

the affair at Spafford's farm, six miles southeast of Wiota, took place. It was this attack that led to the battle of the Peckatonica. In this massacre five men were killed, and two made their escape. One was Bennett Million, who was pursued by the Indians about ten miles, though they left him about four miles from the fort. The news of this terrible murder and massacre reached Fort Defiance about sundown of the day of its occurrence—the same day that Col. Dodge and his men had arrived home from an expedition to Rock River and to Ottawa, on the Illinois River. Eleven men proceeded at once to Wiota, or Fort Hamilton as it then was called, under the command of Maj. R. H. Kirkpatrick, arriving there about midnight. Next morning, having been joined by eight or ten more men, the detachment proceeded, still under the command of Maj. Kirkpatrick, to the scene of the massacre. After burying the victims, and reconnoitering the country for Indians and Indian signs, we returned to Wiota, where we met Capt. Gentry and ten or a dozen of his men from Mineral Point.

The detachment encamped there for the night, and, next morning, June 16th, about sunrise, the unfortunate Apple passed the encampment, going out to his cabin, about three miles distant, for his blankets, intending as he promised Capt. Gentry, to return and accompany us on our scout that day for Indians. In a few moments afterwards, Col. Dodge arrived from the Blue Mounds, having camped the night before at Fretwell's Diggings. Almost simultaneously with Col. Dodge's arrival, the firing of guns was heard in the direction of the corn-field near by. The Colonel proceeded on to the fort. Apple's horse came running back, shot through the top part of the head. It was now evident that Apple was killed. Col. Dodge was sent for, and by the time of his arrival, which was in a few moments, all hands were mounted, ready and eager for pursuit.

Col. Dodge addressed them for a few moments, in stirring and thrilling language, reminding them of the fearful and alarming condition of the country, of the exposed and perilous condition of ourselves and families, and the absolute necessity of then striking a decisive blow; and concluded