

forts were successful, and he was known to be the only person who could accomplish the task. These girls were the only survivors of a murdered family on Sugar River. I have forgotten their names.\* During all this time we were at the Grove—a prey to much anxiety.

We could not hear from below, all the ascending boats being pressed into service. The land mail had been cut off several times, and we could hear nothing but floating rumors. Mrs. Henry Gratiot was composed, but I was terrified, and never thought my children and myself safe except under the shadow of her wings. At last my husband arrived, after four days' detention at Rock Island, seeing no prospect of passage on a boat, fitted up a canoe, and with four trusty Canadians paddled up the river in three days, nearly as fast as any steamer. It was a dangerous undertaking, the banks of the Mississippi swarming with hostile Indians. Mr. Gratiot immediately made every preparation for our removal to a place of security. Mrs. Henry Gratiot followed us to Galena, but she would not consent to leave the country until her husband was released from the hands of the Indians, which was effected soon after. Then followed another exodus, and a new period of trials and anxiety. Soon after the battle of Bad Axe was fought, and peace once more restored, we were allowed to return to our homes to gather up the scattered remnants of our household effects.

In 1833, the two brothers dissolved partnership. Henry, tired of the many losses to which they had been subjected by the two Indian wars, preferred farming to mining, with all its uncertainties. We then left the Grove where we had spent several happy years, and came to reside near Galena.

In 1834, Mr. Gratiot sent our eldest son to New York to be educated. Col. Wm. S. Hamilton, long a friend of both our families, gave him letters of introduction to his mother,

---

\*Misses Sylvia and Rachel Hall were captured, not on Sugar River, but on Indian Creek, La Salle County, Illinois; they were not liberated, however, at the same time with Col. Gratiot.