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Folder: History of the last war on the frontier from
Prairie du Chien to Sandusky, undated.

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By Philander Prescott.

History of the last war on the frontier
from Prairie du Chien to Sandusky the British
were the first to call upon the ^{Americans} Roman to assist
them to drive the Long Knife from the Western
frontier through the agency of one Col Dickson
a large quantity of Tobacco had been sent to the
Siamy in the fall of the year and requesting them
to meet the British at Prairie du Chien accordingly
in the Spring about 100 Siamy warriors started
down the Mississippi in a few days they reached
Lake Pepin here many Prayers were offered to the
Gods of the water and sacrifices of Skunk & Deer
Tobacco food and small skins of animals
were sacrificed to the Indian deity the flotilla
dotted the lake for a mile in length and the
War song was raised and the paddle was plied
with the spirit of the song until they came oppo-
-site the Maiden Rock where as if by magic all
and every voice was hushed and a death like
calmness prevailed for a few moments when
suddenly an old warrior raised his voice and uttered
the following Prayer Louely Maiden to the spirit
land thou art gone most truly and beautiful
thou wert and the force of thy love caused
me to flee from thy Parents love & power
to make the loar an other up this crazy agent

thou dost climb with courage above all
 the barriers of our nation and saying a Parent
 can not love for me Nor enter my heart with
 me I hate so saying your committed your spirit
 to the God of these waters and called yourself
 in your Pilot hat and made the awful leap
 you can tumble to the brink of the deep alone
 hounded but no spirit was there in a few
 moments an hundred names were at thy feet but
 claps to late love & life were gone to live
 the spirit land of Peace Now lonely spirit
 can you tell me whether we shall all return
 from the cause all was calm and silent in a
 few moments the old Ranger raised his head and
 the Mauder spirit ^(if you will hear him to me) says all is well, a shout
 from a hundred ^{many} tongues was raised the war song
 around the Mauder Rock did echo and the paddle
 wa plied and away we sailed from this late scene
 of love & war down the Mafpe we floated the
 Boats turned to look in our songs the squaws ships
 from branch to branch in North fulplay. Warmed
 at P. Iuckun with an hundred British flags flying
 and a hundred guns Cannon, these fired in honor
 of our amiable provisions these issued and
 fire water, Whisky, plenty, here we found large
 numbers of Indians from other Nations assembled
 for the same purpose that we came (War)

Here a great Council was convened by order of
 the Commandy officer Many Warlike Speeches were
 made from White & Red Man and all were ready
 to die in their Master's cause particularly if they
 had some piece of water in their hands the Indians
 were all ordered to go to Strawberry Island and
 in the morning it was one general battle in starting
 by the way of the Wisconsin river after six days
 hard toting we arrived at the Portage of Fox River
 here we landed our Warlike Canoes across the portage
 by hand and finally arrived at Green Bay here we had
 to leave our log Canoes and Cat Jackson Porter
 with the Menominee & continue for Rock canoe for us
 to cross the lake in after a few days preparation all
 was ordered to embark for Strawberry Island the
 Indians drove his flute and little loose ditty
 these heard the Bow of sinew, the shield, the
 War lance the arrow, all examined and made
 ready to meet the long knife, amuse, embark was
 the order embark was the cry, grabbers, and a rush
 was made for the Birch Bark at the water side
 the warrior first, and many betrothed by their sides,
 stood holding the young warriors helmet or shield
 saying will you leave me whom you have
 solemnly vowed one Indian danced with loose
 enraged grasped the young warrior Bow and
 with loose intent said follow me for love this bow

I take its arrows against the Longknife I shall
 hurl, if you do not prove a patient of your
 nation then I will I am loathe will I will
 to those come given and away they floated on the
 deep in ~~their~~ ^{our} frail barbs on the blue transparent
 deep we sailed below us the white fish the trout
 in the blue water some six fathoms deep in security
 did swim the sturgeon with the slightest agitation
 of a fin drove the blue water with mature
 speed at length a breeze of wind comes from
 the west all sails are unfurled and our frail
 barks before the wind doth almost fly we
 begin to roll and toss to and fro sea sickness
 quells all our boasting of song, and the billows
 make us cast forth all our British Bread
 to feed the fishes that we saw a short time
 before playing securely under our prow — at
 length we in safety land on Proud Drummond
 Isle, the Cannons announce our safe arrival
 the Commandant with extended arms and
 reinvigorated our stomachs with wine & food
 here another council of war was held the British
 commandant told us that not far distant there was
 a great cloud ^{Is. of Mackinaw} in the water and that cloud was
 held by the Americans and that they were in their
 way and that he wanted the Indians to assist him in

in removing this Cloud as it obstructed their
 passage in navigating the great lakes. With un-
 derstand the Warriors (about 3000, all the
 battle as did raise some ammunition clothing in
 profusion were dealt out and in the morning
 the order of March was given a thousand
 Birch canoes was launched and the soldiers
 in Mackinac boats all set sail for the
 Isle of Mackinac the Big Cloud, in the
 evening they landed upon the North end of the
 Island. Fearless came some of the Indian Men,
 taking some trophies from the war or to assist a
 Wounded warrior if needs there should be the
 one with his Bow and arrows most conspicuous
 all landed safe in the Morn the British Command
 sent a flag of truce to the American fort and
 demanded a surrender saying that he had a
 large force of Indians and Whites and that
 if the Americans did not surrender they must suffer
 all the trials of an attack from a superior
 force the American replied that rather than fight
 with his Red children the Indians and destroy many
 of them he would capitulate on honorable terms
 the terms were agreed upon and the Americans
 Marched out of the fort Mackinac and the
 British Marched in so this gave us the Indians
 no glory as no Blood was shed of course no

Sculps were taken, and now a netopree
 was in contemplation the lower lakes that
 were in possession of the americans and an
 effort must be made to drive these dark
 clouds from the frontier the order of March
 was given and a thousand frail barks were
 launched upon the blue deep flags were hoisted
 to the breeze we looked like a swarm of
 Butterflies so many were our flags the Great
 War Drum was topped and song voices sang
 to the spirits of the deep the song of joy and
 mirth echoed over the deep from one verdant
 Islet to another we paddled our Barken Crafts
 for four days & nights untired until at length
 we arrived at Fort Spatist here a spectacle
 came to our view accidentally by ^{noticing} ~~noticing~~
 some Buzzards and Hawks hovering in the air
 and being with each other apparently upon the
 ground a short distance off curiosity led
 some of us to reconnoitre the place Warriors
 like went and what should we find but three
 dead bodies or parts of bodies three Indians had
 been killed by Cannon shot from the americans
 and they were cut or torn a sunder this struck
 terror into many of the Braves and we went
 silently paddling our Canoes along down the
 St Clair at length we arrived at Detroit

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Here another burst of great guns answered
our arrival, as we approached the forts,
the earth fairly trembled beneath our feet
Nation after Nation assembled, a day of
great grating, flags of all hues were flying,
Ti Kumsaks, Hosts all Marshalled on the field
Some thousand voices proclaimed George the
3^d Father of S. Mary a Roman the great
Captain his behest sends forth our for the
Must conquer guns & Powder Provisions & Rum
in profusion were given to destroy all both
great and small, of the Americans, a shout
was raised that rent the air thousands of voices
responded to the call thousands of Sashes
Bows and Shields were displayed in the air
all animated with promises of great success
of Plunder Murther Rapine and forests
of Ghosts of ~~Innocents~~ of Flesh of innocent
Babies. Again the Warrior Song echoed to
the air Music and the dance began
the Sun had set the stars and the Moon
poured forth almost the brightness of day
all at once the voices of thousands of
Warriors burst forth in shouts of Pines
the thunders could not have pealed so high
What, Was the Joy. Shall I tell o Wonders

To relate Upward looked to behold what
 the Moon the stars the Galaxy. No, it is a speck
 of Gods creation in Scalps Wreathing in blood
 six in number Pivoted on high in grey blood
 all fresh from the head the youthful Mother
 Pinner and the Maiden yet unbetrothed with
 their golden rings all in the ear hampering
 to the scalp the Golden locks once fondly caressed
 first by Mother & then by husband - finely treped
 all hung on high by the British flag. Mother
 husband. lover Father Brother sister. all of
 your Hearts desire bequeathed, by Savage by George
 the 3^d Command the War dance continues
 shout upon shout from the Indian tribes we
 look we behold the limbs of the offspring of
 the scalped Mother young and tender children
 rise promised by the great British Captain
 here they are on wooden spits around the
 Warrim fire stacked in the ground to roast
 beneath the smoking scalps of their Mother, a
 feast for the Warrior. O horror Who can
 describe Many a savage a ghost doth stand
 and with horror views the feast of lawful Command
 the Warrior Maiden With her Bow and arrow
 in hand, that hath followed her lover from
 gun bay to this scene forward steps and
 says I look upon these golden locks all treped
 so fine

by Coars & Parents above all ~~Hard~~ innocent
 and loving worthy ones but now lifeless and
 in black ~~form~~ of savage war in disgust
 I turn and ~~up~~ the bow and arrow
 to the ground I throw, a flood of tears follows
 and the shouting warrior bid him go the old
 Dakota War Chief in mournful silence stood
 at length he ^{said} ~~Reflected~~ awful sun Mother fair
 and little ~~Peoples~~ before us in mournful position
 placed I cannot help but ~~up~~ to see so much
 innocence brought as trophies for the war and
 tears of sorrow and shame I shed and
 said I look back to our Maiden Rock and
 the spot says innocent blood has been spilt
 go ye not the clouds in darkness increase
 turn ye back, great danger awaits you
 tomorrow return follow me the same the
 hammer first sounded, in the morning the order
 of March was given the Dakotas commenced
 moving to return home but that of their hands
 hid themselves away, and must fight the multitude
 to war against the Americans at Sandusky
 thousands of British and thousands of Indians
 embarked in Boats and canoes down the
 Detroit River and landed at Sandusky
 all were marshalled before the fort
 the soldiers in front and the Indians

in great numbers surrounded the fort the order
for attack was given forward the Munt
with victory intent but alas our joy was
soon turned into mourning the cannon from
the fort began to thunder and the shouts of
seven thousand warriors made the earth to
tremble beneath our feet shot upon shot
warship after warship redoubled on speed
lance, battle, eye, bow & shield all in
array the indians surrounded the fort (or the
great ammun. cloud) volley after volley was
fired the British in solid column march
in front of the cannon they came gun
against gun belching loud the British
fell like leaves from the trees & the hosts
shout loud the songs of war all approach
the great cloud First the cannon belching forth
death and destruction was Col Bagen in
the cloud belching forth fiery Munt and
skull bolts the thinks he was three times did
the British Rally with the Indians in the trenches
they tumbled and hid but the fiery Munt found
them there and from every corner shot and shell
appeared to issue scathing weapons of death every
where hundreds of the British had fallen
and many Indian warriors also had fallen

at length the great captain ordered a retreat
 the fragment of the troops retreated in disorder
 the Indians flew in every direction the great
 english Captain With drew to a distance
 and in astonishment gazed and stood with
 sorrow in his heart and said is the ^(a hell) house
 that we have attacked in anguish
 he turned and looked up his few remaining
 troops and ordered all to retreat to their own
 land or home, all took up the line of march
 and left the big cloud (or American fort) in
 great possession of their victors. the 30 Sioux
 or Dakota, made the best of their way back
 receiving presents from the British as they passed their
 forts and promising to help them along after
 many hardships they again reach P. Guchuan here
 they found some of their companions that left
 them at Detroit before the battle at Sandusky here
 the British were still in possession of P. Guchuan
 a great Council was convened of the surrounding
 tribes the object of this council was not made
 known to the Indians only that they were requested
 to appear with all their fire weapons the Sioux
 some of them to the hunt and hid their American
 marks such as medals flags and coats when
 the council was convened the comd^y officer

informed them they must give up all
 the American flags and Medals that they possessed
 this somewhat surprised the Indians and
 they protested against the demand saying those
 were their Mark. otherwise Medals &c did not kill any body
 and was doing no harm to any person but there
 was no getting off the demand was renewed &
 the Indian Council brought them forward
 and delivered them up after the Commanding
 Officer had got all that were to be found
 he laid them upon the ground and Command
 tramping on the Medals and flags first with
 one foot then with the other saying at the
 same time that he intended to soon be
 among them the same way after giving several
 Kegs of Sugar to the Indians the Council broke
 up and we got time to talk with our
 old War Chief and relate to him our dis-
 asters at Sandusky also we had to inform
 him that three of our party had been
 wounded in the battle that none of us
 killed Ah said the old warrior what
 did the Spirit at the Maiden Rock tell
 you listen to me and should be well
 I advised you by consulting with
 the Maiden Spirit I at ~~Straut~~ and she
 told us all to return home but you did not

history and about against the Ammies
 to show you have come back discomfited
 save of you wounded and a shame, because
 of disobeying faithful warnings in future the
 spirits of the dead warned me at least those
 handsome looks of Ammies ladies, covered with
 blood and the little ones, on spots around
 the fire for the Warrs, for had us to do for
 and I returned here a message was received
 by the commanding Officer informing him that a
 large force of Ammies was coming up the
 the Mississippi to drive the British from P-
 Duchon the news put them all in a flurry
 and what was to be done a council of
 War was held and was agreed that the British
 should retreat but there was something to be done
 before the British could leave they had
 a Sioux prisoner Com. i. a. a. Tomahaw.
 had been seized and kept in custody by
 the British he was charged with being a
 spy for the Ammies the British caught
 evidence to condemn him but could find
 none and they agreed to release him after
 keeping him about six months in custody
 Tomahaw still loves to tell the story of his
 trips trials and fatigues and the narrow
 Rishishuram in carrying letters for Genl Clark

from St Louis to P. Suckun Many times
 he had to go high up the Mississippi to
 keep clear of enemy, once he says the
 Potawatamies discovered him and ran
 him a long distance at length he came to
 a river the Ice was running and in Tomica
 plunged with his Mail and swam across
 the Potawatamies he thinks fired a hundred
 shots at him but did not hit him but
 he said he was suffered so much in his life
 as he did when he came out of the water
 he says it was with the greatest difficulty
 that he kept from freezing to death another time
Tomica was in a boat with some soldiers
 when the British fired on them and killed several
 soldiers on each side of him the blood flew
 all over him he says the Tomica was the
 faithful friend of the Americans and Genl
 Clark's Spy and Mail Carrier Many a man
 is now Recovery Bounty land that never
 suffered half as much nor performed half the
 duties that this poor Indian has done and
 why can not he get a Land Warrant. The
 British evacuate P. Suckun as soon
 as Gen Clark came in sight with the
 American force the British advise the

The Indians all to have Mr Robson
 a gentleman from France advised the
 Indians all that were disposed to be friendly
 to the Americans to remain and shake
 hands with the Americans some left and
 some remained the Americans approach and
 and take possession of their old barracks with-
 out the shedding of blood a great council
 was called by the new comers the big Knife
 (Americans, So. Saw. tankah,) the Indian began to
 speak some had British Medals & flaysse
 some had American Marks of honor. that
 they had hid at the time the British demanded
 all such things but Clark told them not
 with standy they had taken up arms against
 the Americans they would overlook their past
 acts and bid them all go in peace so all
 the fragments of tribes dispersed for their homes
 in peace all at once a canoe was discovered
 floating down the Mississipp with a British
 flag & 3 Sioux Hi. Ah. Kah. the hill was
 one of the party they were held by the Americans
 and brought to shore and questioned by the
 Americans as to their business they replied
 they thought the English were in possession of
 the place and they came down to see them
 the Americans told them they were spies

but they denied every of them of Mal
 intent So the Commanding officer said he
 would grant them a freight anyhow so he
 gave them some provisions and told them
 to get into their Canoes and start So we
 started with only about 2 mo blow of the paddle
 When a big gun was fired over us we all
 fell prostrate in our canoes and thought
 death was our portion however feeling hopeless
 we ventured rise and we only got fairly
 started up when off went another big gun
 over us down we fell again frightened
 almost to death. The officers ordered us to rise
 again we did so with uplifted hands
 imploring for Mercy the officer told us to
 go a little distance off went another gun and
 this did not frighten us so much but if we
 we paddled for our lives this was the
 time and the Americans had a hearty
 laugh at us And Heah Koh the Hill Stet
 says they were never before so
 terribly frightened, Rad hail was one
 of the number that had had his amuse-
 clothes When the English ordered them
 to give up all amuse marks as soon as
 the English came off Rad hail slipped on

his ammen dogs and appeared before the
the ammen and took them by the hand and
informed them of what the English had done
we taking from them their Medals & flags and
stamped them on the ground and when the
commanding officer gave them some more flags
and bid them hold the ammen firmly
by the hand and the Council broke up the
English had left some fire water and
Keys amongst the Esquimaux and they began to
drink Badhair says he got quite tipsy
and took his axe and commenced breaking the
canoes of those that still clung to the English
Wabushaw the old Chief called to Bad
hair and says my son he will be compe
do as little harm as possible to saying the old
Chief rolled me out a keg of Whiskey Red
Curry gave me one and Little Crow gave
me sky these Keys bought me off from
doing further mischief and we all turned
to and drank up the Liquor without doing
further acts of violence We all started
for our homes and arrived at the Morden
Rock again here we Scatter our Samps
upon the water and thanked the Mamen spirit
that had protected us in the war and
guided us safe back again

here we raised our song again but
 under very different feelings from that when
 we went down with an humbled spirit we
 returned and friends we hope forever
 to the American Flag.

P. Prescott Cutler