

ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN THE BLACK HAWK WAR.

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Black Hawk was chief of a band of Sac Indians. The Sacs are supposed to have come from Canada at an early date.¹ They lived for a long time in the vicinity of Rock Island. Their main village was located at the junction of the Rock and Mississippi rivers. This village, Black Hawk says, had existed for over a hundred years.² In this village, he claims to have been born in 1767.³ The Sacs and Foxes formed a sort of confederacy, and lived together in friendly relations.

In 1804,⁴ a treaty was made with the Sac and Fox Indians at St. Louis, by Gen. William Henry Harrison, by which these tribes relinquished their claims to the lands bounded by the Mississippi, the Illinois, and the Wisconsin rivers. The tribes were not immediately removed from the lands described in the treaty, but were permitted to live and hunt upon them so long as the government owned them. Although this treaty was ratified several times, Black Hawk always insisted that his people had not consented to the document, and were not bound by it.⁵

¹ *Life of Ma-ka-tai-me-she-kia-kiak, or Black Hawk, dictated by himself* (St. Louis ed., 1882), p. 11; this will be referred to later, as "Black Hawk's Autobiography." See also, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, iii, p. 136. For bibliography of the Black Hawk War, see *Id.*, xii, p. 217, *note*.

² *Black Hawk's Autobiog.*, p. 58.

³ *Ibid.*, pp. 11, 16.

⁴ *Indian Treaties, U. S. Stat. at Large*, vii, p. 84.

⁵ *Black Hawk's Autobiog.*, p. 8.