

Fort Wilkins

History - Time Line

Read the following information about the history of Ft. Wilkins and use it with what you already know to answer questions and construct a time line.

Michigan's first state geologist, Dr. Douglass Houghton, found the presence of copper in the Keweenaw Peninsula in 1840. Since this metal was a necessary resource for the brass and bronze industry, the United States gained the west half of the Upper Peninsula from Ojibwa Indians through a treaty. This treaty took effect in 1842 and was called the Treaty of La Pointe.

Because of the news of Dr. Houghton's findings, the "Copper Boom" in Michigan began in 1843. Many prospectors came to mine copper from this area. The U.S. Government thought that the Ojibwa tribe might become hostile over the loss of their land so Ft. Wilkins was constructed in 1844. Soldiers were stationed at the fort to protect copper miners. However, military protection was not needed and the soldiers left in 1846 to fight in the Mexican War. Fort Wilkins was reoccupied from 1867 to 1870 and then permanently abandoned. In 1923 Fort Wilkins became a State Park.

Fill in the time line to the left with information from above. Also include the following events on your time line:

- The American Revolution
- The Mexican War
- The California Gold Rush
- The Civil War

1. In what century did the "Copper Boom" take place?

2. Why was it necessary for the United States to take over the western portion of the Upper Peninsula?

