

and was often there. I became much attached to him, and much interested in his future welfare. He was of a melancholy and moody turn of mind at times, and again of the most buoyant and vivacious.

Soon after the commencement of the war with Black Hawk, he attached himself to Col. Dodge's squadron, and at the time of the killing of Spafford, McIlvain, and others, near Wiota, he was at Fort Defiance with me, he and I having just returned from Ottawa, on the Illinois River, where we had been on an expedition of ten days with Col. Dodge. We had barely got our horses out to grass—the only feed we could give them—when the express messenger came, bearing the sad intelligence of the killing of the men near Wiota. He and I, having been accustomed to prompt and energetic movements under Col. Dodge for the last ten days, were soon in our saddles, and ready for movements quite in advance of the remainder of the detachment, who were ordered by Capt. Hoard, the commandant of the fort, to proceed at once to Wiota. When the detachment was ready to take up the line of march, Maj. Kirkpatrick, who had command of the expedition, detached this young man Black, and myself, to take the position of advanced guard, saying that in case we fell in with any Indians, we would only run the risk of being shot, and, as we were mounted on good horses, the Indians could not catch us.

On the march to Wiota, which was in the night, Black was in one of his buoyant moods, so much so, I remarked to him that he seemed more than usually cheerful and high spirited; that I did not feel so—that I had a presentiment that we should smell powder before we got back—that in case we could overtake any Indians, we certainly should have to fight them, let their numbers be what they might. I knew the temper of most of our men, and knew fight was in them. I have heard Maj. Kirkpatrick, Gen. Bracken, my father, and others express their chagrin and abhorrence of the shameful disasters of the Illinois troops in such terms as assured me that there would be hot work in case we could come across any Indians, and I knew our only preservation