

greater numbers than he possessed. His stronghold was at the head of Lake Koshkonong, and it was from this stronghold that two young girls named Rachel and Sylvia Hall, who had been stolen by Black Hawk and his band from their parents near Ottawa, Illinois, were ransomed by the payment of \$2,000 by some friendly Winnebagoes, who represented the Indian agent at Galena. In this pursuit, Black Hawk's line of flight was from Lake Koshkonong towards Whitewater, through Bark-river woods, where he crossed the river, not far from Jefferson Junction, and then went on westward through Lake Mills, Cottage Grove and Madison, to the Wisconsin river, where the battle occurred and where the destruction of his band was made almost complete.<sup>1</sup>

As I have said, only five years had elapsed after the Black Hawk raid when we settled in Lake Mills; and at that time, and for many years afterward, the country was swarming with Indians, mostly Winnebagoes, who were friendly, although at times the settlers were made to feel alarm at the reports which came to them of the murderous intent of the aborigines. Still, no serious injury was ever inflicted by them upon the early settlers of Jefferson county. The Indians seemed to respect our rights — at least were disposed to do so as long as their own rights were respected by the white settlers. At that time they were a splendid race of men, of fine physical proportions, and impressed one very strongly with the nobility of their race. They had not then become demoralized or debased by intercourse with the whites.

A band of Indians dressed in their war paint, once caused me a terrible fright. We were surprised in the forenoon by a caller at our house, and my mother, when she came to take account of stock, found that she had neither tea nor coffee; so it was decided that I should go to the nearest neighbor, about a mile and a half distant, to see if I could borrow a small quantity of one of these articles. When about a half mile from the house I espied in the path before

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<sup>1</sup> For account of operations of the Black Hawk war in Wisconsin, in 1832, see early volumes of *Wis. Hist. Colls.* and *Mag. Western Hist.* for Nov. and Dec., 1886.— ED.