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**EVENTS: battles, deaths, injuries.**

pre-conflict:

Dakota people had lived in Wabasha County for centuries. Some of them had married non-Indians. A reservation for "half-breeds" was set up by the treaty of Prairie du Chien of 1830.

Text from the Treaty of Prairie du Chien of 1830:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnwabbio/3ch3.htm>

The following material is from Chapter 3, "Reign of the Indians" from The History of Wabasha County, Minnesota, Franklyn Curtiss -Wedge and others.

The Sioux bands in council have earnestly solicited that they might have permission to bestow upon the half-breeds of their nation the tract of land within the following limits, to wit: Beginning at the place called the Barn, below and near the village of the Red Wing chief, and running back fifteen miles; thence, in a parallel line with Lake Pepin and the Mississippi, about 32 miles, to a point opposite the river aforesaid; the United States agree to suffer said half-breeds to occupy said tract of country; they holding by the same title, and in the same manner that other Indian titles are held.

The boundary line of this tract, as indicted on modern maps, starts at Red Wing, extends southwest fifteen miles, turns southeast, enters Wabasha County in section 18, Town 110, Range 14 (Chester Township), and runs southwest through Chester township, Zumbro Falls village, Hyde Park, Oakwood and Plainview townships, to a point in the upper part of section 24, Town 108, Range 11 (Plainview Township); thence northwest through Plainview Township, Wabasha County, Whitewater Township, Winona County, and Watopa and Greenfield townships, Wabasha County, to a point on the Mississippi River in section 18, Town 110, Range 9 (Greenfield Township), the other boundary being the Mississippi River and Lake Pepin. It thus included in Wabasha County the entire townships of Mount Pleasant, Gilford, Lake, West Albany, Pepin, Glasgow, and Wabasha; and parts of the townships of Chester, Hyde Park, Oakwood, Plainview, Watopa and Greenfield. The townships not included, either in whole or a part, were Mazeppa, Zumbro, Elgin, and Minneiska. An exact drawing of the southeast boundary line, however, would place it about two miles farther northwest, as a point "opposite Boeuf River" would be in section 2, Greenfield Township, and it would thence extend southwest through that township, through the northwest corner of Watopa, the southeast corner of Highland, and into Plainview township to a point in the lower part of section 10.

This "Half-Breed Tract," the reservation of which was doubtless made through the influence of the Indian traders and those in their employ who had married Indian women, subsequently was the cause of much trouble which delayed the permanent settlement of the lands involved.

The Treaty of 1851 opened up land for white settlers in Wabasha County.

A provision was made in the treaty of August 5, 1851, arranging for the purchase of the tract by the Government for \$150,000. This clause, however, was stricken out by the United States senate. Later a list of the half-breeds, mostly the children of the traders, was made out, and script issued entitling each to a certain number of acres, the location within the tract to be chosen by the holder.

When General Shields brought the script to Minnesota for distribution, a great portion of it passed into the hands of parents or guardians of children, and from them it passed into the hands of speculators.

About this time there were probably two hundred families of whites settled upon the agricultural portions of this tract, some in what is now Goodhue County and some in what is now Wabasha County. Some of these people had settled in the tract in ignorance of its limits, or of the fact that its status was different from that of the other government lands. Others knew of the provision of the 1851 treaty, purchasing the lands, without knowing the further fact that the clause had been rejected by the Senate; others were adventurous and were willing to take their chances even though they knew their settlement was illegal; other more cautious ones secured quit-claim deeds from individual half-breeds or permission from the Indian relatives of the half-breeds. These quit claims and these permissions were of course valueless, as the half-breeds had no right except that embodied in the script and could transfer such rights only by transferring the actual possession of the script. Nothing but this scrip would avail in filing on any portion of the land.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnwabbio/3ch3.htm>

during the conflict:

Men from Wabasha County served in several military units listed below. A citizen militia called "The Wabasha County Rangers" also formed.

A number of the Dakota people in Wabasha County did not move to the Redwood reservation following the Treat of 1851 as most of the other Dakota people in Minnesota did, but remained in their villages.. Those who had remained in Wabasha County during the Conflict were removed after the war to the internment camp at Fort Snelling (DW 279). Of those who had moved to the reservation and were caught up in the Conflict, a number of them returned to Wabasha County after the conflict and allowed to resettle there in 1863 rather than being sent out of Minnesota.

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.**

### **HISTORIC PEOPLE CONNECTED TO CONFLICT**

Chief Wabasha III: see section (Some) Notable People

Alexis Bailly, early Wabasha trader. HHH,

Col. John T. Averill of Lake City, appointed Lt. Col. Of the Sixth MN Regiment, later a Congressman DU 176

People of Note:

Among those who remained in Wabasha and lived at Reed's Landing were Madeline Campbell Roscoe, Marie LaChapelle and Margaret LaBathe

### **RESOURCES**

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

CM,DU, DW, HWP, TDE. TDU,

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

### **Articles**

**Photos****Paintings, sketches, & murals**

Seth Eastman: Wabasha's Villegge on the Mississippi

**MILITARY UNITS THAT INCLUDED MEN FROM WABASHA COUNTY WHO SERVED IN THE US DAKOTA WAR**

2nd Minnesota, Co. A and Co.M; 3rd MN. Co. G; 5th M Co. G and Co. H; 8th MN Co. G,  
9th MN Co. K; 10th MN Co. C;

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnwabcw/3.htm>

Wabasha County Rangers: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnwabcw/24.htm>

roster of Wabasha County Rangers:

[http://books.google.com/books?id=UCIQRrQJ5IlgC&pg=PA792&lpg=PA792&dq=%22Wabasha+County+Rangers%22&source=bl&ots=YqTKqES8cA&sig=HUBxFJXWW-](http://books.google.com/books?id=UCIQRrQJ5IlgC&pg=PA792&lpg=PA792&dq=%22Wabasha+County+Rangers%22&source=bl&ots=YqTKqES8cA&sig=HUBxFJXWW-CrvcXin1diBQxIL6Y&hl=en#v=onepage&q=%22Wabasha%20County%20Rangers%22&f=false)

<http://books.google.com/books?id=UCIQRrQJ5IlgC&pg=PA792&lpg=PA792&dq=%22Wabasha+County+Rangers%22&source=bl&ots=YqTKqES8cA&sig=HUBxFJXWW-CrvcXin1diBQxIL6Y&hl=en#v=onepage&q=%22Wabasha%20County%20Rangers%22&f=false>

***Note: see Section 5, this website, "Military units: USDakotaWar" for more information.***

Some named soldiers:

Wounded at Wood Lake: James Canfield of Highland, Richard C. Custard of Wabasha, Isaac Knox of Chester, <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnwabcw/3.htm>

Soldiers from Wabasha Co. Fifth Regiment. Some fought at Redwood (Ferry?), Fort Ridgely and were sent out with the expeditionary force into Dakota Territory and fought at Ft.

Abercrombie: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnwabcw/5.htm>

6th Regiment: Robert K. Boyd of Plainview was wounded at the Battle of Birch

Coulee; <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnwabcw/6.htm>. Col. John T. Averill of Wabasha fought at Ft. Ridgely, Birch Coulee, and Wood Lake. DU

7th Regiment: Harrison Whipple of Chester deserted Sept. 23, 1863 at Mankato.

10th Regiment ordered to Dakota Territory with

expedition: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnwabcw/10.htm> START HERE

Pvt. Degrove Kimball, age 22, died from wounds at Battle of Wood Lake

William McGee, of Wabasha, fought at Wood Lake.

Capt. John T. Averill, see above

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnwabbio/ch11.htm>

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnwabcw/18.htm>

**MONUMENTS & HISTORIC SITES****INTERPRETIVE CENTERS****CEMETERIES WITH GRAVESTONES OF PARTICIPANTS****WEBSITES**

<http://www.wabashacountyhistory.org/history/>

P.O. Box 255 • Lake City, Minnesota 55041

Telephone: 877-525-3248 • Email: [info@wabashacountyhistory.org](mailto:info@wabashacountyhistory.org)

**WEB CONTENT**

Links to information on Native Americans from Wabasha County history:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnwabbio/wab8.htm>

Chapter 3, Reign of the Indians, pp. 16-22 from History of Wabasha County MN.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnwabbio/3ch3.htm>

History of Wabasha County <http://archive.org/details/historyofwabasha00hghi>