

Circuit Judge of Illinois, who was one of a party in a boat ascending the Mississippi, and had landed on the west bank of the river, about twelve miles below the present city of Dubuque, at a place known as *Buttes des Morts*, where they were attacked and several killed. Sawyer, a very corpulent man, succeeded in secreting himself in a sink-hole back of the river hill, where he remained three days without food, and then escaped. John S. Miller, another of the party, who was a blacksmith, managed, together with his wife, in some way to reach an island, yet known as Miller's island, where they remained nearly a month before they were taken off. Miller afterwards settled at Galena, where he died about 1843.

About this period, Dr. Muir, of the United States Army, whom I had seen at Fort Johnston in 1814, was at Prairie du Chien, when his life was threatened, and he was saved by a young Sauk squaw, whom he married, and by whom he raised a family. Dr. Muir often related to me the incidents of his wife's heroism in saving him, but the particulars I have forgotten. Like most of persons connected with the army, he was too fond of liquor, otherwise he might have risen to distinction and usefulness.*

In the fall of 1815, I went up the Mississippi with a boat properly manned, on a trading voyage. The Indian traders on the Upper Mississippi, purchasing goods at St. Louis, were desirous of making payment by remitting lead from the mines on Fever River, which they had received in trade from the Indians, and which was of their own smelting and manufacture from the mineral. This promised to open up a new field of trade and commerce; but the process of boating up the Mississippi at this period, was at times quite tedious. The boats were propelled up stream

*In conversation with Mr. Horace Smead, of Grant county, who resided in the neighborhood of Galena from 1827 to 1833, we learn further of Dr. Muir, that he was a Scotchman, a good physician, educated at Edinburgh; that trading with the Winnebagoes, a plan was concocted in the winter to kill him, when a young squaw apprised him of it, and secreted him in a cave, and supplied him with food, till the alarm passed away. In gratitude to his deliverer, he took her with him as his wife, and settled at Galena, and raised several children. Dr. Muir was afterwards among the very first settlers at Keokuk, where he carried on the Indian trade, and where he died, after which his family joined the Indians. L. C. D.