

COL. ELLIOTT TO MAJ. GEN. BROCK.

(Indians.)

AMHERSTBURG, 12th January 1812

SIR

I have the honor to inform you, that just as I had finished writing you yesterday, a Kikapoo Chief who was in the action on the Wabache arrived here and reports that without having sent any previous message, Governor Harrison advanced from his Fort against the Indians with intention of surrounding the Village on all sides, that none might escape if they proved refractory.—

He completely surrounded it on the land side, and attempted it by the River, but the Indians boldly ordered him to desist, or it would not go well with him. He then asked where he could camp, and was told "Wherever

he pleased except around their village"—All this time the officers and Cavalry had their swords ready drawn and the Infantry were drawn up ready to fire upon them.—

He however retreated about a quarter of a mile over a little rising ground and camped by a small rivulet; but before he retreated the Indians took a negro and threatened to put him to death if he did not inform them of the Governors intention.

The negro informed them that he intended to deceive them, and they let him go. And the Governor after he had encamped sent the same negro back to them to desire them to sleep sound and be at ease, and not approach his sentinels lest they should be shot, and that he would not allow any of his people go near them.—

The Indians however had their piquets to prevent surprise and often, during the night ordered the American spies to retire from their posts, without doing them any injury. Two young Winibiegos no doubt out of curiosity (for it appears the Indians had no intention to attack, but to defend themselves if attacked) went near some of the American Sentinals and were shot at, and fell as wounded men, but on the Sentinals coming up to despatch them they arose and tomahawked them.—

This insult roused the indignation of the Indians and they determined to be revenged and accordingly commenced the attack at cock crowing. They had the Americans between two fires, driven by the Winibiegos, they were received by the Kikapoos, alternately until about 9 o'clock, when the Indians gave way for want of arrows and amunition. It appears that not above one hundred Indians fired a shot, the greater part being engaged in plundering and conveying of horses.

The women and children, saved themselves by crossing the River during the engagement.—

The Americans burned the Prophets village and all the corn of the Shawanaes, but the Kikpoos saved theirs by having it previously burried.— Twenty five Indians only are killed, the Kikpoo does not know the number of Americans killed, but he says their loss must have been considerable not less than one hundred.—

The Prophet and his people do not appear as a vanquished enemy; they reoccupy their former ground.—

From this mans report, the Chiefs of these Tribes have determined to come here only in the Spring to make a demand of Amunition and Arms.—

The Prophets brother, who went to the Southward in Winter 1810-11 is reported by this man to be on his return and has reached the farthest Kikpoo Town, and is there in Council with the different Nations—He

passed Vincennes on his way home, and met the Army of Governor Harrison retreating, but no insult was offered to him or his few friends who accompanied him.—

When the messenger I sent, returns, I no doubt will receive further intelligence respecting the views of the Indians—I will lose no time in transmitting it to you—or perhaps be the bearer of it myself.—

The following is an account of the numbers of the different Nations killed in the action viz:

Kikpoos.....	9	} 25
Winibiegoes	6	
Potawatemies.....	4	
Ottawas.....	3	
Creeks.....	2	
Shawanaes.....	1	

from the manner in which the Kikpoo relates his story I sincerely believe his account to be correct.—

I have the honor to be
Your Honor's
most obedient &
most humble Servant

M. ELLIOTT. S. I. A.

P. S The Indian Forces consisted of from 250 to 300 and not more than 100 were ever engaged.

To His Honor

Major General Brock

President

Administering the Government

York.—