

# 1862 US-DAKOTA WAR HISTORIC TRAIL

## Introduction and General Notes:

This Trail was created to encourage Scouts to learn about this interesting aspect of early Minnesota history. Scouts will visit several sites associated with the 6 week 1862 US-Dakota War, learn why the War took place and learn about the consequences the Dakota people faced after they lost the War. When Scouts have completed the Trail and answered the question, a unit leader can send the completed questionnaire, plus the order form at the end of this brochure to the address on the order form to order and pay for Trail patches.

The Trail consists of **3 mandatory sites** and **1 optional site** associated with the 1862 US-Dakota War. The sites are described below. In order to earn the trail patch, Scouts must answer questions 31-40 in the outdoor portion of the Lower Sioux Agency, plus questions 41-54 at the Birch Coulee Battlefield, plus questions 55-58 at the Morton Monument Site plus **EITHER** questions 1-30 inside the Lower Sioux Agency Museum **OR** questions 59-89 at Fort Ridgely if the displays inside of the Lower Sioux Agency Museum are not open.

**The Lower Sioux Agency Museum is open weekends Memorial Day to Labor Day or on other days by special request by phoning 507-697-6321. Do a web search for hours.**

Completing the Trail requirements may satisfy certain BSA merit badge requirements. Some Indian Lore Merit Badge requirements can be completed if Scouts take time in the Lower Sioux Agency Museum to learn about Dakota culture and governance. The entire Trail in the Morton area exceeds 10 miles and should count as a 10 mile hike for the Hiking Merit Badge. **Leaders may choose to drive Scouts between the 3 Morton area sites rather than having Scouts hike between them. Driving is allowed for purposes of earning the Trail patch, but not the Hiking Merit Badge.**

## Sites on the Trail and Site Specific Notes:

Scouts will begin their tour on the grounds of the Lower Sioux Agency Museum and historic site on County Highway 2 where several important buildings were located and visit the State Historical Society Museum at the Agency. **Museum hours and admission fees can be found on the Internet.** Visit the Museum and answer questions using information on the displays, then hike the 1/2 mile Agency Trail to the east of the Museum and the 1 mile Trader Trail to the west of the museum to answer additional questions. Both trails are on Museum property.

After completing the activities at the Museum site, Scouts will proceed to the Birch Coulee Battlefield site north of Morton. Directions are in Part 2 below. **Walk safely along the highways to the battlefield, or drive to the battlefield.**

After hiking the battlefield trail and answering the questions there, return to Morton and proceed to the monument site on the northeast edge of town. Precise directions are given in Part 3 of the questionnaire.

After answering all the questions for the 3 Morton sites, Scouts are encouraged to drive to Fort Ridgely State Park. **Fort Ridgely is optional if Scouts visit the inside displays at the Lower Sioux Agency Museum and answer questions 1-30; but otherwise Fort Ridgely is mandatory.** Directions are in Part 4 of the questionnaire. A park pass is required for each vehicle. Buy one at the ranger center if you don't have a State Parks annual pass. Once in the park, drive to the historic Fort Ridgely site and answer the questions there. All questions at Fort Ridgely can be answered from the outside displays, but Scouts are encouraged to visit the museum for an additional fee.

For more information related to the 1862 US-Dakota War, please consider exploring the following sites:

- The 1851 Treaty Site at the Nicollet County Museum on US 169 on the north edge of St. Peter (north of Mankato). The nature trail on the north side of the museum building contains much interesting information about the 1851 treaty that set in motion the events that led to the 1862 US-Dakota War 11 years later.
- The monument to Chief Sleepy Eye, one of the signers of the 1851 Treaty and a peacemaker. It is in the town of Sleepy Eye south of Fort Ridgely.
- The Defenders Monument on Center near State Street in New Ulm. The New Ulm Historical Society has a walking tour that includes the location of many other sites which were important in the town's defense during the War.
- The hanging site in Mankato at which many Dakotas were hanged for their roles in the War. Drive to downtown Mankato to the Blue Earth County Library at the corner of North Riverfront and Main Street to view the Hanging Site and Reconciliation Site across the street. The color of the limestone buffalo is similar to the color of an adult "Spirit Buffalo" which is snow white at birth and ages to a cinnamon color.
- Wood Lake Battlefield Monument and battlefield site in Wood Lake, MN, site of the last battle in the War.

# 1862 US-DAKOTA WAR HISTORIC TRAIL QUESTIONS

## PART 1: LOWER SIOUX AGENCY MUSEUM QUESTIONS

### WHAT CAUSED THE WAR? FIRST, A CLASH OF CULTURES

1. The Dakota people are known by two names: Dakota and Sioux. Dakota is their name for themselves; Sioux comes from a Chippewa/Ojibwa name for the Dakota. The word Dakota means \_\_\_\_\_ in the Dakota language. The word Sioux means \_\_\_\_\_ in the Chippewa-Ojibwa language. The original Ojibwa word wasn't Sioux; it was \_\_\_\_\_. White Americans shortened the word to Sioux.
2. Dakota traditionally lived in \_\_\_\_\_ in the summer and \_\_\_\_\_ in the winter. Summer dwellings were more permanent and would be reused year to year. In the winter, the Dakota followed game animals so their \_\_\_\_\_ were easy to erect and move. The poles were also used as \_\_\_\_\_ as they moved between sites. Above the door of the model summer lodge is a drying rack where \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ were dried.

***After the 1851 treaty, the Dakota people were introduced to the white man's way of paying for things, which the Dakota did not understand. Many Dakota felt they were cheated by white merchants who said the Dakota owed more than they really did, and who overcharged for the goods they sold the Dakota. This led to culture clashes.***

3. Dakota traded \_\_\_\_\_ to white \_\_\_\_\_ for white man goods of many types. Many Dakota bought these goods on \_\_\_\_\_ instead of using money or \_\_\_\_\_. The Dakota didn't understand the concept of buying on \_\_\_\_\_ and ran up large debts over time.
4. The 1851 Treaty traded Dakota land for (1) money to pay debts to \_\_\_\_\_ and (2) promises by the US government to give the Dakota annual payments of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. The Dakota thought they would get all the money for their land but much of the money was given to traders to pay debts they claimed the Dakota owed them and to local government officials. This kept the Dakota dependent on the government.

***Dakota people did not live in the same house or the same place all year long, which created a clash of cultures with white settlers after the 1851 treaty relocated Dakotas off their traditional lands and onto reservations.***

5. After the 1851 Treaty, the Dakota people were resettled on reservations along the \_\_\_\_\_ River. Originally the Reservation was \_\_\_\_\_ miles wide on each side of the river. Dakota people traditionally moved around to seek food and game, so living on the Reservation was a new experience for them. In \_\_\_\_\_, all the land on the \_\_\_\_\_ side of the River was sold for more money and more food.
6. The Lower Sioux Agency was established in \_\_\_\_\_ as a \_\_\_\_\_ to implement the US government's Treaty obligations. Was it a military fort? \_\_\_\_\_. The Agency consisted of many buildings. Look at the diarama in the museum lobby and name 5 of them: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.
7. After the Dakota lands were opened to white settlers, the white population increased from \_\_\_\_\_ in 1850 to \_\_\_\_\_ in 1860. This put pressure on the traditional Dakota life style, because settlers didn't want Dakotas hunting on their land or taking the fruit, berries and crops on the settlers' land.
8. The US government tried to "civilize" the Dakota people -- to make them live more like white Americans and reduce the possibility of friction between Dakota and white settlers -- by having them become \_\_\_\_\_, and attend \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. The goal was to break the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Dakota that held them together as a \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Three white ministers played key roles in the post-Treaty lives of the Dakota. They were \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Traditional Dakotas who tried to keep their old way of life didn't like Dakotas who became like white people. They called the "civilized" Dakotas names like "\_\_\_\_\_ Indians" or "cut hair Indians" and harassed them for turning their \_\_\_\_\_ to traditional Dakota life and culture.
11. One group of "civilized" or "nontraditional" Dakota people were formed by Rev. Riggs into the \_\_\_\_\_ Republic. These men cut their \_\_\_\_\_ and swore allegiance to \_\_\_\_\_. They were rejected by traditional Dakota and the State of Minnesota also refused their petition to form a separate republic. Since they were not accepted by the State Government and were rejected by their own people, the members of the Republic disbanded.

***These tensions and culture clashes -- between whites and Dakota and also between traditional and nontraditional Dakotas -- would lead to the US-Dakota War when life got hard for the Dakotas in 1861 and 1862.***

## WHAT CAUSED THE WAR? SECOND, A TIME OF HUNGER FOR THE DAKOTA

12. Food given to the Dakota was often substandard. Lt. Col. \_\_\_\_\_ at Fort \_\_\_\_\_ said some food was \_\_\_\_\_ so it was given to the Dakota by uncaring Indian Agents.
13. In 1862, the uneasy situation exploded because crops failed in 1861 and the Dakota people were \_\_\_\_\_. The Dakota refused to accept \_\_\_\_\_ money and insisted on being paid in \_\_\_\_\_. In 1862, the \_\_\_\_\_ owed by the US government was late arriving at the Lower Sioux Agency.
14. Lower Sioux Agency Indian Agent \_\_\_\_\_ insisted on passing out the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ at the same time because it was always done that way. The food was in the stone \_\_\_\_\_ at the Agency but Agent \_\_\_\_\_ would not let the hungry Dakota have it until the \_\_\_\_\_ arrived.
15. Because the \_\_\_\_\_ was late, traders at the Agency cut off credit to the Dakota. This left the Dakota without food and no way to buy food or the other white man goods they had come to rely on as reservation Indians.
16. \_\_\_\_\_, one trader who had a store at the Agency, said if the Dakota were hungry they could eat \_\_\_\_\_. After the War started, he was found dead with his mouth stuffed full of \_\_\_\_\_.
17. On August \_\_\_\_, 1862, 4 Dakota killed \_\_\_\_ white settlers in \_\_\_\_\_ Township to steal food from them. **Dakota leaders knew the government would retaliate for these murders. Some Dakota leaders wanted to restore peace. Others wanted to fight.**
18. In 1862, the US was in the middle of the \_\_\_\_\_ War. Most soldiers in Minnesota had been sent east to fight against the \_\_\_\_\_. Volunteers replaced the professional soldiers and most were poorly trained. This left Minnesota lightly defended. Some Dakota wanted to use this chance to retake the \_\_\_\_\_ they had sold in 1851 and 1858 by killing the white \_\_\_\_\_ who now lived there.
19. Three Dakota Chiefs who urged their people not to go to war were: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. After they were outvoted, these chiefs thought their people had a better chance to win if they led their people to war and joined the fight. Other Dakotas, including \_\_\_\_\_, helped the white settlers by warning them what was coming.
20. On August \_\_\_\_, 1862, the 1862 US-Dakota War began when Dakota warriors attacked the Lower Sioux Agency, burned most of the buildings and killed many of the white people at the Agency. The only Agency building that survived was the stone \_\_\_\_\_, plus a few of the traders' buildings.
21. Battles were fought at Fort Ridgely, Birch Coulee, New Ulm, and other places. Over 600 whites -- many of them women and children -- and many Dakota were killed in the fighting. The Dakota were finally defeated 6 weeks after the War started at the Battle of \_\_\_\_\_ Lake, Minnesota.
22. When the fighting ended, \_\_\_\_\_ Dakota were tried by a military commission in hasty and unfair trials in which they were accused of murder and other crimes. \_\_\_\_\_ were sentenced to death. Bishop Whipple appealed to President \_\_\_\_\_, who decided that only \_\_\_\_\_ Dakota should be hung. One was spared later.
23. In December, 1862, they were hung in the largest mass public execution in US history in the town of \_\_\_\_\_, Minnesota. The men who were hung were not all guilty. One man named \_\_\_\_\_ (which is Dakota for "first born") was innocent, but he was mistaken for another man of the same name and hanged in place of the guilty man.
24. The 264 Dakotas whose death sentences were reduced by President Lincoln were sent to prison for \_\_\_\_\_ years near \_\_\_\_\_, Iowa. Many died in jail. In 1866, 177 survivors were sent by riverboat to the \_\_\_\_\_ Reservation in Nebraska. \_\_\_\_\_ is the name of a Sioux band/tribe.
25. At the same time, over 1600 women, children and old men were sent to prison camp at Fort \_\_\_\_\_ near St. Paul. This was one of the most holy sites in the Dakota culture. Their holy site became a prison camp where hundreds of Dakota died from cold, hunger and disease during the winter of 1862-63. In May 1863, the survivors were taken to \_\_\_\_\_ Reservation in South Dakota; in 1866 they were moved again to \_\_\_\_\_ reservation in Nebraska.
26. In March \_\_\_\_\_, all treaties with the Dakota in Minnesota were revoked by the government and all the Dakota except a few who helped the whites during the War were forced to leave Minnesota. One of the leaders of the Dakota who was allowed to stay was John \_\_\_\_\_. The 200 or so Dakota who stayed became the nucleus for Dakota bands who returned from Nebraska and who now live on 4 Reservations in Minnesota near the towns of: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

27. Not all Dakota surrendered after the War. Chief \_\_\_\_\_ fled to Canada. In July 1863, he returned to Minnesota and was killed near Hutchinson by a farmer named \_\_\_\_\_ while he was picking \_\_\_\_\_. The farmer got a \$\_\_\_\_\_ reward for killing \_\_\_\_\_, plus a State bounty of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for his scalp.

***There were very few jobs for the Dakota in the years after the 1862 US-Dakota War. Read the museum displays about how hard life was for the Dakota in Minnesota for the next 100 years.***

28. Shortly after the War was over, Bishop \_\_\_\_\_ got several Dakota women jobs making \_\_\_\_\_ at his church mission.

29. The Indian Reorganization Act of \_\_\_\_\_ allowed Indians to form Tribal \_\_\_\_\_ and buy \_\_\_\_\_. This was the beginning of a "New Deal for the Indians".

30. The Indian \_\_\_\_\_ Regulatory Act of 1988 permitted Tribes to operate \_\_\_\_\_ operations as a means of promoting \_\_\_\_\_, self-sufficiency and strong Tribal \_\_\_\_\_. However, Indians today are as dependent on money from \_\_\_\_\_ as their ancestors were on the herds of \_\_\_\_\_ or the treaty payments.

**EXIT THE MUSEUM BUILDING AND TOUR THE GROUNDS AROUND THE MUSEUM. ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS FROM MARKERS ALONG THE AGENCY TRAIL AND THE TRADERS TRAIL.**

**Follow the Agency Trail to the east of the museum for questions 31-36. It is possible to answer questions 31-40 even if the Museum building is closed.**

31. Observe the native Dakota gardens. By the edge of the gardens is an elevated \_\_\_\_\_ platform where Dakota women and children would sit to protect crops from \_\_\_\_\_.

32. The stone \_\_\_\_\_ was built in 1861 to hold \_\_\_\_\_. It was \_\_\_\_\_ feet by \_\_\_\_\_ feet and \_\_\_\_\_ stories high. The cellar walls were \_\_\_\_\_ feet thick; the first floor walls were \_\_\_\_\_ feet thick and the second floor walls were \_\_\_\_\_ inches thick. The initials TJG above the door were for Indian Agent \_\_\_\_\_ J. \_\_\_\_\_.

33. The stone \_\_\_\_\_ was built by the labor and \_\_\_\_\_ of the farmer Indians who lived near the Agency. After the War it was used as a farmhouse by the \_\_\_\_\_ family.

34. The Agency Road connected the Lower Sioux Agency to the \_\_\_\_\_ to the west and to Fort \_\_\_\_\_ to the east.

35. The marker where the trail splits to head to the river says the river powered mills that turned \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_ for transportation down river and local use.

36. Continue along the Agency Trail until you return to the Museum building. Behind the Museum building is a cemetery. The 2 grave markers are for: \_\_\_\_\_ who died in 1895 and \_\_\_\_\_ who was the Superintendent for the \_\_\_\_\_ at the Agency and died in \_\_\_\_\_.

**Take the Traders Trail on the other side of the parking lot for questions 37-40.**

37. Francois \_\_\_\_\_ was a trader who was born about 1800 at \_\_\_\_\_ Wisconsin and moved to the Lower Sioux Agency in 1860. He died in his store during the War, but his wife \_\_\_\_\_ (who was a Dakota) escaped.

38. Francois' wife lived with him in his store. The Dakota wives of other whites who lived at the Agency lived in \_\_\_\_\_ in the ravine below the stores.

39. Andrew and Nathan \_\_\_\_\_ had a reputation for \_\_\_\_\_ and were threatened with arrest if they upset the Dakota at governmental councils. Andrew \_\_\_\_\_ was the trader who told the Dakota to eat \_\_\_\_\_ if they were hungry.

40. The stone markers visible from the highway mark the locations of the stores owned by these 3 traders: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

## PART 2: BIRCH COULEE BATTLEFIELD SITE QUESTIONS

**GO BY FOOT OR CAR TO BIRCH COULEE BATTLEFIELD FOR THE NEXT SET OF QUESTIONS**

**TAKE COUNTY HIGHWAY 2 WEST FROM THE MUSEUM TO US 71 THEN TAKE US 71 NORTH ABOUT 6 MILES TO COUNTY HIGHWAY 2. TURN RIGHT (EAST) ON COUNTY 2 AND FOLLOW THE SIGNS TO THE BATTLEFIELD ALONG THE SOUTHERN EDGE OF HIGHWAY 2.**

*The Birch Coulee Battlefield has a short trail with many historical markers to describe the battle. Start at the kiosk by the picnic pavilion, then follow the path to answer questions 41-54. Go down the short side paths to answer questions 44 and 49. Stand in the foot prints at 44 and 49 to see where the combatants were.*

41. What does the word coulee mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
What days did the battle take place? \_\_\_\_\_, 1862.
42. A Veteran's Cemetery was planned for the site, but the idea was abandoned. What veteran is buried here and what did he do in the Army? \_\_\_\_\_
43. The markers present the battle through the eyes and perspectives of a Dakota and a white officer. Name them: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
The Dakota Chief's name means Great War Eagle.
44. Wrong Place, Wrong Time: Soldiers were sent from Fort \_\_\_\_\_ to bury white settlers who were killed in this area.
45. Hiram \_\_\_\_\_ chose this spot to camp because it was flat and level, but the Dakota surrounded them unseen using the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for protection.
46. \_\_\_\_\_ Dakota surrounded the soldiers at night and attacked in the morning. Wamditanka was against the war but decided he and his men would do \_\_\_\_\_. Although he was a war chief, Wamditanka only fought soldiers and was not hanged at the end of the War.
47. Prairie Factor: Tall \_\_\_\_\_ hid the Dakota, allowing them to get within 200 yards of the soldiers.
48. When the battle began, many soldiers stood behind \_\_\_\_\_ and knelt behind dead \_\_\_\_\_. As the battle progressed, they got \_\_\_\_\_ according to Wamditanka.
49. As the first day progressed, with the soldiers pinned down hot and thirsty, Dakota women in the coulee \_\_\_\_\_ for the warriors so they could \_\_\_\_\_ and return to \_\_\_\_\_.
50. The soldiers were hampered because many of their bullets were too \_\_\_\_\_ for their guns so they had to take time \_\_\_\_\_.
51. By the end of the first day, the soldiers were almost out of food. Their dinner was 1/4 \_\_\_\_\_ and 1 ounce \_\_\_\_\_. Compare that to question 49.
52. Late on the second day, as the Dakota were planning a charge to finish off the soldiers, they had to retreat. Why?  
\_\_\_\_\_
53. Soon after the battle was over, Wamditanka \_\_\_\_\_ and spent \_\_\_\_\_ years in prison. He was sent to \_\_\_\_\_, but returned to Minnesota in \_\_\_\_\_ and died in 1906 at \_\_\_\_\_.
54. Capt. Anderson was wounded in the battle. He returned to \_\_\_\_\_ to recover. He left Minnesota in \_\_\_\_\_ and returned once in \_\_\_\_\_ for the dedication of the \_\_\_\_\_ Monument in Morton.

### PART 3: MORTON MONUMENT SITE QUESTIONS

**GO BY FOOT OR CAR SOUTH ON COUNTY ROAD 18 INTO MORTON. TURN LEFT (EAST) ON WALNUT, THEN LEFT (NORTH) ON MONUMENT DR. FOLLOW THE MONUMENT SIGNS TO THE TWIN MONUMENTS FOR THE NEXT SET OF QUESTIONS**

55. The 2 granite monuments commemorate what 2 groups of people involved in the 1862 US-Dakota War?  
Six \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_

56. When was the monument to the participants of the Birch Coulee battle erected? \_\_\_\_\_  
What 3 Dakota Chiefs are mentioned on the historical marker near this tall monument?  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_

57. What are the Dakota names of the Six Friendly Indians who represent the Dakota who assisted white settlers during the War?  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

58. When was this monument erected? \_\_\_\_\_

**IF YOU VISITED THE LOWER SIOUX AGENCY MUSEUM BUILDING AND ANSWERED ALL OF QUESTIONS 1-30, YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE TRAIL AND EARNED THE PATCH. IF NOT, THEN DRIVE TO FORT RIDGELY SOUTH OF FAIRFAX.**

**EITHER WAY, WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU VISIT FORT RIDGELY WHERE SEVERAL DAYS OF FIGHTING TOOK PLACE.**

### PART 4: FORT RIDGELY SITE QUESTIONS

**GO BY CAR EAST ON MINNESOTA 19 TO FAIRFAX, THEN SOUTH ON COUNTY HIGHWAY 4 TO HIGHWAY 30/21 AND TURN WEST ON COUNTY 30 TO GET TO THE FORT RIDGELY SITE.**

*Fort Ridgely played a significant role in the 1862 US-Dakota War. It was attacked twice and was important in several other aspects of the War, including a place of safety for refugee white settler families and starting point for various attempts to attack the Dakotas. Look at the markers, the ruins of the old fort and the tall monument for answers to the following questions. Some questions are about the fort and some are about the battles. Markers about the battles and markers about the fort are mixed together. Look for questions about each marker as you read it.*

#### The Fort and Fort Life Questions

59. Fort Ridgely was the \_\_\_\_\_ military post in Minnesota. The first was Fort Snelling; the second was Fort Ripley. Look at the pattern of the 32 stars on the American flag at the Fort. They form a \_\_\_\_\_. Minnesota was the 32nd state in the Union, and this flag is from 1858 when Minnesota became a state.

60. Fort Ridgely was established in \_\_\_\_\_. By 1854 there were \_\_\_\_\_ US Army forts west of the Mississippi. Fort Ridgely became irrelevant as the frontier moved west and it was closed in \_\_\_\_\_.

61. Unlike forts in the movies, Fort Ridgely did not have any big walls around it. The purpose of the fort wasn't a defensive fort. It was a \_\_\_\_\_.

62. When the first soldiers arrived, it took them \_\_\_\_\_ days to get there from Ft. Snelling on a steamboat named the \_\_\_\_\_. They were a long way from St. Paul.

63. The fort has the excavated foundations of several buildings. Explore the site to see what these buildings were used for. Name 4 of the buildings:  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

64. Fort Ridgely had a doctor on staff. In 1856, Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ used \_\_\_\_\_ to help pop a big soldier's dislocated \_\_\_\_\_ back in place.

65. Traders tried to sell bad quality items to the soldiers at Fort Ridgely and to the Dakotas. In 1855, Fort commander \_\_\_\_\_ was outraged when \_\_\_\_\_ bought spoiled (rotten) \_\_\_\_\_ to feed the Dakotas when the fort commander refused to buy it for the soldiers.
66. In 1860, \_\_\_\_\_ women lived at the Fort. A wife of an enlisted soldier worked as \_\_\_\_\_ (a fancy word for maids) for the officers. She got \_\_\_\_\_ per month for each enlisted man she took care of and \_\_\_\_\_ per month for each officer. She also got living \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ rations of food per day, and \_\_\_\_\_ care. She worked \_\_\_\_\_ days a week for up to \_\_\_\_\_ soldiers.
67. The barracks where the enlisted soldiers lived were \_\_\_\_\_ feet long, \_\_\_\_\_ wide and \_\_\_\_\_ stories high. The granite stone walls were \_\_\_\_\_ inches thick. The building could hold \_\_\_\_\_ men.
68. The wooden \_\_\_\_\_ by the side of the road is the only original building left from 1862.
69. The big stone building housing the museum was the \_\_\_\_\_. When the Fort was abandoned, it became a \_\_\_\_\_.
70. The rest of the buildings are long gone. Why? \_\_\_\_\_
71. The soldiers at Fort Ridgely were from many countries. Name 4 of them from the barracks marker:  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_
72. Not all soldiers honored their pledge to serve their country. In 1855 the desertion rate was \_\_\_\_\_ percent.
73. The average day in a soldier's life was full of military activities. Name 5 of them: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.
74. Chores were called \_\_\_\_\_. In order to tell the soldiers when it was time to do a different activity, they used \_\_\_\_\_.

### **The Battles Questions**

75. On the first day of the War, Captain John \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ men headed to the Lower Sioux Agency to help stop the War. At the \_\_\_\_\_ Ferry crossing, they were met by a Dakota named White \_\_\_\_\_ who some people claimed led the soldiers into an ambush. In the fighting \_\_\_\_\_ men died at the ferry crossing. The Captain died by \_\_\_\_\_ as he tried to lead his men across the river. White \_\_\_\_\_ died by \_\_\_\_\_ in December 1862 for his role in the ambush.
76. Many refugees sought protection in the Fort. Lorenzo \_\_\_\_\_ led \_\_\_\_\_ women and \_\_\_\_\_ children \_\_\_\_\_ miles down the \_\_\_\_\_ River to the Fort. They spent \_\_\_\_\_ days and nights on the river. The husband of Jannette \_\_\_\_\_ was killed a few days later during the Birch Coulee battle.
77. The first attack came on August \_\_\_\_\_, 1862. The signal to attack was \_\_\_\_\_ from the north. The Dakotas attacked from which direction? \_\_\_\_\_
78. Heavy \_\_\_\_\_ fire from the Fort and lack of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ caused the Dakota to withdraw and end the first attack.
79. During the attack, the Dakotas tried to burn the buildings with \_\_\_\_\_.
80. The two sides fought differently. How did the Dakota fight? \_\_\_\_\_.
81. The second attack came on August \_\_\_\_\_. This time the Dakotas attacked from the \_\_\_\_\_ and moved into the Fort's \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_. These buildings burned when they were \_\_\_\_\_ by the Fort's cannons.
82. Lightning \_\_\_\_\_ (a Dakota) said the Dakotas burned small buildings and tried to burn the big ones using \_\_\_\_\_.
83. During the Civil War, most of the professional soldiers at the Fort were sent east to fight in that war. Volunteers replaced the regular Army. A few Regular Army soldiers were left to train the volunteers. One of them was Ordnance Sgt. \_\_\_\_\_ and his skillful handling of the Fort's cannons saved the Fort. He directed the firing of a \_\_\_\_\_ pound gun. [That was the weight of the cannon ball, not the weight of the cannon.]

84. The arrival of reinforcements ended the Dakota attempts to capture Fort Ridgely. The first reinforcements were \_\_\_\_\_ mounted volunteers who arrived on August \_\_\_\_\_. The next day Colonel \_\_\_\_\_ arrived with \_\_\_\_\_ men. A week later, many of these soldiers were sent as reinforcements for the soldiers under attack at Birch Coulee.
85. The tall monument in the center of the Fort was erected in \_\_\_\_\_ to commemorate the soldiers and \_\_\_\_\_ who defended the Fort. The Fort was under threat for \_\_\_\_\_ days from August \_\_\_\_\_ to August \_\_\_\_\_.

**The Fort Cemetery Questions**

***Near the old Fort Ridgely is a cemetery. Visit the cemetery and answer the following questions about the 3 historical monuments on the north end of the cemetery by the stage and another one in the center of the cemetery.***

86. The brown monument on the end is for Chief \_\_\_\_\_, in honor of his loyalty to the white settlers as the peaceful Chief of the \_\_\_\_\_ Indians during the War
87. The tall marble monument honors Capt. \_\_\_\_\_ and the 25 men from Fort Ridgely who were killed in the Redwood Ferry ambush on while on their way to the Lower Sioux Agency.
88. The Eliza Miller monument honors her valor tending to the wounded during the Siege of Fort Ridgely. Where was she born? \_\_\_\_\_
89. The monument with the large historical marker in the center of the cemetery honors \_\_\_\_\_ who was an interpreter and friend of the Sioux.

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***CONGRATULATIONS!!! You have finished the 1862 US-Dakota War Historic Trail. We hope you have a better appreciation of the events leading up to and the consequences of the 1862 US-Dakota War.***

**TRAIL PATCH ORDERING PROCESS**

To get the commemorative patch you have earned, please see the attached ordering form.

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The 1862 US-Dakota War Trail was organized in 2012 by Bob Elliott from the Chief Black Dog District of the Northern Star Council, BSA, and Paul Kaardal of the North Star District of the Northern Star Council.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the staff at the Lower Sioux Agency Museum and the Fort Ridgely Museum for their kind assistance and encouragement. We also want to thank the historic sites staff of the Minnesota Historical Society for their maintenance of the sites at the Lower Sioux Agency, Fort Ridgely and the Birch Coulee battlefield -- sites without which this trail would not have been possible.



**1862 US-DAKOTA WAR HISTORIC TRAIL**  
**PATCH ORDER FORM**

**OPTION 1: PICK-UP IN PERSON AT NORTHERN STAR COUNCIL'S BASE CAMP**

Patches will be made available for sale at the Base Camp near Fort Snelling for \$2.50 each.

Present one completed questionnaire with answers to the Base Camp sales staff on behalf of the entire unit.

Cash, check, VISA or Master Card can be used to purchase patches at the Base Camp during normal hours.  
Call this phone number for hours and to check patch availability: 612-767-0040

**OPTION 2: MAIL ORDER FROM TRAIL ORGANIZER**

As a unit leader for Pack/Troop \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ Council, I hereby certify that \_\_\_\_\_ youth members and \_\_\_\_\_ adults completed the 1862 US-Dakota War Historic Trail by visiting all the required sites and answering the questions applicable to those sites.

Attached is one completed questionnaire with our answers to the questions on behalf of the entire unit.

Signature of Unit Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

TRAIL PATCH at \$2.50 each Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ x \$2.50 = \_\_\_\_\_

SHIPPING COST \$3.00

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

**Credit cards are not accepted for mail order. The organizer is not a merchant and cannot accept credit cards.**

Checks on the Pack or Troop bank account will be accepted for immediate shipment.

Personal checks will require a 10 day waiting period, to avoid losses due to bounced checks.

**SEND PAYMENT FOR THE TOTAL AMOUNT TO:**

**Bob Elliott  
1208 Summit Oaks Drive  
Burnsville, MN 55337**

If you would like to give comments about the Trail, you may do so in the space provided below.