

very crooked, and between twenty and thirty rods in width, and its banks generally low, and sometimes overflowed back a considerable distance. At length, however, the boatmen consented to return, I agreeing to go ahead of them in a canoe, to see that no Indians were ready to intercept them. Taking with me in the canoe one Joseph Clarement, we proceeded, and the large boat was to follow at a respectful distance, until they should hear the report of one or more guns as a signal to retreat. The distance from the landing spot on Cuivre River to its mouth, by its sinuities, was some eight or nine miles, though not exceeding three by land.

When we had descended about three miles by the river, I discovered three or four Indian canoes on the northern bank of the stream, when we were abreast of them; and knowing Indians were not far off, concluded to push ahead, and did so, but in less than a minute, we heard a noise, and looking back, we got a glimpse of a dozen to twenty Indians rushing down the bank and jumping into their canoes, seizing their paddles, and pursuing after us. In a very short distance, we fortunately turned a sharp wooded angle in the stream to the right, which screened us from the Indians and there we ran a few rods up a small bayou, and left the canoe, and ran about a mile and a half up the stream, much of the way fully knee deep in water on the overflowed bottom; and fearing the Indians might be near, we remained from about ten o'clock in the forenoon till dark, some of the time in water up to our necks, when some men came from the fort, only a mile distant, and conveyed us over the river, and thence to the garrison that evening. The larger boat and crew also escaped.

I can add nothing particularly to the statements given in the histories of the times, relative to the occurrences at Forts Madison and Mason, in April, 1813. About the 1st of June following, Gov. Howard resigned his governorship, and accepted the appointment of brigadier general in the United States' service to command the eighth military department, then embracing the territory from the interior of Indiana to the frontier of Mexico.