

Reynolds, asking for information in relation to the movements of the Illinois forces, expressing fears of a union of the Sauks and Winnebagoes, and requesting that a part of the Illinois forces might be sent across Rock River to co-operate with a mounted force to be brought into the field from the lead mines. This letter was sent by a special embassy, consisting of Judge Gentry, Col. Moore, and James P. Cox.

At the same time, Col. Dodge, with twenty-seven of his neighbors, who were well mounted, among whom were his son Augustus C., started on an expedition to Rock River to ascertain the position and probable movements of Black Hawk and his followers. The small party proceeded by way of Apple River to Buffalo Grove, where an Indian trail was discovered, and followed to a point nearly opposite the Kishwaukee, and within a few miles of the ground from which Maj. Stillman was on the same day disastrously beaten, and put to flight. After Stillman's defeat, Governor Reynolds sent an express at night to Col. Dodge, informing him of the facts, and that his country in the Territory was in imminent danger from the attack of the Indians. Col. Dodge immediately returned home, having been absent about a week, reported the results, and advised the inhabitants to protect themselves by forts and other precautions, and to organize immediately for defense.

The inhabitants of the lead mines were now thoroughly alarmed by constant dread of attack from Black Hawk and his warriors, who had small parties scattered all over the country, between the Rock, Mississippi, and Wisconsin rivers, which "occupied every grove, waylaid every road, and hung around every settlement," and induced the most serious alarm in the minds of all the inhabitants of the mining region. The bravest hearts thought it no evidence of cowardice to use every precaution against surprise and sudden attack. Forts, block-houses, and stockades were erected by the people at numerous places, for the protection and defense of themselves and their families, and into which they removed. Among these were Fort Union, the headquarters of Col. Dodge, near Dodgeville; Fort Defiance, at the farm of D. M. Parkinson; Fort Hamilton, at Wiota; Fort Jackson, at Mineral