

the troublesome Indians. Maj. Stillman, with an advanced corps, pursued up Rock River. Black Hawk heard of the advance of the whites, and sent two young Indians with a white flag to ascertain the cause of so many men approaching in hostile array. Stillman's defeat soon followed, and thus commenced the Black Hawk war.

Black Hawk soon broke up his camp, and went up Rock River as far as Lake Koshkonong, and selected his headquarters on an island* in the Lake. Gen. Atkinson marched up Rock River to a point opposite of Black Hawk's camp, and commenced to build a fort, when Black Hawk, with his warriors, women and children left, leaving about twenty young men at the Indian camp as a rear guard to watch the movements of the whites. They remained some time, until the main body had had sufficient time to get out of the way of their pursuers; when the young warriors also decamped. Black Hawk directed his course westerly, passing through where Madison, the capital of Wisconsin, is now located, encamped two miles west of the Fourth Lake. Gens. Dodge and Henry were in hot pursuit, and near the locality of Slaughter's farm, on the west bank of Fourth Lake, they came across the Indian trail, and followed it some two miles, when they came to an Indian camping-place, with fresh signs. The whites renewed the pursuit, and near the Wisconsin they discovered a number of Indians in a grove a short distance east or south of the river. With scarcely a show of resistance, the Indians fled. The Americans had no means of crossing the river in pursuit of the Indians; and had to proceed down the river some sixty miles before they could cross. Black Hawk, with his retreating followers, had pursued a westerly course, and struck the Mississippi near the mouth of the Bad Ax River; and the old chief, with sixteen

*There is no authority to corroborate this, and it is probably a mistake. Col. D. M. Parkinson, in his Narrative in the 2d vol. of the Wis. Hist. Colls., p. 354, describes a well-chosen camp of Black Hawk, on Rock River, near Lake Koshkonong; and this is probably the one to which Col. Childs refers. — L. C. D.