

## STUDY RESOURCE GUIDES-DAKOTA WAR OF 1862 BLUE EARTH COUNTY

www.USDakotaWarMNCountyByCounty.com

Copyright © 2012

### **EVENTS: battles, deaths, injuries. pre-conflict:**

The area of present day Blue Earth county was officially Indian territory, occupied by primarily Dakota indians (?) until 1853, when the Treaties of Traverse de Sioux opened the land to white settlement. The Dakota were moved to a reservation west of Blue Earth County, and the Winnebago to a reservation to the south.

Residents of Blue Earth County were shaken by the incidents of Inpaduta and the Spirit Lake Massacre of 1857.

The attacks at Redwood, New Ulm and Fort Ridgely between August 18 and 23 inflamed fear in the residents of Blue Earth County residents.

Stockades were built to protect settlers at Tivoli, Mankato, and Winnebago.

Aug. 24, 1862: 25 wagonloads of people left Mankato to seek safety elsewhere. Some men from Blue Earth County went to New Ulm to be part of the Defenders of New Ulm.

Aug. 25, 1862: refugees from New Ulm came to Mankato, others went to St. Peter, St. Paul, & elsewhere.

Sept. 9 and 10, 1862: John S. Jones, Robert Jones, Thomas J. Davis, Jonas Mohr, and James Edwards, Welsh settlers, were killed in attacks in Cambria Township. Small bands of Dakota killed about 13 settlers in the Butternut Creek area. DW 50

Sept. 1862: Captain Charles Flandreau set up headquarters at South Bend to defend the southern and southwestern frontiers.

In mid and late September Little Crow and his warriors were moving north with their captives; after the Battle of Wood Lake on Sept. 23, Little Crow and his warriors fled to the prairies, and on September 26 the captives were turned over to Colonel Sibley at Camp Release, some refugees were released, military trials started, and the Dakota prisoners moved to the Redwood Agency.

Nov. 9, 1862: Most of the condemned Dakota prisoners were marched in chains from Lower Sioux Agency to Camp Lincoln at South Bend. \* See article "Rediscovering Camp Lincoln", which refutes the commonly assumed site of Camp Lincoln.

Nov. 15, 1862: most refugees had left Mankato, farmers were returning home to their farms.

Nov. 25, 1862 Sibley left Mankato, leaving Col. Stephen Miller in charge.

Dec. 4, 1862: attempt to lynch Dakota prisoners at South Bend stopped by the troops under Col. Miller. M&I, 52. The prisoners were moved to a more secure jail in Mankato.

Dec. 6, 1862: President Lincoln approved death sentences for 39 of the 303 convicts. The condemned were separated from the other prisoners and chained. MH 1

Dec. 26, 1862: 38 convicted Dakota warriors hanged at Mankato.

## STUDY RESOURCE GUIDES-DAKOTA WAR OF 1862 BLUE EARTH COUNTY

Feb. 1863: Congress abrogated all treaties with the Dakota and authorized removal of the Winnebagos to their reservation in Blue Earth co. MH 1

April 22, 1863: The remaining prisoners at Mankato were loaded on a steamboat for deportation. MH 1

May 1863: removal of Winnebago from their reservation in Blue Earth County. DW 79

August 11, 1864: post-conflict attacks killed more settlers, near site of Willow Creek Cemetery. Killed were Noble Root and Charles Mack.

May 2, 1865: post conflict attacks in the eastern part of Blue Earth County. The Jewett family were killed, their deaths blamed on Dakota. Francis M. York, age 9, was the last fatality of the US Dakota War. MH 1

May 3, 1865: John Campbell was hanged by citizens in Mankato for his role in killing the Jewett family on the previous day.

### **(Some) HISTORIC PEOPLE CONNECTED TO CONFLICT**

Big Eagle

Bishop Whipple, Rev. Stephen Riggs, Rev. Thomas S. Williamson, Father Augustin Ravoux

Col. Henry Sibley (later General Henry Sibley)

General Pope

President Abraham Lincoln

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

Charles Flandreau

### **RESOURCES**

#### **Books:**

DU: section on Mankato and Blue Earth County

DUV

DII

DW

TDE TDU

M&I 52

TT see especially chapter "The Journey of the Prisoners Convoy to South Bend".

#### **Articles:**

See Reading List for Guide to Magazine and book titles codes.

MH 3: "Removing the Winnebago: A Tale of Frontier Journalism"

Colonel Miller's War TT

DU 293: story of Corporal James Edwards, son of James Edwards of Cambria Township, who was killed in the September 9-10, 1862 attacks. Corporal Edwards, while serving in Brackett's Battalion, a part of General Sully's force in Dakota Territory, killed an Indian in revenge for his father's death.

Minnesota's Frontier: A Neglected Sector of the Civil War-

<http://collections.mnhs.org/MNHHistoryMagazine/articles/38/v38i06p274-286.pdf>

Rediscovering Camp Lincoln. MH 6-20.

**See Resource section: Book titles and Codes, Journal titles and Codes**

## **STUDY RESOURCE GUIDES-DAKOTA WAR OF 1862 BLUE EARTH COUNTY**

### **MILITARY UNITS THAT SERVED IN THE US DAKOTA WAR**

2nd Mn Volunteer Cavalry, Co. E, Co. H; 3rd MN, Co. H; 4th MN, Co. H; 6th MN, Co. I; 9th MN, Co. D and Co. E.

A citizen volunteer army, the Mankato Company of Volunteers, under Captain William Bierbauer formed to help defend the residents of New Ulm.

Some from Blue Earth County served in the Fifth Minnesota Regiment. Edwin D. Steele died Sept. 7, 1862 in the attack at Fort Abercrombie; a Masonic funeral was held for him in Mankato Oct. 19, 1862.

### **Photos**

#### **Paintings, sketches, & murals:**

Lincoln's pardon document DW 73 W.H. Child's drawing prisoners at Mankato DW 68  
Robert O. Sweeney's ink drawings of condemned DW 74, of Camp Lincoln DW 71  
W.H. Child's Hanging at Mankato DW 75

### **MONUMENTS & HISTORIC SITES**

Reconciliation Park, Mankato

### **CEMETERIES WITH GRAVESTONES OF PARTICIPANTS**

Jerusalem Cemetery: John S. Jones, James Edwards, Jonas Mohr DUV 116  
Vernon Center Cemetery: Noble G. Root, Charles "Squire" Mack.  
Garden City Cemetery: Jewett family, Charles Tyler  
Tivoli Cemetery: Francis York, age 9, last person to die in the Conflict

### **WEBSITES**

Blue Earth Co. <http://www.bechshistory.com/>  
415 Cherry Street, Mankato MN 56001  
507-345-5566. [bechs@hickorytech.net](mailto:bechs@hickorytech.net)

### **WEB CONTENT**

Full text of the history of Blue Earth County, author Thomas Hughes:  
[http://www.archive.org/stream/cu31924028912925/cu31924028912925\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/cu31924028912925/cu31924028912925_djvu.txt)

"Famous American Trials: The Dakota Conflict Trials of 1862" by Douglas Linder. Online at:  
<http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/dakota/dakota.html>