

## Battle of the Bad Axe

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The following letter appeared originally in the *Milwaukee Sentinel*, Dec. 28, 1863—furnished by a son of the writer. Though it gives but a brief account of the battle of Bad Axe, yet it is well worth a place in the store-house of historic records:

“JEFFERSON BARRACKS, Mo., Sept. 2, 1832.

“MY DEAR A—: After a most severe and fatiguing campaign of four months and a half, I returned to this place (which I now command) on the 17th of August, leaving my company at Rock Island, four hundred miles up the Mississippi. I had the happiness to find my wife and children all well, as they still remain, thanks to a kind Providence. You have doubtless seen by the papers that a tribe of Indians, called the Sacks and Foxes, in April last, invaded the State of Illinois, and commenced murdering our citizens—women and children. On the 8th of April, the troops from this post left here under command of Gen. Atkinson, and from that time till the 18th of August, I was constantly marching through swamps, woods, rivers, plains, &c., in rain, in sun, hot and cold, sleeping of course either in the open air or in my tent, which was about as bad. We were constantly endeavoring to overtake the Indians and fight them, but they, being mounted (800 or 900 warriors) kept out of our way, until at length on the 2d of August, we overtook their whole army on the bank of the Mississippi, about fifty miles above Prairie Du Chiens, and immediately attacked them. After an action of three hours we completely defeated them, they losing one hundred and fifty or more killed and one hundred and twenty prisoners, and