

## Further    Strictures    on    Ford's Black Hawk War

By Charles Bracken

Gen. Wm. R. Smith, Pres't of the Wis. State His. Society:

SIR:—Some time in the spring of 1847, Captain James H. Gentry called on me, as I understood, at the request of Gen. Henry Dodge, stating that Governor Ford had in some lectures delivered by him the previous winter before the Illinois Legislature at Springfield, in that State, made numerous mis-statements with regard to General Dodge, touching events in the *Black Hawk war*, requesting me, who had served on his staff,\* and as one familiar with those events, to make a statement of them in writing; more particularly as to the means used by him at Fort Winnebago, to ascertain precisely the whereabouts of Black Hawk and his warriors, and to induce Generals Henry and Alexander to disobey the orders of General Atkinson, (which required them to return to his camp by the same route by which they had marched to the fort,) as by returning to Rock River in a more northerly direction, they would place the enemy between Atkinson and themselves, and thereby force them to battle.

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\*Lieut. Bracken acted as aid to Gen. Dodge, and adjutant of Dodge's regiment, and was the only officer of Dodge's command who was mounted during the battle of Wisconsin Heights. Gen. Bracken has been long and prominently in public life, and served as representative in three sessions of the Territorial Legislature—1839-40.