

obliged to unload to cross the portage. At the earnest solicitations of John Jacob Astor, who was then the head of the American Fur Company, the government concluded to erect a fort for their protection.

Major Twiggs then left for the portage, where he erected temporary barracks of tamarack logs in which to winter his command, and detailed a party to go up the Wisconsin, and procure pine timber with which to erect a permanent fort. Another party was detailed to quarry stone at what was called "stone quarry hill." With the first rise of water in the spring of 1829 the timber and logs were floated down to the portage, were hauled by teams to the fort, where all the lumber was sawed by hand with whip-saws, with which to build the entire fort. The brick necessary for the chimneys, fire places, etc., were burned just opposite the narrows on the Wisconsin River, a short distance above here.

Of the officers stationed at Fort Winnebago from 1828 till the 5th of July, 1831, only two survive, to-wit: General Wm. Harney and Lieut. Jeff Davis. Harney at that time was a captain, and Davis was his subaltern. Both were considered among the best officers in the service. I think it is conceded that for frontier service Captain Harney had no superior anywhere. There was no better disciplinarian, and no more indulgent officer to his men when their behavior was good. It has been said of him, by persons in civil life, that he was cruel to his men; but this was not true. He was, however, a terror to evil doers, whether soldiers or citizens. To give an idea of the man, he was over six feet in height, well proportioned, and exceedingly active and strong. I will relate an anecdote or two, which will give a more correct idea of his character.

Gen. Harney once took offense at an Indian, and determined to cowhide him; but was persuaded to give him "a chance for his life." He had him taken half a mile above the government wash houses on the bank of the river, gave him one hundred yards the start, with the agreement, that if the Indian passed the wash houses before he was caught, he should go free for that time. Pierre Pauquette gave the word, and away they went. Harney gained on him so rapidly that he seemed sure to overtake him.