

I was at Fort Defiance at the time that the express came there in relation to the killing of Spafford and others, on the Pekatonica.

I can also say, without hesitation, that Maj. Kirkpatrick took the command of the detachment from there, and I never understood but that he commanded it all the time until after the burying of those men.

Yours respectfully,

THOMAS BEAM.

TOWN OF WAYNE, Jan. 29, 1853.

MR. PETER PARKINSON, JR.:

In compliance with your request of the 26th inst., I can say, that I do not recollect distinctly all that took place at Fort Hamilton, in relation to the command of the detachment that buried the men who were killed on the Pekatonica, at the farm of Spencer & Spafford, in the *Black Hawk war*.

I do recollect that there was some trouble about the command, between Col. Parkinson and Charles Bracken. I also recollect that Maj. Kirkpatrick commanded the company on that occasion.

The next point, in relation to which you ask my recollection, is at the bank of the Pekatonica, where Lieutenant Bracken claims to have procured the first scalp. In relation to that point, I *can* say that I *am* sure there was no scalp taken, or any Indian killed dead, at that point. Some might have been hit, but no certainty of it. As to Lieutenant Bracken's being in the advance, I do not recollect distinctly. But from my recollection, I should say, we were all there pretty much at the same moment. As to the affair upon the bank of the pond, where the battle was fought, I agree with you precisely as you have given it in your account of that affair. I was right by Wells when he was shot.

I have, according to your request, examined the account of that affair, written by both you and Mr. Bracken, and according to my memory, I agree with you in all the main particulars, where-