

Thus ended this remarkable battle, and I feel called upon, as its last surviving participant, though a mere boy at the time, to pay this small tribute of respect to the memory of the brave and heroic men who shared in this conflict and some of whom fell in the engagement—to say, that a braver and a more determined set of men, from the gallant old leader down to the youngest soldier, never conducted themselves better, or more bravely, in the face of a foe, than did those engaged in this remarkable fight. Besides Col. Dodge, who was acknowledged to be the most successful and experienced Indian fighter in the Northwest, there were Lieut. D. M. Parkinson, who had a brother who commanded a company under Gen. Jackson in the Creek War, Capt. James H. Gentry, Maj. Richard H. Kirkpatrick, Lieut. Charles Bracken,¹ and Thomas Jenkins, all of whom were men of considerable age and experience, having all been on the frontiers, and had more or less to do with the Indian wars and skirmishes of 1812–15. The younger soldiers of this contest were scarcely less brave and determined.

This battle seemed to break the backbone, as it were, of the belligerent Indians—to discourage and cow them—and to strike terror and dismay into their ranks. At any rate, it was the turning point of the war, and had more to do with its final termination than all other circumstances put together. Black Hawk's glory was on the wane. Reference has already been made to the many disasters and repulses

1849, and in 1864 to New Mexico, where he died in 1866, his wife preceding him to the grave in 1850. He left two sons. L. C. D.

¹ Gen. Charles Bracken was born at Pittsburg, Pa., April 6, 1797. He was orderly-sergeant in the Pittsburg Blues, and marched to Baltimore to repel the British attack on that city, but did not reach there till after the battle. In 1816, he settled at Cynthiana, Ky., and was engaged in running the boundary lines between Kentucky and Tennessee, Louisiana and Arkansas. Settling in what is now Wisconsin in 1828, he figured prominently in the Black Hawk War, as aide to Gen. Dodge, in the battles of Peckatonica, Wisconsin Heights, and Bad Axe. He served three sessions in the Territorial legislature in 1839–40; and in the State legislature of 1858, and attained the rank of general in the militia. He died at his residence, Walnut Grove, La Fayette County, Wis., April 16, 1861. He was a meritorious pioneer and useful citizen. L. C. D.