



Fort Renville

Near Montevideo

Although Fort Renville no longer exists, at one time the site boasted a large fur-trading post built in 1826 by French-Dakota trader Joseph Renville. The fur trade existed in Minnesota for 200 years and marked the beginning of Dakota and European contact. Renville was influential in Dakota-European relations and in 1835 he invited missionaries to start the Lac qui Parle Mission nearby.

“The Dakota people were here long before the European contact...we lived off the land, we were nomadic.... There was life that went on here.”

Grace Goldtooth, Lower Sioux

Above: Making a Portage, from Harper's New Monthly Magazine, June 1879.



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Learn about Dakota life before the arrival of Europeans and the changes the fur trade brought to Minnesota.