

# Delaware Indians once lived along Clear Creek

Back in the early 1800s when Monroe County was a vast forest, the part along Clear Creek belonged to the Delaware Indians. They were living in the White River area through the courtesy of the Miami Indians.

THE TREATY of Fort Wayne in 1809 read in part, "The Miamis explicitly acknowledge the equal right of the Delawares with themselves to the country watered by the White River. But it is also to be clearly understood that neither party shall have the right of disposing of the same without the consent of the others, and any improvements which shall be made on the said

## Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

land by the Delawares, or their friends, the Mohegans, shall be theirs forever."

According to the *Histories of Morgan, Monroe*

and Brown Counties, Monroe County was on the boundary between the territory of the Delawares and that of the Piankeshaws and Pecankeesaws. The most telling piece of evidence that the Delawares lived for a time in Monroe County is that they left behind their name for Clear Creek, which they called "Waseleu-hanne."

Much is known about the culture of the Delaware, thanks to a study of them inspired by the Governor of Michigan, Lewis Cass. In the early 1800s he was also acting in the capacity of

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