

soldiers and Dodge's volunteers, were following an *ignis fatuus* up the river.

Early in the morning, the spies under Capt. Jo. Dickson had a skirmish with the Indians, in which he had one of his men severely wounded. Later in the day, after the regular troops and Dodge's volunteers had formed in line and advanced nearly to the top of the bluff overlooking the Mississippi River, Dickson again attacked the enemy on the river bottom. Directed by the sound of his guns, the regulars and Dodge's volunteers marched directly down the bluff to his support. When they arrived on the ground, they found Dickson severely wounded, and Gen. Henry, who with his brigade had followed the Indian trail down a ravine to our left that led to the river, was on the ground, supporting Dickson. From the point at which Dickson was wounded, the enemy was followed down the river some distance, when both the regular troops and Dodge's command were engaged with them; and that they had the severest encounter with the enemy is apparent from the number of men they had killed and wounded, which on the part of the regular troops amounted to seventeen,* and on that of Dodge's to seven more, to wit: Captain Joseph Dickson, Sergeant George Willard, privates Smith, Hood, Lowery, Skinner and Payne; of these, Smith, Hood and Lowery died of their wounds. In Henry's brigade there were but five men killed and wounded.† On the part of the enemy, I saw but one dead squaw and one warrior; there were, however, a large number of squaws and children taken prisoners.

In the pursuit from the Wisconsin to the Bad Ax, it was evident that the Indians were greatly distressed by starvation and sickness; numbers of dead warriors, women and children were found along their trail. Their principal subsistence seemed to be roots and the bark of trees; where they killed a horse for food, there was no vestige of the animal left but the hair. The day

*Gen. Atkinson's official report states the loss of the regulars at five killed and four wounded and nine killed and wounded of the Illinois volunteers.

†The official report says seven killed and wounded.

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