

CHAPTER 8 BLACKHAWK INDIAN WAR

Blackhawk War From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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For other uses, see Black Hawk War (disambiguation).

Black Hawk War	
	
<p>Figure 35 Native women and children fleeing the Battle of Bad Axe</p>	
<p>Native women and children fleeing the Battle of Bad Axe</p>	
Date	May–August 1832
Location	Illinois and Michigan Territory
Result	United States victory
Belligerents	
United States, with Ho-Chunk, Menominee,	Black Hawk's British Band, with Ho-Chunk

Dakota, and Potawatomi allies	and Potawatomi allies
Commanders and leaders	
Henry Atkinson, Black Hawk, Henry Dodge, Neapope, Isaiah Stillman Wabokieshiek	
Strength	
6,000+ militiamen 630 Army regulars 700+ Native Americans ^[1]	500 warriors 600 non-combatants
Casualties and losses	
77 killed (including non-combatants) ^[2]	450–600 killed (including non-combatants) ^{[2][3]}
[show] v · d · e	
Black Hawk War of 1832	

The **Black Hawk War, 1831-1832** was a conflict between the United States and Native Americans headed by Black Hawk, a Sauk leader. The war erupted soon after Black Hawk and a group of Sauks, Meskwakis, and Kickapoos known as the "British Band" crossed the Mississippi River into the U.S. state of Illinois in April 1832. Black Hawk's motives were ambiguous, but he was apparently hoping to avoid bloodshed while resettling on land that had been ceded to the United States in a disputed 1804 treaty.

American officials, convinced that the British Band was hostile, mobilized a frontier army. With few U.S. Army soldiers in the region, most American troops were part-time, poorly trained [militiamen](#). Hostilities began on May 14, 1832, when the militia opened fire on a delegation from the British Band. Black Hawk responded by attacking the militia force, soundly thrashing them at the Battle of Stillman's Run. He led his band to a secure location in what is now southern Wisconsin. As American forces pursued Black Hawk's band, Native Americans conducted raids against American forts and settlements. Some Ho-Chunk and Potawatomi warriors with grievances against Americans took part in these raids, although most members of those tribes tried to avoid the conflict. The Menominee and Dakota tribes, already at odds with the Sauks and Meskwakis, supported the Americans.

Commanded by General Henry Atkinson, the US troops tried to track down the British Band. Militia under Colonel Henry Dodge caught up with the British Band on July 21 and defeated them at the Battle of Wisconsin Heights. Black Hawk's band, weakened by hunger, death, and desertion, retreated towards the Mississippi. On August 2, American soldiers attacked the remnants of the British Band at the Battle of Bad Axe, killing or capturing most of them. Black Hawk and other leaders escaped, but later surrendered and were imprisoned for a year.

The Black Hawk War is now often remembered as the conflict that gave young Abraham Lincoln his brief military service. Other notable American participants included Winfield Scott, Zachary Taylor, and Jefferson Davis. The war gave impetus to the US policy of Indian removal, in which Native American tribes were pressured to sell their lands and move west of the Mississippi River.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Hawk_War



Figure 36 Black Hawk War

<http://webs.rps205.com/departments/TAH/images/AE279659B21448328B1CBF895D110A75.JPG>

• **WHITE COUNTY ILLINOIS**
BLACKHAWK WAR SOLDIERS

NAME RANK COMPANY PLACE OF ENROLLMENT REGIMENT BRIGAD
PIERCE, HOSEA COL
WHITE CO 3 2
PIERCE, JAMES PVT D POWELL WHITE CO 3 2
PIERCE, MOSES PVT D POWELL WHITE CO 3 2

One of the Black Hawk War's most famous and well publicized events was a peripheral event not directly connected to the war or Black Hawk and his "British Band." The Indian Creek massacre occurred two days after the incident in Buffalo, following a dispute between a local settler and a Potawatomi warrior over the

damming of nearby Indian Creek. The young warrior, named Keewasee, recruited a group of warriors and attacked the William Davis settlement on the banks of the creek. The attack resulted in the murders of 15 men, women and children, most of whom were unarmed; though it is possible Davis may have killed one assailant before being felled himself. The victims were scalped and mutilated. In addition, two teenage girls were kidnapped and held until they were ransomed two weeks later and released at Fort Blue Mounds. Events surrounding the release of the girls would lead to two attacks at the fort in June.

The incident at Indian Creek triggered panic among the white population, and many settlers fled to the safety of local forts. The Illinois Militia used the massacre to boost recruiting in Illinois and Kentucky. The same day as the massacre at Indian Creek, a settlement on the Plum River was raided by Sauk or Fox warriors. Though the encounter was bloodless, it was one of many incidents that contributed to the atmosphere of fear.

- [Brief Background Info on Col. Hosea Pearce, b. 1798](#)
- 20 Oct 2008 , Vero Beach, FL
- Transcribed from "History of Illinois and Her People" pg. 244, covering White County, Illinois:
- Hosea Pearce was a Col. in the Black Hawk War and also served as the Sheriff of White County for six year, from 1830-36. Following is text: "One of the oldest and most prominent families of White County is that of Pearce. The pioneer of the family in Illinois was Hosea Pearce, who came from Tennessee and settled in White County (Ill.) in 1817. He was born in North Carolina, April 16, 1798, son of James and Betsey (Gomar) Pearce, the former a native of NC and the latter of MD. The grandparents of Hosea Pearce were James and Jemima Pearce. Hosea Pearce was not only a very early settler but a founder and builder of White County. He was one of the founders of Herald's Prairie Church of the Old School Baptist denomination...(he) in 1830 was elected sheriff of the county and filled that office six years...(he) served as a Colonel during the Black Hawk Indian War, and with his regiment participated in the Battle of Bad Axe. The life of this splendid pioneer came to a close July 5, 1857. Hosea Pearce in 1818 married Nance O'Neal, daughter of Hezekiah and Silvia (Moore) O'Neal, who also came from NC." Several of Hosea's grandchildren went on to become lawyers, judges and politicians, including Prince Albert Pearce.

General John Tipton



Tipton was born in what is now [Sevier County, Tennessee](#). His father was killed by [Native Americans](#). His great uncle, also named John, was a prominent man in the area. When he was an infant, his uncle's house was besieged by supporters of an attempt to create the 14th state in Northeastern Tennessee called the [State of Franklin](#).

At the age of 17, Tipton moved to [Harrison County, Indiana](#). In 1806 he married Martha Shields.^[1] He became a farmer. Fighting various [Native American](#) tribes, he commanded a militia unit of the [Yellow Jackets](#) in the [Battle of Tippecanoe](#) campaign in 1811, and served as Major in command of two companies of [Indiana Rangers](#) at [Fort Vallonia](#) during the [War of 1812](#).^[2] When peace was declared, Tipton was promoted to Brigadier-General.^[3]

Tipton's marriage eventually fell apart and he was divorced in 1816.^[4] He eventually entered politics. He served as a member of the Indiana State House of Representatives from 1819 to 1823. During this time, he founded the town of [Columbus, Indiana](#) originally known as Tiptonia, he participated in commissions to establish a new state capital for Indiana and to set the boundaries between Indiana and [Illinois](#). In 1823, he became the United States Indian agent for the [Potawatomi](#) and [Miami](#) tribes. Also a captain in the militia, Tipton was responsible for rounding up the uncooperative Potawatomi and forcibly moving them to [Kansas](#) in what became known as the [Potawatomi Trail of Death](#). In 1825, he married again, this time he married Matilda Spencer, the daughter of [Captain Spier Spencer](#) who died at the Battle of Tippecanoe in 1811.^[5]

In 1831, Tipton was elected by the state legislature to a seat in the [United States Senate](#) from Indiana to fill the unexpired term of [James Noble](#) who had died. He was reelected to a full term in 1832. He was a member of the [United States Democratic Party](#) and a strong supporter of [Andrew Jackson](#). He served as chairman of the committees on roads and canals and Native American affairs from 1837 to 1839. In 1838, at the behest of Governor [David Wallace](#), Tipton organized the forced [removal](#) of 859 [Potawatomi](#) from the vicinity of [Plymouth](#) and started them on the two-month-long "[Trail of Death](#)" to [Kansas](#), which resulted in the deaths of more than 40 of them. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Tipton

TIPTON, John, (1786 - 1839)

Senate Years of Service: 1832-1839

Party: Jacksonian; Democrat



Indiana Historical Society

TIPTON, John, a Senator from Indiana; born near Sevierville, Sevier County, Tenn., August 14, 1786; received a limited schooling; moved to Harrison County, Ind., in 1807 and engaged in agricultural pursuits; served with the “Yellow Jackets” in the Tippecanoe campaign and subsequently attained the rank of brigadier general of militia; sheriff of Harrison County, Ind., 1816-1819; member, State house of representatives 1819-1823; one of the commissioners to select a site for a new capital for Indiana in 1820; commissioner to determine the boundary line between Indiana and Illinois 1821; appointed United States Indian agent for the Pottawatamie and Miami tribes 1823; laid out the city of Logansport, Ind., in 1828; elected as a Jacksonian (later Democrat) to the United States Senate on December 9, 1831, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of James Noble; reelected in 1832 and served from January 3, 1832, to March 3, 1839; due to poor health declined to be a candidate for reelection in 1838; chairman, Committee on Roads and Canals (Twenty-fifth Congress), Committee on Indian Affairs (Twenty-fifth Congress); died in Logansport, Cass County, Ind., on April 5, 1839; interment in Mount Hope Cemetery.

Bibliography

American National Biography; Dictionary of American Biography; Blackburn, Glen A. “The Papers of John Tipton.” Ph.D. dissertation, Indiana University, 1928; Robertson, Nellie and Dorothy Riker, eds. *The John Tipton Papers*. 3 vols. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau, 1942.

General John Tipton (1786 - 1838)

[Jonathon Hall Tipton \(1816 - 1894\)](#)

son of General John Tipton

[John Worrall Tipton \(1852 - 1910\)](#)

son of Jonathon Hall Tipton

[Lucy B Tipton \(1885 - 1910\)](#)

daughter of John Worrall Tipton

[Ida Mae Tipton \(1907 - 1984\)](#)

daughter of Lucy B Tipton

[Ernest Lenard Hall](#)

Figure 37 General John Tipton

- [from http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/w/e/s/Darrell-K-Wesley/GENE2-0001.html](http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/w/e/s/Darrell-K-Wesley/GENE2-0001.html)

Notes for JOHN ELDER:

The oldest son of Judge Samuel and Nancy Margaret Elder. He and his wife lived on a farm east of Eldorado, Illinois until old age forced retirement.

"John Elder enlisted May 15, 1832 to fight the Indians under "Black Hawk." He was in Capt. John Bays' Co., Gallatin County and was furloughed Aug. 9, 1832. All enlisted from May 15 to Aug. 12, 1832 were sent home three days before time for discharge -- mustered out Aug. 12, their pay was \$15.50 per month"

Eddie Elder was left with her little son Frank, to carry on during the time her husband was gone. It is this devotion to duty, the stamina, and determination to do things, willingly, we find before us is the reason we are proud we are of the Elder Clan.

John Elder (1810 - 1878)

is your 3rd great grandfather

[Samuel Elder \(1836 - 1897\)](#)

son of John Elder

[Francis Abner Frank Elder \(1859 - 1928\)](#)

son of Samuel Elder

[Vina Mae Elder \(1893 - 1981\)](#)

daughter of Francis Abner Frank Elder

[Edgar Leonard Hall \(1914 - 1973\)](#)

son of Vina Mae Elder

[Ernest Lenard Hall](#)