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EVENTS: battles, deaths, injuries.

Native people long ago: Area had been settled by prehistoric native people...Indian burial mounds at site of present day Burnsville, at River Hills, and Teepee Hills. Pilot Knob had been ceremonial and burial site.

pre-conflict:

The area is now Dakota County prior to the major white settlement was largely inhabited by Dakota and mixed blood people who were traders and associated with Fort Snelling. A Dakota village existed at Kaposia, a band from which Little Crow came. <http://www.dakotahistory.org/county/ssp.asp> Black Dog's Village was located in Dakota County. Black Dog was a Mdewakanton chief; the band is believed to have moved to the area from the Mille Lac area around 1750.

<http://www.dakotahistory.org/county/burnsville.asp>

<http://www.dakotahistory.org/county/ssp.asp>

Pilot Knob, located on the high ground on the south ridge of the conjunction of the Minnesota and the Mississippi Rivers, was considered a sacred place for Dakota burials, and a meeting place by the Mdewakanton Dakota people.

In the 1830's and 1840's the Dakota and Ojibway were feuding with each other over land and other issues; their ongoing feuds influenced many aspects of their stories and eventually resulted in treaties which separated their lands.

In the 1830's missionaries Samuel Pond, Gideon Pond, Rev. Brunson, and Rev. David King had mission stations and a mission school at Kaposia, and were teaching farming methods to the Dakota at Kaposia. In 1846 missionary Thomas S. Williamson set up a mission school there.

Little Crow (V), considered the Dakota leader of the U.S. Dakota War of 1862, was born into the Kaposia band of Mdewakanton. He attended the mission schools at Kaposia, and after spending ten years at Lac qui Parle, returned to Kaposia and forcefully assumed leadership of the tribe.

The Treaty of Traverse de Sioux and the Treaty of Mendota in 1851 ceded vast portions of land, including that in Dakota County, over to the U.S. government, which allowed the settlement by Europeans and whites to proceed.

Most of the Mdewakanton in Dakota County moved to the Lower Sioux reservation soon after the signing of the treaty, leaving Dakota County open for settlement.

The earliest European settlements were at Mendota.

During the conflict:

No battles or attacks occurred in Dakota County. Many residents of Dakota County served in military units that were involved in the U.S. Dakota War. See Military Units, below.

Aug. 19, 1862. Governor Ramsey appointed Dakota resident Col. Henry H. Sibley as commander of an expedition against the Indians.

Aug. 20, 1862 Sibley set off by steamboat from Fort Snelling with new raw recruits of the Sixth Minnesota Regiment with an inadequate store of supplies .HHS 173

August 20-September 26, 1862: battles and attacks on the prairies rage, while those at home deal with uncertainty and fear, newspaper reports that are sometimes accurate and sometimes exaggerated, aiding refugees, and worries about their loved ones on the farms, in the towns and on the battlefields.

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

Post-conflict:

Dec. 11, 1862 Fifteen members of the LaFramboise and LaBelle families were sent to Mendota. DII 99, DU

November 1862 to 1864: When the Dakota prisoners (both the friendly group and later the hostile prisoner group and families) were kept at Fort Snelling, priests from the Church of St. Peter at Mendota visited prisoners as part of their Dakota and Metis Ministry and baptized nearly 200 Dakota. The last entries in the baptismal registry were made on October 10, 1865, and appear to be baptisms for Shakopee (Little Six) and Medicine Bottle, who were imprisoned at Fort Snelling and hanged there in November 1865. DII 149-155.

Jan. 1863. The Hastings Independent reported that wagonloads of people were brought through Hastings. They had spent the winter in Wabasha and were being taken to the internment camp at Fort Snelling. DU 279.

May 5, 1863. Thirteen more families were sent to Mendota--Duncan and Scott Campbell families.

January 1864: Shakopee and Medicine Bottle were captured in Ft. Garry, Canada by John H. McKenzie and Onisime Giguere, brought to Ft. Snelling where they were tried, convicted, and hanged at Fort Snelling on November 11, 1865. DU 272

By the early 1870's some Dakota people had formed communities at Mendota. Roy Meyer, History of the Santee Sioux.

(SOME)HISTORIC PEOPLE CONNECTED TO CONFLICT

Scott Campbell, his wife Margarete, with many children, spent some years before the US Dakota War living near Ft. Snelling, interacting with Dakota, the military people at Ft. Snelling, with other mixed blood people. Scott and Margarete Campbell are examples of mixed blood people-- descendants of early European traders and Dakota people, who by learning to speak, read and write English, blended elements of European and native cultures. Mixed blood people lived with and worked with natives, married natives and were part of a process of changing the culture of native peoples. The descendants of Scott and Margarete were involved in and affected by the US Dakota Conflict in a number of ways, from being onlookers, being active participants, being convicted and hanged, taken captives, protecting settlers, removed from Minnesota after the conflict, settling later in Dakota communities, or marrying European settlers and living as Europeans.

•Coursolle, Joseph. A mixed blood man born about 1833 in Devils Lake ND. After the death of his parents when he was young, he was reared and educated by Henry Sibley at Mendota. Joseph learned the blacksmith trade. With his white wife Jane Killkool and their several children, they lived at Traverse de Sioux between 1856 and 1860. They were living at the Redwood Agency by 1862. See Redwood County. TDE

Big Eagle, Jerome (Wamditanka), born 1827 at Black Dog's Village, son of Chief Gray Iron, and succeeded him as chief. In 1857 he was at the Redwood Agency and joined the farmer band. He was a reluctant participant in the US Dakota War.

Medicine Bottle, (Wakanozhanchan), brother to Big Eagle, above. Probably also born at Black Dog's Village. A fierce warrior in the conflict, he escaped to Canada, was brought back to Ft. Snelling where he was tried, convicted, and hanged. DU 274

- Godfrey, Joseph. TDE 85, black man who married an Indian woman, fought in the conflict, testified at trials of Dakota to gain status,?? ended life at Santee Reservation.
- Hakewaste, Robert (Good Fifth Son). Born at Kaposia 1828,an important member of Little Crow's band when the war broke out. He was not an active participant in the war and was not tried by the military commission. He became an active leader of the Dakota at Crow Creek and Santee. TDE 31
- Huggan, Nancy McClure Faribault. Born at Mendota 1836. Was a captive in the US Dakota War, freed at Camp Release. Narrative in TDE, MHS.
- Little Crow. He was born at Kaposia around 1810, son of Big Thunder. His family cooperated with the whites at Kaposia and Fort Snelling. He spent his youth mainly at Kaposia, until 1836, when he moved to Lac qui Parle. He returned to Kaposia in 1845 and, assumed leadership of Mdewakanton,made improvements in tribal life, education and practices, first signer of Mendota Treat of 1851, considered the unwilling but main leader of the Dakota who went to war in 1862 against the settlers.
- Henry Hastings Sibley
- Campbell, Antoine J., a mixed blood man, born in Mendota 1825. son of Scott and Margarete Campbell. Trader and store clerk, relative of Little Crow. Moved to Traverse de Sioux in 1851. Delegate to Washington DC in 1858. By 1862 he was living at the Redwood Agency, serving as an interpreter. During the Conflict he was secretary to Little Crow. He helped protect Dakota captives and obtained the release of some. Was at Camp Release. Testified at trials. Later a scout. Lived some time at Santee, also at Montevideo, MN. with his daughter Celia Campbell Stay. TDE 287.
- Shakopee, (Little Six), Dakota Chief, warrior. Shakopee and Medicine Bottle, active participants against the whites in the Confict, fled to Canada. They were captured in Canada in January 1864, returned to Ft. Snelling, tried, convicted and hanged there on November 11, 1865.
- Williamson, Thomas S. established a church and school at Kaposia at the invitation of Little Crow
- Snana (Maggie Brass) TDE 141, Mdewakanton?/Studied at T.S. Williamson school at Kaposia, Christian convert, married to Good Thunder. Protected captive Mary Schwandt.
- Taopi. Born at Kaposia 1820; his other was Old Betts. In 1858 he joined the Lower Band at Redwood Agency. He opposed the war; at Camp Release he turned over captives. Scout for General Sibley. TDE
- White Spider (Unktomista) or John C. Wakeman, Big Thunder or Wakantonka. He wa born near Kaposia July 1831, grew up near his half brother Little Crow. He was at the Upper reservatio by 1853. Married to Blue Sky Woman, He was present at many battles during the war but claimed he spent mot of his time saving whites. He was living near Grey Cloud island in 1882, and had moved to Morton by 1853.
- Vander Horck, Capt. John. Village treasurer of West St. Paul, commander at Fort Abercrombie.

MILITARY UNITS THAT SERVED IN THE US DAKOTA WAR

2nd MN Volunteer Cavalry, Co. F and Co. H; 3rd MN. Co. B; 4th MN, Co. C; 5th MN, Co. G; 6th MN, Co. A; 7th MN., Co. F; 8th MN. Co F. and Co. K; 10th MN. Co. H.

RESOURCES

Books (see attached bibliography for titles)

CM, DII, LCSS ,PM, TDE,

Articles

William Reynolds Brown, Dakota Co. settler, 6th MN. Infantry, MH 5
Muck-a-pec-wak-kea-zah "Indian John", rescuer of whites at Lower Agency, scout, bought land at Hastings and spent his last years there with his wife, "respected citizens of Hastings". MH 2

Photos

Paintings, sketches, & murals

Seth Eastman painting: Dakota hunter chasing bison on prairie south of Ft. Snelling-
Eastman: Dakota burial ground with platforms at Pilot Knob
Eastman: Fort Snelling, view from 2 miles downstream

MONUMENTS & HISTORIC SITES

Pilot Knob <http://www.pilotknobpreservation.org/>
<http://mendotaheights.patch.com/listings/pilot-knob>
Sibley House <http://www.mnhs.org/places/sites/shs/>

INTERPRETIVE CENTERS

Sibley House, above

CEMETERIES WITH GRAVESTONES OF PARTICIPANTS

WEBSITES

<http://www.dakotahistory.org/research/overview.asp>
Dakota County Historical Society
130 3rd Avenue North, South St. Paul, MN 55075
(651) 552-7548

WEB CONTENT

<http://www.dakotahistory.org/downloads/OTYNov1986.pdf>