

where lived Rijeste Gagnier and his wife with two small children—a boy three years old, and a daughter aged eleven months; and living with them was an old discharged soldier by the name of Solomon Lipcap. The three Indians entered the cabin, and, such visits being common, were received with the usual civility, and were asked if they would have something to eat. They said yes, and would like some fish and milk. As Mrs. Gagnier turned to get the fish and milk, she heard the click of Red Bird's rifle, which was instantly followed by its discharge, and her murdered husband fell dead at her feet. At the same moment the Indian Chichonsic shot and killed old Lipcap; when Mrs. Gagnier seeing Wekau, who had lingered about the door, she wrested from him his rifle; but from trepidation or some other cause was unable to use it, "feeling," as she expressed it, "like one in a dream, trying to call or to run, but without the ability to do either." She then with her oldest child, and bearing the rifle with her, ran to the village, and gave the alarm. A party of armed men returned with her, and brought away the two murdered men, and the infant which she had left covered up in the bed, which they found on the floor beneath it. The helpless child had been scalped by Wekau, who had inflicted upon its neck a severe cut to the bone just below the occiput, from which she afterwards recovered, and is still living, the mother of a family, but despoiled of the glory of her sex.

On the same day (June 26th), two keel-boats commanded by Capt. Allen Lindsay, which a few days before had ascended the river laden with provisions for the troops at Fort Snelling, passed the mouth of the Bad Axe on their way back to St. Louis. On the upward trip some hostile demonstrations had been made by the Dakotas, which induced Capt. Lindsay to ask that his crew should be furnished with arms and ammunition. Col. Snelling, the commanding officer, complied with his request, and the thirty-two men of which the crew consisted, were provided with thirty-two muskets and a barrel of ball cartridges. The Dakotas occupied the right bank of the river, and Capt. Lindsay and his men were on their guard against any attack from them; but they had no apprehension of any attack from the Winnebagoes who occupied the left bank of the Mississippi.