

ment seemed to turn the enemy into the heavy timber on the river bottom. Where the Indians crossed the river was high water, and the banks were steep; but we soon effected a crossing at an old Indian ford near by.

Soon after the passage, the detachment was met by Lieut. Parkinson, who conducted us to the trail of the Indians, which was at this point plain and well defined. When the trail was reached, the men were dismounted, and four of them detailed to hold the horses. The remainder, twenty-one in number, were addressed by Col. Dodge in a few very stirring and appropriate remarks, at the conclusion of which, the order to advance was given. This was the thrilling crisis of the occasion. We knew we were advancing upon a hidden foe, who were closely concealed in some advantageous position, from which they must inevitably have the first cool and deliberate fire, their numbers being but few less than ours; and, for aught we knew, might be much superior. Still, the brave and gallant leader, nor any of his men, seemed the least abashed or dismayed, but advanced into the dense thicket, with boldness and determination visibly depicted upon every countenance.

We marched in extended line, with the trail about the center. After advancing about one hundred and fifty yards through this dense thicket, and within sixty feet of the Indians, who were completely concealed under the bank of a slough, at least six feet high, the stillness and suspense of the occasion was suddenly broken by the Indian guns and the shrill whistle of the bullets, that passed so near our heads that we could feel the force of them. All was accompanied by the most terrific yell of the savage foe, that had so successfully and unfortunately frightened and terrified the Illinois forces upon all previous occasions. At this fire, three of our brave volunteers were brought to the ground. Wells, Morris, and Black received fatal shots; while Jenkins was soon afterwards severely wounded. The order for the charge was instantly given, and as instantly obeyed. The Indians occupied about the same position on the trail that we did—the trail being about their center as well as ours. This brought us together, face to face, and breast to breast.