

## Personal Narratives of Black Hawk War

By Col. Joseph Dickson\*

My parents were natives of Pennsylvania, and emigrated to, and settled in St. Clair county, Illinois, in the year 1802, where I was born, January 28th, 1805. That county was then a frontier region, and but sparsely inhabited, except a small district of country on the American Bottom, settled mostly by French people.

In the year 1818 my father and family moved to within nine miles of where Springfield, the present capital of the State was afterwards located, where I assisted my father in building the first white man's log cabin in Sangamon county, where I remained until the spring of 1827, when I emigrated, with many other young adventurers to what was then called the Fevre River Lead Mines, making the journey from Keokuk, on the Lower Mississippi Rapids, on foot through an entirely uninhabited wilderness, packing my provisions and blankets, in the month of March. I spent the first summer in mining, until the 15th of August, when I commenced improving a farm one and a half miles south of where Platteville is now situated. The next spring I plowed up twenty acres of prairie land, and planted and raised a crop of corn that season, which I think was the first field of corn raised in what is now Grant county. I continued to carry on farming until the spring of 1832, when I exchanged it for mining.

The Black Hawk war commenced in the month of May, when on the first intelligence of hostilities by the Indians, I joined a mounted company of volunteers raised at Platteville. At the organization, I was elected Orderly Sergeant in John H. Rountree's company; and in that capacity I served one month, when, in consequence of the absence of the Captain, I was

\* Of Grant County.