

Gen. Winfield Scott offered a reward of \$2,000 for the capture of Black Hawk and the Prophet, which was earned by a Winnebago called Little Thunder.* All were then taken to Rock Island, where Gen. Scott had established his headquarters. From there the leaders were taken to all the large cities in the country, to show them how impossible it was for them to wage successful war against the whites. That ended the Black Hawk War.

I now come to that part of my recollections in which the people of Portage and the Fort Winnebago region, feel the greatest interest, and have the most curiosity. I allude to my acquaintance with Peter Pauquette. His strength was so immeasurable, and his exploits so astonishing, that while relating what I have seen I shall tell only the exact truth, I will promise not to be offended if some of my readers should be a little skeptical.

Peter Pauquette was born in the year 1800 of a French father and a Winnebago mother; the latter was buried nearly in front of the old agency house opposite the fort. He was thirty years old when I first knew him, and was the very best specimen of a man I ever saw. He was six feet two inches in height, and weighed two hundred and forty pounds—hardly ever varying a single pound. He was a very handsome man, hospitable, generous and kind, and I think I never saw a better natured man.

I had heard much of his strength before I left Green Bay, and of course, was anxious to see him perform some of the wonderful

* As in the case of Hon. J. T. Kingston (vol. vii, page 332, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*), so here there appears to be an error in regard to the captors of Black Hawk. Traditions are valuable, when sustaining and elaborating historical documents written at the time, and upon the spot, by reliable men; but it will not be safe to set aside such written documents, and substitute traditions. Gen. Joseph M. Street, then Indian agent at Prairie du Chien, writes from that place August 27, 1832: "At 11 o'clock today, Black Hawk and the Prophet were delivered to Gen. Joseph M. Street by the One-Eyed Decorri and Chaetar, Winnebagoes, belonging to this Agency"—and then gives in full the address of Decorri and Chaetar, the latter claiming the chief merit of the capture, saying: "Near the Dalles on the Wisconsin, I took Black Hawk. No one did it but me—I say this in the ears of all present, and they know it—and I now appeal to the Great Spirit, our grand-father, and the earth, our grand-mother, for the truth of what I say." In a subsequent letter of September 3, Gen. Street adds: "The day after Gen's Scott and Atkinson left this place, I sent out two parties of Winnebagoes to bring Black Hawk, the Prophet and Neopope to me." Thus Little Thunder may have been with the unsuccessful party, and would perhaps speak of it subsequently in such a way as to convey the idea that he aided in the capture of Black Hawk—that is, searched for him; but probably did not mean to be understood that he actually captured him. L. C. D.