

there from Sangamon county, among whom was Col. Ebenezer Brigham, now of Blue Mounds, Dane county, Wis. In 1826, the excitement and interest relative to the Lead Mine country became considerably increased; and in 1827, it became intense, equalling almost anything pertaining to the California gold fever. People from almost all portions of the Union inconsiderately rushed to the Mining Region.

With Col. Wm. S. Hamilton, James D. Brents, and two others, I arrived at Galena on the 4th of July, 1827; and on the same day, arrived also a boat from St. Peters, which had been attacked by the Indians, a short distance above Prairie du Chien, bringing on board one man killed and two men wounded. In the encounter with the Indians, they killed two of them. The Indians who made this attack upon the boat, were those under the command of Red Bird, one of the war chiefs of the Winnebagoes.*

Upon the reception of the alarming intelligence of the attack on this boat, and also upon some of the inhabitants near Prairie du Chien, and the reports being spread over the country, a scene of the most alarming and disorderly confusion ensued—alarm and consternation were depicted in every countenance—thousands flocking to Galena for safety, when in fact it was the most exposed and unsafe place in the whole country. All were without arms, order or control. The roads were lined in all directions with frantic and fleeing men, women and children, expecting every moment to be overtaken, tomahawked and scalped by the Indians. It was said, and I presume with truth, that the encampment of fugitives, at the head of Apple River, on the first night of the alarm, was four miles in extent, and numbered three thousand persons.

In this state of alarm, confusion and disorder, it was extremely difficult to do any thing; almost every man's object was to leave

*From Judge Lockwood's Narrative, pages 161, 162 of this volume, it appears that Red Bird was doing mischief at Prairie du Chien, when the boat was attacked *the same day*, near the mouth of Bad Ax River, some forty-five miles above Prairie du Chien. He could not, therefore, have taken any personal part in the boat attack. L. C. D.