the United States up to that time. The proclamation was called the "Clark County Anti-Slavery Counter-Petition"

and its salient part read as follows, ***“As to the propriety of holding those in slavery whom it hath pleased the Divine Creator to set free, seems to us to be repugnant to the inestimable principles of a republican (antimonarchist) Government. Although some of the States have, and do hold slaves, yet it seems to be the general opinion, even in those States, that they are an evil from which they cannot extricate themselves. As to the interest of the [Indiana] Territory, a variety of opinion exists; but suffer your memorialists to state that is a fact, that a great number of citizens, in various parts of the United States, are preparing and many have actually emigrated to this Territory, to get free from a government which does tolerate slavery. The toleration of slavery is either right or wrong: and it is inconsistent with the principles upon which our future constitution is to be formed, your memorialists will rest satisfied that at least this subject will not be taken from them until the constitutional number of the citizens of this Territory shall assume that right....”*** The following are my opinions: This section of the Counter-Petition evinces several conclusions: (I) these men believed in a Divine Creator; (II) it is documented elsewhere that these men were Christians; (III) the use of the word “hath” in the “King James” language may indicate that at least one of them, may have been a Quaker; (IV) they didn’t want the US Congress telling them what they could or could not do; (V) they may not have been “abolitionists” in the sense that they were advocating for the cessation of slavery in the Southern States; (VI) they definitely didn’t want the repeal or the temporary suspension of Article 6 in the 1787 Ordinance prohibiting slavery and involuntary servitude in the Indiana Territory; and, (VII) somebody in the group of these men understood that when statehood could be decided by the citizens and the terms thereof in its constitution, that was the appropriate place for the citizens of the Indiana Territory to consider the issue of slavery. The Counter-Petition was sent to the US Congress and was duly received. I always imagined that Davis Floyd delivered it himself. There was a prophecy in this document, and we will see its fruition later in this talk tonight.

(y) These are my words again: Apparently, the Counter-Petition of the famous Clark County Anti-Slavery Committee had its intended effect on the US Congress because on November 13, 1807, the US Senate to whom the issue was submitted made its judgment as follows, ***“Resolved, That it is not expedient at this time to suspend the sixth article of compact, for the government of the Territory of the United States northwest of the river Ohio.”*** *American State Papers, Miscellaneous Volume I, 1789-1809.* The Chairman of the Senate Committee was a Democratic-Republican from North Carolina, a Southerner. This is the second Time a US

Congressional Committee voted against Gov. Harrison and both times after Clark Countians filed Counter-Petitions.

(z) On August 8, 1808 John Badollet made the following statement in a letter to Albert Gallatin: ***“It is [Nathaniel] Ewing and [me that] have made a stand against the deception practiced upon the public in relation to Slavery, this business will wear another appearance before long. His most excellent Excellency [Harrison] does not thank our opposition and having found out that the real, though not the ostensible object of the leaders in the scheme of the second grade of government, was the introduction of Slaves.”*** Mr. Ewing was the receiver of moneys in Mr. Badollet’s Vincennes Land Office.

(aa) On December 17, 1808 General Washington Johnston, Davis Floyd’s brother-in-law, a citizen and lawyer in Vincennes published in the *Vincennes Sun*, a local newspaper, an anti-slavery report in his capacity as the chairman of the Territorial House Committee to whom the slavery question had been referred. The report concluded as follows, ***“From the above reasons [covering several pages] and many others that might be adduced, your committee [is] of [the] opinion that slavery cannot and ought not to be admitted into this Territory; that it is inexpedient to petition [the US] Congress for a modification of that part of the ordinance relative to slavery; and that the act of the Legislature of Indiana for the introduction of negroes and mulattoes into the said Territory ought to be repealed, for which purpose they have herewith reported a bill.”*** Philbrick, *The Laws of the Indiana Territory—1801-1809.*

(bb) In a letter to Gallatin on March 7, 1809 Badollet wrote the following paragraph to his friend, ***“I never shall be forgiven by some here for being an honest man, for having with Ewing and a few others, began a plan of opposition to the introduction of Slavery, which a few men in high stations would fain have persuaded the public, was the wish of the majority. All deception and intrigues! I drew the Petition against Slavery & hastily the report of the Committee of the House of Representatives on the same. His excellency [Harrison] had the imprudence to attack Ewing & me on the subject with the rage of a despot, we repelled the attack with becoming decency & firmness, and are hated therefor! &c &c &c. This is confidential....”*** This paragraph leads me to believe that Badollet drafted both the *Clark County Anti-Slavery Counter-Petition* and Johnston’s report. Badollet spent a lot of time in Pennsylvania as a farmer before moving himself and his family to Vincennes in 1804—he may have been a Quaker.

(cc) My words again: The slavery issue was dead in the Indiana Territory by 1809 although Gov. Harrison would not leave Southern Indiana until 1812. Floyd's wife had died, and he would remarry Judge Davis' widow and adopt her two sons and move from Jeffersonville to Corydon in 1812 because the Territorial Capitol was being moved soon from Vincennes to Corydon to be closer to the center of Southern Indiana. Saying slavery was dead did not mean that slave holders did not own and hold slaves in the Indiana Territory. It did mean an end to the attempts to nullify Article 6 of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787. As we have seen in the Indiana Territory, the slavery issue had been before US Congressional Committees six times: 1803, 1804, 1805, 1806, 1807 and 1808. Three such committees, two headed by Northerners, recommended the repeal or the suspension of the prohibition and three other such committees, two headed by Southerners, recommended "no change." The only time that the US Congress acted on any of the petitions was in 1808 when it decided to separate the Illinois country and its slavery advocates from the Indiana Territory. The line east of Vincennes moved slightly west to its present border.

(dd) On February 27, 1830, John Badollet wrote in part to his "***dear friend,***" Albert Gallatin, "***...I have no other share in keeping slavery out of this state, than the other 'well intentioned men' in efforts to resist the great influence of the Governor [William Henry Harrison] & his Prime Minister Parke, over the population of this part of the Territory....***" Between 1816 and 1823 Gallatin was the US Minister to France and in 1826 and 27 he was the US Minister to the United Kingdom. In 1829 he became the President of the National Bank of New York.

(ee) Now to hear the rest of the story, you will have to attend the Zoom meeting on Thursday, February 4th, 2021 at 6:30 pm to hear it from me.

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