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EVENTS: battles, deaths, injuries.

Note: events of the Conflict in Yellow Medicine County are closely connected to those of Chippewa and Lac qui Parle counties and of Camp Release. See those sections on this website also.

pre-conflict:

- *Indian villages in present-day Yellow Medicine County in 1862: villages of Akipa, Inihan, Otherday, Inyangmani, Simon Anawangmani, Cloud Man. On the border with present-day Lac qui Parle County were the villages of Red Iron and Mazamani (Mazomane).*
- *Missions and government agencies: Hazelwood Mission with Stephen R. Riggs; Pajutazee Mission with Thomas S. Williamson; Yellow Medicine Agency (Upper Agency).*
- *The Hazlewood Republic: was a group of Christian Dakota farming families who broke with the communal tribal structures and formed a self-governing organization called the Hazlewood Republic. The group was formed in 1856. Members included Paul Mazakutemani, president; Henok Mahpiyahdinape, secretary; Simon Anawangmani, judge; Antoine Frenier, judge; Gabriel Renville (judge); Ecetuiqiya, Lorenzo Lawrence, Joseph Kewanke, Enos Wasuhowaste, Robert Hopkins Chaske, John Baptiste Renville, Michael Renville, Antoine Renville, and John Otherday.*
- *Trading posts in present day Yellow Medicine County included those of Louis Robert, William Forbes, Francois Patoile, Pratt, and Andrew Myrick, and James Lindsay.*
- *The nearest fort was Fort Ridgely, some 60 miles away, a two or three day journey from the Upper Agency.*

Scenario: The villages of Cloud Man, Simon Anawangmani, Inyangmani, John Otherday, Inihan, and Akipa were located in present-day Yellow Medicine County along the river near Granite Falls. (The villages of Mazomani, Red Iron, Sleepy Eyes, Wakanmani and Extended Tail Feathers were farther up the river in present day Lac qui Parle Co.) Among the people living near the Upper Agency when the conflict broke out were Gabriel Renville and his family; Charles Renville Crawford, clerk at Upper Agency; missionaries Thomas S. Williamson and Stephen R. Riggs and their families; Two Stars; Ecetuyakiye; Susan Freniere Brown (wife of Joseph R. Brown); Joseph LaFramboise; Catherine Totadutawin. Working at the agency were Stewart Garvey, Louis Robert, and Mr. Forbes, who had stores at the agency; J.D. Boardman, clerk; Noah Synks was managing the agency; Mr. Givens, the sub-agent; Antoine Frenier, interpreter for the Indian agent, Dr. John Wakefield was the agency doctor and Mrs. Sarah Wakefield, his wife. Also Antoine Renville, Paul Mazakutemani, Enos Good Voiced Hail, (Howaste, Wasuhowaste) and Mr. and Mrs. D. Wilson Moore, a young married couple on their wedding trip.

August 4, 1862: some Dakota stormed the Upper Agency warehouse to get the food inside that was being withheld. Soldiers from Fort Ridgely, backed up by cannon trained on the warehouse door, were able to convince the Dakota to retreat. *Note: the cannon story has been questioned; is it true or myth?*

during the conflict:

August 18-19, 1862. News of the attack on the Lower Agency reached the Upper Agency, located in present day Yellow Medicine County. The Indians at the Upper Agency, about 100 Sissetons and Wahpetons, and about 30 Yanktons, formed a council that night to discuss what stance they should take in regard to the outbreak; many were for killing the whites. John Otherday told them killing the whites would result in bringing in U.S. soldiers who would either kill them or drive them away. Otherday alerted the whites at the Upper Agency to danger and herded them into the brick agency house, where he and relatives guarded them all night. He later told the whites to harness their horses, after which they assembled a group with five wagons and about fifty men, women, and children, whom Otherday led out just before daybreak across the river on a five day and four night trip from Yellow Medicine to Shakopee. All the agency stores were sacked by noon of the following day.

Aug. 19, 1862 Jonas Pettijohn, who had worked at the Lac qui Parle Mission and was currently the government teacher at Red Iron's village, knowing that Amos Huggins had been killed at Lac qui Parle that same day, brought his family from the Lac qui Parle Mission to the Hazelwood Mission for protection. M&I 178

Aug 20, 1862 Stephen Riggs and Jonas Pettijohn families plus others left Hazelwood in the middle of the night to seek refuge. (see photo "Breakfast on the Prairie"). They met up later with missionary Thomas S. Williamson and his family.

August 20-Aug. 27, 1862: With the Upper Agency and the mission sites evacuated, there may have been a few days of relative inactivity in present day Yellow Medicine County. Non-hostile Wahpetons and Sissetons remained in their camps and homes in the area. There may have been some escapees being sheltered by friendly Dakota, some escapees hiding out and hoping to avoid detection by the hostile Dakota until they could find protection. Meanwhile, to the south, Little Crow, knowing that Sibley's forces were coming for them, moved his warriors and their families, along with hundreds of captive whites and mixed bloods up the Minnesota River Valley from the Lower (Redwood) Agency in present-day Redwood County. The group consisted of several thousand Dakota warriors and their families, and the 300 some white and mixed blood captives. The size of their group as it traveled was said to be five miles long.

August 28, 1862: Little Crow's large group of his people and the captives reached the Upper Agency and set up camp. Some time later Little Crow ordered the Upper Sioux group composed of friendly Dakotas and mixed blood people living there, to move out and join his group. They left their dwellings but set up a separate camp near the Hazelwood Mission, where John B. Renville and Mary Butler Renville and other friendly Dakota were staying.

The Upper Sioux leaders feared they could be forced to join the Lower Sioux group, or become their captives. A soldiers' lodge was set up, with Gabriel Renville, Joseph LaFramboise, Marpiya-hdi-na-pe and Wakpa-ee-y-way-ga as directors, for the purpose of guarding the interests of the Sissetons and Wahpetons. Little Paul (Maza-ku-ta-ma-ne) was chosen as spokesman.

The non-hostile leaders from the Upper Agency were concerned when they saw the large number of captive women and children in Little Crow's camp, and set up plans to protect the captives. Wahpeton leaders Mazomane and Cloud Man agreed with the plans. This group, which was later called the "Peace Party" or the friendlies, included the solderis' lodge, Charles Crawford, Samuel Brown, Antoine J. Campbell, Thomas Robertson, Victor Renville, Ecetukiya (Big Amos), Taopi, Good Thunder and Lorenzo Lawrence. Over the next few days they engaged in meetings with Little Crow and the hostile Indians in efforts to try and achieve a variety of goals for the captives, that ranged from protecting them, freeing them, returning their wagons, carriages, cattle, horses, and other property. The group also sent a written message to General Sibley that they wished to turn the captives over to his troops.

Aug. 28, 1862: Lorenzo Lawrence took a group of escapees, women and children, by canoe down the river to Fort Ridgley, arriving there several days later. The group included Mrs. DeCamp and Mrs. Robideau.

August 31 to Sept. 6-7, 1862: Little Crow's warriors left the camp in Yellow Medicine to make raids on Forest City, Hutchinson, and Birch Coulee. The Dakota families and captives remained in the camp. The Peace Party continued its activities, including its secret messages about Peace Party intentions sent to Col. Sibley on September 2 at Birch Coulee by Tom Robertson and Tom Robinson.

Sept. 6, 1862 A council was held at Red Iron's Village, attended by Wahpeton chiefs from the north, Standing Buffalo, Red Iron, Scarlet Plume, and Wanata; they agreed to oppose Little Crow and the Lower Band' plans.

Sept. 8-9, 1862: The camp criers of both camps went around telling the people to break camp the next morning. On September 9, with camps broken up, the five or six mile caravan headed north from present day Yellow Medicine County into present day Lac qui Parle County and arrived at Red Iron's village in the afternoon. See Lac qui Parle County section and Camp Release for the next part of the story, including the Battle of Wood Lake.

SEPTEMBER 23, 1862 BATTLE OF WOOD LAKE

See Carley's *The Dakota War of 1862* Chapter 12.

See Deaths in Yellow Medicine from the U.S. Dakota War, below.

September 26, 1862: see **Camp Release; the state breathed a sigh of relief.**

Oct. 4, 1862 A large number of people from Camp Release were moved to the Yellow Medicine agency. The group included about 1250 Indians (286 men and the rest women and children), about 150 soldiers with provisions, and baggage wagons. They were sent to the agency because food and supplies were running low at Camp Release. They were to live on the crops (potatoes and corn) planted by the farmer Indians at the agency. Samuel J. Brown accompanied the group as interpreter (TDE 225).

October 1862: exposure to measles took place among the soldiers and the captives at Camp Release and at Yellow Medicine, leading to large numbers of Dakota people developing the disease between their exposure and their arrival at Fort Snelling in November 1862. Soldiers also developed the disease. DII 56

A few days after the group arrived at the Yellow Medicine Agency, where 234 of the Indian men, "Little Crow's fiercest warriors", were disarmed and put in chains. TDE 226

Oct. 12, 1862 The group at Yellow Medicine agency were removed and went to the Lower Agency, arriving there on Oct. 15. TDE 227.

November 1862 to June 1863: One might ask if there were any people left in present day Yellow Medicine County. There were not likely to have been many. The Minnesota River Valley was reported to be virtually emptied of people.

June 1863: The Sibley Expedition passed through Yellow Medicine County on its way to the Dakota Territory. It was reported when they passed by the Upper Agency, they found much destruction. DU 289

1865 The first permanent settlers arrived to claim land in Yellow Medicine County.

HISTORIC PEOPLE CONNECTED TO CONFLICT

Akipa (Joseph Akipa Renville), Wahpeton, lived at Lac qui Parle until 1854, when he moved to Yellow Medicine. At 1858 Treaty signing in Washington DC, actively opposed killing of whites, helped rescue mixed bloods in US Dakota War, in Sibley expedition, "head Wahpeton Chief" 1867 treaty. MH 1.

Angwangmani, Simon, chief who had village in YM, friendly Dakota village chief

Big Eagle, Jerome: Dakota warrior and chief, convicted, imprisoned and pardoned by President Lincoln in 1864. He joined his band at Crow Creek and Santee but returned later and lived the last years of his life at Granite Falls. TDE

Brown, Samuel J., mixed blood, son of Joseph R. Brown and Susan Frenier Brown, captive, Peace Party, later resident of Traverse. TDE

Brown, Susan Freniere: wife of Joseph R. Brown, lived at Yellow Medicine at start of conflict, relative (friend?) to Little Crow, stood up to Dakota warriors, captive, wrote of the war.

Chaske, Robert Hopkins (Caskadan). Member of Hazlewood Republic. Helped rescue Mrs. Sophia Huggins. TDU 26

Cloud Man (Marpiyawicasta) leader, a spokesman for Peace Party to Little Crow to release the women and children prisoners. Brother of Paul Mazekutemani, father of Ecetukiya and Solomon Two Stars. (TDE 199)

Crawford, Charles: son of Joseph Akipa Renville and Winona Crawford,--clerk at Yellow Medicine, brother of Susan Frenier Brown, protected family during conflict, in later life was a licensed preacher on the Sisseton reservation. TDE 112

Ecetukiya (Big Amos): born 1834, probably at Lac qui Parle, son of Cloud Man. Attended mission school at Lac qui Parle, joined the Hazelwood Republic. Helped missionaries after the attack at Yellow Medicine, helped rescue Sophia Huggins, scout for Gabriel Renville, helped found Sisseton Reservation. TDE 199

Ebell, Adrian J. Photographer who happened to be in Yellow Medicine County on the eve of the outbreak. He took some of the significant photos that mark the history of the Dakota people just before the onset of the Conflict, and of settlers in the days following the conflict.

Good Star Woman: born in Yellow Medicine, interned at Fort Snelling, sent to Crow Creek and Santee, later lived in Goodhue County. TDE

LaFramboise, Joseph: spent most of his youth at his father's trading post near Little Rock near Fort Ridgely. He was living in Yellow Medicine Agency when the war broke out. He alerted the traders to flee, warned whites, helped form the Sisseton-Wahpeton soldiers lodge that rescued captives. Later a scout for Gabriel Renville, then moved to Sisseton Reservation. TDE 108, TDU134

Lawrence, Lorenzo. Son of Left Hand and Catherine Tatadutawin. Raised at Lac qui Parle, attended mission school. Member of Hazelwood Republic. Led a group of escapees by canoe from Hazelwood to Fort Ridgely. See his story in Peace Seekers Ch. 10.

Mankato (Blue Earth) Mdewakanton chief, killed at Battle of Wood Lake. Not the chief for whom the city of Mankato is named.

Mazahdewin, Winona (Abigail) Crawford (Iron Ring). Mother of Susan Frenier Brown, Charles R. Crawford and Thomas Crawford, wife of Akipa (Joseph Akipa Renville). Active in mission church at Yellow Medicine, cared for Dakota men in the Mankato prison. MH 1.

Mazekutimani, Paul (Little Paul) Hazelwood Republic member, Dakota convert, Peace Party, scout.

Mazomani,(Iron Walker), a Wahpeton chief, helped protect missionaries at Yellow Medicine Agency after the attack, spokesman for peace party's appeal to Little Crow to release women and children prisoners, opposed killing whites. Died of wounds received at the of Battle of Wood Lake. TDE

Otherday, John: Dakota warrior who was at Hazelwood Republic, converted and rescued whites. TDE

Quinn, William, mixed blood man, son of interpreter Peter Quinn, clerk at Yellow Medicine in 1862. His family escaped to Fort Ridgely after the attack. He was a scout, guide, messenger, and chief scout at Fort Wadsworth 1867-70. TDE

Rdainyanka, son-in-law of Wabasha III, supported killing captives: "We have got to die. Let us, then, kill as many of the whites as possible, and let the prisoners die with us." Speech DW 61.

Renville, Gabriel: was living at YM in 1859, helped organize the soldier's lodge that protected whites, became a scout. TDE

Renville, John B., son of Joseph R. and Mary Renville, college-educated. Teacher at boarding school at Hazlewood. Captive during conflict.

Renville, Mary Butler, white woman from New York State, wife of John B. Renville. Teacher at Hazlewood. They were living at the Hazlewood Republic when the attack occurred. Mary and John were not able to flee, and remained in virtual captivity with friendly Dakota throughout the balance of the conflict. Mary wrote her experiences in A Thrilling Narrative of Indian Captivity from her perspective as an educated woman.

Riggs, Stephen R., missionary, interpreter to the military commissions at Camp Release and trials at Lower Agency, minister to Dakota convicts. Wrote several books about his experiences.

Robertson, Thomas, mixed blood,interpreter, courier, scout. Son of Andrew Robertson and Grey Cloud Woman. MH 1: The Lives and influences of the Andrew Robertson Family

Stay, Celia Campbell: mixed blood woman, connected to several counties as part of her life's story.

Totadutawin, Catherine. Christian convert, protector of settlers, mother of Lorenzo Lawrence. PS Ch.10, LqPDM.

Wakefield, Dr. John, physician at Upper Sioux, escaped with party of 62 across the prairie. DW 19

Wakefield, Sarah, wife of Dr. John Wakefield, physician at Upper Sioux Agency. Taken captive. See her interesting comment DU 56. She wrote about her experience in Six Weeks in the Sioux Tepees. TDE

Williamson, Thomas S.--Physician and missionary at Lac qui Parle Mission, at Kaposia, and at Payzhehootaze mission at Yellow Medicine.

Deaths in Yellow Medicine from the U.S. Dakota War:

The military deaths below resulted from the Battle of Wood Lake.

- Sisseton or Wahpeton men: He-i-pa-kan-mani, Ta-sa-ka, Wa-kon-za or Wakunza, Wa-kan-his-si-ca, A-han-zi, Pe-zi-sku-ya-cin-ca-ce-kpa, maka-a-mani-wa-si-cun Cin-ca, Wa-si-cun-tanka, Mah-pi-ya-ho-tanka, Wa-ha-can-ka-maza.
- Mdewakanton men: A-han-i-na-zin, Ce-tan-wi-ca-kte, A-i-ya, Ta-te-yuha-hdi-na-jin,maza-wa-kute, Ma-kato (chief)
- 3rd Minnesota Volunteer Infantry: Pvt. Anthony C. Collins, Pvt. Edwin E. Ross, Pvt. DeGrove Kimball, Pvt. Matthew Cantwell
- Renville Rangers: Pvt. Ernest Paul (Pohl)
- 2nd Minnesota Volunteer Infantry: Pvt. Richard H. McElroy
- 7th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry: Charles E. Frink.

Garvie, Stewart, trader at Upper Agency, wounded in attack on Upper Agency, died a few days later near Hutchinson of wounds.DU 158

Lindsay, James, trader, was found dead in August 1862, unknown attackers

RESOURCES

Books (see attached bibliography for titles)

C&S, DII, DW, DU, LP, LqPDM, M&I, NUP, PS, TDE, TDU, TN

Note: see especially the chapter "Yellow Medicine Agency Attacked" from TDE

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

Articles

McClure, Nancy Huggan reminiscence MH 1

"Audacity, Skill and Firepower:The Third Minnesota's Skirmishes" MN 3:24

"Dakota known killed at the battle of Wood Lake" MH 3:42

"Wood Lake Military Battle Deaths" MH 3:44

"Rollin Olin's Unpublished Official Report: MH3:45

"The Fool Soldiers" MH 4

Article in the New Ulm Pioneer of July 9, 1859 describes the Sisseton and Wahpeton Dakotas who founded the Hazlewood Republic, with its president and board of justice, many of them giving up Indian dress, have built brick houses, have barns, raising crops on individual fields, schools exist. NUP p. 16.

"Biography of Mazomani", Alan R. Woolworth, TT

Mazahdewin, Winona. MH 1:128
 "Between Two Worlds" MH 5 p. 79

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

Narratives

- Boelter, Justine. A resident of Renville County, she was rescued and brought into camp at Yellow Medicine, having wandered alone with her children for ten weeks following the attack at Beaver Valley of August 18, 1862. One child had died of starvation. They ate grape leaves and raw potatoes to sustain themselves. TDU 63
- Braden, WW., Lieutenant of Company K, 6th Minnesota Regiment, letter printed in the Hokah MN newspaper (Houston County) written about the battle of Wood Lake. TDU
- Brown, Samuel J. TDU 59
- Joseph Fortier, clerk at Upper Agency 1857-1862, member of Renville Rangers, Sibley & Sully expeditions, later was store owner in Yellow Medicine and Granite Falls.
<http://www.mnhs.org/library/findaids/p1575.xml>
- Cunningham. H.D, statement about the "Missionary Party" flight from the Upper Agency. TN 192
- Grover, M. TDU 21
- Kennedy, Duncan,, trader at Upper Agency, escaped from the attack at the Upper Agency and walked alone over the prairie, seeing bodies and ruins, eventually meeting up with Col. Sibley's forces near St. Pater. TDU 133
- Lawrence, Lorenzo TDE, protector, see canoe trip YM to Ft. Ridgely
- Manderfeld, Anton F. Escapee who wandered several weeks on the prairie.
- Miller, Nehemiah, blacksmith at Upper Agency, relates events of the attack at the Upper Agency.TDU
- Otherday, John, Dakota convert & rescuer, narrative of guiding the 62 whites from the Upper Agency to safety. TDE, TDU 126
- Orr, Richard, trader at Upper Agency TDU, wounded in attack, escaped, later taken with the Missionary Party to St. Peter for medical treatment. TDU 132
- M.A.H., probably Marion Hunter, captive freed at Camp Release. TDU 140
- Renville, Gabrielle and his family were at Yellow Medicine 1859, TDE
- Renville, Victor: attending T.S. Williamson's school when conflict broke out; captured and freed at Camp Release, became scout. TDE
- Riggs, Stephen R. account of the Missionary Party's flight, M&I 179-187
- J.O., TDU
- M.A.H., TDU
- Williamson, Thomas S. TDU
- Wood Lake Battle, narratives of TDE 219-267

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

Photos

- Upper Agency Treaty Delegation of 1858: DU 18
- Ebell photo: Robert Hopkins Chaska and family, brick house. Taken Aug. 18, 1862, the day the Upper Agency was attacked. (Ebell just happened to be there at the time.)
- Ebell photo: Group of Dakota Indians at T.S. Williamson's house -MHS
- Ebell photo: squaws guarding a cornfield MHS
- women winnowing wheat at the Upper Agency. MH1:58
- People escaping from Indian Massacre of 1862, "Breakfast on the Prairie" DU 188

Paintings, sketches, & murals

drawing of Upper Agency DW 20
 Wood Lake--drawings, diagrams: DW, Chapter 12.

ruins of the upper agency DU

MONUMENTS & HISTORIC SITES

<http://www.americanheritage.com/content/wood-lake-battlefield-preservation-association>

Wood Lake Battlefield Association: <http://www.woodlakebattlefield.com/>

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/upper_sioux_agency/index.html

Historic marker for Mazomani. Upper Sioux Agency State Park. <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=60977941>

<http://www.recreationparks.net/MN/yellow-medicine/mazomani-historical-marker-granite-falls>

INTERPRETIVE CENTERS

The one reconstructed agency building at the Upper Sioux Agency State Park, though not open for visitors, represents the type of building such as the agency warehouse, in which many significant events took place: where Andrew Myrick is said to have uttered his famous "Let them eat grass" speech, where agency workers were protected from attack by John Otherday and from which he led the 62 people across the prairie to safety, where women from Camp Release were sent to gather food from the planted gardens to feed the hungry people at Camp Release, where the Dakota warriors from Camp Release were disarmed and put in chains to be marched to the Lower Agency.

CEMETERIES WITH GRAVESTONES OF PARTICIPANTS

- Doncaster Cemetery: Jerome Big Eagle
- see Monuments above, historic marker for Mazomani.
- probably buried in unmarked graves: trader James Lindsay near his trading post, Charles E. Frink at Wood Lake Battlefield, plus unnamed others.

WEBSITES

<http://www.woodlakebattlefield.com/>

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

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/upper_sioux_agency/index.html

<http://www.uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov/>

WEB CONTENT

<http://www.woodlakebattlefield.com/battle-history.php>

<http://www.civilwaralbum.com/misc16/woodlake1.htm>

http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/dakota/dak_chrono.html

<http://www.nps.gov/hps/abpp/battles/mn002.htm>

History of Upper Sioux community today--

http://www.indianaffairs.state.mn.us/tribes_uppersioux.html

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

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnyellow/82hist59.htm>

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www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnyellow/

Canby Depot Info Visitor Center Museum

8 St. Olaf Avenue South, Highway 75 814 Ring Avenue North (Mailing) Canby, MN 56220

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