

Blue Mounds on the north, and at Spafford's farm on the east.

The many disastrous defeats that had just befallen the Illinois troops, have already been alluded to. But, in addition to all these most heart-rending occurrences, the most of us had just returned on the evening of the 14th, from an expedition to the Rock River and Ottawa, Illinois, during which we had found and buried the mangled and mutilated bodies of St. Vrain, Fowler, and Hale, who had been murdered near Kellogg's Grove. The remainder of the volunteers who were in this contest at Peckatonica, or the most of them, had just returned from the Blue Mounds, where they had been to bury the bodies of Force and Green. These horrible scenes of murder and savage butchery, together with the burying of the unfortunate victims of the Spafford farm massacre, and the sight of the headless and disemboweled body of the poor old German, Apple, had the effect of harrowing up our feelings to the highest point of desperation and revenge; and we went into this fight determined to kill every Indian, or die in the attempt. So we fought with the desperation of pirates.

Some idea of the sanguinary and determined character of the fight may be gathered from a few incidents connected with it. One of the soldiers, in speaking of it, said, "When I charged up to the slough, I fired my gun, dropped it; drew one of my pistols, fired and dropped it; drew the other, fired and dropped it, and was pouring some powder into my hand to re-load my rifle, when some one shouted out, 'They are all killed.'" Some were run through and killed with the bayonet; others knocked in the head with the breech of the old heavy regular army musket. Our loss was Samuel Black, Samuel Wells, Montaville Morris, mortally wounded; and Thomas Jenkins, shot through the hip, who recovered.¹

¹ Maj. Thomas Jenkins was born in South Carolina, in March, 1801; and after residing in Alabama and Missouri, he settled in Dodgeville, in the lead region, in 1827. After serving in the Black Hawk War, he represented Iowa County in the Territorial legislature five sessions, from 1838 to 1841; was a member of the first constitutional convention, and of the first State legislature in 1848. He removed to California in