

untouched by the felling-axe, forming a graceful frame to the lovely landscape." This description recalls to my own mind the first time I ever saw Gratiot's Grove, in the summer of 1841, and the beauty of that whole country made an impression on my mind which time can never efface.

Mrs. Gratiot describes the life at the Grove with the most charming *naïveté*: "Ours," she says, "was a happy life. We were, as it may be said, camping out. We made the most of it, and were full of life and enjoyment. We had many visiting us, strangers as well as friends, and all were welcome, and to whom we offered a pallet and a meal under a shade of green boughs. \* \* \* Our families enjoyed almost uninterrupted happiness and prosperity. The old days at the Grove can never be forgotten. Gay surprise parties in the winter would come to the Grove with jingling sleigh-bells to have a dance, and in return we enjoyed going to pleasure parties in Galena." But sometimes deep shadows fell across their paths. She speaks of her sister-in-law, Mrs. Henry Gratiot, who often found herself alone with her children, when her husband was necessarily absent, and then she adds, "that to the greatest gentleness and fortitude she joined the courage of a heroine: a most devoted wife, an affectionate mother, and kind friend, she was beloved and honored by all."

The breaking out of the Black Hawk War brought alarm and unhappiness to this peaceful village. In speaking of that event, Mrs. Gratiot says: "Up to this time (1832), our dwellings had been completed, and we were surrounded with many comforts, and in our light-heartedness, never dreamed of the storm gathering over our heads. On the 4th of July I claimed the privilege of entertaining our friends at dinner; the table was set, the guests assembled. Ours were primitive accommodations. I was carrying a large bowl of custard to the table, Mrs. Henry Gratiot was assisting me carrying something, when we saw four tall Indians, with guns in their hands, coming to the house. I was so taken by surprise that the bowl fell from my hands, to the great dismay of the children. I ran in to apprise the gentlemen. The Indians gravely entered, and we were quite relieved when we saw our visitors stack their