



## Birch Coulee Battlefield

Near Morton • 507-697-6321  
[www.mnhs.org/birchcoulee](http://www.mnhs.org/birchcoulee)

One of the hardest-fought battles of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 took place in this now peaceful prairie field. On Sept. 2, 1862, Dakota soldiers attacked a burial party sent by Col. Henry Sibley. The Dakota kept U.S. soldiers under siege for 36 hours before a relief detachment arrived from Fort Ridgely.

Visitors can tour the self-guided site with markers explaining the battle from Dakota and U.S. soldiers' perspectives.

### Learn More

- Stand where history happened.
- Read about the battle from the perspectives of an Army captain and a Mdewakanton leader.
- Walk a self-guided trail through restored prairie.
- See a soldier's sketches of vivid battle scenes.
- Find guideposts pinpointing U.S. and Dakota positions.

*Above:* The Battle of Birch Coulee, lithograph by Paul G. Biersach, 1912.



**Call: 888-601-3010 Stop #05**

Hear reflections on the spiritual connection Dakota people have with the land and their fight for survival.