

guns and accept a share of our dinner; but all appetite and joyousness had fled."

An interpreter was sent for, and it was found that these unlooked-for visitors were friendly Winnebago chiefs, who in their friendship for the Gratiots, had come to warn them that on account of the encroachments of the whites in their territory, they could no longer restrain their young men from making war. They said they did not want to hurt them, but wanted to advise them to remove their women and children. This was an admonition to be heeded. The news spread like wild-fire, and all was terror and confusion. All the women and children were sent to Galena. Mrs. Gratiot says: "We made our preparations to leave with heavy hearts, leaving our husbands to the dangers of Indian warfare," and she continues sadly, "when the teams drove up to take us away, we left our homes with many tears."

Many others besides Mrs. Gratiot have written of Gratiot's Grove, the exquisite beauty of its location, its beautiful climate, and the character of its society. Mr. Caleb Atwater, who was one of the commissioners who negotiated the treaties for the purchase of the Indian lands at Prairie du Chien in 1829, visited Gratiot's Grove in the fall of that year. In a volume published by him in 1831, he speaks of Gratiot's Grove as follows:

"About twenty families reside in this secluded grove. Among the interesting people here are Mrs. Henry Gratiot, who was born and educated in New London, Conn.; Mrs. J. P. B. Gratiot, who was born and educated in Paris; Mrs. John R. Coonce, who is a daughter of the celebrated English botanist, John Bradbury, and who was born and educated in London. They all live within a few rods of each other. \* \* There is a post-office here, and mail passes through the place once a week, to and from Galena. Mr. Gratiot has large lead-furnaces here, and there is a drygoods store, but no doggery in the village."

A roving contributor of the *N. Y. Tribune*, in July, 1844, writing from Gratiot's Grove, thus describes that locality, as it appeared to him at that time: