

THE WILLIAM WALKER CORRESPONDENCE.

The following letters were written by William Walker to Lyman C. Draper, Secretary of the Wisconsin Historical Society. Walker was a member of the Society. The letters were retained by Draper. At his death they became the property of the Society, being now in the Draper Manuscript Collection thereof. The Librarian of the Society furnished me copies.

Governor Walker was in error concerning some things about which he wrote. But there is much of great value in his letters---enough that they should be made accessible to the people of Ohio and other states where the Wyandots have lived.

Kansas, Mo. 13, 1852.

Dear Sir:

Your letter dated "Feb. 3rd" I received not a long time since. Where it has been journeying in the wilderness, it is impossible to conjecture; but it has certainly been a long time on its winding way and must also have made many stoppages on the way. I should have acknowledged the receipt at the time, but owing to a severe attack of the Bilious Fever which kept me confined for near three months, was unable to do any thing. I am yet too feeble to attend to any kind of business; and I now merely write to say that, as soon as my health will permit, I will answer as many of your enquiries as I can. I must do my brother Joel the justice to say that he refer'd your letter to me for the desired information; all this I could not get without consulting an aged individual living remote from here. That person I have not, as yet, seen. It was from him I expected to gather some important information in regard to Abraham Kuhn. I am apprehensive that in giving the name of another Wyandott Chief, you are at fault in your orthography, as I cannot identify the name as of Wyandott origin. In your next try another mode of spelling without impairing the sound or pronunciation.

I am respectfully yours

Wm. Walker

Lyman C. Draper Esq
Leverington Pa.

Kansas City, Mo. April 11, '57.

Dear Sir---

Your several letters of enquiry into Historical matter relating to the Wyandotts, I received. Altho' anxious to comply with your request,

and have frequently seated myself for the single purpose of furnishing the required information as far as I had material, but owing to the extreme paucity of matter and data, as often abandoned the task in despair and mortification. I now regret-- deeply regret that I did not avail myself of the many good opportunities I had of collecting Historical matter while many of the aged men were yet living. At present, there are none living that know any more of the interesting incidents of the last century than I do myself. I feel mortified from the circumstances of my inability to furnish, at least, a part of the information, and even now, what I shall furnish will be but a meager affair. But what little I have collected I will now, with pleasure furnish in a series of letters till you get all I have in my possession.

Simon Girty was captured during the Revolutionary war in the North - ern part of Pennsylvania, (County not known) by a party of the six nations, either before or after the massacre of Wyoming, but I think it was sometime afterwards. He remained with his captors till he acquired a sufficient knowledge of the Seneca language as to enable him to speak it with some degree of fluency. He then escaped and returned to his own neighborhood; where hearing of many of his old acquaintances, Elliott, McKee, Colwell, Stockwell, Clark, Hazel and several other renegades having gone to Canada to espouse the cause of the Crown, and he having some difficulties with his neighbors, (He was naturally a quarrelsome and contentious man) he resolved upon leaving his country and joining his friends in Canada.

He set out alone for the West, on his way avoiding Fort Pitt, wending his way to the Sandusky villages. On reaching the Huron river, within twenty miles of Lower Sandusky, he fell in with a War party of Wyandotts which took him a prisoner of war and was taken to the Sandusky villages. He was regarded as a spy sent out by the Americans, and old Zhaw shoo too,

the War Chief, resolved upon executing him. Simon related his adventures in the Seneca tongue, which but few of his auditors understood much of. Some Senecas happening to be in the neighborhood were sent for to confront him. One of them recognized Simon and immediately charged him with having run away. This accusation placed Simon in a most perilous position; but his presence of mind, and effrontery never forsook him in this dilemma. He stoutly denied the accusation and declared that he was ransomed by his friends by the payment of a large amount of money. Simon knew that his accuser had no personal knowledge of his escape, as he was not at home at the time, and could not successfully contradict his statement. This circumstance induced him to assume so bold a front and so much audacity. In his rude and boisterous harangue, in the Seneca language, he declared that he was true to the Cause of the Crown---he had become disgusted with the Americans---had cut asunder the ties that once bound him to this country and kindred, and was on his way to join his friends, Elliott, McKee and others, who had preceded him to Canada.

After some deliberation they concluded to turn him over to the Senecas as they had the strongest claim upon him. After some disputes and wrangles between him and the Senecas, they permitted him to depart and pursue his journey unmolested. He reached Detroit, then in the possession of the British. From thence to Malden, in Upper Canada, where he met with his brother renegades.

He was subsequently followed by his brother James, an older brother than Simon. Another brother, younger than the latter was captured by the Delawares and never returned to his native land. He, Tom Girty, is represented as being a good kind of a man; but James is represented by those who know him best as being a great reprobate, without one redeeming quality. Simon's knowledge of the Seneca tongue enabled him to acquire, with facility, a good degree of fluency in the Wyandott and Shawnee Languages.

I have given you briefly, Simon's debut among the Indians. In my next I will give you some particulars of Crawford's defeat, and the part Simon took in the battle.

Very respectfully yours

Wm. Walker.

P.S. If you can lay your hands on a copy (if printed) of the opening Address delivered at the inauguration of your Historical Society I will be under increased obligation if you will send it to me.

W.W.

L. C. Draper Esq
Madison
Wisconsin

(Col. Crawford's Campaign and Death.)

At the time Col. Crawford was making preparations for his intended coup de main, a large party of Indian warriors, composed of Wyandotts, Delawares, and Shawnees were reconnoitering along the Ohio River; sometimes on one side and sometimes on the other, and unaware of the preparations that were being made for an invasion of their country by the enemy till the latter crossed the river and made the old Mingoe towns their place of rendezvous. The Indian war party had made no noticeable demonstration upon the settlers over the river except the capture of a negro boy somewhere on Kenawha river.

Failing in acquiring booty in prisoners, horses, &c. were on the point of returning, when they were astonished at the discovery of a large force crossing the Ohio, and evidently prepared for a long march.

The war party was not at a loss in determining their destination and purpose, as the smoke of the late Moravian village had as yet, scarcely ceased to ascend. Their destination was doubtless to the Sciota and Sandusky Villages. A swift messenger was detailed and sent forward to these villaves to apprise them of their discovery.

The war party kept in advance of the invading army watching its movements and endeavoring to ascertain its numerical force. Upon arriving at a certain river, supposed to be the Muskingum, another runner was dispatched with additional information. The Indians continued on their flanks and front till, from the direction then taken by the Army, they were satisfied that the Sandusky Villages was the point aimed at, when another messenger was dispatched to communicate this important news.

Thus were the steps of Crawford's Army dogged from the Ohio river till it emerged from the wilderness to the great plains of Sandusky. Crawford all the time unconscious of the presence of the enemies' spies--thus affording the Indian allies ample time to make all needful preparations to give the invaders a suitable reception. Nothing of importance occur'd on the Sandusky plains except a skirmish or two till the Army reached the neighborhood of the Upper Sandusky, when the Army, thro' its scouts, discovered a strong force posted six or seven miles north of the latter place. The Army advanced as Girty said, "Helter skelter and in the most disorderly manner." The Indians posted themselves in a deep ravine thickly skirted with underbrush and running nearly at right angles with the usually traveled road: an open and undulating prairie on the left and the Sandusky river three fourths of a mile to the right. On reaching the brow of the hill which descends into the ravine, not in battle order, Girty says, an unexpected and gauling fire was the first intimation the invaders had of a formidable opposition: Crawford and his Army calculating confidently that they would carry everything before them. This threw this

undisciplined army into "noise and confusion," when a retreat was ordered to an Island of timber three miles in their rear; arriving there the retreating army halted and resolved to maintain their position.

The particulars of that battle and its results so disastrous to the invaders are matters of history; and as many different accounts as I have read, I give the preference to that contained in Dr. Doddridge's Notes. I therefore, pass on without giving the Wyandott version, as it would be very imperfect.

You ask for the "Wyandott account of the burning of Crawford---of Girty" &c.

After the capture of the Colonel and Doctor Knight, the Delaware and such Muncie and Mohicon, (cognate tribes with the former) Chiefs as were in the neighborhood assembled in Council to deliberate upon the disposition to be made of Crawford. It appears that Captain Pipe supposed the prisoner to be Col Williamson and so reported, Wingenund not having, as yet, seen the prisoner. Nor was he undeceived until he saw him at the stake. During their deliberations it was suggested that the Wyandott Sachem, Half King, would interpose to save the prisoner from his impending fate. Wingenund determined upon anticipating this movement, by sending to the Sachem an ambiguous and ingeniously prepared message, accompanied with a string of wampum to give it additional weight and importance. I cannot pretend to give the message verbatim, but it was in substance this: "Your nephew, the Delaware has heretofore acted in our war expeditions and other important matters under your direction and advice. I have now an object in view, which I ardently wish to accomplish, and wish to act on my own responsibility, and now ask my wise Uncle, in this one instance, to let me have my own way without interference. Will my Uncle grant this request?" The Half-King, not suspecting any ruse in

this message, but supposing the Delaware had in view the raising of a war party of his own people readily pledged himself to non-interference. It has been asserted that Girty was present at this Council and made the suggestion and coined the message, in order to insure Crawford's execution; but this is incorrect. He was not present. The Delawares, as well as Wyandotts, regarded him with little favor, except as a mere instrument --- a decoy duck --- a cat's paw for the time being. The Delawares laid no claim to Dr. K. he being captured by a Shawnee warrior. The Wyandotts say that no Wyandott Chief or principal or leading men were present at the burning of C..... Some young men may have been present as idle spectators.

I would here remark that it is due in justice to Girty to say that he did evince an anxiety to save the unhappy prisoners. The Wyandotts, at least, give him this credit. But the circumstance of his seeking, in the dead hour of the night, and obtaining an interview with Crawford on the night of the retreat, and pointing out a place where he could pass the lines of the allies undiscovered, destroyed what little confidence they had previously reposed in his fidelity. This caused the threat of Captain Pipe to the former who was interceding. "If you one word more on that subject I will plant another stake for you, and burn you along side the White Chief."

Yours truly,

Wm Walker

L. C. Draper, Esq.
Madison, Wis.

April 25, '57.

Wyandott City

K. T.

Aug. 25 '57

My dear Sir---

I owe you an apology for not furnishing you with the information you have so often requested. I am afflicted with the Gutta Serena ---nearly blind. It would afford me much pleasure to give you all the information in my possession, you ask. My youngest daughter, who has been my amanuensis, has left me. She is married to a gentleman connected with the Surveyor General's office and is residing at our Capitol, Lecompton, a distance of six miles.

I am elected a member of the Constitutional Convention for this miserable and unfortunate territory. Should you do me the honor of writing tome, address me at "Lecompton, Douglas County K T."

As soon as I can write, rest assured that I will attend to your request. With many thanks for your favor. ---the "Second Annual Report & Collections of the Historical Society of Wisconsin." I have read it with lively interest. Many of the actors in the drama, I was acquainted with---especially the French men.

With sentiments of high regard, I am yours,

Wm Walker

L. C. Draper Esq

Madison

Wis

William Walker

The subject of this brief sketch was born in 1770, in or near Green Brier, some of his relatives say, Rockbridge County, Va. He was captured by a war party of the Delawares in the early part of the summer of 1781, being then eleven years of age. There was in the neighborhood a small stockade or temporary fort, to which the inhabitants fled for safety whenever an alarm was raised. The settlers, at the time this attack was made, were entirely off their guard; nothing calculated to excite their alarm had occur'd for a long time, and all, old and young, male and female were busily engaged in their fields. Young Walker and (I think) his Uncle were ploughing corn, the former riding the horse and the other holding the plough. When coming out at the ends of the rows and in the act of turning they were fired upon from behind the fence wounding the man in both arms. The lad sprang from the horse and both fled towards the fort. He was captured before getting out of the field and the wounded man overtaken and killed within a few yards of the Fort. No attack was made on the Fort, tho' there was only a few women and children in it. The invading party commenced a rapid retreat and after travelling four or five miles halted in a thick wood, from which a reconcoitering party returned to the invaded district. In the afternoon the party returned to the place of rendezvous laden with plunder and accompanied by another party of Delawares which the prisoner had not seen before, and to their mutual astonishment Aunt and nephew here met. Mrs Cowen was captured in another part of the neighborhood by this second party. This was a distinct party, tho' they moved and travelled together. These two were the only prisoners they took.

Then commenced the return march which was attended with much fatigue and suffering, and to add to their distress, notwithstanding the country abounded with game yet the warriors were singularly unfortunate in their

bye hunts. They travelled several days on a very small allowance of dried meat, still urging their way as fast as they could consistently with the power of endurance of the prisoners; still fearing a pursuit and rescue. To their great joy the warriors killed a fat Buffalo just as they were camping.

During their march to the Ohio river he availed himself of the opportunity of breaking to his aunt his intended attempt at an escape; but she promptly interposed her objections to so rash an act which could not be otherwise than a failure, and which would, in all probability, bring upon them fatal consequences; pointing out to him the impossibility of successfully eluding pursuit and recapture, and the certainty of his perishing from hunger even if he eluded capture. Crossing the Ohio all hope of a rescue died within them; They ejaculated a long farewell to home, family and dear friends, their hearts sickened and sank within them; but their cup of anguish was not yet full, for here the two parties separated. The Aunt and nephew bade adieu to each other. It was the last and sad adieu---they never met again.

The party having the young captive proceeded direct to the Indian settlements on the Sciota, where, resting a few days, proceeded to their villages on the Whetstone, now Delaware, Ohio, where he underwent the discipline of running the gauntlet; out of which, as he frequently stated, he came with very little bodily injury. He was then adopted into, as he said, "a very good family and treated with kindness." The clan to which he belonged seemed more inclined to the chase and other peaceful pursuits than "following the war path." How long he remained with his adopted relatives I am unable to determine, four or five years at least. His party attending a council at Detroit, the subject under consideration being the treaty concluded at Fort McIntosh the winter before, these Delawares there met with a large body of Wyandotts, among which was an adopted

white man, named Adam Brown, who had been captured in Dunmore's war, when a man grown, in Greenbrier County by the Wyandotts, adopted and was married, was influential and respected by the tribe. The youth attracted his attention, and a conversation in English ensued, the latter not having entirely forgotten his native language. Brown finding out where he was from and knowing his family, determined upon ransoming him. Negotiations for this purpose were opened, but here an almost insurmountable obstacle presented itself. It was contrary to Indian customs and usages to sell an adopted person, on account of the reputed ties of relationship. This with the unwillingness of the family into which he was adopted, to part with him rendered the project a hopeless one. The influence of the Wyandott Chiefs and that of the Military Commandant were invoked. An official speech to be delivered to the Delawares by Skan-ho-sint, (One bark canoe) was agreed upon, which proving unavailing the attempt was to be abandoned as fruitless. The points taken may be thus briefly stated: We Wyandotts are your uncles and you Delawares are our nephews. This, you admit. Where, then, would be the violation of our law and custom if, all parties being agreed, an adopted nephew should choose to reside in the family of his Uncle? This would be only an interchange of those social amenities which are proper among relations; there would be no purchase in the case; your uncle would be loath indeed to insult his nephews by an offer to purchase their adopted son. Our father, the Commander, who joins with us, promises, as an earnest of his good will towards his Delaware children for their compliance with his, and your Uncles' wishes, to make your hearts glad (with rum) and bestow upon you, and especially upon the immediate family of the youth, valuable presents out of the King's Store house, such as Blankets, Cloths, guns, ammunition &c." (Here the Com'dt confirmed the promises.) After the delivery of the speech, time for deliberation was asked for and granted. Whether the

argument was deemed conclusive against the objections, or the promised presents acted as a salve to their consciences, it is sufficient to state that the Delawares acceded to the proposition and next day the transfer, was duly made. The subject of these negotiations knew but little about the details of these doings beyond the transfer, and being content to remain with his newly formed acquaintances, gave himself but little concern about them.

I wish this transaction to be placed on record as a part of our subject's history, to correct the false statements made by the descendants of Brown, that he was bought as a slave from the Delawares and that he (Brown) paid a large amount for him; when in truth, he had been adopted into the tribe or clan of Bucanage, he, last or six years before the transfer. Nor did Brown pay a shilling in the way of ransom. These facts were derived from the Delawares themselves, thro' Anderson, Hendricks, and other aged Chiefs, whom he met at the treaty of Greenville in the summer of 1814, in answer to his enquiries into the particulars of his transfer, and are undoubtedly true. The misstatements of his unworthy descendants should not detract in the least from his good name, as a kind hearted and humane man, and he was, in after years, well requited, and that in a substantial form for his kindness to his young friend, by opening the door of the debtor's cell and releasing his benefactor who, through the prodigality of his numerous family had become involved in a large amount. Dismissing this episode, we proceed.

With Brown he lived till he was twenty one or two, when he was married to a Miss Catharine Rankin, daughter of James Rankin, (a wealthy trader, formerly connected with the Hudson's Bay Company) and a Wyandott woman. Miss Rankin was educated in Pittsburgh and returned to Detroit after her father's death.

He settled near Brownstown (now Gibraltar) Wayne County, Mich.

Here he acquired, under the existing laws of Congress, nine hundred acres of land, on which he resided till the war of 1812.

(To be continued next week.)

Dear Sir: Your letter I rec'd a few days ago, and in compliance with your request, have commenced a running sketch of my father's life. I am still afflicted with ophthalmia, and can only write 20 or 30 minutes at a time. I will resume next week.

If you can ascertain the name of the Military Com't at Detroit, at the time refer'd to, please supply it. Lord Dorchester was then Gov'r general of the Canadas.

I am respectfully yours,

Wm. Walker

Wyandott City K. T.

March 21, '60.

Wyandott City March 26, '60.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed I send you my second series of the life of my venerated father, and think I shall be able to close it next week or the week following.

I do not know how you may like the plan I have thus far pursued, perhaps too prolix, perhaps too concise. I would like to hear from you on this point tho' it may be too late for me to avail myself of the suggestions.

I shall state in my next or the one following the ransom and return of Mrs. Cowan to Virginia.

Of the Gabriel Walker mentioned in your letter, we had heard, but

they were not related to my father.

Of Abraham Kuhn I can gather but few particulars. He died at Lower Sandusky some years before the last war, of smallpox, leaving three children, George, Aaron & Margaret. One of his great grand sons I have with, being my ward.

Yours

Wm Walker

William Walker, Continued

Having settled at Gros Roche, now Gibraltar, about 1790, turned his attention to the peaceful pursuits of Agriculture, and in endeavoring to acquire an education under the tuition of his wife, in which he made rapid progress.

His debut in public life was his efforts in aiding the pacific measures of Commissioners Lincoln, Randolph and Pickering in 1793. Tho' young he had acquired a considerable influence with the Wyandotts, Delawares, Muncies, &c. and attended the Councils held by the Comrs. with the Indians. Here the wrath of the British Indian Agents was roused against him by his earnest advice to abandon as hopeless the idea, to which they clung with so much tenacity, of making the Ohio river the boundary. He also took an active part in bringing about the Wayne treaty of 1795. Having now acquired a thorough knowledge of the Wyandott tongue, and being so far capable as to speak it with fluency, was employed as a Government Interpreter, and attended at all of the Councils and treaties held subsequently up to 1820. By his devotion and fidelity to his country, his integrity and exemplary life, (a rara avis on that frontier at that time) He secured the confidence of (the unfortunate) Gov. afterwards, Gen Hull, Gen Harrison and Gov Cass.

After his entrance into public life, the Government was no longer necessitated to employ such Wyandott interpreters as Simon Girty, Samuel Sanders, and others of lesser note; the former could only speak a patois or mixture of Seneca and Wyandott, and whose integrity and veracity might well be questioned where the subject matter under discussion came in conflict with his partizan feeling or interest.

Brown's and Walker's lands adjoined, the former known as Brownstown and the latter as before stated, as Gros Roche, and the two lived as neighbors upon the most amicable terms. Upon the declaration of war in 1812, the latter was appointed Special Indian Agent, and was instructed to exert his influence with the Indians to observe a strict neutrality in the contest about commencing between the belligerent powers; that being the policy adopted by the Administration---a most unwise policy, as bitter after experience fully demonstrated, and forced the Government to abandon it, and then "beat up for volunteers" among the loyal Indian tribes. The position was arduous and perplexing, and at the same time perilous to himself and family; living as they did immediately opposite Fort Malden, and the town of Amherstburg, the Head Quarters of the British Army and Indian Departments; and having to oppose the machinations of the Elliots, McKees, Ironsides and Girtys --- was the Mordecai in the King's gate, and in imminent danger of assassination by the hired minions of the former, and was, at length forced to send his family to Brownstown for safety.

He had but little difficulty in keeping the Michigan Wyandotts from the British standard, as they were true to the American cause, and were eager to engage in the contest. Gen Hull had promised to protect them; but that unfortunate officer, as subsequent events proved, was unable to protect himself and army, to say nothing about protecting the inhabitants of Michigan and the Wyandotts whose hands were tied.

They(the latter) were left to the tender mercies of the enemy. It was not long before an incident occur'd which gave the British a pretext for invading the Wyandott settlements. Some Batteaux coming up the Lake with supplies for the American Army commanded by Aaron Greeley, landed at Walker's farm, which being discovered from Malden, two Gun boats or Row gallies with several Canoe loads of Canadian militia and Indians were sent over to capture them. They were defended by the crew, aided by Walker, his son John R., Adam Brown and several Wyandotts, and the enemy repulsed. The next day the enemy, with a large force in Row gallies, Batteaux and Canoes, came over and captured the prize. That night the village was surrounded by Indians and Militia, and the Wyandotts pronounced prisoners of war. They did not resist; indeed resistance would have brought certain destruction upon them and their families. Walker, his two elder sons, John R. Isaac, and Thomas Rankin, his brother in law, succeeded under the cover of darkness to pass the lines and reached Head Quarters, Detroit, at day light, and reported to Gen Hull; leaving his family, wife and five children to the care and protection of their Wyandott relatives. Elliott, McKee, & Co. finding their supposed prize had eluded their grasp, satiated their revenge by destroying his dwellings, barns, stables, outhouses, and destroying and carrying the remainder of his property. The next day the prisoners were taken across the channel and placed upon an Island known as Bois Blanc. This took place about five weeks previous to Hull's Surrender. After the surrender, Mrs Walker applied for and obtained permission from General Procter to remove with her family to Detroit and rejoin her husband and son, the eldest having been wounded, (supposed to be mortally) in Col Miller's battle near Brownstown some time before. But this reunion of the family was of short duration. The officers of the Indian Department had their victim now in their clutches. He was arrested in the street by a file of soldiers,

taken to the Fort, and confined in the Dungeon. The officers of the Army were either ignorant, or pretended to be, of the immediate cause of his arrest, so contrary to the Articles of Capitulation. The former was the most probable.

It may be proper in this place to remark, that during the Indian wars after the peace of 1763, which were carried on at the instigation and connivance of the British Government, and the late war, one peculiarity in their policy was observable, differing from that pursued by our Government, the military was really subordinate to the Indian Department, regardless of the grade of the Military Commandant, to the annoyance and mortification of the better class of officers of the regular army who detested such renegades as Elliott, McKee, Girty, Stockwell, Colwell, &c.

John R. Walker, the eldest son, had so far recovered of his wounds as to be able to go on board of a transport with other prisoners to be sent below to be exchanged. The fate of the immured prisoner was a matter of conjecture; nothing definite could be learned. At length it leaked out thro' the garrulity of one of the Indian Department, while in his cups, that it was determined that the prisoner should be sent back to Quebec and kept in close confinement till the close of the war, be its duration long or short. This information, Mrs Walker managed to have conveyed to him thro' one of the soldiers belonging to the guard. This alarming intelligence roused the prisoner to more active reflections than he had hitherto indulged in. The idea of being held in durance vile for an untold and an unascertained length of time, in a distant province, leaving a family destitute of the means of support, except their good credit, perhaps denied the means of communicating with them, and perhaps never to see them again, filled his cup of torture to the brim. The chief subject now occupying his lonely ruminations was the probable chances of escape. No time was to be lost; it was now the latter part of October, and the

weather was getting cold. He so far succeeded in enlisting the sympathies of the generous soldiers composing his guard, that they would release him from the Dungeon of evenings and permit him to set by the fire in the guard room till "Tattoo beat." On one of these occasions, being a beautiful moonlight night, he resolved on making the desperate attempt. He had calculated closely on the chances of success or failure. It was impossible to pass the gate facing the City without discovery, resolved upon a rapid dash past the three sentinels, one at the guard house door, and the two on the ramparts, and scaling the two rows of pickets, and if not killed in the attempt. Accordingly, while the soldiers were regaling themselves over a Bucket of Cider which had just been bro't in, he slipped out unperceived, ran round the guard house, mounted the ramparts, just as the two sentinels were walking from each other, rushed between them, and with, it might be said, super human exertion scaled the two rows of pickets before he was hailed, and strange as it may appear, was not fired upon while scrambling out of the moat. He had three fourths of a mile to run before reaching the woods, which he did in safety. The family was apprised that night of his escape, by the arrival of a file of soldiers who searched the house for the fugitive.

He was now out of prison, and the next consideration was to escape recapture by making his way to the American Army; the nearest point being Fort Defiance, a distance of upwards of a hundred miles, where Gen Winchester was preparing to winter his troops. No one knew better than he did, the geography and topography of the country --- the swamps, impenetrable thickets, brush tangled ponds, where he could secrete himself, and still be not over three or four miles from the City. At a late hour on the following night he visited the house of an old tried friend, Hon. Jacob Nisgar, and requested him to find means to communicate to his family his place of concealment, what he wanted in the way of an outfit---

such as a horse equipped, gun, ammunition and provisions, with directions to send them by his faithful man Baldwin. The message was delivered and the supplies furnished without exciting suspicion.

The officers of the Indian Department were roused with intense excitement, were indignant, and denounced, in no moderate terms, the military for suffering the prisoner to escape. This roused the blood of John Bull, in the person of Major Chambers, Commanding Officer of the Fort, who, in an altercation with Elliott returned "a Rowland for an Oliver." All was bustle and excitement. Some swore Walker was a second Baron Trenck. A large reward was offered for his recapture, dead or alive. Numerous parties of Indians with some renegades, more savage and debased than the former sallied out to scour the woods and secure the prize. The Wyandotts being indifferent, declined joining in the chase.

During his flight he was so fortunate as to escape falling in with any of the pursuing parties. Once, however, while resting his horse and eating his frugal lunch two Petawottomies came upon him: one a middle aged man, the other a youth aged some eighteen or nineteen years, whom fortunately he did not recognize, nor they him, and is supposed were ignorant of what had transpired at Head Quarters. The fugitive assumed an air of careless indifference and frigid imperturbability. To accost them in Wyandott, Delaware, or English, would, as he reasoned, reveal his identity; he, therefore, addressed them in Shawnee, asking them if they were on the way to fight the "Big Knives" on the Maumee river? The elder answered "No, they were on their return to Malden." He then asked them to accompany him and try to take some prisoners--- this they declined, when leaping into his saddle told them to come on, was soon out of sight. He continued his course towards Fort Defiance: his horse failing he turned him out and proceeded on foot. When within a few miles of the Fort, to his great joy, he fell in with a scouting party of the

Army; but his joy was soon changed into mortification and indignation upon being disarmed and finding himself a prisoner as a "British Spy". His statements and protestations were of no avail, he was a "British Spy"; the gallant party was not to be deprived of its laurels so dearly won in capturing so dangerous an enemy. Arriving at the Port, he was taken before Gen Winchester, to whom he related the particulars of Hull's surrender, his own imprisonment and escape, but still he was a British spy of the first grade, and kept in close confinement. He, at length succeeded in getting a letter to Gen Harrison, when an order for his release arrived, and proceeded to Head Quarters and reported himself. After his release Gen Winchester urged him to join him in his campaign. He might be excused, under the circumstances, for replying to this proposition in terms so harsh: "What do you want with a "British Spy?" No, Sir, No? I will not connect my fate with such an Army." On arriving at Head Quarters Gen Harrison ordered him on duty among the Ohio Indians.

But to return to the British Head Quarters. Failing to recapture the fugitive, his second son, Isaac, was arrested and confined in the same Dungeon and there kept till Mrs Walker appealed to RoundHead, a gallant and generous Canadian Wyandott Chief, for his intervention in behalf of her son. He, accordingly called (not upon Elliott & Co.) upon Gen Proctor, and claiming the prisoner as one of his people, and insisted upon his release and restoration to his family who, in their distressed circumstances needed his services. He was accordingly discharged.

Wyandott City, Kansas, June 4, '62.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of Oct. 30, '61 has reached here after various rambles over the habitable globe. Where in the name of Mercury has it been

all this time? in "Dixie's Land?" been in Chang Foo's dead letter office? It smells of Rat meat, and appears to have undergone the manipulations of the Chop sticks. Your enquiries in reference to Capt Snake will be attended to, as soon as opportunity presents itself. When I obtain the information I will write you, and at the same time nominate to you some suitable persons as correspondents among the Shawnees and Delawares. I think it will be difficult to obtain a capable one among the latter. And then, the present Indian Agent, Least of all.

I write in haste, in order to explain the mystery of my long silence.

Yours truly

Wm Walker

L. C. Draper, Esq.

Wyandott City Kansas

July 17, '66

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 14th ult. is rec'd and, at present can do nothing more than acknowledge its receipt. I am now seriously afflicted with Opthalmia, and can do but little writing. As soon as I recover, I will apply myself to your enquiries. I think I can give you some information on most of your enquiries.

But let me advise you to keep a good stock of credulity by you while reading Finley's works. On this point, more hereafter.

Did you receive a short Biographical sketch of my father?

Yours truly

Wm Walker

L. C. Draper Esq

Pheasant Branch, Wisconsin.

Wyandott City Nov 16 '67

Dear Sir:

Your several letters of enquiry into the lives, character of prominent Wyandotts, have been received and filed away to be attended to at such times as I could command reliable data.

This, and the past year have been marked with serious family afflictions, and added to this, afflicted myself with seriously impaired vision, caused by repeated attacks of Ophthalmia.

I have been waiting for an opportunity of having an interview with aman who was raised in the family of an old and distinguished Chief, in the hope of gleaming much interesting matter from him. That interview I have had, but gained but little to answer your enquiries, tho' in other historical matters I gained some useful information from him.

Of all the distinguished Wyandotts into his history I have tried to penetrate Abram Kuhn's is the most foggy:--- barren of interest as far as I can learn, but more of this hereafter. Scotush, I can give you some details of his life as I was acquainted with him; but an revoir.

I write this note merely to apprise you that I am awake to the business you have entrusted to my attention and care. I have some notes and scraps on hand, and am now waiting the return of Tauromee, an intelligent Wyandott who is among the Quapaws, and Senecas South, from whom I may gather some valuable items.

Very respectfully

Wm Walker.

Abram Kuhn

The subject of this sketch was captured by a war party of Wyandotts about the year 1770 from Western Penn'a. Of his age when captured I can learn nothing. To what tribe or Clan he was adopted into no one of the present generation can tell. He bore the reputation of a man of abilities and strong natural endowments, and a hard man to grapple with. It does not appear that he was a Chief, tho' often consulted by the Council of the nation. I cannot learn that he ever gained the reputation of a brave or a warrior. He was not, as far as I can learn, in the action in which St. M Clair's Army was defeated; but he was in Wayne's battle on the Maumee river in '94.

He and Tarbee or Crane exerted a powerful influence in bringing about the treaty of peace known as Wayne's treaty in the succeeding year. I have heard my father and Uncle James Rankin speak of him as a man of fine personal appearance and the unmistakable stamp of Teutonic origin.

He died at Lower Sandusky Ohio sometime in 1808 or '9: his wife and one daughter only surviving him. This daughter became the wife of a Wyandott named "Two feathers." She died in early life leaving three children, viz: George, Margaret, and Aaron Kuhn, discarding their father's name and assuming that of their Grand father on their mother's side. Of the Grand children I can only say Margaret died in early life leaving one son. George the eldest was of but little force, but Aaron was a man of abilities and was the Chief of his tribe or clan. I am the guardian of his Grandson, Geo. A. Kuhn.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 31st ultimo I rec'd some days since, and on yesterday had the pleasure of receiving three pamphlets on subjects Historical, Antiquarian, and Archaeology: for which accept my warmest thanks.

I have in preparation some items in the life of Abram Kuhn (his descendants however discard the Teutonic orthography and write it Coon.) My gleanings are very meagre, but what I have that I regard as valuable and reliable I will send you and others as fast as I can get reliable data.

Allow a little episode in connection with "Historical" matter. Last week I sent by express to "The Historical Society of Penn'a" a watch that was bro't off Braddock's battlefield, and by mail I sent a memoir of the watch,--- its changes of ownership till it found a local habitation in my father's house.

Very truly Yours

Wm Walker

P. S. I wish my vision was as good as it was twenty years ago. If it were I would write you much historical matter of the stirring times of the last century.

W. W.

Wyandott City Nov 9 '71

Dear Sir:

I suppose by this time you are, like myself, at home after a long absence. I arrived at home, after an absence of eight months on the first inst.

I have become a wanderer--- a "Wandering Jew", tho' not a Jew "to the manor born."

Domestic habits once my solace have, in a great degree lost their

influence over my life.

I hope you had an agreeable trip in the "Sunny South" now down trodden by a military despotism--- where the bayonet supervises the ballot box and administers justice so called.

Within the two coming years a revolution will be precipitated upon us, and what the finale who can tell?

Yours truly

Wm Walker

L. C. Draper Esq

Madison

Wis

Wyandott City March 1 '72

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 18th of Dec I received, and was glad to learn that you had reached home in safety. I owe an apology for my long silence. On my return home business had accumulated and a considerable correspondence to be bro't up, and worse than all, I unluckily bro't with me from Ohio, "of all illsthe last and worst," the real old fashioned patented Shaking Ague. With this pest I have been annoyed all winter. I flatter myself however, that I am rid of it at last. I was gone eight months. In Kenton, Ohio, "the Pioneer Association for Sardin County" met as usual on the 4th of July and I was again numbered among the speakers.

Among my correspondents is a Gent. connected with the Press in Ohio whose father was in Crawford's ill-fated expedition. He requests information in regard to Girty's family especially whether he left a son or sons; but am unable to answer. As you visited his daughter in Canada West, you probably know. Will you do me the favor to inform me? I think

I am pretty well posted in regard to this man's wild career, but know nothing in regard to his family. This gentleman states that he fell in with a man who claimed to be Girty's son, but from his statement thinks he is an imposter.

While in Eastern Ohio and on the Ohio river I tried to collect some items relative to the old border war, but could find nothing but what could be found in "Western Annals" and "Howe's History of Ohio." There is one laughable incident that I think I forgot to give you, in relation to a Wyandott war party besieging the little Fort at Wheeling --- the Wooden Cannon. Perhaps you already have it, if not I will furnish it. I am interrupted by company.

Goodbye

Yours Wm Walker

Lyman C. Draper Esq
Madison Wis

Wyandott City March 14, '72

Dear Sir:

Some time between the 20th and 25th ultimo I wrote you acknowledging the receipt of your favor Dec 18th and among other matters inquired if, in your enquiries of Girty's daughter in Canada, you learned whether Girty had one or more sons; as this question has been frequently asked, but I cannot answer.

I am apprehensive that our boy has lost my letter going to the P. O. If you failed to receive it, I will re-write what I wrote in the lost letter. But please give me the desired information.

Yours truly

Wm Walker

Wyandott City May 4, '72

Dear Friend:

Your good nature will excuse the delay in answering your last favor when I inform you that recent illness was the cause. On looking over the "Annals of the West" I find a full account of this Wooden Cannon business related. I think you informed me, you had that work. See page 163 Siege of Fort Henry (Wheeling). But the sequel presents an amusing feature connected with the effect of this "siege", not generally known. The father of Adam Brown with whom you had an interview, was among the besiegers. He and Girty it was who suggested the employment of this dangerous piece of ordnance. One man (aWyandott) was killed on the spot, and several severely wounded.

When about to abandon the siege they unanimously agreed to keep this wooden cannon disaster a profound secret on reaching home as they would be subjected to perpetual ridicule if known. True to the Covenant, on return home; but the abrasions upon the bodies of the wounded were so unlike wounds produced by bullets caused some impertinent and ugly questions to be asked.

At Wayne's treaty in 1795, there were present some of the defenders of the besieged Fort, who were in search of captured relatives. These interested witnesses "let the cat out of the wallet". True, as they feared, Girty and Brown never heard the last of "The wooden siege gun."

"Now in the winter of our discontent
 Made glorious summer by this Son of York;
 And all the clouds that lour'd upon our house
 In the deep bosom of the ocean buried.---
 Now are our brows bound with victorious wreaths,
 Our bruised arms hung up for monuments;
 Our stern alarms changed to merry meetings,

Our dreadful marches to delightful measures."

Thy friend

W.W.

From Gov. Wm. Walker, born near Brownstown, at the mouth of Detroit river, Michigan, March 5th 1799.

(July 1868)

It was at Braddock's defeat that the Wyandotts and other Northwestern tribes who took part in the engagement, first acquired horses, where they obtained considerable numbers. Prior to which, there were but very few horses in Canada and other Western French settlements, and those few imported at heavy expense. But now with this new acquisition, horses multiplied rapidly.

The first cattle introduced among the Wyandotts was about the period of Wayne's peace and obtained from the French around Detroit, and in Canada. No Sheep. They did not commence keeping swine for several years after getting cows---no pressing necessity for raising them. Can tell nothing about the advent of the honey bee --- thinks the bee followed the Whites.

On Point Pleasant battle, 1774, heard nothing said by the old Wyandotts participating in it --- if any, only some young warriors.

Can tell nothing Chi-ya-wee--- the name sounds like a Wyandott one. 1763. Lt. Pauley and British in garrison at mouth of Sandusky Bay, near Sandusky City. Thinks it was called Fort Griswold, where a sort of calaboose was established there in later times, the whites dignified it with the name of Fort Griswold.

1778. No tradition about the Indian Army who went against Boone-boro in 1778, whether there were any Wyandotts in it or not.

1780. Quite a number of Wyandotts were under Col. Bird in his expedition --- and can only name one prominent Wyandott Chief, Zhan-sho-to to or Extended Sine commonly called Shoo- to. Can't give any particulars. He was of the Bear Tribe, a fiery impulsive man, as was Gov. St. Clair. These two had some sharp sparring and could not agree, and thus failed to affect a treaty with St. Clair, at Fort Harmar, in 1789; Shoo-to insisted on the Ohio as the boundary line between the whites and the Indians, and Walk-in-the-Water, a junior Chief of the Turtle tribe, was there and (with Gen'l Rich'd Butler) strongly favored a compromise on the boundary --- and also Sou-cha-et-ess, or Long Gray Hair, commonly called Leather Lips (one the Prophet's victims killed on the Scioto) took the same view. But the treaty with the Wyandotts failed. Shoo-to, though advocating the same boundary policy with Brant, was always bitter in his opposition, denouncing him with the most opprobrious epithets --- half Indian, half whit man, some education, yet a savage upstart barbarian. He opposed Harmar and St. Clair --- determined to fight it out to the last --- he leading his own clan in the great slaughter of St. Clair. A large number of Wyandott Chiefs were killed at Wayne's fight. The last of his band, Bowyer, a part blood, a tall amn, of warriors died in the of 1884 about a year after the Wyandotts migrated to Missouri.

Mr. Walker in former communications says Shoo-to saved Girty. It was in this way: Girty had been an early captive with the Senecas; escaped from them; when the Revolution broke out and Girty in 1778 fled from Pittsburg to join the Indians --- reached the Sandusky, and could only talk the Seneca, and the Wyandotts sent for some Senecas who then live near there, and they recognized Girty as an old Seneca prisoner, and charged him with being a runaway & they threatened to kill him. Shoo-to and others interfered and prevented it. Girty lived much with the Wyandotts and learned their language pretty well & traded some. No doubt

Shoo-to opposed Crawford --- must have done so when the Wyandott country was invaded. Never heard of any descendants.

SIMON GIRTY and JIM GIRTY --- Saw them both frequently from June 1812 till after Harrison's victory in fall of 1813 --- when informant and family were prisoners near Amherstburg. Simon was then nearly blind. Would drink freely and was then rude and rough: could see barely enough to follow the road --- followed the retreating troops and followed up the Thames, informant saw him on the way to Sandwich on this occasion, when he said, despondingly, that he was nearly blind, somewhat old, (apparently 65, a fresh look, rotund, rather inclined to corpulency --- En-bon-point) & thought it doubtful if he should ever return to his old home near Malden. He was not, however, Killed at the Thames. Simon Girty was of a friendly disposition socially --- fond of jokes & pleasantry; but when intoxicated, was ungovernable, & would abuse his best friends. There is no doubt, says Mr. Walker, that he in good faith did what he could to save Col. Crawford --- tried very hard; but the Delawares had Crawford as their prisoner; and Girty never had much influence --- & none with the Delawares.

Wing-go-num, head Delaware Chief, (Pipe, head war chief) sent a message stating, ambiguously, that they, the Delawares, had a plan on foot that they wished to carry out, and would do so, if their Uncles, the Wyandotts, sh'd not interfere. Half King, not then knowing that the Delawares had captured Crawford, & supposing from the artful, ambiguous language of the message, that some pursuit of Crawford's retreating party, or a retaliatory expedition was intended, replied that he and his people would not interfere. Hence the Delawares burned Crawford. Had the Half King known fully the object of Wingemum, no doubt (so Mr. Walker thinks, as he derived the facts from his parents & aged Wyandotts) the Wyandotts, as being the Uncles of the Delawares --- the latter the nephews

---and had a commanding influence over them---with Girty's efforts, Crawford would have been saved.

Dr. Knight was taken by the Shawnees and subsequently escaped. Taihe or Crane was not a noted warrior, but opposed Crawford. Half King opposed and fought Crawford, and so Round Head and Shoo-to, a white man named Honness, early captured German, fought with the Indians, was pounded in the mouth in that engagement---got well, but ever afterward impaired his speech. He died at Brownstown. Saw him in fall of 1822 and died in 1824, about 90 years old. Not a Chief---but influential.

Thinks Abram Kuhn was no chief, not Whittaker nor Adam Brown,--- that the Wyandotts had an inflexible rule or law, never to make a white man a Chief: would consult them, invite them into their councils but never invest them with the sacred wampum as Chief. So with Wm Walker (captured by Delawares.)

Jim Girty. He was a very hard-hearted wretch---not a warrior---no force nor energy---lived around Amherstburg---an attache to Indian traders---low, debased: When Winchester's army were brought in over the ice on the river to Amherstburg---guarded by British soldiers---a large concourse looking on:---& Jim Girty hobbled out & belched forth "why the Devil did Proctor bring these d----d Yankees here---we are scant of provisions (which was so) for our soldiers, Indians, and people---why did not Proctor let the Indians tomahawk them all?

"See s'd he to a Chippewa woman---"There's a d----d Yankee woman among the prisoners, with a fine shawl on---go & get it for yourself" and the squaw ran and snatched it from the poor woman, in cold wintry weather; when one Cadotte, a generous hearted half French & half Indian, was Pot-tawattanie interpreter for the British Government, seeing the unfeeling act, ran and got the shawl from the squaw and restored it to its owner. It was a noble act---& such an act as brought down Jim Girty's wrath and

blasphemous invectives on the interpreter, who paid no attention to Girty, but treated him with silent contempt.

He had no family as recollected---was a cripple, walked on crutches, & did not flee with Procter.

Abram Kuhn did not belong to the Turtle tribe, but his wife did; & hence John Coon belonged to the Turtle tribe---a brother-in-law of Rotendy's John Coon died about 1835, had long been a widower---left two sons and two daughters---all dead. Coon opposed to Christianity nothing remarkable about him---a wild uncultivated Indian---was out with Harrison. Coon and Dunguod at an early day---after Wayne's treaty---& after Ohio became a state---in revenge for some Indian friend who had been killed in Chillicothe met a lone young man near Lake Erie, where they were hunting, son of a prominent Kentuckian, & quietly killed him and kept it a secret for many years.

It was a rule that a man could not marry into his own clan,---avoiding consanguinity---were ten clans of the Wyandotts.

John Coon must have been of the Coon family, can't say certainly.

Star-star-rate-ze, or Long Bark, of the Deer tribe, commonly called Half King; Can't tell how the name Half King originated. He died at Brownstown very early. before Wayne's treaty, probably---but perhaps it was later. He inherited his position---nothing very remarkable---a good man---a Catholic. After his death, the Chieftainship which had previously been confined to his Tribe and family selected Taihe of the Porcupine tribe on account of his abilities, good conduct, purity of character, & general fidelity, as head Chief; and it was continued in that clan till the head chief became elective. Taihe died in Dec 1816, near Upper Sandusky, about seventy---not eighty nor a hundred as some represent. He was out in the war of 1812-15 leading the Wyandotts---and Secu-tash was also out, quite a man and warrior---possessing great placidity & equanimity of character. Don't know whether Tarhe was out opposing Braddock---

can't specify his services; he was in Wayne's battle certainly. He was a worthy man---decidedly hostile to Tecumseh and the Prophet, who had planned his destruction about the time Leather Lips was killed. He was six feet, four inches---slender and strait as an arrow to the last---of a tough, wiry, elastic form, & could endure hardships. He was the statesman & orator of his people, ever guiding them in wisdom.

Ron-tun-dee, or War Pole, was head chief under Half King but he and Half King had some difficulty---Ron-tun-dee was a restless man strong and arbitrary, and he led off his Porcupine tribe for several years, first settling in the Cuyahoga country, and then settled in Indiana in the Fort Wayne region, and he dying, his band returned and rejoined the Wyandotts about the commencement of this century. During Tarhe's Chieftainship, and after Ron-tun-dee, there was no regular war chief for a long time. During the war of 1812, Tarhe appointed George Punch, (Ta-yun-dot-seh, the village keeper) of the Snake tribe. Many years a councillor who died in Kansas in 1845, about 70 years old, a very respectable and worthy man.

They had not much service---only spying and scouting---until at the Thames when they took an active part, Tarhe along and the Wyandotts, rescued the Brownstown Wyandotts from the British after the battle, who were ferried off to one side, and took no part with the British in the fight.

Harrison had great confidence in Tarhe. His intellect was unimpaired, and his bodily activity undiminished to the last---died of pneumonia. His contour of face and small mouth much resembled Dickens---when Gov. Walker saw when first in the country.

After Tarhe's death, he was succeeded by Da-un-gua-et (Dun guod) who signed treaty of 1817-18 as Dun-guod Half King of Porcupine tribe was chosen and installed Head Chief, when another Run-tun-dee was chosen

war pole and head war chief. Never installed, died in July 1825. He was succeeded by his nephew Sar-ra-hess, or Tall Tree, and the imposing ceremonies of installation, with delegations from the Shawnees, Delawares, & Senecas, took place in 1826, at Upper Sandusky. No special meaning to Da-un-gua-ett. He was 50 years of age; he was a miserable drunkard---in rows---before his succeeding to the Chieftain ship, when he reformed---but decidedly a pagan, hostile to Christianity, as was Ron-tun-dee, who died in Kansas in 1843, the same year of migrating there. Neither Dungued nor Ron-tun-dee were out in war of 1812.

About 1828, the Wyandotts changed the form of government---the Catholics and Protestants at a general election, supporting the change against the pagans,---& provided for choosing a principal and seven councillors without any reference to the clanship---& the office of war chief was abolished. Sar-ra-hess was not a candidate, and Rontundee, a man of abilities, notwithstanding his pagan character, was chosen head chief, for a year---& re-elected till about 1836. When Francis A. Hicks, a young educated Wyandott for a year,---then Wm. Walker (informant) for a year; & then preferring to be secretary to the Council and ex-officio a member. (Walker had previously for several years been in the council) In 1842 Sum-m-du-wat, or Loud Voice succeeded for one year, and soon after the expiration of his term he was assassinated in his sleep, by a party of three whites, with an axe, for pleasure, abt. Dec. 1842. He was succeeded by Henry Jacquis for a year, and the removal took place during his administration. Subsequently Hicks, 1844,---Jos. Washington years 1845---6 Jacquis, 1847,---Geo. I. Clark, 1848,---Tar-ro-mee, or John Hat, two years, 1849-50;---John D. Brown, 1851; Mathew Mad Eater, two years, 1852-53; & Tar-ro-mee in 1854. In Jan. 1855, a treaty was made with the U. S. when the Wyandotts had their lands divided pro rata and the gen'l fund held by government was distributed pro rata, and became

citizens: about 600 participated in these distributions---have since scattered considerably and probably somewhat diminished since. The small Canada band of Wyandotts had no part in this distribution---probably less than a hundred of them.

Scou-tush, or The Head Eater, was very likely a son of Half King, and if so was born at Brownstown, Michigan. He died near the close of 1832, about 70 years of age: hence born about 1762, yet don't think he was in Poe's fight--- never heard that he was. His second wife was the widow of John Van Metre, a Mohawk man; Van Metre died in 1822. He, Scou-tush was out in the war in 1812, very likely in Crawford's fight, and agt Hammar, St. Clair, & Wayne; a very stirring man. Had his struggles with his appetite for liquor. About 5ft. 10, weighing abt. 180. Had only one child, a daughter, who grew up; who married Dix Williams, a mixt blood--- a son of Isaac Williams.

POE'S FIGHT. Mr. Walker's mother used to say (she belonged to the Big Turtle clan) that three Wyandotts and one Delaware went to the war, and only the Delaware returned, to tell the melancholy story that two of the slain were brothers, and some the third also, while others said the third was a relative---at all events, all belonged to the same clan, the Porcupine---& not the Big Turtle clan, as Mrs. Walker would have so state emphatically: that great lamentation was had for the loss of the three noble youths: that the two brothers were stalwart men---or the three brothers, if they were all brothers---of unusual size---hence the larger bore the nickname Big Foot by the whites.

Gov. Walker is well satisfied if any one went to kill Poe, it was not done at the instance of the Wyandott Chief, Tarhee & Council---for Tarhe had entered heartily into Wayne's treaty, & was a high-minded man. He would never have consented, either as a member of the Porcupine clan,

or as head chief, to the violation of his and his people's treaty obligations, by such a flagrant outrage.

From Democratic Sentinel, Cadiz, Ohio. Nov. 29, 1854.

Mr. Allen:

In reading your valuable paper of the 11th ult., my attention was arrested by an article headed "The Indian chief, Rhomunness," in which a lively and graphic account is given of the memorable rencontre of the Poe and Bif Foot parties in 1782---with the ground and lofty tumblings, trials of strength at wrestling, speed in aquatic racing, and dexterity in pugilistic exercises &c., between the two distinguished leaders. All this is matter of history, not only American, but Wyandott History. But I am at a loss to determine how Rhomunness became subsequently, (some thirteen or fourteen years) involved in this matter. I am unable to reconcile it to Wyandott history, Wyandott customs and usages. The period of time when Rhomunness was supposed to be selected to execute the national vengeance on Adam Poe must have been after Wayne's treaty concluded between the United States and the Wyandotts and their confederates, the Delawares, Shawnees, Ottawas, Chippewas, Pottawattomies, Miamis, Weas, Piankeshaws, Kickapoos, and Kaskaskias, in August 1795, for the account states, "It was now a time of peace and the Indians particularly the Wyandotts were regarded as friendly."

I wish it to be borne in mind by the reader that the employment of Rhomunness was, according to the statement, a national act---by authority of the Wyandott nation; for it says, "At length the nation made choice of their bravest warrior, in the person of Rhomunness" &c. Here is a charge made of so grave a character that no member of the Wyandott nation possessing any spirit or, having any regard for our national name or character

can suffer it to pass without an effort to vindicate it from this load of odium so unjustly thrown upon it. The truth of history must be vindicated, as well as our national character, and, I take this occasion to pronounce that part which relates to Rhonness' employment and his expedition to Poe's dwelling, untrue! It is well known that this is an age of fiction writing---it is the rage of the times, and even men of veracity are often lead to indulge in this folly of the times; when for the want of correct historical lore run unconsciously into many errors by filling up their meagre details and isolated scraps and fragments of history by heavy draughts upon that prolific labratory, the imagination; thus, improving upon the public mixture--- a compound of truth and fiction. The article now under consideration is one of that stamp.

Before proceeding to the disproof, I will promise, that the Wyandott nation is subdivided in to tribes or clans, and the individuals composing a tribe are bound together by real and imaginary ties of consanguinity, and warmly attached to each other. So close is this tribal relationship considered, that a marriage between members of the same tribe would be looked upon as incestuous. The Big Feet were members of the Porcupine, and Rhonness, a member of the Big Turtle tribe. And if the former meditated revenge, after Wayne's treaty, it cannot come within the range of probability that that tribe would select a member of another tribe, least of all a member of the Big Turtle; as between these two tribes there never was much of the ettiente cordiale displayed. The ancient rule was, where revenge was sought for a slain relative, the nearest male kin claimed or was entitled to the privilege; he, incapacitated or waiving his right, then the next nearest, then any member of the tribe.

1st. It is rendered still more improbable from the fact that Rhonness was not classed among the braves as a warrior: the pursuit of arms being in opposition to his inclination and tastes. His pursuits being civil

and religious, being a devoted member of the Roman Catholic Church from early life.

2nd. It is also highly improbable that they would select one so confessedly inexperienced in war---in Indian war tactics and strategy, and one so young, he being then, not more than twenty-four or five years of age, when that tribe had in their ranks two renowned warriors, Round Head and Split-the-Log besides others.

3rd. Admitting that a plan to wreak vengeance upon Poe had been matured by the Porcupine tribe in conclave, it cannot be supposed that this projected Filibustering foray could have escaped the Eagle eye of Tarhe or, Crane, a member of that tribe, and ruling sachem of the nation and a powerful advocate for, and main instrument in bringing about and closing the treaty of '95, which terminated a long, protracted and bloody war. To entertain the idea that he would, by his silence, or non-interposition, acquiesce in such measure, would subject him to the charge of insincerity, duplicity and base treachery. Such a charge cannot lie against the great and good Tarhee, the friend and confidant of old North Bend, who, in comparing him with his contemporaries of other nations, pronounced him, "The Greatest Roman of them all."

4th. Though last, not least, Rhomness repeatedly stated in his lifetime that he never was south or east of the Ohio river but once, and that was in the year '97 or '98, when he went in company with some Wyandotts and a Frenchman to trade. The subject will be resumed in another communication.

Yours, truly,

Wm. Walker.

Kansas Territory, Nov. 10, 1854.

In addition to the preceding published statement by Gov. Walker, he made a second communication, now lost, which in substance was---that Rhonuness, or the Falling Sky's quiet and peaceful character was against the idea of his engaging in such a mission; that in his statements to Gov. Walker, and to his own son-in-law John D. Brown (yet living, born in 1811) of his career, he never mentioned any such adventure. Rhonuness died at Upper Sandusky in 1841 possibly 1842.

Hence it follows: that Rhonuness was not the man that went to kill Pee, if any one did; nor did any one go at the instigation or countenance of Tarhee or the Wyandott council.

Of the Estill Defeat, Gov. Walker has often read about it, but has no facts or light to throw upon it---as to leadership, or numbers.

Nothing about the Lick Defeat, nor of Wyandotts there.

Gen. Harrison, Tarhee, & Scoutash. In May 1813, soon after Dudley's defeat, Gen. Harrison visited Upper Sandusky. Wm. Walker Sr. was then there acting as U. S. interpreter for Col. Ben. F. Stickney Indian Agent---& sent for Tarhee, who brought Ta-yar-rhon-too-yea or Between the Logs---his councillor, chief speaker and adviser---& after explaining to him briefly the mission he wished sent out to the Northwestern tribes, under British influence---to prevail on to name a place and time for a conference. Harrison's object being to detach them from the British and go home, as President Madison, their Great Father, did not wish to injure them, and Harrison would soon invade Canada. And Harrison asked Tarhee in whom he had great confidence, if he would furnish half a dozen reliable men for such a delicate and important mission. Tarhee said he could, and named Between the Logs, Scoutash, Long House, Big Arms, George Washington, & Ho-no-ru-tah, a younger brother of Between the Logs. They immediately set out on foot, with a belt of wampum & flag of truce & unarmed, carrying provisions: crossed the Maumee & at River Raisin, & went to

Revoir, whom the Indians called---Good Tobacco, & staid over night with him; & next evening reached Brownstown, where they found a Wyandott, and sent word to Round Head then at Malden---& he came over & had a consultation with them, and they agreed on Brownstown as a place for a conference: When Round Head reported to Tecumseh, Proctor, Elliott & others and they regarded the invitation as audacious. Yet Tecumseh & other deputies, & British Indian Department officers came over & held a conference. When assembled, Between the Logs consulted with his associates, delivered a long message---that the President had no contest wit the Indians, but with Great Britain & the British people---& wished them to retire to their homes, before Gen'l Harrison sh'd invade the country with an overwhelming army. Between the Logs closed by extending the wampum belt, & urged all who would receive the invitation & retire to their American homes, to come & take hold of the belt. Tecumseh remained silent. Col. Elliott taunted Walk-in-the-Water, about this business? When interpreted to him by Sam'l Sanders, he rose indignantly and said, "What do I say? You well know that I am your prisoner, and I can not take any part in such a council: were I free I would very soon show you what I would do." The conference broke up, accomplishing nothing. Mrs. Wm. Walker was present and related the facts.

Wm. Walker during a part of the year of 1812-13 at Ft. Defiance with Gen. Winchester---& then repaired to Gen. Harrison at Springfield, Ohio, sometime during the winter having escaped from Detroit in Nov. 1812. Harrison directed him to join Maj. Stickney at Upper Sandusky & act as his interpreter. He remained during the war as his interpreter, & during Stickney's absence on the Thames campaign, acted as Indian Agent to the Miamis at Fort Wayne; & Gov. Cass, Territorial governor of Michigan, appointed Wm. Walker agent for the Wyandotts, which he retained till 1820, when his health declining, he withdrew from the agency only serving as

interpreter. He died at Upper Sandusky of consumption in January 1824. His Dungeon confinement at Detroit greatly impaired his health. He was 61 years of age. After his marriage his wife educated him. He used to say, when he was with the Delawares, that he always received kind treatment from Suokongahelas, & his people idolized that chief.

BROWNSTOWN CONFERENCE. The opposing parties had a ball play & a mutual good time---& then re-assembled informally in the old council house. Col. Elliott began to berate the Americans, to burrowing like ground hogs---alluding to Fort Meigs, from whic he & the Indians & British had been driven---why did they not come out and have a fair contest in the open field? This was said in a taunting, braggadocio style. Su-nook-this, or Long House, an old, daring resolute brave rose and retorted: It will not be long before you will see more American ground hogs floating along these waters (pointing the lake in view) & wending their way to your own shores. You can then have an opportunity of meeting them, if you will, before they commence their burrowing there. This silenced the Colonel, & produced a good deal of laughter, Tecumseh even joining in the peal of merriment at Elliott's expense, who seemed not a little nettled over it.

In June 1812, Aaron Greeley, a resident of Detroit, had command of three boats rigged up in gunboat style, with a swivel on the bow of each to turn: bringing up supplies from Cleveland with 5 or 6 soldiers on each boat, and several French batteauxmen; and had reached Brownstown. The British at Malden saw them coasting up. The boats stopped when a large party of British and Indians came over in the evening, in canoes, & commenced firing on the Americans, who retired up the bank & took post behind Wm. Walker's picket garden fence, & fired on the British so warmly that the British retired, don't know if any loss. Wm. Walker urged Greeley to push his boats on up out of danger, that he might reach Detroit, 16 miles off; he declined, the men were weary, &c. Next morning after

Greeley had got on some three miles, when he discovered the British endeavoring to get in a head by crossing at the head of the island. When Greeley fell back to his former position and had quite a fight---Americans using their swivels. When Wyandotts heard the firing, left Brownstown about a mile back & came down armed, & fired from behind the pickets on the British---informant one; but it was a brief fight---one Wyandott was wounded in the leg---& a Shawnee & Frenchman killed on the part of the British, & several wounded. But the Americans were overpowered, abandoned the boats, & escaped by land to Detroit. Their loading was flour, whisky, medical stores &c. After the boats were captured, Maj. Muir came over with a party of regulars, & took all the Wyandotts prisoners, and took them to Canada---Walk-in-the-water, Bowyer, & Houness met Muir and his officers in the council house, when Muir told them that they had broken their neutrality, & must next day go to Canada---must have been 200 altogether; & were retained till Proctor's defeat.

See Lossing's War of 1812, note p. 279.

Informant was present at the King's Council House between Malden and Amherstburg---where a council: the roar of the cannon on Lake Erie was heard, & no definite report as to the result---only a story was circulated that Com. Barclay had sunk several of the American vessels and was trying to finish them. Absurd as it was it was grasped at by the Indians. The Indians seeing signs of an evacuation Tecumseh and the Indians demanded a council: Tecumseh spoke fully an hour---Sam'l Sanders, and one Brant, a rambling Mohawk, were interpreters: Round Head first then Tecumseh taking the stand in the middle of the floor & addressing Gen. Proctor surrounded by his staff: We want to know the result of the fight between our one-armed father and the Americans on the lake---we heard the firing several days ago and we wish to know the issue. We see

some signs of y'r movements and the movements of some of your officers, that you design picking up your army, your tobacco, & tobacco pouch & leave this place. In th name of your re warriors, I demand to know whether you cherish any such intention? If that is so, we red people desire to know whether you intend to leave us here to defend this place? If you go, and take with you all the big guns and ammunition---& you may as well as we don't know how to use them---but if you do so, & take away all the provisions, how are we to defend this place? We are not afraid to stand on ground here, & defend our ground against the American General---I know him, & he is not to be trifled with; but if the one-armed man and his canoes have been captured, & Harrison comes with his vessels & arms, & big guns, how can it be expected we can succeed? But if on the other hand, our one-armed father has been victorious, then I see no reason for your making preparations for leaving this place.

About at this poin, Proctor rose and said to Sanders: to put the mind of our friend at rest at once, tell him that Com. Barclay & fleet have been captured & our cause is hopeless. The announcement did not so much seem depressing as upon the people. Tecumseh had thus far spoken with a degree of coolness---but now resuming, became excited and continued: "Well, our land forces are as strong as ever, & I see no reason why we should ignominiously abandon the council fire of our ancestors---where we have often met and consulted with our British fathers. "But, s'd Tecumseh, advancing a step towards Proctor---"I see it---I understand it now---I remember years ago the great battle of Maumee; You had a fort there as you have here; your red brethren, under your advice and carrying out your counsels, fought with desperation, when sorely pressed by the American herdes, you admitted your own militia but barred your gates against us Indians, & we had to fly into the woods. Now I see that you are making preparations to abandon us to our fates as you did on that

memorable occasion. What were your promises to us then you invited us to take up the tomahawk against the Americans? Pointing to Col. Elliott, he said: That man knows well what inducements were held out to us to join your standard. We on our part made no pledges---we have fought for you, served you with fidelity---sometimes with success, sometimes with defeat: But (his eyes flashing) what are your plans now? You say our one-armed father has lost his canoes, and you are going to abandon the place; but you have said nothing what we are to do. Are we to take our women and children and return ingloriously to our homes---sneaking back---when many of our homes are in the possession of the Americans? We have no homes to repair to---no cornfields for our sustenance---winter approaching, & nothing to rely on for our support for ourselves and families. Even were we to follow you what were that to benefit us---to Niagara or Montreal---a country unsuited for a large body of Indians. In this view of the case, our condition is desperate.

You remind me of a certain wild animal (probably a deer) with his tail erect, leaping along loftily, suddenly becoming alarmed at some imaginary danger, his tail falling behind and he breaking off into the bushes to hide his shame. All but Proctor burst forth into a loud laugh ---Proctor only preserving his gravity. Tecumseh was terribly sarcastic, wearing his cap the whole time.

Proctor said he was going up the Thames where he would be out of the reach of the American navy---make a stand; & if successful, return and recover their lost ground.

Tecumseh.--- The Prophet was only a half brother---don't know who the prophet's father was. Saw Tecumseh frequently frequently during 1812-13. He was always very neat in person---leggings of buckskin---neatly dressed of buff---coat or hunting shirt capeless, a red silk sash belted around; an otter skin cap, with an ostrich feather fastened--- point wound

around on one side; sword and pistol in his belt, and always a knife in a moreocco scabbard; no silver ornaments in his ears or nose, or on his clothing. He was short and thick--- 5 feet-six or eight inches, with a broad chest and a prominent breast, with a fine expansion for his lungs to play. His eys were set rather close together--- dark and sparkling; broad chin, but spare countenance. One of his legs was about an inch shorter than the other--- having been broken at an early period in life, & walked somewhat limpingly: the Wyandotts called him Ta-ah-tre-shi, or Broken Thigh. Hence he couldn't be an active man on foot.

Can't tell whether he was at the River Raisin Defeat. At Dudley's Defeat word came that some of the Indians were killing the American prisoners in the old British Fort, & Tecumseh went & put a stop to it--- so the Wyandotts said.

Adam Brown now living, who was with the British, says Tecumseh could not have been killed by Col. Johnson--- as Tecumseh was in another part of the field. He says the Chief who was killed by the officer who rode the light-colored horse, was a fine Pottawattomie Chief, in the vigor of life, whom he knew personally;--- & in this agrees with Black Hawk's statement, substantially.

The British Government settled a pension on Tecumseh's widow --- so says Mrs. Brown, now 73 years old --- & living four miles from Wyandott, with her son-in-law, Abelard Guthrie. Gov. Walker says Tecumseh could not have exceeded 50; Adam Brown says abt 45.

Saw Capt. Jim Logan about 1809 --- then on a visit to the Blue Jackets and Shawnees at Brownstown, & also visited some Shawnees in Canada. There was another Logan, a Shawnee, who took the British side --- was with an Indian party, perhaps Tecumseh was there; Max VanHorn came out from Detroit with perhaps 40 mounted men, and while stopping for the horses to drink in Brown's Creek --- with considerable underbrush on either