

Pekatonica Battle Controversy*

By Charles Bracken and Peter Parkinson, Jr.

WALNUT GROVE, Oct. 3, 1852.

To Gen. WM. R. SMITH, State Historian:

DEAR SIR—In accordance with my promise, I herewith transmit to you an account of the murder of Spafford and others, during the *Black Hawk war*, together with the details of the "Battle of the Pekatonica," fought on the 16th day of June, 1832, at the Horse Shoe Bend, on that stream, and on Section Eleven, Town Two, Range Five East, in this County.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES BRACKEN.

Battle of the Pekatonica

About sundown, on the 14th of June, 1832, a horseman without a hat, "bloody with spurring," was seen approaching Fort Defiance, a stockade post situated on section twenty, in Town four North, Range three East, commanded by Capt. Robert C. Hoard. The rider was David Gilbert. He communicated the

*This series of valuable papers appeared originally in the *Mineral Point Tribune*, in the latter part of 1852, and early part of 1853, and well deserve a more permanent repository. The discrepancies of memory between the writers are not, after all, very numerous or of much importance; while their several narratives will prove of lasting interest to Wisconsin history.