

Louis papers were the authority upon which the statement now contradicted was made.

The inhabitants in and about Prairie du Chien were generally and very greatly alarmed. They left their houses and farms, and crowded into the now dilapidated fort, and speedily established a very effective discipline. A military company was organized, with Thomas McNair, captain, Joseph Brisbois, lieutenant, and Jean Brunet, ensign, all of whom had previously been commissioned for these offices by Gov. Cass. Mr. Snelling and Judge Lockwood acted as supernumeraries under Capt. McNair and the force was found, on muster, to number ninety effective men and women who could handle a musket in case of attack. The fort and block-house were put in as good state of repair as circumstances and materials would admit. The swivel and wall-pieces were found and mounted, and all the blacksmiths were put in requisition to repair the condemned muskets. Judge Lockwood, fortunately, had an abundance of powder and lead, which he liberally furnished, so that the old fort and its occupants were in a respectable state of defense.

An old voyageur was engaged to cross the Mississippi, and go back through the country to report the situation to Col. Snelling at Fort Snelling. He performed this service; and after considerable delay, Col. Snelling came down the river with two companies of U. S. infantry.

An express was sent to Galena, and the effect of the alarming news is described by Col. D. M. Parkinson in these words: "The reports being spread over the country, a scene of the most alarming and disorderly confusion ensued—alarm and consternation were depicted in every countenance—thousands flocking to Galena for safety, when, in fact, it was the most exposed and unsafe place in the whole country. All were without arms, order or control. The roads were lined in all directions with frantic and fleeing men, women and children, expecting every moment to be overtaken, tomahawked and scalped by the Indians. It was said, and I presume with truth, that the encampment of fugitives at the head of Apple River, on the first night of the alarm, was four miles in extent, and numbered three thousand persons."