

Fort Hamilton by the way of Blue Mounds, where a company of men were stationed, whose horses were fresh and fit for service. Leaving orders for them to follow, he continued on his route by the way of Fretwell's Diggings; having out-ridden Jenkins and Messersmith, he was approaching the fort alone just after sunrise. On arriving at Hamilton's farm, about one mile from the fort, he left the wagon road and turned into a pathway, which shortened the distance. On regaining the road, he met Apple, a German, who proposed to accompany us on our scout, and was going to his cabin near by, to procure a blanket for the expedition; after making a few inquiries of him, the General continued on to the fort. Apple had not proceeded more than one hundred yards from where he met Gen. Dodge, when he fell into an ambuscade and was literally shot to pieces. It afterwards appeared, that the Indians had first ambushed the pathway, but seeing our men on the prairie, south of the road, looking for their horses, and that the travelling was on the wagon road, they removed to it. Had the General arrived half an hour earlier by the pathway, or kept round by the wagon road, he must have been the victim of the ambuscade instead of Apple.

Almost simultaneously with the General, the horse of Apple reached the Fort with the saddle bloody, and a bullet hole through his ear. All were ready! the order was given to mount, and in less than ten minutes we were formed in a line near the dead body of the murdered man.

The Indians, in their retreat, appeared to disperse in every direction through a thicket which lay north of the road, and which was composed of a thick growth of vines and bushes, principally prickly ash. Through this we advanced in line, until a very intelligent dog, owned by R. H. Kirkpatrick, struck the trail on the extreme left. We then advanced in single file, following the trail, the left in front, until we reached the open timber. Here the trail was well defined, and the pursuit was then pell-mell, the General taking the lead. The trail struck the prairie on a branch running east from William Burritt's, and continued down it,