

Atkinson, and he remained with us nearly all the time till the close of the war. After a considerable augmentation of the troops at Rock Island, we moved our forces up Rock River in keel-boats, as far as Dixon's Ferry, so called after Capt. John Dixon, the first settler there. We made that place the general rendezvous of all the troops coming in. The cavalry had a camp on the south side of the river, and the infantry were in an entrenched camp on the north side.

The officers in command of the Illinois troops were Gen. Henry and Gen. Posey, and Gen. Alexander; but Gen. Atkinson was in command of the expedition. The force remained at Dixon's Ferry some two or three months, drilling and making small expeditions. We had a force of some fifteen hundred cavalry, the finest troops I ever saw. While at Dixon's Ferry, we were joined by a body of friendly Indians, headed by the Chief Chebanse (I may not spell the name correctly). It was during this time that I went on an expedition to Ottawa with Gen. Atkinson. It was then a small trading-post, with only a few houses. We found one company of troops there whose term of service had expired. I mustered it out of service; but most of the men immediately re-enlisted, and I had the satisfaction of mustering them in again.

Henry Dodge, afterwards so well known and so much distinguished as colonel of a regiment of Rangers, authorized to be raised by Congress, was with us, and also Boone and Ford, captains in the same regiment. Nathan Boone was a son of the celebrated Daniel Boone. I also mustered Abraham Lincoln twice into the service, and once out. He was a member of two of the independent companies which were not brigaded. The first time I mustered him into the service was at the mouth of Fox River, May 29, 1832, in Capt. Elijah Iles' company. The lieutenants in the company were J. M. Harrison and H. B. Roberts. The value of his arms was forty dollars, and his horse and equipments one hundred and twenty dollars. I mustered him out of the service at the "Rapids of the Illinois," June 16, 1832, and in four days afterward, at the same place, I mustered him into service