

# The Retaking of Vincennes, Part VI

by Harry Pratt

VI

Eight were the days that we had marched when, with day left, the Colonel  
Stopped and directed a camp on a less-wet rise at the bank of a river,  
Formerly separate channels but now one, vasty and aqueous,  
More than a league and a half in its breadth and in depth up to four feet.  
This was an obstacle greater than any now passed and behind us.  
Axes and hatchets had readily fashioned a pirogue by morn, a  
Craft we dispatched like a dove o'er the Flood to discover dry land and  
There to leave men to construct from available trees a sufficient  
Scaffold for keeping the baggage above ground, then to return and  
Blaze trees, marking a trail for the men who would follow on foot. Pack  
Horses were led by the men who then entered the water. The pirogue  
Ferried their gear and the ailing. So thus did we cross to the far bank.  
Thus on the following day was a narrower stream put behind with  
Great mirth due to the drummer boy floating across on his round drum.

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