

to proceed, some difficulty occurred about the command of the detachment; Mr. Bracken claiming the command by virtue of his Second Lieutenantship at Fort Defiance, which was objected to by D. M. Parkinson (which was the commencement of the memorable difficulty between these gentlemen—Bracken and Parkinson). Maj. Kirkpatrick then declined taking further command of the detachment, unless he was re-chosen, upon which an election was gone into, and Maj. Kirkpatrick (as he was commonly called) was unanimously elected. The company then proceeded to the farm, and found the murdered men, as described by Lieutenant Bracken, with the exception of the headless body of Spafford, which had no wounds upon it as I recollect. The position of the body, when found, indicated that he had been running, as the rest of his comrades, when he was shot. Whether he killed an Indian before he himself was shot, I think no one can tell. Million crossed the river at the same place and the same time that McIlwain and John Bull crossed it, and was immediately pursued by the Indians in hot chase—one of them on horse-back, and so closely was he pursued by the Indian on horse-back,* that he, Million, was often compelled to swim the river to escape him. He swam the river five times during the chase, and was pursued to within five miles of the fort, which he reached in a full lope (using a western phrase) and in safety, after having been pursued by five Indians for ten miles, and having run fifteen miles without ever breaking the lope, as he said.

Spencer could not swim, consequently took down the river under its bank, till coming to the mouth of a branch, where he remained until an Indian (mounted on the horse with which they had been plowing) came upon him. He shot the Indian off the horse and made his escape across the river bottom into the woods, in the direction of the fort. The remainder of the history of this man, I believe, is correctly given by Lieutenant Bracken,

* None of the Indians who pursued Million were on horseback, as will be seen by Million's statement, which will appear a few pages onward.