

covered that a large body of Indians had collected; it seemed to me, that there were from two to four thousand of them. The British had erected a battery on the left or eastern bank of the Mississippi; in a row with two real twelve-pounders, they had six painted wooden guns, all on a knoll or elevation on the river bank, and there were apparently some fifty men dressed in British uniform—some of them may have been Indians so dressed.

From Maj. Taylor's report, it is uncertain whether it was Reo-tor's boat which got aground, and Capt. Whiteside relieved; but I would not now say, as I did in my narrative to Gen. Smith, that Capt. Whiteside disobeyed orders in doing it. The attack occurred on a very bright morning; the preceding night was cloudy, very windy, with some rain. I still insist, that the first cannon ball from the British battery passed through Taylor's boat, called the *Commodore*, yet Taylor, in his report says, it was Hempstead's boat—it may be, that Hempstead was the captain of the *Commodore*, while Taylor was commander of the expedition.

It became necessary for some one to expose himself in order to cast a cable from a disabled boat which was drifting fast towards the shore where the Indians were, to Capt. Whiteside's boat; and one Paul Harpole greatly exposed himself in accomplishing the object. But having done this, he lingered, and one after another he shot at the enemy fourteen guns handed to him, when he himself was shot in the forehead, and tumbled forward into the river, when his body was obtained by the Indians, and cut up into a hundred pieces. The crippled boat was saved, but poor Harpole's exploit, in which he lost his life, was the wonder and admiration of all. He was a young man of some twenty-three years of age, and resided near Wood's Fort, in Missouri, where he had always been celebrated for his strength and activity, and was possessed of much backwood's wit and humor.

The prairie where Maj. Taylor halted to repair his boats, and attend to the wounded, was about three miles below the mouth of Rock River, on the Illinois shore. There were, as Maj. Taylor states, a great number of Indian horses opposite the mouth of