



Camps of General H.H. Sibley's Campaign

MINNESOTA

(1863), various locations

(see also NORTH DAKOTA and SOUTH DAKOTA pages)

Federal encampments during the 1863 campaign to put down the Sioux Uprising.

Camp Pope about one mile northwest of *Redwood Falls*. General Sibley's starting point of the campaign.

Camp Crooks near *Delhi*.

Camp Miller across the Minnesota River from *Sacred Heart*, below the mouth of Yellow Medicine Creek. The Battle of Wood Lake occurred near here in 1863.

Camp Baker near *Granite Falls* at the **Upper Sioux Indian Agency**.

Camp McPhaill across the Minnesota River from *Montevideo*.

Camp Ramsey (1) near *Cerro Gordo*.

Camp Averill across the Minnesota River from *Odessa*, on the Yellow Bank River.

Other Federal encampments not associated with General Sibley were:

Camp Marsh near *Groghan*.

Camp Goodhue near *Henderson* on the Rush River (?).

Camp Burns near *Fairfax* on Little Rock Creek (?).

Camps of General H.H. Sibley's Campaign

SOUTH DAKOTA

(1863), various locations

(see also NORTH DAKOTA and MINNESOTA pages)

Federal encampments during the campaign to crush the 1862-63 Sioux Uprising.

Camp Marshall near *Big Stone City*

Camp Jennison near *Hartford Beach*

Camp McClaren opposite *Browns Valley*, MN

Camp Bradley (1) northeast of *Sisseton*

Camp Cook near *Veblen* or *Claire City*

<http://www.northamericanforts.com/West/nd.html#sibley>

Camps of General H.H. Sibley's Campaign (State Historical Sites)

NORTH DAKOTA

(1863 - 1864)

The main Federal expedition to put down the 1862-63 Sioux Uprising.

Camp Buell SHS near *DeLamere*,

Camp Weiser SHS near *Kathryn*,

Camp Sheartown (or *Sheardown*) SHS near *Valley City*,

Camp Arnold SHS at *Oriska*,

Camp Corning SHS at "Sibley Crossing" near *Sibley*,

Camp Atchison (or *Atcheson*) SHS, northeast shore of Lake Sibley south of *Binford*, fortified and occupied for a month.

Camp Kimball SHS west of *Pingree*,

Camp Grant SHS south of *Woodworth*,

Camp Whitney SHS north of *Tappen*,

Camp Banks north of *Driscoll* (Chaska SHS).

Other sites on private property (in order of the route taken):

Camp Parker near *Cayuga*,

Camp Hayes near *Lisbon*,

Camp Wharton east of *Fort Ransom*,

Camp Smith north of *Valley City*,

Camp Pope near *Luverne*,

Camp Forbes near *Kensal*,

Camp Olin east of *Edmonds* near *Mud Lake*,

Camp Sibley south of *Pettibone* near *Big Mound* (on Chase Lake ?). The Battle of Big Mound occurred here in July 1863.

Camp Pfaender north of *Steele* at *Dead Buffalo Lake*. The Battle of Dead Buffalo Lake occurred here in July 1863.

Camp Shoeneman north of *Driscoll*,

Camp Stees north of *Sterling* on *Apple Creek*,

Camp Slaughter near *Lincoln*.

<http://www.northamericanforts.com/West/mn.html>



chez nous

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Editor: Dick Bernard

NATIVE AMERICANS: SOME THOUGHTS

A note from the editor: On the following pages are fascinating comments of a Quebecois, Esther Wawanolett Nolett. Ms Nolett is Native American, of Quebec, and her story will help the reader understand some of the complex connections between the native peoples of North America, the French-Canadians, the English and other nationalities. (I was about to say "our French-Canadian ancestors" but changed my mind. In many of our family trees are Native Americans, with whom the French-Canadians interrelated from the beginning.)

Relationships of the white man with Native Americans have been positive but they have, it seems, more often been negative. One hesitates to advance any generalizations. I have read that the French-Canadians treated the Native Americans better than the English, or the Americans. Maybe so, maybe no. It depended, I would guess, on the circumstances at the time of each individual and group relationship. Here are two stories.

SAMUEL COLLETTE'S EXPERIENCE

by Dick Bernard

A couple of months ago, I had occasion to uncover a previously unknown fact that illustrates the problem of jumping to conclusions on this topic.

For a long while I had known of a certain relative, Samuel Collette, who came to

Minnesota shortly after 1860 from Quebec, and settled in the Centerville area. I learned through Jean-Marc Charron that Samuel was my great-grandfather's half-brother - they had a common father and their mothers were sisters - when one sister died the other sister married Mr. Collette, a not uncommon practice at the time..

I knew that Samuel died at the Minnesota Soldiers Home June 23, 1934 at the age of 95. I also knew that he had been a private in Co. G of the 1st Regiment of the Minnesota Mounted Rangers in the Civil War, serving from October 6, 1862, through November 28, 1863. I knew all these things, but took no time to follow up on the military history of his company in the Civil War.

Over the years, I had also developed an interest in the Dakota Conflict of 1862 in Minnesota. This was a major conflict where the Dakota (also called "Sioux") Indians had finally had it with broken promises of the Government, and entered an unwinnable War against the white trespassers on their land (we called them "settlers"). Much blood was shed on both sides, ending with the hanging of 38 Sioux at Mankato on December 26, 1862¹. This was indeed a sordid chapter in the history of Minnesota, I felt.

I had also been to the Whitestone Hill battlefield in south central North Dakota, where

¹ In mid-September, 1997, at the site of the hangings in Mankato (at the library about a block from the Holiday Inn on the Minnesota River) a large white buffalo, carved from sandstone, will be dedicated to remember the tragedy.

about 150 Indians had been killed by the Army in September, 1863: Their crime: possibly harboring some of the perpetrators of the Minnesota Valley uprising. A large monument had been erected in 1909 to the 20 soldiers who were killed at Whitestone; it was not until the 1930s that a small monument to the massacred Indians had been erected. The injustice perpetrated at Whitestone on the Native Americans outraged me when I first learned of it, and still does outrage me. It is a haunting place to visit.

In April, 1997, I decided to finally find out exactly what activity Samuel Collette's company had been involved in during the Civil War. The research at the Minnesota History Center was easy - the Civil War is heavily documented. What I found surprised me.

It developed that Samuel Collette's Regiment, the First Minnesota Mounted Rangers, was called into service with a specific task to defeat the Indians in what later became known as the Dakota Conflict. In the summer of 1863, under the command of Henry Hastings Sibley, with Pierre Bottineau as a scout, the Regiment went to the west, ultimately reaching the Missouri River before returning, and engaging in three battles with the Sioux (Dakota) in the general area north of I-94 and between Jamestown and Bismarck, North Dakota (near present day Tappen, Dawson and Driscoll)..

The chronicler of the activities of the Regiment, Captain Eugene Wilson, recalled events of 1862 in memories written in 1890. In six pages of narrative, Captain Wilson devoted one sentence to the plight of the Native Americans: "They undoubtedly were suffering some injustice from the neglect of general Government, which was then bending its every energy to the suppression of the great Rebellion [Civil War]. And was excusable for failure to carry out treaty obligations with the Indian tribes with the promptitude that had characterized its action in times of peace." The rest of the narrative was the expected one-sided military history, including justification for the actions taken by the First Regiment. (William E. Lass in Minnesota, A History (1983), described the same events differently: "...it certainly is a classic example of the failure of United States Indian policy." (p.109))

Private Collette and his fellows had not gone to the Civil War. They were probably hurriedly

called into service after most of the "boys" had already left for the eastern front. Most likely they were quickly called to arms to defend Minnesota against the red man, and they probably enlisted with some fledgling patriotic fervor. The Sioux (Dakota) did not fare well in the "public relations" campaigns of the time.

Exactly what Private Collette and Company G did during its tour of duty was not chronicled by Captain Wilson, except that its mission was to suppress the Indians. It was in North Dakota a year before Whitestone Hill. It seems to have suffered no casualties, and thus may not have even directly engaged the Indians. Elements of the First Minnesota Mounted Rangers apparently witnessed the hangings at Mankato. It is unknown if Samuel was one of those on horseback that awful day.

Did Private Collette go willingly or was he in some way conscripted? What motivation did he have for entering the service? Four of the 85 enlisted men in the company were listed as from Canada, and some were listed as from other countries. Did they even understand or care about the issues that led to the war? There are many questions I'd like to ask Uncle Samuel. But because of him I have developed a little better perspective about part of the relationship between Native Americans and the United States of America..

ABENAKI OF ODANAK

by Esther Wawanolett Nolett

(from a conference presented at Manchester NH
on April 27, 1991)

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Special thanks to Jean-Marc Charron and John Cote
who directed this article to Chez Nous.

"I have always enjoyed listening to the old people talking of their past, telling stories, and legends. I wanted to know the paths that my ancestors had followed during the three centuries of our history. During the last twenty years, I have become more interested in researching, and I have been fortunate to have more time for it. Research is an emotional and sentimental journey, but thrilling for it allows me to talk and to teach those who are interested in knowing.