

crossing and re-crossing it two or three times. On our advancing into the thicket, I was the extreme right hand man of the party. As the left discovered the trail and advanced along it, I was thereby thrown in the rear. On emerging from the thicket into the open woods, being well mounted on a fleet and sure-footed horse, I gave him the spur freely until I came in sight of the Indians with the General close in their rear, and not more than five men with him. At the same time I overtook a youth aged about eighteen, named Samuel Black, who lived in my family. He said that his mare, a fine active animal had fallen with him on the smooth prairie, and that it was a sign he would be killed in the coming battle. I suggested as the cause that she had stepped into a badger hole. He said she had not, for he had examined the ground. I then advised him to go back, as there were enough of us to whip the Indians without him; he said, "I will die first!" The omen proved too true. He fell, mortally wounded, at the first fire we received on entering the thicket. I make this digression, that you may pay a just tribute to the memory of one of the bravest youths that ever fell in battle.

The Indians re-crossed the branch at a point where it turned abruptly to the north, and ascended the hill. The General and those with him crossed after them, and bore to the right towards some timber, as if to cut them off from it. Seeing this movement I halted, and was at the same time joined by Fitch, Higginbotham and Devec; I said to them, that movement of the General will turn the Indians to the left; if you will follow me, we will get the first scalp. They agreed to do so. Turning up a hollow to the left, we ascended it to the ridge overlooking the east Pekatonica; turning then to the right and looking down a hollow parallel to that which we had ascended, my surmise proved to be correct. They were moving at what might be called common time, their chief, a grey-headed warrior, was walking backward, and appeared to be earnestly addressing his young men. After observing them for a few moments, we fired, but I think without effect. My comrades, after discharging their guns, retreated