



Attacks on New Ulm

New Ulm was the site of two attacks by the Dakota—on August 19 and 23, 1862. Using outlying buildings for cover, the Dakota fired on the town’s defenders and burned buildings near the river, leaving more than a third of the town in ruins.

With little food and ammunition left in New Ulm and fearful of another attack, about 2,000 residents fled to Mankato, St. Peter and St. Paul. New Ulm settlers began returning in early September. In December 1862, the town officially reorganized. Today, monuments and memorials commemorate the attacks.

Learn More

- Visit the Brown County Historical Museum, located at 2 N. Broadway St. See exhibits, many dealing with the war.
- See the Frederick W. Kiesling Haus. Located at 320 N. Minnesota St., it is one of few structures that survived the war.
- Visit the Harkin Store Historic Site. See page 22.

“New Ulm basically became a ghost town.”

Robert Beussman, New Ulm Settler Descendant,
Oral History Project Participant

Above: Attack on New Ulm, by Anton Gag, 1904.



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Hear descriptions of European immigrant life on the prairie and the legacy 1862 left with the people of New Ulm.