

OSUMUN 2025

THE TOLEDO WAR: 1835-36
JOINT CRISIS COMMITTEE



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I. Letters from the Crisis Director and Chairs

Hello and welcome to the Toledo War: 1835-36 Joint Crisis Committee! My name is Noah Belles, and I will be the Crisis Director for this committee. I am a senior History major, minoring in International Relations. While I have volunteered at OSUMUN before, this is my first time acting as a crisis director for a committee, and I am very excited! I have lived in Ohio and loved studying history all of my life, so when I had the chance to design a MUN committee, I knew that I wanted to base it on Ohio history! Despite me not hailing from the region, the Toledo War has always been a historical anecdote that I wanted to delve further into, and I'm excited to explore it together with all of you. I am committed to making this committee great and fun for everyone involved. I want any delegate, even those who would rather watch paint dry than learn about 19th-century Ohio and Michigan history, to have fun with this committee and take something from it.

Despite being historically based, delegates are not limited by history and are encouraged to be as unique as possible during this committee. The delegates that are the most creative will be the most successful. Since this is a Joint Crisis Committee, and delegates will be split between two different committees, standing out is paramount. In any case, delegates, it is up to you to stop the bloodshed that almost seems inevitable at this point. Whether you are from Ohio or Michigan, you must work to prevent conflict while also doing your best to gain as much as possible for your respective state/territory. Good luck, and may you bring glory to your respective committees!

Noah Belles, *Crisis Director* (belles.10@buckeyemail.osu.edu)

Hello, delegates! Welcome to OSUMUN 2025! My name is Yossi Berkowitz, and I was very excited when I learned that Noah was running a committee about the Toledo War. As a lifelong Ohioan, I understand the importance this has had with creating our rivalry with TTUN, culminating in The Game each year. While we were unsuccessful this year, I wish you better luck in your war against the northern territory. I am a senior studying economics and political science, and I've done Model UN since high school. I've seen people from OSUMUN graduate to become delegates on our collegiate team, and I'm excited to see what you come up with! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out. My email is berkowitz.116@osu.edu. Good luck!

Yossi Berkowitz *Michigan Chair*

Hello and welcome to ~~X~~ichigan!

My name is Ankit Maharana and I'll be chairing the Michigan Territorial Committee. I am a freshman double majoring in Computer Science and Engineering and Public Affairs. OSUMUN is a new ball game to me, but I am all too familiar with debate as a whole. I competed in Speech and Debate, Model UN, and Mock Trial for a few years in high school. I loved the idea of a more debate-centric committee. As a Congressional Debater, I've always loved the concept of free for all debate over a singular issue, so having two sides to that coin is a wild concept to me in MUN. Especially being a joint committee, I'm very interested to see how you all take sides against the conflict. I look forward to the twists, turns, and betrayals you may enact for us. I've never been one to shy away from a good story, so I hope you all have fun creating one. I'm really excited to see how you all take this little-known war and turn it into a fiasco. As an Ohioan, I can't exactly vote for my committee but I hope all of you do wonderful. See you in session, and may the best state (Ohio) win!

Ankit Maharana, *Michigan Chair*

II. Committee Procedure

This committee is a Joint Crisis Committee, or JCC. For those who are unaware, a JCC is a crisis that comprises two groups of delegates in separate rooms, debating the same ongoing crisis. These are essentially two separate committees in many regards. Both committees will be passing resolutions to attempt to solve the same crisis. Both committees of delegates have opposing positions in the crisis and either try to dominate the other side or possibly seek common ground. Both groups of delegates will not be in regular communication with each other during committee sessions and are expected to mainly learn about each other and what is happening in the other committee via crisis updates. The main exception will come from notes and JPDs, as delegates can turn these in when staffers collect pads to be sent to delegates in the other committee. Delegates can work on JPDs that include delegates in both committees, though those only may be worked on during committee sessions, and require the signature of all delegates. Other exceptions might come from a major event like a timed crisis, where the two committees might communicate with each other. The backroom will essentially be acting as the US Federal Government, controlled by President Andrew Jackson, communicating back and forth between both Ohio and Michigan's committees.

Outside of the unique aspects that come with a JCC, this committee will be run like how all other crisis committees will be run at OSUMUN. This committee will utilize a two-pad note system, which means that delegates will be writing to two different people on two different notes. Delegates will only work on one pad at once during a note cycle. Joint Personal Directives (or JPDs) between two or more delegates will be allowed and will be collected during regular note cycles. If there are any questions about how crisis committees are typically run, feel free to check out this website: (<https://tinyurl.com/bestdela>)

Of course, as a historical crisis, complex topics may be discussed during this committee that may touch on political, cultural, or historical issues. It is crucial to avoid language or actions that could be interpreted as offensive,

dismissive, or discriminatory to any group of people or individuals. This is the case both in front room debates and within individual crisis arcs. Strive to maintain a balance between debate, competition, and respectful dialogue. If you have concerns or feel uncomfortable at any point, please don't hesitate to reach out to committee staff or conference organizers. Our aim is to create a positive and enriching experience for everyone involved.

III. Background Information

The Toledo War was rooted in conflicting territorial claims that dated back to the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 and the flawed cartography of the early United States. The origins of the dispute began with the establishment of the Northwest Territory, which included modern-day Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, and parts of Minnesota. The ordinance stated that the territory would eventually be divided into at least five states, with a key provision that defined the northern boundary for the state that would become Ohio to be drawn from the southernmost point of Lake Michigan eastward to Lake Erie (Faber 2008).

At the time, maps used by Congress incorrectly placed the southern tip of Lake Michigan farther north than it actually was due to the lack of cartographical information about the region. This error, combined with later, more accurate reports that reported the southern tip of the lake to be more southern than previously thought, caused a strip of land of about 468 square miles, now known as the "Toledo Strip," to fall into limbo. The land was valuable due to its position on Lake Erie and the Maumee River, which was critical for trade and transportation, as well as its valuable farmland, different from the Great Black Swamp that surrounded much of the area (Knepper 2003). Ohio became a state in 1803, and its leaders specifically put a clause in the state constitution to maintain its claim over this land according to the original reports in case of future conflict over it, as reports from fur trappers and other pioneers of the time put the original maps into doubt. As a result of these newer reports, when Michigan was organized as a territory in 1805, its leaders believed the same strip was part of their jurisdiction, based on the Northwest Ordinance's original definition of the boundary. This was something that was pretty quickly realized and started to cause issues pretty quickly; however, a proper survey of the land could not be done until 1817 due to the War of 1812. This survey, done under the orders of the U.S. Surveyor General Edward Tiffin by one William Harris, was done according to the borders outlined in the Ohio constitution, which put the Maumee River

Basin in Ohio's control. This created a border line known as the "Harris Line," which became the line that the Ohio government claimed was the proper border. The Michigan government objected to this (especially because Tiffin was formerly the Governor of Ohio) and conducted its own survey, conducted by one James A. Fulton, according to the definition of the border given in the Northwest Ordinance, which put the Maumee River Basin in its control. This became known as the "Fulton Line," and it was the line that the Michigan government claimed was the proper border.

As time passed and both Ohio and Michigan grew, the importance of the Toledo Strip increased. The area was seen as a potential economic hub due to its access to the Great Lakes and burgeoning trade routes (Waggoner, 2022) In 1825, the Miami and Erie Canal began to be constructed after being ordered by the Ohio government, which attempted to connect Cincinnati and the Ohio River to Lake Erie via the Maumee River. As a result, in 1833, two port villages near the mouth of the Maumee, Port Lawrence and Vistula, united to form the city of Toledo. This city was in a state of rapid growth during the 1830s, and once the canal would be finished, the city was predicted to have even more growth that would benefit the state that the city was a part of. Throughout the 1820s, Michigan slowly started to set up local governments in the strip and gained more and more influence over the disputed territory while Ohio still maintained its claim. There were even plans to have the campus of the newly founded University of Michigan to be located in the city of Toledo, marking the city's importance to Michigan. As a result, by the early 1830s, just as many people living in Toledo and the strip believed themselves to be Michiganders as there were people who believed they were Ohioans.

Tensions escalated when Michigan petitioned for statehood in 1833. The federal government would not allow Michigan to join the union until all of its border discrepancies were solved, which primarily was the result of the Toledo Strip border dispute (though other discrepancies existed, particularly with the Upper Peninsula, which Michigan controlled 1/3rd of at the time).

Michigan included the Toledo Strip within its proposed borders. Ohio, however, refused to relinquish its claim, and both sides began taking measures to assert control. With the newly minted city of Toledo taking shape and the Miami and Erie Canal reaching completion soon, this dispute had the possibility to be a powder keg. This wasn't helped by the fact that Michigan's territorial governor at the time, Stevens T. Mason, and Ohio's governor, Robert Lucas, were both adamant about their claims, and both started to keep militia troops in the area to defend their claims. By 1835, both sides had had enough, as in February, Governor Lucas formally incorporated the land of the strip into the newly founded "Lucas County" of Ohio, and around the same time, Governor Mason called for a convention to design the state constitution of Michigan despite the fact they did not have permission to do so from Congress, just assuming the land to be theirs.

President Andrew Jackson saw the escalating tensions and found himself in a difficult position. Many D.C. politicians had believed that Michigan was in the right about the whole situation and saw Ohio as pushing the territory around for its own gain. Former President John Quincy Adams even said on the matter: "Never in the course of my life have I known a controversy of which all the right was so clearly on one side and all the power so overwhelmingly on the other." Ohio was an established state; however, one that had much more political power, and the fact that the 1836 election was soon approaching, one that Jackson saw as important for the Democrats, and especially his vice president, Martin Van Buren, to win, which would be difficult without the support of Ohio, made Jackson more inclined to support Ohio in the situation. In April 1835, trying to prevent violence, Jackson sent two delegates with a proposal to mediate the conflict, this being that the government would resurvey the Harris Line, and the people of the strip would vote for who they wanted to be governed by until Congress could come to a proper decision that would make both parties happy. Governor Lucas agreed to this proposal; however, Governor Mason saw it as only fulfilling the demands of Ohio and ignored it. This would have consequences.

On April 26th, 1835, a party of surveyors resurveying the Harris Line, who were sent out by Governor Lucas, who had assumed that the proposal sent by President Jackson was agreed upon by Michigan, were attacked and either arrested or chased out of the disputed territory by a Michigan militia. According to their accounts, they were in the middle of Sunday prayers when they were set upon by the militia, who fired shots at the unarmed group. However, Michigan officials disputed that the shots were fired at them, claiming they were only fired in the air to scare them off. In any case, this incident came to be known as the Battle of Philip's Corners and was seen as the official start of the Toledo War. Michigan and Ohio both became steadfast in defending their claims after this incident, both sending funding to their respective militias and sending threats to each other via the press in the aftermath of the incident. Mob mentalities started to become rampant, as both Ohio and Michigan militias started to make arrests within the disputed border territory. What began as a boundary dispute evolved into a symbolic struggle for state pride, political influence, and control over a valuable economic region. It would not be long before blood would be spilled...

IV. Crisis Scenario Overview

This crisis will begin in September 1835, taking place after a major incident that occurred in July 1835, where the first real bloodshed of the conflict was spilled. Michigan law enforcement, particularly from Monroe County (the county that Michigan claimed the disputed territory was a part of), had begun to raid and arrest the homes of pro-Ohio citizens in the disputed territory by the summer of 1835. The incident of note occurred when the home of a prominent Toledo settler family, the Stickney Family, was raided on July 15th, 1835. Monroe County Sheriff Joseph Wood attempted to arrest Two Stickney under Michigan law for participating in Ohio's assertion of jurisdiction over the area. In the confrontation, Two Stickney resisted arrest and stabbed Sheriff Wood in the side with a penknife. The wound was not fatal, but the event caused tensions to explode, as the war had its first casualty. Two Stickney fled into Ohio and was shielded from extradition by the Ohio government, inflaming the dispute. As a result of this and perceived mismanagement of the situation by the territorial government of Michigan, President Jackson removed Governor Mason from office and replaced him with the unpopular Jack S. Horner. Mason still tried to inflame the dispute, however, ordering Michigan's militias to disrupt any attempt by Ohio to conduct a court of common pleas in Toledo before he left office.

With tensions at an all-time high, legitimate rumors and fears being spread that this could turn into an all-out civil war, and the Supreme Court recently releasing a statement that they could not directly put an end to border disputes between states, for the sake of this JCC, Governor Lucas decides to take matters into his own hands. In a departure from our reality, Lucas decides to gather a committee of some of Ohio's greatest politicians and local figures related to the conflict, as well as other related figures on a national political level, to meet in Perrysburg (a city just south of the disputed land) to discuss a way to put an end to this conflict once and for all, an endeavor that President Jackson supports. Hoping to assert authority and to gain favor with President Jackson, Governor Horner gathers an equivalent committee to meet in Detroit (the territorial capital) at the exact same time to also try and put an

end to the conflict. These two committees will be those that delegates will participate in. While most of the discussion of the committee will likely focus on the border dispute and the recent attack on Sheriff Wood, other issues like the nearing completion of the Miami and Erie Canal and the upcoming election of 1836 will surely also be topics of discussion as well.

Note that while the committee will begin in September 1835, delegates should expect time to pass as committee progresses, and eventually it will enter 1836. However, there is no set way that time will progress, as it will depend on the flow of committee and crisis updates.

V. Positions List

The Ohio State Committee

William Allen

A member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Ohio's 7th district representing the Chillicothe area. Originally from North Carolina, and born as a result of a relationship between his father and an enslaved woman, he moved to Ohio as a young adult for a chance at better career opportunities due to his racial background. He was a prominent congressman during Andrew Jackson's second term, and he was one of the politicians sent to personally negotiate with Jackson about the border dispute, explaining why he was asked to participate in this committee.

Gen. John Bell

The major general of Ohio's state militia during the border crisis. Despite his military role during the committee, he had previously served as mayor of the city of Lower Sandusky (modern-day Fremont), his hometown, before his role as major general. He gave personal military advice to the governor of Ohio both before and during the border crisis.

Ethan Allen Brown

A wealthy former politician who was interested in the border crisis due to the funding he provided to the construction of the Miami and Erie Canal. He was originally from Connecticut, but moved to Cincinnati in the early 1800s. With a prestigious education, including having learned law under Alexander Hamilton, as well as political experience, once serving as a senator for Ohio and its governor as well as the U.S. Charge d'Affaires to Brazil, his advice was called upon for this committee.

James Buchanan

A politician from Pennsylvania. He previously served as a congressman for Pennsylvania's 3rd District, which included the Lancaster area. He also recently just returned from St. Petersburg, as he was appointed by President Jackson to be an ambassador to Russia. At the time of this committee, he was waiting to replace one of the Pennsylvania Senate seats that was going to open up in 1836. When he served in Congress, he heavily argued against Michigan's claims to the Toledo Strip. As a result of this, he was called upon to participate in this committee.

Salmon P. Chase

A young lawyer from the Cincinnati area who had recently started to make a name for himself. He studied law at Dartmouth College and with the former U.S. Attorney General and moved to Cincinnati in 1830 to start his own practice. By 1835, he had started to make a name for himself in local politics and the legal world, especially with his heavy abolitionist stance, which clashed with the many southern sympathizers in southern Ohio. He was called upon for this committee because of his legal prowess.

Stephan B. Comstock

A founding father and local of the city of Toledo, particularly the former town of Port Lawrence. He attempted to grow the city via land speculation in 1832 before the city's merger with Vistula. He served as Toledo's postmaster during the time of the border crisis. As a trusted and well-known local, his advice and perspective were sought after, explaining his participation in this committee.

Thomas Ewing

One of the two men serving as a senator from Ohio during the crisis. Originally from the panhandle of Virginia (current-day West Virginia), he came to Ohio as a child. He studied law at Ohio University and opened his own practice in Lancaster. He was elected as a senator in 1830 due to his

success as a lawyer. By 1835, he had established himself as one of the first prominent Whig politicians, heavily supporting economic projects like canals and the Second Bank of the United States.

Charles Hammond

The official reporter for the Ohio Supreme Court, who, by 1835, had become editor of the influential Cincinnati Gazette. He had previously served as a lawyer and also had a brief tenure in the Ohio State Senate. He became well known because of his role in a controversy in Ohio politics where many Ohio politicians, including him, fought against the Bank of the United States in the 1820s. His editor position for the Cincinnati Gazette allowed him to publish commentary on law, politics, and public affairs. These influential roles are what lead to him participating in this committee.

William Harris

A surveyor hired by Ohio in 1817 to survey the Ohio-Michigan border in a way that would support the Ohio constitution's claims. Emigrating from England, Harris had settled in Indiana sometime before the 1810s. He became well known for his surveys of not only the Ohio-Michigan border but also many other borders in the former Northwest Territory, most significantly in Indiana. His expansive knowledge of the land of the Toledo Strip and role in establishing Ohio's claim are why he is participating in this committee.

William Henry Harrison

A prominent American statesman and military figure known for his earlier service as the governor of the Indiana Territory (1801–1812) and his leadership during the War of 1812, specifically the Battle of Tippecanoe. While originally from Virginia, by 1835 he had served as both a congressman and a senator for Ohio, as well as the U.S. minister to Gran Colombia, which is why he was called upon for this committee. During the time of the border crisis, he was not currently serving in any public office, yet he was preparing to run for president in 1836 for the newly founded Whig Party.

Peter Hitchcock

The man serving as the Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court at the time of the crisis. Originally from Connecticut, he moved with his family to the Western Reserve in 1806 to become a lawyer and teacher. He served many roles in Ohio State politics, from state congressman to state senator, and even commander of the state militia at one point, as well as briefly serving as a congressman on a federal level in the late 1810s. He was extremely well known for his argumentative style, focusing on logic over rhetoric. His knowledge of the law will be crucial for the committee.

Alfred Kelley

An Ohio banker who funded many state transportation projects. An early resident of Cleveland, he became a prominent landowner in the city, building many early prominent buildings in the city. His brothers were also landowners, being the first to settle Kelly's Island. In the late 1810s, he helped to organize the Commercial Bank of Lake Erie, the city's first bank. He became well known for funding transportation projects like canals, including the Miami and Erie Canal, as well as early railroads, explaining his interest in the land of the Toledo Strip. He once served in the Ohio House of Representatives in the 1810s and was interested in running again in 1836.

Robert Lucas

The governor of Ohio during the crisis, the 12th man to hold the role, and the one who gathered this committee. He moved to the Lucasville area when he was 19 years old and would go on to hold multiple roles in state government. He was also a successful soldier and spy in the American Army during the War of 1812, and this career allowed him to get elected as governor in 1832, where he was a prominent Democrat. This allowed him to have a close relationship with President Jackson and his administration. The border crisis took up much of his time during his terms as governor, and he was adamant about maintaining Ohio's claim about the border at all costs.

Duncan MacArthur

A former Ohio governor and veteran of the War of 1812. A prominent Federalist politician who served in multiple roles in state government, he became famous for his exploits during the War of 1812, where he was the commander of the Ohio State militia. He eventually was promoted to brigadier general in the U.S. Army, and after the war was given control of the Army of the Northwest. He was the governor of Ohio before Robert Lucas, from 1831 to 1833. His experience will be essential for this committee.

Simon Perkins

A wealthy Ohio landowner funding the Miami and Erie Canal. After getting his start as a surveyor for the Erie Land Company, he rose to eventually become a major landowner himself, particularly in the Portage County area. He served in many other roles while he grew his business, like a general in the War of 1812 and a postmaster. In 1825, land he donated became the basis for the city of Akron. He invested in many projects around the state of Ohio, and the Miami and Erie Canal was just another one of these projects. This investment and his notability were the basis for his participation in this committee.

Cap. Matthew C. Perry

A Navy officer who was the brother of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, famous for his exploits in the Battle of Lake Erie. He was asked to join the committee as a representative of the Navy and their possible interests in the Toledo and Maumee River area. A veteran of the War of 1812 and the Second Barbary Wars, he was also a key figure in helping the United States maintain proper control of Florida after it came into its possession. In 1835, he was particularly interested in having the U.S. Navy adopt the widespread use of steamships. As of 1835, he held the rank of “Captain.”

Maj. Benjamin Stickney

A major local figure in Toledo, who helped found Vistula in 1822, one of the cities that became Toledo. Originally a farmer from a family related to Benjamin Franklin, during the War of 1812, he became an Indian agent who worked with local Native Americans to help maintain peace during and after the war. He maintained good relationships with these groups even up until 1835. Despite being respected by local Native American groups, he was not respected by many white peers, often labeled an eccentric. He and his family, recently released from custody, directly got into conflict with Michigan troops, causing the incident that led to this committee.

Two Stickney

A Toledo local, and the son of Benjamin Stickney. He was the one who stabbed Michigan's Sheriff Wood with a penknife in the incident that led to this committee being called. A farmer who worked closely with his brother One and his sister Indiana, he openly supported Ohio's claim to the Toledo Strip. He was more well-liked compared to his father among his peers and gained much support among common Toledo and Ohio residents after the incident with Sheriff Wood.

Noah Haynes Swayne

A United States attorney for Ohio personally appointed by Andrew Jackson. As a devout Quaker who was well known for his abolitionist policies, he became entrenched in state politics in the late 1820s and was appointed to his current role in 1830. In 1835 he was also a member of the Columbus City Council and a prominent member of the Columbus elite. He had previously been sent by Governor Lucas to privately discuss the border dispute with President Jackson to get him on Ohio's side, which makes him an important figure for the committee and possibly giving Ohio's claims legitimacy.

Joseph Vance

A politician from Urbana trying to make a name for himself in 1835. Once a simple salt farmer in his youth, he previously served as a commander of a rifle company in the Ohio Militia and in the Ohio House of Representatives. He was elected as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for Ohio for seven consecutive terms starting in 1820 until he lost reelection to the House in 1834. He also had an important role in the foundation of the city of Findlay. By 1835, he wants to be governor of Ohio and is planning a run in 1836 for the Whig Party. His experience explains his participation in this committee.

The Michigan Territorial Committee

John Quincy Adams

A politician from Massachusetts who served as the 6th president of the United States, along with other roles like Secretary of State. A member of the prestigious Adams family, he was serving as a congressman representing Massachusetts in 1835, a role he took to keep busy during retirement. At the time, he was broadly affiliated with the Whig Party. During one of the many congressional sessions about the border crisis, Adams fervently showed support for Michigan's claim and lamented Ohio's power over the dispute. This is why he was invited to participate in this committee.

Gen. Joseph W. Brown

A Michigan businessman who served as the leader of the militias that Michigan had stationed near the disputed border. A veteran of the multiple conflicts between white settlers and Native Americans that occurred in the early days of the Michigan Territory, he personally participated in the Battle of Philip's Corners and led arrest raids into the disputed territory. Outside of his role as a soldier, he ran a stagecoach line based in the town of Tecumseh,

Michigan, a town that he helped found, and once served as a judge for the county the city was in.

Lewis Cass

A politician who previously had served as the territorial governor of Michigan from 1813 to 1831, and was currently serving as the Secretary of War under President Jackson in 1835. Starting his political career in Ohio, after serving as a commander in the War of 1812, he was appointed to be the governor of the Territory of Michigan in 1813 by President James Madison. He massively helped spread settlement in the territory during his time as governor and even personally led multiple exploration parties into the wilderness. A powerful Democrat in 1835, he fervently supported the claims of his old territory, which explains his participation in this committee.

Levi Cook

A politician who served both as the treasurer of the Territory of Michigan and the mayor of Detroit in 1835. Spending the large majority of his career in Detroit politics, he also was a tea, sugar, and grain merchant who had built a reputation as a competent financial officer and businessman. He had much power over much of the area surrounding Detroit, including near the disputed boundary, which explains his participation in this committee.

Isaac E. Crary

A lawyer and Democratic politician from Marshall, Michigan, who had served as a member of the delegation designing a state constitution for Michigan earlier that year. Despite his young age, he was well known for his legal skills, and many considered him a promising future politician, to the point where it was expected that he would be elected as the sole congressman for Michigan if it became a state. He was also the editor of Marshall's main newspaper, the Marshall Expounder, and was extremely interested in expanding education.

Magdelaine La Framboise

An important and influential former fur trapper and pioneer. The Métis daughter of a French fur trapper and an Odawa mother, she was raised with a blend of Catholic faith and the traditional customs of the Odawa people. Based on Mackinac Island, she managed a thriving fur trading business, initially alongside her husband. After his passing, she took full control, establishing it as one of the most successful enterprises in all of Michigan. By 1835, she had retired from that business and was running a Catholic school for Native American and Métis children. Her experience with the Michigan wilderness, along with her good relationship with Native groups in the area, is why she was invited to this committee.

John A. Fulton

A survey engineer hired by Michigan in 1818 to survey the Ohio-Michigan border according to their beliefs about where the border was. He conducted many other surveys in the Midwest during the late 18th century and early 19th century, including in states like Ohio, where he was the primary surveyor for the Virginia Military District. After he retired from survey work, he served as the mayor of Chillicothe in Ohio for two terms from 1828-1832. Despite his ties to Ohio, he thought proudly of his survey work, and his support for Michigan's claims about the border and experience in the area led to his participation in this committee.

John S. Horner

The recently appointed governor of Michigan, who was put in place by President Jackson due to perceived mismanagement of the situation by the territorial government of Michigan, and the one that called this committee. Previous to this he was a simple lawyer from Virginia who had become known to Jackson due to his marriage to a senator's daughter. A Whig and a complete unknown to Michigan politics, a purposeful choice by Jackson, by the time of the committee he is desperate to assert his authority and gain

popularity in the Michigan public. He is dedicated to ending the conflict with Ohio.

Benjamin Chew Howard

A Maryland congressman who was sent by President Jackson to arbitrate the boundary dispute and to subsequently participate in this committee. A veteran of the War of 1812, he became a prominent member of Maryland politics in the late 1810s and early 1820s, serving on the city council of his hometown of Baltimore and in the Maryland legislature before his election to Congress. As a congressman, he was the chair of the House's Foreign Relations Committee and a prominent leader in the early Democratic Party.

Robert E. Lee

A young West Point graduate hired by Congress to resurvey the border territory between Ohio and Michigan multiple times in 1832-1835. From an elite Virginia family, he graduated from West Point in 1829 and had been working for the US Army Corps of Engineers since graduation. He did survey work for the Army, which included surveying many locations of future Army bases, and was serving as an assistant to the Chief Engineer of the Corps in 1835. His recent survey work and intense knowledge of the area led to his participation in this committee.

Lucius Lyon

A Michigan politician serving as a non-voting member of Congress representing Michigan. Originally from Vermont, he moved to Detroit in 1821 and eventually found work as a surveyor, leading him to become the Deputy Survey General of Michigan in the 1820s, a role that made him very familiar with the Ohio-Michigan border and other parts of the territory, like the Upper Peninsula. He helped to plot many important Michigan cities, like Grand Rapids. His experience will be crucial for this committee, and many

citizens of the territory are expecting him to be elected senator when the territory becomes a state.

Stevens T. Mason

The infamous “Boy Governor” of Michigan, who up until a month before the start of this committee, served as the territory’s governor. Born into a politically prominent family, he lived in Lexington, Kentucky. for most of his life up until 1830, when he was assigned to be the territorial secretary of Michigan by President Jackson when he was only 19 years old. Becoming governor at 23 in 1834, making him the youngest governor in American history, his prestigious education nonetheless qualified him for the role. His removal from office was controversial, and his main goal with his participation in this committee, outside of bringing Michigan glory, is to return to office, which much of the public supports.

Rev. John Monteith

A Presbyterian minister who was prominent in the politics of early Michigan. He was well known for helping found many important early Michigan institutions, like the first Presbyterian Church in the territory in 1825 in Detroit, serving as the first librarian in Detroit, and helping to found the University of Michigan in 1817, although classes would not begin until 1837. In 1835 he was serving as religious educator in Elyria, Ohio, and helping to organize a new college soon to become Oberlin College. He was a prominent abolitionist and prohibitionist. His influence on early Michigan institutions led to him coming back to the territory for this committee.

Edward Mundy

A prominent politician in 1830s Michigan who was serving as a prominent territorial judge during the crisis. A prominent graduate from Rutgers University, who once even served as an administrator of the University, in 1831 he moved to Ann Arbor to become one of the city’s first settlers. He provided legal counsel to Governor Mason throughout much of

the border crisis so far, and as a result, many expect him to serve as Mason's lieutenant governor if he returns to power. His legal skills will be crucial for this committee.

Oliver Newberry

A Detroit businessman, shipbuilder, and local politician. He was contracted by the federal government to build ships for all the forts and trading posts in the Great Lakes Region, which made him very wealthy. In 1833 he built the "Michigan," the largest steamboat on the Great Lakes at the time of this committee. Elected as an alderman to the Detroit City Council in 1831, he was very influential at the time of this committee. With the possible business opportunities that could come with Michigan's control of Toledo, he jumped at the opportunity to participate in this committee, especially with his interest in expanding to the railroad business.

John Norvell

The postmaster of Detroit and co-founder of the influential *Philadelphia Inquirer* newspaper. He had founded many other newspapers in his youth, primarily in the Washington DC area, and this led him to finding a role in the government in the Treasury Department in 1829, which is where he would be discovered by President Jackson and appointed to his postmaster role in 1831. A prominent Democrat, he had slowly become more and more prominent in Michigan politics by 1835, and many are expecting him to be elected senator when the territory becomes a state.

Richard Rush

An experienced politician who was sent by President Jackson to arbitrate the boundary dispute and to subsequently participate in this committee. He had filled many political roles in the past, many of which involved foreign relations, including acting as the Minister to the United Kingdom and even briefly as the Secretary of State, where he influenced the development of the Monroe Doctrine. While he was the failed vice

presidential candidate for John Quincy Adams' re-election campaign in 1828, by 1835, he had started to become a prominent Jacksonian Democrat. He held no official political position in 1835 and was anxious to jump into a new role.

Henry Schoolcraft

The director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs for Michigan Territory. An experienced academic and ethnologist, he was an explorer in his youth, exploring much of the Michigan wilderness previously unexplored by European settlers, and even went on an expedition that found the source of the Mississippi River in 1832. Through this, and due to his marriage to an Ojibwe woman, he became knowledgeable of local native languages, which is why he was appointed as an Indian agent in 1822. He briefly served on the territorial legislature from 1828 to 1832, and was fulfilling his role as director from Mackinac Island in 1835. His experience with the Michigan wilderness, along with his good relationship with Native groups in the area, is why he was invited to this committee.

Joseph Wood

A deputy sheriff of Monroe County who was just recently stabbed by Two Stickney in the incident that led to this committee being called. A resident of the city of Monroe, Wood was a simple sheriff before the border conflict. Since he was responsible for policing Monroe County, which Michigan claimed included the Toledo area, he participated in many raids during the conflict. While not fatally or even permanently affected by his injuries, they have only heightened his resolve and made him a popular figure. He will represent the viewpoint of those common Michiganders from Monroe County in this committee.

William Woodbridge

An experienced former Ohio and Michigan politician. He originally got his start as a state politician in Ohio, yet due to the close friendship he developed with Lewis Cass, he moved to Michigan in 1814 to pursue a political career in the territory. He held many important roles in state politics, most importantly the Secretary of the Territory from 1814 to 1828. Yet due to the fact that he was a prominent Whig politician, in 1835 he did not hold any public office due to the dominance of the Democratic Party in the territory. He had been heavily working on the proposed state constitution of Michigan by the time of this crisis, and due to his experience with the politics of both Ohio and Michigan, he was called to this committee.

VI. Helpful Resources

Here are some general resources that you can consult to expand your knowledge about the Toledo War and Ohio and Michigan politics in the 1830s:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3NRFuuBHZA> (This video gives by far the best explanation of the whole situation in an easy-to-digest form, being only eight minutes long. It is highly suggested that you watch this video at the very least if you don't consult any other sources.)

<https://tlcpllochhis.omeka.net/toledo-war> (This is an archive with links to sources of every variety relating to the war.)

<https://michiganology.org/stories/the-toledo-war/>

https://project.geo.msu.edu/geogmich/toledo_war.html

<https://archive.org/details/ohioitspeople0000knep> (This is a general Ohio history book that covers the Toledo War briefly, as well as a few of the figures represented in this committee.)

<https://annas-archive.org/md5/40252f30dcb2957daeb89ef32fe96521>

(If you feel comfortable downloading books, this is the book that most of the information from this background guide was taken from.)

In regards to the personal research that must be done for preparing crisis arcs, know that the backroom understands that some figures have much, much less historical documentation than others. As is often the case when studying local history, many times not much can be found about less-documented figures on the internet. This means that there will be much leeway in how roles can be interpreted and how crisis arcs can go. Get creative! However, please at least do some surface-level research into the figure your role is based on outside of the blurbs provided. With local historical figures, you never know what websites you might find some information on! (From personal experience, RV and campsite websites can surprisingly come up clutch). In general though, try consulting the Ohio State Library's website search to see if

materials show up that are related to your role (<https://library.osu.edu/>). Even if you aren't a student, you can see the titles of certain articles or books you can look for elsewhere. Many figures in this committee are politicians, and often Congress or federal department websites will have website historical databases for all the figures that served a certain role that can be helpful. The bibliography of this background guide has a few of these. Also, despite what your teachers might tell you, Wikipedia is your friend! Almost every role has a Wikipedia page that can aid your research. However, be sure to consult the Notes and References section of the page more than the actual text to find legitimate sources and to determine what information on the Wikipedia page is accurate. Nevertheless, creativity and your own personal vision should be key when you are developing your crisis arcs. I wish you the best of luck with your preparation!

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HISTORICAL
MARKER

THE OHIO MICHIGAN BOUNDARY WAR

The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 defined the boundary of the northern and southern tier of states to be carved out of the Northwest Territory, as a line drawn east from the southernmost tip of Lake Michigan until it intersects Lake Erie. Controversy over the exact location of that line led to the 1834-1837 boundary dispute between the State of Ohio and Michigan Territory. Passions ran high as everyone on both sides of the boundary knew that a great port city (Toledo) would emerge in the disputed territory. President Andrew Jackson settled the dispute in 1836 when he signed an act that recognized the current border between Ohio and Michigan, giving Michigan 9,000 square miles of Upper Peninsula land and awarding the disputed strip of approximately 470 square miles to Ohio. Michigan then joined the nation as a state the following year.



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