

led the whites to that particular locality, where the first settlement in the county commenced. The persons above named together with a Frenchman by the name of Van Sickle, who acted as interpreter for the traders, Boner and McNutt, and two men who settled further south, in the fall of the year, by the name of — Skinner and — Neal, formed the entire population of the county in the fall of 1828. We would at once think, that with that little population of white men, surrounded by the savages, and separated by several miles from other white settlements, peace and order would be in the ascendency. All provisions that were obtained, were purchased at great cost and trouble, at Galena. All shared and felt as one family. And the malicious hand of homicide, we would suppose, would never be raised to reduce that little number. But unhappily, the same *cause* which produces so many cases now, operated then to accomplish the same result. Boner and McNutt, were both in the habit of partaking too freely of spirituous liquors, which they kept to sell to the Indians. One night, during the month of August, in 1828, whilst no one was about their premises except the two partners, and Van Sickle, their interpreter, one of them—McNutt—without having had any previous quarrel, dispute, or provocation known to any one, under the effects of intoxication, came into the house with a common axe in his hand, and deliberately killed Boner, and cut him into pieces, in the presence of Van Sickle. The latter, without interference, fled to Blue Mounds, on foot, and gave information. As Van Sickle left the cabin, in his flight, McNutt, the murderer, laid hold of his rifle and shot after him, the ball striking the door check. A few minutes after Van Sickle's arrival at Blue Mounds, McNutt arrived there on horseback, and surrendered himself to the officers, who took him to Prairie du Chien. Mr. Blackmore, who is my informant, was away from home the day of the murder, but was there next day, and assisted in burying Boner, who occupied the first grave