

www.usdakotawarmncountybycounty.com

Copyright © 2012

EVENTS: battles, deaths, injuries.

Background:

For its first 100 years, the history of Ramsey County was, to a great extent, the history of St. Paul, the county seat and the capital of Minnesota. The land north of the small settlement of St. Paul, which at the time stretched between upper and lower steamboat landings on the Mississippi River, was open land dotted with small lakes and clumps of trees, laced with streams and crisscrossed by wagon roads that often followed trails used earlier by bands of Sioux and Ojibway traveling through the area. A military road extended north from Fort Snelling along what is now Snelling Ave. Territorial Road ran roughly parallel to present-day I-94, linking St. Paul with the village of St. Anthony at St. Anthony Falls. Several Red River ox cart trails crossed what is now the Midway area, again linking St. Anthony with St. Paul.

The area that is now St. Paul had Mdewakanton Dakota living there from the late 17th century to 1837, when the area was opened for settlement by the Treaty of 1837; Dakota groups such as Little Crow V and his people moved down river to Kaposia. Fur traders, missionaries and explorers were attracted to the area because of Fort Snelling, which was established in 1819. Early settlement developed around Lamberts Landing as a trading center and grew as a shipping and transportation center supplying nearby Fort Snelling and serving as a transit way for incoming settlers. Among its early settlers were Pigs' Eye Parrant, a whiskey dealer. St. Paul's first recorded fire occurred in 1838, Father Lucien Galtier established the first chapel in 1841, Harriet Bishop arrived in 1847 and opened the city's first school. Minnesota Territory was formed in 1849, with St. Paul named as its capital. By the time of statehood in 1858, more than 1000 steamboats were in service, making the city a gateway for settlers to Minnesota and Dakota Territory. At that time this was the last place ships going up river could unload goods. The population of St. Paul in

during the US Dakota War of 1862:

August 19, 1862: news of the outbreak at the Lower Agency reached St. Paul. Governor Alexander Ramsey received the news around noon.

August 19, 1862: Gov. Ramsey went by buggy to Fort Snelling for further information and learned that this was not a routine Indian scare attack, but one that involved several deaths at the Lower Agency and an ambush of troops from Fort Ridgely that nearly wiped them out. He realized the state would have to respond strongly to the attack, gather what able-bodied men, arms and equipment were available (the state was already providing men and supplies for the Civil War). He knew he must find someone to command this effort; he went to Henry Sibley's home to ask him if he would accept the job. Sibley assented, and that night Ramsey wrote the letter appointing Henry Sibley the rank of Colonel and the job of commanding the "Indian Expedition".

August 20, 1862: A small steamboat left St. Paul and went to Fort Snelling. It contained meagre supplies for Sibley--no tents, no camping equipment, no cooked rations, a part of the ammunition needed. At Fort Snelling Sibley and a small party of raw recruits started up the Minnesota River.

From this point on in the war, the effects on St. Paul and Ramsey County were felt in the form of newspaper reports, communiquees from military commanders out on the prairie, military units being formed and leaving St. Paul, and refugees pouring into the city.

REFUGEES START ARRIVING

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."

Mrs. Ernst Dietrich and children, refugees, were living near the corner of Pearl and Canada Streets in December 1862; Mr. Dietrich had been killed on August 18, 1862 outside of New Ulm. One report said 57 children were sheltered in E. Langerud's grocery store. DUV 59. Another report of Dec. 22, 1862, said some were upstairs in a frame building on Third Street across from the American House. Some missionaries and their families relocated to St. Paul, including Mr. and Mrs. Adams of the Lac qui Parle Mission, Stephen R. Riggs and his family, formerly of the Lac qui Parle Mission, more recently of the Hazelwood Mission at Yellow Medicine. (The Riggs may have been in Old St. Anthony.)

The state set up a refugee fund, as did the city of St. Paul. The state funds reported it served 616 in September 1862, 460 in October, and 248 as of December 10. Of the 248, 23 were widows with 57 children. DU 277.

Some of the wounded from the conflict were brought to St. Paul for medical treatment. DU 136

The conflict separated family members, who often had no way of knowing if their loved ones were alive or not, or where they were. Some people placed ads in newspapers seeking information about their relatives. DU 277

August 22, 1862 newspaper article as it appeared in the NYT:
<http://www.startribune.com/local/blogs/138247369.html>

August 23, 1862: St. Paul mayor John Prince called a public meeting to organize a Home Guard and Night Patrol for each ward of the city. DU 286

Many of St. Paul's public meetings about the US Dakota War were held in the Ingersoll Hall. On August 26, 1862, one of the speakers was John Otherday, the Dakota man who guided the party of 62 whites to safety from the Upper Sioux Agency.

Col Sibley's headquarters were in the International Building at Jackson & East Seventh St.

Aug. 27, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln replied to Ramsey's message protesting that he could not send Minnesota's quota of volunteers to fight the Civil War, "Attend to the Indians".

August 29, 1862: Mayor Prince and Alderman Peter Berkey directed three wagons loaded with women and children from the Forest City area to an unoccupied house in West St. Paul. DU 286

August 30, 1862: the St. Paul Daily Press reported that citizens of Rose township (present day Roseville) were upset about reports from refugees that Indians were nearby ready to attack. Five men--Samuel Field, Mr. Bowers and son, Theodore Ayd, and the reporter set out on horseback to check the situation; they rode from Lake Como to Lake Johanna and found that all the residents had left and fled to the city, with the exception of one family who were preparing to leave.

Mayor Prince was appointed by Governor Ramsey as a courier to carry special dispatches to Col. Sibley and to check on the complaints being made that Sibley was moving too slowly. DU 286
Sept. 1, 1862: Mayor Prince left St. Paul for Fort Ridgely to check on Col. Sibley's progress. He returned on Sept. 5, having visited Fort Ridgely, visited with Charles Flandrau at Traverse de Sioux, talking with crowds in several towns on the route, and stopping to meet with Mrs. Sibley. He reported to Governor Ramsey that he was satisfied Sibley was moving as quickly as possible, given his problems with obtaining sufficient supplies. DU 186

Sept. 4, 1862, St. Paul Daily Press: notice of an auction sale of a Indian pony-mare and colt, "the only property left to Mr. H. Schlack, from the massacre and burning of New Ulm. We hope it will bring a good price."

Sept. 8, 1862: A meeting was held at Ingersoll Hall to discuss bringing back to St. Paul the bodies of the St. Paul residents who had been killed and their bodies temporarily buried at Birch Coulee. DU 286

Sept. 9, 1862 Governor Alexander Ramsey called a special session. In his opening speech, he reflected public opinion, the majority of which was outspokenly anti-Indian, saying "If any shall escape extinction, the wretched remnant must be driven beyond our borders." HHS177

September 1862: the national administration created a military Department of the Northwest, and on Sept. 6 assigned its leadership to Major General John Pope. Pope wrote to Washington, "You have no idea of the terrible destruction already done and of the panic everywhere in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Unless very prompt steps are taken these states will be half depopulated before the winter begins." HHS 182.

August 20-September 26, 1862: battles and attacks on the prairies raged, while those at home dealt with uncertainty and fear, newspaper and in-person reports that were 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 breathed a sigh of relief.**

November 13, 1862: the large contingent of Dakota families and mixed blood people arrived at Fort Snelling, where they stayed until May 1863. Their presence caught the attention of St. Paul newspapers and residents. **See section "The Dakota Internment at Fort Snelling".**

Nov. 26, 1862: a meeting was held at Ingersoll Hall to discuss how to carry out the death sentences for the 303 convicted Dakota.

December 26, 1862: The hanging of 38 convicted Dakota at Mankato.

post-conflict

Some of the men in military units continued service guarding small towns in Minnesota, or were sent to the prairies with the expeditionary forces.

Spring 1863: Andrew Myrick's body was brought to St. Paul for his funeral, which was held March 7, 1863 at House of Hope Presbyterian Church. He was buried at Oakland Cemetery.

Little Crow's body was displayed at the Minnesota Historical Society for many years after his death in July 1863. Eventually, the public found the display was inappropriate and it was taken down, but his body was held there until 1971 when it was taken to Flandrau, South Dakota and was buried with a gravestone.

(SOME) HISTORIC PEOPLE WHO LIVED (OR HAD PREVIOUSLY LIVED) IN RAMSEY COUNTY CONNECTED TO CONFLICT

Governor Alexander Ramsey

Lt. Governor Ignatius Donnelly, sent by Governor Ramsey to the areas of the Uprising to assess the situation in general and evaluate why Col. Sibley seemed to be moving so slowly. Donnelly reported that Sibley was moving as rapidly as prudent. DU 132

Col. Henry H. Sibley

Charles H. Mix: lived in St. Paul off and on 1855-1879. An early Indian agent, trader, farmer in St. Paul, public official, with wide-ranging experience in many aspects of government interaction with Winnebago, Dakota and Ojibwa people. Said to be buried in St. Paul. MH 4

Mayor John Prince

Lt. Colonel William Rainey. Marshall-commander,, fought at the Battle of Wood Lake ,led raid into Dakota Territory in October 1862 to find Dakota who had escaped after Battle of Wood Lake, escorted the large group of non-condemned Dakota people from the Lower Agency to Fort Snelling,(protected mixed blood Charle R. Crawford from attack while passing through Henderson, DU 208), editor of the *St. Paul Daily Press* in June 1863, served as governor of Minnesota 1866-1870. DU 221

Campbell, Antoine J. MH3-125 a mixed blood man with roots in St. Paul, active in the US Dakota Conflict as secretary and driver for his relative Little Crow, but who later worked to free captives at Camp Release, lived at Santee Reservation and died in Chippewa County MN.

Marguerite Managre Campbell Patoile--MH 3:125. An early settler, mother of Antoine J. Campbell, above, grandmother of Celia Campbell Stay, below. Marguerite's background and her life are an example of the French-Indian-scottish ancestry people who lived in the area, were later caught up in the war, and resettled after the conflict.

Celia Campbell Stay, daughter of Antoine and Marguerite Campbell, was born here, as were many Dakota people and mixed blood people. Celia spent her life in Minnesota, living among Dakota relatives during the conflict, taken captive and freed at Camp Release, and spent her last years in Chippewa Co. MN. Her memoirs and narratives have provided a valuable insight into the lives of mixed blood people who adapted to the ways of European settlers.

person of interest: Mrs. Sarah Wakefield, who was a captive in the conflict, wife of Dr. John Wakefield, physician at the Upper Agency, spent her last years in St. Paul's Merriam Park neighborhood st 1637 St. Anthony Avenue. Author of "Six Weeks in the Sioux Tepees".
<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=58147100>

PEOPLE FROM ST. PAUL WHO WERE KILLED IN THE CONFLICT

William C. Taylor: well known black man from St. Paul, a barber and a fiddler who entertained at St. Paul balls and parties, was at Lower Agency when it was attacked. He was killed. DUV 133, DV 158n311.

Stephen Riggs reported that many of the men killed at Birch Coulee were from St. Paul. M&I 190. St. Paul lost a number of residents who fought in the U.S. Dakota War, most of them civilian volunteers at the Battle of Birch Coulee under Captain Hiram Grant. DU
 See "Casualties, Battle of Birch Coulee, September 2nd and 3rd, 1862": C&S 110, Appendix C:

RESOURCES

Books (see attached bibliography for titles)

CM, C&S, DII, DU, DUV, DW, HHS, TT

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

Articles

Minnesota on the Verge of Civil War. MH 5

Alexander Ramsey's Words of War MH 1

"Like the Wind: Oakland Cemetery Holds Many Caught Up in the U.S. Dakota War" by Patrick Hill. Ramsey County Historical Society.

St. Paul newspapers played a key role in reporting details of the war, as well as stating their editorial opinion of the war.

See Appendix A, News from the Frontier, C&S 83: several reports by A.J. Ebell.

A Missing Relic of Sibley' Headquarters: MH 2: 40

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

MILITARY UNITS THAT SERVED IN THE US DAKOTA WAR

2nd MN. Co. A; 3rd MN, Co B; 4th MN Co. E and Co. G and Co. K; 5th MN, Co D. and Co. E and Co. F and Co. I; 6th MN Co. A, Co. E, and Co. G; 7th MN, Co. H; 8th MN Co. H and Co K; 10th MN Co. H and Co. K.

drummer boy Bennet Benson, in Sixth Regiment, DU.

George W. Northrup, of St. Paul, a correspondent for the St. Paul Daily Press, served with Brackett's Battalion, an independent cavalry unit. He was killed at the battle of Killdeer Mountain in Dakota Territory. DU 292

https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/2nd_Regiment,_Minnesota_Cavalry

https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/3rd_Regiment,_Minnesota_Infantry
https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/4th_Regiment,_Minnesota_Infantry
6th Minnesota, Company E <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/26276/26276-h/26276-h.htm>
https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/6th_Regiment,_Minnesota_Infantry
https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/7th_Regiment,_Minnesota_Infantry
https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/8th_Regiment,_Minnesota_Infantry
https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/10th_Regiment,_Minnesota_Infantry

Photos

Paintings, sketches, & murals

Many paintings in the State Capitol building and the Minnesota History Center.
Gag-Heller-Schwendinger panorama: MH 3:8, cover DW.

MONUMENTS & HISTORIC SITES

Dacotah land marker, De Dakod Makoce Unkitawapi E:
<http://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=46170>

INTERPRETIVE CENTERS

Gibbs Museum of Pioneer and Dakotah Life

CEMETERIES WITH GRAVESTONES OF PARTICIPANTS **can I find the revised version to go here?**

Oakland Cemetery: Andrew Myrick, Indian agent killed at Redwood Agency; George Washington Divoll, killed at Myrick's trading post at Redwood Agency;
Some soldiers buried in Oakland are: Dennis S. Terry, who died at Birch Coulee. Buried in unmarked graves are Robert Baxter, William Cobb, John College, and Robert Gibbons, who died in the Battle of Birch Coulee.
Many locally famous people are buried in Oakland, among them: governors Alexander Ramsey, Henry Sibley, William Rainey Marshal, and Horace Austin; military men John T. Averill, Robert N. McLaren, Charles J. Stees, Hiram Grant and William Crooks; photographer Joel E. Whitney, educator and writer Harriet Bishop, lawyer and jurist Charles Flandrau, fur trader and mayor of St. Paul Norman Kittson, Amherst Wilder, A.G. Bush, Charles and Frederick Bigeiow, William Merriam, Henry Rice. Victims Charles gilfillian, Johann, Catherine and Sarah Kochendorfer are buried here, as is protected captive Mary Schwandt Schmidt.

Roselawn Cemetery: Major Alfred B. Brackett, head of Bracket's Battalion of Minnesota Cavalry, which served in the Sully Expedition to the Dakotas in 1864.

WEBSITES:

RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
323 Landmark Center, 75 West Fifth Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102
Phone: (651) 222-0701, Fax: (651) 223-8539
info@rchs.com