

The Frontiersmen: A Narrative Study Guide

The Frontiersmen: A Narrative by Allan W. Eckert

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Plot Summary

Simon Kenton is born April 3, 1755. His mother wants to name him Benjamin, but his father announces that his name is Simon. The Indian named Tecumseh is born March 9, 1768, as a shooting star passes across the night sky. After this sign, his family's good fortune with regard to children will continue with the birth of triplet boys.

As a child, Simon Kenton simply refuses to work. People say he's incorrigible. He says he'd rather die than work. If he's whipped or forced to work, he'll do so only until his parents aren't watching, and then he runs away to the hills where he sometimes stays for days. He falls for a girl who leads him on and then marries another. Simon fights the young man twice. The first time he's whipped seriously, and the second time he beats the man so severely he believes he's dead. Simon runs away, fearing that he'll be tried for the murder if he remains. He makes his way to the frontier, quickly making a name for himself as a man who can handle himself in the woods. After making an incredible shot at a turkey, he meets a man named Bill Grills, who invites Simon to join his party for an expedition down the Ohio. Simon does but is soon left behind, though he's granted a share of the supplies—including traps. He sets out to learn all he can about the wilderness, connects with a man named John Yeager who promises he knows the way to a great hunting ground, and spends time in the land that will become known as Kentucky before Yeager is killed and Simon barely escapes.

Over the years, he becomes well known and often volunteers to lead settlers to a particular destination, or lends his gun to fight off Indians or chase down those who have killed or stolen from whites. He fathers an illegitimate son, then meets and marries a young woman named Martha Dowden, who bears Simon four children before her death. He then marries Martha's cousin, Elizabeth, and the two eventually move to the Ohio region.

While Simon's life progresses, a young Indian named Tecumseh rises to power amidst his own people. Tecumseh is a serious young man who excels at everything. His older brother foretells of his role as leader, and Tecumseh himself has the gift of prophesy. He joins with his younger brother, one of a set of triplets who is ultimately jealous of Tecumseh's popularity and eventually undermines his cause. Tecumseh wants to unite the Indian nations into a single band under his leadership, and with that united force demand that the whites return lands to them as the rightful owners. The plan falls short and Tecumseh and his followers join the British in the War of 1812. It's during a battle of this war that Tecumseh predicts his own death, to the grief of his people. It happens as he says, and it's Simon Kenton who identifies Tecumseh's body on the battlefield. However, Simon knows that the Americans will defile the chief's body, and his respect for the Indian prompts him to point out a different Indian as Tecumseh, clearing the way for the Shawnees to return and give their leader a proper burial.

Simon Kenton was captured by Indians, forced to run a series of gauntlets, and was almost executed. He was turned over to the British but managed to escape. He lived

among well-known military and American figures, including Daniel Boone who he once saved from Indians. Simon died in 1836, surrounded by his family.



Prologue and Chapter I

Prologue and Chapter I Summary

Simon Kenton is born April 3, 1755. His mother wants to name him Benjamin but his father announces that his name is Simon. The Indian named Tecumseh is born March 9, 1768, as a shooting star passes across the night sky. After this sign, his family's good fortune with regard to children will continue with the birth of triplet boys.

With the exception of Simon, everyone works on the Kenton farm except the oldest son, Williams, who is already married with a family of his own. Even he pitches in a few shillings when he can. Simon Kenton simply refuses to work. People say he's incorrigible. He says he'd rather die than work. If he's whipped or forced to work, he'll do so only until his parents aren't watching, and then he runs away to the hills where he sometimes stays for days.

Simon spends much of his time with a woman named Ellen Cummins, who hints that she'll marry Simon but then marries William Leachman. Simon challenges William to a fight immediately after the wedding and William wins. Simon spends the next year working hard. Some think it's because of the beating but Simon is actually working to get in better shape so that he can fight William again. When the opportunity presents itself, Simon jumps on William and beats him mercilessly. When he stops himself, he believes he's killed William and runs away. As it turns out, William doesn't die, and those who believe William is still the better fighter think William killed Simon and disposed of the body. William is tried and released for lack of evidence.

Simon recalls the stories of his uncle, Tom Kenton, who told of places past Fort Pitt. Simon had heard Tom tell of plentiful game in the "Middle Land", that area west of the current civilization and held by Indians. When Simon believes he's killed William, he sets out for that Middle Land. He pauses from a high point the following morning to take one last look at his father's house, uses evasive tactics such as traveling southward when he's actually headed west, and sets out for his trip to the Middle Land with nothing—not even shoes. He hires himself out to work at various tasks, often just for food, but is afraid to remain anywhere long for fear he'll be found. Still thinking that he'd murdered William, he travels for sixteen days to a town called Warm Springs, located one hundred and forty miles from the Kenton farm. Simon has picked up the habit of using various last names, and he now selects Butler because there's a Butler running a mill. Calling himself Simon Butler means the owner might feed him or give him a job while quizzing Simon about his family—hoping to find a familial connection. Simon works for the man for some time, saving his money to outfit himself for his trip west. He connects with a man named Dan Johnson, who admits that he is wanted in New Jersey for being a horse thief. Dan is nervous about his confession until Simon says that he is also on the run. The two men head out from Warm Springs together, using Dan's stolen horse as a pack animal. They part along the way, with Simon heading on toward Fort Pitt.



Meanwhile, a boy named Marmaduke Van Swearingen, known as Duke, is out hunting with his younger brother, Charlie. Duke is intrigued by the Indians, and when a party of braves happens upon the two boys, Duke converses with them. At the end of the conversation, the Indians agree to allow Charlie to return home if Duke will go with the Indians to be adopted into their tribe. Duke agrees and tells Charlie to tell the family that it's what he's always wanted. The Indians call him Blue Jacket because he of his clothing. Blue Jacket is beat severely when he runs the gauntlet and passes out before he reaches the end. His run is considered a success and he's nursed to health, then formally adopted by the Indian chief, Pucksinwah. Blue Jacket is soon close friends with a young man named Chiksika who is followed around by his three-year-old brother, Tecumseh.

Along the way to Fort Pitt, Simon shoots a turkey from three hundred and thirty-two paces. Bill Grills startles Simon by asking if he always shoots so well. They face off momentarily and Grills says that he and three others are traveling to the Middle Ground. His party consists of Grills, John and Raphael Mahon, and the leader, Jacob Greathouse. Grills says they are looking for a fifth man and invites Simon to meet the others. Simon spends six weeks helping build a large canoe from a beech tree. The party sets out down the Ohio but stops at Provance Settlement, located on the Monongahela, where they gather the last of their supplies and have their last taste of whiskey and women before setting out on their journey. There, they meet Dave Duncan, who has news of the Mahon brothers' father. Greathouse says that the canoe will carry only five men and Simon is left behind with some traps and provisions. Using what he learned from Grills, Simon is careful about hiding his campsite, and arrives one day to find two men sitting in the midst of his camp. They are John Yeager and George Strader. Yeager is an older man who has lived among the Indians for many years and who says he remembers the way to rich hunting grounds. Strader is not an accomplished woodsman but has some skills. The three build a canoe, gather what provisions they can on their limited budget, and head down the Ohio River. They don't find the cane breaks that Yeager was certain he'd be able to locate, but eventually select a place to winter.

Prologue and Chapter I Analysis

Simon's mother Mary refuses to give up on finding Simon and wants to continue searching for him. She says that she knows Simon is in the mountain somewhere and that if she just looks long enough she'll find him. Simon fears that he's being pursued and so he travels quickly, stopping only when hunger drives him to it. He worries that someone will hear that he's on the run and will remember seeing him, so he lives mostly on young greens and shoots. He could easily have set snares for small game, but doesn't stop that long. Then he has an idea. He stops and visits with a settler and learns the name of a neighbor about a day's walk away. He presents himself there the following day under that settler's own last name, and they talk at length about the possibility of relationship. They give him food and clothing and he inquires about neighbors, presenting himself the following day at another home and repeating the process.



Simon says he has a general liking for Grills but not the Mahon brothers, who are known to kill men, especially Indians, with no provocation. His relationship with Greathouse is rather complicated. Greathouse once takes Simon's gun from him in a brief scuffle, then hits Simon. When Simon gets up, he says that if Greathouse tries to touch him again he'll kill him. That seems to win Greathouse's admiration and he later brags that Simon is the only man who has ever pointed a gun at him and lived to tell about it. Greathouse calls Simon a "cub" and leaves him behind when the party's plans change, but he leaves him generous provisions, including plenty of traps.



Chapter II

Chapter II Summary

They trap that first winter, trade their furs to a traveling trader, and are still working their trap lines when their camp is attacked by Indians. Yeager is killed, but Strader and Simon escape, though with no provisions and without clothing. Both men had just returned from running their trap lines and had taken off their clothing to allow it to dry. They are wrapped in blankets as the attack begins but lose those in their dash to safety. When they encounter the Greathouse party after walking for several days with no food, Strader passes out. John Reese, a member of the party, asks if anyone knows the men. Greathouse recognizes Simon and says that he believes there will come a time when everyone knows him.

John Briscoe, a land speculator who has funded a current expedition of surveyors, is a doctor, and Simon and Strader are soon recovered. Strader returns to civilization and Simon joins up with the party of explorers. Their purpose is to find a place for a settlement and to map the region. They are traveling under the direction of Dr. John Wood and Hancock Lee.

Meanwhile, a white man named Thomas Bullitt, who is leading part of the exploration, walks into a camp of the Chilahgawtha Shawnees and says that white people want to settle on the opposite shore of the Ohio River, that he hopes the Indians will allow them to live in peace, and gives them a pack of trinkets and calico material in an effort to prove their sincerity. The chief, Black Fish, says that he can't tell the whites not to settle there because those lands belong not to the Indians but to "the ghosts of murdered Azgens". He says the Indians are not pleased to know Whites will settle there, but says the Indians will direct their young men to be kind and peaceable and hopes the whites keep their own promises of peace. Bullitt tries to make up time with his party of explorers, but a run through some rapids in the dark causes two canoes to be smashed. The other part of his crew realize he's probably in trouble and move to the opposite shore of the Ohio - the side occupied by Indians - to see farther up the river. After camping on that side of the river for four days, an Indian named Wild Cat goes into their camp to tell them that their agreement is that the white man will settle on the opposite bank. One of the men grabs a gun and shoots the Indian. The men are later discovered, dead on the beach.

Simon's party are to connect with Bullitt's group on a specific day. When Bullitt doesn't show up, some of the men think he's just forgotten or is busy, but Simon wants to go looking for him. They finally split the party, with Simon joining five men to search for Bullitt while the rest return to their base, Briscoe's settlement. Simon and his party soon finds the dead white men, says that it's evident an Indian brave was killed and predicts retaliation. They travel by river for a time but Simon knows a particular point where an ambush is likely and the party goes ashore, traveling then by foot. John Wood has been



bitten by a copperhead and his group is forced to stop while his wound is tended. This allows Simon's party to catch up, but he soon parts with the surveyors.

News of his exploits travels quickly and is often exaggerated. He's met by men who want him to tell his stories or just shake his hand. He soon tires of it, leaves the small towns and catches up with Greathouse. Bill Grills teases him, asking if it was four Indians or six that he killed with a penknife. The group is trying to decide where to spend the winter, and Simon tells of cabins built by the surveyors. They quickly decide to winter there, leaving before the spring thaws when there might be Indian trouble.

In March of the following year, 1774, a surveying party led by James Harrod stops at the site of the cabins occupied by the Greathouse party. Harrod is to continue the surveying started by Bullitt. They tell of worsening relations between the Colonists and English and all are aware of an increase in Indian attacks. The following morning, the surveyors leave and Greathouse, and Grills and the Mahon brothers set out to trade the furs. Simon and two men, Lock and Cartwright, remain behind to make more "tomahawk improvements", with the plan to meet in two weeks and to split everything evenly all around. Tomahawk improvements is a means by which a man may claim land in the region for his own. Land claims are made by chipping a tomahawk blaze into a tree. The idea is to increase population in the area.

Just days later, Blue Jacket and members of his tribe visit a neighboring tribe with the hope of combining forces to battle the whites. The neighboring tribe, led by a man named Logan, refuses. Logan says peace with the whites is the only answer. In April of 1774, the English governor of New York and Virginia Colonies, Lord John Murray Dunmore, has the surveying continue so that it will stop land disputes among the colonists, and musters an army to move against the Indians. Dunmore himself promises to lead the army, a move that garners support from those who had not been behind Dunmore. Dunmore, fearing the safety of his surveyors, sends a German immigrant named Michael Stoner and a Pennsylvanian named Daniel Boone to warn them of the plan to attack the Indians. Greathouse's party encounters the Michael Cresap party on April 30. The Cresaps, including George Rogers Clark, say they've recently killed two Indians but that a third escaped. Greathouse passes along news of the impending attack on the Indians. Greathouse then connects with a party of about thirty ruffians and drunks, led by a man named Tomlin. They camp just across from a band of Iroquois led by the father of Chief Logan, an Indian named Shikellimus. Greathouse invites the Indians to a marksman competition but Shikellimus says they are busy. He does release five young men and Logan's sister, who is pregnant, to join the white men for a competition. Greathouse's men get three of the Indians drunk. After they fire at the mark, they are slow to reload and are all killed. The woman runs but is shot in the back. She isn't immediately dead but is strapped to a pole and then her belly is sliced open. When the others who hadn't crossed the river respond to her screams, they are ambushed and only three escape. Grills, refusing to participate, slips away, and it's noted that his association with Greathouse and with the frontier is ended. With the deaths, Logan recalls his own vow to live in peace with the whites and declares that it's time to take ten lives for every one of the slain Indians.



Cornstalk, chief of the Shawnee Nation, fears the impact of a war on his people. He agrees to attend peace talks at Fort Pitt and goes there with only his brother and sister. In Pittsburgh, a mob converges on the three even though they are accompanied by a white delegation of soldiers, and Cornstalk's brother is seriously wounded. Cornstalk and his sister tend his wound and carry him away, with further talks of peace abandoned.

Simon, Lock, and Cartwright head to Briscoe, expecting the settlement to be somewhat safer than the three men alone in the wilderness, but it's abandoned. They eventually part and Simon goes to Pittsburgh where he interrupts a fight against a small man named Simon Girty. Simon finds the city preparing for the militia move against the Indians, and two weeks after his arrival, he joins as an officer, seeing it as an opportunity to see even more of the Middle Ground. But Simon and another man who joined at the same time fear the tactics of the commander, Colonel McDonald, who knows nothing of Indian warfare. They ask to be reassigned as scouts and are moved to the company commanded by George Clark. The militia outfits bicker and fight among themselves until they move out of Pennsylvania. In June, Harrod's men build a permanent settlement in a previously unexplored region of Virginia. Five hundred miles downriver, Logan scalps his thirtieth victim - a man named Dave Duncan who Simon had met while with the Greathouse party.

Simon carries messages back and forth and there is obvious friction between officers, including Dunmore and Colonel Andrew Lewis. At one point, Lewis doesn't believe Simon's message is genuine and refuses to change course. Dunmore sends conflicting orders, often simply trying to tire Lewis and his men so that his own regiment will have the glory of first strike.

On October 6, 1774, Cornstalk urges his people to consider that they are outnumbered by three to one, that the whites have better guns and that the Indians must consider the future of their race. He's outvoted. They decide to strike at Lewis, who is closer and has only about eight hundred men. Blue Jacket is among the riders who go on the attack.

Dunmore stops to create a fort, which is really only a cattle stockade and place to store provisions. Dunmore's men are angry at the delay, knowing that Lewis is ahead of them. Lewis has deliberately disobeyed Dunmore's orders, calling them suicidal, and has camped for a day of rest. They are on a triangle of land flanked on two sides by water. The Indians cross the Ohio upstream, planning to attack from the third side, leaving the men nowhere to go. On October 10, Lewis is awakened by a scout who reports the incoming Indians. Two colonels are killed in the first volley of fire from the Indians. The whites fall back slightly, using trees and rocks for cover. The battle rages until noon, with neither side giving in until Cornstalk gets word that the remainder of Lewis's men are approaching. The white men believe the Indians retreated, but Lewis isn't certain. He doesn't pursue, fearing a trap. The whites lose seventy-five men, including half their commissioned officers. Twenty-two Indians are killed and eighteen wounded. The chief Pucksinwah is among those killed, and with his dying words he passes leadership of his family to his son, reminding him to teach his younger brother, Tecumseh. His wife and family would become the responsibility of another chief in accordance with law.



The Indians have no heart for this type of battle and want to sue for peace, which makes Cornstalk angry. Cornstalk asks his people what they want, and they want to fight no more. He sends a contingent to Dunmore with treaty proposals. It's noted that he would have welcomed the move just five days earlier, but now is saddened. Dunmore doesn't accept the word of the Indian runners and sends Simon and Girty to talk to the chiefs. Simon and Girty return, confirming that Cornstalk wants no more warfare, and Dunmore sends word to Lewis but his orders are ignored. Dunmore intercepts Lewis just as he's approaching an Indian camp, and Lewis agrees to desist under threat of death.

The treaty becomes a reality and Simon, accompanied by a nineteen-year-old named Thomas Williams, and pleased to be free of the military, moves back to the lands where he'd built cabins to pass the winter trapping and hunting. The cabins have been burned to the ground. They meet up with a French trader, Peter Loramie, and Loramie tells Simon that he knows the location of his elusive canelands described by Yeager. Simon and Thomas search but still don't find them, rebuild one of the cabins, and prepare for the winter.

Chapter II Analysis

As Simon becomes a major part of the surveying party, his knowledge is invaluable. He is a quick study, learning whatever he can from anyone he spends time with. His store of woodlands knowledge grows and soon the men are dependent on him. When Simon predicts an Indian attack, he faces opposition. Some of the men want to remain on the river. Simon settles the matter by shoving the canoe into the river, forcing them to walk. There is dissension among the men until they stop at a high point and witness Indians concealing themselves among the reeds and bushes exactly where Simon had predicted. It was Greathouse himself who predicted that Simon would become well known among the woodsmen of the region and it seems he was correct. Upon his return to Briscoe Settlement, Simon Kenton discovers that there are stories going around about him, though they all use his assumed name - Simon Butler. It's said that he rescued thirty men from attack, killed Indians armed with nothing but a tomahawk, carried the snake-bitten John Wood a hundred and forty miles on his back, and could shoot a turkey on the wing at a hundred yards. Simon soon parts from the surveyors and discovers that they've been lavish in their praise of him along their way to Fort Pitt, so that when he arrives people already know him. When Simon meets up with Greathouse, the man says that people are talking more about Simon than about Greathouse. Simon notes that Greathouse smiles as he says it but that the smile doesn't reach his eyes and it seems the man might be jealous.

Simon becomes close to a man named Simon Girty, also a scout. Girty tells of his youth, that his parents had been killed by the French-led Indians, and that he'd been adopted by a tribe until treaties call for captives to be released. He'd been a scout ever since. When Girty suggests that they become blood brothers, Simon agrees. Both know that having someone to truly depend on is valuable. They cut their right wrists, clasp the



other's forearm so that the blood mingles, and declare their allegiance to each other. Simon still doesn't reveal that his name is not Butler, as everyone has come to believe.

Blue Jacket is not the only white fighting on the side of the Indians as they meet Lewis in battle. John Ward was taken by the Indians as a child. His father, Captain James Ward, is fighting with Lewis, having never forgiven the Indians for killing his wife and taking his son. John Ward is a deadly shot and James Ward is killed when he incautiously raises his head above a log. It's not proven that the son killed the father, but it could have been.

In late October, Simon, Girty, and John Gibson are conferring with Chief Logan, who refuses to attend the peace conference but agrees to dictate a message to be read there. Logan's message is that he'd sought peace prior to the deaths of his sister, father, and brother-in-laws, but that his blood now flows through the veins of no one and that he will not turn away in fear. Though he doesn't pledge peace, he says that his quest for revenge is complete and hints that he will no longer attack unprovoked. It's interesting that Logan blames a commander named Cresap for the deaths of his family and Cresap, upon learning of this, swears that he'll kill Greathouse if he ever again encounters him.



Chapter III

Chapter III Summary

On March 5, 1775, Loramie puts in to shore near Simon's camp and tells Simon that he'd stopped at the wrong creek in his search for the canelands. The game is as plentiful as promised. Bison are so numerous they've created great roads. Elk, mink, skunk, beaver, raccoon, weasels, and more gather at a great salty spring. The two men even kill bear from the generous population and then clear an acre of land and plant corn. Before they are done, people begin swarming down the river, believing themselves and their families safe from Indian attack. On March 17, Judge Richard Henderson signs a treaty with the Cherokee Indians at Sycamore Shoals. The Cherokee don't actually own the land but don't care. The chief, Dragging Cane, says that they've sold Henderson the land but warns that it's under a "dark and bloody cloud". Henderson believes he's made a good deal and sends his best scout, Daniel Boone, to blaze the way and to lay out a town as the capital of the region. James Harrod and Benjamin Logan are among those who establish towns, known as Harrodsburg and Logan's Fort. Daniel Boone chooses a plain south of the Kentucky River near a salt lick as the location for their town. John McClelland settles with his families and others are guided by Simon to a place with a beautiful springs, called Royal Springs. As he returns to his own camp, Simon is almost trampled by buffalo and is forced up a tree. There's another man up a nearby tree and an hour later, when the herd has passed, Simon demands the man show himself. The man makes the same demand and the two, accepting that they were of the same kind, climb down together. The man is John Hinkson and he's among the settlers some forty miles from Simon's place. Early in May, Simon is guiding another party when Williams catches up to him with the news that the Colonies are at war with England, though it's for rights as English subjects rather than independence. That quest would come later. Simon and Thomas later learn that Henderson has convened a meeting to establish a government for the region, but both decline to attend.

In July of 1775, chiefs of the Shawnees are gathered to demand that they are allowed to repay "like with like" with regard to the treatment from the whites. They cite the poor hunting conditions that came with the whites and that whites were willing to shoot at any Indian they see. Cornstalk cautions that to make war with the whites will mean the devastation of the Indian people. The Thawegila Shawnees vow to leave the region if war begins but Black Fish - a traditional peace keeper - says that the whites are not to be trusted and that retaliation is proper. In October, two men approach Simon's camp after having lost their canoe in a storm. One wants to return to Pennsylvania and Simon and Thomas take him to a stream, outfit him with a canoe and provisions, and send him on his way. When they return, they find the other man's charred and mutilated body. They break camp, warn nearby settlers who report similar attacks, and Simon elects to stay with a family who has little protection. While in the woods one day, he encounters an Indian who is about to shoot him. Simon fires a shot and kills the brave. Two more run into the clearing and Simon reloads as he runs. He notes that it's his first Indian kill



but won't likely be his last. In April of 1776, the settlers receive word that the English are urging the Indians to harass and kill Kentucky settlers, putting everyone on high alert. Simon's reputation grows and he often wanders far from his own camp to help others.

Tecumseh is being groomed by his brother and taught the ways of the Indian. For months - into the coldest part of winter - he dives naked into a nearby pool. The task is to hone his willingness to obey and his endurance. On the final morning, he is to close his hands around whatever he finds at the bottom of the pool and the object he returns with - a quartzite rock - becomes his Pa-waw-ka symbol that will connect him to the Great Spirit and Moneto. He next begins to learn the art of warfare.

Indian attacks increase by July of 1776 and Simon learns that Daniel Boone's daughter, Jemima, and her two companions have been taken by Indians. Boone leads a group of men in pursuit and they catch up to them fifty miles later, killing two Indians and forcing them to leave behind their captives. Simon and Daniel form a natural friendship that would last until their deaths. News comes that the Virginia Assembly has denied the request of settlers for militia backup - a serious issue because of the increased Indian attacks. They are given lead and powder and recruit seven men who want to go to Kentucky but haven't the means to get there. The party is chased by Indians and they hide the ammunition and powder, planning to gather enough men to safely retrieve it. Simon does so, but people are discouraged by the continual attacks and are leaving the region for the safety of civilization.

In 1776, Virginia Governor Patrick Henry makes a visit to Harrodsburg to appoint George Rogers Clark commander of the entire County of Kentucky. As the Colonies go to war with England, Simon and the other settlers of Kentucky seem to be far removed from the fighting, but they have trouble with Indians. It's eventually determined that the Indians are actually being spurred to fighting against the settlers by the English officers in nearby forts and the settlers of Kentucky create a plan to take three nearby English forts to stop that. For four months in 1777, the Kentucky settlers are repeatedly attacked by Indians. Governor Henry is prevailed upon for help and sends a hundred soldiers, but they arrive after the Indian attacks have slacked off, and the commander - Colonel John Bowman - would rather be fighting the British. During those attacks, Daniel Boone is struck in the leg by a bullet and his leg is broken. Simon drops his gun, scoops up Boone, and rushes toward the fort. His way is blocked by two Indians and he uses Boone's body "as a log", throwing the man at the Indians and fighting his way through to gain the fort entrance. Boone makes a full recovery and the two meet up again in February of 1778.

The Indian Chief Cornstalk goes under a flag of truce to Fort Randolph where he sees Captain Arbuckle. Cornstalk's mission is to tell Arbuckle that the Shawnees will no longer honor the treaty that he had previously signed. He says that he doesn't believe the whites are adhering to the treaty's conditions and that it's a matter of his own personal honor to alert the whites that the Indians will now do the same. Arbuckle, citing the fact that with Cornstalk's statement there is now open war with the Indians, takes Cornstalk and his party - his son and a brave named Red Hawk - into custody. Cornstalk tells his son that it appears that the Great Spirit has decided that father and



son are to die together and urges his son to accept it. Men break into the garrison where the three Indians are being held and shoot the three again and again.

Chapter III Analysis

It's noted that while camped near the salt springs with its abundant wildlife, Simon is content. He says that for the first time since he'd left his father's home four years earlier, he feels he is at home. It's interesting to note that Simon and Thomas set up a farming operation and that it doesn't take long for Simon to remember that he hates the drudgery of farming. Again, he's only happy when he's in the woods, though he does seem to take his responsibility to Thomas seriously and there's no indication that he ignores his share of the work at first. It's only during the second year that he spends more time with arriving settlers than with Thomas. By July of 1776, with their second crop a complete failure, the two men agree to part ways.

In December, George Rogers Clark learns that Richard Henderson is setting up a government that resembles a feudalistic society. He urges the Virginia Assembly to establish a county seat, to call it Kentucky County, and the request is granted with two men to be elected by the settlers - as representatives. Clark says it's important because the settlers will eventually need militia support and that this is the way to that end. Clark later says that the idea of a separate country is intriguing, but that they aren't equipped to defend themselves against Indian attacks. The following summer, the settlers elect Clark and John Gabriel, an attorney. Those signing included Simon. Less than a month later, delegates sue England for independence.

Simon's assumed last name of "Butler" is mispronounced by the Indians as "Bahd-ler", and they refer to him as "the man whose gun is always loaded". It's likely he is given this name because of his ability to load his gun while on the run and that he always reloads the moment he fires, regardless of the circumstances. It's known that there will be glory for the Indian who manages to take Simon's scalp.



Chapter IV

Chapter IV Summary

Simon meets up with Daniel Boone in February of 1778. Boone and his party are camped at a salt springs where they are boiling water to obtain the salt. Boone invites Simon for a hunting trip, but Simon declines because he is on his way to a meeting with Clark. Boone, alone later that day in the woods, is suddenly surrounded by Indians. He is told that his party has already been located and that he can convince his men to surrender or the Indians will kill them all. Boone complies with the orders of his captor, Blue Jacket—the white man who was taken into the Shawnee tribe years earlier and who is now a subchief of the Kispokotha Shawnees. Boone's companions are sold back to the government, but the Indians refuse to sell Boone. He's friendly, works beside the Indians, and earns their respect. It's noted that the things that make him well-liked by whites are the reasons the Indians like him and refuse to sell him with the other captives. Boone works to create a comfortable place for himself, knowing that he'll eventually try to escape and that those captured are killed. Later that summer, Blue Jacket takes an Indian woman, the Swan, as his wife.

In March, Simon meets again with Simon Girty and the two fall easily back into the ways of their friendship. Girty announces to Simon that he's going to fight for the British. They part with the idea that it's likely their final parting. Simon will meet him again in 1778 while Simon is a captive of the Indians. But as Girty leaves, supposedly bound for British forces, Major Clark is to lead a contingent of men against the British, but few of the settlers are willing to fight. Most feel that the British will retaliate and decide to remain behind to face that. On August 22, 1778, Simon learns that Boone has escaped and is in need of help to fend off an Indian attack at Boonesboro. When Simon arrives, Boone is preparing to scout the region to find out where the Indians are located and to attempt to steal some horses to replace those the Indians have stolen over the months. Simon encounters two Indians along the way, kills one and wounds the other who is taken away by a larger party of Indians. Boone heads back to the fort, but Simon remains behind with a man named Alex Montgomery, and the two recover four horses that had been taken from the fort. Boone happens upon an encampment of Indians, British, and Frenchmen intent on attacking Boone's fort. The group is resting because Black Fish doesn't want to incur the wrath of the white's God by fighting on the Sabbath. Simon and Alex take a different route and miss the Indian encampment entirely. On September 9, Boone is given the opportunity to surrender. He pretends to consider it then declines, and the siege of his fort begins. Boone will later be tried for "British tendencies" for pretending to consider the offer but is found not guilty.

Four days later, joined by George Clark, Simon and Alex locate a corral of about fifty horses. They attempt to take seven horses but are discovered. Simon quickly tears down a section of fence and stampedes the other horses so that the few braves remaining in the camp won't be able to follow. The three men with their seven horses reach the Ohio, but the water is wild and the horses refuse to cross. The Indians catch



up to them and Simon is captured. Alex shoots at the Indian holding Simon but misses and is killed himself. Only Clark escapes. Simon is beaten with Alex's scalp and with a stick, is stripped naked, urinated on, placed on his back and tied, spread-eagle, to four stakes driven in the ground. When the flies and ants arrive, drawn by his own bloodied face and the blood from Alex's scalp, Simon begins to wish he'd been killed by his captor, Bo-nah. The trip to the Indian camp is miserable, though Simon is treated to an occasional kindness, including a paste to help the pain of his wounds. Then he's approached by a large Negro name Caesar, who tells him that he's to be tried as soon as Black Fish returns from the attack on Boone's fort, and that Simon's only chance is to get away that night. He's forced to run the gauntlet and falls twice, being severely beaten in the process. An Indian maiden named Sutawnee tends him, carefully treating his wounds, and he becomes attracted to her over the several days of his convalescence. One day he kisses her and she says that it means he's healing, that she's also attracted to him but that it can't be because Black Fish has returned and Simon is to be condemned to death on the following day. It's from Sutawnee that he learns that Boone's fort was under siege for thirteen days but didn't fall.

Simon is condemned to be burned to death, but it's decided that he'll be taken to Wapatomica, the geographic center of the Shawnee Nation, so that more people may witness the event. He runs several gauntlets and knows that his opportunities for escape are becoming less. As he's set to run a gauntlet, he runs before the signal, jumps over an old woman and races away. He jumps a gorge, gets enough distance to be out of sight briefly, confuses his trail and makes good his escape. When he races out of the woods into a clearing, he encounters Blue Jacket, who quickly hits Simon in the head with the pipe end of his tomahawk, knocking him unconscious. An old Indian, Moluntha, who is known as the "King of the Shawnees", pledges that Simon's bravery will be rewarded by lifting the death sentence, but he's wrong. On the morning Simon is to die, he's confronted by Simon Girty. Girty doesn't first recognize Simon, but when he realizes his friend's identity, he tells the Indians that the two are blood brothers. Another vote of whether Simon should be burned at the stake is taken and this time his life is spared. He's told he'll be adopted into the Shawnees and Simon "very nearly wept".

Simon's adoptive mother is Sugar Tree. He's to take the place of the son she lost. She names Simon Great White Wolf and is kind to him, but Simon feels guilty for he knows he'll escape at the first opportunity. The chances for escape come quickly as he travels from town to town with Girty, but Simon fears that the Indians will retaliate against Girty and doesn't run away. After twenty days, there's word of a major white victory and the council again votes to kill Simon, ignoring Girty's pleas. Girty then says that it seems the death of Simon—a formidable enemy of all Indians—would be something to hold at an intertribal conference. Agreeing, the Indians prepare to transport him to another location for his execution. Along the way, Girty catches up and speaks to Simon in English, saying that he's going to ride ahead and seek to garner the help of Chief Logan, an Indian who Simon and Girty had recently aided by showing how to construct a log cabin that would be warmer for the coming winter than the traditional Indian building. Simon has been seriously injured and those injuries are tended at Logan's camp, though there is no help for his escape. However, just as Simon is about to be burned at the stake, a British officer named Captain Peter Drouilliard says that he must take Simon to Detroit



to the "great father" there for questioning. He's doing so at the request of Logan. Drouilliard offers money and goods for the opportunity to question Simon, and promises that he'll be returned to the Indians for execution once the British are finished with him. The Indians agree and Simon is turned over to the British. His original captor, Bo-nah, is allowed to accompany them. Bo-nah sticks close to Simon until the journey changes from land to canoes. Drouilliard says that he wants to question Simon without the Bo-nah's threatening presence, and it's then that he tells Simon that he's not going to be returned to the Indians. He says that Simon owes his thanks to both Logan and Girty, who arranged it all.

At the British fort, Detroit, Simon is immediately treated for his injuries. Bo-nah is told that Simon is a valuable prisoner—too valuable to be given up. Simon is given a job and freedom of the city but told that they're surrounded by Indian country and that none have succeeded in escaping. He's told to consider himself a prisoner of war. Simon decides that he doesn't want to escape. Winter is approaching and living in the city means he has the perfect opportunity to observe so that he can make a report to the Americans when he does leave. He figures next summer will be sufficient.

Chapter IV Analysis

There is serious contention between Clark and a man named Colonel John Bowman, who was sent by Patrick Henry to help the settlers fend off Indian attacks. Bowman, who was very young, entered Clark's domain making demands and scoffing at the primitive accommodations. In August of 1778, Bowman is told that Clark took two of three British forts without firing a shot and that he now requests Bowman's help for the attack on the third. Bowman is angry at having lost the glory of the victories and refuses help, saying he has no men to spare. He goes so far as to say that his men will now face retaliatory attacks by the Indians because of Clark's actions.

Sutawnee says that she'll ask her father to vote to spare him, but says Simon has become known as an enemy of the Indian and that killing him will regain some of the disgrace of failing to take Boone's fort. While Simon is being readied for his appearance before the council, there are a group of children gathered around him, spitting at him and taunting him. One boy picks mucus from his nose and smears it on Simon who retaliates by kicking the boy. The child runs away and returns in a few minutes with his mother, who is armed with a thorny branch. It's she who beats Simon for kicking a Shawnee boy. Tecumseh has watched the entire situation with disgust. He has been taught that he's to be fearless and he sees nothing but fear in the children who strike out at Simon then run away, or spit at him from a distance so that they are not in danger.

Girty tells Simon to be courageous, as he's approaching his third death sentence. Simon says he has courage but no longer has hope. Instead, he plods along and ignores the jeers and pokes from the hostile Indians. When he approaches his ninth gauntlet, he's simply tired. He notes that the Indians forming the gauntlet—all men—are armed only with switches that will cut into the flesh rather than the clubs that can break bones. However, he still has no hope nor interest in achieving the opposite end. He



walks the gauntlet rather than running—a feat never heard of before. By the time he's nearing the opposite end, the Indians believe he must be protected by the Great Spirit and they stop hitting him hard, with some even passing the opportunity to strike altogether. When he's lead toward the stake, there's a sudden downpour of rain, adding to the theory that he must be protected by the Great Spirit.



Chapter V

Chapter V Summary

On January 8, 1779, Moravian missionaries, led by the Reverend David Zeisberger, prepare to leave their post at the forks of the Muskingum under threat of death by Mohawk Chief Joseph Brant. In February, Clark's men wade through bitter conditions to reach a British stronghold of Vincennes, and takes it without a fight. The Rabbit clan of the Delaware Indians, now with only some two hundred members, pack up and move "one hundred days" to the west. The Shawnees continue to be divided, some advocating peace and adoption of the white man's ways as the only way to survive. The nation splits, with those wanting peace traveling to land in Missouri County granted by the Spaniards, and those wanting to fight the whites remaining behind.

On June 3, 1779, Simon Kenton is preparing to leave Detroit though a woman there, Rachel Edgar, begs him to stay. She's nineteen years his senior and married, but desires Simon. It's her husband, John Edgar, who provides the majority of the supplies for his escape. John tells Simon casually that all who've tried to escape have used the same route and that it's foolish to do the same. He then says that it seems that a person should travel a different direction and outlines that route. Simon, accompanied by Jesse Copher and Robert Bullock, makes it to safety, though Simon says the two are helpless in the woods and that they slow him down considerably. He reports to Colonel John Bowman and doesn't find George Rogers Clark until July 5. Clark says that he hasn't enough men to attack Detroit, though he wants to. Bowman refuses to help in that attack and goes against the Shawnees. He's badly beaten, though the Shawnee nation has split and most of those remaining behind to fight have gone to a council meeting. Bowman has heavy losses, though there are only thirty-five men and boys to fight against him. When the Shawnees return, they find Black Fish mortally wounded—one of only two casualties among the Indians as opposed to more than thirty whites dead and double that number wounded. The Shawnee warriors prepare for war, calling on the British for guns and ammunition and with the invitation to join them in the battle against the whites. Black Fish dies in agony in October and his people vow vengeance.

On August 24, 1779, John and Rachel Edgar and Peter Drouillard are all arrested for aiding Simon's escape and the Edgars are accused of helping others. On October 2, Drouillard knocks on Simon's cabin door and collapses. He continues to live at Simon's cabin, though he becomes a hopeless sot. Later that month, Simon helps take a rough count of the number of men who would be available to defend against a retaliatory strike by the Indians, and meets Andrew Jackson. The two take an immediate dislike of each other. Jackson eventually picks a fight with Simon and is whipped soundly. The winter passes with Simon lending a hand at a new settlement—Lexington. Early spring weather comes in March and the feared Indian attacks occur, mostly on small bands of whites or unprotected cabins.



On May 30, 1780, Simon encounters a group of men who are prime targets for an Indian attack. He helps them drown their fire and conceal their canoe, and they begin to talk. He soon discovers that one of the men is his brother, John, who tells Simon that Leachman isn't dead at all and that Simon has been running for nothing. Simon immediately begins to use his true name—Simon Kenton. He learns that his brother Benjamin was killed in a battle against the British, that his parents are still alive, and that all his siblings except John are now married with families.

In June, Captain Henry Byrd prepares to attack the settlers of Kentucky. He expects about a hundred Indians to join his force but there are about 850 Indians. Byrd's men have cannons and the first fort they encounter, Ruddell's, falls after the first shot because the settlers simply have no defense against the weapon. Byrd plans to take the men prisoner and send the women to another settlement, but the Indians aren't willing to be cheated out of their revenge. They rush into the fort, murdering about twenty inhabitants, including women and babies. Byrd berates the Indians, promises them they can have all the loot confiscated from the forts but that prisoners will not be harmed. They take another fort. Byrd, having lost his stomach for the campaign, calls a halt to it and loses the respect of the Indians, who decide that Byrd is a squeamish man and that killing the prisoners would free up the men for the march on the next fort.

Simon and Charles Gatliffe, a newcomer to the area, watched helplessly as the prisoners are ferried across the river. They are horrified at the damage done by the cannon, and as they're trying to figure out how to rescue at least some of the prisoners, they realize that the cannon is being ferried across the river in a canoe. The two men slip into the river, almost invisible in the dusk, and tip the precariously balanced load, dumping the cannon into the river. Clark calls a meeting of all able to fight—including the militia. The Kentucky residents are so angry they flock to the meeting place. Just as they're preparing to attack, Simon Girty, his brother, and some other Indians discover the plan. They then encounter a small scouting party, including Simon Kenton. Girty stops one of the Indians from firing on Simon. He says that the Indians need time to prepare for the attack, but he's actually just saved the life of his blood brother again. Chief Black Hoof says that there aren't enough Indians to stand against the force, and the tribe packs up and moves during the night before the planned attack. They make their stand thirteen miles away at Piqua Town. After a battle, Clark says they've "done all the mischief they could do" against the Indians and return to Fort Jefferson in Louisville.

Chapter V Analysis

Simon is naive and doesn't at first realize that Rachel Edgar wants anything from him other than friendship. Then he wonders why John Edgar will continue to be friendly when it's obvious that Rachel is attracted to Simon. Though it's said that Rachel and John Edgar have a "marriage of convenience", it's also possible that John provides for Simon's escape to get him away from Rachel. The British officer, Drouilliard, offered aid but Simon isn't certain that he can fully trust the man. Drouilliard does help by providing guns and ammunition.



Joseph Rogers, nephew of George Rogers Clark, is a captive of the Indians, and when the whites attack at Piqua Town he sees that he's finally going to be rescued. He hides until he sees his uncle, then bursts from his hiding place but forgets that he is dressed as an Indian. He's shot and killed but not before Clark realizes that the man is his nephew. When he returns to the fort, he's forced to write a letter to his sister, telling of her son's death.

Tecumseh has grown into an intelligent young man and now he continually asks his older brother and teacher, Chiksika, questions that Chiksika sometimes cannot answer. One of those is why Moneto—the god worshiped by Tecumseh's people—would allow the whites to dominate the Indians. Tecumseh admits at one point that he's going to have to find answers to some of these questions on his own.



Chapter VI

Chapter VI Summary

By January 1781, it's obvious that the Kentucky settlements are permanent, though there are occasional marauding bands of Indians who steal food, weapons, and horses. The winter is difficult for the Indians, who lost most of their crops to Clark's invasion. Their hatred for the whites grows. With the coming of spring, the Indians increase their attacks, often camping along the river to ambush unsuspecting travelers. Simon and a group of men return to the site of one of those ambushes to find a grisly scene, including a man who has been impaled through his rectum on a stake driven in the ground. Women, children, and infants are all dead and Simon's party takes time to bury them.

The Moravian Indians, those who have been converted to Christianity following the lead of the missionaries, are forced by the British to abandon their three villages. They're promised food but it seldom arrives and they're finally given permission to go back to their villages to gather what's left there. One hundred and fifty of them are in the process of this task when they're taken captive by Colonel David Williamson, who decides that they are to be executed. They begin hitting Indians in the head with a mallet, but one of the soldiers throws up and leaves the door open as he runs outside. Two young boys rush the door and escape, warning the final fifty of their party of the murders. It's soon known as the Moravian Massacre. In June, a campaign is mounted to complete the task of wiping out the Moravian Indians. Girty warns the white attackers that the Indians have them surrounded, that they have one escape route, and advises they use it. They do, but the commander, Colonel William Crawford, discovers that his son, son-in-law, and two nephews are missing. They're already dead, but not knowing that, Crawford halts the retreat to search. Williamson escapes and Crawford is to be executed in his place. He's burned at the stake in a horrible fashion, living for long hours under the torture of flames, having his ears cut off, and shots fired at him from flintlocks with no balls. Six and a half years after the massacre of the Moravian Indians, the public outcry continues and the government finally offers to gather the scattered tribe, provide for them, and to provide an education for the two sons of a murdered chief.

Caldwell, accompanied by others of the British and some Indians, strikes at Brant's Station, but two men escape, running for help. The inhabitants hold off the attack until help is surely at hand and Caldwell's men leave. They're chased by the arriving parties, including one led by Daniel Boone. After Caldwell's men cross the river, Boone urges caution but is over-riden by a hot-headed commander named Hugh McGary. Boone's group is ambushed with many casualties, including Boone's son.

Simon has an on-going relationship with a woman named Ruth. One night she tells him that she could never marry him, though he'd never asked. She says that she is his woman and that she could stop being his woman if he went off on an expedition and never returned, but that she couldn't stand to be the wife waiting at home for him. She



then tells him that she's having his child. Ruth later falls in love with and marries a man named Vincent Calvin who promises to raise the child—a boy named Simon Ruth Kenton—as his own.

Clark leads a group of men on an attack against the Indians. He posts orders for the attack the following day. That evening, one of the men who reads the posting is Blue Jacket, disguised as a white settler. Blue Jacket warns the Indians and, knowing they don't have enough manpower to meet the whites, pack up and leave. The whites burn what they can and count the expedition a victory. When Simon returns from the trip he goes back to his parents' home to convince them to return with him to Kentucky. The reunion is tear-filled and Simon tells members of his family and all his neighbors that he'll give one hundred acres from his own holdings—now more than a thousand acres—to anyone who accompanies him. Several families take up the offer, including his parents, but his father dies along the way.

The young Indian named Tecumseh shines in his first battle at fifteen, killing four men and aiding in the killing of another. When the sole survivor is burned at the stake, Tecumseh witnesses it. He says it's the first time to watch such a death and he condemns it outright. Later, a band of Indians attack a white settlement and one wounded brave, Leaning Tree, is taken alive. It's he who tells Simon that Tecumseh is destined to be a great warrior. In July, Simon's brother Mark—the only of his living brothers to decline to relocate to Kentucky—arrives for a brief visit. He is dying of consumption and the family members know they'll never see him again. Simon falls in love with a girl of fourteen named Martha, but her mother refuses to allow her to marry. Simon himself has doubts because he is nearing thirty. They agree to wait "a couple of years". He's so enamored with Martha that he doesn't answer a call to file official claims on the land he's marked as his own.

Chapter VI Analysis

Simon continues to be important to the settling of Kentucky, often guiding parties where they want to go. He continues to claim land for his own and says that he'd like to return to his parents' home and convince them to give up the tobacco farm and move to Kentucky. His brother John believes it a good idea, but Simon never manages to make the trip a reality. He says that he seems always to find reasons to delay the plans.

Simon Girty holds an interesting position among the Indians. He lives among them but warns Crawford and his men of the impending attack. When Crawford begs him for mercy, Girty offers to buy Crawford, but the Indians are angry with the offer and threaten to burn Girty at the stake with Crawford. As Crawford is dying, Girty says he's probably closer to death by burning than he ever expected to be. It's also Girty who spreads the news of Crawford's death.

The story is set against the backdrop of American history. It's noted that the United States, having won independence, is now struggling to set up a federal government.

New York City is named the nation's capital and there are continual social and political issues dominating the hearts and minds of the newly-freed Americans.



Chapter VII

Chapter VII Summary

In 1785, the aging chief of the Shawnees, Moluntha, names Blue Jacket as his successor. Meanwhile, the United States enters into yet another treaty with the Indians, this time ignoring the existence of the Shawnee and making an agreement that they won't encroach upon newly defined Indian territory. It's an agreement the Indians don't believe though they sign it, knowing it will buy them a brief period of peace. Blue Jacket and his people agree to a treaty that declares all land west of the Ohio River set aside for the Indians with the exception of two forts. They're told the purpose of the two forts is to turn back any settlers who might attempt to cross the river. The Shawnees, greatly outnumbered, sign but pledge to return in force to kill the whites living in the fort on what Blue Jacket's people consider Indian land. Just as Blue Jacket prepares to attack, flood waters force the men out of the fort, a coincidence that likely saves their lives.

In 1786, Simon is among a group attacking Indians and they take a total of thirteen villages, destroying everything. Most of the braves are away and there is little fighting. The old Indian, Moluntha, surrenders, but Hugh McGary rushes him and kills him with a tomahawk, earning himself an arrest and court-martial. He is later tried, found guilty of Moluntha's murder, and suspended from his command for one year. The commander of the group, General Logan, "takes a shine" to a boy of about fourteen and adopts him, changing his name to Johnny Logan. The Indians step up their attacks on settlers along the river, often trading scalps at Detroit for supplies. A small party takes a Dutchman named John Kinsaula captive along with several others. They happen upon a group praying inside a small cabin and decide to kill them all. The group includes Simon's intended, Martha Dowden. John tells them they're praying to God and the Indians leave without killing, fearing that action would anger the Great Spirit. John's capture isn't discovered until his emaciated hound dog, an animal who hadn't barked at the Indians at all and had been left behind when they crossed the river, returned without his master. He's later returned in a prisoner exchange.

On February 15, 1787, Simon and Martha are married and they have a daughter, Nancy, late that year. In March, Indians and whites meet to exchange captives. These include several who don't want to leave their captors. The two groups share an afternoon of dancing and feasting on meat cooked over open fires, but then a man recognizes the horse of a slain white. There is an argument and Simon steps in, trading whiskey for the animal. As they are leaving, the Indians begin firing on them after discovering that the angry man and another man had overpowered an Indian and taken several Indian horses. No one is injured but it's another step backwards as hostilities between the groups again increases. The continual fighting doesn't deter settlers and the Northwest Territory is created by federal ordinance. The people of Kentucky are angry that a section of the ordinance calls for fair treatment of Indians and that their property cannot be taken. The people take that to mean that the whites can't retaliate against marauding Indians and have no intention of following that part of the law. There



are unscrupulous land speculators snatching up the property in the territory and searching for ways to entice settlers, including Frenchmen, to the region. General Arthur St. Clair is appointed governor.

On April 13, 1788, Tecumseh and his brother are visiting a tribe of Cherokees and volunteer to aid in a battle. Chiksika says that he knows he will die during the battle and urges Tecumseh to lead the men on after his death. When it comes, just as Chiksika predicts, Tecumseh can only hold his brother's body and the Indians refuse to advance, taking Chiksika's death as a sign. Blue Jacket often watches travelers on the river from a rocky outcropping and he's standing there one day when a puff of smoke indicates a rifle firing. He knows the distance is too great but then is struck in the side by a bullet, and it takes some time to recover. He then goes on a horse-stealing expedition with several braves but is too weak to complete the journey home. He stops to rest while the horses are driven on and is captured. He's tethered to a post but the guard falls asleep. He pulls the post from the ground, slips himself off it and hops away with his feet still bound together. Once a short distance away, he chews the bindings on his feet until it breaks, steals a horse, and makes his way home.

Near Simon's own land, there are new settlements, including those along the border of the Ohio. Simon and his people are always willing to offer a helping hand, a comfort to many settlers.

Chapter VII Analysis

Blue Jacket notes that it seems the Shawnees always come out on the poor end of any contact between Indians and whites. He and his fighting braves had left their village expecting a battle, had been disappointed with that foray, and returned to find their villages burned and Moluntha dead. Blue Jacket seems to have left behind the ways of the whites, but then one day he takes a man captive. The man is questioned and is no relation, but Blue Jacket can't seem to get past the idea that this man, John May, could have been his own father. He releases him with a warning never to return to the wilderness and the man agrees. Blue Jacket notes that it's the first time he's allowed sentiment to impact his actions. In 1791, May is killed by Blue Jacket and unceremoniously scalped.

Kentucky continues to grow. A new county seat is established and civil laws become a necessity. A new requirement is that all land claims must be made officially through an established land office. Many of the frontiersmen, unable to read and write for themselves, don't obey this law. Daniel Boone is among those, and one day he comes to Simon announcing his intention to leave the country. He plans to spend a little time with his son and then to head west, to Missouri. He talks of the lack of space in Kentucky with all the new arrivals. He invites Simon along, but he declines. Both men are near tears as they part, likely for the final time.

Tecumseh continues to grow as a leader, more so with the death of his brother. He's named chief with no vote taken because no one expects anything else. Older leaders



defer to him and his prowess on the battlefield becomes legendary. It seems that he is becoming to the Indians what Simon is to the whites. Tecumseh is not at all certain of his own abilities to lead, though others are. Simon seems always certain of his abilities. Tecumseh never sways from his challenges, and in fact seeks out incredible situations to test himself, but he isn't certain he's to be the great leader his brother predicted.



Chapter VIII

Chapter VIII Summary

The Federal Congress in 1789 clears the way for Ohio's eventual statehood. There have been speculators already working to recruit settlers and one of those, Joel Barlowe, meets a London swindler named William Playfair, who helps draft a pamphlet extolling the wonders of the region but failing to mention the poor, rocky land, poisonous snakes, and hostile Indians. By January of 1790, Arthur St. Claire takes command of an impressive structure called Fort Washington, located on the Ohio River. President George Washington has told Congress that the Indian attacks continue in the Kentucky region and that white settlers are losing lots of goods while more than fifteen hundred have been killed and scalped. Congress agrees to send the militia to quash the Indians, once and for all, but St. Claire first sends a letter to the British assuring them that their lands are not the target of the military. St. Claire meets with the founders of the nearby town of Losantiville and they agree to rename the city Cincinnati. An order from Virginia requires that no Kentucky settlers could go into Ohio to attack Indians. That order, which Kentucky settlers believe to be unfair, prompts them to begin looking toward statehood themselves.

The lack of education among the Kentucky men was no hindrance as they are fighting Indians and settling the land, but it later becomes an issue. George Washington gives a man named Harry Innes the authority to hire scouts. Simon is the obvious choice and has been doing the job on a volunteer basis, but is passed over because of his inability to keep paperwork. Simon and his volunteers continue to patrol and to come to the rescue of anyone in danger, despite the fact that there are men now paid for those duties. In October 1790, a force of regular army commanded by General Josiah Harmer is joined by a force of volunteer militia men for the purpose of attacking the Shawnee. Harmer, current commander of Fort Washington, makes several poor decisions along the way, including ignoring a plea for help for a group of men cut off from the main body of fighters. The series of battles ends with 109 whites killed, and Harmer resigns his post. On November 3, 1790, Tecumseh returns to his people after three years wandering, including a time spent with the Cherokees and fighting with other Indians. One of those battles took the life of Tecumseh's brother. The young Indian has matured and is welcomed by Black Hoof.

Fighting continues as Indians make attacks, often leaving behind victims killed by atrocious means. Meanwhile, there are white settlements springing up along the Ohio River. On December 31, 1791, Simon's son, John Kenton, is born. As news of the attacks reach the east, Congress gives George Washington free reign to get a grip on the problem. Washington calls on Arthur St. Clair to build and train an army to face the Indians. In February, 220 land purchasers leave France, expecting that Ohio holds a life of ease and bounty. At Simon's recommendation, Neil Washburn and James Ireland begin work with the army, and one of their first tasks is to take a message to Colonel Thomas Lewis. Lewis's orders are to have all parties traveling down the Ohio to lay over



until a large group can travel together. The hope is that large parties will discourage Indian attacks.

A man named Henry Lee and his wife live at an outpost of Maysville. On March 26, 1791, Simon knocks on Lee's door, telling him of an Indian attack. A keelboat captain, William Hubbell, tells of a party led by Captain Jacob Greathouse, who was a known enemy of the Indians. Simon is bothered by the fact that Greathouse was leading the party, knowing the Indians would have been particularly brutal had they encountered him. The Indians had attacked but the men held them off, leaving only a few killed or seriously injured. In April, the bodies of Greathouse and all his party are discovered, mutilated and scalped. The Indians apparently recalled the death of Logan's sister at Greathouse's hands. The lower bellies of Greathouse and his wife were split open, their intestines tied to a sapling, then the two were forced to walk around until their intestines were pulled from their bodies or they collapsed. Later that month, white scouts discover canoes that had been submerged in shallow water - a method of hiding the canoes while the party was inland. Simon and his men hide, setting up an ambush. They catch a small group unawares, kill them all and again sink the canoes. They wait another day and three more Shawnees approach, and there is a repeat of the previous encounter. The final battle is hampered by dense fog, but a total of thirty-two horses are recovered, eight Indians killed, and no whites injured. When a captive, Tim Downing, escapes from the Indians, he kills a minor Shawnee chief named Meshepeshe and fatally wounds another young man, Gray Fox. The Indians can't track Downing because of heavy rains, but fearing that the whites will attack, the group abandons their camp after a night of formal mourning for their fallen chief. Just hours later, Simon's men, led by Downing, finds the abandoned village.

Chapter VIII Analysis

When Shawnees are camping just a dozen miles from the white settlement of Maysville, the settlers are all nervous. Then Simon discovers that there are only eighteen of them and that they are a hunting party. He even feels a bit sorry for them, knowing that it's been a tradition of their people to hunt in the area of Maysville and that their current campsite is as near as they can get to that tradition. But in March of 1789, there are Indian raids and the settlers lose a number of horses. When the settlers plan to attack the Indian camp to recover their horses, the Indians escape. Simon orders all the dried meat, tallow, and furs burned, fearing that the Indians will escape. There's an argument but he insists. Less than twenty minutes after the settlers swim the horses across the river the Indians return with reinforcements - and hollow bellies at the sight of weeks of labor going up in smoke.

John May is among the most wealthy landowners of the region. He was briefly captured by Blue Jacket but was released because of his resemblance to Blue Jacket's own white father. In 1791, May is traveling down river with a group buying land from him when they encounter two white men begging for help. The two say they were captives and that they'd escaped. They are captives, but are attempting to toll the boat to shore under duress. When the boats come ashore, the Indians attack, killing May and his



entire party. There are two kegs of whiskey on board, and while the Indians are drinking, the two captives run away. Blue Jacket is disgusted with the Indians' desire for the whiskey but doesn't pursue the two men, hoping that they'll spread the word of the Indians' brutality and that whites will leave the region.

Among the Indians fought by Simon was a blond renegade named Bill Frame. He was wearing a white shirt that was later identified as belonging to a Maysville man named Tim Downing. Though his parents believe him dead, he returns several days later. He had waited on the shore of the Ohio and though some thought him a captive, one man canoed to his rescue. The Indians often use whites among their numbers or dress as whites themselves, luring the passing boats into an ambush. In some cases, the settlers are not deceived, but it often works.



Chapter IX

Chapter IX Summary

Efforts to build an army to fight the Indians are slow and the men who might have joined are further disheartened to arrive in the region to find the French who have been duped in their purchase of the Ohio property. On September 16, 1791, chiefs of the Indian tribes gather, putting aside their own animosities to unite against the whites. St. Clair's army leaves with only fourteen hundred men and without sufficient provisions to sustain them. Tecumseh follows the army's progress, constantly sending runners with news. St. Claire's men build a fort, Fort Hamilton, and by October stop to build Fort Jefferson some forty-four miles north. During the night of the fort's completion, three hundred of the militia desert. The families of many of the soldiers have followed and now the three hundred fighting men and their families - some five hundred people - are far from home and without supplies, creating the concern that they might intercept the supply train. The remainder of the army, more than nine hundred men, travel for some time but without sufficient supplies and constantly encounter Indian sign. The troops stop for an overnight rest and St. Clair discovers that an attack is imminent. He attempts last-minute measures to prepare but is too late. Blue Jacket encounters a white who turns out to be Charley, Blue Jacket's own younger brother. Blue Jacket scalps the man, reminding himself that he has no brothers except his Indian brothers. The whites, suffering tremendous losses, manage to escape. More than six hundred are killed and many of the women and children - families of the fighting men - who had been following the army are also killed. Only sixty-six Indians are killed in the battle. Anthony Wayne - called Mad Anthony by his troops - is appointed St. Claire's successor, but is granted additional regiments of men to fight the Indians and given orders demanding full training before the time to meet the Indians in battle.

Following St. Claire's defeat, the Indian attacks become more frequent and there are few prisoners taken. A hearing is convened to consider the actions of St. Claire and whether he had acted with prudence or cowardice. He is eventually exonerated, though his military career is effectively ended. Blue Jacket remains moody. Finally, he leaves his home, travels many miles, climbs a cliff, and builds a small fire where he burns the scalp of his younger brother. He recalls the day he bartered with the Indians, presenting himself as a willing captive in return for his brother's safety. When he finishes the ceremonial burning of the scalp, a single tear slides down each of his cheeks.

Tecumseh is one of the few of his tribe who can speak English very well. He's learned from a white captive, Stephen Ruddell - known to the Indians as Sinnanatha - who was twelve when captured. The two teach each other their languages. From books plundered from white settlers, Ruddell also teaches Tecumseh to read and write. During a particular raiding party, Tecumseh comes upon a posted notice written by James Wilkinson calling upon settlers to refrain from any "hostility other than what may be rendered necessary for your own defense" against the Indians. With what they feel is an order from the white's "chief", they decide to remain camped a few days when they



would ordinarily have moved on. Simon leads a group of men to find the Indians. They encounter one Indian, kill him, and plan to strike the main encampment after dark. It's the first time Simon and Tecumseh encounter each other. Simon's plan doesn't work out because one of the men fires too soon, eliminating the chance of a concerted attack. The whites scatter, with only Alex McIntyre returning to the place where the horses were tied, where he takes the black stallion that had apparently belonged to Tecumseh but had been taken by the whites when they killed the first Indian of the encounter.

In June, 1792, Kentucky is granted statehood, Isaac Shelby is named governor, and amid continuing hostilities by the Indians the newly-formed Kentucky Legislature chooses Frankfort as its capital. In February, 1793, ten years after the birth of Simon's first child, Martha Kenton gives birth to Simon's fourth child. Simon names him Simon Kenton, Junior. His mother, Mary, is present for the birth and considers her son's marriage. Martha complains of Simon's lack of interest in her three children and seems jealous of his interest in his oldest son, the bastard child, who idolizes Simon and lives for the time he can be with his father. Simon's absences are frequent and a source of Martha's disapproval, though she wants for nothing in the way of material possessions.

In April, the Indian Sutawnee - who had treated Simon's wounds during his captivity - lies between her husband and father in a camp near Paint Creek. They had been on a hunting trip but there was little game since the coming of the whites. The hunting party, disappointed with the lack of game, attacked a white settlement, killing the men, burning the cabins, and taking the horses. Simon and a group of men are preparing to attack as Sutawnee lies awake. Her father, John Ward, was a captive of the Indians many years earlier. As Sutawnee stokes the camp's fire, James Ward almost fires at her before realizing that it's a woman. He doesn't realize that it's his niece. Simon plans to strike at dawn when all the Indians are gathered around the fire, but one among the men - Joshua Baker - is unable to wait and orders his men to fire when Sutawnee's father awakes and steps near the fire. James Ward is among those who shoot.

Simon accepts the command of a company of one hundred men, personally selected by Simon, in Wayne's army. He's commissioned as a major. Wayne builds a defensible stockade and soon plans to begin another. Simon is disgusted with the decision to remain in the forts during the winter, believing that the well-supplied army could do considerable damage on the Indians. Simon, accompanied by Major Robert McMahon and about three hundred men, gets Wayne's permission to "go out toward Lake Erie until you find something to fight". They encounter Indians and turn back, realizing they are greatly outnumbered. Blue Jacket is named commander of the Indians, and each side prepares for war as continued efforts at peace talks break down completely. As it turns out, Simon's battle with recurring swamp fever puts him out of commission as the battle lines are drawn, and he's discharged without facing the Indians. In December of 1794, the Indians sign a peace treaty, but Simon believes that either the whites or Indians will eventually break the treaty.

Tecumseh and several hundred from various septs form a new camp and name Tecumseh chief. He's accompanied by his brother, one of the triplets, named Lowawluwaysica. Tecumseh marries a rather domineering Indian named Monetohse,



who bears him a son, Mah-yaw-we-kaw-pa-we. Monetohse virtually ignores their son and constantly nags at Tecumseh. He removes the child from her care, dissolves their marriage, and sends her back to her parents in disgrace. Lowawluwaysica hopes that Tecumseh will ride against the whites and that he himself will be Tecumseh's lieutenant. He arranges a hunting contest to establish Tecumseh as the leader among all Indians. Tecumseh refuses to attend treaty talks. When Blue Jacket brings news of the treaty, Tecumseh vows that he will someday gather the Indian tribes to regain the land.

Simon is generous to a fault and his home, store, and land holdings are open to all who are in need. Martha, pregnant with her fourth child in 1795, welcomes her aunt, uncle, and cousin for an extended stay. There is an almost immediate attraction between Simon and the seventeen-year-old cousin, Elizabeth. Simon considers her a child but Elizabeth falls deeply in love with him even as she recognizes that he is her cousin's husband and as she aids in the delivery of his daughter, Sarah. While many believe the Indian wars are truly over, Simon believes the peace will be short-lived.

Chapter IX Analysis

There is a sense of foreboding about the upcoming full-blown war against the Indians. There are going to be some three thousand whites, several pieces of large artillery weapons, and the leader - St. Clair - has been proven in battle. But there remains the idea that winning this war isn't a given fact. In truth, they have fewer men fighting and supplies become a serious problem. The men are often ill-equipped, and what supplies are available are not marked correctly, meaning that keg of gunpowder for the guns is actually cannon powder that is difficult to ignite.

McIntyre stops the morning following Simon's attack on the Indian party and Tecumseh captures him. Tecumseh orders the braves to gather the scattered horses left behind by the whites, but they fear another attack and Tecumseh himself, accompanied by Sinnanatha, catches the horses. When he returns, he finds that they have mutilated McIntyre. He berates them, calling them cowards who have to kill an enemy while he is tied and helpless. He says that he will return them to camp where they won't have to be afraid and then orders that they ride behind him so that he doesn't have to see them.

Simon recalls the events that led up to the signing of the peace treaty between the Indians and whites. There was constant hunger among many of the Indian tribes as their hunting grounds were depleted and their crops constantly destroyed during battles. Despite this and several major losses, the Indians might have held out against signing the treaty except for a freak accident they took as a sign. Colonel Alexander McKee has been a vital part of the Indians' lives, demanding that the British provide supplies as agreed. The fact that McKee has been in battles and never injured convinces the Indians that he's under Moneto's protection. McKee has a deer that follows him like a pet. One day, McKee is putting on his pants when the deer - fully-antlered - attacks. One of the horns punctures McKee's thigh and he bleeds to death in minutes. The Indians take the freak accident as a sign and sue for peace.



Chapter X

Chapter X Summary

Tecumseh takes another wife, Mamate, who bears him a son but dies a short time later. The boy, Panther-Seizing-Its-Prey, is cared for by Tecumapese, Tecumseh's sister, who is also caring for his older child. Under his direction, the Shawnees move several times, but Tecumseh continues to feel restless and vows that he'll reclaim the land for his people. Simon's wife, Martha, is again pregnant and very ill with this pregnancy. A fire in an upstairs room ignites the floor and it caves in on Martha. She's rescued, but the baby is stillborn and she dies hours later. In December of 1796, the British give up their hold on U.S. territories in an official ceremony. A year later, Simon admits his attraction for Elizabeth and in April of 1798, the two are married. They travel to the Missouri home of Daniel Boone where they visit for a while. There are major differences between Boone and Simon, including that Boone hates civilization while Simon likes to see the settlements and know he had something to do with it. Simon claims some land in Missouri, though he feels it's inferior to the land in Ohio. Simon and Elizabeth, wanting a new start for their lives together and expecting their first child, decide to move to Ohio where their first child together, Matilda, is born in December.

Despite the treaty, Tecumseh returns to land supposedly belonging to the whites. Other Indians approve of his fearlessness and some feel certain they'll call on Tecumseh if there comes a time for war. In 1799, after learning that Galloway has claimed land Simon intended for his own, he locates another tract suitable for a gristmill and remembers Jacob Butler's own mill. Simon begins considering that possibility of a mill while his son, Simon Ruth Kenton, makes plans to become a privateer. He eventually gains a ride to New Orleans on a flat boat and meets Jean Lafitte. The elder Simon and his family actually settle at a spot where Simon had lain years earlier, a prisoner of the Shawnee. Simon's party includes his wife and the families of Elizabeth and Martha, along with some extended family and a dozen Negroes. The proximity of Indians to Simon's small settlement is worrisome, and Simon orders a blockhouse built.

Tecumseh is typically the speaker at the Indian gathering and he expresses his feelings that the whites won't abide by the terms of the treaty. Nevertheless, by September of 1800, whites and Indians are getting along well. Tecumseh and Blue Jacket are frequent visitors at the Galloway cabin, and despite rumors to the contrary, there seem to be no war plans in the making. However, Tecumseh is quietly creating a long-term strategy to drive the whites back - for good. He wants to unite all Indians, putting aside their own differences and having their tribal leadership bow before a single leader - Tecumseh. He plans to use every argument he can come up with and to use the talent of his little brother, Lowawluwaysica, who has the power to stir up hatred against the whites. Tecumseh plans to take as much time as necessary - years - in order to create this united group, and plans to have none violate the peace treaties in the meantime. He believes that if a large force of Indians - forty thousand or more - confronts the whites, he may be able to avoid a war.



In 1801, William Henry Harrison is sworn in as governor of the Indiana Territory and Thomas Jefferson is sworn in as president of the United States. A commercial vessel is built for transporting goods down the river to New Orleans and many lose holdings when a land speculator admits that he can't pay his debts. Simon is among those but shrugs off the loss and moves on. Late in 1801, Simon travels to Kentucky but plans to make it a quick trip since Elizabeth is expecting another child. While there, he learns that his lands are in serious trouble and sells the station. Then he's struck by a relapse of the fever that had plagued him for years. A man named Spy Buck, leaving Simon in Washington, goes to tell Elizabeth that Simon is dying. Despite having just borne a child, Elizabeth travels to be with her husband. His recuperation is slow, and with time on his hands he decides that he should attempt to enter into a treaty with an Indian in order to gain lands to build an empire of his own. He chooses Tecumseh though treaties between Indians and individuals are not permitted by the government. Tecumseh, knowing any deal he makes is not legal and in keeping with his plan to take anything the whites are willing to give, agrees. Simon heads off in 1802 to travel across the length of his purchase leaving Elizabeth again pregnant. Years later, Tecumseh and Simon will meet as part of a council and Tecumseh will immediately ask if anyone wants to buy Ohio. Later in 1802, Governor William Henry Harrison is visiting an Indian he's come to know well - Beaver - who has been sentenced to death for practicing sorcery. He goes quietly to his death and asks Harrison to look over his ten-year-old son, also called Beaver. Many years later, Beaver will extend the aid of his people to Harrison and the Americans. When an Indian declares his intention to assassinate Harrison, Beaver kills the young brave. While the execution is taking place, Lowawluwaysica preys upon the superstitions of the tribe to put himself in a position to take over the current medicine man's place when the elderly man dies. Meanwhile, Tecumseh is foretelling of a great shaking of the earth that will occur when it's time for the Indians to confront the whites.

Simon returns in time for the birth of his daughter, Mary, and to discover that he has lost all his Kentucky holdings and is being held liable for certain damages. That same year, James Harrod decides that his town no longer needs him and decides to travel in search of another site for an important frontier town. He's killed by a shot that he never sees coming. Some believe it was Indians while others think it was whites. An Indian named Waw-wil-a-way is accosted by three whites and during the fight they kill each other. At least one Indian - Black Hoof - doesn't agree with Tecumseh's preaching and refuses to join. The Sioux agree to join Tecumseh. It is amidst these happenings that Simon's boyhood rival, William Leachman, hangs himself. On April 18, 1805, Simon again puts his mill on hold, gathers up most of the cash money available to him, resigns his commission as a militia leader, and heads west, accompanied by his fifteen-year-old son John.

Chapter X Analysis

Tecumseh is visiting the site of his ancestral village when he encounters a man named James Galloway who plans to build there with his wife and daughter. Galloway tells Tecumseh that his door will never be closed to the Indians and invites him back often.



Tecumseh tells Galloway that he is glad that the first man to settle there is a man who loves the land.

With the coming of amity between the Indians and whites, the whites learn that some of their preconceived notions about the Indians are not true. They'd always considered the Indians as devoid of feeling but learn that they love, laugh and live as deeply as the white man. They also love to laugh and sometimes go to great lengths to plan practical jokes and hoaxes. It's known that the Indians have access to a great vein of silver and all whites want to claim that land. The Indians refuse to give the location but Blue Jacket finally agrees to sell it to an avaricious man named Jonathan Flack. Flack gathers backers, supplies Blue Jacket with horses and other goods to meet his demands for a trade, then Blue Jacket takes them to Kentucky - far from where the whites had come to assume the silver mine was located. But Blue Jacket can't locate the mine, blames it on his failing eyesight and promises to send his son, Little Blue Jacket, to find the site. Flack waits and waits, but of course Little Blue Jacket - and the mine's location - never appears.

One of the rules enacted by Tecumseh as he begins work toward a united Indian nation against the whites is to eliminate the consumption of alcohol and the weed that, when smoked, prompts a particular weakness and strange dreams. He also warns that Indians will always be required to "turn the other cheek" so that there are no hostilities to alert the white man to the possibility of an uprising.



Chapter XI

Chapter XI Summary

Simon's trip includes a visit with Daniel Boone and with John and Rachel Edgar. He returns alone, having approved his son's request to explore "a year or two". In 1806, Simon discovers Tecumseh meeting with a group of Indians involved in a war council. Simon and his traveling companion, Jim McPherson, rush back to spread the word. The immediate official reaction is that the Indians must be preparing for war against some enemy other than the whites of the region and the Indians send their own letter which says that they truly are anxious to live in peace. Tecumseh, despite his actions gathering the Indians against the whites, spends much time at the Galloway cabin and often reads from the man's book collection - including the Bible. He also spends extensive time with the Galloway's fourteen-year-old daughter, Rebecca, studying and learning to read and write properly.

Simon's mill and store are finally operating but he has little business sense and hires a man to run them. The man, James Robinson, forcefully collects debts owed to Simon using several ruffians, then takes everything he can carry - including the money - and flees. When Simon discovers the treachery, he picks up the trail. He's gone eight months and returns to name his newest son William Miller Kenton. He says that he recovered some of the money and that Robinson won't steal again, but declines other details. He is limping, recovering from a broken leg. There have been changes while he was away and he finds there is increasing concern over the possibility of an Indian attack. In May of 1807, with the increasing Indian activities, Tecumseh receives word that the President requests that they move farther west. He declines.

A council is convened in 1807 after a settler is killed and scalped and the murderer isn't found. Tecumseh banters with the whites and those gathered are in a good mood. Tecumseh says that he knows nothing of the murder and that he is certain the other main Indian faction represented by Black Hoof also knows nothing of it. It's decided that the murdered was likely a traveler. Tecumseh uses the opportunity to speak to Black Hoof's people, and garners some support for his cause. In front of the whites, he is convincing in his speech saying that the Indians want only to live in peace and that there is no covert war effort in the making. Simon recommends that the whites kill Tecumseh, saying he has too much power, but he's in the minority and is overruled.

Simon's mother dies in December of 1807 and his brother John dies in 1808. Simon visits his mother's grave, berates himself for not spending more time with her, sells his remaining Kentucky property, then travels to Missouri to retrieve his son. He purchases some property in Missouri and then sets up John, now eighteen, with trading posts. In 1808, Tecumseh asks Rebecca to marry him and hints at the depth of his plans for the Indian nations. Rebecca knows that she loves the Indian but says she can't stand the thought of her husband having multiple wives, nor of the limited life of women in the Indian tribes. Tecumseh says she won't have to do the work of the women of the tribe



and that he'll find a way for her to live "an agreeable combination" of tribal life and her own life. When he returns in a month, she tells him that she will marry him but only if he adopts her people's mode of lifestyle and dress. He returns in a month and declines.

Tecumseh's brother continues to wield his power over the Indians and the rule of no alcohol seems to be strictly adhered to. In October of 1808, Simon and his family attend camp meeting and he accepts Jesus as his savior. The only change in his manner is that he stops carrying his gun but carries a staff instead.

Chapter XI Analysis

Tecumseh continues to work toward creating a unified nation. He continues to give prophecies to his younger brother, Lowawluwaysica, which come to pass and make the Indians believe in the young man as a prophet. Then Lowawluwaysica becomes One-with-Open-Mouth and demands proclamation as the tribe's prophet. Having just predicted the death of three Indians who were among a group stricken with a disease - a prophecy actually given by Tecumseh - the people give the approval. One-with-Open-Mouth goes further, saying that the previous prophet had been aided by the Devil rather than Moneto. He calls on those who believe in him to follow as he and his brother, Tecumseh, would be establishing a new village - an Indian village rather than a tribal village - and calls on those who believe in the idea to follow. The response is greater than the brothers expected. One-with-Open-Mouth goes often into a tirade, accusing people at random of various crimes. William Henry Harrison addresses the Indians, saying that he's disturbed at the news of actions taken at the behest of One-with-Open-Mouth. To denounce Harrison's words, Tecumseh directs his brother to say that in fifty days the day will dawn clear but at noon "will the darkness of night cover us and the stars shine round about us". It happens as Tecumseh prophesied, and garners additional support among the Indians.

As Rebecca and her family consider Tecumseh's offer of marriage, Rebecca knows that she has a bigger burden than most women faced with the decision. She isn't looking ahead only to the feelings between Tecumseh and herself, but she is also looking toward the relationships between the Indians and whites. She considers that she has the power to change history, altering her husband's goal from war to peace. It's with that thought that she agrees to marry him if he changes his lifestyle.

Tecumseh's brother begins to change. He has always accepted that Tecumseh is the person calling the actions, but now begins to believe that the prophecies and power comes not from Tecumseh but from One-with-Open-Mouth. When the British approach Tecumseh asking to join them in the fight against the Americans, One-with-Open-Mouth sends them away without telling Tecumseh of their offer. At one point, One-with-Open-Mouth urges Indians to prepare an immediate attack, an act that sends some Indians rushing away and keeps others from joining Tecumseh's cause. Tecumseh chastises his brother while some whites, including William Henry Harrison, feel that One-with-Open-Mouth is deceitful. Over the next year, One-with-Open-Mouth gains back some of the lost respect among his people. He slips into the woods and makes a slab that he says

comes at the direction of the Great Spirit. He says that the symbols are dictated as well and that they may be explained to any curious whites as being signs for heaven, blue skies, sun, plant life, animals, corn, lighting, and other similar things. For the Indians, the symbols represent unification, a movement of the entire Indian nation and the great sign - a trembling of the earth - that is to begin the movement.



Chapter XII

Chapter XII Summary

As warriors begin to gather, the Americans offer their thanks to those who refuse to join and remind the Indians that war against the white man will result in devastation of the Indians. At least one tribe, the Wyandots, take it as a threat and change their stand to join Tecumseh. One-with-Open-Mouth accuses a leader who has refused to join them of practicing witchcraft and orders his execution. After the first strike of the tomahawk, he's found to be still alive but perspiring—a sign of his guilt. This sign induces others to join with Tecumseh's cause. It's during this time that one who has recently pledged his support to Tecumseh dies. He's known as Blue Jacket. Tecumseh later meets with Harrison and tells the man that unless the United States relinquishes its hold on the lands taken from the Indians, there will be an uprising. Harrison promises to contact the president but says he believes the purchases were made in good faith and will be upheld.

In July of 1810, Simon is arrested for failure to comply with court orders regarding his land claims. He is the jailer and so is not confined to a cell, but strictly remains within the boundaries of the town Urbana. It's during this time that his eight-year-old daughter Elizabeth dies. Simon is soon released from jail and learns that his son John has been a poor businessman, and has lost almost everything in the two stores he'd established and been robbed of the traps he'd purchased with the hope of trapping in Missouri to recover his losses.

Tecumseh travels in 1811 to gather additional support for his cause. He warns his brother that there must be no hostilities between Indians and whites during his absence, but seven young braves come to him during Tecumseh's absence and ask permission to attempt to steal horses from the white settlements. He agrees and the seven do so, but whites immediately follow and demand the return of the horses. One-with-Mouth-Open retires to his tent to seek the advice of the Great Spirit and tells the Indians that he has been shown that the horses are actually the property of Indians. Fifty ride after the whites and retake the horses. Harrison uses the theft as reason to strike the Indians. In November of 1811, Harrison encounters the Indian camp led by Tecumseh, who was absent, leaving leadership to his brother. One-with-Mouth-Open pledges that the Indians will be protected and with that prophesy, the Indians attack full out without even bothering to use cover. When daylight arrives, the Indians realize their mistake and flee, leaving behind their dead and a victory for the Americans. Tecumseh arrives, shuns his brother, and decides that his brother will live out the rest of his life among his people but without friends and with the distrust of all. He then gathers the few remaining warriors and decides that he must now united the Indians with the British against the Americans. He now says the sign he'd predicted—the shaking of the earth—is thirty days away. The appearance of a comet seems to strengthen Tecumseh's prediction. On December 16, 1811, the earthquake occurs. Over the next few months, additional quakes occur. Not all



Indians rush back to Tecumseh's side, but many, realizing that Tecumseh will lead against the whites, begin their own forays against settlers.

In 1812, the United States declares war on Great Britain. Many believe it's because of the aid being given to the Indians, but the blockades that eliminate a very lucrative trading relationship with France are actually the cause. The war commences with an American commander named Hull surrendering Detroit without firing a single shot, a cause for tears among those who would have fought. Tecumseh warns his people that they are free to kill the whites but are to treat prisoners humanely. The Indians lay siege to several forts, but the attacks meet with limited success. The Shawnee who had been briefly adopted as a white and who had taken the name Johnny Logan is among the most trusted scouts for the Americans. When an American general questions his fidelity to the American cause, the young man makes an attack on a small party of Indians and is mortally wounded. When he dies, the Americans' hatred for General Winchester and Major Price becomes an almost palpable emotion. He is the only Indian in Ohio history to be buried "by United States Army officers with full military honors".

Chapter XII Analysis

Tecumseh's plans are becoming more apparent to the whites and he's urged to desist. Finally, William Henry Harrison sends a request to stop and Tecumseh begins to reply to the messenger but changes his mind. He says that he wants to speak directly to Harrison and pledges to visit him in a month. In the spring of 1811, Harrison realizes the vulnerability of the whites in many areas. The Indians are gathering, though the predicted sign of a great shaking of the earth has not yet come to pass. Tecumseh travels to again visit with Harrison and the two fail to communicate well. Harrison feels Tecumseh's party of three hundred is excessive and Tecumseh feels this is a minimum retinue for a chief of his position. Tecumseh refuses to be moved from his position that the Indian land must be returned to them and Harrison refuses to say that the whites will give the land back. As Harrison objects to the uniting Indian forces, Tecumseh points out that the Americans have created the United States and that the Indian actions are no different.



Chapter XIII

Chapter XIII Summary

Simon Kenton receives word in 1813 that his son, John Kenton, died during a battle against Spanish tyranny. Later that year, Black Hoof attempts to reiterate his friendship for the whites and is almost assassinated during his visit with General George Tupper. The Americans have always denounced the use of Indians by the British, but now the Americans enter into an alliance with the Indians themselves. A series of battles goes well for the Americans and Tecumseh accepts the fact in August that the Indian cause is lost. Soon Tecumseh realizes that the British plan to retreat. Their commander says that they are only moving to more familiar territory up the Thames River to meet the Americans. Tecumseh wants to leave the war but stands by the other Indians who insist that they continue to fight. The British commander - Proctor - continues to move upriver in search of the perfect place to make a stand, and Tecumseh finally accuses him of outright cowardice before Proctor orders a halt. They are near the Moravian Indians - the same band who had been so mercilessly slaughtered years earlier. Tecumseh is forty-five and tells of his own impending death in the upcoming battle. He says that when he falls, he is to be struck four times by his ramrod at which time he will rise and lead them to victory. He warns that if he can't be reached, the others should retreat immediately. The two battle lines meet and Tecumseh is among the first to be cut down. The Indian charged with the duty of striking his body is also cut down and the Indians immediately disappear, confusing the Americans.

Simon Kenton, Junior is captured by Indians, and when Simon has the opportunity to travel with the military as an advisor, he accepts with the intention of finding out what happened to his son. Simon Junior later returns, unharmed. Following this particular battle, it's Simon who recognizes Tecumseh, dead on the battlefield. He identifies another Indian as the dead chief and the Americans immediately set about stripping his body of clothing, scalp and even skin. Simon watches, glad he had identified the wrong Indian as Tecumseh and thinking that no man deserved the treatment being handed out by the Americans. Later, a small group of Shawnees appear on the battlefield, recover Tecumseh's body, and travel a great distance where they hold a death ceremony and bury him.

On April 29, 1836, Simon Kenton is surrounded by his family as he lies dying in his cabin near the Mad River. He recalls a number of events over the years. The birth of his last child, Ruth Jane, the death of his firstborn, Nancy, the marriage of Simon Junior. Daniel Boone, Rachel Edgar, Simon Girty, and George Rogers Clark had all died, as had Black Hoof at the age of one hundred five. Simon is tended on his deathbed by Elizabeth with several of his children gathered around. Simon dies at age eighty-one years and twenty-six days. His headstone is engraved with the words, "Full of Honors, Full of Years".



Chapter XIII Analysis

The second major battle of the War of 1812 ended in defeat as thoroughly as the first. With hundreds of wounded Americans left behind, the British took those not killed or wounded prisoner and the Indians massacred the majority of those left. Tecumseh, with his promise that prisoners were to be treated humanely, was not at the battle and his orders were not adhered to without his presence. In May, the Americans were forced into a major attack on Fort Erie - held by the British and the source of constant irritation to the Americans' small Navy fleet. Days later, some twelve hundred militiamen arrive from Kentucky. Six hundred are killed or captured and many of those captured are then slain by the Indians until Tecumseh arrives to intervene. Tecumseh tells the British commander, Proctor, that he is unfit to command, orders him to go and "put on petticoats," and takes charge of the battle.

The Indians, continuing to believe in signs, believe that Tecumseh will return and that "a star appearing and passing across the sky, as it did at the time of Tecumseh's birth", will be the sign of his second coming.



Characters

Simon Kenton

Born on April 3, 1755, to Mark and Mary Kenton, Simon is known as a child who will do anything to avoid work on the Kenton family farm in Virginia. His father is a sharecropper and Simon simply hates farming work. He loves the woods and spends all the time he can in his beloved woods. When he's whipped for avoiding his chores, he works until the enforcer's back is turned and then slips away, sometimes for days. He loves to hear the stories of his uncle who tells of the frontier. When Simon has a fight with a neighbor man and fears he killed him, he heads out for the frontier and doesn't return for many years. Simon willingly works along the way for food and clothing, though he seems to do so with an eye toward funding his own expedition into the frontier. He's a quick study and learns from everyone he encounters. That fact makes him a man who is respected and who survives among harsh weather and hostile Indians when many other perish.

Simon is soon revered for his knowledge of the Indians, and though he himself is captured, his friendship with some who hold sway with the Indians means he is eventually released. He then has to escape the British, though it's again friendship with those in power who come to respect him that makes his escape possible. He returns always to his beloved woodlands of Kentucky, going so far as to bring his family and members of his home community to the region. He never fails to come to the aid of others and claims large portions of land for himself, often giving it away to those who want to settle in the area. The majority of his land claims are eventually contested, with Simon losing much of it because he didn't seek out someone to file the proper paperwork on his behalf. Simon himself was illiterate and his only successful business venture came because of his selection of a trustworthy individual to oversee it.

Simon fathers an illegitimate son then marries a young woman named Martha who bears him four children before meeting with an accident involving fire during her fifth pregnancy. He then marries Martha's cousin, Elizabeth, and the two live together until Simon's death, though Simon is often absent, spending much time in the woods on an array of expeditions and explorations.

Tecumseh

An Indian born March 9, 1768, under the passing of a comet or shooting star. Upon his death, it was said by the Indians that Tecumseh would return under the same sign. His father dies when Tecumseh is young and much of his youth was overseen by his brother and sister. Tecumseh has the gift of prophesy as does his brother who foretells that Tecumseh will one day be a great leader of the Shawnee people. At a very young age, Tecumseh witnesses a prisoner being burned to death. He is outraged and says that he believes anyone who would torture a helpless prisoner in such a way is nothing



more than a coward—an attitude quickly adopted by his brother. Years later, Tecumseh demands humane treatment for prisoners of the Indians, though they revert to their former practices when his back is turned.

Tecumseh has three younger brothers—triplets—including Lowawluwaysica, who later becomes known as "One-with-Open-Mouth" or more often, the Prophet. When Tecumseh decides upon a strategy for his people—to gather a great united front of Indians and demand that the Americans restore their lands—he uses Lowawluwaysica as his mouthpiece in many instances. It turns out to be a mistake, because the young Indian eventually comes to believe that he has the gift of prophecy when in fact it was Tecumseh who always presented the facts of foretelling for Lowawluwaysica to use. Tecumseh confronts his brother after a major loss to the Americans and declares that he shall live in shame among his people.

Tecumseh marries twice. The first wife nags at him constantly and ignores their small son, prompting Tecumseh to dissolve their marriage and send her home in shame. The second dies shortly after the birth of Tecumseh's second son. His sister raises the children. Tecumseh then falls in love with a white woman named Rebecca, and it's interesting that he asks her to marry him because there is a general disdain at this time among the Indians for interracial marriages. Rebecca fears for the future relationships of the two races and tells Tecumseh she will marry him only if he agrees to live as a white man. He declines.

Tecumseh himself is a great orator and holds the respect of many. When he joins his own forces with the British against the Americans he foretells of his own death—a prophecy that comes true and evokes grief among his people. When he lies dead on the battlefield, it's Simon Kenton who identifies him. Kenton's respect for the great warrior comes to the forefront and he tells the American fighters that another Indian is actually Tecumseh, knowing they will desecrate the body. He's right, and Tecumseh's men return later to find their leader's body as it fell and untouched since none knew his true identity. They bury him with the honor due him.

Marmaduke Van Swearingen, AKA Blue Jacket

The boy who is hunting with his brother, Charlie, when Indian braves catch the two. Charlie is released on the condition that Duke voluntarily be adopted into the Indian tribe and he agrees, saying it's what he always wanted. Forced to run "the gauntlet", Duke passes out before the end and fears he'll be killed, but is tenderly nursed back to health and becomes part of the tribe. He becomes Blue Jacket, a fearless warrior who is known among the Indians as well as the whites. He is friends with Tecumseh and leads the Indians on a number of attacks, often excelling over the Indians themselves in matters of valor and skill. He is swayed to join Tecumseh's cause against the Americans but dies before the joining of forces becomes fact.



Lowawluwaysica

Tecumseh's younger brother and one of the triplets born to his family. Lowawluwaysica is always jealous of Tecumseh, though he follows his older brother around with apparently devotion. He's an unattractive child who grows into an ugly man, bucktoothed and small. Tecumseh uses him as a mouthpiece, giving Lowawluwaysica prophecies to share with the Indians in order to gain their support for Tecumseh's cause. But Lowawluwaysica can't stand to live under his brother's rules, even for the ultimate goal of dominating the Americans, and causes the slaughter of a number of Indians in what might have been a minor battle, prompting many to leave Tecumseh's camp and return home. Lowawluwaysica is shunned for his actions and Tecumseh declares that he would die lonely and distrusted, which is what happens.

Simon Girty

The man who claims Simon as a blood brother and who works beside him during their brief stint in the militia against the Indians. He was also a scout and when the war ends, Simon invites Girty to accompany him back down the river. Girty declines, preferring the bustle of the city of Pittsburgh. Simon meets Girty later in Kentucky County, and Girty reveals plans to return to fight for the British. He doesn't go to the British after all and meets Simon in an Indian village after Simon's been captured and is facing a death sentence. Girty tells the Indians that he and Simon are blood brothers and pleads for his life. His plea is accepted and Simon's life is spared, though he is adopted into the Shawnees. Girty and Simon spend days together, hunting in the area near the Indian encampment. Girty lives the rest of his life among the Indians, occasionally coming into contact with Simon and other Americans.

Martha Dowden

A young girl Simon meets and falls in love with. She bears Simon four children but is jealous of his continuing relationship with his firstborn son, born of an illegitimate relationship. Martha is also constantly angry that Simon is gone so often. He leads parties to their destinations and rushes to the rescue of any whites threatened by Indians. He also is sometimes gone for long periods on scouting expeditions and in search of new lands to claim for himself. Though Martha is well-provided for by her husband, she hates the fact that he is seldom content to remain at home more than a few days at a time and that he leaves without a word. Martha dies while pregnant with her fifth child when a fire breaks out and she's trapped by falling timbers. The child is stillborn and Martha dies a short time later.

Elizabeth Jarobe

Martha's cousin, who comes with her family to stay with Simon's family. It's Elizabeth who aids Martha with the birth of her fourth child and who takes over the care of



Simon's children when Martha dies. Elizabeth and Simon fall in love, and when they marry they soon leave Kentucky and all its memories behind. Elizabeth is nothing like Martha and doesn't seem to expect Simon to change his rambling ways. He sometimes misses the births of his children and is often away while Elizabeth is expecting or recovering from a recent birth.

Rebecca Galloway

A fourteen-year-old daughter of a settler who teaches Tecumseh to read, write, and speak proper English. She learns from the Indian chief as well. Eventually, he asks her to marry him. She considers that he is planning war against the whites and she worries about the future relationships of both herself and Tecumseh as well as those of the Indians and whites. She eventually decides that she will marry him but only if he comes to adopt the white man's way of life. She feels that if she makes this change in him, she might alter the course of history and eliminate the possibility of war between the two races. He considers the condition but declines. It's noted that she cries as he leaves.

Peter Drouilliard

The British officer who takes Simon into custody from the Indians just before Simon is to be executed. Simon develops a fondness for Drouilliard and considers him a loyal British subject, but is shocked when Drouilliard one day casually says that Simon should let him know when he's ready to escape so that he, Drouilliard, can help. He does so and is soon arrested. He arrives at Simon's doorstep but soon falls into a routine of drinking and literally drinks himself to death a few years later.

Sugar Tree

The Shawnee woman who adopts Simon after he's captured by the Shawnee. He is to take the place of the son she lost and she is kind to Simon—as much as any biological mother would be. Simon says that during the adoption ceremony he feels guilty because he knows from the beginning that he isn't going to settle among the Indians but will always search for a way to escape.

Bill Grills

The man who sees Simon shoot a turkey from more than three hundred paces and who invites Simon to join their party on a trip to the Middle Land. Simon says that he learns a lot from Grills in their six weeks together. Grills is with Greathouse's party when they slaughter a group of Indians, including a pregnant squaw and the father of Chief Logan of the Iroquois. Grills refuses to fire on the Indians and slips away during the attack. It's noted that his association with Greathouse and with the frontier has ended.



Jacob Butler

The miller in Warm Springs who gives Simon a gun that Simon names "Jacob". Butler hires Simon to work for him, and when Simon prepares to leave, Butler convinces him to remain in Warm Springs for a while longer. Simon takes Butler's last name, identifying himself as Simon Butler for many years as he believes he is wanted for the death of William Leachman.

William Leachman

The man who marries Ellen Cummins. Simon Kenton believes he's been wronged and he challenges William to a fight soon after the wedding. William wins easily and Simon vows to get even the following year. He beats William mercilessly. Believing that he's killed William, Simon runs away, prompting some to think William killed Simon. William is tried but found not guilty for lack of evidence when Simon's body isn't found. William later accepts Simon's offer of free land in Kentucky and lives there for the rest of his life. He hangs himself one day while his son is away.

George Strader

The young man with Yeager who invites Simon to join them to form a hunting party. Strader is not the woodsman Simon is, though he becomes adequate in the outdoors. When their camp is attacked, George escapes and meets up with Simon, but has lost his love for the wilderness and returns to civilization.

John Yeager

The man who finds Simon's camp, claims to know the way to some very rich hunting ground in Middle Land, and who invites Simon to join him on his quest. He's an older man and is the victim of an Indian attack one evening at their hunting camp.



Objects/Places

White Rock Ridge

The area where Simon Kenton has the fight with William Leachman.

Bull Run Mountain

Where the Kenton's have their farm.

Middle Land

The section of the United States west of the most westward fort at the time of Simon's youth.

Warm Springs

A small town where Simon stops sixteen days after the fight with William and 140 miles from his home. Simon calls this the "jumping off place" to the frontier.

Jacob

The name Simon gives the gun given to him by Jacob Butler in Warm Springs. Indians eventually take the gun and Simon doesn't rename the next.

Kispoko Town

Where Marmaduke Van Swearington is adopted into an Indian tribe and becomes Blue Jacket.

Pleasant Point

A site at the mouth of the Great Kanawha where Simon is discovered by the Greathouse party after fleeing an Indian attack, and where he camps with a party of explorers later that year.



Tomahawk Improvements

A term used to signify land ownership. In the region being surveyed by the Greathouse and Bullitt parties, any man who uses a tomahawk to mark off land for himself has created a binding contract of ownership. The plan is designed to populate the area.

Limestone Creek

The creek that flows into the Ohio where Simon and Thomas Williams camp in their final quest to find the canelands.

Wapatomica

The geographic center of the Shawnee Nation and where Simon is to be burned at the stake after being caught stealing Indian horses.

Broadhorns

Well-built flat boats that haul emigrants into the attractive regions of southwestern Ohio.

Thames River

Where the British, accompanied by Tecumseh's people, finally make a stand against the Americans at the end of the War of 1812, and where Tecumseh is killed.



Themes

Respect

There are many levels of respect exhibited throughout the story and one of the best examples is the respect Simon and Tecumseh have for each other. The two men are each respected among their own people, mainly for their particular skills on the frontier and the battlefield. When they meet for the first time, Simon is impressed with Tecumseh's response to what should have been a surprise attack with a devastating outcome. Instead of running as Simon predicted, Tecumseh rallies his men to fight, having the forethought to throw a blanket over the fire to eliminate the light that made the Indians easy targets. Instead of a rout as Simon planned, the Indians staved off the settlers, claimed one life, and sent the others running. Over the years, the two maintain a grudging respect for each other, simply because of their exploits. When Tecumseh is among those killed at the Thames River during the War of 1812, Simon—being the only man available who would recognize the Indian—locates his body. But again, his respect for this enemy comes into play and he identifies another body as that of Tecumseh, because he knows the Americans will desecrate the Indian chief's body. This happens, though the Americans defile the wrong body—as identified by Simon. In this way, he allowed the Shawnee the opportunity to claim Tecumseh's body and give their beloved chief a proper burial.

That respect isn't limited only to these two men. There are others, who by their actions gain the respect of Indians and/or whites. Daniel Boone is a frequent companion of Simon and the two men hold a deep respect for each other, mostly because of their common love of the frontier. Tecumseh greatly respects his brother, Chiksika, and listens intently to those Indians who speak wisely in order that he himself would grow up to be a respected leader.

There are also those on the opposite end of the spectrum. There are whites who indiscriminately slaughter Indians and Indians who subject their prisoners to heinous deaths. Both Tecumseh and Simon condemn these people and their actions.

Coming of Age

Though the story is primarily about Simon Kenton, it's Tecumseh who best exhibits the coming of age theme. Simon himself grows into a man who takes many of his responsibilities seriously but who continues to do what suits him best without seeming to give a lot of thought to the needs of his family. His only true interest is in providing for their safety, though even that is a far cry from the incorrigible youth of Virginia who people thought merely lazy. Tecumseh, on the other hand, grows into a man who has the interests of his people at heart. He sincerely seems to want what is best for the Indian nations and is willing to sacrifice to achieve that. One example of this is when he uses his brother as his mouthpiece. Though One-with-Open-Mouth is not a true



prophet, he becomes known as such through the information given him by Tecumseh. By doing this, Tecumseh literally gives his younger brother power that would rightfully have been his own. His goal here is to unite the Indian tribes into a single nation in order to push the whites back once and for all—a move he sees as necessary for the future of his people.

There are others among the characters who also come of age over the course of the story, though many simply fall into various states of despair or brokenness. Rebecca Galloway is mature for her age when she meets Tecumseh when she is a girl of only sixteen. When he asks her to marry him a year later, she knows that she loves him but fears for the future relationship of the Indians and whites. Rebecca, using wisdom beyond her years, puts her heart into the decision and refuses to marry Tecumseh simply based on the romantic appeal or her love for the chief. Instead, she considers that she holds in her hand the possibility of making a difference in the course of history. She agrees to marry Tecumseh but only if he will leave the ways of the Indian behind. It's not clear whether she expected him to agree but he ultimately declines. Rebecca could be considered naïve in her assessment of the situation, but it could also be argued that she displayed forethought and wisdom uncommon for a teenage woman in love.

The Need for Adventure

The need for adventure drives men like Simon Kenton, Simon Girty, Blue Jacket, and Daniel Boone to their various actions. In some cases, the need was almost fanatical. Daniel Boone worked alongside others to help settle Kentucky. Once the settlement was established, he was no longer satisfied to remain in the region, but immediately wanted to find a place where there were fewer people. He moved to Missouri, and Simon visited him there several times, going so far as to claim land there for himself.

Simon also spent years of his life helping with the settlement of Kentucky. He volunteered his time to help settlers find their way to various locations and to chase down Indians who attacked the settlements in the region. It can be argued that the main reason for his decision to leave Kentucky was his marriage to Elizabeth and their desire to begin a new life together, but it's also true that Simon himself said that the lines of the frontier had moved and Kentucky was no longer a frontier state. It's a fact that Simon held his own during the days of settling the region, but fared poorly when he needed to establish official land claims and maintain a business.

When Simon was more than fifty years old, he set out with an army detachment as an advisor, though his family objected stringently. He was so determined to go that he packed up a load of corn and left with the obvious destination of the gristmill to have the corn ground. Instead, he was nearby when the Americans met the Indians and British on the Thames River—a battle in which Tecumseh was killed.

There were others with an equal need for adventure. Marmaduke Van Swearingen was enamored with the way of the Indians from the time of childhood and it was no great

sacrifice for him to promise to become an Indian in return for his brother's safety. He became known as Blue Jacket and his fearlessness and skill made him a natural leader among the Indians.

Style

Point of View

The book is written in third person with an omniscient point of view, though it is sometimes at least somewhat limited. For example, Simon Kenton is involved in a fight with a man named William Leachman. Simon believes that he's killed Leachman and runs away. The reader is quickly given the information that Simon's mother refuses to give up the search for Simon after the incident, but it's not until some time later that the reader learns that Leachman didn't die but was actually tried for Simon's murder, though he was found not guilty because Simon's body was never recovered.

For the most part, the reader learns of happenings as they occur, though some of the events are relayed by way of stories told to Simon, meaning they are sometimes at least slightly out of order.

Setting

The story is set in America, along the then-western frontier sections of the settled region that would become known as Kentucky, Ohio, and Missouri. The time begins in the 1700s in Virginia, prior to the American Revolution, and continues through the war of 1812, ending with Simon Kenton's death in 1836. The setting is true and the story itself is factual though there appears to be sections of elaboration because some details could not likely be proven beyond any doubt.

The settings are described, often in great detail. There are descriptions of places, events, people, and structures that are, in all likelihood, historically correct. These are sometimes laboriously detailed, and some readers may find some passages tiresome. Despite this, most who are interested in the history of the United States will find the descriptions fascinating because of this elaboration.

Language and Meaning

The book is written in a straight-forward style that is easy to read and understand. For the most part, a reader with an adequate vocabulary will find the book enjoyable. There are long passages of historical events and details of places that some readers may find tedious and distracting. The reader who expects to find only details of the lives of Simon Kenton, Daniel Boone, Tecumseh, and others will be disappointed. A great deal of the book is devoted to the historical events of the Americans as they struggle for independence from England and they fight the War of 1812, though it is all written with an eye toward the impact of these events on the frontier regions.

The book includes a list of Indian words used throughout the book. For the sake of clarity, few Indian words were used in this guide. Though most readers will likely be



unfamiliar with the Indian names and words used in the book, the explanations are typically sufficient to end any confusion. In addition, many of the Indian people are called by their English names—such as Blue Jacket and Black Hoof. The book also includes notes describing where the writer obtained various pieces of information and offering additional details about people, places and events. For example, a place described in the book may be the site of a modern day city, and those details are included in the author's notes, located at the back of the book. While those descriptions are vital to the reader seeking details, it's possible to enjoy and understand the book without this depth of information.

Structure

The book is divided into thirteen chapters, named only with Roman numerals. There is also a prologue describing the births of Simon Kenton and Tecumseh, and an epilogue describing Simon's death and including a brief overview of the twenty years prior to that event. The book is told roughly in order of happening, though there are occasional sections in which Simon or some other character "catches up" on events through a conversation with another. For example, Simon spends several months away from home and then takes a ride with Elizabeth upon his return. She tells him of events that happened while he was away, bringing the reader up to date as well. This method is quite effective and there are seldom points of confusion about the sequence of events.



Quotes

"Hatless, shoeless, without gun or knife, provisions or money, clad only in worn linsey-woolsey shirt and trousers stained with blood which he smudged away with dirt and damp leaves, Simon Kenton - aged sixteen years and seven days - headed into the unknown." Chap. I, p. 14

"His skill with Jacob was considerable and in this short time he gained something of a reputation as an outstanding marksman. No longer did he waste hard-earned lead and powder in unnecessary shooting. When Jacob spoke, it was a rare thing indeed if another turkey, deer, grouse, squirrel or wolf did not lie down and die." Chap. I, p. 24

"He wondered if Strader had made it safely away and his mind filled briefly with the grisly picture of Yeager being tomahawked. It was then, for the first time, that the full enormity of his predicament crashed down upon him and he trembled with a fear never before experienced." Chap. II, p. 59

"We are not pleased to know you plan to settle in the Can-tuc-kee land and we cannot stop you, but since the Shemanese are determined to settle south of the Spay-lay-wi-thepi, they must be aware that they are not to disturb us in our hunting; for we must kill meat for our women and children and to have something to buy powder and lead, and procure blankets and other necessaries. We desire you will be strong in discharging your promises towards us, as we are determined to be strong in advising our young men to be kind, friendly and peaceable towards you." Chap. II, p. 66

"Whites have landed on our shores and have tried to build their cabins and have been angry with us when we tell them that they may not. They insult us and our wives and children and our way of life. We are losing our dignity, our self-respect. Why must it be we who turn our backs and walk away when it is we who are the injured? Why may we not, as we always have, repay in kind for what we receive at the hands of our enemies?" Chap. III, p. 114

"Over and over again, so frequently as to become monotonous, the settlers, both men and women, were writing in their diaries or journals or letters fundamentally the same sentence: Simon Butler saw an Indian about to fire upon me (or a friend): he fired first and the Indian fell." Chap. III, p. 140

"On his own part, Drouilliard was something of an enigma. Although apparently a loyal Redcoat, he occasionally shocked Simon with his comments, such as when he



nonchalantly told the young frontiersman that when he was ready to make his escape to let him know and he'd do all he could to help." Chap. V, p. 197

"The Indian certainly appeared asleep but it might well be a ruse. Every nerve in the big frontiersman's body was poised for instant flight and he moved to within twenty yards of the clearing with less noise than a sunbeam makes as it slides across the forest floor." Chap. VI, p. 243

"For all intents and purposes, America had won her independence as a free nation. The fighting was over. At least that was what they were saying in the east. They were not so sure in the west." Chap. VI, p. 246

"An enemy he was, yes! Death he deserved, yes! But the death of a man, not that of a rat cornered and tied and burned alive. How have we the right to call ourselves warriors, or even men, if we act in such a manner? My heart is sick and heavy and what I have seen here will never be erased from my mind and I will never stop being ashamed of it." Chap. VI, p. 275

"Treaty papers meant nothing and so why not sign this one if it kept the Americans happy for a little while and allowed the Indians assembled here to live in peace temporarily? It would not last of course, but it would last longer than if here and now they refused to accept these terms. And so they signed it and shook hands and parted . . . and not one of them really expected to live happily ever after." Chap. VII, p. 288

"I have looked ahead and seen you not only as the leader of the Shawnees, but as the greatest and most powerful chief any tribe has ever known. I have seen you journey to far lands and I have watched you bring together under your hand a confederation of Indians nations such as has never before been known." Chap. VII, p. 316

"They shook hands awkwardly, embarrassed by the emotions that brought hot tears to their eyes. Daniel Boone abruptly turned and paced away with that characteristic stride of backwoodsmen and Kenton watched him until he disappeared into a wooded hillside to the east. His leaving caused a considerable regret among all the frontiersmen." Chap. VII, p. 324

"Seven years ago the Revolutionary War had ended (or, to be more accurate, the Treaty of Paris had been signed which allegedly ended it). But it hadn't ended here in the Ohio Territory nor in the Kentucky District either. Not a week went by when the army or the settlers on both sides of the river weren't having skirmishes with the Indians, and only a



fool would try to deny that these very savages were being supplied with guns and ammunition by the damnable British at Detroit and in their northern Ohio forts which they tried to palm off as trading posts." Chap. VIII, p. 340

"The Kentuckians were delighted with the contemplation of the war, since this would mean an end to their harassment; but they weren't entirely happy with the prospect of an army under the command of Arthur St. Clair. True, St. Claire had been a good fighter against the British, but the Indians didn't fight like Redcoats; they didn't make targets of themselves, which St. Clair might do with his army, but instead they hit and ran and hit again." Chap. IX, p. 365

"For the better part of an hour they spied and then silently withdrew and returned to the men. Prudence indicated they should get out of there as quickly as possible and be thankful they weren't detected. The thought never entered Kenton's mind. He framed plans for an attack instead." Chap. IX, p. 384

"True, the Indians had been soundly whipped; they were begging for peace, and preliminary treaties with General Wayne had already been agreed upon and the final papers of peace would be signed next summer. But, Simon predicted darkly, treaties had been made before - if the whites didn't break this one, then the Indians would. In either case, sooner or later there would be more strife on the frontier." Chap. IX, p. 398

"When the Shemanese were confronted it would be by a single, unified body of thirty or forty or fifty thousand warriors, perhaps even more. What he envisioned with such a force was a demand to the whites for a return of their lands. He would, if at all possible, avoid warfare with them. But if it came to that, he would not turn aside." Chap. X, p. 436

"Before Fisher could reply, the Prophet bent over at the waist and slapped and palm to his behind and at this same moment discharged an enormous and noisy blast of gas. 'That,' he said, breaking into a cackling laughter, 'is how much I care for Americans!'" Chap. XI, p. 481

"And while she tried to keep from thinking of it, she continued to consider the possibility that this incident of love between herself and the Shawnee chief might, in some way, be made to change future events; events which, as she listened to his discussions with her father in their home seemed not only impending, but inevitable. With a woman's intuition, she knew, after grasping the meaning of these discussions, that a terrible ordeal was in store and that she, an unknown sixteen-year-old girl of the frontier, had it within her power to alter the very course of history." Chap. XI, p. 490



"By this time night had fallen and the moon was up. Entirely displeased with the way the council had gone, Governor Harrison closed it on a sharp warning note. He pointed to the celestial orb and said, 'The moon you see would sooner fall to the ground than the President would suffer his people to be murdered with impunity, and I will put petticoats on my soldiers sooner than give up a country I have bought fairly from its true owners!'" Chap. XII, p. 525

"Such was the great sign of Tecumseh. This was the earthquake which occurred where no tremor had ever been recorded before; where there was no scientific explanation for such a thing happening; where no one could possibly have anticipated or predicted that an earthquake could happen. No one except Tecumseh." Chap. XII, p. 540

"But though many of his followers stayed with him here at Fort Malden, an even greater number slipped away in the night and returned to their homes and their people and their lands. And Tecumseh was glad they had gone." Chap. XIII, p. 573

Topics for Discussion

Describe Simon Kenton as a child. Describe Tecumseh as a child. How are the two similar? Dissimilar? How do they change as they age? How do their lives become interwoven?

How does Simon Kenton become known as Simon Butler? When does he change his name back?

What prompts Simon to leave his family's Virginia farm? What is it that prompts him to go back? What is the result of that journey?

What are tomahawk improvements? What happens to many of the claims made in this manner? What happens with Simon's land? What could Simon have done to have changed this? Why didn't he take steps?

Describe Simon's relationship with Martha? With Elizabeth? How were the two women similar? How were they different?

What was it that prompted Simon to be always on the move? What were his preferred roles in life?

How does Tecumseh come to depend on his younger brother? What's the outcome of that alliance? What prompts his brother's actions?

Describe Simon's first encounters with Bill Grills. With Indians. How does he learn from these events? What does he think of the other men of Grills's party?