

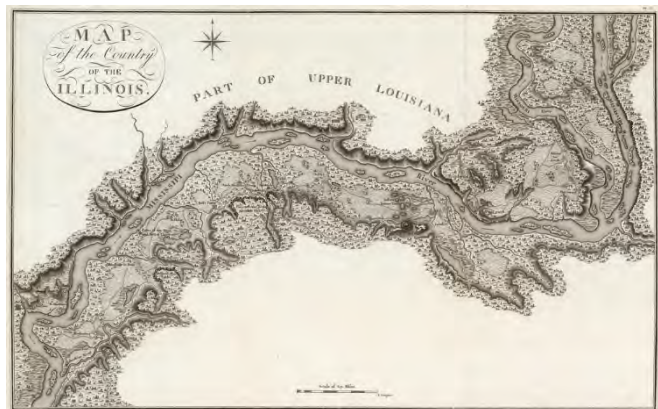
The American military tried to quell Indian violence in the Northwest Territory. In 1790 General Josiah Harmer led an army of 1,500 into an ambush, with 180 killed. Northwest Territory Governor Arthur St. Clair led his own 3,000 man army in response, yet suffered even greater casualties. 630 died and 285 were wounded. Finally in 1794, General “Mad Anthony” Wayne won a decisive victory against Indians in the Battle of Fallen Timbers. This led to the 1795 Treaty of Greenville between American authorities and more than 1,000 Indian chiefs. Indians lost large chunks of Ohio, as well as the future locations of Peoria and Chicago. In return,

This map shows the settlements in the St. Louis region in 1795, as well as the bluff line for the American Bottom, frontier-era landcover, and county borders in 1795.

Native American tribes received yearly payments in trade goods, making them further dependent on white authority. Native attacks became less frequent until the lead up to the War of 1812. Though Indians largely remained in Illinois, the treaty set the stage for their removal.¹¹

The Treaty of Greenville was joined by other critical treaties that year. The Jay Treaty forced remaining British troops out of forts in the Northwest Territory, while the Pinckney Treaty with Spain gave America navigation rights to the Mississippi and port access to New Orleans.¹²

Because of Indian warfare, difficulties in travel, and lack of public sales of land, the Anglo-American population received only occasional reinforcements from Kentucky and other southern states. By 1800, the total non-Indian population of Illinois was about 2,500, with lingering French making up about 1,500 of the population. The remaining thousand were Anglo-Americans,



This map of the St. Louis region was drawn in 1796 by George Henri Victor Collot. Image from the [David Rumsey Map Collection](#).

most all of them concentrated in the American Bottom. Four American settlements had sizable numbers. The largest was New Design with an unknown number of people, 250 in Eagle (now known as Columbia), 186 in Bellefontaine, and 90 in Fort Massac at the southern tip of Illinois. About 334 lived in various settlements, forts, and farms mostly in what would become Monroe County. The rest lived among the French in Kaskaskia, Cahokia, Prairie du Rocher, Peoria, and others.¹³ Another population lived in the American Bottom as well: enslaved African Americans. Though the northwest ordinance had explicitly banned slavery in the territory, many southerners brought their slaves with them to Illinois regardless, either ignoring the law or “hiring” their slaves as “indentured servants” for decades. The French too were allowed to keep their slaves. With limited governmental authority and high demand for labor, slavery was allowed to persist in Illinois.¹⁴

1. [Davis, 68.](#)

2. Douglas K. Meyer, *Making the heartland quilt: a geographical history of settlement and migration in early-nineteenth-century Illinois* (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2000), 19 - 20.

3. [Davis, 82.](#)

4. The vast majority of Illinoisans were from the south in 1818. [Davis, 159.](#)

5. [Davis, 88 - 89.](#)

6. [Ibid., 90 - 94.](#)

7. [Ibid., 96 - 99.](#)

8. [Ibid., 98.](#)

9. For example, the Whitesides participated in various raids on Indian groups, most notably in the Battle of Canteen Creek, in which they killed, at most, 60 Indians. See John Reynolds, *The pioneer history of Illinois* (Chicago: Fergus Printing Company, 1887), 188.

10. Reynolds, *The pioneer history of Illinois*, 131.

11. [Davis, 102.](#)

12. [Ibid., 102 - 103.](#)

13. [Ibid., 112.](#)

14. [Ibid., 165.](#)