

could be assessed, the case must come before a jury, which of course must be selected from among the settlers. And it was understood that no jury would find a verdict of *guilty* against a settler, in such a case, because it was considered a case of *self defence*. And if these means could not protect the settler, the last resort would be to "burn powder in their faces." These things being understood no speculator dare bid on a settler's land, & as no settler would bid on his neighbor, each man gets his land at congress price, \$1.25 pr. acre.

We this day reached *Apple River*, at Bro. Jewels. Here was a fort in the late Indian War, (1832) made & defended by the inhabitants. About 200 Indians under Black Hawk attacked this fort, defended by about 40 men & boys, besides a few women. A Mrs. Armstrong<sup>1</sup> assumed the command. She had some women making cartridges, others loading guns for the men to fire, while she drove round the fort like a fury, cursing & swearing like a pirate. She had all the children drove into one room & one woman, with a club in hand, appointed to guard them, with strict orders [to] keep them from crying, lest the Indians should think they were frightened, & should thereby be encouraged.

The Indians heard her hallooing at the men, & knowing her voice, said afterwards that she was *very mad*. The Indians were defeated with considerable loss, while but one man was killed & one wounded in the fort. And both these men were shot when gratifying their curiosity by looking over the pickets. The bravery of this woman is allowed, by some, to have saved the fort. But it is a great drawback upon her credit, being so profane.

*Sunday Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>*. Bro. Weigley was sick & took [to] his bed. He had taken some cold, & seemed to sink under the

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<sup>1</sup> In *Western Pioneer*, ii, p. 35, Brunson gives the name as Mrs. Graham. In the account in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, v, pp. 288, 289, the woman is referred to as Mrs. Elizabeth Armstrong. Apple River was a lead-miners' camp, near the present village of Elizabeth, Jo Daviess County, Ill. The attack by Black Hawk and some 200 of his followers occurred April 6, 1832.—ED.