

a soldier's armor. They were entitled to a soldier's grave. Not so in the Pigeon Roost massacre. Here all were doomed to indiscriminate slaughter, from the suckling babe to the hoary headed grand-mother and grand-sire. Neither age, nor sex, nor beauty, nor innocence could stay the hand of the merciless savage.

The Pigeon Roost settlement was confined to less than a section of land. It was a fertile spot in the midst of surrounding sterility. Its fertility was due to the roosting of pigeons there for a long series of years. It was detached from the main settlement by an intervening distance of five miles.

A Mrs. Beal, whose husband was a volunteer in Captain Pitman's company at Vincennes, hearing the yells of the Indians, retired from her log-cabin, with her two infants, to a sink hole in a cornfield, and remained there till nine or ten o'clock at night, when she left her hiding place and traveled a lonely path to the main settlement, where she arrived in safety with her children, at two o'clock the next morning, exhibiting a presence of mind and a degree of moral courage highly honorable to female character.

About this time an attack was made on Fort Harrison by a thousand or twelve hundred Indians. The garrison, consisting of a company of U. S. Infantry was commanded by Capt Zachary Taylor, now Major General Taylor commanding the U. S. Army in Mexico. The Fort was most gallantly and successfully defended, and after a siege of five days the Indians retired. At three o'clock in the afternoon we found the Indians' trail and pursued it till dark, and then encamped. Finding that the Indians had left the Pigeon Roost early in the morning, we returned home. In two or three days a large number of brave Kentuckians came to our assistance. They were all mounted riflemen, anxious to avenge the death of those unfortunate inhabitants who had been murdered at Pigeon Roost, and they were joined by a large number of Indiana mounted riflemen, who commenced an expedition against the Delaware Towns, located on the west branch of White river. In attempting a military organization, the expedition failed through the ambition of a few men who desired to have the command of the troops. We then dispersed and retired to our homes, finding a general panic among the people, many of whom had left their homes and gone to Kentucky.

The court house at Charlestown was converted into a fort