

www.USDakotaWarMNCountyByCounty.com

Copyright © 2012

EVENTS: battles, deaths, injuries.

Note: some of the events and people connected to Big Stone were situated on the west side of Big Stone Lake in modern South Dakota.

Pre-conflict:

The main body of Sissetons at Big Stone Lake were in the villages of Scarlet Plume, Standing Buffalo and Waneta.

Wahpetons also lived at Big Stone Lake, per Samuel W. Pond, 1834.

Fort Abercrombie had been established in 1857 near Breckeridge.

The county was not heavily settled at the time of the US Dakota War, and was occupied mainly by traders, soldiers, and visited by wandering Sisseton and Wahpeton tribes. A government school for the Indians had been established around 1857. Settlement by homesteaders did not begin until 1870.

Aug. 2, 1862 The New Ulm Pioneer reported that "on Big Stone Lake" a Dakota woman and two children were murdered, and a farmer Indian and his son were shot by Ojibways and 150 Dakotas set out immediately to pursue the enemy. NUP 38.

August 20-22, 1862. (August 19?) 8 men, government employees or traders working at a subagency, were killed at Big Stone Lake, Dakota Territory. DUV 130, DW 24

August 1862: Sissetons and Wahpetons camped on prairie west of Big Stone Lake were called by Little Crow to help the Mdewakantans attack the settlers. Some Sissetons and Wahpetons harassed some Americans at Ft. Abercrombie in S.D. About 400 Sissetons and Wahpetons went to the Redwood Agency area to join Little Crow. Some of the younger ones stayed, but most of the older Sissetons and Wahpetons returned to the prairie. LCSS

Sophia Huggins and Julia LaFrambois may have been rescued in Big Stone County; they were being sheltered by Wahpeton chief Wakanmane and his wife, whose village was at Lac qui Parle, after the murder of Sophia's husband Amos Huggins at Lac qui Parle on August 19, 1862. DU 67

After the Dakota were defeated at the Battle of Wood Lake, they had planned to retreat to Big Stone Lake. TDE

after the conflict:

see **Camp Release; the state breathes a sigh of relief.**

October 1862: After the Battle of Wood Lake, Little Crow fled from Col. Sibley and was found at the camp of Standing Buffalo, 20 miles north of Big Stone Lake. Standing Buffalo, having read a letter from General Sibley, who urged Standing Buffalo's people to not shelter or aid Little Crow, and having debated the issue with his people, told Little Crow to leave. Little Crow left with his people and went out onto the plains. By early winter, nearly 4000 Sisseton and Wahpeton people left the area and went to Devil's Lake.

Henry Sibley sent some of his hired scouts (mixed-bloods) and families to live at Big Stone Lake in 1863. HHS 191, DW 81

The 1863 Sibley Expedition went through Big Stone TDE 274

by 1866 some Dakota were living at Big Stone Lake. Roy Meyer, History of the Santee Sioux.

HISTORIC PEOPLE CONNECTED TO CONFLICT

Charles R. Crawford born at Big Stone Lake. TDE
Standing Buffalo

Lorenzo Lawrence was born near Big Stone Lake. TDE 205

David Faribault & wife Nancy McClure Huggan lived here after the conflict TDE 249, MH 3

Anton Manderfeld: narrative account of wandering alone on the prairie MH 3

Scarlet Plume

Little Crow

Gen. Henry Sibley

George Spencer, trader at Big Stone Lake 1862. Narrative accounts in TDU and TDE.

see also list "(Some) Notable People of US-Dakota War of 1862"

RESOURCES

Books:

DU, DW, DUV, C&S, LP, NUP, TDU, TDE, TT, WW

See Resource section: Book titles and Codes,

Articles

"How many were killed at Big Stone Lake?" MH 3

Letters: Standing Buffalo to U.S.government, TDE 291

Dailey, Joseph: business partner with Benjamin F. Pratt in Indian trading post at Big Stone Lake, DT.
MH 5

Manderfeld, Anton, narrative of his escape from the Dakota attack at Big Stone Lake of August 21, 1862. Manderfeld escaped on foot and walked across the prairie to refuge near Fort Ridgely. TDU 161

A pre-conflict article from September 1860 printed in the New Ulm Pioneer, describes an encounter between troops from Fort Abercrombie and a large Indian gathering at Big Stone Lake. NUP

See Resource section: Journal titles and Codes

PHOTOS:

George Spencer, DU 209

Standing Buffalo, Scarlet Plume DU 44

PAINTINGS, SKETCHES, MURALS any?

INTERPRETIVE CENTERS none

MONUMENTS & HISTORIC SITES none known of

CEMETERIES WITH GRAVESTONES OF PARTICIPANTS none known of

WEBSITES

www.ndstudies.org

www.mnrivervalley.com/stories/readings

www.bigstonecounty.org/history

BIG STONE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

985 US Highway 12 (mailing)

Junction of Highways 12, 75, and 7 (museum)

Ortonville, MN 56278

320-839-3359

Fax: 320-839-2429

Contact: Ann Lundberg

320-839-2429

malum@midco.net