

McNair, afterwards Governor of Missouri, was permitted to take the command at his own urgent request, and selected twelve men for the service, together with myself for pilot. I strongly urged a larger number, but the Lieutenant was head-strong, and utterly rejected my advice.

There were but a couple of small log canoes or dug-outs in which to cross, and it required three trips to convey our small party of fourteen over the river. We immediately pushed forward, I taking the lead as pilot, and soon came in sight of the encampment, in which the Indians still remained. Each party discovered the other about the same moment, we having crossed a rise of ground, which brought us within about forty rods of the Indians; who, when they espied us, seized their arms and rushed towards us. Seeing that they outnumbered us four or five to one, we instantly retraced our steps towards Cape au Gris rock, a distance of some four or five miles. It was a hot chase, the Indians rather gaining upon us, and when we arrived at the water's edge of the river, about mid-day, we turned and fired upon the Indians, who were now within a few rods of us. They were momentarily checked, and, in turn, fired upon us, killing McNair and eleven of the men instantly, while the twelfth Ranger, one Webber, dressed in a yellow hunting-shirt, jumped into the river, evidently intending to swim over to the fort, but was soon arrested by a ball, and his lifeless body dragged ashore.

Providentially I was untouched, and quickly turned down the river bank, leaped a small stream at a single bound, and then running along the side of the dripping rock, closely pursued by three Indians, who kept up the exciting race for about a mile and a half—all this in full view of two hundred persons at the fort on the opposite shore, who, from their distance and want of boats, were unable to render the least assistance. I gained so much on the Indians during that mile and a half race, that they abandoned the pursuit—the guns of the Indians and myself being alike empty. Not aware that my pursuers had given over the chase, I kept on as rapidly as I could for two or three miles, when, turning a point on