

www.usdakotawarmncountybycounty.com

Copyright © 2012

EVENTS: battles, deaths, injuries.

Native people inhabited this area for centuries: artifacts found at Fort Ridgely date to around 5000 B.C., with recent arrowheads believed to be from about 1200 A.D. from the Oneota culture. Early explorers who had visited Nicollet County: LeSueur, Stephen Long, Beltrami, Featherstonough, Nicollet.

pre-war:

Early trading posts in Nicollet County: run by Frazer, Provencalle, Faribault, Henry Sibley, Martin McLeod, Alexander Graham, Philander Prescott, Joseph R. Brown.

Samuel Pond in *The Dakota in Minnesota As They Were in 1834*, stated that Wahpekutes lived at Traverse de Sioux; their chief was Tankamani.

Missionary posts: Stephen R. Riggs, Thomas Longley, A.G. Huggins and Robert Hopkins at Traverse de Sioux, 1843.

Background: The Treaty of 1851, signed at Traverse des Sioux between the U.S. government and the Wahpeton and Sisseton bands; the tribes gave all their land in southern Minnesota and eastern (present day) South Dakota (except for the reservation land on both sides of the Minnesota River to the government.

a number of Dakota and mixed blood people had settled by Traverse de Sioux, including Nancy McClure Huggan, who attended a school there taught by Julia LaFramboise; Celia Cambell Stay

Fort Ridgely had been erected there in 1853 to protect the settlers and to maintain order among the Dakota who had been transferred to the reservation in 1853.

February 1862: The first observed cases of measles appeared at Fort Ridgely. These were the first documented cases of measles among the Union troops. After a few soldiers got the disease, it disappeared, only to appear later to affect hundreds of soldiers and Dakota people in November and December 1862. DII 54

during the conflict:**AUGUST 20, 1862 FIRST ATTACK ON FORT RIDGELY**

August 20, 1862 Fort Ridgely was attacked by 400 Dakota warriors under Little Crow's command. At the time the fort housed soldiers and some 300-400 refugees. A second attack on the fort took place August 22, with 800 Dakota warriors, who held the fort under siege until August 27.

A number of the settlers who died in Nicollet County had fled to Fort Ridgely for refuge, and had then decided to return to their homes temporarily to check on their house, land, or animals, and were killed by Dakota either going to their homes or returning to the fort.

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."

A barricade of cordwood was set up around the main part of St. Peter; it did not appear to be sturdy enough to be helpful, according to the editor of the St. Peter Tribune.

Aug. 22, 1862: John Buhner (Buchro, Buehro)and Felix Smith were killed as they were returning from Buhner's home, where he had gone after being at Fort Ridgely, to fetch an item for his wife. A Dakota was killed when Smith defended himself.

AUGUST 22, 1862 MAIN ATTACK (2ND) ON FORT RIDGELY- See DW: Chapter 7

August 22, 1862: Colonel Henry Sibley arrived in St. Peter, where he waited for additional troops and supplies that would make his forces strong enough to continue with their mission.

Aug. 22, 1862, Jacob Mauerle, saloon-keeper living at St. George, was killed by Dakota, although he thought he would be safe since he knew them well. DUV 82. Eliphalet W. Richardson of Glencoe was killed on his way to Fort Ridgely, where he hoped to learn more about the situation. DUV 83

August 23, 1862, the family of Erik and Marie Jonson were attacked at New Sweden township; Marie and Peter (Pehr) were killed.

Aug. 28, 1862: Col Sibley and troops left St. Peter, headed toward Fort Ridgely, and reached it on Aug. 29. HHS 177

Sept. 2, 1862, August Nierens, pastor, thought it was safe to leave Fort Ridgely to return home, and was killed by Dakota as he stood in the door way of his home. Also killed that day were Christian Richter and his son William Richter, on their way to join the army to fight in the Civil War. DUV 86-7.

St. Peter became a major site for refugees; it offered food, shelter, medical care. Many refugees died in St. Peter from their wounds, or from diseases brought on by overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, and a poor water system. DU 280. "The quiet village of a thousand inhabitants thus increased by thousands, had become full to overflowing. Every private house, every public house, every church, school-house, warehouse, shed, or saloon, and every vacant structure is full. The crowd throng along the public highways: a line of cooking-stoves smoke along the streets; the vacant lots are occupied, for there is no room in the houses. All is clatter, rattle, and din. Wagons, ponies, mules, oxen, cows and calves are promiscuously distributed among groups of men, woman and children. The livestock from thousands of deserted farms surround the outskirts of the town; the lowing of strange cattle, the neighing of restless horses, the crying of lost and hungry children, the tales of horror, the tomahawk wounds undressed, the bleeding feet, the cries for food, and the loud wailing for missing friends, all combine to burn into the soul the dreadful reality that some terrible calamity was upon the country." The Sioux Massacre of 1862--Charles S. Bryant.

Citizen soldier groups from Nicollet County included the St. Peter Frontier Guards under Charles Flandreau, who helped defend New Ulm; The Scandinavian Guards, and the St. Peter Frontier Avengers.

September 18, 1862: Sibley waited at Fort Ridgely until experienced troops arrived, then advanced up the Minnesota River Valley. MH1:51, DW 62

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

post-war:

Oct. 23-24, 1862: Sibley and his troops marched the condemned Dakota prisoners on their way to the Lower Agency; it's likely that they would have passed through a portion of Nicollet County.

December 1862: Large numbers of horses, wagons, and other goods had been pressed into service by Sibley' forces. Receipts were given to the owners. Captain A.H. Mills, the quartermaster of the expedition, either returned the property or made compensation to the owners in St. Peter on December 11, 1862. DU 281.

Winter 1862-1863 and winter of 1863-64: St. Peter was the regimental headquarters of the 6th Regiment under Col. Crooks. DII 57. Troops and residents were affected by an unusual amount of sickness; typhoid fever, diptheria, measles and scarlet fever. DII 57

HISTORIC PEOPLE CONNECTED TO CONFLICT

Campbell, Antoine and his family lived here 1851-1855.

Celia Campbell Charron Stay lived in Nicollet County 1866-1879, as wife of Joseph Charron, a French-Dakota farmer.

LaFramboise, Joseph, spent most of his youth at his father's trading house at Little Rock. TDE 108

Lawrence, Lorenzo. Escorted women and children to safety at Fort Ridgely. PS Ch. 10.

Otherday, John, born in Nicollet Co., Rescued whites 1857, 1862 Guided missionary party to safety from YM?

Joseph Coursolle: mixed blood man raised by Henry Sibley at Mendota, lived with wife and family at Traverse de Sioux before and after the conflict. Was a teamster and fur trader at Traverse de Sioux. Served in Capt. Joseph Anderson's company of the mounted militia. Fought at Birch Coulee. TDE Col. Henry H. Sibley

STUDY TOPIC: the role of St. Peter in the Conflict as transit center (steamboat access), for bringing in supplies, as an exit spot for refugees to leave the Mn. River Vally, as a refugee center, a settlement with doctors, a hospital and provider of medical assistance, site of death for a number of people wounded in the conflict, the provider of the largest volunteer force to defend New Ulm, the site where some of the Camp Release captives who had been released found temporary shelter.

MILITARY: UNITS THAT SERVED IN THE US DAKOTA CONFLICT:

2nd MN Cavalry, Co. B and Co. M; 4th MN Co. H; 6th MN,Co. I; 9th MN, Co. D.

RESOURCES

Books (see attached bibliography for titles)

C&S,DII, DU,DUV, DW, LP, PS, TDE, TDU,TT

DU: section on St. Peter

Sibley letters:in DU, HHS

See Resource section for Book titles and Codes, Journal titles and Codes

Articles

Swedes in Nicollet County: MH 5
Establishing the Site of the Traverse de Sioux near St. Peter MH 1
Minnesota's Frontier: A Neglected Sector of the Civil War-
<http://collections.mnhs.org/MNHHistoryMagazine/articles/38/v38i06p274-286.pdf>
That Tree Is How Old? MH 1
Story of Mrs. Nancy McClure Huggan, MH 1
Looking for Relatives MH 5
Peterson Family Stories from Nicollet County from the Dakota Indian War of 1862 MH 4
"Deeper Into History", MN Conservation Volunteer, July-Aug. 2010
See Resource section for Book titles and Codes, Journal titles and Codes

Narratives

TDE 146-167, HHS 177,
Adams, Rev. Moses TDU 42
Boelter, Justin TDU 63
Carruthers, Mrs. Helen TDU 34
Chittendon, Col. R.H. TDU 83
Coursolle, Joseph TDE
Earle, Jonathan V. TDU 31
Hinman, Rev. Samuel TDU 10
Krieger, Justina TDU 44-59
Lawrence, Lorenzo TDE
Reynolds, Mrs. Valencia TDU
Schwandt, Mary TDU
Stay, Celia Campbell TDU
Van Voorhees, A.J. TDU 84

Photos

Paintings, sketches, & murals

diagram of Ft. Ridgely DW 25
Mayer, Frank: scene at Treaty Signing of 1851 at Traverse de Sioux

MONUMENTS & HISTORIC SITES

Fort Ridgely State Park: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/fort_ridgely/index.html
http://www.civilwaralbum.com/misc16/fort_ridgely1.htm
<http://www.americanheritage.com/content/fort-ridgely-state-park>
Treaty Rock--located near the Treaty Site History Center; ask for directions.
A marker for Maria and Pehr Jonsson stands by the Scandian Grove Lutheran Church Cemetery.

INTERPRETIVE CENTERS

Treaty Site History Center MH 2:21
<http://www.nchsmn.org/sites.html>
Treaty Site History Center
1851 North Minnesota Avenue
Just north of St. Peter on U.S. Hwy. 169
St. Peter, MN 56082
(507) 934-2160 *

CEMETERIES WITH GRAVES OF PARTICIPANTS

- Trinity Evangelical Cemetery: August Nierens, Christian and William Richter.
- Ft. Ridgely Cemetery: Capt. John S. Marsh, Russell H. Findley, Solon A. Trescott, Joseph S. Besse, Charles R. Bell, Edwin F. Cole, Charles E. French, John Gardner, Jacob A. Gehring, John Holmes, Christian Joerger, Durs Kanzig, James H. Kerr, Wenzel Kusda, Henry McAllister, Wenzel Norton, Moses P. Parks, John W. Parks, John Parsley, Harrison Phillips, Nathaniel Pitcher, Henry A. Shepherd, Nathan Stewart, Charles W. Smith, Mark M. Greer, Peter Quinn, Julia LaFramboise.
- St. Peter: Church of the Holy Communion, Capt. William B. Dodd,

WEBSITES

<http://sites.mnhs.org/historic-sites/fort-ridgely>

WEB CONTENT

"Fort Ridgely" in *Forts on the Minnesota Frontier*. <http://www.mnmilitarymuseum.org>
building Ft. Ridgely--Rice Co. museum speaker
http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/soldier/sitec6.htm
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Traverse_des_Sioux

Nicollet County Historical Society

<http://www.nchsmn.org/>
1851 North Minnesota Ave., St. Peter, MN 560
museum@nchsmn.org 507.934.2160