

times their number, but no lives were lost. About September following, I accompanied General Howard's expedition to Peoria, where a fort was erected; Major Nathan Boone, and Maj. Wm. Christy of St. Louis, were along. I made but a short stay, when I returned; after I left, there were some Indian disturbances, and Maj. N. Boone and Capt. Samuel Whitesides scoured the country. Robert Walsh, a lawyer, afterwards a Judge, of St. Louis, was an Aid to Gen. Howard. The latter part of October, on the return of the troops, there was some snow, and the men suffered considerably; some having worn out their shoes, killed their horses, and wound strips of the hide around their feet, or made hide shoes.

Early in November, 1813, Fort Madison was evacuated, and the buildings burned, in consequence of the contractor failing to furnish that garrison with provisions, which caused much alarm and apprehension at the forts and settlements below. In consequence of the abandonment of this important position, Fort Johnston was built, opposite the mouth of the middle fork of the Des Moines River, on a high promontory on the eastern bank of the Mississippi; it was erected by the Rangers and regulars, and among the officers were Lieut. Bennet Riley, and W. S. Harney, and Dr. Muir, afterwards of Galena. I was there during its erection. The next spring, for the same reason that Fort Madison had been abandoned, Fort Johnston was also evacuated and destroyed. It was, however, subsequently rebuilt, and called Fort Edwards. Fort Mason, which was probably erected at the out-break early in 1812, was located fifteen or twenty miles above the mouth of Salt River, on the west bank of the Mississippi. This too, was abandoned not far from the 1st of May, 1814, about the same time as Fort Johnston.

The famous battle of the Sink-Hole, near Fort Howard, occurred on the 24th of May, 1814. Some two or three nights previously, I made a narrow escape in riding in the night from Cape au Gris to Fort Howard. When about half a mile from the latter, I heard a whistle on the charger or powder horn, and soon