

The detachment of volunteers returned with Col. Dodge to Fort Union (Dodge's residence), and on the 5th of June proceeded to Gratiot's Grove, where they were joined the next day by Capt. Stephenson's company of volunteers from Galena.

On the 22d of May, the body of one Durley was found, murdered and scalped, near Buffalo Grove, and on the next day an Indian agent, named St. Vrain, together with John Fowler, William Hale, and Aaron Hawley, met the same fate near the same place.

The object of this assemblage of the volunteers at Gratiot's Grove, was to find and punish the Indians who had been engaged in the perpetration of these murders, and to protect the country from the hostilities of the Sauks, in whatever manner they might be directed by the commandant-in-chief.

Henry Dodge was one of the early pioneers of the lead region, to which he had removed in 1826 from Missouri, where he had held the office of United States Marshal, and was highly esteemed as a worthy, brave and patriotic citizen. He brought with him a large family of sons and daughters, and was largely engaged in the business of mining and smelting lead, to which his personal efforts were industriously devoted. He was assigned to the command of all the Wisconsin volunteers, as well as those from Galena. He was under the command of Gen. Atkinson, to whom it was his purpose to report in person at Rock River, with the volunteer forces now under his command.

On the 7th of June, Col. Dodge, with his volunteers, marched to Kirker's farm, at the head of Apple River, where they camped, and Col. Dodge addressed them as follows:

"Volunteers: We have met to take the field. The tomahawk and scalping knife are drawn over the heads of the weak and defenseless inhabitants of our country. Let us unite, my brethren in arms; let harmony, union and concert exist; be vigilant, silent and cool. Discipline and obedience to orders will make small bodies of men formidable and invincible; without order and subordination the largest bodies of armed men are no better than armed mobs. Although we have entire confidence in the government of our choice, knowing, as we all do, that ours is