

**LIFE OF EDWARD
TIFFIN, FIRST
GOVERNOR OF OHIO**

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Life of Edward Tiffin, First Governor of Ohio by William Edward Gilmore

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WILLIAM EDWARD GILMORE

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See Appendix A.

Edward Tiffin

AT THE AGE OF FORTY-FIVE

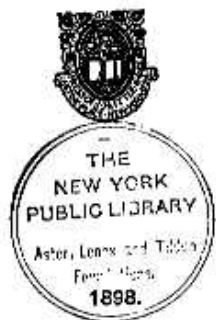
LIFE OF
EDWARD TIFFIN

FIRST GOVERNOR OF OHIO

BY
COLONEL WILLIAM EDWARD GILMORE

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PREFACE

VERY nearly a century has elapsed since Edward Tiffin was inaugurated the first governor of the State of Ohio; and yet two of his children—Miss Diathea Tiffin and Mrs. Ellen Tiffin Cook, aged respectively eighty-three and eighty-one—still survive; and in such state of health and vigor as render it not altogether unreasonable to hope they may yet live to celebrate the centennial of that event.

It is at the request of these two venerable and honored daughters of Governor Tiffin that this brief memoir has been prepared and published; and to them it is respectfully and affectionately inscribed by their kinsman,

WILLIAM E. GILMORE.

CHILLICOTHE, OHIO, *May 1, 1897.*

LIFE OF EDWARD TIFFIN

FIRST GOVERNOR OF OHIO

CHAPTER I

Parentage and Birth—Early Education—Begins the Study of Medicine in Carlisle, England—Emigrates to America—Resumes and Finishes Medical Studies—Marriage—Religious Impressions—Ordination as Deacon in Methodist Episcopal Church—Manumits Negro Slaves—Removal to Northwest Territory.

EDWARD TIFFIN was born in the city of Carlisle, England, on the nineteenth day of June, 1766.

His parents, Henry Tiffin and Mary Parker, his wife, were both of good descent and family connections, but possessed of no property of consequence; and Edward's education was principally provided for by a generous maternal uncle, Edward Parker, for whom he was named.

Mr. Samuel Williams, late of Cincinnati, Ohio, who was for more than twenty years of his life connected intimately with Governor Tiffin, by reason of serving him in the capacity of chief clerk

while Tiffin held the office of Commissioner of the General Land Office of the United States, and afterwards that of Surveyor-General of the Northwest, in a paper published in Rev. J. B. Finley's *Sketches of Western Methodism* (1854), says that Tiffin's education "was limited to the ordinary branches of a common English course."

That Mr. Williams understates his educational accomplishments is abundantly apparent in Tiffin's subsequent career; for, although he was essentially a practical man, with his interest and industry absorbed in current affairs, without thought of posthumous fame as an orator, writer, or statesman—for he preserved no memorials of himself whatever—all evidence that has come down to us proves that he always spoke readily, clearly, and effectively in debate; and all his papers accessible now, including a few of the sermons he preached, are written in excellent style, in faultless English and admirable good taste.

The fact that he was a student of medicine before he was eighteen years of age, and that he attained acknowledged eminence in this learned profession notwithstanding his many other employments in life, almost conclusively proves he possessed some knowledge of the Latin language, and considerable attainments in those other sciences which are essential to this profession.

In 1784 his parents, with their five children, of

whom Edward was third in the order of their birth, left England and chose an American home in Charlestown, in what was then Berkeley County, but since then included in the present county of Jefferson, in the State of West Virginia.

It has frequently been asserted that the subject of this memoir came to this country in the capacity of surgeon on a British man-of-war; that he was attached, as surgeon, to the army of Burgoyne and taken prisoner with that army; that he was held as such prisoner until the close of the war, and only then concluded to become an American citizen; and more to the same general effect. These stories all originated in an obituary sermon preached by a Methodist minister in 1829, and which sermon was printed in a newspaper of southern Ohio at the time.

The indisputable fact that he was born in 1766, and was, therefore, only eleven years old at the time of Burgoyne's surrender of his army, sufficiently refutes all these statements.

Immediately after the arrival of the Tiffin family in Virginia, Edward resumed the course of medical studies he had begun in England, and in due time attended a course of lectures at the Jefferson Medical College of Pennsylvania and was licensed to practise. He was but twenty years of age, but had gained such reputation for learning and ability as to procure for him very quickly a remunerative business.