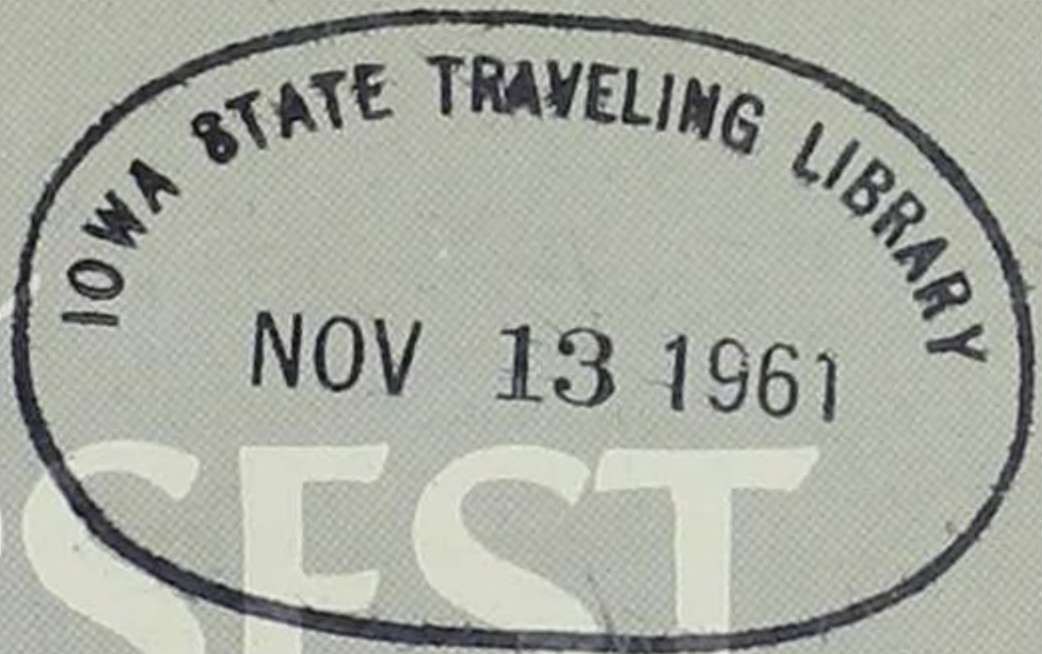


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*The*  
**PALIMPSEST**



Diorama — Surrender of Fort Shelby to the British

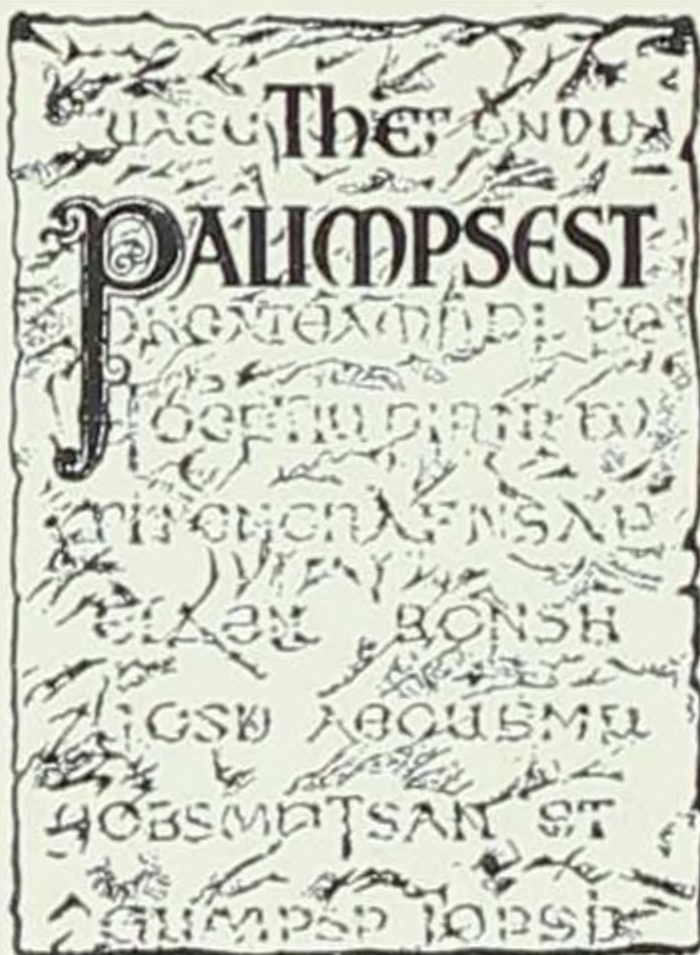
Old Fort Crawford

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## The Meaning of Palimpsest

In early times a palimpsest was a parchment or other material from which one or more writings had been erased to give room for later records. But the erasures were not always complete; and so it became the fascinating task of scholars not only to translate the later records but also to reconstruct the original writings by deciphering the dim fragments of letters partly erased and partly covered by subsequent texts.

The history of Iowa may be likened to a palimpsest which holds the record of successive generations. To decipher these records of the past, reconstruct them, and tell the stories which they contain is the task of those who write history.

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BRUCE E. MAHAN

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# THE PALIMPSEST

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## The Upper Mississippi Frontier

When the region that is now Iowa became United States territory in 1803, the Sauk and Fox Indians claimed the country on both sides of the Mississippi, from the Wisconsin River to the Illinois on the east, and from the Upper Iowa to the mouth of the Missouri on the west. The Foxes for the most part lived in villages west of the Mississippi with their principal village near present-day Davenport. The Sauk clung to the east side of the river with their principal village, called Saukenuk, near the present site of Rock Island.

The Americans had scarcely taken over the government of the Louisiana Purchase when they came into contact with the Sauk and Foxes. One night in the spring of 1804, an Indian murdered a white man at a rough frontier settlement on the Quivre River in northern Missouri. The murder of a white man by an Indian was a crime which the government could not overlook, and a detachment of soldiers was sent up the Mississippi from St. Louis to apprehend the murderer. He had fled

to Saukenuk, and there Sauk chieftains turned the fugitive over to the soldiers who returned to St. Louis with him, and thrust him into prison.

In an attempt to secure the release of the prisoner, a Sauk and Fox delegation of five headmen went to St. Louis with authority to offer a money compensation in appeasement for the white man's murder, but their mission failed. Meanwhile, William Henry Harrison, Governor of Indiana Territory, arrived in St. Louis with instructions to conclude treaties of trade and friendship with the Indians.

Harrison met the five headmen of the Sauk and Foxes and on November 3, 1804, concluded a treaty with them by which they agreed to cede 50,000,000 acres of their land lying in the present states of Missouri, Illinois, and Wisconsin for a cancellation of their debts to a trader and annuities for an unspecified period. The prisoner was then released, but he was immediately shot down.

The only generous provision of this treaty was a section that permitted the Indians to occupy their land until it was needed for settlement and a promise to erect a trading house or factory within the ceded domain to put a stop to the impositions of private traders and to supply the Indians with goods at a more reasonable rate. At the same time the government secured the right to erect a military post at or near the mouth of the Wisconsin.

Upon their return to Saukenuk, the five head-

men reported shamefacedly the results of their mission, and Black Hawk, a chief of the Sauk, denounced their unauthorized action and the unfair treaty. This Treaty of 1804 at St. Louis marked the beginning of the long process by which the Indian title to the soil of the Upper Mississippi Valley was extinguished. Taking advantage of the five headmen may have seemed a good bargain at the time, but the results proved tragic and costly, culminating finally in the Black Hawk War.

Before the promise made in the Treaty of 1804 to build a trading post for the Sauk and Foxes was fulfilled, an exploratory expedition up the Mississippi was entrusted to Lieut. Zebulon M. Pike.

Pike was instructed by General James Wilkinson to undertake the exploration of the Mississippi River to its sources, noting the rivers, prairies, islands, mines, quarries, and timber, as well as Indian villages and settlements. Furthermore, he was instructed to select suitable locations for military posts, and to conciliate the Indians. Pike at this time was only twenty-six years of age, but his subsequent career justified his selection.

Late in the afternoon of August 9, 1805, Pike set sail from St. Louis with one sergeant, two corporals, and seventeen privates, on a keelboat, seventy feet long, provisioned for four months. Eight months and twenty-two days elapsed before the party returned to St. Louis on April 30, 1806.

Pike accomplished more than his orders speci-

fied. He recommended the location of forts at the present site of Burlington, on a high bluff below the present site of McGregor, still known as Pike's Hill or Pike's Peak, and on a bluff near the confluence of the Minnesota (St. Peters) River and the Mississippi. He brought back new and accurate information about the climate, soil, drainage, and timber of the Upper Mississippi region. Tables and charts prepared by him gave definite knowledge of the Indians — their tribes, numbers and characteristics. He visited the Sauk and Foxes in Iowa and Illinois and the Sioux and Chippewa in Minnesota. From the Sioux Indians he acquired 100,000 acres of land for the government, as he put it, "for a song." He warned British traders to desist from their practices of corrupting the Indians, and made an honest attempt to create a friendly attitude on their part toward their new "White Father" at Washington.

Not until two years after Lieutenant Pike returned from his voyage up the Mississippi did the government begin to erect a trading post for the Sauk and Fox Indians as was promised them in the Treaty of 1804 at St. Louis, and then it was an annex to a fort.

In the early fall of 1808, Lieutenant Alpha Kingsley with a company of the First United States Infantry was sent up the Mississippi from Fort Belle Fontaine, near St. Louis, to erect a fort and trading post near the Des Moines River.

From the first arrival of the troops, the Sauk and Foxes resented the presence of soldiers on their land. In vain Lieutenant Kingsley tried to allay their fears by telling them that the government planned to keep a few soldiers there as company for the traders. British traders, who saw in the activities of the Americans a threat to their trade monopoly, stirred up the hostility of the Indians which grew steadily as progress in building the trading post and fort continued. In the spring of 1809, a threatened attack on the fort was thwarted by Lieutenant Kingsley. In August of 1809, Captain Horatio Stark arrived with reinforcements and assumed command. Thereafter for two years affairs at Fort Madison ran their routine course without excitement. Then came the War of 1812, and during the summer of that year Lieutenant Thomas Hamilton assumed command.

The war went badly for the Americans in the Northwest; and with the capture of Mackinac and the shameful surrender of Detroit by General William Hull, the British and Indians were free to wreak their vengeance on Fort Madison, the sole remnant of American power in the Upper Mississippi Valley. Attacks on the Fort in the fall of 1812 led Lieutenant Hamilton to burn the factory outside the post as a precaution. Indian attacks continued, and in September, 1813, Hamilton and his men slipped away one night in boats for St. Louis after setting fire to Fort Madison.

## Fort Shelby and Fort McKay

After the return to St. Louis of Lieutenant Hamilton and his command from Fort Madison, the propriety of rebuilding the post was earnestly discussed, but a plan to do this was abandoned.

Meantime, Robert Dickson had become the most active and able British agent in recruiting Indian allies in the Upper Mississippi Valley. He made a flying visit to Prairie du Chien where he recruited some three hundred warriors — Menominee, Winnebago, and Sioux. Rumors that Americans were planning to ascend the Mississippi and occupy Prairie du Chien were as frequent and caused as much alarm among the inhabitants as did rumors at St. Louis that Dickson with his Indians might descend the Mississippi at any moment to attack the settlement. Indeed, what was to prevent him now that Fort Madison was abandoned? But Dickson had other plans. With his Indian allies he hastened away to Green Bay and Mackinac leaving a company of local militia under the command of Captain Francis Michael Dease to reassure the frightened inhabitants of Prairie du Chien.

The rumor that the Americans were coming up the Mississippi River was not an idle boast; on



May 1, 1813, some two hundred men in five barges, under the command of Governor William Clark, left St. Louis for Prairie du Chien. Nothing unusual happened until the flotilla reached the mouth of the Rock River. There some hostile Sauk, who opposed the progress of the expedition, were fired upon, some canoes were taken, and the frightened Indians sued for peace. When news of the approach of the Americans reached Prairie du Chien, the local militia, as well as the inhabitants, fled into the country. The Americans landed and took possession of the place without firing a shot. As soon as the troops had gone ashore, word was sent to the inhabitants to return to the village; and when the latter learned that they would not be molested, most of them came back to their homes.

Leaving Lieutenant Joseph Perkins in command of sixty regulars on shore and Captains John Sullivan and Yeizer in command of some one hundred and twenty volunteers on two of the largest armed boats of the flotilla, Governor Clark returned to his duties at St. Louis. The regulars, assisted by the volunteers, began to erect a stockade on a mound in lower Prairie du Chien, which they christened Fort Shelby in honor of Isaac Shelby, Governor of Kentucky. Late in June, Captain Sullivan with his company of militia and thirty-two men from the gunboat *Governor Clark* — their term of service of sixty days having expired — returned to St. Louis. He reported that Lieutenant

Perkins with the regulars occupied Fort Shelby which had been finished and armed with six cannon; and that Captain Yeizer, who commanded the *Governor Clark* on the river off Prairie du Chien, had his vessel fully manned and ready for service.

As soon as the British at Mackinac learned of the presence of Americans at Prairie du Chien immediate steps were taken to capture the place. Dickson was already at Mackinac with the three hundred natives he had previously recruited at Prairie du Chien. Half of these were assigned to the expedition outfitting to dislodge the Americans; two companies of volunteers were enrolled from Canadian *voyageurs* at Mackinac, dressed in British uniforms, and equipped with arms from the garrison storehouse. They were named "Michigan Fencibles" and placed under the command of Lieutenant Colonel William McKay. Sergeant James Keating of the Royal Artillery was assigned to accompany the motley army with a single three-pound gun.

This force consisting of seventy-five Michigan Fencibles in barges and one hundred thirty-six Indians in canoes left Mackinac on June 18, 1814. At Green Bay, another company called "Mississippi Volunteers" was enrolled bringing the white command up to some one hundred twenty men. Other Indians joined the force at Green Bay and at the Portage until the redskin contingent numbered somewhat over five hundred warriors.

The little army followed the Fox-Wisconsin waterway and arrived at Prairie du Chien at noon on July 17th. Colonel McKay found Fort Shelby, consisting of barracks fenced in by strong oak pickets with two substantial blockhouses on opposite corners, defended by six guns and supported by a gunboat well supplied with artillery. Although he had only a single three-pounder, McKay summoned Lieutenant Perkins to surrender within an hour or defend "to the last man." Perkins refused to surrender and the attack began. Sergeant Keating opened fire on the gunboat; and Captain Yeizer, fearing capture, cut his cable and escaped down the Mississippi leaving the fort to its fate.

On the next morning the attack on the fort continued — the bombardment by Sergeant Keating lasting all that day and the next. Throughout the attack the Indians were of little help. They fired a few useless shots from a distance, then ran off to pillage nearby farms and the village, killing cattle, stealing anything that was loose, and breaking up articles that could not be carried off.

In the evening of the third day, as Colonel McKay prepared a new assault on the fort, Lieutenant Perkins offered to surrender if the British commander would protect his officers and men from the Indians. Colonel McKay agreed to the surrender terms; and the next morning the American garrison marched out of Fort Shelby turning

over their arms and the contents of the Fort. The British took possession of the post and renamed it Fort McKay in honor of their commander. The prisoners were paroled and sent to St. Louis by boat.

Before the news of the disaster at Prairie du Chien had reached St. Louis, Governor Benjamin Howard sent a force of forty-two regulars and sixty-five rangers under the command of Lieutenant John Campbell up the Mississippi in July to replace the volunteers at Fort Shelby. The expedition, consisting of three fortified keelboats and two supply boats, reached Rock Island without mishap. The next day a heavy gale made progress upstream difficult and Lieutenant Campbell's boat in the rear was forced into shallow water alongside an island with a high grass covered bank and a fringe of willows along the shore. Here a horde of Sauk Indians began a savage attack on Campbell's troops. Lieutenants Jonathan Riggs and Stephen Rector turned their boats downstream to assist their beleaguered and wounded commander. Rector with a boatload of wounded, including Lieutenant Campbell, dropped downstream and headed for St. Louis.

Captain Yeizer, coming downstream from his defeat at Prairie du Chien, arrived at the scene of the battle in time to assist Lieutenant Riggs and to help salvage the two supply boats. Together they returned to St. Louis. Sixteen Americans had been

killed and twenty wounded in this engagement, and to this day the site has been known as Campbell's Island.

With the return of the ill-fated Campbell's expedition, the authorities at St. Louis determined to send a formidable force upstream to chastise the Indians at Rock Island. Early in August Major Zachary Taylor was dispatched for this purpose with three hundred and thirty-four officers and men in several fortified boats. This expedition reached the mouth of the Rock River without any hostile demonstrations by the Indians.

Meantime, Captain Thomas G. Anderson at Prairie du Chien, who had succeeded Colonel McKay as commander of the fort when the latter returned to Mackinac, responded to requests for help by sending Lieutenant Duncan Graham with thirty soldiers and three small guns to assist the Sauk Indians. Over a hundred Winnebago and Sioux Indians also joined their friends at Rock Island. Consequently when Major Taylor arrived at this place a force of from 1,000 to 1,500 warriors supported by Graham's soldiers was ready and eager to attack the Americans.

The subsequent engagement took place on the Iowa side of the Mississippi at Credit Island, now a park in the city of Davenport. About four o'clock in the afternoon of September 5, the fleet was forced to anchor alongside a small island just above Credit Island; and the Indians could be seen

on both sides of the river. Not a gun was fired during the stormy night that followed; but, as soon as it grew light, Major Taylor formed his troops for action. The British opened fire from Credit Island with their three-pounder manned by Sergeant Keating. Taylor was compelled to drop downstream. He had eleven men badly wounded; and in conference with his officers it was decided that their force was inadequate to cope with the enemy. The departure of the Americans for St. Louis left the British in undisputed possession of the Upper Mississippi area.

The same Sergeant Keating, who with a single three-pounder had been an important factor in the capture of Fort Shelby, was again largely responsible for another American defeat. He was promoted to a lieutenancy for his services and Lieutenant Graham became a captain.

The expedition of Major Zachary Taylor was the last thrust of the Americans toward Prairie du Chien during the war. Captain Anderson continued in command of Fort McKay until the autumn of 1814 when he was replaced by Captain A. H. Bulger. From his arrival until the end of the war, Captain Bulger found his task of commanding the post a difficult one aggravated by disputes with Robert Dickson, the trader, who had returned to Prairie du Chien. Bulger was planning to carry the war to St. Louis when he received word that peace had been restored between the United

States and Great Britain by the Treaty of Ghent on December 24, 1814.

On May 22, 1815, two days after he received official word of the treaty, Captain Bulger assembled the Indians in a general council and informed them of the situation. His fears of an uprising were groundless as the chiefs accepted the news stoically, and at the conclusion of the council smoked the pipe of peace. The firing of a royal salute at the fort concluded the ceremony. Two days later Captain Bulger and his command evacuated Fort McKay taking with them the artillery and other public stores, and leaving the fort itself in ashes. British rule in the Upper Mississippi Valley was ended.

## The First Fort Crawford

When the news of the treaty of peace between Great Britain and the United States reached the Indians of the Upper Northwest they received it in a spirit of despair. They felt that they had been deserted. However, United States officials agreed to restore to the Indians all the rights and possessions which they enjoyed in 1811. The influence of British traders over the Indians was still strong and the United States entered upon a definite policy of control of this region to be accomplished by means of fur trading factories, Indian agencies, and military posts established at strategic locations.

Governor Lewis Cass of Michigan Territory recommended the establishment of military posts at Green Bay, Chicago, and at the Grand Portage. Before the end of the summer of 1815, the government had decided not only to establish garrisons at Chicago (Fort Dearborn) and Green Bay (Fort Howard), but also to reoccupy Prairie du Chien (Fort Crawford), to erect a new fort at or near the Falls of St. Anthony (Fort Snelling), another at Rock Island in the heart of the Sauk and Fox country (Fort Armstrong), and one opposite the mouth of the Des Moines River (Fort



Edwards) to protect the line of communication between St. Louis and the Upper Mississippi posts. Immediate steps were taken to put this plan into effect.

In April, 1816, Brevet Brigadier General Thomas A. Smith, late colonel of the Rifle Regiment, was sent upstream from St. Louis to get the program started. He selected the site for Fort Armstrong on Rock Island, then proceeded to Prairie du Chien. On July 3, 1816, workmen and soldiers under the supervision of Colonel William Southerland Hamilton began the construction of the new post at Prairie du Chien, named Fort Crawford in honor of the Secretary of War — William H. Crawford of Georgia. Timber for the new fort and stone for the magazine could be procured only at a distance of from two to five miles from Prairie du Chien and were transported to the site of the garrison by boats. The country where the timber was cut and stone quarried was so broken and hilly that teams could not be employed even to convey these articles to the boats — all this had to be done by manual labor. Even with these disadvantages, work on the buildings progressed at a satisfactory rate.

General Smith soon was succeeded by Captain Willoughby Morgan, who was destined to spend a large part of his subsequent career at this and other posts on the Mississippi River frontier. Morgan remained at Fort Crawford on this occa-

sion only until the spring of 1817; but at different periods during the next fifteen years, he served as commandant of the post. Much of his time was occupied with problems involved in building the fort.

In the spring of 1817 Lieutenant Colonel Talbot Chambers arrived from Fort Howard at Green Bay, and assumed command of Fort Crawford. Captain Morgan moved down the Mississippi to command Fort Armstrong on Rock Island. As Chambers had been in charge of the erection of Fort Howard during his sojourn at Green Bay, he was familiar with the problems he had to face in completing the construction of Fort Crawford.

Although Chambers was an able officer, he was inclined to be arbitrary and tyrannical. Shortly after his arrival he ordered certain houses in front of and near the post to be taken down by their owners and removed to the lower end of the village. Some inhabitants were seized for alleged violations of military orders and tried before a court martial, and he arrested a few fur traders for license irregularities.

The first returns of Fort Crawford, dated February, 1817, in the files of the War Department at Washington, D. C., show that the garrison at that time consisted of a total of 265 officers and men, 159 of whom belonged to the Rifle Regiment, and 106 to the Third Infantry. In addition to the privates, the number included four clerks, nine musi-

cians, fifteen corporals, fifteen sergeants, one sergeant major, two second lieutenants, one first lieutenant, three captains, one major, and Lieutenant Colonel Chambers.

The fort itself was a square of three hundred and forty feet on each side, constructed entirely of wood except the magazine which was of stone. The quarters, storehouses, and other buildings were ranged along the sides of the square, their rear walls some twenty feet high constituting the faces of the work, with loopholes at intervals of six feet. These buildings were covered with rough shingled shed roofs sloping inward. At both the southeast and northwest corners of the post two-story blockhouses with cupolas flanked the works, the upper story of each placed diagonally upon the lower. These blockhouses were fortified with plank upon their sides, and were furnished with loopholes for muskets and apertures for field pieces. Palisade work at the two corners not occupied by blockhouses was constructed of sturdy squared oak pickets some twenty feet high. The rooms were in general about nineteen feet square floored with oak plank; and all designated as quarters had a door and window facing the interior court. The magazine, twelve by twenty-four feet in the clear, was constructed with stone walls four feet thick, and it had an arched roof covered with strong timber. The buildings for the most part were made with squared timbers with crevices in the walls

plastered with lime mortar, and they afforded accommodations for approximately five companies.

In the early summer of 1817, Major Stephen H. Long, a topographical engineer in the United States Army, made a military journey in a six-oared skiff up the Mississippi to the Falls of St. Anthony and return. He inspected Fort Crawford enroute and took a dim view of the site selected for it. He said that the site was unhealthful being surrounded by marshes and stagnant water, that it had no complete command of the river due to a large island in front of it and other islands nearby, that the heights a mile or so at the rear overlooked the garrison, and that troops could be conducted up a valley south and east of the fort completely under cover. Long also mentioned that the site of the fort had been repeatedly subject to inundation which could always be expected when excessive floods prevailed in the river. "Indeed," he concluded, "the military features of the place" are "faint and obscure."

Indians were frequent visitors at the Prairie during the fall and winter of 1817-1818, but no hostile demonstration occurred. Stealing horses and shooting hogs were their principal offenses, and threats to confine them in the fort proved to be a deterring factor. An exciting event at the post in February, 1818, was a duel fought between Benjamin O'Fallon, late of the army but more recently an employee of the Indian agency, and

Lieutenant William G. Shade of the garrison. Shade received the second shot in his underjaw which ended the affair. Late in April a large delegation of Menominee Indians held a dance and a powwow at Prairie du Chien. Indian orators gave long discourses with great vehemence. Visiting Winnebago Indians joined in ball games with the Menominee displaying skill in catching and hurling the ball and minding neither broken bones nor bruises.

In the spring, fur traders brought in the season's catch to the trading post at Prairie du Chien, and among them was the renowned Robert Dickson. Lord Selkirk, himself, stopped at Fort Crawford enroute from his Red River Colony in Canada to Washington, D. C., that spring.

In June, 1818, Lieutenant L. Hickman arrived from St. Louis to assume command at Fort Crawford, and Colonel Chambers left immediately for St. Louis to take command of Fort Belle Fontaine.

During June, 1818, boats from St. Louis began to arrive at the Prairie with provisions, whisky, and supplies of all kinds — a welcome sight both to the garrison and to traders. Many boats, too, loaded with furs left Prairie du Chien for Mackinac and St. Louis. Near the end of the month a fleet of Winnebago canoes arrived, and the Indians erected their teepees on the island opposite the fort. When the garrison was mustered in the last day of June, the troops executed various ma-

neuers to show their military prowess while Winnebago braves, naked except for a breech clout, and painted all colors, danced through the streets of the village. On the nation's birthday, July 4th, the troops at the post fired a cannon at daybreak; and later they marched out of the fort and fired a salute by platoons. All this noise and demonstration of power greatly impressed the Indians.

Major Willoughby Morgan returned to command Fort Crawford on August 17, 1818. In the summer of 1819 the post was taxed to its capacity by the arrival of Lieutenant Colonel Henry Leavenworth with the Fifth Infantry from Detroit. Leavenworth had been ordered to proceed with his command by the Great Lakes, Fox-Wisconsin route to Prairie du Chien. Thence part of his troops would be sent down the Mississippi to garrison Fort Armstrong, part would be left at Fort Crawford, while Leavenworth with the rest of his command would proceed up the Mississippi to establish a new post at the mouth of the St. Peter's or Minnesota River.

Colonel Leavenworth and his troops remained at Fort Crawford for more than a month awaiting supplies, ordnance, ammunition, and recruits from St. Louis. Meantime, he was joined by Major Thomas Forsyth, an experienced Indian agent, with some two thousand dollars worth of goods to pay the Sioux for tracts of land ceded by them to Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike fourteen years earlier.

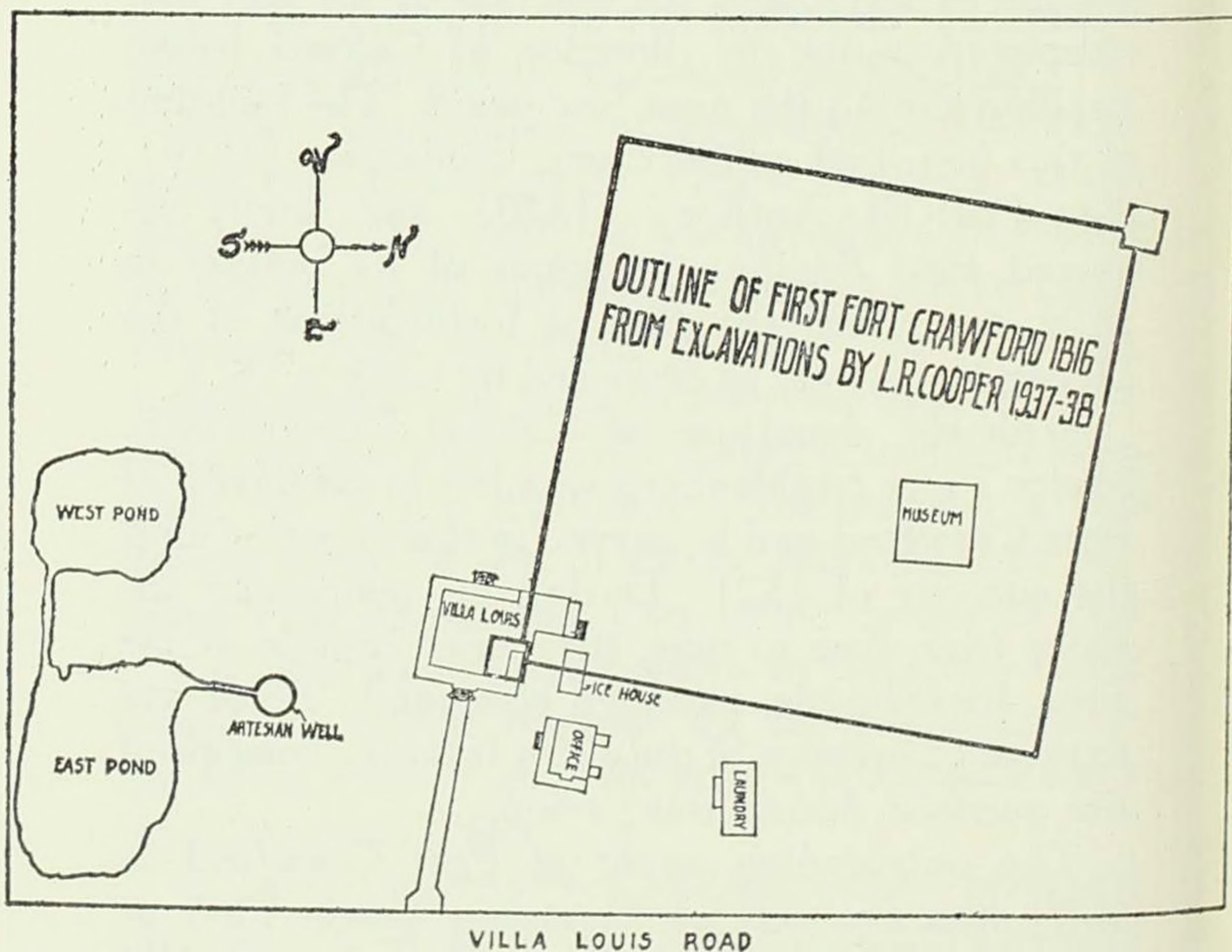
As soon as the supplies arrived from St. Louis, Colonel Leavenworth and Major Forsyth embarked on their journey upstream.

Preparations for the establishment of a military post at the mouth of the Minnesota River were begun by Colonel Leavenworth upon his arrival in the fall of 1819, and the erection of the fort was completed under the direction of Colonel Josiah Snelling during the next few years. The building of this fort, first called Camp Coldwater (1819); then Fort St. Anthony (1820); and finally renamed Fort Snelling in honor of its builder in 1824, completed the plan of fortifications of the Upper Northwest as proposed by Cass in 1815.

With the departure of Colonel Leavenworth, Major Peter Muhlenberg was left in command of Fort Crawford and he served in this capacity until the summer of 1821. During his temporary absence from time to time, the senior captain at the Fort, John Fowle, assumed command. From one to three companies of the Fifth Infantry comprised the garrison during this period.

The outstanding event at Fort Crawford in 1820 was the visit of Governor Lewis Cass of Michigan Territory. Cass and his party had sought the source of the Mississippi, placing it erroneously in Cass Lake. The expedition which had set out from Detroit, thirty-eight in number, on May 24, 1820, arrived at Fort Crawford on August 5th. Henry Schoolcraft, who accompanied

the party as mineralogist, described Fort Crawford as having "a very neat and imposing appearance." The garrison consisted of ninety-six men under the command of Captain Fowle who received the distinguished visitors courteously and ordered a salute fired in honor of Governor Cass.



The year 1821 passed quietly at Fort Crawford, with Major Muhlenberg in command from January to June inclusive, and Captain Fowle from July to December. In April, 1822, Morgan, now a lieutenant colonel, again took over command of the



post. He complained to Major General Edmund P. Gaines, commanding officer of the department, about his difficulties in trying to enforce the rules against bringing liquor into the Indian country.

During the early summer of 1822, a flood in the Mississippi caused the river to cover the parade ground to a depth of three to four feet. The water entered the officers' and soldiers' quarters and compelled them to encamp for about a month on the neighboring heights. At the end of that time they returned to the fort and to the unpleasant task of making the quarters habitable again.

In the summer of 1823, the garrison at Fort Crawford again entertained Major Stephen H. Long who had first visited the post in 1817. Long was in command of a governmental expedition to explore the region about the head of Lake Superior. One member of the party described Fort Crawford as "the rudest and least comfortable we have seen." Its site, he said, was low and unpleasant, and was injudicious not only because of the danger of such floods as occurred the previous summer but also because it commanded neither the Mississippi nor the Wisconsin. Major Long and his party soon departed for Fort Snelling with an escort from Fort Crawford. The narrator of the expedition thought that Fort Crawford, doubtless, would soon be abandoned. Little did he foresee impending events.

## Indian Affairs and Treaties

Prior to 1871 the United States Government negotiated treaties with the Indians, and to impress the Indians with the importance of the agreements, proclaimed these treaties with solemn pomp and ceremony. This method of dealing with the Indians as independent nations was continued until the act of March 1, 1871.

It was not an easy affair to negotiate a treaty, for a satisfactory time and place had to be selected, hundreds of Indians had to be fed while they were away from home, and they had to be protected from lurking enemies. In treaty making with the Indians of the Upper Mississippi Valley the military posts played an important part.

### *The Great Council of 1825*

The first important treaty negotiated with the tribes of the Upper Northwest after the establishment of military posts was the Great Council of 1825 at Prairie du Chien. This was an earnest effort on the part of the government to induce the Indians of the Upper Mississippi Valley to bury the tomahawk and to agree to confine their excursions in search of game within specified boundaries. The government desired especially to put an end to the bloody clashes between the Sioux and

the confederated Sauk and Fox in the Iowa country and the equally sanguinary Sioux-Chippewa feuds to the north.

In many respects the Great Council of 1825 was one of the most imposing ever held with the red men. To this meeting there came not only the chiefs, principal men, and warriors of the tribes, but their families as well. And many a town in Iowa, as well as in other states of the Upper Mississippi Valley, bears the name of some Indian who affixed his mark to the Treaty of 1825 — Decorah, Tama, Keokuk, and Mahaska for example.

From the region about Fort Snelling came Indian Agent Lawrence Taliaferro with almost four hundred Sioux and Chippewa. From distant Sault Ste. Marie, by way of Lake Michigan and the Fox-Wisconsin waterway, the scholarly Henry Schoolcraft brought one hundred and fifty Chippewa. Nicholas Boilvin, Indian agent at Prairie du Chien, had gathered hundreds of Winnebago from the Wisconsin country. And from Rock Island came Thomas Forsyth — agent of the Sauk and Foxes. Major Thomas Biddle came from St. Louis to act as secretary of the conference; and the arrival of General William Clark, Superintendent of Indian Affairs with headquarters at St. Louis, and Governor Lewis Cass of Michigan Territory, United States Commissioners for the Council, gave added distinction to the assemblage.

Captain R. A. McCabe, then in command at Fort Crawford, and nearly a hundred soldiers of the Fifth Infantry represented the army at this event.

A keelboat containing provisions and presents for the Indians left St. Louis on June 30, 1825, bound upstream for the conference. It contained rations valued at \$6,750 for an estimated crowd of two thousand Indians. In addition, there were presents of tobacco, salt, sugar, guns, powder, lead, and liquor to the amount of \$2,000. Clark had further estimated that the pay of interpreters and other helpers would be \$750, transportation costs \$400, and subsistence for hired help \$500 — a total of \$10,400.

Prairie du Chien was agog with excitement. Taliaferro's delegation had stopped at the Painted Rock above the Prairie and had prepared for an impressive arrival. Their boats, arranged in columns, swept down the river with flags flying, drums beating, and guns firing, and stopped at the Fort Crawford levee in an imposing array. Soon high pointed tents covered with buffalo skins dotted the prairie for miles above and below the village. Tall and warlike Chippewas and Winnebagoes from Lake Superior and the St. Croix Valley jostled Menominee, Potawatomi, and Ottawa Indians from Lake Michigan and Green Bay.

The Sioux Indians were a picturesque group. They carried war clubs and lances decorated with almost every imaginable device of paint. Wanita,

a Yankton chief, wore a magnificent buffalo robe decorated with porcupine quills and sweet grass.

The Sauk and Fox and the Ioways were the last to arrive. On the fourth of August they were sighted approaching in a flotilla of seventy canoes. They had stopped at an island downstream to array themselves in their finery; and in compact formation, singing their war songs, they swept up the river past the village and back again. As the prairie was already filled with the teepees of earlier arrivals, these tribes encamped on the large island in midstream and on the opposite shore.

They came to the treaty ground armed and dressed as a war party. Many of the warriors had a long tuft of red horse hair tied at their elbows, and wore a necklace of grizzly bear claws. Their head-dress consisted of red dyed horsehair tied in such a way as to present the appearance of the decoration on a Roman helmet. Except for this scalp lock their heads were shaved and painted. They were practically naked. Some carried long iron-shod lances; others were armed with clubs, guns, and knives. They looked the very spirit of defiance. Keokuk, their leader, stood as a prince "majestic and frowning."

At last all was ready for the council. A bower of trees with a raised platform for the commissioners had been erected near Fort Crawford for the assemblage. At ten o'clock on the morning of August 5th, the firing of a gun at the fort summoned

the braves to the council. The commissioners and their party took their places on the raised platform. In a semi-circle in front of them sat the gay clad chiefs and principal men of the tribes, back of them the braves, and on the outside fringe of the great concourse were the squaws and children. On long benches on one side of the Indians sat the soldiers from the fort, resplendent in their high bell crowned "tar bucket" hats with white pompons, tight fitting blue jackets with white crossed breast belts, and white trousers. Behind them sat the wives of the officers and other ladies of Prairie du Chien. Back of the assemblage loomed Fort Crawford with its loop-holed walls and block-houses. It was a picture for an artist, and fortunately an artist — James O. Lewis — was present to catch and preserve the details of the scene.

General Clark opened the conference. "Friends and children," he said, "we have been directed by your Great Father, *your* President of the United States, to meet you here in council at this time, and we are rejoiced that the Great Spirit has enabled you all to arrive here in peace and safety. He has given us a clear day and we hope he has opened your ears and will prepare your heart for the good work before us." He told them that their Great Father did not ask for any of their land, but that he wanted them to live in peace as brothers of one great family. He said that boundaries for their hunting grounds should be established. He con-

cluded by saying, "Children," you can "take time to consider these subjects and when you are prepared to answer we shall be ready to hear you." Then the pipe of peace was smoked and the ashes thrown into the council fire. The council then adjourned until the next morning. Rations of beef, bread, corn, salt, sugar, and liquor were distributed, which the Indians consumed voraciously.

The next morning the council reassembled, and the chiefs gave their replies. One Fox chief said, "My Fathers, I am glad to see all my relations assembled together. I was glad to hear what you said yesterday; how could it be otherwise when what you said were my own thoughts."

Proud Keokuk declared, "My great wish is accomplished in meeting you all together." And he added that the idea of establishing boundaries was agreeable to his people.

Other chiefs disagreed. One said, "I wish to live in peace. But in running marks around our country or in giving it to our enemies it may make new disturbances and breed wars."

Governor Cass replied, "We tell you again your Great Father does not want your land. He wants to establish boundaries and peace among you." He said that he had no disposition to hurry them but that "no more whisky will be issued until the business of this council is finished — at the conclusion of the business a great feast will be given you all."

The chiefs argued for days about the boundaries of their land; but at last all the various disputes seemed to be adjusted, and on August 19, 1825, the celebrated treaty embodying these agreements was signed by all, the wampum belt was passed, and the calumet was smoked as a solemn pledge that the war tomahawk was buried "never to be raised again as long as the trees grow, or the waters of the river continue to run."

On the next day copies of the treaty of peace were delivered to each band of Indians. Again the pipe of peace was passed, presents were exchanged, and a great feast concluded the ceremony. However, the small amount of liquor which had been given to the Indians during the meeting led to much grumbling on their part.

Tribe by tribe the Indians departed. Cass and Clark with their assistants took their boats for home, and the soldiers of Fort Crawford returned to the routine of garrison duty. The Great Council of 1825 at Prairie du Chien was ended.

#### *The Winnebago Outbreak*

In the spring of 1826 another flood of the Mississippi occurred, and the water at Prairie du Chien, it is said, rose twenty-six feet above low water mark. Again Fort Crawford was flooded and the soldiers were forced to abandon the post and encamp on higher ground east of the slough for almost a month.

An inspection report of Fort Crawford early in



August, 1826, revealed the condition of the post two months before its temporary abandonment. At that time the garrison consisted of Companies G and K of the Fifth Infantry commanded by Captains Robert McCabe and George Bender respectively. Colonel Willoughby Morgan was again the commanding officer of the post. The appearance of troops under arms was "pretty good," and the discipline of the troops appeared "sufficiently rigid and correct." The quarters and hospital building were still in a bad state after the flood, and leaking roofs made satisfactory use of the storerooms and commissary department difficult. It appeared to the inspector that a much longer occupancy of Fort Crawford was doubtful; but, should the garrison be continued there because of the threatening attitude of the Winnebago, "a new work must be erected for the present one is in ruins."

This part of the report was almost a prophecy. Within two months definite orders had been received for the abandonment of the post. In less than a year, however, the Winnebago outbreak necessitated the reoccupation of the fort, and within three years work was begun on a new and larger Fort Crawford located on a better site.

Although no serious disturbance had occurred in the Upper Mississippi region since the establishment of Fort Edwards, Fort Armstrong, Fort Crawford, and Fort Snelling along the Missis-

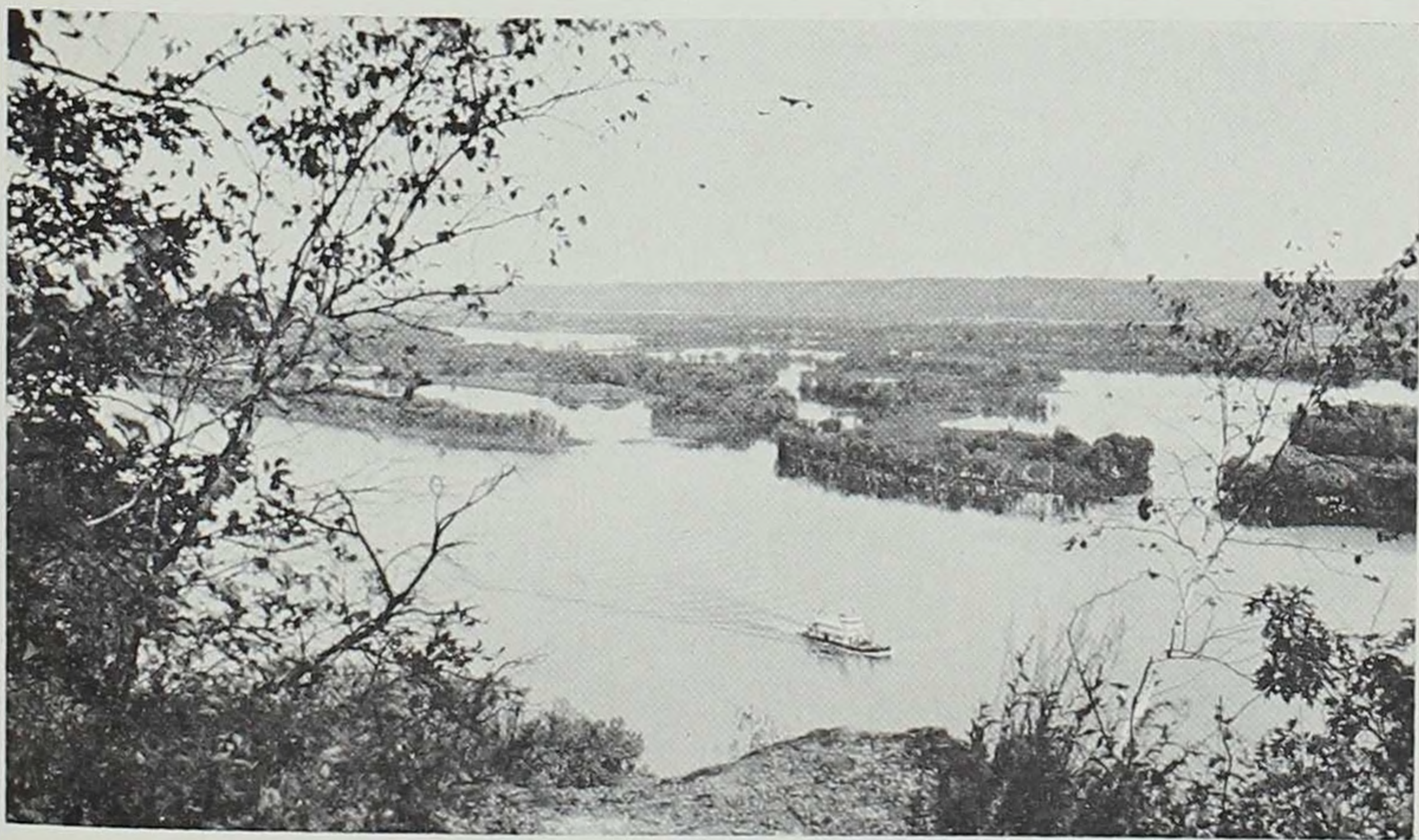
Mississippi River frontier, the growing encroachment of the whites in the lead region around Galena aroused the hostility of the Winnebago. In March, 1826, one of the inhabitants of the Prairie, Methode by name, accompanied by his wife and children, went up Yellow or Painted Rock Creek, some twelve miles distant on the Iowa side of the Mississippi, to make maple sugar. When the sugar making season was over and Methode had not returned, a party of his friends went to look for him. His dog was first found riddled with bullets but holding in his jaws a piece of scarlet cloth, apparently torn from an Indian legging. The camp had been consumed by fire, and the bodies of the Methode family were found burned to a crisp. It was generally thought that a party of Winnebago Indians had murdered them and burnt their bodies.

Reports of the threatening attitude of the Winnebago in the summer of 1826 led Colonel Snelling to reinforce the garrison at Fort Crawford. Leaving Fort Snelling on August 18th, Captain D. Wilcox moved down the river with Companies A, B, and I of the Fifth Infantry. The August returns from Fort Crawford revealed the presence of one hundred and seventy-six officers and men, the largest force that had been quartered at the Prairie in years.

As the recent inspection indicated, however, the fort was unfit for occupancy without extensive repairs; and, notwithstanding the fact that the Win-

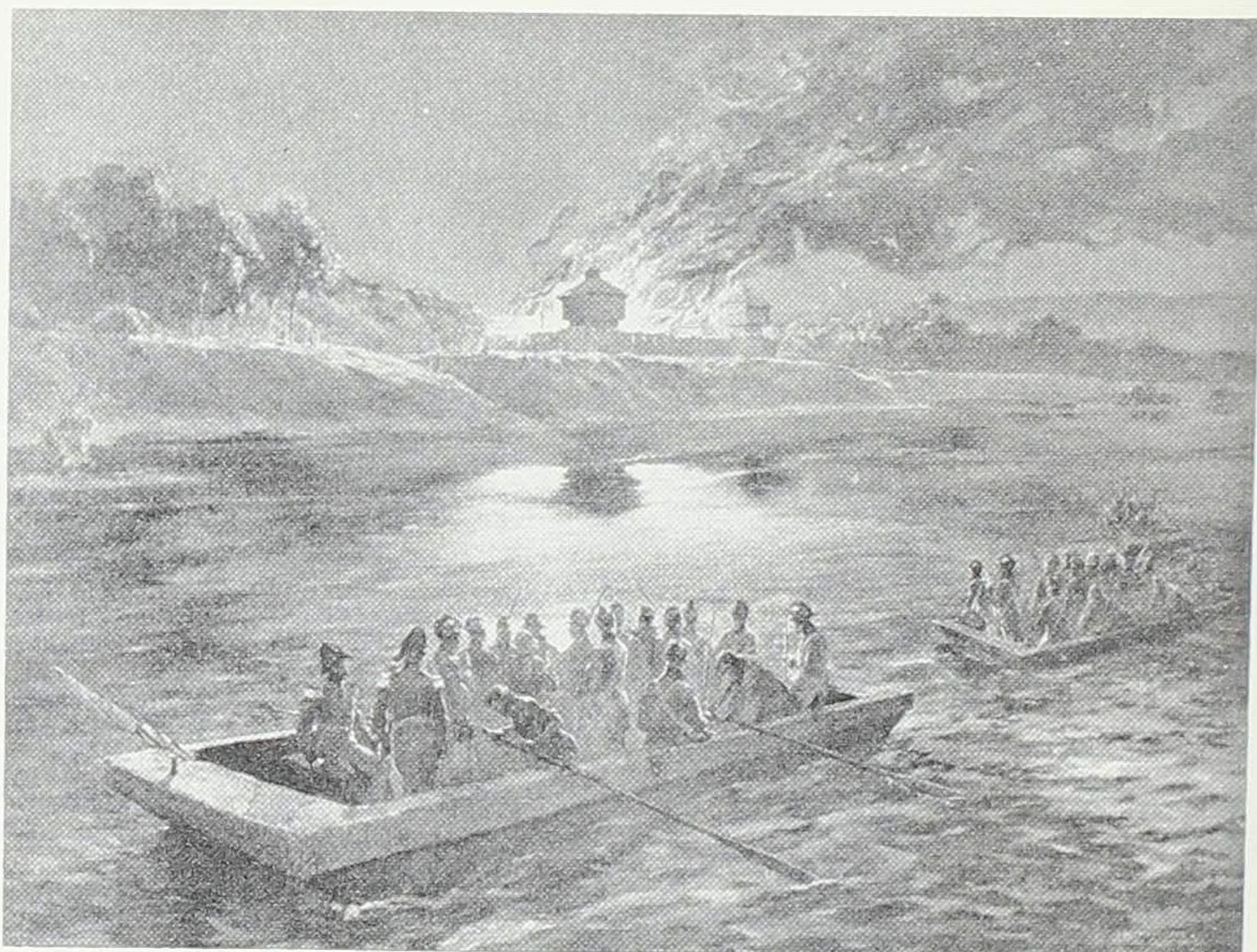


Diorama — Prehistoric Indian Village on Island near Site of Prairie du Chien



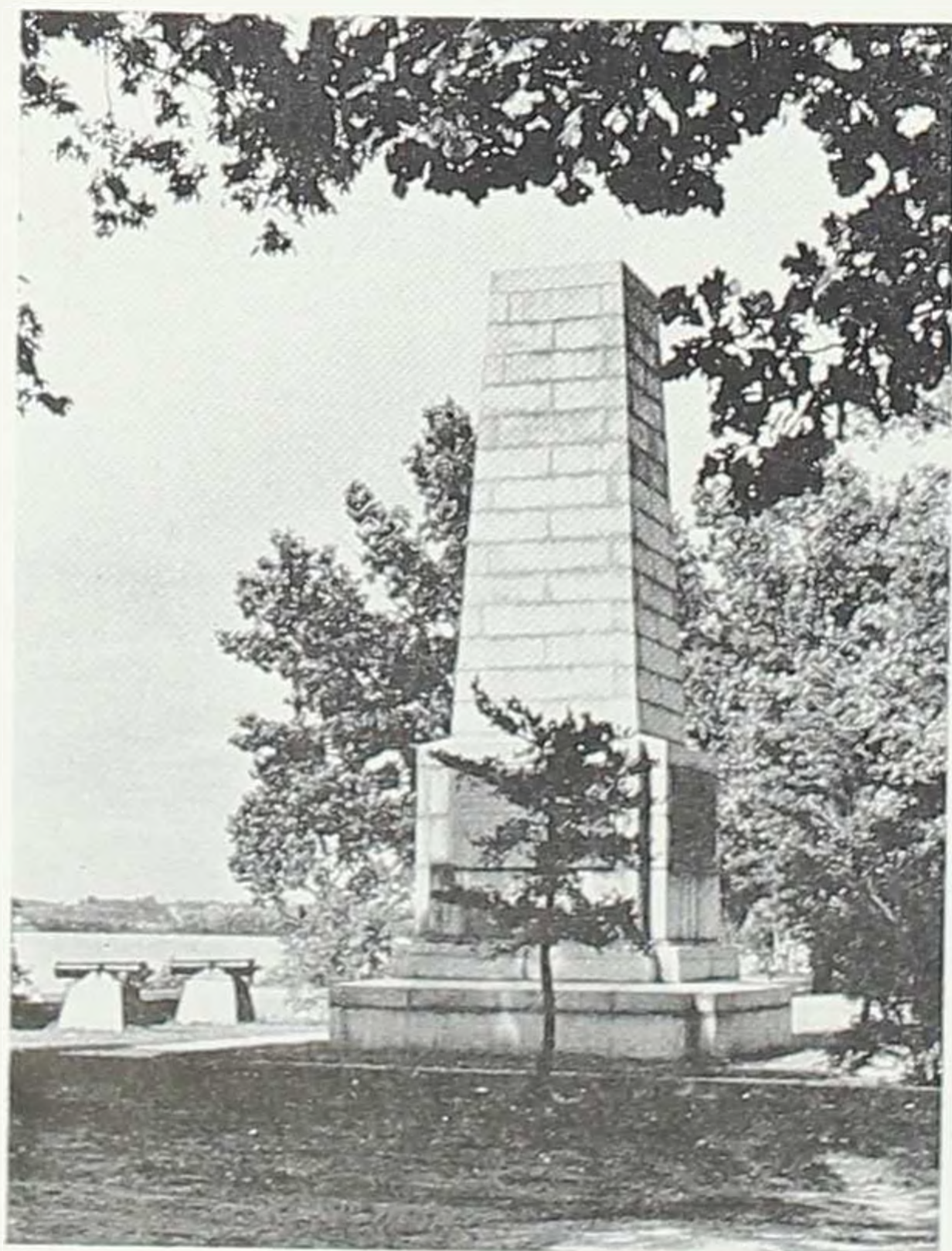
Mississippi River and Prairie du Chien Area from Pike's Peak State Park

DRAMATIC EPISODES ON IOWA FRONTIER

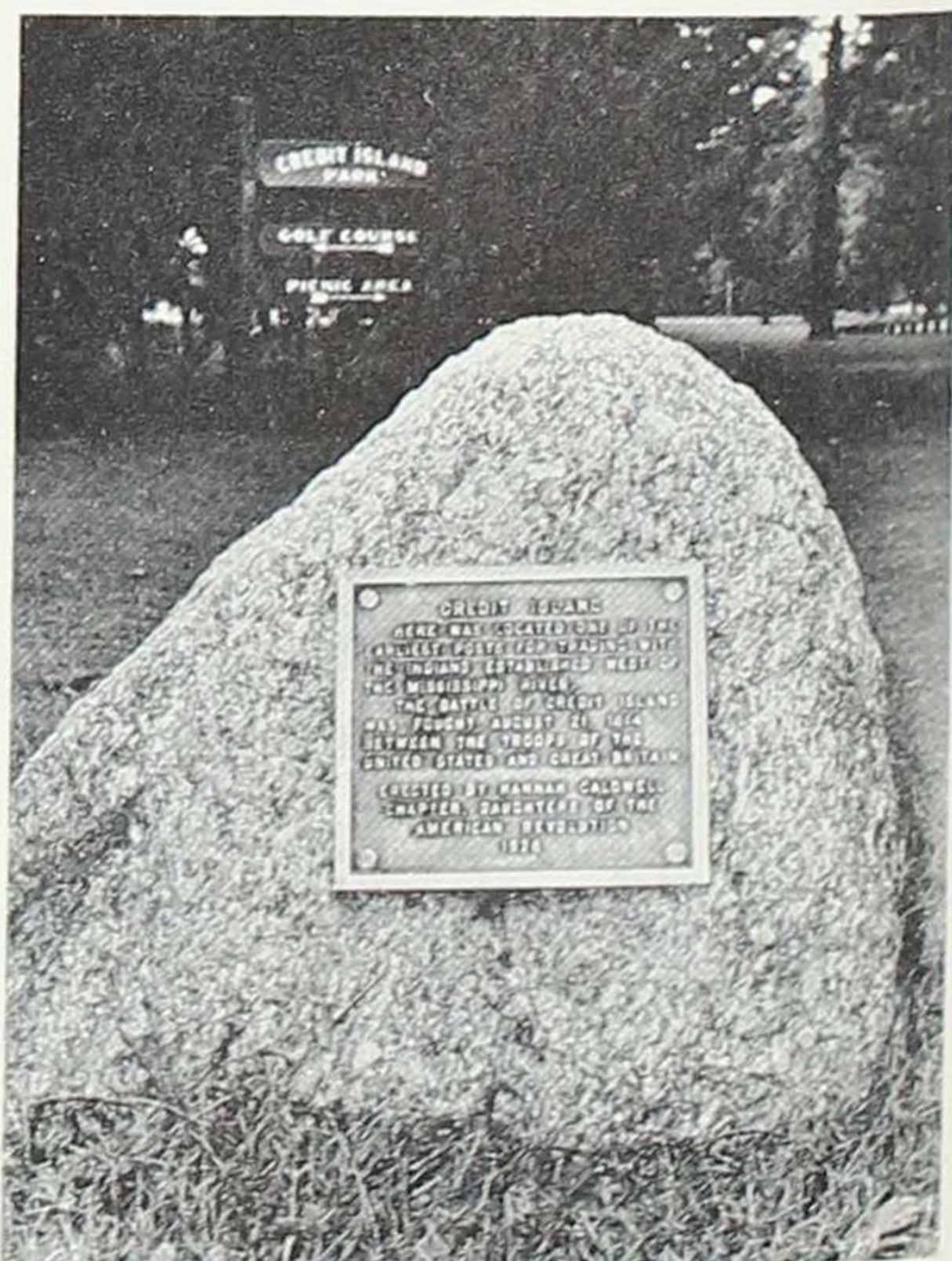


*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, March 23, 1902

Burning and Evacuation of Fort Madison in 1813



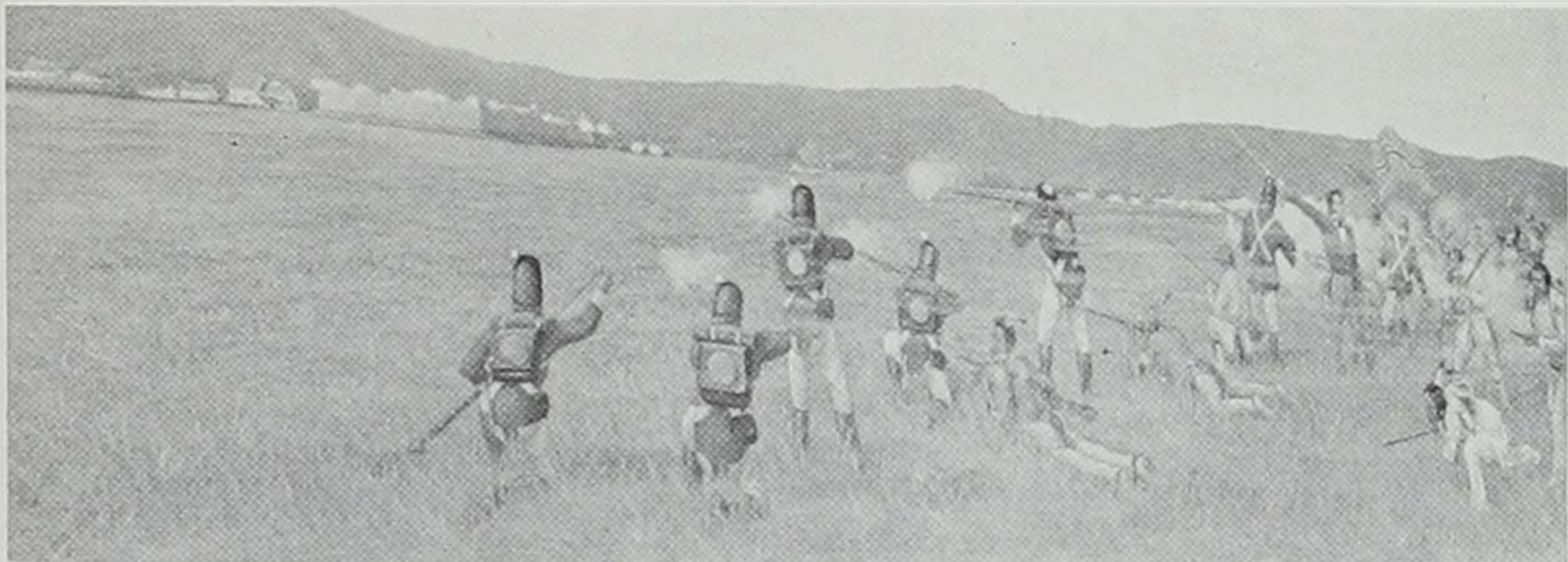
Marker Battle of Campbell's Island,  
July 19, 1814



*Photos Davenport Democrat*

Marker Battle of Credit Island,  
September 5, 1814

DURING THE WAR OF 1812

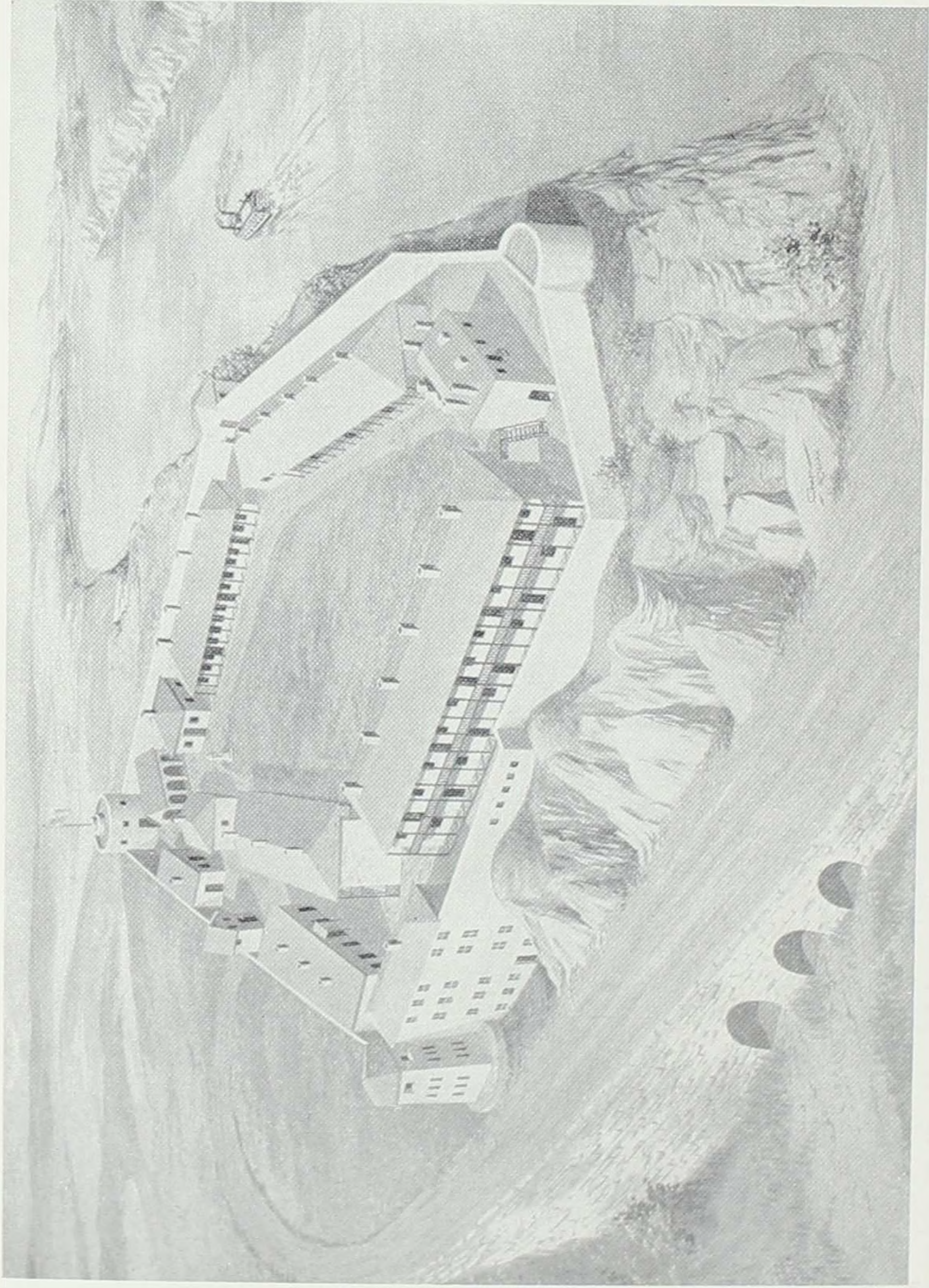


Mural — British and Indians Attack Fort Shelby, July 17, 1814



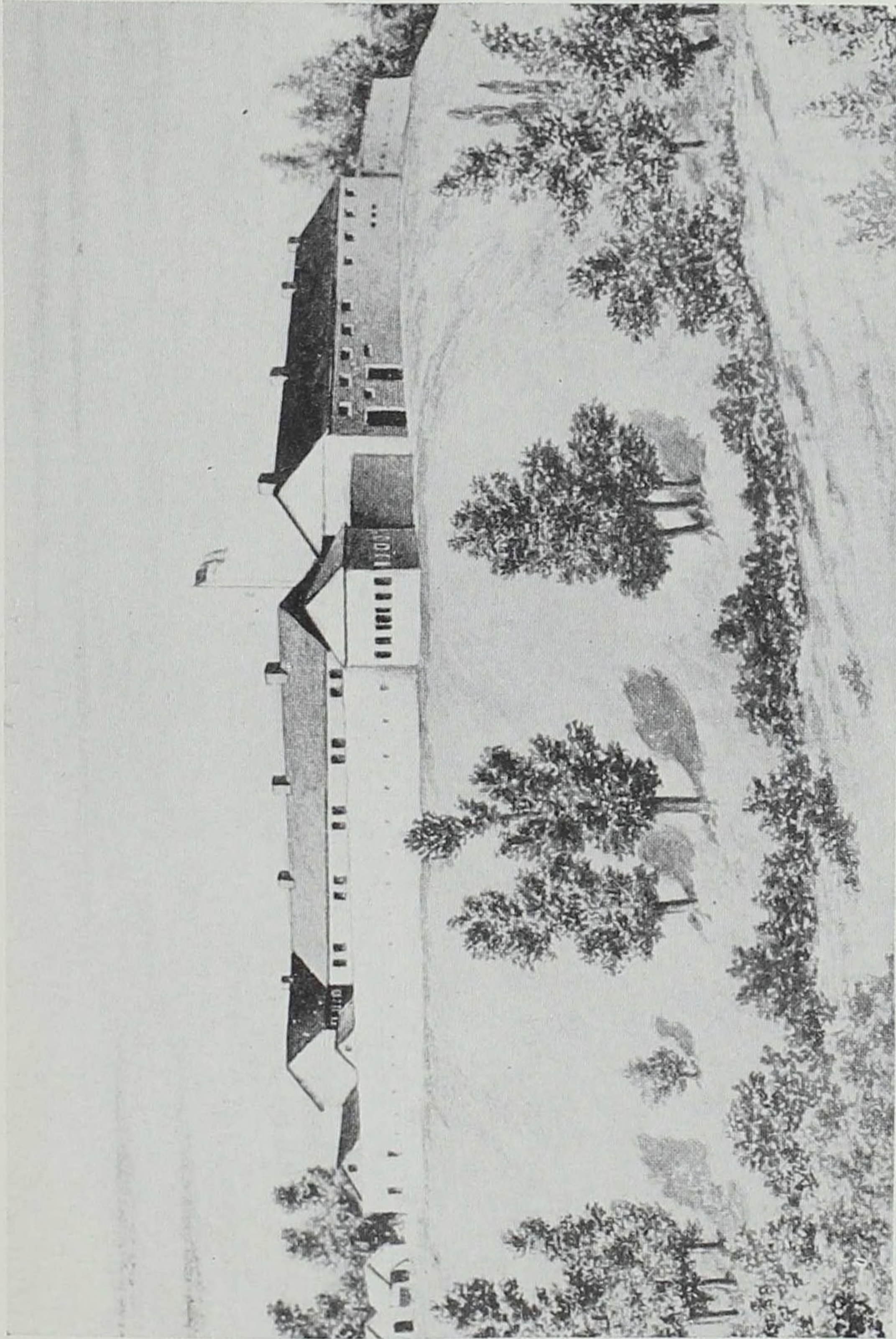
Photo *Davenport Democrat*

Fort Armstrong Replica Blockhouse on West End of Rock Island. Erected 1816.  
Named for Secretary of War John Armstrong.

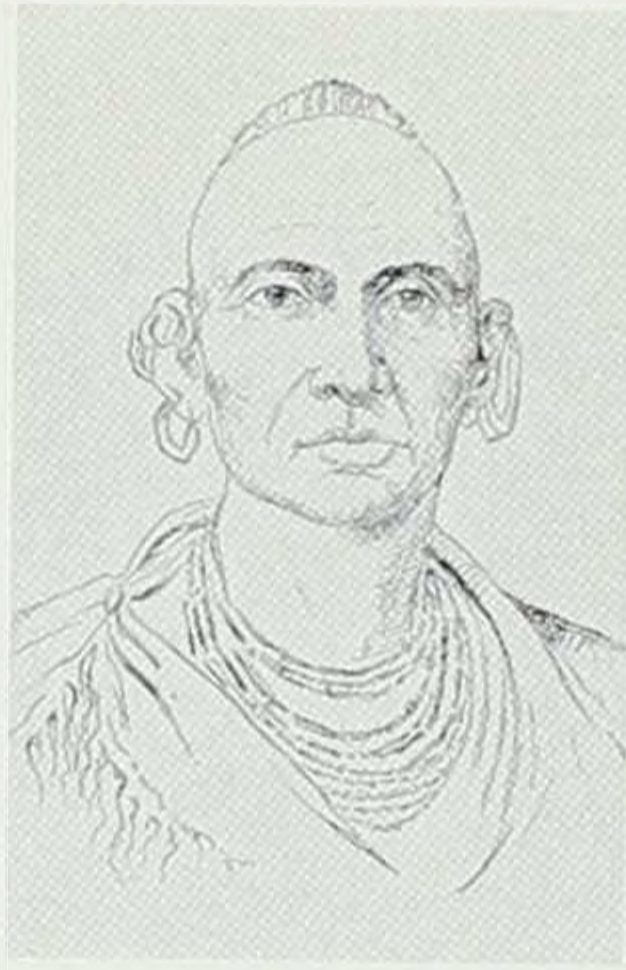


Fort Snelling at Junction of Minnesota (St. Peters) River and the Mississippi. Erected 1819. Named for Col. Josiah Snelling. From a Watercolor and Tempera by Chester Kozlak.

Courtesy Minnesota Historical Society



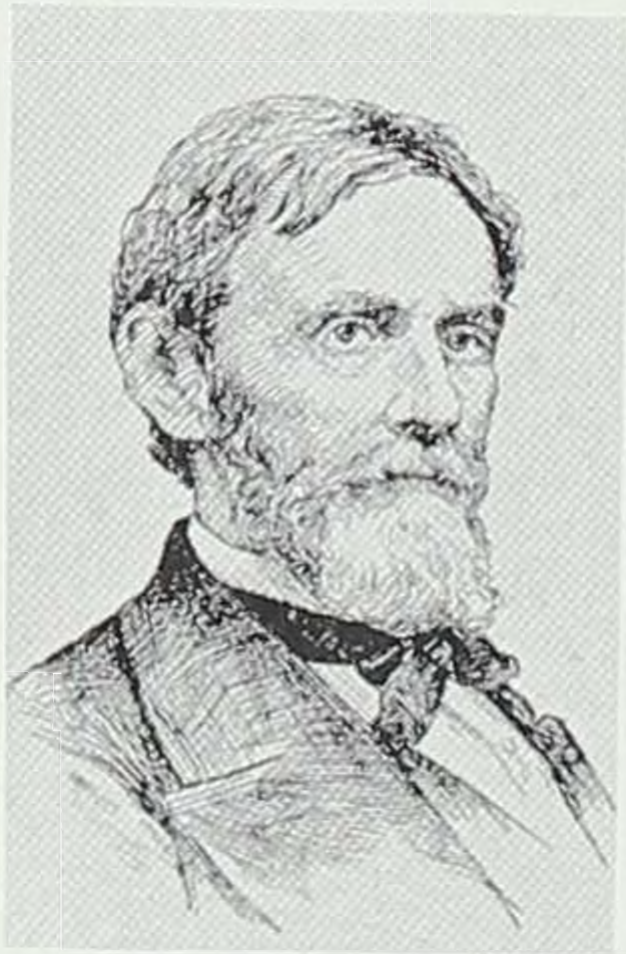
Fort Atkinson. Erected 1840 in the Iowa Neutral Ground to Protect Transplanted Winnebago Indians from Sauk and Fox on the South and Sioux on the North. Named for General Henry Atkinson. Winnebagoes Removed to Minnesota 1848. Fort Abandoned 1849.



CHIEF BLACK HAWK



CHIEF KEOKUK



JEFFERSON DAVIS



WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD



ZACHARY TAYLOR

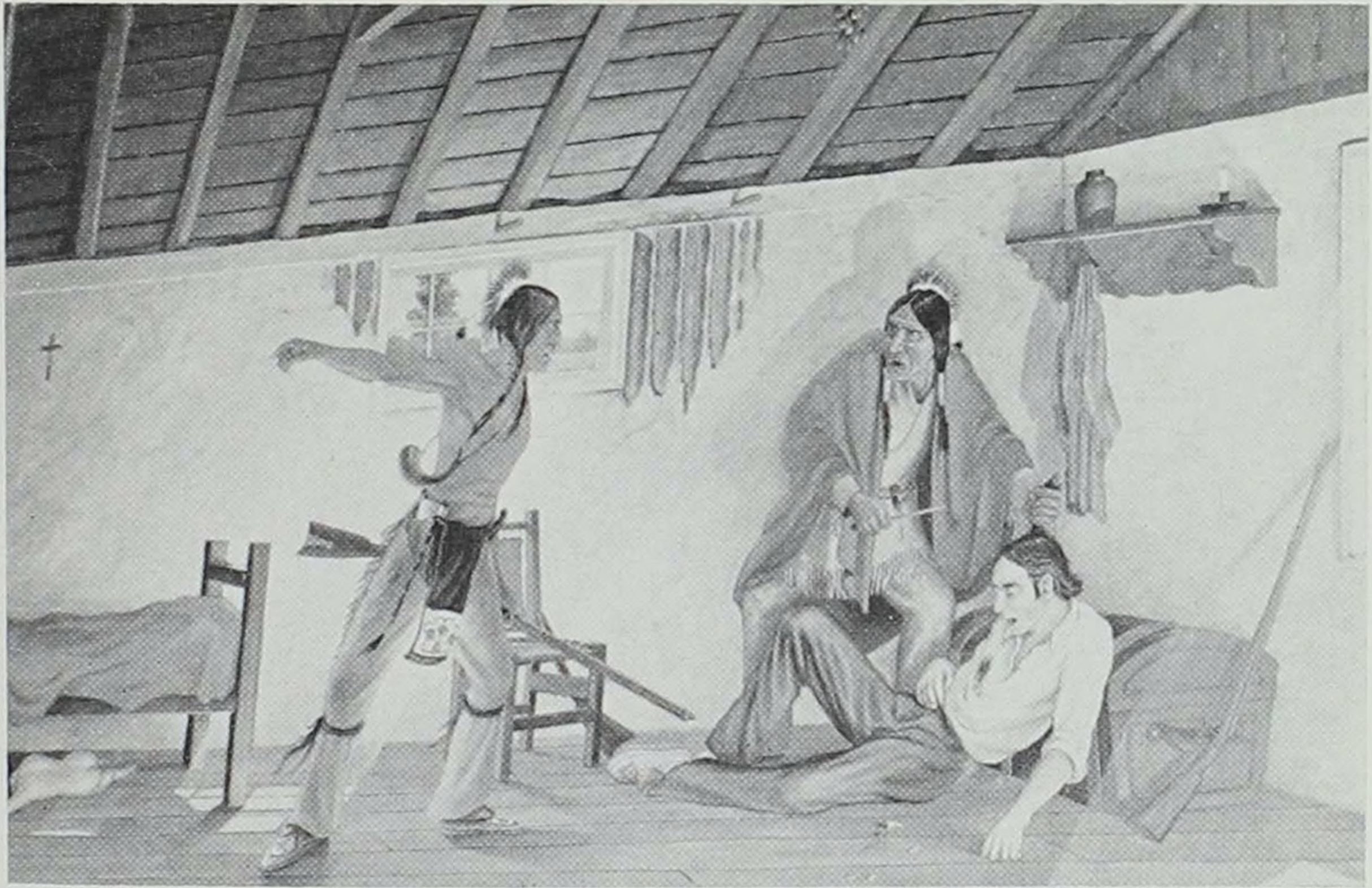


WINFIELD SCOTT



JAMES MADISON



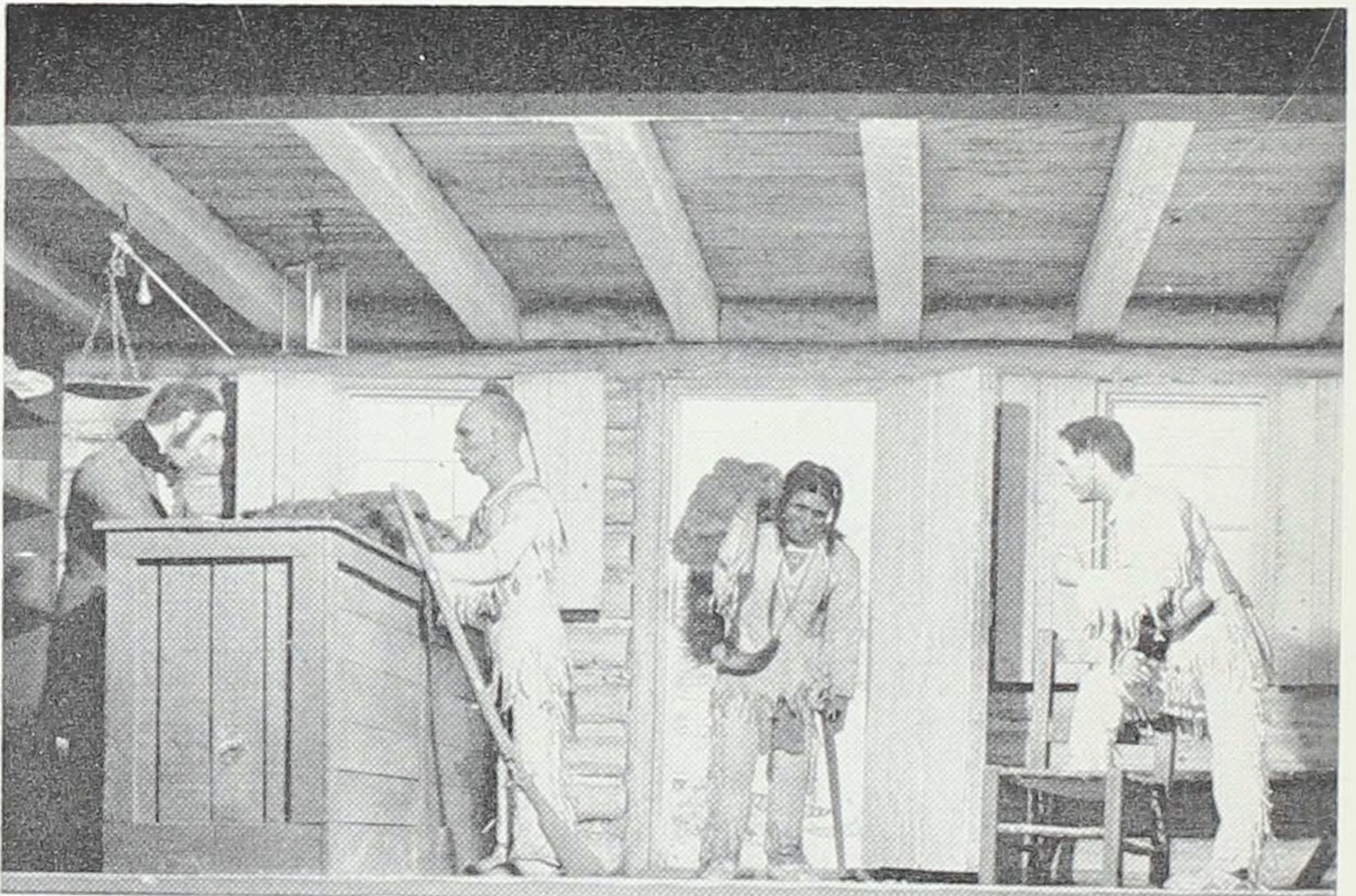


Mural — Gagnier Murder near Prairie du Chien. Beginning of Winnebago Outbreak of 1827. Scalped Baby on Floor under Bed Recovered and Grew to Womanhood.

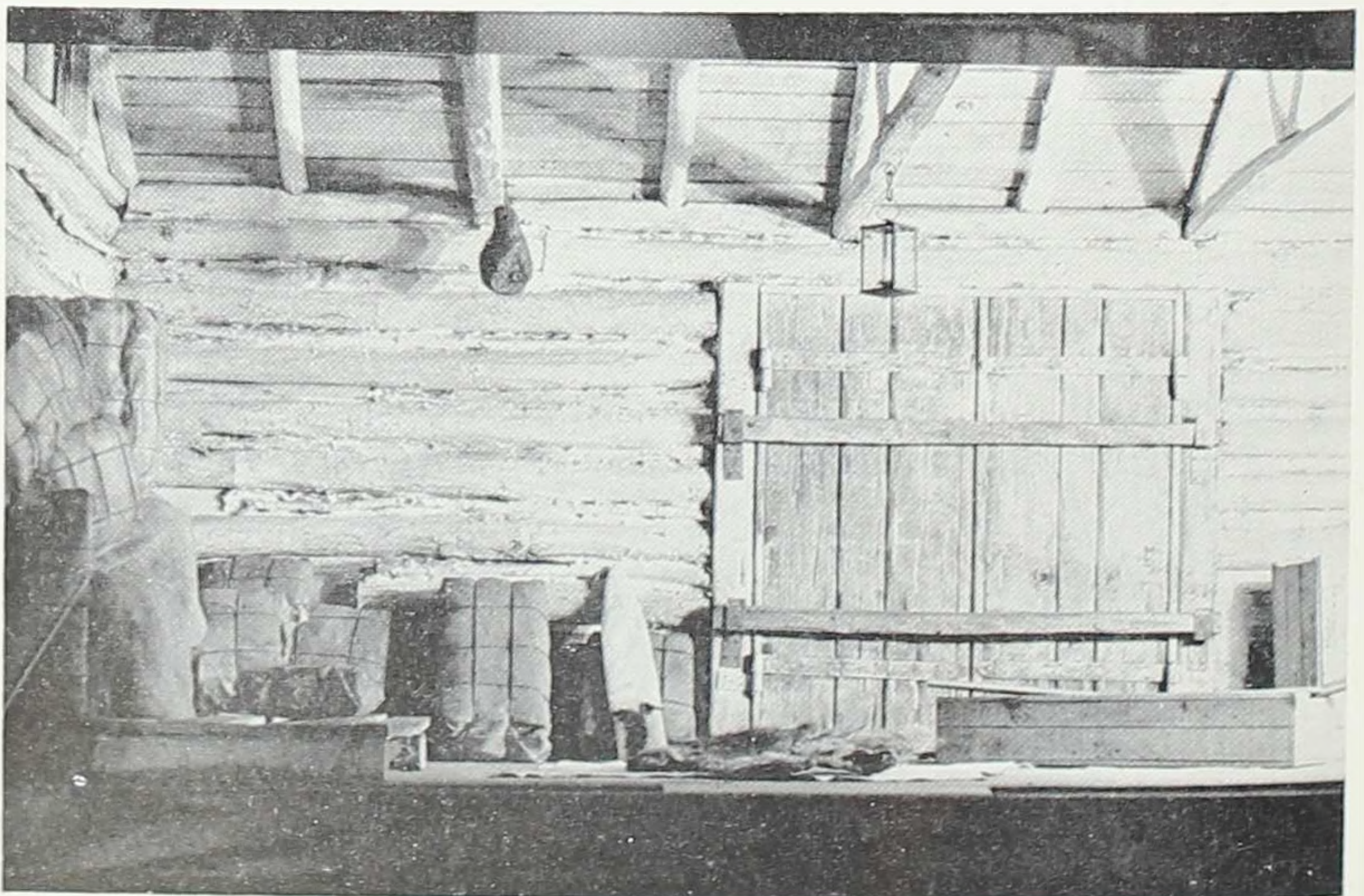


Diorama — Hospital Room First Fort Crawford. Here Dr. William Beaumont studied Digestive Processes through Gunshot Hole in Stomach of his Patient, Alexis St. Martin.

## FUR TRADE ACTIVITIES AT PRAIRIE DU CHIEN

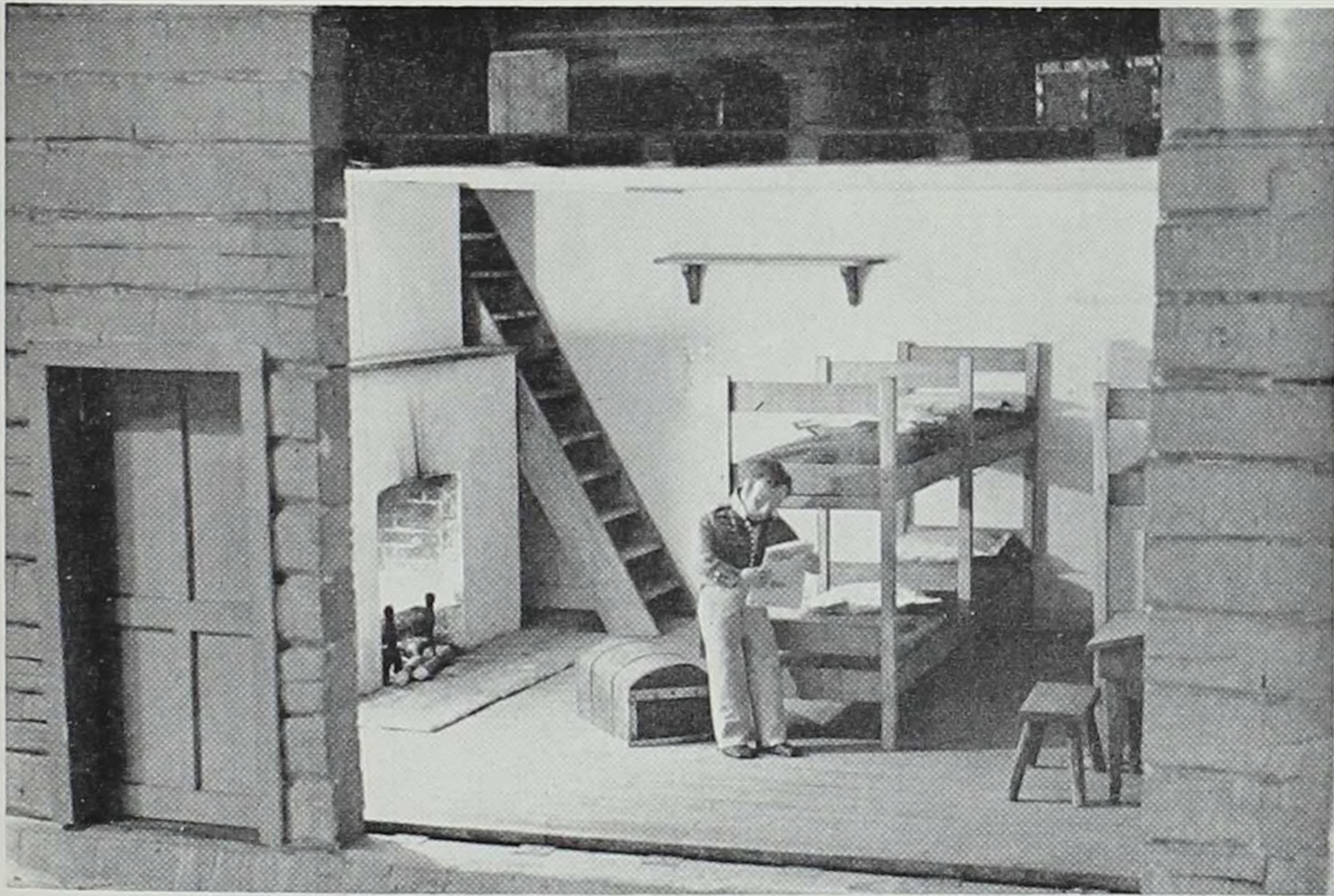


Diorama — Trading Post at Prairie du Chien where Indians traded Furs and Pelts for Guns, Knives, Traps, Tobacco, Whisky, Bright Colored Cloth, and Blankets.



Diorama — Fur Warehouse. Bundles of Furs Packed and Ready for Shipment. Notable Traders — Michel Brisbois, Joseph Rolette, James H. Lockwood, Hercules L. Dousman at Prairie du Chien, and Henry Sibley near Fort Snelling.

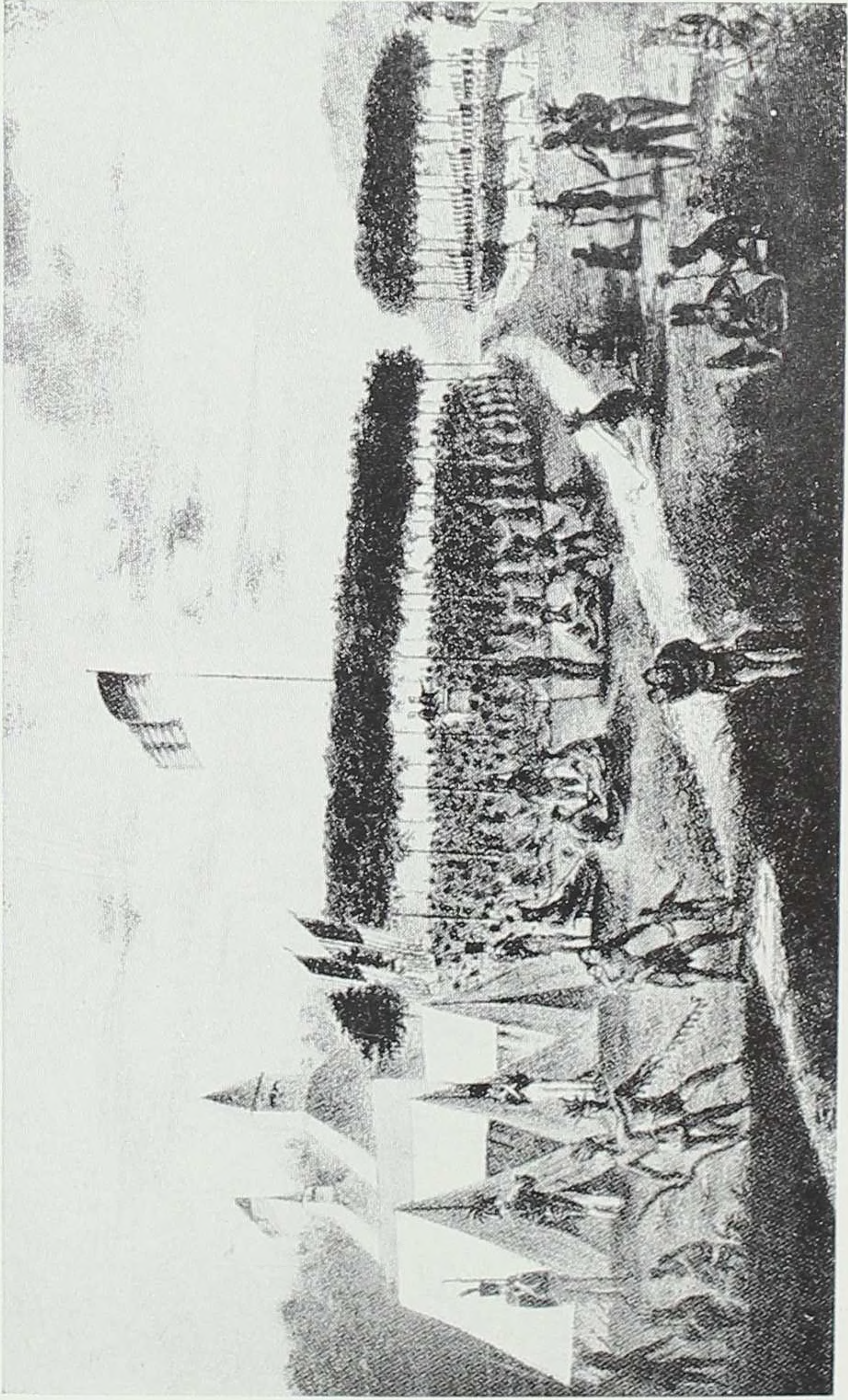
## MILITARY ACTIVITIES AT OLD FORT CRAWFORD



Diorama — Soldiers' Barracks at First Fort Crawford. Loft used for Storage. Port Holes in Loft Rear Wall. Single Chimney Served Fireplaces in Adjoining Barracks.

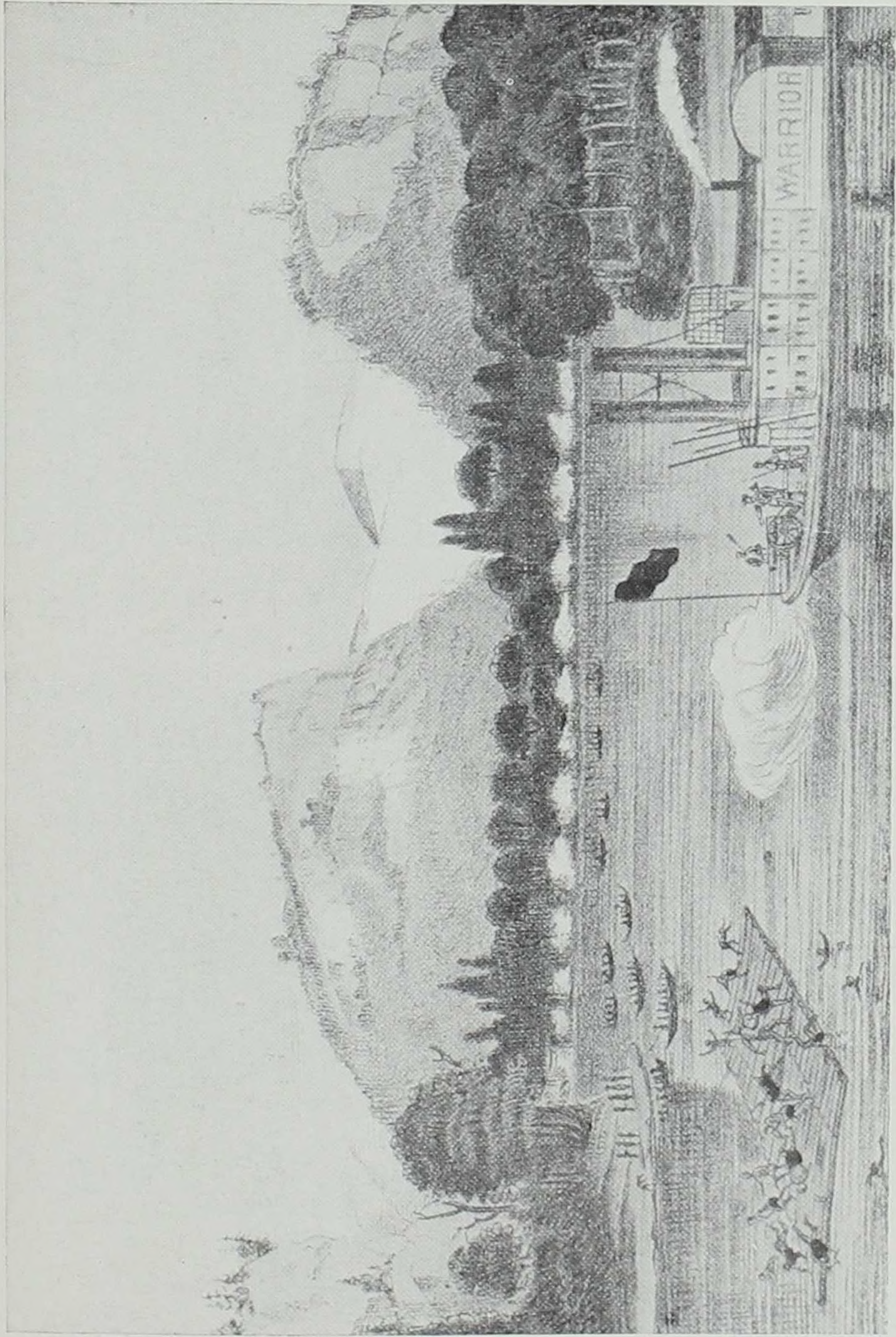


Diorama — Blacksmith Shop First Fort Crawford. Blacksmith, Carpenter, and Gunsmith worked at Tasks for Officers and Men.

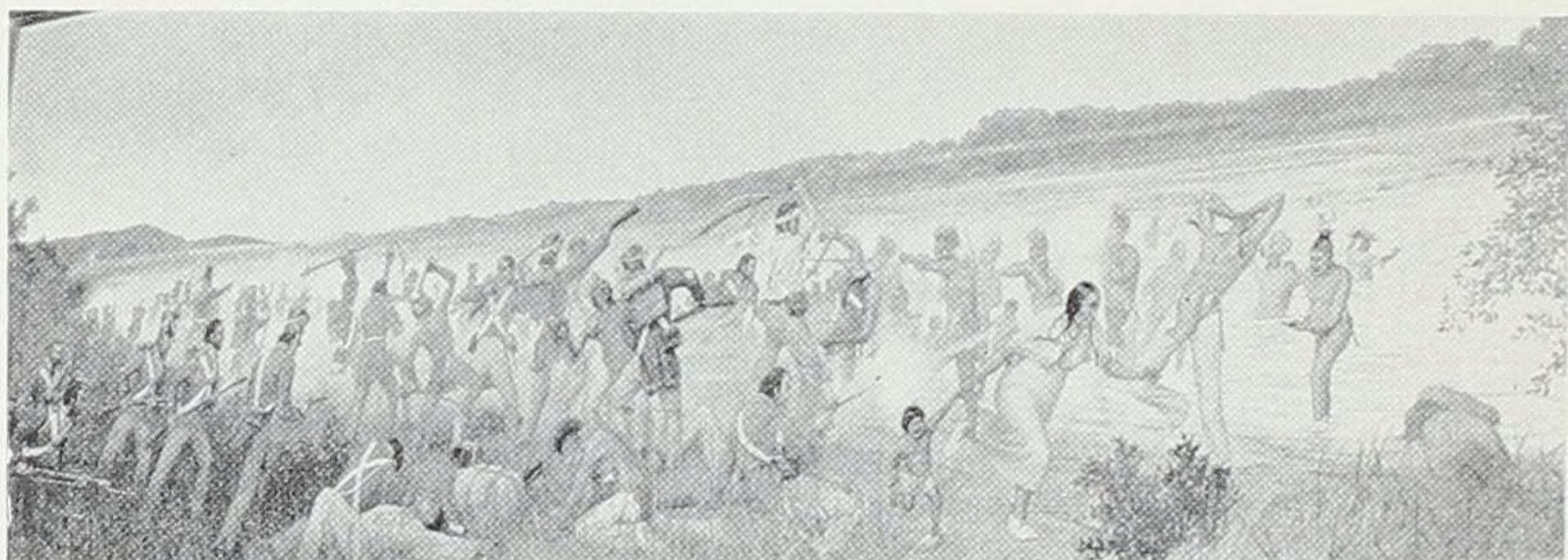


The Great Council of 1825 at Old Fort Crawford Established a Boundary Line between Sauk and Fox to the South and Sioux to the North in Iowaland.

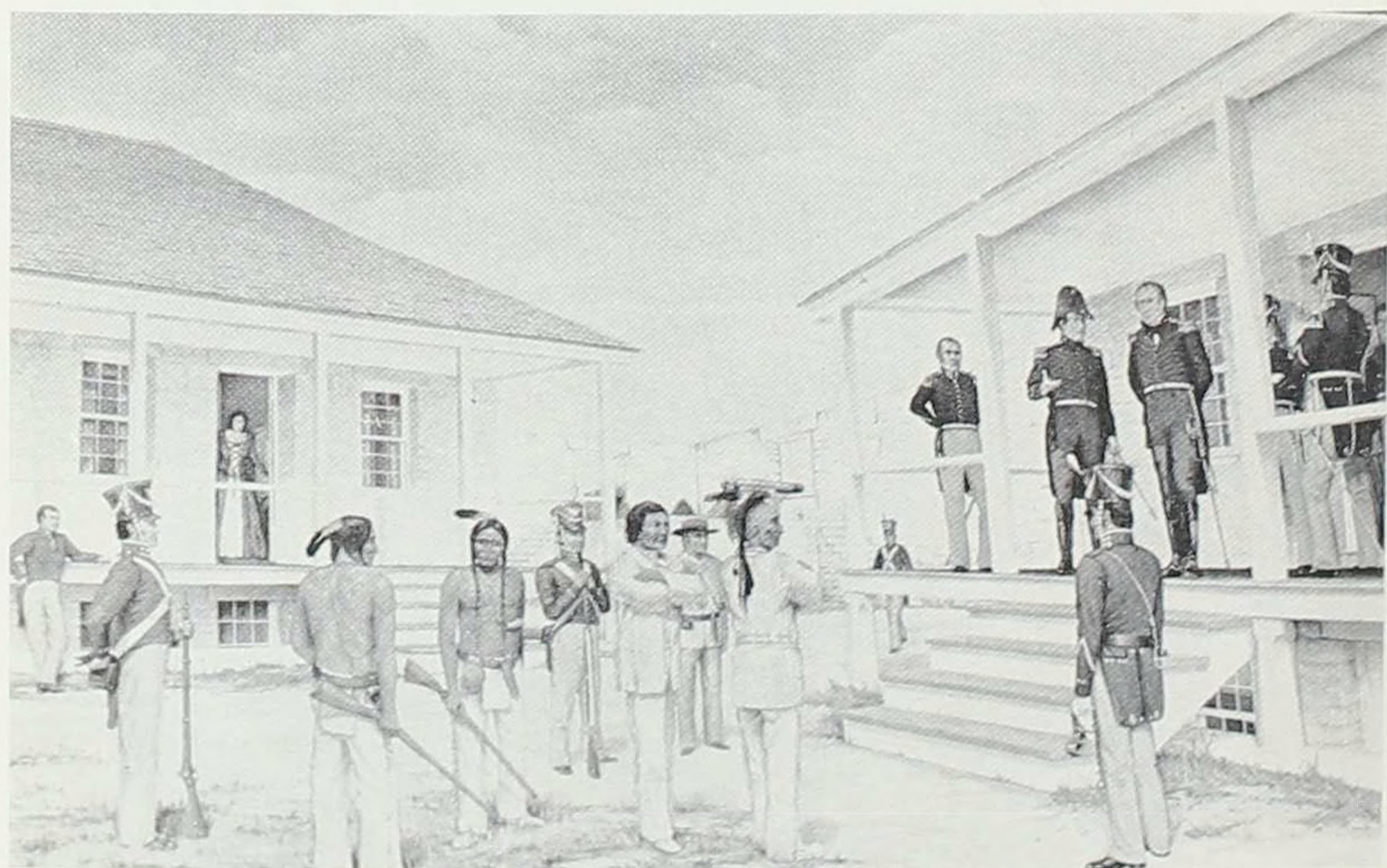
From a painting by J. O. Lewis



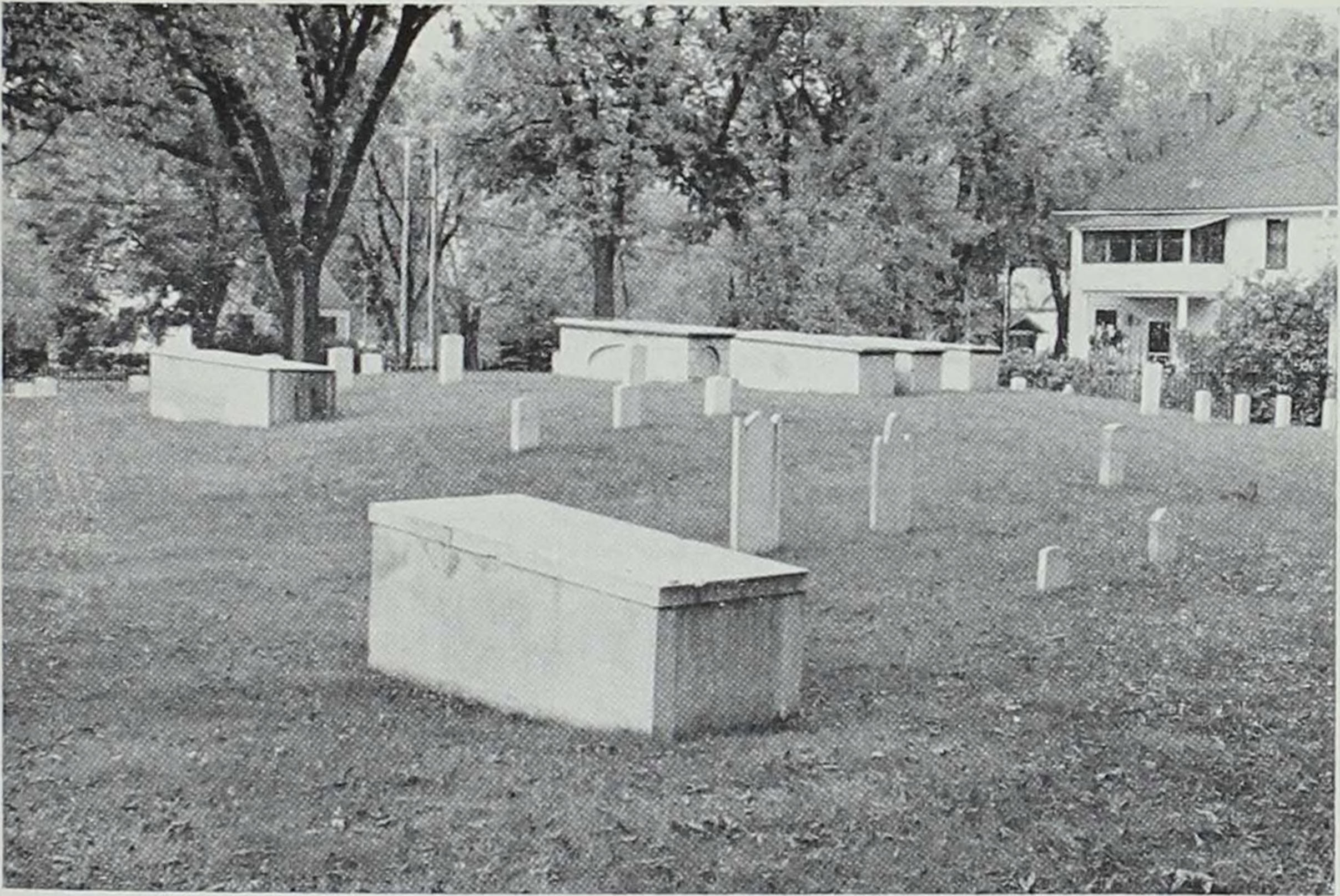
From a Painting by Henry Lewis in *Das Illustrierte Mississippithal*  
Steamboat *Warrior* Repulses Indians at Battle of Bad Axe, August 1, 2, 1832.



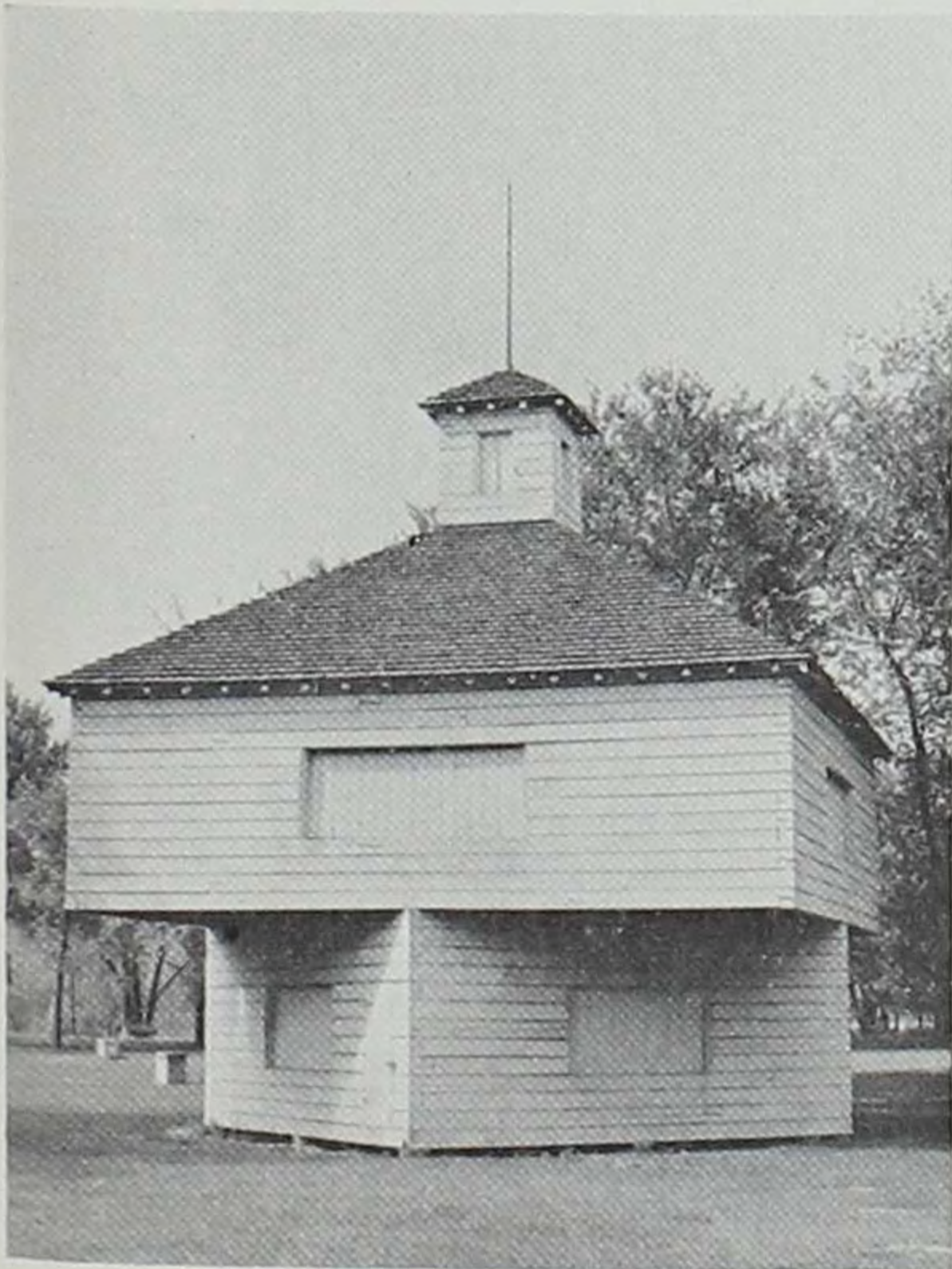
Mural — Soldiers Attack Indians Trying to Cross the Mississippi at Battle of Bad Axe



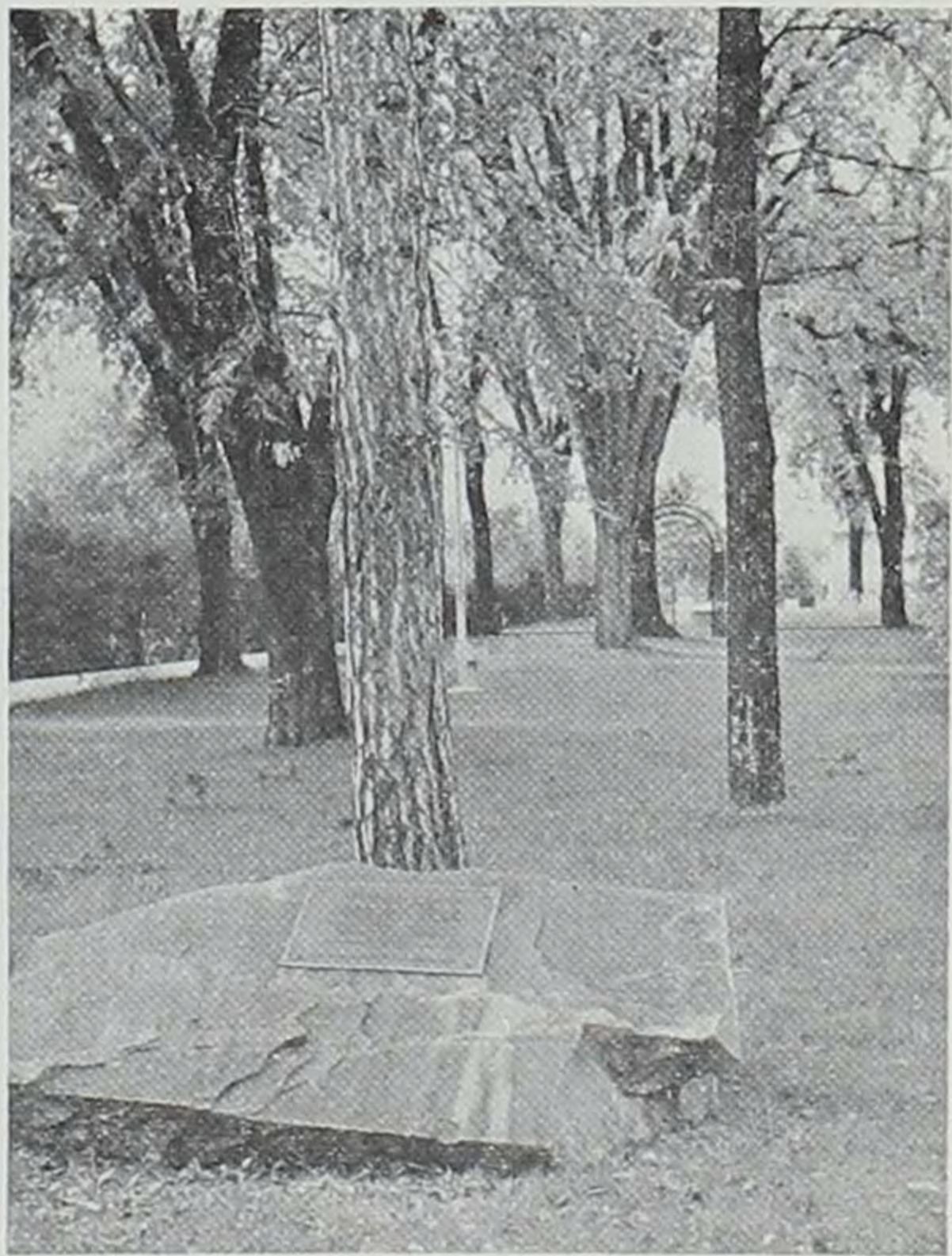
Mural — Prisoners Black Hawk and the Prophet at Fort Crawford on August 27, 1832. Lieut. Jefferson Davis Escorted Black Hawk to Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis



Fort Crawford Military Cemetery. Contains Sixty-two Graves including Vault of Col. Willoughby Morgan, Longtime Commandant of the First Fort Crawford



Replica Corner Blockhouse on Site of First Fort Crawford



Photos *Kent Studio*  
Jefferson Davis Memorial at Entrance to Fort Crawford Military Cemetery



Restoration of Second Fort Crawford Hospital. Houses the Museum of Medical Progress Established by the State Medical Society of Wisconsin



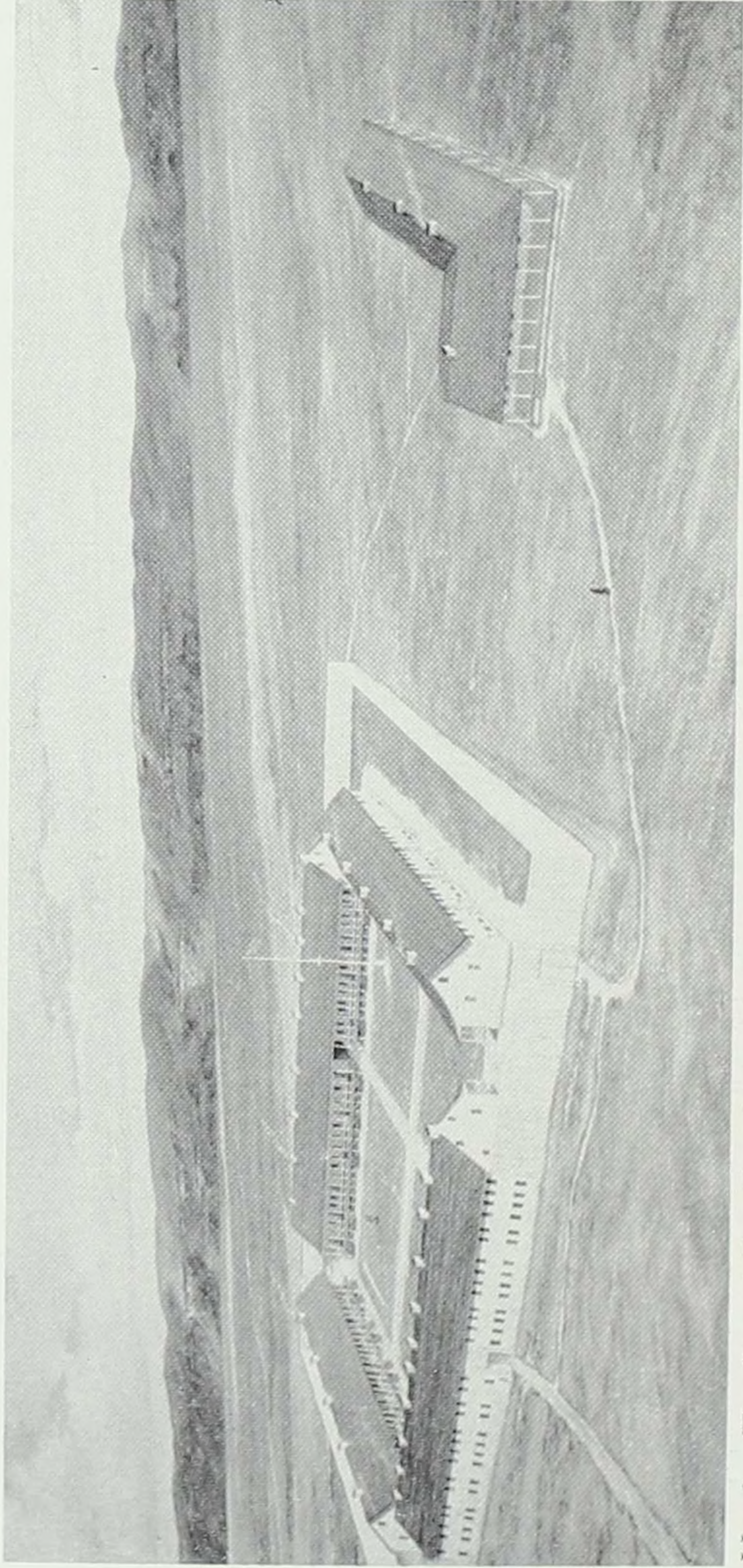
Photos Kent Studio

Villa Louis, Former Home of Hercules L. Dousman, Fur Baron of Early Prairie du Chien. Built on site of Fort Shelby, Fort McKay, and a Blockhouse of the First Fort Crawford. Restored Villa Louis is now Owned and Operated by the Wisconsin State Historical Society





Dousman Memorial Park. Villa Louis and Prairie du Chien Museum of History in Background. Costumed Guides Conduct Tours for the Wisconsin State Historical Society throughout the Summer and Fall Months



Mural — The Second Fort Crawford with Hospital to the Right. Begun in 1829. Partially Occupied 1831. Completed 1834. Abandoned 1849. Reoccupied 1855. Finally Abandoned 1856.

nebago appeared to be hostile, it was decided to concentrate the Fifth Infantry at Fort Snelling. Upon the receipt of a definite order for the abandonment of Fort Crawford in October, 1826, the commandant proceeded at once with his troops up the Mississippi, taking with him two Winnebago prisoners who had been confined in the guardhouse. He left behind a number of damaged arms, a brass swivel, and a few wall pieces in charge of John Marsh, sub-agent at Prairie du Chien.

Throughout the following winter, older traders at Prairie du Chien were apprehensive about more trouble with the Winnebago in the spring. Late in the spring of 1827, a rumor was circulated among the Winnebago that the two prisoners of their tribe who had been taken from Fort Crawford to Fort Snelling had been killed. Although this rumor was false, it inflamed the Indians and they resolved to seek revenge. Red Bird, a Winnebago chief, drew the assignment to go out and "take meat" as they phrased it. Not wishing to murder his friends, the whites, Red Bird made a circuit of the settlement and returned saying that he could find no meat. Upbraided and taunted as a coward, he resolved to redeem his reputation and taking with him WeKaw and another Indian he set out for Prairie du Chien. They arrived June 28, 1827.

The three Indians first stopped at the home of James H. Lockwood who had left for New York the day before to purchase goods for the next sea-

son's trade. Mrs. Lockwood, certain that the Indians intended to kill her, rushed into the store where Duncan Graham, a veteran trader and former British officer, persuaded Red Bird and his companions to leave.

The Indians then proceeded to McNair's Coulee some two or three miles from the village at the lower end of the Prairie. Here lived Registre Gagnier, a French halfbreed, with his wife and two children, a boy three years old and a daughter aged eleven months. With them was an old, discharged soldier, Solomon Lipcap. The entire family was in the log cabin when the Indians arrived and entered. As visits of Indians were common, no apprehension was felt, and Mrs. Gagnier turned to get them some food. Just then Red Bird shot and killed her husband, and the third Indian shot and killed old Lipcap. Mrs. Gagnier struggled with WeKaw, wrested away his gun; but before she could fire, he took off on the run. Taking her small son, but forgetting in her fear and excitement the baby covered up in bed, she hurried away to the village to give the alarm. WeKaw returned to the cabin where he scalped the helpless child, and tossed her under the bed. When a party of armed men, aroused by Mrs. Gagnier, arrived from the village they found the mangled child, scalped, and with its neck cut to the bone, still alive. Strange to relate, the babe recovered and grew to womanhood.

When the armed group returned to Prairie du Chien with the bodies of the murdered men and the child, great alarm was felt by the inhabitants who expected a general attack by the Indians to follow this outbreak. The villagers threw up breastworks about Jean Brunet's tavern; the swivel and wall pieces from the fort were mounted; and blacksmiths set to work to repair the muskets left by the soldiers. All was confusion, "each commanding, none obeying, but every one giving his opinion freely."

On the day of the Gagnier murders, two keelboats which, under the command of Captain Allen Lindsay, had ascended the Mississippi a few days previously with provisions for Fort Snelling, were on their way back to St. Louis. By the time one boat, the *O. H. Perry*, had reached the mouth of the Bad Axe River on June 30, 1827, it was several miles in advance of the second boat, the *General Ashley*.

As the *O. H. Perry* approached an island where Winnebago Indians lay in ambush "the air suddenly resounded with the blood-chilling and ear-piercing tones of the war-whoop, and a volley of rifle balls rained across the deck." One of the sixteen men on board was mortally wounded. A second volley killed another member of the crew instantly. The boat grounded on a sand bar, and an exchange of shots continued until nightfall. In the morning the crew managed to get the boat afloat

again and to escape downstream. Two members of the crew had been killed, two had been mortally wounded, and two slightly wounded. Several Indians had been killed and many more wounded.

When the second keelboat, with Captain Lindsay in command, reached the scene of the encounter it, too, was fired on by the Winnebago. The crew returned the fire. Only one ball struck the boat, the others passed over the deck harmlessly, and the vessel escaped downstream unscathed.

The arrival of the keelboats at Prairie du Chien with the story of the bloody encounter and the dead and wounded on board added to the general alarm. A local militia company was organized with Thomas McNair as captain, Joseph Brisbois as lieutenant, and Jean Brunet as ensign. The fort and blockhouses were put in as good order as possible. Dirt was thrown up two or three feet high around the bottom logs which were rotten and would easily ignite. The swivel and wall pieces were remounted, and blacksmiths continued to repair muskets. Two men were dispatched on horseback to Fort Snelling for help.

When the keelboat, with dead and wounded on board, arrived at Galena on its way to St. Louis, the news of the attack on the keelboats and the murders on the Prairie created the utmost alarm and confusion. Men, women, and children flocked from the diggings thereabouts to Galena expecting at any moment to be overtaken and scalped.

As soon as Colonel Snelling learned of the situation at Prairie du Chien, he set out down the Mississippi with four companies of the Fifth Regiment. When Governor Cass, who with Colonel Thomas L. McKenney had come to Butte des Morts on the Fox River for a parley with the Winnebago, heard of the outrages near Prairie du Chien, he resolved on a bold plan to quell the uprising. He hastened to Prairie du Chien, arriving on July 4, 1827, enrolled the local militia company in the service of the United States, and assured the villagers of reinforcements. Then he hastened to Galena where he calmed the fears of the inhabitants, and enrolled a rifle company under command of Abner Fields to go to Fort Crawford. William Stephen Hamilton, son of Alexander Hamilton, joined this group of volunteers. Captain Fields and his company proceeded at once by keelboat to Prairie du Chien, accompanied by Lieutenant Martin Thomas of the United States Army, who happened to be at Galena. Upon their arrival at Fort Crawford, Thomas mustered the volunteer troops into the service of the United States.

Governor Cass sped down the river to Jefferson Barracks to carry the news of the Indian uprisings to Brigadier General Henry Atkinson, then in command of the post. Soon Atkinson with over five hundred men on board a steamboat was on his way to the scene of the trouble. At Galena he had the committee of safety organize a company of

mounted volunteers under Henry Dodge to proceed to the Portage; then he hurried on to Prairie du Chien.

Cass went on to Chicago, thence back to Butte des Morts, to resume his treaty council. The result of this swing around the circle was a prompt convergence of troops from all directions into the land of the Winnebago. Colonel Snelling assumed command of the forces at Fort Crawford until General Atkinson arrived. Colonel Snelling then returned to Fort Snelling with his troops replacing them with four other companies of the Fifth Infantry under Major John Fowle.

Major William Whistler set out with a detachment of regulars from Fort Howard at Green Bay for the Portage, there to await the coming of General Atkinson and his troops from Fort Crawford. Shortly after his arrival at the Portage, the Winnebago sent word to Major Whistler that the murderers would be surrendered and begged the soldiers not to attack. In a slow and solemn procession, a body of Indians approached the camp with Red Bird and WeKaw in the center of the group. The soldiers formed in line, and the Indians halted in a semi-circle in front of them. Red Bird presented a noble appearance dressed in a suit of white deer skin, but WeKaw looked like a "starved wolf, gaunt, hungry, and bloodthirsty." Indian spokesmen announced that they had brought in two of the murderers — the third had



gone away. They asked that the prisoners be treated kindly, and offered twenty horses if their lives would be spared. The Indians were told that the prisoners would be treated kindly, and were admonished to warn their people not to kill the whites. Then the two prisoners were marched to a tent in the rear, and the friends of the captives left with presents of flour, meat and tobacco.

General Atkinson and his command and the mounted troops under Dodge, who had joined forces with the former on September 1st, reached the Portage on September 6th, three days after the surrender of Red Bird and WeKaw. Two days later two other prisoners were delivered to Atkinson; and, on September 9th, he drew up articles of agreement with the Winnebago chiefs stipulating that the miners at Galena should be allowed to secure mineral in the area between the Galena and Wisconsin rivers, unmolested until claims to the region had been settled.

The four captives were brought back to Prairie du Chien and put in prison. Later in the month two other Winnebago leaders implicated in the attack on the keelboats were delivered to General Atkinson; and, on September 22, he issued a proclamation granting the Indians peace.

Leaving Fort Crawford garrisoned by the four companies under Major Fowle with provisions for twelve months, Atkinson returned to Jefferson Barracks, leaving the frontier as he thought in a

“state of tranquility” which would “not be shortly interrupted.”

Although the Winnebago outbreak was thus speedily crushed, the cause of the trouble had not been removed — aggressions of the whites in the lead mining region south of the Wisconsin continued, and Winnebago resentment flared anew over the confinement of Red Bird and his companions. Indeed, they regarded their imprisonment as worse punishment than death.

Red Bird sickened and died; WeKaw and one of his companions were finally brought to trial in September, 1828. They were found guilty and sentenced to be hanged, but before the sentence could be carried out both were pardoned by President Adams. The other two prisoners were discharged for lack of evidence of their participation in the outrages of the previous year.

The Winnebago outbreak had been stopped by the bold course adopted by Governor Cass and the prompt response of regulars and volunteers; but it opened the eyes of the government to the fact that a garrison should be maintained at Fort Crawford and that a new post should be built at the Wisconsin Portage in the heart of the Winnebago country. In September, 1828, Major David E. Twiggs with three companies of troops from Fort Howard at Green Bay began the erection of temporary quarters at the Portage. To this new post was given the appropriate name of Fort Winnebago.

## The Second Fort Crawford

At the close of the Winnebago outbreak Major General Gaines, then commander of the Western Department of the Army, made an inspection tour of the posts of the Upper Mississippi region. He began the inspection of Fort Crawford on September 28, 1827, and concluded it on October 4th. He reported that Fort Crawford was so much decayed as to be uninhabitable without extensive repairs and he recommended the erection of a new fort on Pike's Hill on the Iowa side of the Mississippi.

Although the recommendations in this report were not followed by the War Department it disclosed clearly the need for new quarters for the garrison at Prairie du Chien. Another great flood in the Mississippi in the spring of 1828 again caused the fort to be abandoned for a time.

Major Fowle with four companies of the Fifth Infantry left the post in the late spring. He was succeeded by Colonel John McNeil with four companies of the First Infantry. In August, Brevet Major Stephen Watts Kearny assumed command of the post. Major Kearny continued in command of Fort Crawford until the following July, 1829, and during his sojourn there work was begun on a

new Fort Crawford. The site selected was some distance south of Old Fort Crawford on an elevation of the Prairie many feet above the highest rise of the river but easily accessible to a landing for boats.

Preliminary work on the erection of the new post was prosecuted with energy by Major Kearny. Then, in July, 1829, Lieutenant Colonel Zachary Taylor took over the command of Fort Crawford and began a sojourn at Prairie du Chien which continued with the exception of absences on furloughs and special details until he was summoned to quell the Seminole uprising in Florida in the late thirties. Colonel Taylor's command at Fort Crawford at this time consisted of Companies A, D, F, and G of the First Infantry — a total force of ten officers and one hundred and seventy-three men. Dr. William Beaumont was surgeon of the garrison, and Major John Garland was quartermaster in charge of constructing the new post.

One detail of soldiers was sent up the Wisconsin River to cut timber; another was dispatched up the Mississippi to the Menominee and Chippewa River areas to cut logs, hew square timbers, and to make plank and shingles. Still another group was detailed to quarry stone in the nearby bluffs for the powder magazine and other buildings. The Iowa country was not overlooked in the erection of the second Fort Crawford. A detail was sent across the Mississippi to make a lime kiln; another

group proceeded upstream to build a sawmill on Yellow River.

In July, 1830, Colonel Taylor left Fort Crawford on a furlough and Colonel Willoughby Morgan returned as commandant after an absence of several years. Work on the new post continued unabated throughout 1830 and the spring of 1831; but was delayed temporarily in the summer of 1831, when Colonel Morgan and part of his garrison assisted in forcing Black Hawk and his band of Sauk to leave the vicinity of Rock Island for a new home across the Mississippi in Iowa. The work was renewed strenuously in July, 1831. Captain Gustavus Loomis was in temporary command of the post with a garrison of eleven officers and two hundred and twenty-five men. Lieutenant Jefferson Davis, who had been stationed at Fort Winnebago before the campaign at Rock Island, had recently been transferred to Fort Crawford and was now engaged in supervising the sawmill on Yellow River. Throughout the rest of the summer and fall of 1831 work on the new fort was pushed steadily. Morgan resumed command of the post in October and, during the fall, the completed portions of the new fort were occupied by part of the garrison.

Colonel Morgan relinquished command of Fort Crawford to Captain Loomis in April, 1832; and Loomis, in turn, gave way to Colonel Zachary Taylor in August following the conclusion of the

Black Hawk War. This month found fifteen officers and one hundred and ninety-one men at the fort. Although the barracks were not entirely completed, the new Fort Crawford was occupied by all the garrison during this season. Meanwhile, the old Fort Crawford, which had represented the authority of the United States at this point for sixteen years, passed into the limbo of obsolete frontier fortifications.

Throughout 1832 and 1833 construction on the fort continued, being interrupted only by the Black Hawk War and cholera, which raged severely at the post following that campaign. An inspection report on August 21, 1834, shortly before the post was completed, was favorable in almost every particular for which Colonel Taylor and his officers were given full credit.

The new Fort Crawford was an imposing work. It consisted of an enclosure, rectangular in shape, the north and south sides of which consisted of a stockade of pine logs each one foot square and sixteen feet high. The east and west walls of the fort were each formed by two barracks thirty-five feet wide and one hundred and seventy-five feet long, separated by a sally-port twenty-six feet wide. These barracks were constructed of stone and consisted of an elevated basement and one story. Inside the stockade and forming the north and south limits of the enclosed parade ground stood the buildings used for officers' quarters and store-

rooms, each thirty-five feet wide and forty-two feet long. These likewise were constructed of stone and consisted of an elevated basement and one story. A shingled gable roof covered each of these buildings, and these roofs projecting inside the fort, formed the roof of a paved porch ten feet wide facing the parade ground. The parade ground was intersected in the center at right angles by a paved walk running north and south and by a paved sally-port which extended east and west through the fort, thence westward to the river. The west wall of Fort Crawford rested on a ridge some fifty feet above the river and distant several hundred feet. In the southeast corner of the parade ground stood a tall flag staff where the Stars and Stripes were raised daily at guard mounting and lowered at retreat. In the northeast corner of the fort was a huge well six feet in diameter and sixty feet deep. The stone powder magazine occupied the southeast corner of the fort proper, and the south end of the east barracks room was fitted up as a theatre. The windows in the basement of the fort were two feet wide by four feet long and were cross barred with wrought iron slats. Both the hospital and the commandant's home were outside the fort, the former (now restored) a large stone structure to the south, the latter a frame building to the north. North of the commandant's home was the new cemetery for officers and east of the fort was a similar plot for

enlisted men. A large drill ground extended from the fort to the bluffs on the east of the Prairie. The second or new Fort Crawford as finally completed on its high and commanding site was, indeed, a worthy representative of the military authority of the United States.

*The Fort and Indian Affairs 1829-1831*

Although Prairie du Chien had long been a natural center of trade and intercourse for Indian tribes of the Upper Mississippi, and had been the scene of the Great Council of 1825 and the center of alarm in the Winnebago outbreak of 1827, no other years were so filled with important Indian affairs and treaties as the interval of 1829 through 1831. Two treaties and two bloody massacres were noteworthy features in the annals of Indian relations near Fort Crawford during this period.

The first of these treaty councils was held in the summer of 1829 near old Fort Crawford. General John McNeil, Colonel Pierre Menard, and Caleb Atwater of Ohio were the commissioners and Charles S. Hempstead served as secretary. The commissioners sought to resolve the question of the ownership and settlement of the lead mining region below the Wisconsin River. On July 29th, a treaty was concluded with the Chippewa, Ottawa and Potawatomi, and on August 1st with the Winnebago, by which the government secured 8,000,000 acres of land in exchange for a stipulated amount of money in goods plus annuities for



a period of years. The Indians were loaded with presents, and with the firing of a cannon departed band by band.

But Indian relations in the region about Prairie du Chien were far from settled. Early in 1830, a party of Sauk and Fox Indians killed some Sioux rivals near the headwaters of the Cedar River in Iowa. Captain Richard B. Mason was dispatched from Fort Crawford to the scene of the trouble with a body of troops; but, when they arrived, the Indians had fled.

Later in the spring, a group of Sauk and Fox on their way to Prairie du Chien for a conference was ambushed by a war party of Sioux and Menominee on an island downstream and all of the former, except one brave and a boy who escaped, were massacred. On the next day the victorious Sioux and Menominee proudly displayed on poles the scalps and dismembered fragments of their victims as they paraded and danced on the streets of Prairie du Chien. After roasting and eating the heart of the murdered chief to inspire them with courage, they left the Prairie and ascended the Mississippi unmolested.

To put an end to such clashes, the government appointed General William Clark of St. Louis and Colonel Willoughby Morgan of Fort Crawford as commissioners to hold another general council with the Indians at Prairie du Chien. Sessions of the council began on July 7, 1830, and within three

days the tribes represented had agreed to bury the tomahawk. On July 15th a treaty was concluded which established a neutral zone forty miles wide in the Iowa country between the Sioux on the north and the Sauk and Fox on the south. The government agreed to pay each of the tribes concerned \$2,000 to \$3,000 annually for ten years, to furnish them with blacksmiths, iron, and farm implements, and to establish schools for their children. Again it seemed that peace had been restored.

Unhappily, the Chippewa soon caused trouble by killing two Menominee women near Lockwood's Mill on the Chippewa River. At the same time the Sauk and Fox Indians in the Rock Island area threatened revenge over being removed into Iowa. A climax in Indian relations in the vicinity of Fort Crawford was reached on the night of July 31, 1831, only a little more than a year after the assembled tribes had agreed to live in peace and friendship. A party of Menominee braves with their women and children had encamped on an island some four hundred paces above old Fort Crawford, and distant about two miles from the new fort to which the troops had been transferred. Two or three hours before daybreak a large party of Sauk and Fox Indians slipped quietly across the river from the Iowa shore and crept upon the sleeping camp. Then began an orgy of butchery. Within a few minutes the Sauk and Fox had murdered twenty-five of the sleeping Menominee and

wounded many more before the attackers fled downstream leaving the camp a shambles.

Agent Joseph M. Street in Prairie du Chien and Captain Loomis at Fort Crawford, when informed of the attack, took steps to comfort the Menominee, and to apprehend the murderers, but the fugitives had a sufficient start to escape. The year 1831 ended with the Menominee and Sioux plotting vengeance on the Sauk and Fox, and with Black Hawk plotting revenge on the whites.

*The Black Hawk War — 1832*

The Black Hawk War was an effort by Indians then living in Iowa to recover lands which they had lost in Illinois. It soon became a retreat by the Indians with a few brilliant rear guard actions on the part of the Indians and a series of victories on the part of the whites. For Illinois it was the riddance of a few Indians; for Wisconsin it served as an object lesson to the Winnebago and prepared the way for their subsequent removal to the Neutral Ground across the Mississippi; while for Iowa it was a prelude to settlement by the whites. Perhaps no other Indian war in history was participated in by so many men who later achieved prominence. Two future presidents of the United States — Abraham Lincoln, captain of a company of Illinois volunteers, and Coloney Zachary Taylor, commandant of Fort Crawford — took part. The future president of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis, then a young lieutenant stationed at Fort

Crawford, was recalled from a furlough and took charge of Black Hawk after his surrender. A later presidential candidate and for years the most notable soldier in America, General Winfield Scott, came all the way from the eastern seaboard to Fort Crawford under orders from President Jackson to put an end to the struggle. The list of future senators, governors, and generals who took part in this brief campaign included A. C. Dodge, Henry Dodge, John Reynolds, Henry Atkinson, Albert Sydney Johnston, Joseph E. Johnston, David E. Twiggs, William S. Harney, Robert Anderson, and many others.

Officers and troops from Fort Crawford participated in the brief campaign. Colonel Taylor joined General Atkinson at Fort Armstrong with two companies of the First Infantry, and aided in the pursuit of Black Hawk. A detachment of troops under Lieutenant Joseph Ritner stopped a large number of Indian women, children, and old men trying to escape down the Wisconsin River after the battle of Wisconsin Heights. Colonel Taylor and soldiers from Fort Crawford participated in the defeat of the Indians at the Battle of Bad Axe which ended the inglorious conflict with the capture of Black Hawk. General Scott sent the old chief from Fort Crawford to Jefferson Barracks under the escort of Lieutenant Jefferson Davis. In June, 1833, Black Hawk was released from prison in Fortress Monroe, Virginia, and

taken back to Iowa. His spirit was crushed and death was not far distant. The Black Hawk Purchase, which the bitter chief neither negotiated nor signed, remains a monument to his memory.

*The Fort and Indian Affairs 1834-1848*

Colonel Taylor continued as commandant of Fort Crawford until October 4, 1834, when he turned over the command of the post to Captain E. A. Hitchcock, and departed on a sixty-day furlough. The records for that year show that from eight to thirteen officers and from one hundred and ninety-one to two hundred and fifty-seven men comprised the garrison from time to time during the year. The fort was supplied with an amazing array of material and equipment for frontier defense. A detail from the fort was engaged in building a school for the Indians on Yellow River not far from the site of the sawmill which had been used to make lumber for Fort Crawford.

In November, 1834, the Winnebago Indians had gathered at Prairie du Chien for their annuities, and as was usually the case the money was out of their hands and in the pockets of the traders within a few hours after it had been distributed. The Indians lingered on an island near Prairie du Chien, drinking and dancing, and preparing to cross into Iowa to join the Sioux for the winter's hunt. On the night of November 6th, while the Winnebago slept, unconscious of any danger, a band of Sauk and Fox crept upon them and began

their ghastly work of slaughter. Ten braves, three or four women, and a number of children were horribly mangled by the murderers in a swift orgy of destruction. A little boy, about twelve years of age, who brought word of the massacre to the fort, said he fired at the attacking party before he ran, and thought he saw a man fall. It turned out that he had shot a Fox Indian through the heart. On the next day he was all decked out as a brave and had as trophies of his exploit the scalp, rifle, and tomahawk of the vanquished Fox.

As soon as he heard of the affray, Captain Hitchcock sent two officers to the scene of the massacre. They reported appearances on the island shocking in the extreme. Captain W. R. Jouett was dispatched with a detachment down the Mississippi in pursuit of the murderers while Lieutenant G. H. Pegram with another detachment scoured the region above Prairie du Chien and up Turkey River. Both efforts were unsuccessful; the Sauk and Foxes had escaped.

An exterminating war was expected to result from this bloody deed, but prompt efforts on the part of Colonel Taylor, who returned in December, and Indian Agent Joseph M. Street prevailed upon the Winnebago to let their Great White Father punish the Sauk and Fox.

The Sauk and Fox Indians were summoned to a conference at Prairie du Chien, and they came in May, 1835. In the presence of Colonel Taylor and

Agent Street a treaty was negotiated between the Menominee and Winnebago on the one hand and the Sauk and Fox on the other whereby all concerned agreed to forgive each other for past offenses, and to live in peace in the future. Six of the chiefs and braves including the principal sufferers were among the signers. The council was conducted with much ceremony. Forty horses were presented to the Winnebago by the Sauk and Fox as full compensation for the loss of about half that number of people who had been murdered. The indemnity was accepted, belts of wampum given by the offenders, and the pipe of peace smoked.

In May, 1835, three companies from Fort Crawford began the task of constructing a road from Prairie du Chien to Fort Winnebago, and by August they had completed their section of the road. The road as constructed by the soldiers was a crude affair, but it shortened the distance at least a third over the river route between Fort Crawford and Fort Winnebago.

No unusual Indian problems demanded the attention of Colonel Taylor or the garrison at Fort Crawford during the rest of 1835 or 1836. An inspection of the post in October, 1836, gave a high rating to every aspect of the operation. In the absence of Colonel Taylor at Jefferson Barracks in November and December of 1836, Captain W. R. Jouett assumed command of Fort Crawford. In January, 1837, Brevet Major Gustavus Loomis re-

lieved Captain Jouett, and remained as commandant until Taylor's return in May. All three of these officers took a sympathetic interest in the efforts of Agent Street and his son, Thomas P. Street, to provide a school on Yellow River and a farm for the Winnebago in the Iowa country.

Colonel Taylor left Fort Crawford in July, 1837, with a detachment for the Seminole War in Florida. He was succeeded by Brevet Brigadier General George M. Brooke, who tore down and rebuilt the commandant's home at a cost of \$7,000. In May, 1839, the arrival of several companies increased the garrison from seventy to one hundred and seventy-five officers and men. By December, the number had been increased to almost two hundred as the difficult task of moving the Winnebago from their old homes in Wisconsin to the Neutral Ground in Iowa faced the soldiers in 1840.

The removal of the Winnebago from Wisconsin to Iowa began in the spring of 1840 with Brigadier General Henry Atkinson in command of the project. Some went willingly, but others held back. Soldiers from the fort helped erect a new post, Fort Atkinson, on Turkey River in the Neutral Ground. Meanwhile, a company under Captain Isaac Lynde protected the Winnebago in their new home from attacks by the Sauk and Foxes. Other soldiers erected a storehouse near the landing on the west bank of the Mississippi, while another detail improved a road from the river to the



site of the new fort on Turkey River. Later this road was known as the old military trail. For several years thereafter troops from Fort Crawford were called upon to round up straying bands of Winnebago in Wisconsin and return them to Iowa.

The outbreak of the Mexican War necessitated the withdrawal of the regular garrisons of Fort Crawford and Fort Winnebago in the early summer of 1846; and the posts were then manned by volunteers from Wisconsin and Iowa. These troops were kept busy trying to keep the Winnebago within the Neutral Ground.

The biggest task facing these volunteers was the removal of the Winnebago from Iowa to Minnesota in the summer of 1848. In September, 1848, both companies were mustered out of service. For more than two years Iowa and Wisconsin volunteers had performed the most arduous frontier duties with honor and credit.

Late in September, 1848, Lieutenant Colonel Gustavus Loomis with his staff, band, and Companies B and F of the Sixth Infantry occupied Fort Crawford. Upon the departure of Loomis on October 31, Captain Charles S. Lovell became commandant, and occupied this position until the troops were withdrawn in the spring of 1849. On April 14, 1849, Company C from the recently abandoned Fort Winnebago, with the band and non-commissioned staff, left Prairie du Chien on the steamboat *Senator* for Fort Snelling; while

Companies B and F left the following day enroute for Fort Leavenworth. Lieutenant R. W. Foote with a small detail of soldiers remained behind to dispose of government property and stores. The sale of these goods took place on May 30, 1849; and the remaining troops departed. A lone caretaker was left in charge of the silent post.

Late in 1855, and for a few months in 1856, Fort Crawford was occupied by a detachment of the Tenth Infantry from Fort Snelling under Brevet Lieutenant Colonel E. R. S. Canby as protection against a threatened return of two bands of Winnebago under Chiefs Dandy and Little Hill. Brevet Colonel C. F. Smith relieved Canby in December, 1855. On June 9, 1856, the Indian scare being over, the soldiers left on the steamboat *War Eagle* for Fort Snelling.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, the State of Wisconsin leased the property as a site for enlisting and quartering of troops, and the Thirty-first Wisconsin Infantry was enrolled there. For a period from 1864-1865, Fort Crawford was occupied by Provost Marshal Captain John G. Clark with an enrolling commission to secure troops for short time service. This was the last time Fort Crawford served any military purpose.

## Glimpses of Garrison Life

Daily routine at the United States military posts in the Upper Mississippi Valley followed a pattern established by the *General Regulations for the Army*. At dawn the trumpeters of the post took their stations, and *reveille* called the sleeping garrison to the duties of the day. The rolls of the companies were called in front of the quarters, then the quarters were put in order, the ground in front swept, and the horses fed and watered. After sick call had sounded those who were ill in the barracks were taken to the hospital. Following a second roll call, breakfast was served at nine o'clock. Then came the various tasks of the day under the supervision of a member of the garrison designated as "officer of the day." One detail swept the parade ground, sentinels were posted, and other details were assigned the work of the day.

At three o'clock in the afternoon a third roll call was followed by dinner. Half an hour before sunset the trumpeters called the garrison for dress parade. Drills and maneuvers were practiced and orders were read. Following dress parade, companies were dismissed, arms were placed in the arm racks, and the horses were bedded for the

night. Another roll call was followed by tattoo, candles were extinguished, and the troops settled down in their quarters for the night.

Routine tasks of the garrison varied with the seasons. In the spring and summer details were sent across the Mississippi to cultivate gardens on an extensive military reservation in the Iowa country adjoining the old Spanish land grant to Basil Giard. Other detachments were assigned the task of making hay for the horses and cattle at the post. This, too, was obtained on the broad prairie of the military reservation. In the fall, soldiers were employed in cutting the enormous supply of logs needed for the many fireplaces of the fort during the long, cold winters.

Many special tasks occupied the garrison while the new Fort Crawford was under construction — quarrying stone in the nearby bluffs, sawing lumber at the mill on Yellow River, burning lime in the coulee across the Mississippi, making shingles and squaring pickets, and building the fort itself. Far more satisfactory than these menial tasks were trips to the lead mine region in Iowa to enforce the laws of the United States against trespassing miners or excursions into the Indian country to round up Winnebago or Sauk and Fox offenders.

Routine garrison duty and field campaigns, however, did not occupy all of the time of the soldiers at Fort Crawford. Play, too, mingled with work. At the close of the Indian Council in 1829,

for example, Commissioners Atwater, Menard, and McNeil gave a ball for their friends at Prairie du Chien. The ball, held at the council house, was attended by the officers of the fort and their wives, as well as by all the best families of the village. It was an interesting scene. Inside the council house were men and women of culture and refinement, West Point graduates and gentle ladies from cities of the East; outside the house, peering through the doors and windows, and occasionally dancing by themselves in the open air was a motley crowd of curious Indians, half-breeds, and common folk of the village. All were very happy, and the party broke up at about midnight.

The officers at Fort Crawford established a library and a reading room at their own expense. A post school for instruction of the children was organized with the army chaplain as teacher. The library contained books on history, geography, mathematics, chemistry and other sciences, and files of such periodicals as the *National Intelligencer* and the *National Gazette*.

Young officers took special delight in giving a dancing party in honor of some visitor at the fort, and in presenting amateur theatricals for their entertainment in the fort theatre. During the spring, summer, and fall, ladies at Fort Crawford often accompanied details to Fort Snelling and Fort Winnebago to visit friends there. Wolf hunts by moonlight on the prairie, and hunting excursions

in the Iowa country across the Mississippi were greatly enjoyed by soldiers as well as visitors to the fort.

The routine of garrison life at Fort Crawford was occasionally broken by the arrival of recruits from St. Louis or the East, and likewise by the transfer of officers and men from one post to another. Grim tragedy, too, sometimes caused excitement. During the command of Major Kearny in 1828, a young man, Reneka by name, of good education, who had joined the army for the sake of adventure, engaged in a drinking party with some companions. Unused to liquor, he became sick and started for the barracks. He emerged with a rifle swinging it around his head like a madman. Hearing the commotion, Lieutenant John Mackenzie, officer of the day, strode outside and ordered a corporal to take Reneka to the guardhouse. The latter paused a moment, raised his rifle, and shot Mackenzie through the head killing him instantly. Reneka was arrested and confined to the guardhouse; then tried, convicted, and sentenced to be hanged. Sick with remorse for his hasty act, he made a touching speech from the gallows, and bravely paid the penalty for his crime.

Besides the Reneka tragedy, two other brutal murders stained the annals of Fort Crawford. In 1831 an officer, J. P. Hall, struck a soldier named Barrette in the head with a pitchfork handle and broke his skull. Although Hall was acquitted, he

never forgot the murder and left the service. In the second instance, a provost sergeant, Coffin by name, caught a soldier by the name of Beckett sneaking out of the fort one night after tattoo had sounded. He kicked and beat Beckett until he was insensible, and then ordered him to be dragged away to the guardhouse. Some days later he entered a room where Coffin stood with his back to the door, and shot him dead with an army musket. Beckett was arrested and placed in the guardhouse, but he managed to escape. He was caught later in the lead region near Cassville, taken to Mineral Point, tried by the civil authorities there, and sentenced to be hanged. He was brought back to Prairie du Chien, where, like Reneka, he paid the penalty for his crime.

In pleasant contrast to these grim tragedies at Fort Crawford was the courtship of Lieutenant Jefferson Davis when he wooed and won Sarah Knox Taylor, the fair daughter of his commanding officer. A persistent tradition has it that the young lovers when faced with parental disapproval of the match, eloped from Fort Crawford, but the facts in the case seem to spoil this story. It is true that Colonel Taylor, hoping to spare his daughter the hardships and discomforts of the wife of an officer at frontier army posts, opposed the match. Miss Taylor, however, married Davis, with the knowledge but without the approval of her father, at the home of her sister near Louisville, Kentucky.

At Fort Crawford, as at other frontier posts, the presence of grog shops nearby added to the problems of discipline. At one time, in order to check the use of liquor by soldiers, "The Fort Crawford Temperance Society" was organized. Shortly thereafter, Major John Garland inspected the post and complimented the officers on the sobriety of the men. That night Major Garland and another officer took a stroll outside the fort before retiring. As they were returning to the sally-port, the attention of the major was attracted by the strange antics of an approaching cat. The two officers stepped over in its direction, and suddenly the animal stopped. Garland reached down, picked it up, and discovered he held a cat's skin stuffed with a bladder full of whisky. Stepping on the string had stopped the cat's mysterious journey toward a thirsty soldier within the barracks.

Various methods of punishment for those who disobeyed orders or violated military regulations were administered by various commandants at Fort Crawford. Confinement in the guardhouse, extra police duty, and curtailment of privileges were among the most common. But it remained for Colonel Taylor to introduce an unusual but effective method of punishment. This consisted in taking hold of both ears of the culprit, then shaking him severely — a treatment called "Wooling." One day when all the garrison had been mustered for dress parade, Colonel Taylor came out to look



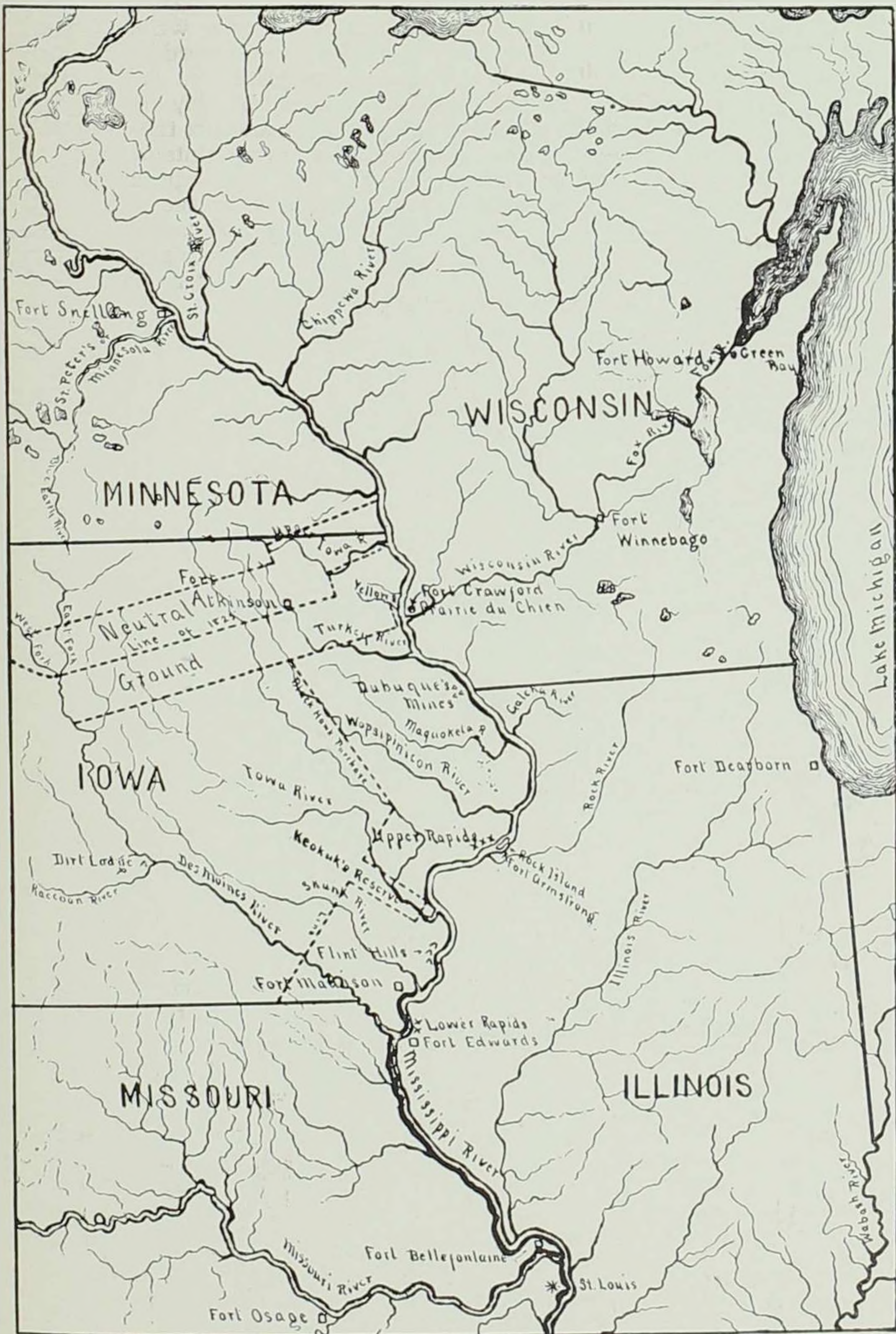
over his troops, and observed a big German recruit who constantly failed to execute the commands correctly because his knowledge of English was faulty and it was difficult for him to understand the commands. Taylor, unaware of the true situation, thought the fellow was wilfully disobeying; and, walking up to the recruit, began to "wool" him. The German, resenting such treatment, drew back and struck Taylor such a blow that he fell like a log. Soldiers rushed upon the fellow ready almost to kill him for this act of insubordination to "Old Zack;" but Taylor arose and ordered them to leave him alone, saying he would make a good soldier. The fellow afterwards became a valuable addition to the garrison, and served faithfully throughout the Black Hawk War.

Supplies for Fort Crawford were brought from St. Louis first by keelboat or barge and later by steamboat. Their loads of flour, beans, pork, salt, candles, clothing, whisky, soap, tobacco, coffee, and miscellaneous items for the sutler's store were always welcome. Bread baked by a soldier of the garrison, meat, and beans were staple items in the soldier's diet. Vegetables in season raised in the garrison gardens across the river added variety to the mess. Game, too, killed by the sportsmen, and fish caught by the anglers of the post, made a welcome change from pork and beef.

Out of a soldier's modest cash allowance of five — later six — dollars a month he could buy small

necessities and some luxuries at the sutler's store. Anything and everything could be purchased at the sutler's store — currants, raisins, candy, soap, tobacco, shoes, butter, cheese, clothing, spices, needles, tinware, brooms, brushes, and a multitude of other items. It was, in fact, grocery, hardware, dry goods, and clothing store for the fort. A council of officers fixed prices to prevent the sutler from charging unreasonable amounts for his goods, and he paid from ten to fifteen cents a month for every officer and enlisted man into a "post fund." This money was used for the relief of widows and orphans of soldiers, for the maintenance of the post school and band, and for the purchase of books for the post library.

Life at old Fort Crawford was indeed a mosaic of many parts. Visitors to the post invariably mentioned the friendly hospitality of the garrison and the unfailing courtesy both of officers and men. Inspection reports indicate that meticulous attention was given to military regulations at this post. The coming and going of troops, menial tasks changing with the seasons, high adventure on trips into the Indian country, the arrival of recruits, drill and inspection, dress parade and fatigue duty, dances and theatricals, hunting and fishing, work and play — all these filled the days, and months, and years of a very human garrison at this outpost on the frontier.

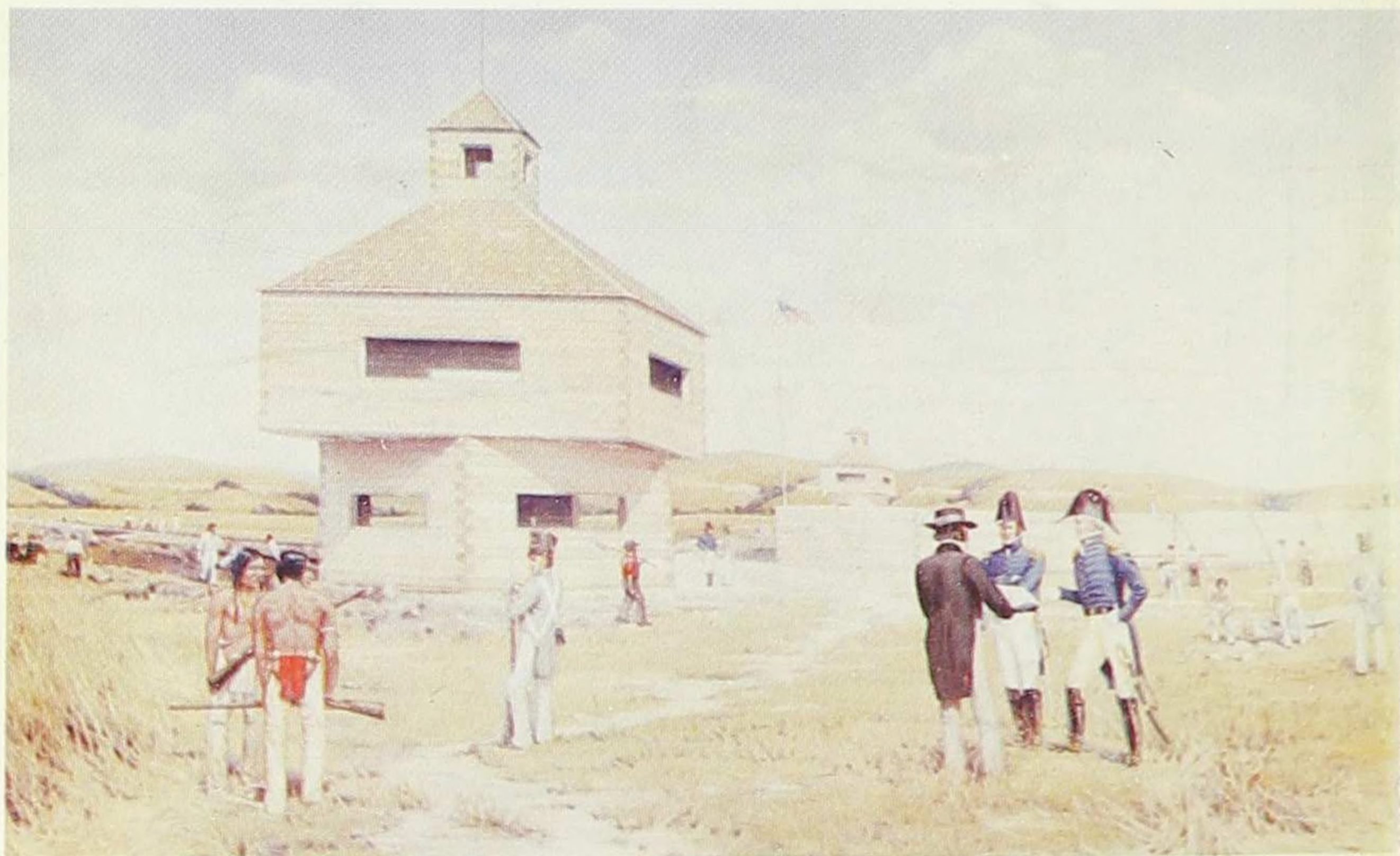


The Upper Mississippi Military Frontier

APR. 24 1969



Mural — Prairie du Chien Area Was a Neutral Ground for Indians and Fur Traders



Mural — Erection of the First Fort Crawford. Begun July 31, 1816.  
Troops Transferred to Second Fort Crawford in 1831 and 1832