

the river, and seeing nothing of the Indians, I re-loaded my gun, and kept on at a slackened pace. In the night, when some twenty miles below Cape au Gris, I made a raft of dry sticks fastened together with grape vines, and crossed to the western bank of the river; and, on the morning of the third day, reached Fort Howard, and the same day was escorted to Cape au Gris Fort, where I was received with unaffected joy.

I now learned that the Indians had horribly mangled the bodies of my unfortunate companions, and left them with every mark of indecency and indignity their inventions could suggest; and they shook the reeking scalps in bravado in sight of the whites on the distant opposite shore. Having secured the guns, clothing and scalps of their victims, and fully indulged themselves in yelling and screaming awhile, like so many demons, seeming conscious of their own safety, as the whites could not at once cross, they at length departed. Fearing to pass the river with only the two small dug-outs, lest they should be ambuscaded, the Rangers did not venture over until the next day; and not then, until they had brought the cannon in the fort to bear on the spot where their slain companions were. The fragments of their mangled bodies were gathered up, conveyed over the river, and buried near the fort.

On the 16th of July, 1813, the Indians attacked Fort Madison; I do not remember the number of troops stationed there, or their commander. The block-house, built especially to command the ravine, was doubtless located west or north-west of the fort, as the ravine circled around the west side and north end of the fort, into the Mississippi. The Indians having carried the block-house, now availed themselves of the shelter of the deep ravine, and attempted to dig a passage into the fort, and continued at it for some time, but finally gave it up. This was the second attack on Fort Madison, in which two whites were killed and one wounded.

On the 15th of August, 1813, Captain Nathan Boone and a party of spies under his command, while on a scout between the Mississippi and Illinois rivers, were attacked in the night by three