

One afternoon, just after Mr. Baird came home, John McCarty came in, very much excited, saying: "The Indians are coming. They are on the way. They are at Little Kaukauna, on their way down." What to do we did not know. The fort was being rebuilt, and could afford no protection. Col. Samuel C. Stambaugh<sup>1</sup> was still in the Agency House, and wished all to come there who could get in. Ah, how we watched! going to every high point and anxiously looking to see if the Indians had reached DePere. The signal was to be the firing of two guns or a cannon, when the Indians should appear. All work was abandoned. No supper was provided in our home, only for the servants and the children. My husband was too anxious to eat, and I could not lose a moment from watching. Night came on, the children were put to bed, although all during the night I could not have them out of my sight.

At last, as everything seemed quiet, we ventured to lie down, ready to arise at any moment. We finally fell asleep; the next thing we knew, we were aroused by hearing the firing of two guns. Of course, that was the signal! We did not stop to dress the children, we were already dressed; my husband had left the horse saddled. We had three children — my husband took one child and led his horse, I took another, and our Margaret took the third. We all ran as fast as we could, to the Agency House. There my husband left us, mounted his horse, and joined the militia. My feelings cannot be expressed as I looked upon him, for I thought it for the last time.

The Agency House became crowded, as all who heard the guns came there. It was early morning, just daylight, yet the frightened people continued to come.

And now can I do justice to what followed this night of terror? The guns fired, were not intended as the signal. It happened in this way: the military always fire a morning gun, and our troops felt that they must also do the same.

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<sup>1</sup> Stambaugh had been the Indian agent, but was succeeded June 2, 1832, by Col. George Boyd, Jr. See "Papers of Indian Agent Boyd, 1832," and a biographical sketch of Boyd, in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xii, pp. 266-298.—Ed.