

V.—Incidents of the Battle of the Thames. Who Killed Tecumseh?

Gen. Cass, during a discussion in the United States Senate, on the Indian appropriation bill, in advocating the payment of a certain amount of money due the Shawnees, a tribe with which he had had much official intercourse, and of which the celebrated warrior, Tecumseh, was the chief, took occasion to "vindicate the truth of history," as follows:

There are two historical points which have been much debated, about which I wish to say a few words; both are connected with Col. Johnson and these Shawnees. The question has been often mooted as to who was the author of the movement by which the mounted regiment commenced the attack upon the British at the battle of the Thames.

Probably I know as much upon that subject as any other man now living, and the facts are these: Gen. Harrison had prescribed the order of battle, and promulgated it in the usual manner; that order directed that the army should move, infantry in front, with a portion of the force placed at right angles to the main body, to prevent the enemy from turning the flank. The cavalry were to remain in the rear, to follow up all the movements of the infantry. They were posted with the Thames on one flank and an almost impassable marsh on the other. Just as the arrangement was completed, and the British forces were almost in sight, I was sitting on my horse, when General Harrison rode up, and said to me, "I have a great mind to change my order of battle. I feel very strongly inclined to let Colonel Johnson's regiment attack the British line first." I replied, "you have undoubtedly considered the difficulty attending the charge; the mounted men are brave, but undisciplined, and their horses unused to service. If defeated, they may be upon our line, and do us irreparable injury." His answer was, "Col. Johnson says he can break the British line, and I will let him try." Well, the