

to the names of Force and Green, which has led to the impression that Mr. Smith may not have been killed at that precise time. Mr. Rasdell was one of fourteen men who were sent forward as a scout, when Gen. Dodge was pursuing Black Hawk from Rock River westward, before the battle at Wisconsin Heights. His party encamped about ten miles east of the Catfish.

They left their encampment early in the morning, and preceded the main body about two miles, crossing the Catfish just below where the bridge leading out of Williamson street, Madison, now stands. When they arrived at the point, near where Parker's planing-mill stands, an Indian was seen coming up from the waters' edge, near the present watering-place, below the Lake House, who seated himself upon the bank apparently indifferent to his fate. In a moment after, his body was pierced by several balls, one of which passed in at the temple, and out at the back part of his head. From Mr. Rasdell's description of the position of the wound, I have little doubt that the skull of this Indian is now in my possession. He said the Indian proved to have been seated upon a grave, where he probably seated himself with the heroic intention of ending his days upon the grave of some dear friend or kindred. This he thought, occurred about 8 o'clock in the morning, possibly earlier. The Indian was seated with his back partly towards the party, and was turning, apparently to look at them, when he received the shot. If the party had more fully appreciated the character of their victim, his life would, most likely, have been saved; but so frequent had been the deceptions practiced upon the whites, that it was not deemed safe to trust him, and they were, at the time, impressed with the idea, that he was one of a party lying near in ambush.

This party, which was commanded by Capt. Gentry, was sent forward in order to reconnoiter and prevent a surprise by the main body, for they were well assured that the main body of Indians was but a short distance in advance, as was after-