

The Minnesota Historical Society possesses the original manuscript of an autobiography of Lea which was published in the *Freeborn County Standard* of Albert Lea for March 13, 1889. In this narrative Lea includes the story of the death of his son after the surrender of the "Harriet Lane." In 1869 Lea presented to the society a little notebook containing his "Journal of Operations on the Michigan Survey" in 1833 and 1834 and his original sketches, made in 1835, of the topography of the region "from the bank of the Mississippi, below Wabashaw's Village, to the mouth of the Raccoon fork of the Des Moines."

The society also has Lea's *Notes on the Wisconsin Territory; Particularly with Reference to the Iowa District or Black Hawk Purchase*, published in Philadelphia in 1836. This pamphlet of fifty-three pages is accompanied by the author's map of the region from Lake Pepin to northern Missouri and from the Mississippi to the Missouri River. The society's copy of Lea's *A Pacific Railroad*, a sixteen-page pamphlet issued at Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1858, is autographed by the author.

An account of the expedition with which Lea explored the present area of northern Iowa and southern Minnesota in 1835 is included in "A Journal of Marches by the First United States Dragoons, 1834-1835," by an unknown author, published in the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* for July, 1909. Some information about Lea may be found in the *History of Freeborn County, Minnesota*, by Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge (Chicago, 1911); and in Warren Upham's *Minnesota Geographic Names; Their Origin and Historic Significance* (*Minnesota Historical Collections*, vol. 17).

B. L. H.

#### THE EXCLUDED PORTION OF MINNESOTA, 1858-61

Will you please furnish me with the following data?

What was the western boundary of the territory of Minnesota, up to the time of its admission as a state in 1858?

Was any of the western portion of the territory eliminated when the State boundary was formed in 1858, and, if so, under what government or control, if any, was the discarded strip, up to 1861, when the eastern boundary of the territory of Dakota was fixed by act of congress?

Was the present site of the City of Sioux Falls, S. D., within the territorial limits of Minnesota, prior to 1858?

F. M. ZIEBACH, Yankton, South Dakota

Minnesota Territory was bounded on the west by the Missouri and White Earth rivers; thus it embraced substantial portions of North and South Dakota and included the present site of Sioux Falls. A map showing the boundaries of the territory and the original counties appears in volume 1 of William W. Folwell's *History of Minnesota* (St. Paul, 1921).

On May 11, 1858, Minnesota was admitted to the Union with its present western boundary and the excluded area to the west was left without recognized political existence until March 2, 1861. The following account of the government of Dakota during this period is quoted from a volume entitled *The Territory of Dakota . . . An Official Statistical, Historical and Political Abstract* (Aberdeen, South Dakota, 1889):

The settlers early inaugurated a movement looking to admission as a territory, which resulted in an election in the fall of 1858 for members of a legislative assembly and delegates to Congress, for the latter position A. G. Fuller being named. The legislature met at Sioux Falls in the winter of 1858-59, and elected Henry Masters president of the council, and S. J. Albright speaker of the house. As no governor had been chosen, the president of the council was declared *ex-officio* governor. Congress was memorialized for recognition, but no action was taken by that body, although a bill for this purpose was introduced in the senate. In the fall of 1859 another delegate to Congress, J. P. Kidder, was elected, and also another legislative body, with S. J. Albright as governor. . . . Congress was again memorialized, and Mr. Kidder applied for admission as a delegate, but failed by a few votes. The delay in organizing the territory was because the Republican members of Congress demanded a clause in the organic act which prohibited the taking of slaves into the territory, and no bill was passed until the Southern members retired, just before the inauguration of President Lincoln.

Alpheus G. Fuller was not the only claimant who failed to secure recognition as a delegate from the rump of Minnesota Territory in 1858. William W. Kingsbury, the representative from Minnesota Territory at the time of its admission as a state, did not vacate his seat when the state representatives were qualified on the ground that he had a right to sit as a delegate from that portion of Minnesota Territory left outside of the state boundaries. In the end neither claimant was allowed a seat in Congress. The story of these attempts to seat a delegate for the excluded section of Minnesota Territory is told in the first chapter of volume 2 of Dr. Folwell's *History of Minnesota*, soon to be published by the Minnesota Historical Society; and the contemporary discussion of the subject in the national House of Representatives, which occurred on May 27 and on June 2 and 3, 1858, is recorded in the *Congressional Globe* for those dates.

B. L. H.

I acknowledge the receipt of your letter of April 6, 1923, and thank you for the satisfactory information it contains, in response to the inquiries I made in my letter of March 24.

My purpose is to establish the identity and location of the first newspaper published within the legally defined limits of Dakota territory. A local historian claims the credit for the *Democrat*, published occasionally in 1859-60 in Sioux Falls. This was before the territory west of Minnesota had a legal existence or defined boundary, and was in no man's land.

The *Dakotan*, established by me at Yankton in June, 1861, was the first paper in Dakota territory.

F. M. ZIEBACH



Copyright of **Minnesota History** is the property of the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, or email articles, however, for individual use.

To request permission for educational or commercial use, [contact us](#).