

"Black Hawk War," which created a great deal of excitement in the Northwest, and which was a great event in its day. It was my first service in the field, and I entered into it with all the zeal of a young officer who loved his profession, and desired faithfully to serve his country. I have retained many pleasant memories of the officers and soldiers with whom I was associated. There were never finer troops than the Illinois volunteer soldiers that we had with us. They were brave, intelligent and sober men, and always yielding a ready obedience to the commands of their officers. Many of them, both officers and privates, have since reached high positions in public life, and have reflected great credit not only upon the State but upon the Nation.

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### Third Illinois Brigade in the Black Hawk War<sup>1</sup>

In looking over some old papers and letters, I find the inclosed memorandum from Gen. Robert Anderson, of Fort Sumter memory, which has a certain historical interest. I take it all the officers mentioned are dead, and their names are fast dying out of the memory of the present generation. Gen. Fry, after a long and honorable life, was perhaps the last to have died, and that quite recently. I knew him very well thirty or forty years ago, a gentleman of the old school. He was the father of Col. James B. Fry, so long on the staff of Gen. Hancock, and so well and honorably known during the Rebellion as provost marshal general. Of the others named in the memorandum, I personally knew Col. James Collins, who was for many years in early times at White Oak Springs, Wis., twelve miles east and north of Galena. He was quite a prominent Whig politician in Wisconsin Territory, and a member of the Territorial council from Iowa County. He died in California.

Maj. William L. D. Ewing I met frequently at Springfield sometime in the forties. By virtue of being president of the senate, he became the acting governor of the State for

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<sup>1</sup> From *Chicago Tribune*, Aug. 20, 1881.