

obey their orders from Gen. Atkinson, by varying the line of march in returning to his camp, so that, by striking Rock River above the enemy, they would place them between Atkinson and themselves and as it was known that the Indians were encumbered with their women and children, they could be forced into a battle.

The negotiation on this subject was opened first with Gen. Henry by Maj. James W. Stephenson, of the Galena company, serving under Gen. Dodge. Between Henry and Stephenson the closest intimacy existed; they had been arraigned together at Edwardsville, Ill., for a high crime, of which, however, they had been honorably acquitted. Maj. Stephenson possessed great influence over Gen. Henry, and on this occasion he used that influence to induce him to embrace warmly the plans of Gen. Dodge. The co-operation of Henry being secured the subject was then submitted to a council composed of the superior officers of the two brigades. Alexander and the officers of his brigade altogether refused to join the expedition, and the officers of one regiment of Henry's brigade also refused to march in that direction, but were finally prevailed on to do so.

Dodge and Henry having agreed on their line of action, preparations were immediately made for a march. All the men of their respective commands who were riding horses that were unfit for the expedition were discharged. In Dodge's command these amounted to about twenty-five men. He was not reinforced here by Craig's company from Galena; but that company, however, subsequently joined him and did good service after we had crossed the Wisconsin River in pursuit of the enemy to Bad-Ax. Having secured the services of Poquette and a number of Winnebago Indians as guides, the expedition, numbering about seven hundred men, marched on the 15th of July, in the direction of the enemy on Rock River. Arriving at an Indian village on the river on the third day, no indications of the enemy were found other than some trails that appeared to be several days old. From here an express was dispatched to Gen. Atkinson; this express,