

# THE STORY OF THE BLACK HAWK WAR.<sup>1</sup>

BY THE EDITOR.

## *The First Campaign.*

Although many of its incidents were paltry enough, few events in the early history of the Northwest were as picturesque, as tragical, or as fraught with weighty consequence, as the Black Hawk War. Certainly none have been so persistently misrepresented for partisan purposes. Immediately after the close of the war, numerous persons who had served with the army hastened to record their impressions in the frontier newspapers and in book form. These publications seem chiefly to have been designed as electioneering documents to "boom" the war records of certain of

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<sup>1</sup> The following authorities have been consulted, in addition to numerous biographies, newspaper files, manuscript letters, journals, and reports in the possession of the Wisconsin Historical Society: Drake's *The Great Indian Chief of the West; or, Life and Adventures of Black Hawk* (Cincinnati, 1854, published anonymously); Wakefield's *History of the War between the United States and the Sac and Fox Nations of Indians* (Jacksonville, Ill., 1834); *Life of Ma-ka-tai-me-she-kia-kiak, or Black Hawk, dictated by himself* (Boston, 1834) — this account purports to have been dictated by the chief to Antoine le Claire (half-breed), United States interpreter for the Sacs and Foxes, in August, 1833, and afterward edited and published by J. B. Patterson, and is dedicated by Black Hawk himself to Gen. Henry Atkinson; second edition of the foregoing, with appendix giving an account of the death and burial of Black Hawk (St. Louis, 1882); Governor Reynolds's *Pioneer History of Illinois* (2d ed., Chicago, 1887), and his *My Own Times* (2d ed., Chicago, 1879); Governor Ford's *History of Illinois* (Chicago, 1854); Davidson and Stuvé's *Complete History of Illinois* (Springfield, Ill., 1874); Moses's *Illinois, Historical and Statistical* (vol. i., Chicago, 1889); Blanchard's *History of Illinois, with Historical Map* (Chicago, 1883); Armstrong's *The Sauks and the Black Hawk War* (Springfield, Ill., 1887); and the *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, vols. i-xi.