

it was thought advisable to return to the Blue Mounds, which could be plainly seen from an eminence near the battle ground. On our arrival there, Dodge's command, including Stephenson's company*, were ordered to their respective posts, with orders to rendezvous at Helena on the Wisconsin, as soon as General Atkinson should arrive there with the regular forces.

Governor Ford asserts that General Atkinson and the officers of the regular army, were so chagrined at the success of General Henry in overtaking and conquering the Indians at the Wisconsin, that in the pursuit from the Wisconsin to the Bad Ax, Gen. Atkinson placed the regular soldiers in the advance, and General Henry and his brigade in the rear, to guard the baggage. This is very far from the truth. From the commencement of the march from the Wisconsin, Dodge's command occupied the post of honor, forming the advanced guard, supported by the regular soldiers under Col. Z. Taylor; Illinoisians, with Henry's as the leading brigade, bringing up the rear. That Henry's brigade may have marched next to the baggage train of the regular army is no doubt true, but not as its guard.

It cannot be questioned that Generals Atkinson and Brady, Colonels Z. Taylor and Davenport, and the officers of the regular army serving under them, were well qualified to judge of the qualifications and merits of Dodge and Henry—no newspaper puffs could impose on them—they well knew to whom to attribute the movement from Fort Winnebago, by which the enemy was overtaken and defeated at the Wisconsin, and those officers felt that the regular army was not degraded when the post of honor was occupied, in the pursuit to the Bad Ax, by General Dodge and the volunteers under his command.

From Governor Ford's account of the battle of the Bad Ax, it would also appear, as if the action was alone fought and won by Henry and his brigade, while General Atkinson, with the regular

*Col. D. M. Parkinson, in his narrative, page 355 of this volume, states, that "nearly all" of Capt. Stephenson's company, with himself at their head, left Dodge and Henry at Fort Winnebago, and returned to the Mining country.