



Camp Release

Near Montevideo

In late September, after the defeat of Little Crow's forces, a group of Dakota chiefs released white and mixed-race captives to Col. Henry Sibley. He then moved the captives to his own encampment near Montevideo, which came to be known as Camp Release.

Sibley also took into custody about 1,200 Dakota, a number that grew to nearly 2,000 as more surrendered or were captured.

The trials of the Dakota who took part in the war began at Sibley's Camp Release headquarters on September 28, 1862. Sibley later moved his troops and the prisoners to the Lower Sioux Agency, where the trials continued.

"I just try to imagine what it would have been like to be there.... The Indians [must have been] realizing: 'This is over. What's our next step?'"

Terry Sveine, New Ulm Settler Descendant, Oral History Project Participant

Above: Captives at Camp Release, by photographer Adrian John Ebell, ca. 1862.



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Hear the story of Mazasa and learn about the mounting tensions among the Dakota leading up to the war.