

Near the abode of Rowan and St. Cyr, Col. Dodge, and Henry Gratiot, Indian agent, backed up by fifty armed horsemen from the Mines, on the 25th of May, 1832, held a council with the Winnebagoes, and induced that tribe to pledge themselves to remain neutral in the impending contest. That site is also memorable for other events to be mentioned hereafter, and Capt. Brown's Illinois Rangers lay encamped there some days in the summer of 1833.

The last spot where Black Hawk's force halted was on the site of Madison, and they are said to have thrown up a brush or log breast-work on University Hill. But they retreated towards the Wisconsin River as soon as they ascertained that the Americans were advancing from Koshkonong. The main camp of the whites on the night of July 20th, 1832, was ten miles east of Madison. Their advance-guard pushed ahead seven miles farther, and passed the night "about a quarter of a mile north of the north-east end of Third Lake."¹ The next morning, starting early, they crossed the Catfish near where the Williamson street bridge now stands, before eight o'clock. Pushing on they discovered a solitary savage seated near the shore of Third Lake, a little east of the foot of King street. Suspecting him to be connected with some ambush, they shot him at once. This precipitation they afterwards regretted, and the more since they observed that he was lying on an Indian grave. The main American army was but two miles behind, and traversing Madison from east to west, "almost precisely over the ground that the capitol now stands upon," overtook no enemies in force till they approached the Wisconsin River.

A man who was passing two months afterward to that river from Fourth Lake, says the trails of the Indians were still distinct, sometimes they would all converge into a broad and plain path, and then radiate in different directions dwindling a mere trace.² This method of travel was adopted in order to deceive pursuers in regard to their true route, and also to help them escape in case of attack.

¹ Ms. letter of Peter Parkinson, one of the advance.

² *Hesperian*, II, p. 269.