

Reminiscence of the Black Hawk War*

Previous to the spring of 1832, several families had settled in the valley of Apple River, Jo Daviess County, Ill. Their peaceful employments had been uninterrupted until the spring of that year, at which time the Black-Hawk war commenced. The Indians then began their ravages. Houses were pillaged, and the inhabitants were obliged to remain concealed, while they saw their horses taken from the plow in the field, and driven off with shouts of savage joy. For their mutual protection, they erected a fort ten miles up the river, where the town of Elizabeth now stands. The men formed themselves into a company under the command of Captain Stone, for the defence of the fort; and thither the inhabitants fled for protection. In the course of the summer, Col. James M. Strode, commander at Galena, sent an express of five men to Dixon, on Rock River, at which place Gen. Atkinson's army was stationed. The express was commanded by Captain Frederic Dixon, an old pioneer, and a man of great experience in Indian warfare. They started out on Sunday morning—a wet, rainy day, and to protect their guns from the dampness of the atmosphere, the party discharged them. They proceeded on their route, and reached Apple River Fort about noon. They found it in a very defenceless situation. Some of the inmates were out gathering berries, others sleeping, and some walking about in quest of amusement. The express halted a few moments and then passed on. When about 400 or 500 yards east of the Fort, some Indians secreted in the high grass fired on the foremost man of the guard, wounding him in the hip. He

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