

Hamilton, and *negatively*, that I did not kill an Indian at the crossing of the Pekatonica, as asserted by me, and that in fulfilling his post "he cannot permit the impression to go down to posterity, that Gen. Dodge and his comrades in arms did upon that occasion, and in two instances, lurk in the rear, and permit Lt. Bracken to go forward and encounter the enemy single handed and alone."

But a few minutes before the express arrived with the intelligence of the murder, I returned to Fort Defiance from an expedition to the Rock and Illinois rivers, where I had accompanied Gen. Dodge as a volunteer in Gentry's company of mounted men. My horse and arms being ready, I was soon in the saddle on my way to Fort Hamilton accompanied by one man. I then heard of no dissatisfaction about the command, nor was there any; all in the fort were too much horror-stricken with the distressing intelligence just received, to be engaged in a squabble about a petty command in a night march. In my absence, the command of the party devolved on Lt. D. M. Parkinson, and subsequent events, shown by his attempt to supercede me who outranked him, proved that he had too much ambition to permit Hoard, had he held five times the rank he did, to reduce him to the ranks, and place a private soldier in command over him.

The officers of Gentry's company were Messrs. Bequette, Porter and Henry L. Dodge; it is not pretended that either of those officers were at the fort that evening, nor was there a solitary man of Gentry's command there, nor could there have been. Gentry with his company in full force accompanied Gen. Dodge to Rock River, and that day I separated from him and his company at Gratiot's Grove, they taking the route by Kendle's and the forks of the Pekatonica to Mineral Point, the head-quarters of his company. R. H. Kirkpatrick was at the time a private in that company, not having been elected Major until some two weeks after the battle of the Pekatonica; and maugre the certificate of Hoard and assertion of Parkinson—he *was not, nor had he been at Fort Defiance that day, that evening or that night!!!*