

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

Aug. 17, 1862: Attack on home of Gottlieb Mannweiler, where about 100 people were gathered for a worship service. DUV 132

Aug. 18, 1862. Beaver Falls twp: 17 killed at the home of John and Caroline Meyer, DUV 36, DUV 132

Aug. 18, 1862; 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.

Aug. 18, 1862 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

Aug. 19, 1862 Kitzmann Party: 26 killed, the largest slaughter of civilians in a concentrated area. DUV 131

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 Buhner, 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

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Birch_Coulee

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 the 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 Episcopal 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 Share 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 Escaping 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://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Fort_Ridgely

<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/RenvilleHistory1916Chapter43/RenvilleMartyrs.htm>

RENVILLE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

441 North Park Drive

Morton, MN 56270

507697-6147

director@renvillecountyhistory.com

Director: Carl Colwell

320-523-5625

www.renvillecountyhistory.com

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

STUDY RESOURCE GUIDE US-DAKOTA WAR OF 1862

**RENVILLE
COUNTY**

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