EVENTS: battles, deaths, injuries.

Pre-conflict
There were relatively few settlers in Renville County before the US Dakota War of 1862 began. Most of the settlers lived close, within three miles of the Minnesota River. DU 64

The Lower Sioux Agency, located in present day Redwood County was on the eastern part of Redwood County, just across the river from the western part of Renville County,

Many Dakota Indians lived in both Redwood and Renville Counties, close to the river also.

See Redwood County for further information about the Dakota chiefs and the location of their villages.

With both settler groups and Dakota people living close to opposite sides of the river, the two groups were in close proximity.

The Church of St. John, Episcopal, was being built, its cornerstone laid by Bishop Henry Whipple on July 4, 1862. Note: The church was in Redwood County at the time but has moved to Renville County.

During the conflict:

August 18-19, 1862 Dakota warriors attacked settlers in Renville County, killing up to 74 people that day. DU 64.

### NAMES OF SETTLERS ATTACKED, DATES OF ATTACK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 17, 1862</td>
<td>Attack on home of Gottlieb Mannweiler, where about 100 people were gathered for a worship service. DUV 132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 18, 1862</td>
<td>Beaver Falls twp: 17 killed at the home of John and Caroline Meyer, DUV 36, DUV 132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 18, 1862</td>
<td>Earle, Jonathan and Amanda: warned of impending attacks by Dakota warriors, some 27 or 28 neighbors, including children, gathered at the Earle home, and decided to head to Fort Ridgely for protection. On the way they were set upon by 16 warriors, who killed five settlers and took some women and children captive. Jonathan Earle escaped to Fort Ridgely, not knowing the fate of his wife and children. They were reunited at Camp Release.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 18, 1862</td>
<td>Kochendorfer family: Johann, his wife Catherine, 3 year old Sarah were killed; the other children ran seven miles into the woods and were later rescued. Krieger family: killed, and their house burned with them in it. DUV 131 DUV 155n294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 19, 1862</td>
<td>Kitzmann Party: 26 killed, the largest slaughter of civilians in a concentrated area. DUV 131</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition, on August 18 nearly 50 soldiers were killed in the attacks at Redwood Ferry and Birch Coulee. Names of the victims included the Johann Schwandt family, John Frass, August Frass, Pastor Seder, Kochkendorfer family, John Buhrer, Felix Smith.

More settlers were killed during the US -Dakota War of 1862 in Renville County than in any other. DU 64
SEPTEMBER 2, 1862  BATTLE OF BIRCH COULEE

Sept. 2 1862--Battle of Birch Coulee, A burial party sent out from Fort Ridgely by Col.Sibley on Aug. 31, 1862 was attacked here. 17 soldiers killed, 47 severely wounded. Sibley's troops lost some 90 horses in the battle, reducing his ability to pursue retreating Dakota forces. DW, DU

Among the US soldiers dead- Richard Gibbons; David Holbrook of Belle Plaine, Hubert Schmitt of Belle Plaine, 93 horses were also killed at Birch Coulee; Big Eagle reported that only two Dakota at this battle. DW 44


During the conflict:
August 20-September 26, 1862: battles and attacks on the prairies raged, while those at home dealt with uncertainty and fear, newspaper 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.

Post-conflict:
Small bands of hostile Dakota operated in central Minnesota in the fall of 1862 and between te spring and fall of 1863. To prevent attacks the military stationed soldiers at various points on the Minnesota frontier. Curt Dahlin, Dakota Uprising Victims. It is not likely there were many settlers remaining in Renville County immediately after the conflict.

HISTORIC PEOPLE CONNECTED TO CONFLICT
Big Eagle, Jerome: returned with his family from Santee in 1869 and lived near Birch Coulee for some of his later years.

A number of Dakota who engaged in the Conflict and were exiled from Minnesota returned years later and lived until their deaths at Morton, including George Quinn, George Crooks, Lightning Blanket, White Spider, John and Esther Wakeman

Andrew Good Thunder-Christian Dakota, married to Snana, at Ft. Snelling,Santee, Flandreau, spent last years of his life active in Episcopual Church at Morton, died at Morton. TDE 68

RESOURCES
Books (see attached bibliography for titles)
C&S, DU, DUV, DW, HHS, M&I, TDE, TDU, TT
Renville County History of 1916: digitized copy at GoogleBooks
First hand description of the "Breakfast On the Prairie" event as photographed by Adrian Ebell, by Stephen R. Riggs; M&I 182.
The History of the Minnesota Valley, including the explorers and pioneers..Edward D. Neill and Charles Bryant. Online version at Google books:
Historic Sites of the 1862 Conflict: for sale at Renville Co. Historical Society
See Resource section for Book titles and Codes, Journal titles and Codes

Articles
"Captivity among the Sioux August 18 to September 26, 1862" by Mrs. N.D.(Urania S. Frazer) White, MH 5:100
Who Was Joseph R. Brown? MH 3
Using Oral History to Shaire our Common Past , MH 4: 64

Narratives
Anderson, Capt. Joseph TDE
Big Eagle, Jerome TDE
Boelter, Justina; wandered ten weeks. TDU E? 63
Braden, WW. TDE
Brown, Samuel J. TDU E? 59
Carrothers, Mrs. Helen; captured, then escaped TDU E?34
Chittendon, R.H.part of Joseph R. Brown burial party, TDU E? 33
Columbus, William (Geo. Quinn TDE 154)
Earle, Jonathan, TDU (TDE? 28
Hayden, Mary TDU )TDE? 25
Horan, Kearn TDU (TDE? 27
Kennedy, Duncan R. TDU (TDE? 134
Krieger, Justina; wandered in wilderness. TDU 44
Lawrence, Lorenzo TDE
Lightning Blanket TDE
Manderfeld, Anton MH 3
Quinn, George TDE
Wakeman, Esther TDE
White Spider TDE

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

Photos
Ebell photo: Court House of Military Commission (right county?)
Ebell photo: Missionary Party "People Escapting from the Indian Massacres of 1862", sometimes titled "Breakfast on the Prairie" was likely taken near Hawk Creek in Renville County". (Riggs, Mary & I, p.181)

Paintings, sketches, & murals
Panorama of Battle of Birch Coulee-MH 3:21

MONUMENTS & HISTORIC SITES
http://sites.mnhs.org/historic-sites/birch-coulee-battlefield
Birch Coulee Monument: Highways 18 and 2, Morton, MN.
Joseph Brown's House (ruins of), County road 15, Sacred Heart
Monument to Friendly Indians at Morton, including Mrs. Mary Crooks DU
http://www.rrcnet.org/~historic/monument.html

INTERPRETIVE CENTERS
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://sites.mnhs.org/historic-sites/birch-coulee-battlefield. Birch Coulee Battlefield. self guided trail
CEMETERIES WITH GRAVESTONES OF PARTICIPANTS
Many of the victims killed in Renville County were buried in unmarked graves or a mass grave. DU 198

WEBSITES
Renville County History of 1916: digitized copy at GoogleBooks
http://www.co.renville.mn.us/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={5B8A9197-DCB2-40E7-A438-4C06B7359C3E}
http://sites.mnhs.org/historic-sites/birch-coulee-battlefield
Renville Co. Historical Society:
http://www.co.renville.mn.us/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={5B8A9197-DCB2-40E7-A438-4C06B7359C3E}

WEB CONTENT
Battle of Birch Coulee:
www.mnhs.org/birchcoulee 507 697 3621
http://sites.mnhs.org/historic-sites/birch-coulee-battlefield
http://www.civilwaralbum.com/misc17/2010a/birchcoulee4lg.jpg
http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/soldier/sitec6.htm
http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnrenvil/renville.htm
List of people killed in the conflict in Renville County:
http://www.kinsource.com/MinnesotaHistoryBooks/RenvilleHistory1916V2/RenvilleHistory1916Chapte
r43/RenvilleMartyrs.htm

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Local Historical Organizations:
Bechyn Historical Society
30208 735th Ave
Redwood Falls, MN 56283

Hector Historical Center
PO Box 698
213 S. Main Street
Hector, MN 55342
320-848-3013
Contact: Sharon Stark

Historic Renville Preservation Comm.
Box 681, 202 N. Main
Renville, MN 56284

Fairfax Depot Restoration
PO Box 434
Fairfax, MN 55332

Sacred Heart Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 462 (mailing)
300 5th Avenue
Sacred Heart, MN 56285-9802
320-765-8868
Contact: Sonja Thune, Curator
320-765-2274
Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. and by appointment