

Death of Tecumseh*

By Rev. Alfred Brunson, of Prairie du Chien

HON. L. C. DRAPER:

At your request, I will give my recollections of the death of this distinguished chief. But in doing so, I must necessarily touch upon a delicate subject, for the reason that so many different and conflicting accounts of it have already been published to the world. All of those accounts, however, that have met my eye, have been based upon rumor, or second or third *hearsay*, except one or two which came from Kentucky some years since, which agreed so well with my own idea of the affair, that I concluded that the writers derived their information from a correct source, if not from actual observation. As well as I can recollect, the names of Davidson and King, that I shall use hereafter, were mentioned in the accounts.

I have no disposition to pluck a single sprig of the well earned laurels from the brow of the brave Col. R. M. Johnson; and I have no doubt, from his general character, as well as what I saw of him myself, that he *would* have killed Tecumseh and a dozen or twenty others of like character, if he could have had the opportunity. But from the facts which fell under my own observation, which have since been confirmed by a distinguished citizen of our State, I cannot award to him that honor in this case, and would correct the statement only for the sake of truth in history.

To give a distinct idea of the affair, I must introduce the case of Col. Whitley. It was said by the Kentuckians, that he had been an old Indian warrior, and could have had command of a regiment of volunteers under Gov. Shelby, but

*At the battle of the Thames in 1813.