

melancholy information that, on that day, Spafford, Spencer, Bennet Million, McIlwaine and an Englishman called John Bull, had been surprised by the Indians while at work in a corn field on a farm owned by Spafford and Spencer, situated on the main Pekatonica, about six miles south-east of Fort Hamilton (now Wiota), and that all the party had been murdered, except Million, who had by his fleetness of foot made his escape.

Captain Hoard at once dispatched an express, communicating the information to Gen. Dodge, at Dodgeville, and I, being second in command, was ordered to repair to the scene of the murder, with eleven men, all that could be mounted on horseback. Arriving at Fort Hamilton late at night, we halted at that post until morning, when accompanied by Million and some others from that place, making a party of about twenty men, we proceeded to Spafford's field. On our arrival there, the first object that presented itself was the headless body of Spafford, who had died facing his foes! Cool as he was brave, he at once saw from the number and position of the Indians, that flight was useless. Seizing his rifle, he calmly awaited their approach, and his unerring aim sent one of his foes to eternity before him; then, like the lion at bay, he died covered with a hundred wounds.

While the Indians were thus partially checked by Spafford, the others fled under cover of a ravine, which appears to have been an ancient bed of the Pekatonica, to the river. On reaching the shore, McIlwaine and John Bull attempted to escape across it, and were shot in the water; their bodies were taken out of the river by us; they had been scalped and most horribly mutilated. Million stated that on reaching the shore, he and Spencer turned down the river, keeping under its bank; that they had got some three hundred yards before they were perceived by the Indians, who were for an instant engaged in despatching McIlwaine and John Bull. On seeing them, the Indians raised the war-whoop, and commenced the pursuit; Spencer continued on down the river bank, and Million plunged into the stream, which was about fifty yards wide at that point, and never raised his head