



Minnesota Works Progress Administration:
Writers Project Research Notes.

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ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

1.

TOPIC: Historical Site Markers
in Minnesota

SUBMITTED BY: C. W. Haas

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#673

SANDY LAKE FUR POST

AITKIN COUNTY. Trunk Highway 65.

Location. Libby.

Inscription. Sandy Lake Post of the American Fur Company was established near here about 1830, after an earlier location further south at the Northwest Company's station had been abandoned Wm. A. Aitkin, for many years was a leading trader in this region. Indian Missions were also located here from 1832 to 1855.

SANDY LAKE FUR POST

AITKIN COUNTY. Trunk Highway 65.

Location. Sec. 1, T.49., R.24W. Sandy Lake.

Inscription. On what is now Brown's Point just east of here, the Northwest Company about 1794 built one of the most important fur trading posts in the Northwest. It controlled the Savanna Portage connecting the St. Louis and Mississippi River systems, and retained its importance until after the war of 1812.

OLIVER H. KELLY HOME

ANOKA COUNTY. Trunk Highway 10.

Location. Sec. 19, Ramsey Township.

Inscription. Kelley's idea of a national society for the social economic betterment of the farmer, led to the founding of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry at Washington, Dec. 4, 1867. As first secretary of the National Grange, Kelly maintained the headquarters of the order on his farm until 1870.

MOUTH OF RUM RIVER

ANOKA COUNTY. Trunk Highway 10.

Location. Anoka side of the Mississippi River bridge crossing from Champlin.

Inscription. Joseph Belanger built a trading post in the vicinity in 1844, and near here the Red River Trail crossed Rum River. Hennepin and Duluth passed this way in 1680. About three miles up the Rum, the Sioux inflicted disastrous defeats on the Chippewa in 1839 and 1854.

LAKE TRAVERSE FUR POST

BELTRAMI COUNTY. Trunk Highway 71.

Location. City of Bemidji, just North of the inlet of the Mississippi River.

✓ Inscription. A few hundred yards north of the inflow of the Mississippi River, near this point in 1832 stood the lake Traverse wintering post of the American Fur Company under charge of John H. Fairbanks, clerk for Wm. A. Aitkin of Sandy Lake. The lake was later named Bemidji after the Chippewa chief of that name.

INDIAN BOUNDARY

BENTON COUNTY. Trunk Highway 10.

Location. Opposite the mouth of the Watab River near the Sartell R.R. Station.

Inscription. Here the Indian boundary line as drawn by the Prairie du Chien Treaty of 1825 crossed the Mississippi River. It extended northwest to the Red River and southeast across the St. Croix. To the south was Sioux country, to the north, Chippewa, but neither tribe paid much attention to the line.

GRACEVILLE

BIGSTONE COUNTRY. Trunk Highway 28.

Location. Graceville Town.

✓ Inscription. About 1866 a trading post on the Fort Wadworth Trail was established on Tokua Lakes a mile west of town. Early in 1878 Archbishop Ireland, after erecting a church on the present townsite, located several hundred families in the vicinity through the Catholic Colonization Bureau, and named the settlement for Bishop Thos. L. Grace.

VERNON CENTER STOCKADE

BLUE EARTH COUNTY. Trunk Highway 169.

Location. Just south of Blue Earth River, E $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 27, T. 106 N., R. 28 W., Vernon Center Township.

✓ Inscription. Early in 1863, Co. H., Tenth Minnesota, built a timber stockade about the hotel and store near this site, and garrisoned it as one of the frontier chain erected during the Sioux Outbreak. Several whites were killed by Indians during 1864. This townsite was virtually abandoned late in the '80's.

CLOQUET FOREST FIRE

CARLTON COUNTY. Trunk Highway 45.

Location. Cloquet.

✓ Inscription. On October 12, 1918, this city was completely destroyed by one of several great forest fires which were burning simultaneously over a wide area in northeastern Minnesota. The number of lives lost in these fires was 453 and property loss amounted to more than \$30,000,000.

MOOSE LAKE FOREST FIRE

CARLTON COUNTY. Trunk Highway 61.

Location. Near Riverside Cemetery, just north of Moose Lake,

✓ Inscription. On October 12, 1918, one of several terrific forest fires which were burning simultaneously, driven by a 60 mile wind, swept through the Moose Lake region. Of the 453 persons burned to death in these fires, some 200 perished in and about this town. A State Monument in Riverside Cemetery near here commemorates the disaster.

LITTLE RAPIDS FUR POST

CARVER COUNTY. Trunk Highway 212.

Location. Chaska.

✓ Inscription. In 1804 Jean B. Faribault was trading in furs for the Northwest Company near the "Little Rapids" of the Minnesota, 5 miles south of this point, and in this vicinity. His fur post of 1842 on the site of Chaska became the nucleus for the first Catholic Mission in Carver County, under Father Ravoux.

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SUGAR POINT BATTLE

CASS COUNTY. Trunk Highway 34.

Location. Nearest point to Bear Island, probably Sec. 2, T. 141 N. R. 29 W., Pine Island Township.

✓ Inscription. When a Federal marshal with about 200 troops of the Third Infantry tried to arrest the Chippewa chief Bugonaygeshig at Sugar Point opposite here on the northeast shore of the lake, a sharp fight occurred October 5, 1898. The whites lost 7 killed and the arrest was never accomplished.

CROW WING AGENCY

CASS COUNTY. Trunk Highway 210.

Location. Nearest point to N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 24, T. 133., R. 30 W.

✓ Inscription. The Chippewa Indian Agency was established about one mile south of here in August, 1852, together with a Government farm and a mission school. It was threatened with attack in 1862, but troops from Fort Ripley averted disaster. When the White Earth Reservation was created by the Treaty of 1867, this agency was abandoned.

INDIAN BOUNDARY

CHISAGO COUNTY. Trunk Highway 61.

Location. Three miles north of Forest Lake.

✓ Inscription. Through this point from southeast to northwest extended the line of the Indian Boundary as defined by the Prairie du Chien Treaty of 1825, as surveyed, and marked by the Government. To the south was Sioux country, to the north, Chippewa but neither tribe paid much attention to the line.

INDIAN BOUNDARY

CLAY COUNTY. Trunk Highway 75.

Location. Crossing of Buffalo River, near Georgetown.

Inscription. The Indian Boundary as defined by the Prairie du Chien Treaty of 1825 extended from the mouth of this river on the Red generally southeastward through Minnesota to the St. Croix. To the south was Sioux country, to the north, Chippewa, but neither tribe paid much attention to the line, as surveyed and marked.

GRAND PORTAGE TRAIL

COOK COUNTY. Trunk Highway 61.

Location. One mile south of the International Bridge.

Inscription. Nine miles long, from Lake Superior to Pigeon River above the Cascades. Part of the principal route to the Northwest in the eighteenth century, over which tons of furs and trade goods were carried by Indians, French and English. Recognized as an international highway by Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842.

CROSS RIVER

COOK COUNTY. Trunk Highway 61.

Location. Cross River Bridge, Schroeder.

Inscription. On the Lake shore at the mouth of this river Father Frederic Baraga, a noted Catholic missionary to the Indians and later a bishop, in August 1846 erected a rude cross in recognition of a safe crossing of Lake Superior by a small boat from La Pointe. The river received its name from this episode.

FORT CHARLOTTE.

COOK COUNTY. Trunk Highway 61.

Location. At the International Bridge.

✓ Inscription. An important post of the Northwest Company in the late eighteenth century stood at the end of the Grand Portage Trail on the south bank of the Pigeon River about 5 miles west of here. Thence the goods were taken by canoes to the interior and furs were portaged to Lake Superior.

FORT RIPLEY

CROW WING COUNTY. Trunk Highway 10.

Location. Three fourths mile above town of Fort Ripley.

✓ Inscription. m On the west bank of the Mississippi across from this point stood Ft. Ripley, built in 1848 to control the Chippewa and occupied until 1878. The powder magazine still stands and the site may be visited by crossing the bridge just north of here.

OLD CROW WING

CROW WING COUNTY. Trunk Highway 371.

✓ Location. Nearest point to Sec. 25, T. 44., R. 32 W.

Inscription. A trading post was established opposite the mouth of the Crow Wing River just northwest of here as early as 1826, and a village later grew up around it. During the 60's the Red River Trail crossed the Mississippi at this point. With the decline of the use of the trail, the village gradually disappeared.

ST. COLUMBIA MISSION

CROW WING COUNTY. Trunk Highway 371.

Location. Nearest point to Government Lot 1, Sec. 34, T. 135 N. R. 29 W., east shore of Gull Lake.

Inscription. In 1852 the Rev. James L. Breck, Episcopal missionary, opened a mission and school for the Chippewas on the shore of Gull Lake just west of this point. The establishment flourished for several years, but the increasing hostility of the Indians, culminating in the threatened Chippewa outbreak of 1862 forced its abandonment.

SIOUX VILLAGE SITE

CROW WING COUNTY. Trunk Highway 169.

Location. Nearest point to S. $\frac{1}{2}$ N.E. $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 12, T. 44 N., R. 28 W., Garrison Township.

Inscription. At this point the highway crosses an old village site, occupied some 200 years ago by the Sioux Indians. To the westward, extending towards Lake, lies a large group of conical burying grounds, and associated with them is a rude enclosure or fort consisting of five low, linear mounds or embankments.

PINE BEND VILLAGE

DAKOTA COUNTY. Trunk Highway 56.

Location. Nearest point to SE. $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 34, T. 27 N., R. 19 W., Inver Grove Township.

Inscription. The cornfields and village of the Sioux chief Medicine Bottle, occupied the land between this point and the river from 1835 to 1852. This friendly chief, uncle of the

Pine Bend Village cont'd.

Medicine Bottle executed in 1865, with his band moved to the Redwood agency after the Mendota Treaty of 1851 and died before the Sioux Outbreak of 1862.

THE DONNELLY HOME

DAKOTA COUNTY. Trunk Highway 55.

Location. Nearest point to Donnelly House, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 18, T. 15 N. R. 17 W., Nininger.

Inscription. Just north of here the home of Ignatius Donnelly stands. Noted orator and a proprietor of the "Boom" town of Nininger, laid out in 1856. The panic of 1857 and failure to secure a railroad caused this town of more than 500 to melt away, and by 1869 only the Donnelly House, erected in the 60's remained.

STAGE STATION

DOUGLAS COUNTY. Trunk Highway 52.

Location Osakis.

✓ Inscription. Osakis was one of the stops on the Burbank-Minnesota stage Company line to the Red River, established in spring of 1859 upon the opening of the Fort Abercrombie military road. During the Sioux Outbreak of 1862 the maintenance of this line of communication was vitally important, and the route was constantly patrolled by troops.

FORT ALEXANDRIA

DOUGLAS COUNTY. Trunk Highway 52.

✓ Location. Near Great Northern R.R. station Alexandria.

Inscription. The military road to Fort Abercrombie became tremendously important with the beginning of the Sioux Outbreak of 1862, and early that same fall a strong stockaded log post was erected just south of this point by volunteer troops. Military patrols constantly covered the road in both

directions, and the garrison was maintained until 1868.

FORT BLUE EARTH

FARIBAULT COUNTY. Trunk Highway 16.

Location. Blue Earth City.

Inscription. Just after the beginning of the Sioux Outbreak of 1862, a log tavern, previously fortified during the Indian trouble of 1857, was hastily surrounded by a palisade. Later substantial fortifications were built, and the post was garrisoned by home guards and volunteer troops.

CHATFIELD

FILLMORE COUNTY. Trunk Highway 52.

Location. Town of Chatfield.

Inscription. Settled in 1853 and platted in 1854, this town from June 1856 to November 1861 was the Government Land Office for the southern area. The St. Paul-Dubuque stage route, opened in 1854, following the Territorial Road from Hastings, roughly the present highway, here met the line from Winona. Chatfield Academy was established in 1858.

ST. NICHOLAS

FREEBORN COUNTY. Trunk Highway 65.

Location. Nearest point to NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 26, T. 102 N., R. 21 W., Albert Lea Township.

Inscription. Early in 1855 the village of St. Nicholas, the first in Freeborn County, was laid out about one mile east of this point, and soon a general store, a post office, and a hotel were established. A campaign to secure the county seat failed late in 1857, and St. Nicholas became one of Minnesota's vanished towns.

ITASCA

FREEBORN COUNTY. Trunk Highway 13.

Location. Place marker at the junction with local road leading due south to Itasca School, in Sec. 31, S. $\frac{1}{2}$, T.

✓ 103 N., R. 21 W., Bancroft Township.

Inscription. About one fourth mile south of this point, on "Paradise Prairie" where the Itasca School now stands, the village of Itasca was laid out in 1856. Equipped with a post office, stores, and a newspaper, the village competed for the county seat in 1860. It lost the election and shortly vanished.

FORT BEAUHARNOIS

GOODHUE COUNTY. Trunk Highway 61.

Location. Entrance to Villa Maria Academy.

✓ Inscription. On the shore of Lake Pepin about one fourth mile east of here, a French expedition commanded by La Perriere and accompanied by two Jesuits, in September, 1727 built a substantial log fort and the mission of St. Michael, the Archangel. The post was occupied periodically until about 1756.

MAIDEN ROCK

GOODHUE COUNTY. Trunk Highway 61.

Location. Nearest point where rock can be seen near Frontenac.

✓ Inscription. On the east shore of Lake Pepin, opposite this point, juts out a high rock. From this pinnacle, according to accounts of early travelers, a Sioux maiden of Wabasha's band, prevented from marrying the warrior of her choice, leaped to her death, that she might avoid union with another and older man

SEVASTOPOL

GOODHUE COUNTY. Trunk Highway 61

Location. Nearest point to Lots 2 and 3, Sec. 26, T. 113 N., R. 14 W., near Wacouta R.R. station.

Inscription. At the head of Lake Pepin, just east of here, from 1857 until about 1860, a river town, peopled by lumberjacks and raftsmen, stood. Here logs from the Mississippi and St. Croix were assembled into rafts to be floated down the river. Following a change in the river channel the town disappeared completely.

BATTLE OF SHAKOPEE

HENNEPIN COUNTY. Trunk Highway 65.

Location. Sec. 32, Eden Prairie Township.

Inscription. On May 27, 1858, between this point and the river, a sharp fight took place between about 150 Mille Lacs Chippewa and Shakopee's band of Sioux. The battle lasted several hours and the Chippewa were defeated with a loss of 4 killed and scalped. This was the last important battle between these tribes in Minnesota.

OAK GROVE MISSION

HENNEPIN COUNTY. Trunk Highway 65.

Location. East side of Lyndale Ave., in Bloomington Township. Just above crest of hill leading down to Minnesota river.

Inscription. In 1843, after nine years of labor among the Sioux of Minnesota, chiefly near Lake Calhoun, the Pioneer Missionaries, Samuel W. and Gideon H. Pond built a log mission station overlooking the Minnesota River near the present Nicollet Avenue. The log house was replaced in 1856 by a brick house, still standing, which bears a tablet.

LAKE ITASCA

HUBBARD COUNTY. Trunk Highway 71.

Location. Nearest point to the Lake and Itasca State Park, probably in SE. 20, T. 143 N., R. 35 W.

✓ Inscription. In Itasca State Park, about 3 miles northwest of this point, lies Lake Itasca, regarded as the approximate source of the Mississippi River by H. R. Schoolcraft and W. T. Boutwell, who visited and named it in 1832. The name was made from the two Latin words, "veritas", truth and "caput", head.

INDIAN BOUNDARY

ISANTI COUNTY. Trunk Highway 65.

Location. Near Isanti.

✓ Inscription. Through this point from southeast to northwest extended the Indian boundary as defined by the Prairie du Chien Treaty of 1825, as surveyed and marked by the Government. To the south was Sioux country, to the north, Chippewa, but neither tribe paid much attention to the line.

INKPADUTA MASSACRE

JACKSON COUNTY. Trunk Highway 71.

✓ Location. Jackson Tourist Park.

Inscription. March 26, 1857, an outlaw Sioux band under Inkpaduta, moving northward from the Lake Okoboji region of Iowa, where it had murdered some 30 persons, attacked this town then called Springfield. Seven settlers were killed, but a spirited defense beat off the Indians and saved the community. A State Monument stands in this park.

DES MOINES RIVER POST

JACKSON COUNTY. Trunk Highway 71.

Location. Nearest point to SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 19, T. 102 N., R. 34 W., Wisconsin Township.

✓ Inscription. On the hill above the east bank of the river about half a mile from here, stood the Des Moines River post, a log stockade erected in the late spring of 1864, by troops of the Second Minnesota Cavalry as one of the frontier forts erected during the Sioux Outbreak. It was garrisoned until the summer of 1865.

CAMP RELEASE

LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY. Trunk Highway 212.

Location. Entrance to Camp Release State Park, one mile southwest of Montevideo.

Inscription. In this vicinity stood the Sioux Village of Red Iron, a friendly chief during the Outbreak of 1862. His opposition checked the hostile retreat and allowed other friendlies to gain possession of the white captives. Here on September 26, 1862, some 269 prisoners were released to General Sibley. Now a State Park.

MAYO HOME

LE SUEUR COUNTY. Trunk Highway 169.

Location. 118 N. Main St. Le Sueur.

✓ Inscription. In this residence from about 1858 until 1863 lived Dr. William W. Mayo, noted physician and father of the world-famous surgeons, Dr. William J. and Dr. Charles Mayo, the former being born here in 1861. During the Sioux attacks on New Ulm in August 1862, Dr. William W. Mayo acted as surgeon for the defenders.

HUTCHINSON STOCKADE

MCLEOD COUNTY. Trunk Highway 22

Location. Nearest Point to Public Square, Hutchinson.

Inscription. This town, founded in 1855 by a group including the famous Hutchinson family, entertainers, was sharply attacked by Little Crow on September 4, 1862, during the Sioux Outbreak. A stockade 100 feet square, erected on the present public square, was successful^{ly}/defended by home guards, but several unprotected buildings were burned. This site is marked.

WHITE FAMILY MASSACRE

MCLEOD COUNTY. Trunk Highway 212

Location. One half west of Brownton, nearest point of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 30, T. 115 N., R. 29 W.

Inscription. About 300 feet north of this point stood the pioneer log cabin of Samuel White. There on September 22, 1862, Samuel and his wife Laura, and two children, Susan and Otis, were brutally murdered by a small band of Sioux Indians during the Outbreak. The bodies were subsequently interred at Glencoe.

GLENCOE FORT

MCLEOD COUNTY. Trunk Highway 212

Location. Glencoe.

Inscription. This town, laid out in 1855 by Martin McLeod, Colonel John H. Stevens, and others, became the county seat of McLeod County. During the Sioux Outbreak of 1862 the town was heavily fortified and garrisoned, as many as four companies being stationed there during the winter of 1862-1863.

FORT FAIRMOUNT

MARTIN COUNTY. Trunk Highway 16.

Location. City of Fairmount, near Courthouse.

✓ Inscription. Known as the Chain of Lakes Post also, was a substantial log stockade on the present Martin County courthouse grounds. It was built in September, 1862, for defense against the Sioux and was garrisoned by volunteers and troops of the 25th Wisconsin. A tablet marks the site.

FORT BRITT

MARTIN COUNTY. Trunk Highway 15

Location. Sec. 33, T. 101 N. R. 30 W., Silver Lake.

✓ Inscription. When news of the Spirit Lake Massacre reached Chain Lakes in the spring of 1857, the settlers erected a six-sided fort on the George Britt's claim just east of here and named it for him. In August, 1857, the fort was enlarged, and settlers did guard duty for some weeks, but no attack occurred.

FOREST CITY

MEEKER COUNTY. Trunk Highway 24.

Location. Nearest point to town, probably either Sec. 20 or 17, Forest City Township.

✓ Inscription. This town, platted in 1857, was the county seat of Meeker County until 1869. It was also the site of a U.S. Land Office from March 1858 to September 1862. The town was stockaded during the Sioux Outbreak, resisted an Indian attack on September 3, 1862, and was garrisoned by troops until late in 1863.

INDIAN VILLAGE SITE

MILLELACS COUNTY. Trunk Highway 169.

Location. Near Vineland, where Rum River Flows out of Mille Lacs

✓ INSCRIPTION. In this vicinity stood the great Sioux village of "Izatys", where Duluth planted the French arms on July 2, 1680. About 1750 The Chippewa, moving westward from Lake Superior, captured the village, and by this decisive battle drove the Sioux permanently into southern Minnesota.

PIKES FORT

MORRISON COUNTY. Trunk Highway 10.

Location. About three miles below Little Falls.

✓ INSCRIPTION. On the west bank of the Mississippi opposite this point, Lieut. Zebulon M. Pike built a stockade for his exploring party for the winter of 1805-1806. Rapids formerly in the river here bore his name. The fort site is marked, but there is no bridge nearer than Little Falls.

AVOCA

MURRAY COUNTY. Trunk Highway 73.

Location. Avoca Town.

✓ INSCRIPTION. This town, begun in 1878, and named for a river in Ireland, became a key point for the sale of 50,000 acres of railroad lands to Catholic settlers in Murray County, through the activities of Archbishop Ireland and the Catholic Colonization Bureau. Early erection of a church, immigrant house, and other public buildings, greatly facilitated settlement.

TRAVERSE DES SIOUX TREATY

NICOLLET COUNTY. Trunk Highway 169.

Location. Traverse des Sioux State Park.

Inscription. At the "Crossing of the Sioux", the Indian and Red River Trails up the Minnesota valley crossed to the north bank of the river and out across the bend to the mouth of the Cottonwood. Here were fur trade and mission posts, and here on July 23, 1851, the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux was signed.

FORT RIDGELY

NICOLLET COUNTY. Trunk Highway 4.

Location. Fort Ridgely State Park, Sec. 6, T. 111 N., R. 32 W.

Inscription. Built in 1853 to control the Sioux just removed to reservations on the upper Minnesota river by the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux attacks on August 20 and 22, 1862, and checked the Indian advance down the valley. Now a State Park.

STATE CAPITOL

NICOLLET COUNTY. Trunk Highway 169.

Location. Nearest point to Third and Walnut St., in St. Peter.

Inscription. In 1857 the Legislature passed a bill for the removal of the State Capitol from St. Paul to St. Peter, but the document was abstracted by Joseph Rolette, never reached the governor, and did not become a law. The building erected for the capitol by the St. Peter Company, remodeled, still stands, one block west of here.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NICOLLET COUNTY. Trunk Highway 69.

Location. Nearest point to Sec. 8, T. 110, N., R. 26 W., Traverse

Inscription. Just west of this point stand the ruins of

✓ the first Presbyterian church built in Nicollet County for a white congregation. Organized in 1853 by Rev. Moses N. Adams of the Dakota Mission, this stone building was erected about 1858 and occupied until the summer of 1869. A memorial replica stands in the Traverse des Sioux Cemetery.

GRAND PORTAGE

COOK COUNTY. Trunk Highway 61.

Location. At Mineral Center.

Inscription. A Chippewa village on Lake Superior, five miles northeast of here is on the site of the western headquarters of the Northwest Company from about 1778 to 1801.

Through that post and over the "grand" or "long" portage passed the fur trade of the great Northwest. Watch for the Trail crossing.

WORTHINGTON

NOBLES COUNTY. Trunk Highway 16.

Location. Worthington.

Inscription. Laid out in 1871 by the National Colony Company of Toledo, Ohio, and named for the wife of Dr. A. P. Mills, Worthington became a center for the sale of railroad lands. Despite grasshopper plagues and other difficulties, the company within five years settled hundre^ds of families in Nobles County.

GOLD DISCOVERY

OLMSTEAD COUNTY. Trunk Highway 52.

Location. Crossing of Zumbro River near the Oronoco P.O.

Inscription. During the summer of 1856 discoveries of gold were reported along the banks of the Zumbro River in this vicinity. A lively gold rush, involving several hundred men followed, and much panning and sluicing were done. Spring freshets and the panic of 1857 swept away the developments and with them Oronoco's gold prosperity.

MARION

OLMSTEAD COUNTY. Trunk Highway 52.

Location. Village of Marion. N. $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 35, T. 106 N., R. 13 W.

Inscription. This town settled in 1854, was a stop for the changing of horses on the St. Paul to Dubuque stage route, and in 1856 became an active but unsuccessful rival of Rochester for the county seat. This defeat, failure to obtain the railroad, and other causes, brought about the gradual decline of the town.

INDIAN BOUNDARY.

OTTERTAIL COUNTY. Trunk Highway 73.

Location. One mile south of Pelican Lake

✓ Inscription. Through this point from southeast to Northwest extended the Indian Boundary as defined by the Prairie du Chien Treaty of 1825, as surveyed and marked by the Government. To the south was Sioux country, to the north, Chippewa, but neither tribe paid much attention to the line.

OLD CLITHERALL

OTTERTAIL COUNTY. Trunk Highway, #3.

Location. Junction of "Old Clitherall Road" with highway, about one mile south of the present Clitherall.

Inscription. Known also as the Old Town, about one quarter mile south, named for Major George B. Clitherall, U.S. Land Officer, was settled in 1865 by a seceding group of Latter Day Saints. The community flourished for many years, but gradually disintegrated, and with the building of New Clitherall the old town has nearly disappeared.

HINCKLEY FOREST FIRE

PINE COUNTY. Trunk Highway 61.

Location. Hinckley.

Inscription. On September 1, 1894, a terrific forest fire, driven by a high wind, swept through the western part of Pine County. Hinckley and several other places were completely wiped out, and over 400 persons lost their lives in the region. A State Monument for the victims stands in the Hinckley Cemetery.

SANDSTONE FOREST FIRE

PINE COUNTY. Trunk Highway 61.

Location. Sandstone

Inscription. Along with Hinckley and other communities in the western part of Pine County, this town was totally destroyed by the terrible forest fire of September 1, 1894. More than 400 men, women, and children lost their lives in the area swept by the fire.

POKEGAMA MISSION

PINE COUNTY. Trunk Highway 61.

Location. Nearest point NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 25, T. 39 N., R. 22 W.,
Pine City.

✓ Inscription. On the east shore of Lake Pokegama, 3
miles west of here, Rev. Frederick Ayer and others established
a Protestant mission school for the Chippewa in 1836. The
mission met with considerable success for several years, but a
Sioux attack in 1841 brought about the ultimate abandonment
of the station in 1846.

CHENGWATANA.

PINE COUNTY. Trunk Highway 61.

Location. North bend of Snake River, nearest point to NW $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 26, T. 39 N., R. 21 W., Pine City.

✓ Inscription. A Chippewa village site at the outlet of
Cross Lake, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of here, after the opening of the
St. Paul-Superior road, became a night stage stop. The town,
platted in 1856, was garrisoned during the Indian troubles of
the 60's. The choice of the present route by the railroad
eventually destroyed the town.

RED PIPESTONE QUARRY

PIPESTONE COUNTY. Trunk Highway 75.

Location. Pipestone Indian School Reserve.

Inscription. For centuries the soft red stone found
here had quarried by the Indians for ceremonial pipes.
The region was scared and many legends cluster around it. The
stone, because George Catlin, who visited the quarry in 1836,
described it, is often called catlinite. The tract was a Sioux
reserve until taken for a U.S. Indian School in 1892.

OLD CROSSING TREATY

POLK COUNTY. Trunk Highway 2.

Location. Nearest point to NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 33, T. 151 N., R. 45 W., probably on line between Sec. 33 and 34, T. 150 N., R. 45 W.

Inscription. At the "Old Crossing" or ford of the Red Lake River on the Pembina Trail about 7 miles north of this point, the Red Lake and Pembina bands of Chippewa in treaty council on October 2, 1863, ceded to the United States virtually all their lands in the Red River Valley.

BATTLE OF KAPOSIA

RAMSEY COUNTY. Trunk Highway 61.

Location. Entrance to Battle Creek Park, just south of St. Pau.

✓ Inscription. From this ravine in mid-June, 1842, Sandy Lake Chippewa attacked little Crow's Sioux village of Kaposia across the river. Premature firing ruined the surprise and after several hours the Chippewa were driven back up the stream now called Battle Creek. Sioux casualties were about 30, Chippewa about 8.

LOWER SIOUX AGENCY

REDWOOD COUNTY. Trunk Highways 19 and 71.

Location. South bank of the Minnesota River, where the highway crosses to Morton.

Inscription. The Indian Agency for the lower Sioux was established about 2 miles southeast of this point from 1853 to 1862. At this Redwood agency on August 18, (1862) the storm of the Sioux Outbreak first struck. One of the agency buildings still stands, and numerous massacre sites are marked on State Aid Road, number 2.

CAMP POPE

REDWOOD COUNTY. Trunk Highway 19.

Location. Redwood Falls. (Probably nearest point to Sec. 30, T. 113 N., R. 35 W. .

Inscription. Established about a mile north of here in the spring of 1863 as a troop concentration point for the Sibley expedition against the Sioux, was named for General John Pope, department commander. On June 16, 1863, three thousand three hundred men left this camp for the long march to the Missouri. It was occupied again in 1864.

BIRCH COULEE MONUMENTS

RENVILLE COUNTY. Trunk Highway 19.

Location. Sec. 32, T. 113 N., R. 34 W., just below State Monuments, east of Morton.

✓ Inscription. On the hillside just above this point stand two Sioux Outbreak Monuments. One erected in 1894 by the State, commemorates the Battle of Birch Coulee, the other, privately built, honors six Sioux Indians who remained friendly in 1862. The Birch Coulee battlefield is one and one half miles north near Highway 4.

BATTLE OF BIRCH COULEE.

Renville County. Trunk Highway 19.

✓ Location. Opposite center of Sec. 19, T. 113 N., R. 34 W., north of Morton.

✓ Inscription. On the prairie half a mile west of here a party of about 160 troops was attacked by Sioux at dawn Sept. 2, 1862, during the Outbreak. The force was surrounded for 30 hours, and lost over a third of its number in killed and wounded. The site is owned by the State.

REDWOOD FERRY.

RENVILLE COUNTY. Trunk Highway 19.

LOCATION. Nearest point to SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 5, T. 112N., R. 34W.

INSCRIPTION. At the old ferry landing below this point on August 18, 1862, Captain John Marsh, an interpreter, and 46 men of the Fifth Minnesota, marching to the relief of the agency, were ambushed by Sioux Indians. The interpreter and 24 men were killed and Captain Marsh was drowned while trying to escape. The site is marked.

ARCHIBALD MILL.

RICE COUNTY. Truck Highway 65.

LOCATION. At Cannon River Bridge, near Dundas.

INSCRIPTION. On the west side of the island in Cannon River opposite this point, John S. and George Archibald built a stone mill in 1857 for grinding flour. By using improved middlings purifiers and slow, careful grinding, a superior grade of hard wheat patent flour was produced. The improved processes were later introduced in the Minneapolis mills.

NORTHFIELD ROBBERY.

RICE COUNTY. Trunk Highway 65.

LOCATION. Bridge Square, Northfield.

INSCRIPTION. September 7, 1876, eight men of the James Younger gang swept into this town, and with a fusillade of shots attempted to hold up the First National Bank near this site. The cashier and one citizen were killed, but in the ensuing gun-fight with posses, six of the bandits were killed or captured.

WARROAD FUR POST.

ROSEAR COUNTY. Trunk Highway 11.

LOCATION. Just north of Warroad River Bridge, Warroad.

✓ INSCRIPTION. One mile east of this point, just north of the mouth of the Warroad River stood a post of the American Fur Company, built about 1820. The French explorer, LaVerendryes and his party probably visited this region enroute to build Fort St. Charles in the present Northwest Angle.

CANOE ROUTE.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY. Trunk Highway 2.

LOCATION. Crossing of the St. Louis River at Floodwood.

✓ INSCRIPTION. From Lake Superior to Sandy Lake and the Mississippi, used by Indians and traders from the latter half of the eighteen century. It led up the St. Louis to the East Savanna, up that stream some ten miles, and thence by a hard six mile portage, to the West Savanna and Sandy Lake.

FIRST IRON MINE.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY. Trunk Highway 1.

LOCATION. Nearest point to Soudan Mine just at NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 34, T. 62., R. 15W., Near Soudan.

✓ INSCRIPTION. From the Breitung pit of the Soudan mine just north of this town, the first commercial shipment of Minnesota iron ore was made by the Minnesota Iron Company, July 31, 1884, over the Duluth and Iron Range R.R. This line had just been built by Charlemagne Tower and his associates to open up the Vermillion Range.

BUCHANAN TOWNSITE.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY. Trunk Highway 61.

LOCATION. Sec. 36, T. 52 N., R. 12 W.

✓ INSCRIPTION. This townsite, named after President Buchanan, was laid out in October, 1856. From September 1857 until May 1859 the place, though little less than wilderness, was the seat of the U.S. Land Office for the northeastern district of Minnesota. After the removal of the land office, the settlement disappeared.

INDIAN BOUNDARY.

SHERBURNE COUNTY. Trunk Highway 10.

LOCATION. Opposite the northend of Elk Lake.

✓ INSCRIPTION. Through this point from southeast to northwest extended the Indian boundary as defined by the Treaty of Prairie du Chien in 1825, as surveyed and marked by the Government, To the south was Sioux country, to the north, Chippewa, but neither tribe paid much attention to the line.

FIRST GRANITE QUARRY.

SHERBURNE COUNTY. Trunk Highway 10.

LOCATION. Entrance to State Reformatory, East St. Cloud,

✓ INSCRIPTION. In the spring of 1868 Breen and Young opened the first commercial granite quarry in Minnesota, on the site of the present State Reformatory just west of this point. From this beginning, the industry involving millions of dollars.

(Erected by the North Star Granite Corporation, St. Cloud, 1930, Special granite marker by them gratis.)

INDIAN BOUNDARY.

STEARNS COUNTY. Trunk Highway 5²~~7~~.

LOCATION. At the crossing of the north fork of the Watab River about one northwest of Collegeville.

✓ INSCRIPTION. Through this point from southeast to northwest extended the Indian boundary, as defined by the Prairie du Chien Treaty of 1825, as surveyed and marked by the Government. To the south was Sioux country, to the north, Chippewa, but neither tribe paid much attention to the line.

MAINE PRAIRIE FORT.

STEARNS COUNTY. Trunk Highway 15.

LOCATION. Sec. 13, T. 122 N., R. 29 W., Maine Prairie Township.

✓ INSCRIPTION. Word of the Sioux Outbreak reached Maine Township, so named but its first Maine settlers of 1856, about August 19, 1862. After forming a volunteer militia company, a stockaded log fort was hastily built just west of this place. some 40 feet square. Some skirmishing occurred in the region but the fort itself was not attacked.

AUGUSTUS LINDBERGH HOMESTEAD.

STEARNS COUNTY. Trunk Highway 52.

LOCATION. One half mile west of Melrose.

INSCRIPTION. The farm adjoining this point on the north was homesteaded by Augustus Lindberg, grandfather of Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh, who made the first non-stop airplane flight from New York to Paris, May 20, 21, 1927. Augustus Lindbergh had served two terms in the Swedish Parliament before coming to America.

SAUK CENTER STOCKADE.

STEARNS COUNTY. Trunk Highway 52, and 28.

LOCATION. Nearest point to Seventh and Birch Street, Sauk Center.

INSCRIPTION. Two blocks east, near the corner of Seventh and Birch Street, stood the log stockade erected by volunteers. late in August, 1862, for defense against the Sioux. Since the town was an important point on the Fort Abercrombie road, the stockade was soon enlarged to include one acre and garrisoned until the close of the Outbreak.

PAYNESVILLE FORT.

STEARNS COUNTY. Trunk Highway 4.

LOCATION. Two blocks south of Crow River Bridge, Paynesville.

INSCRIPTION. In August, 1862, during the Sioux Outbreak home guards built but soon abandoned a sod fort just east of here. On the night of September 13, Indians here surprised a small harvesting party, burned the buildings, and wounded John Boylan, but all the whites finally escaped. Troops garrisoned the fort from October, 1862 to May 1864.

ST. JOSEPH BLOCKHOUSE.

STEARNS COUNTY. Trunk Highway 52.

LOCATION. St. Joseph, a block north of bend in highway, just beyond St. Benedict's College.

INSCRIPTION. Just east of this point, citizens erected one of three pentagonal blockhouses of green timber, with sides 50 feet long, in August, 1862, during the Sioux Outbreak. A second blockhouse stood on the present grounds of St. Benedict's College. These forts effectively protected this important station on the Red River Trail against Indian threats.

FORT WADSWORTH TRAIL.

STEVENS COUNTY. Trunk Highway 9.

LOCATION. Nearest point NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 21, T. 125 N., R. 42 W.

✓ INSCRIPTION. Upon the establishment, by order of General Henry H. Sibley, of Fort Wadsworth, later renamed Fort Sisseton, South Dakota, in 1864, an important military trail and wagon route was opened through this point from St. Cloud and Sauk Center, to Toqua or Graceville, and Brown's Valley and the Sisseton Indian Reservation.

WINNEBAGO AGENCY.

TODD COUNTY. Trunk Highway 71.

LOCATION. Nearest point to Hotel Reichert, Long Prairie.

✓ INSCRIPTION. Under treaties in 1846 and 1847, the Winnebagoes were removed from Iowa to the Long Prairie Reservation. Agency buildings and a school were erected about a quarter mile east of here, and hundreds of acres were ploughed but the Indians disliked the region, and in 1855 exchanged these lands for others in southern Minnesota.

LAKE PEPIN. (Geographical marker No. 2).

WABASHA COUNTY. Trunk Highway 61.

LOCATION. Vicinity of Lake City.

✓ INSCRIPTION. The "Lake of Tears" of Father Hennepin in 1680, received its present name on a French map of 1703. In 1686 Nicolas Perrot built Fort St. Antoine on the east shore just below Stockholm, and on May 8, 1689, proclaimed French possession of all the Sioux country. In 1695 a follower, Le Sueur, erected a trading post on Prairie Island about 9 miles below Hastings, and still another post, Fort Beauharnois, was built in 1727. Windy and dangerous, this lake was dreaded by

voyageurs, rafters Sea Wing, during a storm, cost about 100 lives.

LAKE PEPIN. (Geographical marker No. 1.)

WABASHA COUNTY. Trunk Highway 61.

INSCRIPTION. Formed in geologically modern times through the deposition of silt by the swiftly flowing tributary, the Chippewa River, in the great channel which had been scoured out by the glacial river, Mississippi, during the melting of the glaciers several thousands of years ago. It is about 30 miles long, with an average width of two and one half miles.

READS LANDING.

WABASHA COUNTY. Turnk Highway 61.

LOCATION. Reads Landing.

INSCRIPTION. Early in the nineteenth century Augustus Rocque built a fur post here at the foot of Lake Pepin. The settlement, named for Cahrles Read, a settler of 1847, became an important steamboat and outfitting point for the Chippewa River Lumber trade, but railroad building in the seventies ruined the irver traffic, and with it, the town.

INDIAN BATTLE GROUND.

WASHINGTON COUNTY. Trunk Highway 212.

LOCATION. Old State Prison Ravine, just north of Stillwater.

INSCRIPTION. In this ravine at daybreak, July 3, 1839, a war party of Sioux overtook a body of Chippewa returning from Fort Snelling, where a Sioux had been killed by other Chippewa. A bloody battle took place, in which the Chippewa losses were about 50 killed and wounded. The Sioux losses were small.

FORT COX.

WATONWAN COUNTY. Trunk Highway 60.

LOCATION. Madelia.

INSCRIPTION. At Madelia, then a small village, Captain E. St. Julien Cox with a detachment of volunteer troops in September, 1862, shortly after the beginning of the Sioux Outbreak, erected an octagonal log fort. It was given the name of the builder, and was garrisoned by Minnesota troops for some months.

FORT ABERCROMBIE.

WILKIN COUNTY. Trunk Highway 75.

LOCATION. Junction with State Aid Road out of McCauleyville, Sec. 3, T. 134 N., R. 48 W.

INSCRIPTION. On the west bank of the Red River, at the head of navigation, about one mile west of here, stood Fort Abercrombie, begun by U. S. Troops in August, 1857, to protect the northwestern frontier against attacks by the Indians. The post withstood several Sioux attacks during the Outbreak of 1862, and was garrisoned until its abandonment in 1877.

BRECKENRIDGE.

WILKIN COUNTY. Trunk Highway 75.

LOCATION. Town of Breckenridge.

INSCRIPTION. During the Sioux Outbreak of 1862, this town, laid out in 1857 and named for John C. Breckenridge, was all but abandoned. Three men only remained behind in the hotel and on August 23, 1862, these were killed by the Indians. The same day a mail stage was attacked near the town and its driver killed.

ST. CROIX BOOM SITE.

WASHINGTON COUNTY. Trunk Highway 95.

LOCATION. About three miles north of Stillwater.

INSCRIPTION. Center of log and lumbering activities in this region for over half of a century prior to 1914. Here millions of logs from the upper St. Croix and tributaries were halted, sorted, and rafted, later to be sawed into lumber and timber products. More logs were handled here than at any similar place in this section.

ROLLINGSTONE COLONY.

WINONA COUNTY. Trunk Highway 61.

LOCATION. Minnesota City.

INSCRIPTION. In the summer of 1851 the Western Farm and Village Association, comprising persons who wished to emigrate to the West, was formed in New York City. Advance agents, during high water in 1852, selected this town site then apparently on the river, and several hundred colonists, expecting to find improvements already made, arrived the same season. The colony gradually declined.

BATTLE OF WOOD LAKE.

YELLOW MEDICINE COUNTY. Trunk Highway 67.

LOCATION. NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 9, T. 114 N., R. 38 W., Sioux Agency Township.

INSCRIPTION. Near this point, on September 23, 1862, during the Sioux Outbreak, Little Crow's warriors ambushed Gen. Sibley's troops. An advance party of the Third Minnesota Developed the position, and with the arrival of reinforcements a sharp fight occurred. The Indians were defeated, with white losses of 41 killed and wounded. A State Monument marks the site.

UPPER SIOUX AGENCY.

YELLOW MEDICINE COUNTY. Trunk Highway 67.

LOCATION. Nearest point to SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 29, T. 115 N., R. 38 W., probably in Sec. 5 of said township.

INSCRIPTION. In 1854 the agency for the Upper Sioux Indians was established near the Yellow Medicine River about a mile from its mouth, and some two miles north of this point. During the Sioux Outbreak in August, 1862, many whites from this agency and nearby missions were escorted to safety by friendly Indians.

LE SUEUR.

LE SUEUR COUNTY. Tunk Highway 169.

LOCATION. Le Sueur City.

INSCRIPTION. Named for Pierre Charles Le Sueur, French explorer who passed this site in 1700, this town on the old Red River Trail includes two towns, Le Sueur and Le Sueur City, which were alid out in 1852-53, on Prairie La Fleche, about a mile apart. Consolidation and incorporation occurred by legislative act in 1867.

RUSSELL TRADING POST.

BENTON COUNTY. Trunk Highway 10.

LOCATION. L.6 miles north of Sauk Rapids.

INSCRIPTION. In 1849 Jeremiah Russell came from Crow Wing to take charge of the Sauk Rapids post of the reorganized American Fur Company, just west of here, which had been built by Henry M. Rice the preceeding year. By 1854 Russell was operating the low building of the post as a totel. The site ismarked.