

white and half-breed scouts under Colonel William S. Hamilton, who was a prominent lead miner and a son of the famous Alexander. This recruited his squadron so that it now numbered about three hundred. Proceeding by the way of the Four Lakes, White Crow and thirty Winnebagoes offered to conduct Posey and Dodge to Black Hawk's camp, and unite with them for that purpose. After advancing through almost impassable swamps for several days, the corps was within short distance of the locality sought, when an express came from Atkinson ordering it to proceed without delay to his camp on Bark river, an eastern tributary of Lake Koshkonong, as he believed the main body of the enemy to be in that vicinity. This order greatly provoked Dodge, but it proved to be singularly opportune. Black Hawk's camp occupied a position very advantageous for defense, at the summit of a steep declivity on the east bank of the Rock, where the river was difficult of passage, being rapid and clogged with boulders.¹ White Crow's solicitude as a guide was undoubtedly caused by his desire to lead this small force, constituting the left wing of the army, into a trap where it might have been badly whipped if not annihilated.

The army was thus formed: Posey's brigade and Dodge's rangers comprised the left wing, on the west side of the Rock; the regulars under Taylor, and Henry's volunteers, were the right wing, commanded by Atkinson in person, and marched on the east bank; while Alexander's brigade, also on the west bank, was the center. Dodge had conceived a poor opinion of Posey's men, and on the arrival of the left wing at headquarters, solicited a change of companions. To secure harmony, Atkinson caused Posey and Alexander to exchange positions.

While the treacherous White Crow had been endeavoring to entrap the left wing, other Winnebagoes informed Atkinson that Black Hawk was encamped on an island in the Whitewater river, a few miles east of the American camp on the Bark. In consequence, the commander was from

¹ The site of the present village of Hustisford, Wisconsin.