

In October, 1826, by a positive order from Washington, the troops were removed from Fort Crawford, up the river to Fort Snelling, and Fort Crawford was abandoned, the commandant taking with him two Winnebago Indians who had been confined in the guard-house for some supposed offense of a trivial nature. He left behind, in charge of the sub-Indian agent, a brass swivel, a few wall-pieces, all the damaged arms, and some provisions. This removal induced the Winnebagoes to believe that the troops had fled through fear of them.

Several times during the winter of 1826-27, some of the older citizens of Prairie du Chien, who best understood the Indian character, and the peculiarities of the Winnebagoes—and especially Mr. Michael Brisbois—expressed serious fears of some outrages from those Indians in the spring, and that they were bent on war. But it was generally thought impossible that, surrounded, as they were, with Americans and troops in the country, they should for a moment seriously entertain such an idea.

In March, 1827, one of the residents of Prairie du Chien named Methode, went up Yellow, or Painted Rock Creek, about twelve miles above the village, to make sugar. His wife, said to have been a most beautiful woman, accompanied him with her five children. Besides these and his faithful dog, the wolves and the trees were his only companions. The sugar season being over, and he not returning nor being heard from, a party of his friends went to look for him. Methode's dog was first found, shot with half a score of balls, and yet holding in his dead jaws a piece of scarlet cloth, which he had apparently torn from an Indian legging. After further search the camp was found consumed by fire. The whole party of seven had been killed, all—Madame Methode in particular, she being *enceinte*—were shockingly mangled.

It afterwards appeared that a party of Winnebagoes had been seen near Yellow Creek, after Methode had gone there, and one of them—Wamandoosgaraka—having been arrested and examined, is said to have confessed his guilt, and implicated several others.

In the spring of 1827, a rumor very extensively circulated