

CHRONOLOGY OF U.S. DAKOTA WAR OF 1862 IN LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY, INCLUDING CAMP RELEASE

Date	Event	source
Aug. 19, 1862	Amos Huggins was killed. His wife and children, and Julia LaFramboise fled. They found protection eventually in the tent of Walking Spirit, (Wakanmani,) a Wahpeton chief and long term resident of the area, who had a village at Lac qui Parle.	DUV 30
Aug. 20-Sept 8, 1862	While no direct actions of the US Dakota War were occurring during this time in Lac qui Parle County, it can be assumed that the people of the Sisseton and Wahpeton villages of Wakanmani, Sleepy Eyes, Mazomani, and Extended Tail Feathers (in present-day Lac qui Parle County) were in a watchful state as they received messages about the attacks going on in the lower Minnesota River Valley. Wakanmani and his wife, Sacred Nest, were protecting Sophia Huggins and her two children. Julia LaFramboise had been rescued by her father, Joseph LaFramboise Sr. Aside from a few Sisseton who had engaged on isolated attacks, the people of the above chiefs had not participated in the conflict as a group.	
Sept. 6, 1862	Red Iron and several chiefs and leaders, Standing Buffalo, Mazakutemani, Scarlet Plume, Wanata, Ecetukiya, and Star held a council at Red Iron's village to discuss what to do about the conflict and the hostile Dakota. Their decision was to not join the conflict. This led to their stopping Little Crow's movement north when he reached Red Iron's village.	TDE 200, 204.
Sept. 9, 1862	Little Crow and his warriors, having been involved in the major battles and numerous attacks on settlers to the south, continued moving north to get away from Sibley's approaching troops. When they were about nine miles south of Red Iron's Village, Red Iron and his soldiers met Little Crow and told him he could not enter Sisseton territory because of the serious trouble they had caused.	LC 151
	Little Crow's caravan stopped and set up camp south of Red Iron's Village; the warrior camp with their families and captives were in one camp, while the friendly Dakota Peace Party with their families and some white and half blood captives set up a separate camp.	DW 61
Sept. 10-25, 1862	The two camps existed with uneasiness; what would happen to the captives? Some hostile Dakota, such as Rdainyanka, wanted to kill them. Little Crow hesitated because many were his relatives. The Peace Party wanted to free the captives. A number of the Dakota protectors dug pits inside their tents in which to hide the captives.	TDE 175
Sept. 23, 1862	Little Crow and his 738 warriors went to make one final stand against Sibley's troops; the Battle of Wood Lake ensued, where Little Crow's forces were defeated decisively. Little Crow returned to his camp in defeat to decide what to do next.	
	While Little Crow's forces were gone, members of the Peace Party moved most of the captives from Little Crow's camp to the camp of the friendlies.	

Sept. 24, 1862	With their captives having been moved out, and knowing that Sibley and his troops were soon to arrive, Little Crow and his people , along with chiefs Shakopee, Red Middle Voice, Medicine Bottle and others, departed from the area.	TDE 271
Sept. 26, 1862	Sibley & his troops arrived and set up camp on the north (east?) side of the river. They crossed the river to where the captives had been kept. The captives--107 whites and 162 mixed bloods, were turned over to Sibley's jurisdiction. This camp was named Camp Release.	
Sept. 27-28, 1862	After providing the captives with some food and clothing, and taking note of all the captives, some were allowed to leave, while others were kept as captives or prisoners under Sibley's watch.	
unknown date	Mrs. Sophia Huggins and her children were rescued by friendly Dakota (Robert Hopkins Chaska, Enos Goodhail, Lazarus Ruty, and David Renville) who were sent by Sibley, and brought to Camp Release. She stayed in Camp Release two weeks before going to be with friends elsewhere.	
	As hostiles returned ("came in") to Camp Release to be with their families and were put under guard. Many of these returned because they thought they would be off under the government than trying to survive alone on the prairie. Eventually the number of Dakota prisoners reached nearly two thousand.	DW 67
Sept. 28, 1862	Sibley organized military tribunals; trials of prisoners accused of crimes began. The five members of the military commission were: Col. William Crooks, Lt. Colonel Marshall (soon replaced by Major George Bradley of the 7th Regiment,) Capt. Hiram P. Grant, Capt. Hiram S. Bailey, and Lt. Rollin C. Olin who served as judge advocate. Isaac Heard, a St. Paul lawyer, acted as recorder. Stephen R. Riggs and Antoine D. Freniere were interpreters. Many of the cases were expedited and many prisoners convicted by the testimony of Joseph Godfrey (Otakle), who was convicted and found guilty, but he turned state's evidence and was instead sentence to ten years of prison.	DW 68
Sept. 28-Oct. 4, 1862	What life was like in Camp Release: the released captives continued to live in tents and were given food and whatever limited clothing was available from the soldiers. They could move around freely but needed Sibley's permission to leave the camp. The Dakota men who were tried and convicted were put into a log pen prison, and guarded by the soldiers. Some of the soldiers wanted to have "trysts" with Indian women, which Sibley forbade. Some soldiers built dugouts, some with board walls & roofs, a few with fireplaces. The schoolhouse that stood nearby was torn down for the fireplace bricks.	DU 202,
Oct. 2, 1862	Sibley sent 94 white women and young children who had no living relatives to Ft. Ridgely.	
Oct. 4, 1862	Because food and supplies were running low, Indians who were were not required as witnesses were sent to the Yellow Medicine agency, along with some women and children and military guard. The group amounted to about 1200 people. They were to live on crops at the agency raised by the farmer Indians.	TDE 225

Oct. 5, 1862	By this date the military commission had tried 30 prisoners, of whom 20 had been declared guilty and sentenced to be hanged. By October 15, 101 male prisoners were held in chains at Camp Release.	
Oct. 5, 1862	Freed captives Mrs. N.D. White, Mrs. Carrothers, Mrs. Earle were allowed to leave. Mr. White and Mr. J.W. Earle came from St. Peter with a four horse team to carry the group back to St. Peter.	
Oct. 11, 1862	Sibley wrote to his wife that that he had been ordered by General Pope to send all his prisoners--more than 1500-- to Ft. Snelling immediately.	
Oct. 23, 1862	Sibley began moving his troops and the condemned Indian prisoners down to present-day Redwood Falls.	
Oct. 24, 1862	Sibley with the last of his troops, prisoners, all left Camp Release, and went to Lower Agency.	DU371n923