

dient by Col. Dodge to dismiss his men to their respective forts for a few days, for the purpose of recruiting their horses; subject, however, to be re-called into service at a moment's warning.

The mounted men had just arrived at Fort Defiance, when the sad intelligence arrived by David Gilbert as express, that five men had been killed at Spafford's farm, on the Pecatonica, six miles south-east of Fort Hamilton.* A dispatch was immediately sent to Col. Dodge, and all the men at the fort that could be mounted, were soon in readiness to proceed to the scene of the murder. This detachment consisted of R. H. Kirkpatrick, Chas. Bracken, who was first Lieutenant at Fort Defiance, Samuel Black and Peter Parkinson, Jr., who had just returned from Col. Dodge's expedition to Ottawa, and belonged to the mounted force, Levin Leach, Dominick McGraw, Matthew G. Fitch, Thomas H. Price, Samuel Bunts, Benjamin Lawhead, Highton, Van Waggoner, and myself,† who belonged to the Fort Defiance company—making thirteen in number. Previous to our departure, some dissatisfaction was expressed by some of the men relative to being placed under the leadership of Lieut. Bracken, who was entitled to the command of those who belonged to the fort company. Capt. Hoard consulted me as to the best course to be pursued, and I advised placing the men under the command of R. H. Kirkpatrick, who afterwards became Major; and this was accordingly done, and the men proceeded under him. I state this in justice to Maj. Kirkpatrick, who is now dead, and in consequence of seeing Gen. Bracken's statement in Gen. Smith's history, claiming to have commanded this detachment. It is a matter of some surprise to me, that Gen. Smith should have so far disregarded the truth and impartiality of history, as to have given Gen. Bracken's statement, and at the same time suppressed others relative to this affair and Pecatonica battle, which I know were placed in his hands. Other mistakes there are in his history, but

*This occurred on the 14th of June, 1832.

L. C. D.

†Gen. Bracken gives the additional name of one McConnell.

L. C. D.