Pre-conflict:

Prior to white settlement, the area was inhabited very early by native mound builders and more recently by Dakota people. Samuel Pond said in his 1834 book that Mazomani was chief of a band of Wahpetons at Carver; and that men from this band committed many outrages. Traders such as Jean Baptiste Faribault had a fur trading post in the early 1800's at Little Rapids, just up river from Carver. Carver County was formed in 1855. Early settlements prior to the US Dakota War were at Chaska, Watertown, and Waconia; the county had five school districts, some physicians, a few churches. The brick factory at Chaska was operational. The railroad had not yet reached Carver County; much of the travel was on the mail-stage road or on steamer on the river.

"November 18, 1858: In Watertown in Carver County 150 Sioux are camping who have caused much damage. They have shot down cows and let their horses graze in the fields." NUP 8

during the conflict: no battles or attacks were noted to have occurred in Carver County. During the conflict Carver County residents would have seen passages of soldiers, travelers, refugees, and horse-drawn wagons along their roads and trails along the Minnesota River, as well as steamboats carrying troops and supplies to the prairies. Men from Carver County served in several units in the U.S. Dakota War (see below)

Aug. 21, 1862 article in St. Paul Daily Press: "Several loads of the panic-stricken people of Carver and Sibley counties arrived in town last evening. They were all Germans, and principally women and children. It is impossible to believe the terror existing among these people. They said that St. Peter, Henderson, and Glencoe were burned, and 10,000 Indians were marching upon Carver and Chaska, and only six miles from those places. They had rode night and day, and were nearly jaded out."

September 26, 1862: see Camp Release; the state breathes a sigh of relief.

November 1862: The caravan of Indian women, children, and some men passed through Carver County on their way to internment at Fort Snelling.

HISTORIC PEOPLE CONNECTED TO CONFLICT

Mazomani: note that Mazomani had become a peaceful chief in 1862 by the end of the US Dakota War. See Yellow Medicine County.

MILITARY UNITS THAT SERVED IN THE US DAKOTA WAR


Carver County resident, Pvt. William Siegel, 5th MN Regiment, was killed at Ft. Abercrombie, Sept. 6, 1862. DUV 102

RESOURCES

Books (see Resources: books: reading list for titles and title codes)

DUV 102, TT
The book Trails of Tears Minnesota's Dakota Indian Exile Begins", chapter "The Family Caravan" describes in detail the journey of the some 1800 Dakota women and children along with the mixed blood people from Camp Release who walked in a four mile long procession through Carver County, camping on the prairie.

Articles

Photos

Paintings, sketches, & murals

MONUMENTS & HISTORIC SITES

INTERPRETIVE CENTERS

CEMETERIES WITH GRAVESTONES OF PARTICIPANTS

WEBSITES
Carver County Historical Society
555 West 1st Street, Waconia, MN 55387
(952) 442-4234  wbiorn@co.carver.mn.us