

## War of 1812 tomahawk donated



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Register photo/TOM JACKSON*

*Warren Ferrell and his sister, Susan Ferrell, hold a War of 1812 tomahawk donated to the Ottawa County Museum in Port Clinton.*

### PORT CLINTON

A tomahawk bloodied in war when Ohio was a western frontier state has become a prized new exhibit at a Port Clinton museum.

Warren Ferrell, of Youngstown, and his relatives on Saturday donated a War of 1812 tomahawk to the Ottawa County Museum, located at 126 W. Third St. in Port Clinton.

Warren Ferrell's great-great-great grandfather, Sgt. John Myers (1783-1842), a U.S. soldier during the war serving in the militia, is believed to have wielded the tomahawk in fighting against the Native American allies of the British during the War of 1812.

It's believed in a battle near the Sandusky River in the Fremont area, Myers used the tomahawk to kill one Native American during a fight and used his gun to kill another, Ferrell said. Myers also participated in a battle against Native Americans in Danbury Township early in the war. History buffs can visit the site of Battlefield Park in Danbury Township. "This is going to be one of the most important artifacts we have," said Peggy Debien, curator of the museum.

There's no doubt about the provenance of the weapon, Debien said. "It's been handed down from son to son," she said.

When Myers died in 1842, his wife slept with the tomahawk under her pillow. The tomahawk went to their son when she died, and was passed down from one member of the Myers family to another, until it came into the possession of George Myers, Warren Ferrell's uncle. George Myers had no children, so he passed it on to Warren Ferrell.

The tomahawk was given to the museum in a ceremony at 1 p.m. Saturday, attended by about 20 museum supporters.

The tomahawk came to the museum's attention when it was shown to Dianne Rozak, a Danbury Township trustee and a member of the museum board, when she was working as a naturalist at Marblehead Lighthouse Park. During the ceremony, Rozak thanked Warren Ferrell and presented him with a signed print of Christmas Eve at the Marblehead Lighthouse.

Debien said the tomahawk will be displayed in the War of 1812 section of the museum, near a timber from Commodore Perry's flagship, the Niagara, and other war artifacts.

The museum is open noon to 3 p.m. Wednesdays. Visits to the museum at other times may be scheduled by phoning Debien at 419-732-1039.