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*horses; and signaling his party they immediately prepared for action.*

*Soon, the Indians were upon them and the fight opened. The Indians, thus finding themselves opposed in their front, sought by shifting their direction and flight, to escape. They were mounted on fresh stolen horses, and the vigor and spirit of the Squaw Creek party thwarted them at every point of escape.*

*A running fight ensued, and continued with casualty of consequence during the early part of the day, and during its progress, parties from Stroud's Creek joined the Powell party, and soon a strong and bold spirited party from Thorp Springs, where a messenger had been dispatched early in the night, made their appearance upon the scene, coming up in gallant style with John Clark mounted on a racer at the lead.*

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*As soon as Weir discovered the Thorp Springs boys, he waived his hat to them and they dashed rapidly to his aid; Clark upon his racer sped in advance and passed to the front of the Indians who fired on him, with no harm, one arrow striking the rear pommel of his saddle. He turned and fired upon them, and his shot to effect in the neck of one of their horses, felling him instantly and dismounting the warrior.*

*This caused a considerable halt with them, and the remainder of the Thorp Springs party coming up and seeing the advantage to be gained by dismounting the Indians, several well directed aims at the horses placed most of the Indians upon their feet, and in this plight they now hastily dispensed with their remaining horses and maintaining their compact organization, finally by their dexterity and boldness succeeded in reaching the cover of the timber, and here they were closely and cautiously followed into a ravine emptying into Robinson Creek.*

*They passed up this ravine to its head, where a hole had been formed by the fall of water over the rocks as it descended from the prairie slopes beyond during rainfalls. Here seems to have been a considerable thicket of brush and some trees, but beyond was open prairie into which the Indians, seven in number, dared not to enter; so finding here in this hole shelter under the thick roots of a tree which grew on its brink, with other debris, they succeeded in concealing themselves from view, while at the same time they commanded the view below.*

*Overhanging them above was the bluff bank lined with the thicket from which direction they could not be reached by shot; below them and across the hole laid the trunk of a fallen cottonwood tree. The pursuing party, now united by all the*

several divisions from Squaw, Stroud's Creek and Thorp Spring coming up and finding their foes concealed beyond the aim of their guns, and in a position almost impregnable, long consulted and considered as to further conduct of the fight.

Meanwhile the news of the affair rapidly spreading through the neighboring settlements, their forces increased in numbers to 75 or 80 men and youths, eager to take part in the inevitable final act. No one in particular had command over this now considerable force, and many suggestions were advanced and rejected as to the dislodgement of the Indians.

One proposition was to approach the top of the bluff over them by way of the thicket and let the rocks fall upon them, but the concave bank and roots protected them from this mode of assault. Under cover of the brow of a hill, approach could be had from below to within gunshot range, but no sooner did one make his appearance over this hill that he was instantly fired upon by the almost unerring aim of the thoroughly concealed foe.

Powell and the other old hunters and Indian fighters with difficulty restrained the ardent and bold young men from exposing themselves in an open assault from this position, from whence no apparent effect could be had upon the hidden Indians. After hours of delay and consultation, during which time William Weir, while boldly urging attack and exposing himself upon the brow of the hill, was fatally shot down by an arrow in the breast, and died some days later. Esquire J.D. McKenzie of Robinson Creek also received a severe gunshot wound at this place.

Thus admonished, both by the advice of the most experienced men and by these practical results, the party continued to hold the besieged Indians aground, and to exhaust their ingenuity for means of dislodgment more expeditious than starving them out, till toward evening, when, as if Heaven itself had decreed that the vengeance of the Indians had sufficiently preyed upon our frontier, sent down from the clouds a terrific rain shower, which flooded the Indians and compelled them to come out of their lair of roots and earth into the now deep pool of water, where with the overhanging cottonwood log and other objects to hide behind and cling to, they only occasionally exposed their heads for breath. And now their bowstrings and ammunition thoroughly soaked were no longer of use to them in defending themselves.

The assaulting party, as soon as the rain was over, scarcely knowing the advantage they had thus obtained and yet fearing the deadly missiles, with hesitation now begun to w their demonstrations of attack, and soon John Toby, a young man from Robinson Creek, who had a tin trumpet, boldly took his position on the hill top and called upon his comrades to follow upon him and at the sound of his trumpet make the assault; and soon a number with their arms were gallantly

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