

About 1828, the public lands about Rock Island were offered for sale by the government. The white population in Illinois had increased so rapidly, that in 1830 it numbered about 155,000. In 1831, the Indians became troublesome, and frequent conflicts occurred between them and the whites. Complaints were made to the government by the white settlers, and the tribesmen were required to move to the west side of the Mississippi.¹ A portion of the Sacs and Foxes, under Keokuk, head chief of the Foxes, peaceably removed across the river as required; but Black Hawk and a portion of the Sacs, who were in sympathy with him, refused to leave. It was the custom of the Indians to leave their village and winter in other portions of the country, west of the Mississippi, hunting and trapping. In the spring of 1831, when they returned from their hunting expedition, they found that the whites had taken possession of portions of the lands they had occupied and cultivated.² Black Hawk was greatly dissatisfied with this, and ordered the whites away, threatening them with death if they remained.³ The settlers became alarmed for their safety, and complained to Gov. John Reynolds, of Illinois, who reported the fact to Gen. Edmund P. Gaines of the United States Army.⁴

Reynolds, at the request of Gaines, called out 700 volunteers, and 1,500 responded to the call.⁵ With this force, and several companies of regulars, Gaines marched to the mouth of Rock River, whereupon Black Hawk with his band moved to the west side of the Mississippi.⁶ Gaines threatened to pursue the Sacs across the river and punish them for their disregard of the treaty. To prevent this, Black Hawk made another treaty with Gaines, by which he agreed to remain on the west side of the river, and not

¹ *Black Hawk's Autobiog.*, p. 84.

² *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xii, p. 224.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 225.

⁴ Ford's *History of Illinois* (Chicago, 1854), iii, p. 111.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 112.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 113.