

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 at either house. We in turn enjoyed pleasure parties in Galena until 1832, when the Black Hawk War came upon us almost as suddenly as the previous one. Both of our husbands were then in St. Louis, entirely unaware of any hostile demonstration. Mr. Henry Gratiot proposed returning home by land, driving a private carriage, taking with him, for company, our oldest son, then a lad of twelve years. Mr. J. P. B. Gratiot was to return by steamer.

On reaching Dixon, Mr. Henry Gratiot was startled by the news that the Indians had raised the tomahawk, and had cruelly murdered several families on the borders. He had then one hundred miles or more to travel alone in the hostile country; but he knew our families were exposed, and he pushed bravely on, regardless of danger, and reached home without accident. He found express orders to repair to the Winnebagoes immediately, to follow their movements, and to prevent any attempt on their part to join the hostile tribes. So without allowing himself any rest, he left us again. The news reached St. Louis, and my husband took the first boat up the river; but the boat and several others were pressed, at Rock Island, into the service of the government. The strength of the Indians was not well ascertained. Henry Gratiot had arrived at headquarters with the most reliable information that could be gathered from the other tribes. The general commanding sent an order to the hostile Indian chiefs to come for a parley under a flag of truce, naming a spot some fifteen miles up the Rock River, near to the place where the Indians were supposed to be encamped. Henry Gratiot and my husband were present at the interview.

Although the history of the Black Hawk War has been published, yet I do not know if the following incident was ever related in its true light: The general, the officers, two or three hundred troops, a piece of ordnance, and several favored lookers on, came up the river on a steamer to the