

and the pursuit was generally regarded as a big frolic. Nearly all the horses had been picketed out, turned loose or otherwise disposed of. The men were lazily engaged about camp, some gathering wood, some pitching tents, and others drinking whisky, with which they were abundantly supplied. But suddenly a great commotion arose. The Indians raised the war-whoop, and appeared on the open prairie a short distance in advance. Then the rush began, and a strife ensued as to who should first mount and give chase. Pell-mell was the order of march, which continued for two or three miles. Two of the Indians were overtaken on the prairie, and killed.

At length the rear of the army reached the Sycamore Creek, where they met the van, in full retreat in the same disgraceful disorder, with the whole body of Indians in hot pursuit. The valiant men, who a few minutes before were so anxious to pursue the enemy, were now more anxious to escape; and they continued their retreat, until they reached Dixon. In this confusion Capt. Adams, with the company from Peoria, succeeded in crossing the creek, and took a position between the Indians and the fugitives. This position they held for some time against the whole force of the enemy, and no doubt saved the lives of many; but at the cost of the life of Capt. Adams and several of his men. The total casualties in the first and most disgraceful encounter with the Indians were eleven of Stillman's battalion killed, and three wounded, while only three Indians were known to have been killed. This was the first blood shed in the Black Hawk War. The next day General Whiteside, and the volunteers under his command, marched for the scene of the disaster; but the Indians had scattered, and could not be found. The volunteer army buried the dead, and returned to Dixon, where General Atkinson arrived the following day with the regular forces and supplies of provisions, of which the volunteers stood in much need.

Colonel Dodge, who, by a common intuitive feeling, was regarded as the leader of the people of the lead mines, and commander of all their military forces, as he was also the lawful commander of the militia of that part of Michigan Territory, on the 8th of May addressed a letter from Mineral Point to Governor