

On the 3rd of July, we found ourselves in the neighborhood of the enemy, who, however, occupied an inaccessible position in a swamp a few miles from us. This was Winnebago swamp, in Ogle County, Ill. They had retired before us, and, in several instances, we found in their camps scalps and heads previously taken, and left in triumph. They also always left in their camps a sort of guide-post, with a wisp of hay done up and fixed so as to indicate their destination. This, however, was mere bravado, as they avoided a conflict, though it was eagerly sought for by our army. The force of the enemy at this time could not have been far from one thousand efficient warriors, nearly all mounted. Our marching had become exceedingly disagreeable and difficult, wading through swamps and morasses, our provisions and baggage on pack-horses, frequently damaged, and the former of course falling short by the horses sinking in the swamps.

Every exertion was made to procure guides, but in vain. Such Winnebagoes or Pottawatomies as joined us or could be taken, were either ignorant or treacherous. On the 6th of July, we reached a deep and muddy stream called most inaptly White Water, beyond which we were informed by the Winnebagoes we should find the enemy. With much difficulty we forded or swam this stream, or rather the first of three branches, and after a perplexing march of twelve or fifteen miles we arrived where the Indian guides assured the General, with one voice, that farther advance was impossible, having arrived, as they said, and as it appeared, at a wilderness of that description of morass called by the French *terre tremblante*. We had, it appeared, no recourse but to retrace our weary march for the purpose of arriving at and crossing Rock River, to reach the enemy by moving up the other bank. At the mouth of the White Water, the mounted force under Gen. Henry and Col. Dodge was dispatched with the pack-horses to Fort Winnebago for provisions.

Under these vexations and disappointments, we had the satisfaction of knowing that our enemy was completely besieged—cut off from all their resources. Gen. Atkinson knew that they must soon be driven by famine to give us