61-62 Before the Santees broke camp one morning to continue the retreat, they chose a number of their young men for rear guards. The guards stood around a camp fire as the other Indians moved out of the camp. One of them, who had been a member of the party that killed the whites when returning from the Chippewas, remarked with a smile of contempt on his face, "I fired only one shot, but it caused these poor things to run for their lives like a rabbit from a hound."

Another guard spoke up and said, "Yes, with one shot you caused this once proud race to run for its life as a rabbit from its enemy. With one shot you caused bloodshed and suffering among an innocent people. So, with one shot you shall lie here." The speaker fired his gun and the boaster fell dead.

The act incited the other Indians to an effort to search out and kill the remaining six members of the war party. Hearing of their intentions, the guilty Indians fled to different Indian bands, where they remained in hiding, each denying that he had been a member of the war party that killed the first whites. None of them ever related what they had done for fear the other Indians would kill them.