

escaped, Bennett Million—and he by swimming the river four times, and receiving several balls through his clothes—some of which grazed the skin, but did no further damage.

As a small party hastily assembled for the purpose of proceeding to the place, and burying those that were killed, I proposed accompanying them as far as the fort. This could be done with comparative safety. We found on our arrival, that a small detachment from the fort had consigned the mutilated remains of four to the earth, and that the fifth, Mr. Million, could not be found. As the horses as well as men needed repose—having been led by forced marches to head of Fox River, and many other places, frequently making seventy miles per day, without aid of roads or bridges—it was agreed to encamp on the ground for the ensuing night.

Col. Dodge, who had been unanimously elected to the command, and who at all times headed them in person, had permitted his citizen soldiers to retire to their respective homes—there, if possible, to enjoy a few days rest. But ere the commander had entered his own house, news was brought to him that a man had been killed by the savages at the Blue Mounds, twenty miles distant, and that a small body of men had collected, having procured a few Indian ponies from Prairie Du Chien. Mounting his horse, he at once proceeded to the place, and from thence determined to scour the country to Fort Hamilton, a distance of thirty-five miles, without any intervening road or settlement.

The night of the 16th [15th], he lay with the men ten miles from the fort. The next morning, leaving the men under the charge of an officer, with orders to follow as soon as they had prepared and eaten their frugal meal, he mounted his horse and proceeded unattended to the fort. While yet within three hundred yards of the men first above mentioned, he met with a man on horseback, who informed him of the massacre at the Peckatonica—and that he was going about three miles to procure blankets and other equipage for the purpose of joining the mounted men. They separated, and each rode his way. The colonel had not dismounted, when several guns were heard in rapid succession