

of a white man within the limits of the county. After eighteen months' confinement in jail at Prairie du Chien, McNutt was acquitted.

About the same time, and indeed some say the year before, 1827, Mr. John Skinner and — Neal came to Skinner's Creek, about five miles N. W. of Monroe, and commenced mining, and erected a log smelting furnace, the first one in the county. These men, together with those referred to at Sugar River Diggings, constituted the entire white population of the county for two or three years, and until the agricultural settlement was commenced, by Andrew Clarno and others, in the south part of the county.

In 1829, William Davies built a furnace near the old trading house of Boner & McNutt, and the remains of this furnace, which are but a heap of ashes and cinders, overgrown with grass, in an open uncultivated prairie, form the only monument to mark the place of the tragedy we have narrated. The only Indian settlement in this county, at that time, was located near the present village of Dayton. There the Indians raised corn, and had an extensive encampment in the summer season.

In 1830, Andrew Clarno made a settlement on the old farm where his widow now resides, and which was the first agricultural improvement in the county. His name is perpetuated in the name of the town where he settled, and in which he continued to reside, till his death, which occurred some four or five years since. He was a man of warm and generous heart, in whose company the writer has spent many pleasant hours, listening to his rude history of the times of the Black Hawk war. This war broke out in 1832, at which time Joseph Payne, whose name is familiar to all in this vicinity, had just erected and moved into a cabin, together with William Wallace, in the same neighborhood with Mr. Clarno, and at the first out-break of hostilities, on the fifth of May, they fled from their cabins with their families, and