

among the Winnebagoes, and generally believed, that the two prisoners of their tribe who had been removed from Fort Crawford to Fort Snelling, had been turned over to the Chippewas, to run the gauntlet through a party of the latter tribe, armed with clubs and tomahawks, and the race for life had resulted in the killing of both of them. Something like this occurred with reference to some Sioux prisoners at Fort Snelling, but had no truth as applied to the Winnebago prisoners.

Hitherto the Winnebago chief, Red Bird, had not only been well known at Prairie du Chien, but had the confidence and respect of all the inhabitants to such an extent, that he was always sought after as a protector; and his presence was looked upon as a pledge of security against any outbreak that might be attempted.

When the unfounded rumors of the killing of the Winnebago prisoners at Fort Snelling were heard and believed, the leading chiefs held a council and resolved upon retaliation; and Red Bird was called upon to go out and "take meat" as they phrase it. Beckoning to Wekau and another Indian named Chichonsic, he told them to follow him. They proceeded to Prairie du Chien, and on the 26th of June went to the house of Hon. James Lockwood, who had left home the previous day, leaving his house in charge of his wife, her brother, a young man of sixteen, and a servant girl. Red Bird and the other two Indians entered the cellar kitchen, loaded their guns in the presence of the servant girl, and went up through the hall into Mrs. Lockwood's bedroom, where she was sitting alone. The moment they entered her room she believed they came to kill her, and immediately passed into and through the parlor, and crossed the hall into the store to her brother, where she found Duncan Graham, who had been in the country about forty years as a trader, and was known by all the Indians as an Englishman. He had formerly been commandant at Prairie du Chien, when under British dominion. The Indians followed Mrs. Lockwood into the store, and Mr. Graham by some means induced them to leave the house.

Red Bird and his savage accomplices then went the same day to McNair's Coulee, about two miles south-east from the village,