

The woodland Indians and their ancestors live here about 12,000 years. They gathered wild foods, hunted animals and fished and in the last few hundred years planted crops. They lived outside for the most part except in the winter. Theirs was just a survival existence. Indians often starved in the winter. Their tools were mostly made of wood, bone, leather, plants and stone. There was little if any metal. They were experts on nature even having many medicines made from plants. Although they had verbal language their culture saw no need for written language so no books were written. Their culture went nowhere and did not progress as other cultures did because they did not write down and share findings and new ideas. All of their culture and traditions were passed on to younger generations through verbal stories and showing



children how to do things. There were many good things about Indian life and practices but there were also terrible things. Check out the many good books about Indians especially for young people. Indians were very superstitious. Their main occupation next to hunting was warfare with other tribes. They were usually kind to each other in the family but extremely cruel to enemies even relishing in torturing and eating them. They lived in constant fear of attack and often the men went out on raiding parties. They were organized into clans and tribes. The Iroquois massacred nearly everyone in Michigan in mid 1600 causing Michigan and Warren to become a depopulated no-mans-land. Out east the French and British competed with the American settlers for Indian support. Most of the Europeans cheated the Indians, often killed them and



moved in on their lands. The French and British bought furs and animal pelts and paid the Indians in scalping knives, tomahawks, blankets, pots, guns and whiskey. The Indians soon adopted many of the European methods and became dependent on the Europeans. The French moved into Canada in the early 1600s and remained there until 1760 when France lost a war with the British. Cadillac set up a fort in Detroit in 1701 as a power grab against the British and Americans. The French and the British both bought scalps. Indians would even dig up corpses and scalp them to get whiskey money and they could not handle whiskey well, leading to excessive killing and debauchery. No settler was safe. Hundreds were killed and scalped even children although some children were used as slaves. By 1710 nearly 6000 Indians from many tribes were visiting near the area of the Fort at Detroit trying to get the French to give them things. This meant that they were hunting in Warren. When the British took over Detroit in 1760 things went from bad to worse. The Indians were used to getting paid for furs but the British paid less and quit buying furs for awhile but they were buying scalps. The British organized Indian raiding parties to attack American settlers. Hundreds of settlers were murdered. Michigan, Ohio and Indiana were the frontier and the Indians ruled with vengeance because they were being paid to kill. In late April 1763 Ottawa chief Pontiac called a grand council of the tribes in the vicinity of Detroit and urged them to join him in an attack upon the British fort. Legend is that the Red Run River either got its name from the red color of the water from the butchery of Chief Pontiac's warriors killing others at the banks of the river or the red cranberries.

