

Gen. Howard soon after visited Fort Howard, and upon the urgent solicitation of all the inhabitants that I should be continued in the spy service, as I had repeatedly discovered and given timely notice of the approach of Indian war parties, Gen. Howard said, as he had no authority to appoint spies, he would use every exertion in his power to secure ample remuneration for such services as I had rendered, of which he had good evidence from the people and Rangers, and which he desired I might continue; giving me a certificate, pledging himself to use his best exertions to secure for me pay from Congress or the War Department. He also commended my exertions in furnishing supplies for the Rangers.

Shortly after Gen. Howard's visit to Fort Howard a strong apprehension was entertained by the people that the Upper Mississippi Indians would descend the Mississippi in a body, and it was concluded that it was advisable to erect a fort directly on the bank of the river, to watch and check any such movement of the enemy. About eight or ten miles above the mouth of Cuivre River on the eastern bank of the Mississippi, is a large well-known promontory or *grit* of sandstone, hence called Cape au Gris; directly opposite to which, on the western shore, was the place selected for the new fort, which was soon erected, and named Cape au Gris Fort. Capt. David Musick was placed in command there; it was less in size than Fort Howard, and some of the neighboring people took shelter there with their families.

Some time during the summer of 1813, I crossed the Mississippi to its eastern shore, two or three miles above Cape au Gris, to see if there were any signs of Indians in that quarter. When about three miles east of the river, I discovered quite a large camp of Indians, somewhere, I thought, from sixty to eighty in number. I immediately retreated without being observed, and hastened to Cape au Gris with the intelligence. It was at once resolved to pursue, and it was only a question of numbers, and a strife for the command. Lieut. John McNair, of the Rangers, a resident of St. Charles county, a nephew of Col. Alexander