

made no mention of this circumstance; he may, however, have concluded that he was mistaken, as I believe he was.

Immediately upon Capt. Estes announcing this intelligence, Capt. Hoard, who commanded at Fort Defiance, ordered me with three others, Lieut. M. G. Fitch, John Ray, and Reasin Hall, to make a reconnoissance and ascertain the facts. We did so, but could find no Indians, or signs of any. The fort was not attacked, and the inhabitants of Mineral Point learning this fact, resumed their usual quiet and confidence. These false alarms were not uncommon in these critical times. Many men seemed to possess eyes of a powerfully magnifying character, torturing everything seen into an Indian, and thus many a well run race has been made when there were no Indians probably within many miles, and nothing to justify the flight more than a tree, stump, or clump of weeds. But notwithstanding there were a few of these flighty gentlemen, the most of the men then in the country, were of that bold and resolute character, who could readily distinguish between trees or bushes and Indians, as their conduct upon all occasions so well testified.

After Col. Dodge left Gratiot's Grove, as my son, who was of the party, informs me, he proceeded with his command to Kirker's farm, and there halted for noon; and while there, the Colonel addressed his men in a very spirited manner, saying that they were then fully in the enemy's country; that everything depended upon their success; that the public eye was upon them, and that every thing that could be expected of valiant and daring soldiers, would be expected of them; that their families, as well as the country, looked to them for protection; and closed by reminding them of the importance of vigilance and determination, and of perfect subordination to their officers while in the field.\* In the afternoon, they marched to the scene of the murder of St. Vrain, Hale and Fowler, whose bodies they found and buried; Hawley, who was supposed to have been killed near the same

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\*This address may be seen in full in Smith's History of Wisconsin, vol. 1, p. 420.