

SATTERLEE PRINTING COMPANY,

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MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

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Mr. Geo. H. Bradley
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Sir: I am submitting a sketch of an event of the Massacre of 1862. I may have two or three more. If I am not on the right line of stories please let me know.

Respectfully yours,

M. P. Satterlee

THE MASSACRE AT SACRED HEART.

Flora Township in Renville ~~Texas~~ County contained a community of German citizens, living mostly on sections 18 and 19. They were back from the Minnesota river about three miles and for this reason did not learn of the outbreak of the Dakota Indians on the 18th of August, until the next day about noon. Two men enroute to the Agency discovered several people evidently killed by Indians, and returned hastily to the settlement with the alarm. As there had been frequent reports of the Indians breaking out they were slow to believe it to be so. However messengers were sent out and the settlers gathered at the home of Paul Kitzman, and late that afternoon decided that their safety lay in flight. Messengers sent out returned with fresh tales of killings. At ~~near sundown~~ ^{dark} they started out keeping far back from the river as they rightly judged the Indians had followed in their quest of victims. Their course was over the wild prairie without even a trail to follow. As they had only oxen they had made about 14 miles by the next morning. As they were at breakfast a war party of Dakotas who had been after scalps in the Chippewa country discovered them and came up appearing very friendly. On hearing of the murders they declared that the Chippewa Indians had done this and that they were looking for them to kill them. Kitzman knew some of them and their story was accepted, and the settlers turned back toward their homes, and all went well for some time. Later they commenced to act strangely going ahead or behind the caravan, and finally demanded money which was given them. One said to Kitzman "You are a good man I should hate to kill you." Later on T. Krause who was riding the only horse made up his mind to escape to the fort for help and started off toward the Agency. This only made the Indians act more savagely and some went after him. The mare which Krause rode had a colt which could not keep up and would not speed without it. So he had to desert his mount and hide in the grass, but finally reached the fort. When in sight of their homes the settlers were fired upon and other Indians appeared on the scene. All

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All but three of the men were killed at the first shooting and the rest soon after. Many of the women and children were immediately put to death. Mrs. Anna Zabel and 14 children escaped by running to the woods and brush. Justina Krieger was shot with buckshot and stripped of her clothing but later was able to crawl away. She was picked up ^{by} Capt. Grant's company and during the battle at Birch Coulee laid in a wagon through ~~the~~ the day's fight and received several slight wounds. She recovered and lived many years. When the Indians had gone the children went to the Krieger home and stayed over night. While they were hunting for eatables next morning the Indians came and burned the house with seven of the children in it, whether dead or alive none can tell. While the affray was at its height the oxen became frightened and run away. Mrs. Michael Yess was caught in the trace chains of one team and carried into the brush where she finally broke loose and hiding made her way to the fort. Taken ~~prisoner~~ prisoner were 22 women and children, all of whom were at Camp Release and Rescued by Sibley's troops, except Mrs. John Neuman and three children who were taken from the hostiles secretly, at the risk of his own life by Ana-wang-man (hobbles as he walks) and carried in a canoe to fort Ridgely. A most sad incident is that a baby ^{Kitzman} Gustave, while a prisoner cried so much that he was finally killed by his captors. An older brother ^{captured} was Louis Kitzman for many years a conductor on the Omaha Northwestern Railway. John Frass a member of the settlement was killed at the massacre of the Schwandt family (parents of Mrs. Mary E. Schmidt of St. Paul.) The fleeing party consisted of 13 families in 11 teams, eight escaped, seven were burned to death, and 22 were captives. Record of this event is only given in church records at Sacred Heart (very incomplete) early newspapers and pamphlets published ^{by} interested parties. Any possible living participants at this time would have been mere children at the time of occurrence.

M. P. Sattler
4152 Upton Ave. S.
Mpls. Minn.

ENCLOSURE

DAKOTA CONFLICT OF 1862 MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTIONS
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

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