

Indian Campaign of 1832

By Capt. Henry Smith, of Atkinson's Brigade

Henry Smith, the writer of the following valuable narrative of the Black Hawk War—the first detailed sketch of that contest that ever appeared in print—was of Scotch-Irish descent, born at Stillwater, N. Y., Sept. 25, 1798. He became a cadet at the Military Academy in May, 1813; and graduating, entered the artillery as third lieutenant, in March, 1815. He was promoted to a second lieutenancy in the Second Infantry, in June, 1816. He served as adjutant in 1818-19; regimental quartermaster, in 1820-21, serving as such at Green Bay in 1822; first lieutenant and assistant quartermaster in 1823, in which year he was assigned to the Sixth Infantry. He served as an aide-de-camp to Maj. Gen. Scott in 1823-26, and was promoted to the rank of captain, in July of the latter year, and acted as quartermaster from April, 1826, to Oct., 1830.

During the Black Hawk War, in 1832, he served at the head of his company in Gen. Atkinson's brigade, and had the best of opportunities to learn all the leading facts and events connected with that frontier service. He resigned from the army in Nov., 1836. From that time until 1840, he served as a civil engineer, superintending United States harbor improvements on the lakes, in New York, Ohio, and Michigan. He was a member of the Michigan assembly in 1837 and 1840; disbursing agent of the Indian department in 1838; major-general of the Michigan militia in 1841-46; and mayor of Monroe, Michigan, in 1846. On the 3d of March, 1847, he was appointed quartermaster in the army, with the rank of major, serving first at Detroit, and then on the staff of Gen. Scott in Mexico. Courageous and high-spirited, he promptly repaired to the front at Vera Cruz, fully conscious of the danger of the climate at that season of the year, where he soon fell a victim to the yellow fever, July 24th, 1847, in his forty-ninth year.

Capt. Smith's paper on the "Indian Campaign of 1832," was written in 1833 at the request of the conductors of the *Military and Naval Magazine*, published at Washington; and appeared in August of that year, as written "by an officer of Gen. Atkinson's Brigade." It was thus prepared while the recollections of that frontier service were yet fresh in his memory. He left a copy in manuscript, which was furnished by his daughter, Mrs. A. W. Snyder, of Rockford, Ill., to the *Journal* of that city, in which it appeared August 12th, 1882, and copied into the *Milwaukee Republican-Sentinel*, of the following 17th and 24th of September. These two copies have been carefully collated, and errors correc-