

a good time. This was only natural, for everyone high and low believed that the Indians would not fight, as is evidenced by the fact that in neither camp were any earthworks built or any water supply brought into camp. Anderson relates that Brown spent the night before the battle in Grant's tent on the latter's invitation. The officers were all close friends, and during the battle they worked in harmony and each did his best. From the time when they left Fort Ridgely up to the night before the battle they had worked apart, and the question of who was in official command probably had not entered their minds.

If this view is accepted it is easy to account for all that took place after the battle, and the old dispute vanishes into thin air, for it was nothing more than a misunderstanding about military precedence between two men just out of civil life. Then the only thing to be considered is the monument, and my views on this subject can be given in a very few words. The name of Grant, as commander should be erased, and the inscription should be changed to read that the expedition was under the joint leadership of Brown and Grant. Such a statement will not reflect on the reputation of any man living or dead. Anderson's letter shows that Brown and Grant were personal friends and that both stood by their men in a time of great danger. Grant made an honorable record as a soldier and left the army with the rank of lieutenant colonel. Brown was a prominent figure in the history of Minnesota; he was a man of great talent and energy, and of high character from first to last.

ROBERT K. BOYD

EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN

THE SIOUX WAR STOCKADES

On Sunday, August 17, 1862, the first shot in an Indian war that involved portions of what later comprised seven states was fired at Acton, Meeker County, Minnesota, where

three men and two women were killed. This war was not finished until after Custer and his men of the Seventh United States Cavalry had been killed on the Little Big Horn in 1876.

After the defeat of the Indians at Wood Lake on September 23, 1862, they had numerous war parties along the Minnesota border. In the spring of 1863 a line of defensive stockaded posts was constructed at points between the Iowa boundary and Fort Abercrombie and occupied by the Eighth and Ninth Minnesota Volunteer regiments. These posts were located south of Fort Ridgely at Madelia and Fairmont; and north of the fort at Preston Lake, Pipe Lake, Long Lake, Manannah, Paynesville, Sauk Center, Alexandria, and Pomme de Terre.

The stockades at Pipe Lake and Long Lake had sod walls about six feet high and three feet thick, with deep ditches around the outside and buildings for the garrison and shelter for their horses within. The stockades at Manannah, Paynesville, Sauk Center, and Alexandria were built of logs set two or more feet into the ground and extending sixteen feet above. That at Sauk Center had quarters for two companies of troops, a hospital, a quartermaster's storehouse, stables sufficient for two hundred animals, and hewed log bastions with loopholes on the northwest and southeast corners, which were of sufficient capacity for twenty men each.

I was assigned to duty as adjutant and quartermaster at Sauk Center in the winter of 1864 and was familiar with the construction of this post. I also visited all the other posts north of Fort Ridgely. The line between the fort and Manannah was considered more exposed to raids by small war parties of Indians than any other section of the state, and it was patrolled both ways daily by mounted men — a duty that was performed by details from the intervening posts, which were located from twelve to eighteen miles apart.

Company E of the Second Cavalry, to which I belonged, relieved Companies A and E of the Eighth Minnesota and some troops of the Ninth regiment in May, 1864, taking over the

posts between Paynesville and Fort Ridgely. We maintained a daily patrol of mounted men between Manannah and Fort Ridgely. Each morning two armed men mounted on good horses left Manannah for Long Lake, where the next post on the trail to Fort Ridgely was located. On their arrival at Long Lake two men mounted on fresh horses took the trail for Pipe Lake, where another detail on fresh horses started for Preston Lake, and from there a fourth detail rode toward Fort Ridgely. Each morning a similar detail left Fort Ridgely and rode toward Preston Lake, and when the two parties met each turned back and returned to its respective post.

A few of the towns where stockades were located have placed suitable markers on the sites, and it would appear that those that are not marked are of sufficient historical interest to be properly marked. There are but few now living who remember the locations of the Sioux War stockades, and this matter should be given attention before it is too late.

JOHN R. HOWARD

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA



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