



The First Attack: Lower Sioux Agency

Near Redwood Falls • 507-697-8674
www.mnhs.org/lowersioux

The scene of the first attack of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862, this site was a U.S. government administrative center for the Mdewakanton and Wahpekute bands of Dakota. In the months leading up to the war, the U.S. government failed to make annuity payments owed to the Dakota and refused to provide food and supplies. These actions contributed to the growing resentment that led to the war in the summer of 1862. As tensions mounted, a reluctant Taoyateduta (Little Crow) led an attack on the Lower Sioux Agency on August 18, 1862, killing 18 traders and government employees. The Dakota then attacked settlements along the Minnesota River Valley, in a strategic effort to reclaim their homeland, killing white settlers and compelling thousands to flee.

Above: The Lower Sioux Agency warehouse where, in 1862, government officials refused to release food and supplies to the Dakota.

Today, the visitor center features exhibits on Dakota history, life and culture. Self-guided interpretive trails allow visitors to explore the landscape and the warehouse building and to walk along the Minnesota River.

The Minnesota Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the Lower Sioux Indian Community, which manages this site.

Learn More

- Learn about reservation life and causes of the war.
- Walk interpretive trails along the Minnesota River.

"I'm standing in a place where my ancestors were...and I wonder what they were thinking when they were here...? It gives me comfort to know that they stood right here."

Sandra Geshick, Lower Sioux, Oral History Project Participant



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Gain insights into the notion of land and home along the Minnesota River Valley and how the war changed this.