

EVENTS: battles, deaths, injuries.**Pre-history:**

The land that is now Swift County was part of the extensive lands that have been inhabited by ancient people--prairie, woodland prehistoric cultures. See Archaeological Survey of Swift County, Minnesota. The survey notes that missionary Samuel Pond wrote about a seasonal trip in 1834 of Dakota people from along the Minnesota River who traveled to a lake which was likely in present-day Swift County.

Three archaeological sites demonstrate that the future park was occupied by Native Americans at least as long ago as the Woodland period (1000 BCE – 1000 CE). Excavation revealed stone tools including obsidian from the Great Plains, flint from the Knife River in North Dakota, and quartzite from near Hixton, Wisconsin, suggesting a wide trade network.^[3] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monson_Lake_State_Park

In 1858, with the promise of larger annuities, the Indians were persuaded to sign a treaty ceding the million acres of land north of the Minnesota River.

The Indians had real grievances against the government including delays in sending annuities which caused near starvation several times. In August, 1862, an Indian rebellion broke out in Minnesota. The warfare reached the settlements just getting started in the northeastern part of Swift County. By the latter part of September, 1862, the Indian War was almost over but the settlers hesitated to venture back to the prairie country of Swift County until 1865 when all danger was apparently over. Scandinavians and Germans were in decided majority among the early settlers. A number of them came with the honor and privileges of Civil War veterans. <http://swift-museum.org/history.html>

August 20, 1862: ATTACK AT WEST LAKE (NOW MONSON LAKE)

On the morning of Wednesday, August 20, 1862, a number of Dakota warriors came to the cabin of Daniel Broberg, located (in Swift County at the present day site of Monson Lake State Park.) Young children were at the cabin being cared for by their uncle while other family members were about two miles away at the cabin of Andreas Lundborg (in present day Kandiyohi County) attending a religious service. One of the children ran to the Lundborg cabin to tell his parents, and most all of the adults went back to the Broberg site where the Indians attacked them. Thirteen people, all part of the extended Broberg/Lundborg family, numbering 21, were killed. Victims were 5 Broberg children ranging in age from 10 months to 13 years, 3 Lundborg young men ages 22-25, and 5 Broberg adults 21-42 years of age. A monument to these 13 victims stands today in the cemetery of Peace Lutheran Church in New London.

HISTORIC PEOPLE CONNECTED TO CONFLICT

Lorenzo Lawrence, friendly Dakota, lived for a time in Swift County, left in 1877. The War in Words, p.277.

Frank M. Thornton, Benson banker and attorney, fought in the U.S. Dakota War. Odd Lovoll: Norwegians on the Prairie.

MILITARY UNITS THAT SERVED IN THE US DAKOTA WAR

None. The county was not yet organized.

RESOURCES**Books (see attached bibliography for titles)****Articles**

newspaper account: Sioux Uprising Toll Reached 10 in County. Swift County.com, History.

Photos**Paintings, sketches, & murals****MONUMENTS & HISTORIC SITES**

Monson Lake State Park, Hayes Twp. Off Co. Rd. 95. Two buildings of split-fieldstone and timber construction, built to commemorate events of the Dakota War of 1862.

INTERPRETIVE CENTERS**CEMETERIES WITH GRAVESTONES OF PARTICIPANTS****WEBSITES**

SWIFT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2135 Minnesota Ave. #2 (Mailing) West Highway 12 (Museum) Benson, MN 56215 320-843-4467. Executive Director: ...
<http://swift-museum.org/>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monson_Lake_State_Park
[Reconciling Memory - Digital Archive @ GSU - Georgia State ...](#)

Swift County has been awarded a State of Minnesota Legacy Grant for the Monson Lake Archeological Education Project to conduct an investigation of an early Swedish immigrant homestead in Swift County. This would be the Broberg family, mentioned above.

<http://mankell.org/dakota.html>

<http://www.wctrib.com/content/remembering-victims-us-dakota-war-forgetting-conflict>

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Swift_County,_Minnesota

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnsswift/>

<http://resources.rootsweb.ancestry.com/USA/MN/Swift/>