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Topic: Fort Ripley.

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Notes only.

Research incomplete.

tax, interest, penalty and costs, public lands, ditch liens, and county revenue), total for each, and total daily collections. Arr. alph. by name of local unit, chron. thereunder. No index. Handwritten under pr. heads. 240 pp. 18 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Unlabeled vol., and vols. 2-7, 1901-30, bsmt. va.; vols. 8-9, 1931--, off. va.

For treasurer's register of daily collections, 1887--, see entry 265.

20. CURRENT TAX COLLECTION REGISTER, 1913-21. 2 vols. Daily register of current tax collections for each local unit, showing name of township or village, date of collection, receipt number, amount, and total daily collections. Arr. alph. by name of twp. or village, chron. thereunder. No index. 480 pp. 16 x 12 x 2. Bsmt. va.

21. DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTIONS, AUDITOR, 1873-78. 1 vol. Record of collections arising from sale of tax delinquent lands, showing name of owner, description of land, amount of tax, amount of costs, total amount of sale, to whom sold, and remarks. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Handwritten under pr. heads. 300 pp. 18 x 15 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Attic.

22. REGISTER OF RECEIPTS DELINQUENT TAXES, 1881--. 4 vols. (one unlabeled; 2-4). Daily register of delinquent real estate tax collections, showing date of collection, receipt number, description of property, tax years, amounts of tax, penalty, and costs, total, and total daily collections. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Handwritten under pr. heads. 300 to 480 pp. 14 x 9 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 14 x 9 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

23. DELINQUENT TAXES COLLECTED, 1878-83. 1 vol. Record of delinquent tax collections and distribution of same, showing date of collection, receipt number, amount classified under county revenue, State revenue, township or village, school tax, and road and bridge, total for each, and total amount of all collections. Arr. chron. by date of collection. No index. Handwritten under pr. heads. 200 pp. 16 x 14 x 1. Bsmt. va.

24. REGISTER OF TAX RECEIPTS, 1879-1901. 3 vols. (one unlabeled; 1, 2). Title varies; Taxes Collected, 1879-83, 1 vol. Record of current tax collections and distribution of same, showing name of local unit, year of tax, date of collection, receipt number, description of land, amount classified under county revenue, State revenue, special tax, school tax, township and village, road and bridge, and poor, total for each, and total of all collections. Arr. alph. by name of local unit, chron. thereunder. No index. Handwritten under pr. heads. 320 pp. 17 x 15 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ .



Alexis Bailley Papers-copies in Minnesota Historical Society.  
(Minnesota History, 8:180).

The Military Engineer, No. 158, p. 129, March and April 1936.

P. C. Bettenberg and E. B. Miller, History and Development of Camp Ripley.

Minnesota Historical Society Collections 6:435, 436.

Wm. T. Boutwell, "Frederick Ayer, teacher and missionary to Ojibway Indians, 1829-1850".

Val E. Kasperek, President of Morrison County Historical Society,  
Court House, Little Falls.

#### Holdings

There is a group of 1111 biographies, representing the work of a WPA project sponsored by the local historical society, 1936-1938. Miscellaneous pieces consist of histories of school districts, townships, villages, post offices, and churches; articles and newspaper clippings dealing with subjects of local interest, lists of officers commanding Fort Ripley and of enlisted men from Morrison County serving in Civil, Spanish-American and World Wars, 18 items, including letters and data regarding Pike's Stocade, 1936-1937; six letters regarding restoration of Fort Ripley by Adjutant General E. A. Walsh, 1937-1940. (See "Guide to Depositories of Manuscript Collections in the U.S.: Minnesota")  
(Materials are available to interested persons. There is no copy service.)

#### Maps.

#### Fort Ripley.

Location of Fort Ripley found in Building Minnesota by Theo. C. Bleggen,  
Page 15.



F O R T   R I P L E Y.

The history of Fort Ripley properly begins at a much earlier period than 1849, when the post was established.

M.H.  
V.11,  
P.372

"James McGill wintered at Crow Wing River as early as 1771. In 1837 Clement H. Beaulieu established a trading post near the mouth of the river. Henry M. Rice also had an establishment in this locality at this time."

V.19  
P.353

"Captain Edwin V. Sumner's meeting with the Red River half-breeds in 1845, the establishment of the American Fur Company post at Pembina, and the presence of the United States Troops at Fort Snelling and later at Fort Ripley were among the causes of alarm on the part of the officers of the Hudson's Bay Company."

V. 9  
P.260

"In November, 1848, General George M. Brooks of St. Louis, with staff officers and a squad of dragoons, proceeded up the Minnissippi to the old trading post of Crow Wing and selected a site for a military post on the west bank of the Mississippi just below the mouth of the Nakasippi River.

Captain Napoleon J. T. Dana, later Colonel of the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, was ordered to superintend the work. Temporary log buildings were erected to house the workmen, a sawmill was built, and logs were prepared during the winter. In all, sixteen frame buildings were erected on three sides of a square whose opening faced the Mississippi, with two angles guarded by log blockhouses. On May 13, 1849, Company A of the Sixth United States Infantry arrived from Fort Snelling under Captain J. B. S. Todd to form the garrison."

"Protection for the Winnebago Indians, who had been assigned to lands in Minnesota after ceding their Iowa lands, and the checking

## F O R T   R I P L E Y

M.H. of Sioux-Chippewa hostilities were among the objects that led the  
V.9  
P.260. government to set up this fort in north central Minnesota. \* \* \* \*

261.        "The fort was compelled to depend upon a ferry for its connection with the military road from Fort Snelling to Crow Wing, \*\*\*\*. Occasionally floating ice would carry the ferry down stream and on one occasion it upset in mid-stream and one soldier was drowned. The first eight years of Fort Ripley were peaceful ones; a faithful record of its routine and casual happenings is to be found in the manuscript diary of the Chaplain, the Reverend Solon W. Manney, in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society. \* \* \* \* Upon the withdrawal of the garrison in June, 1857, the Chippewa became unruly and a number of depredations occurred. Three Indians murdered a German peddler and shortly afterward the guilty men were lynched by a party of whites. Late in August reports of trouble to be expected from Chief Hole-in-the-Day caused hurried calls for troops to be sent from Fort Snelling and their arrival at Fort Ripley checked the excitement."

M.H.        "A very interesting record of the life and conditions at Fort  
V.9  
P.249 Ripley is the diary kept by the Reverend Solon W. Manney during the eight years when he was Chaplain at the fort, from 1851 to 1859. Life at this frontier post was for the most part uneventful but by no means dull. Manney held religious services, taught school, visited the sick, assisted in the post office, and served on boards to examine miscreants. The brief entry for March 20, 1856, "No Service, Had to fix the stove pipe," would seem to indicate that he also performed the duties of sexton in the chapel. On one occasion Hole-in-the-Day, the Chippewa Chief, and his wives took tea with Manney and they discussed 'the introduction of Christianity among his tribe



F O R T   R I P L E Y .

M. H.  
V. 9,  
P.250

and also \* \* \* his own views and feelings in regard to it.' On Manney's birthday the 'Gentlemen and Ladies of the Garrison', as he puts it, dined with him. Dining was no small item in his life. Seldom does he neglect to record what he had for dinner, and often he notes little else. In August of each year there are numerous entries such as this: 'Green corn for dinner. Very fine' It is hard to tell whether green corn or green peas held the more prominent place in his affections. It is certain that green peas were important enough to be coupled with the firing of a national salute on the Fourth of July. Here is the entry: 'July 4, 1858, Sunday: Morning Service in the Chapel. National Salute of 33 Guns fired at Noon. Green peas for dinner.' Perhaps the reason for this tender affection for vegetables was the fact that he raised them in his own garden, upon which he lavished a great deal of time and care.

Manney kept a more or less faithful record of temperatures. On January 23, 1854, he wrote: 'Mercury in Ther. frozen. Ther. graduated to 45° \* \* \* Mercury clear below the bulb \* \* \* some mercury was put in a charcoal cup and exposed. It froze solid in less than 15 minutes.' He records marriages, births, deaths, and baptisms at the fort, and he never fails to enter the text of his sermon on Sunday. An interesting entry is that recording the sale of the reservation on October 20, 1857. 'Besides the six claimants who were allowed to enter their land at \$1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ! ~~he~~ he writes, 'the whole Reserve, about 60,000 acres sold for 1800 dollars, 3 cts. an acre. The last 40 acres sold, brought the highest price, 25 cts.'

On July 31, 1857, shortly after the withdrawal of the troops from the fort, Manney wrote: "We may now expect personal violence and murders and the destruction of property on the ceded lands and



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all along the frontier. The withdrawal of the troops from this section can result in nothing else." His fears proved to be well founded.

M. H.  
V. 9,  
P.253

"At the time of the Sioux Outbreak in 1862 rumors spread among the white people of central Minnesota that the Chippewa under Hole-in-the-Day were planning an attack. There was general panic; martial law was proclaimed over the surrounding country by the command at Fort Ripley; and settlers of the region fled to the fort for protection. Although no attack was made, it was some time before the excitement died down. \* \* \* E. Steele Peake, in a letter to his wife dated at Fort Ripley, September 12, 1862, reports that 'Hole-in-the-Day's house was burned last night, supposed to be by the Indians though soldiers and citizens had threatened it' " \* \* \*

P. 263

"Of the many buildings of the original fort all have been levelled by time and circumstance save one, an old powder magazine of hewn stone and brick, the battered walls of which are still standing."

M.H.  
V. 9  
P.201

Miss Abby Fuller married Samuel B. Abbe at St.Paul in 1858 and two years later went to live at Crow Wing. From their home there the Abbes fled to Fort Ripley in 1862 when it seemed likely that the Chippewa would join the Sioux in the uprising of that year, and when that danger was past they returned to St.Paul.

P. 259

At a convention of the Minnesota Historical Society held at Brainerd in 1928, a large contingent of people from Brainerd and the village of Fort Ripley were waiting for the tourists at a

F O R T   R I P L E Y .

M. H.  
V.9,  
P.259  
cont.

natural park on the east bank of the Mississippi, nearly opposite the site of old Fort Ripley. Here a picnic luncheon was served. After the luncheon some two hundred people formed a semi-circle about an improvised speaker's stand and the first session of the convention was opened, with Theodore C. Blegen, assistant Superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society presiding.

M. H.  
V. 21  
P.231

"The government roads formed a net-work over the whole area of Minnesota, centering in the region about the head of navigation on the Mississippi and spreading out like the spokes of a wheel. One road extended northward through the St. Croix Valley toward Lake Superior, \* \* \*. A second followed the western bank of the Mississippi southward to the foot of Lake Pepin. \* \* \* A third road followed the Minnesota Valley southward to the great bend of the river, where Mankato now stands,\* \* \*. A fourth followed the Mississippi northward as far as the new fort--first called Fort Gaines but afterward renamed Fort Ripley--near the mouth of the Crow Wing river.

M.H.  
V.8,  
P.63

\* \* \* "British traders, too, were alleged to be operating south of the border in opposition to American traders,\* \* \*. To deal with these problems it was proposed to establish a military post on or near the Red River some two hundred miles or less from the newly created post of Fort Gaines, later known as Fort Ripley, on the upper Mississippi. \* \* \*

P. 74

\* \* \* "On the 26th of August, 1849, Capt. Pope wishing to survey Red River &c with Lieut. Gardiner and the 1st Serg. of Dragoons, left Pembina in a canoe 31 feet long, manned by 15



F O R T   R I P L E Y .

Ibid.  
P.74      half-breeds and made Fort Gaines, about 1200 miles by water, in 28 days.\* \* \*

M. H.  
V.15,  
P.19-  
20.  
  
n. 4      \* \* \* The first paper to be printed on Minnesota soil was the Minnesota Chronicle, dated May 31, 1849.\* \* \*The second Minnesota printing point was at Cass Lake in the wilderness of northern Minnesota with the Reverend Alonzo Barnard and others, missionaries to the Chippewa Indians. "Since Cass Lake has not previously been regarded as the second Minnesota printing point, it seems worth while to present herewith the authorities on which this statement is based. The financial record of the American Missionary Association, in the library of Oberlin College contains the following item: 'April, June & August, 1849. Collected from Oberlin toward Printing Press for Sass Lake, \$14.75.' \* \* \*

Ibid.  
P.22      "The third printing point in Minnesota was St. Anthony, eight miles farther up the river than St.Paul."\* \* \*The paper was called the St.Anthony Express, which began publication on May 31, 1851.

Ibid.  
P,23      "The fourth location at which printing was undertaken in Minnesota was as unusual as the second. It was Fort Ripley, an army post on the west bank of the Mississippi a little below the mouth of the Crow Wing River." \* \* \*

M. H.  
V.11,  
P.444      "That the war department archives include important material about the expeditions into the Northwest of Stephen H. Long and Joseph N. Nicollet is revealed by the calendar cards for papers in the offices of topographical engineers and of commander in chief of the army, recently received from Dr. Newton D. Mereness, the archival agent at Washington of a group of historical agencies.



F O R T   R I P L E Y .

M.H.  
V.11  
P.444  
cont.      Many of the cards also are for papers that relate to Forts Snelling, Ripley, and Ridgely during the fifties.

Ibid.  
P.308      \* \* \* "An early contact with Fort Ripley on the upper Mississippi is revealed: in 1853, after a United States post office had been established at this point, 'the people at Red River organized a monthly mail service to and from the fort and so for the first time came into what was, for them, frequent touch with the world outside.' "

M.H.  
V.2,  
P.21      "Concurrently with these continually improving means of traffic the postal system of the United States was established, and gladly taken advantage of by the isolated settlement north of the boundary. In 1853 a regular monthly mail service was begun between Fort Garry and Fort Ripley, then the farthest advanced United States Post-office." \* \* \*

M. H.  
V.15,  
P.395      "My father, Thomas McLean Newson, in 1854, founded and edited the Saint Paul Daily Times, the Republican organ of the city, in which for seven years he determinedly espoused the stand of the eastern abolitionists, somewhat to his own detriment and danger. It was to be expected then that, when the Civil War broke out, he would apply to the Union army." \* \* \*

Ibid.  
P.396      "His regiment was finally stationed at ~~Six Paul~~ St. Cloud, and the family, consisting of my mother and three little girls, was sent for. My only recollection of the journey is of the old stage and narrow swinging leather seat without a back, upon which we children sat." \* \* \*

F O R T   R I P L E Y.

M.H.  
V.15,  
P.396  
cont.

"At St.Cloud another little sister was born, and in mid-winter father was ordered to Fort Ripley. The family carriage, drawn by the team, Prince and Old Gray, was hung around with army blankets. On the floor was a feather bed on which mother sat with the baby in her arms and my sisters Hattie and Nellie and myself beside her. Each was provided with a hot brick. Shut from us by a blanket curtain, on the front seat were father, who drove, and Uncle Charles Brown, father's secretary. Part of the way through the country infested with bands of hostile Indians we were escorted by twenty cavalrymen. Later we went on alone through a cold old-fashioned Minnesota winter with much snow. When, stopping at midday for rest and refreshment, we entered a pine shack heated by a glowing cast-iron stove, red-hot in spite of the zero weather outside, the bottle of brandy and milk that we had with us for an emergency burst, and we discovered that the baby's cheeks were frost-bitten."

"My next vivid memory is of being awakened at night at Fort Ripley by much commotion and gun shots and hearing father tell mother that a sentry had fired at an Indian sneaking up the embankment of the ~~garrison~~ fort. The garrison had been aroused in time and if an attack had been planned by the enemy it was rendered futile. The word 'Indian' still recalls my shivers of terror, for we children could not help hearing the many stories of massacres and thrilling escapes." \* \* \*

M.H.

M.H.  
V.19,  
P.102  
103

"A valuable list of 'Military Roads in the United States' is included in a pamphlet on Military Roads.\* \* \* Among the Minnesota roads listed are those from Fort Snelling to Fort Leavenworth, from Mendota to Wabasha and to Mankato, from ~~Minneapolis~~ Minneapolis to Fort Ripley



F O R T   R I P L E Y.

M.H.     Ridgely, from Point Douglas to Fort Ripley and to Duluth, from Swan  
V. 19  
P.102     River to Long Prairie, from Mankato to the Missouri River, and from  
103     Duluth to the Bois Fort Reservation."

M.H.     "Luxuries seem to have found their way even to the remote Minne-  
V.16  
P. 379     sota frontier. At Crow Wing, near Fort Ripley on the upper Missisappi  
in 1860 a Christmas dinner of oyster soup, roast turkey, plum pud-  
ding, coffee, and 'fixins' was enjoyed by Mr. and Mrs. Samuel B. Abbe  
and their guests. The oysters had been sent to Mrs. Abbe by a friend  
at St.Cloud. With her husband she had only recently removed from St.  
Paul to Crow Wing, where he was a trader and a townsite promoter,  
Their first Christmas at this remote post was far from lonely. A  
few days before the holiday they attended a party at the home of  
P.380     Clement H. Beaulieu, a French and Indian mixed-blood who was a  
trader at Crow Wing. He'sent to St.Cloud(eighty miles) for music'.  
In a letter written on December 30, 1860, Mrs. Abbe reports that her  
host served 'an elegant supper', and though she did not consider the  
party 'quite as elegant as some of our St.P(aul) affairs of the kind  
(it) was n(o)t to be despised. The garrison were all present & all  
down from the Agency....and the arrowstocracy of Crow Wing.' After  
church services on Christman morning the Reverend and Mrs. E. S.  
Peake, local missionaries of the Episcopal church, went home to  
dinner with the Abbes. In the evening they all attended a party  
at Fort Ripley, where there was a Christmas tree, and where Mrs.  
Abbe received a 'very pretty embroidered cushion' and her husband  
'came into possession of a watch case with a mouse in it'. Among  
the guests were the wives and daughters of the commandant and the  
post surgeon, and six or seven bachelors. 'The young ladies are



F O R T   R I P L E Y .

M.H.        having a good time generally,' comments Mrs. Abbe. She herself ap-  
V.16  
P.380        proved of only one or two of the young men; the others she found  
cont.        'like the rest of the brass buttons'."

M.H.        "A manuscript recently received from Miss Abby A. Fuller of St.  
V.4  
P.72        Paul contains direct evidence concerning the Chippewa disturbances  
under the leadership of Hole-in-the-Day which occurred in northern  
Minnesota coincident with the Sioux Outbreak. It is an account writ-  
ten by Miss Fuller's aunt, Mrs. Abby Fuller Abbe, relating her exper-  
iences and those of her husband at Crow Wing and at Fort Ripley in  
1862. Mrs. Abbe asserts that Hole-in-the-Day attempted to cooperate  
with Little Crow, but that his plans were frustrated by Chippewas who  
were friendly to the whites."

M.H.        Among some interesting and unusual papers presented to the His-  
V.20,  
P.191        torical Society are some typed copies of perhaps twenty letters writ-  
ten by Wilfred J. Whitefield. They are full of details about camps,  
lines of march, topography, Indian fighting, and frontier forts like  
Ridgely, Abercrombie, Ripley and Snelling.

P.192        "Three small Sioux and Civil war diaries kept by Edson D. Wash-  
burn, a member of Company E., Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry,  
have been presented by his son, Mr. Edson Washburn of St. Paul. They  
contain a record of Washburn's service in 1863 at Fort Ripley and  
Paynesville, where his company was stationed for the protection of  
the Minnesota frontier after the Sioux Outbreak." \* \* \*

M.H.        "The letters of Eliab Parker Mackintire of Boston, written between  
V.17  
P.224        1845 & 1863, to Reverend William Salter of Burlington, Iowa, which

F O R T R I P L E Y.

M.H. were originally published with an introduction and notes by

V.17

P.224 Philip D. Jordan in the Bulletin of the New York Public Library  
cont.

(see ante, 16:111), have been issued as a separate (1936.168p.)

Among the letters for 1862 are three that Mackintire wrote to his son-in-law, a Congregational missionary, during a summer visit to P.225 Minnesota. They are dated at St. Paul, Little Falls, and Anoka, and they include the writer's impression not only of those places, but also of St. Cloud, Fort Ripley, and Crow Wing." \* \* \*

M.H.

V.2

P.340

"The mere raising of men was no easy matter. June 12, 1861, the federal government announced that a second regiment would be accepted. Five companies were mustered in within a week, but the rest were obtained only slowly. Along the frontier were three forts, Ridgely, Ripley and Abercrombie, where small garrisons were always kept to insure safety of the outlying settlements in case of Indian uprisings." \* \* \*

M.H.

V.18

P.208

"Fifty-six documents relating to Fort Ridgely and Fort Ripley in the period from 1848 to 1885 have been copied for the society by the photostatic process from the originals in the war department and the general land office in Washington, D. C. Included are data on the establishment of the two posts, maps of the two reservations, a report on the inspection of the garrisons in 1857, a ground plan of Fort ~~Ripley~~ Ridgely.....and an account dated 1873 of the attempted sale of Fort Ripley reservation."



F O R T   R I P L E Y.

M.H.            "The site of Fort Ripley is included in a purchase of ground for  
V.12  
P.101 a National Guard encampment to be known as Camp Ripley. Here the re-  
mains of the old fort will be preserved, ~~according~~ according to an  
announcement published in the Brainerd Daily Dispatch for October  
8, 1936."

M.H.            A port-hole from a block house at old Fort Ripley dating from the  
V.15  
P.116 seventies, has been added to the museum of the Minnesota Historical  
Society, and was the gift of Mr. Ellsworth W. Smith of Little Falls  
in 1933.

M.H.            Rev. E. Steele Peake arrived in Minnesota in 1855, when he went  
V.20  
P.431 to Shakopee as a home missionary\* \* \* In 1856 he went to northern  
Minnesota to serve as a missionary to the Chippewa. There at Gull  
Lake, Fort Ripley and Crow Wing, he remained until he became chaplain  
for the Twenty-eighth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War.

M.H.S.C.            Location and Building of Fort Ripley.

V.10-Pat, 1)  
P.181            The occasion of building Fort Ripley is supplied in a letter by  
Gen. N.J.T.Dana, as follows:

"Just after the close of the War with Mexico, the Government consummated a treaty with the Winnebago Indians, then residing within the limits of Iowa, by the terms of which they transferred to the United States all their lands in that state, receiving in return a beautiful tract in Minnesota, the eastern boundary of which extended from near the mouth of the Crow Wing river southward along the Mississippi to a little below Sauk Rapids.



## FORT RIPLEY.

M.H.S.C.  
V.10-part 1  
P.181  
cont.

"Among the obligations assumed by the United States by that treaty was the location and construction of a cantonment, and the stationing of a garrison thereat within the limits of the new Indian grant, near the mouth of the Crow Wing river. This condition was the cause of the unfortunate location of Fort Ripley. Brigadier General George M. Brooke, a veteran of the war of 1812, was at the time the commander of the military department which embraced the new Winnebago reservation, with his headquarters at St. Louis. Having received ~~the~~ instructions from the War Department as to the location of the new post under the terms of the ~~treaty~~ Winnebago treaty, he proceeded to Crow Wing in the month of November, 1848, with a squadron of dragoons and several staff-officers; and, after reconnoitering the country, finally decided that the terms of the Winnebago treaty and his instructions made it his duty to locate the new post on the western bank of the Mississippi nearly opposite to the mouth of the Nokasippi river.

"Being on duty in Boston at this time I received orders to report to General Brooke, and did so accordingly, at the earliest possible moment, and found the Post already located, and the General about returning to St. Louis. I was an officer of the Quartermaster's Department, and he left me there to build the Fort. The country was already covered with snow. A portable saw-mill was put in operation, and the winter passed in getting out lumber and erecting temporary accommodations for a small gang of carpenters and laborers. In the spring of 1849, Company A of the Sixth Infantry at Fort Snelling was moved up to the new site, the commander of which was Capt. John B. S. Todd, who was the first commanding officer of the Post, called Fort Gaines, in honor of Brigadier General Edmund

# F O R T R I P L E Y.

Ibid. P. Gaines, then stationed at New Orleans.  
p.182

"Subsequently his name was given to a new permanent fortification in process of construction at the entrance of Mobile Bay; and the cantonment in the Winnebago country was named Fort Ripley by the War Department in honor of Gen. Eleazor W. Ripley, a distinguished officer of the War of 1812. This name was officially announced November 4th, 1850."

"General Dana superintended the work for two years. The builder of the fort was Mr. Jesse H. Pomroy, of St. Paul." \* \* \*

"Rev. Mr. Manney, the first chaplain at Fort Ripley, was commended to us," says General Dana, "by good Bishop Kemper, and was elected before I left there. Rev. Frederick Ayer, a Presbyterian minister, who had been a teacher among the Ojibways at Sandy Lake, had established himself near the lower end of the military reservation, on the east side of the river near Little Falls, and was most kind in officiating at one or two funerals for the families at Fort Ripley. In the winter of 1850 I carried the venerable chaplain of both Fort Snelling, Father Gear, to Fort Ripley in a sleigh, and we enjoyed the visit greatly." \* \* \*

"The location of the post was on the west bank of the Mississippi about twenty miles above the mouth of the Swan River, and seven miles south of Crow Wing, at a point where the channel runs southwest. The distance by wagon road from St. Paul was one hundred and fifty miles. The road lay along the east bank of the Mississippi, with no approach to the fort except by ferry. The Post Reserve was a mile square and was surrounded by a dense forest. The fort was situated on a plateau elevated a little ~~more~~ above the river, and consisted of several story and a half buildings constructed of wood, forming three sides of a square, with the open side facing the stream.



F O R T   R I P L E Y .

Ibid.  
P.183      On the right, looking towards the quadrangle, were the quarters of the officers, the chaplain's residence, and the sutler's store; on the left, also quarters for officers, a room set apart for a chapel, and a hospital; while the third side was filled by the barracks for the soldiers. The northwest and southwest corners were flanked by block-houses of logs, with port-holes commanding the sides of the fort. The houses stood some fifteen to twenty feet apart, so that there was a free entrance between, excepting on the east side, where there was a stockade built of logs set on end."

M.H.S.C.  
V.12  
P.226      J. H. McKenny was the person detailed to take the Winnebago Indians to their new home at Fort Ripley, and he was made sutler there in 1849.

Ibid.  
P. 667      "Just as our surveying party were ~~going~~ into camp one evening in 1862, at the 'Big Bend' of the Mississippi, five miles below Fort Ripley, we met a man who told us there were three hundred Indians at the Agency on Crow Wing river, seven miles from its mouth; that they had made most of the employees there prisoners, and expected to attack Fort Ripley that night. We thought it safer to go on to the fort where we arrived at about 9 P.M. Settlers from the surrounding country were coming in all night.

"There were but twenty-six soldiers in the fort, raw recruits from the southern part of the state, who had enlisted for the war. They had been chasing Hole-in-the-Day for a week, had shot at him across the river as he landed from a birch canoe on the opposite side, robbed his house of a very fine rifle and other keepsakes that had been given him at Washington, and were so tired that they asked us to help them do duty. No attack was made, but a false

## FORT RIPLEY.

M.H.S.C.  
Vol. 12,  
P. 667  
cont.

alarm about midnight turned out every one in the fort. Men, women, and children, could be seen running from one building to another in their night clothes. Had the Indians made an attack, they might have killed the greater part of us, for we could not ~~dash~~ dare to shoot on account of the danger of killing our own people. \* \* \*

"We remained at the fort for a week, doing garrison duty all the time. We tore down some log houses and finished the stockade, which previously had been built only a third of the way around the buildings, having been abandoned because the appropriation was exhausted. Two little cannon, which had been used on the parade ground for salutes, we mounted in the two blockhouses at opposite corners of the stockade, so that we could rake all four sides in case of an attack by the Indians. All this time we enjoyed the government rations, including the canteen. Having put this military fort on a war footing, we held a council and decided that it was not safe to go on up to Pine river with our outfit and teams. We were not afraid that the Indians would do us any bodily harm, but a lot of young bucks on the war path, without any commissary, would not respect our rights to property which they needed very much more than we did. So we returned down the river.



F O R T   R I P L E Y .

M.S.S.  
E.Steele  
Peake  
Papers

One of the best known men to figure in the Fort Ripley history was Hole-in-the-Day, a Chippewa Chief. Some of his ventures may prove interesting and we herewith relate a few of them.

"In 1852 or 53, Hole-in-the-Day consulted Father Gear about a missionary, and expressed himself as being willing and anxious that the ways of civilization and christianity be taught to him and his people. Later, according to all accounts, he seems to have had much difficulty in sticking to the straight and narrow path.

"We find him giving whiskey to the Indians and opposing the missionaries from time to time. My father used to tell a story of him. His home was at Crow Wing where there was a Government Agency of which my father was an employee. A band of five Sioux came up the river and murdered and scalped an Indian family who were camped some distance from the rest of the village. They sank their canoes and started back on foot.

"Hole-in-the-Day heard of it and took the stage and travelled till he passed them, then got out and hid in the brush. He had the first repeating rifle that was brought into the upper country. He shot all of them with it; cut off their heads and put them into a gunny sack and waited for the stage coming up from St. Paul. When he got back to Crow Wing he walked into the agency and dumped his heads out of the sack upon the floor."

"He built him a large house like a white mans and furnished it with many Boston rocking chairs and nothing else. He set up his wigwam in the largest room and lived in it. So much for Hole-in-the-Day. I tell you these stories to give you something of a picture of the times."

F O R T R I P L E Y.

M.H.S.C.  
Vol.4  
P.261

"The Pioneer, of May 16, 1850, graphically describes a daring act of Hole-in-the-Day, the Chippewa chieftain, who used to be so well known in St. Paul:

"On Wednesday, the 15th, at about 1 p.m., there was a great excitement in Saint Paul--Indians yelling at each other across the river, and running up and down the shores, canoes crossing the river, and everything betokening the utmost exasperation. It seems news has reached them that a party of Sioux were overtaken a short distance out of St. Paul, and two murdered and three taken prisoners. At this moment, a company of the Sioux have started northward through town, stripped of their blankets, in pursuit of the dastardly murderers. This is the first blow (if the story be true) struck by the Chippewas in revenge of the 14 of their tribe, murdered the other day in a sugar camp, by the Sioux.

"P.S. About sunset, on Wednesday, the Sioux returned, with the corpse of one man, (who seems to be the only one murdered,) whom they had in a canoe, nailed up in a box, covered with a red pall. Just at dark, they left the lower landing in sadness, with their canoes, for their village, four miles down the river.

"The murder, which was a most daring feat, was committed by Hole-in-the-Day. He secreted his canoe in the mouth of the creek that runs from 'Fountain Cave', and, with one or two warriors, crossed the river, attacked several Sioux, and killed and scalped one, and got off with the scalp before quite a body of the Sioux, who were near by, could get the alarm. It was a most audacious act. The ~~the~~ Pioneer, of May 23, says:

"A gentleman, just down from Fort Gaines, says that, on his way down, he met the Chippewa chief, Hole-in-the-Day, with the



F O R T R I P L E Y.

M.H.S.C.  
Vol.4,  
P.262  
cont.

scalp of the young Sioux Indian, which that brave took last week in this neighborhood, divided into quarters. He was in fine feather. At night he and his followers had a scalp-dance. In his descent on the Sioux, in the short space of 24 hours, he marched 80 miles, committed the murder, and started for home again."

The last chapter in his life is a story told in the Little Falls Transcript, under the date of Feb.6,1880, which is herewith submitted:

Little  
Falls  
Trans-  
cript.  
Feb.6,  
1880.

"Among the Chippewa warriors old Hole-in-the-Day and his son, bearing the same name, are supposed to have been the greatest. Old Hole-in-the-Day, when a boy, resided near Sandy Lake, but after he became a man he resided mostly in Morrison County, generally near the mouth of Little Elk River. After a brilliant career as a great chief and warrior, he died at the residence of some half-breeds, about two miles north of Little Falls, on the east side of the Mississippi river. At his own request he was buried on a high eminence near by, on the range of bluffs east of the river.

"His son succeeded him as Chippewa Chief, gained a national reputation, not on account of his good qualities, but on account of his successful raids against their enemies, the Sioux Indians. He had the pleasure of taking off many of their scalps with his own hands, and a very good job he made of it. Some specimens that I saw him bring up at one time included, not only the whole scalp, but a pair of ears besides, which, from their appearance, were not accustomed to the use of soap. He was always a very hard chief to make a treaty with, making very exorbitant demands from the government, and giving the agents generally a large

## FORT RIPLEY.

Little amount of trouble.

Falls  
Trans-  
cript,  
cont.

"In the fall of 1862, simultaneous with the Sioux outbreak of that year, Hole-in-the-Day proceeded to organize the Chippewa Warriors for an attack upon the white settlers of northern Minnesota. It is generally believed that his attack was first delayed, and finally abandoned because Hole-in-the-Day failed to get all of the Chippewa bands to unite with him in a war against the whites. The Mille Laes band sent him word that in case of war they would join the whites and fight against him, and without doubt, there was a strong element in his own camp opposed to his scheme. After a delay of about three weeks Hole-in-the-Day disbanded his warriors, greatly to the relief of the whole adjacent country. Simultaneously with the Sioux outbreak of 1862, information of his movements was sent to the officers in command at Fort Ripley. A squad of about six soldiers was sent to capture him. He was in the village of Crow Wing but managed to evade the soldiers and escape. He crossed the Mississippi at the ferry, the soldiers arriving on the opposite bank just as he got across. They fired several shots at him as he escaped over the river bank. In a few days his house was burned down by some unknown person. The next year after peace was made, he went to Washington and got an appropriation of six thousand dollars on account of the burning of his house, and a section of land at Gull Lake. He did not go there to live, but resided at the old Chippewa agency, about six miles west of the mouth of the Crow Wing river and on that stream.

"It shows that Hole-in-the-Day was something of a financier as well as a warrior. He again visited Washington in 1866 for the purpose of improving his financial condition, but this time he was not quite as successful as he had been on former occasions. But he



F O R T R I P L E Y .

Little  
Falls  
Trans-  
cript.  
cont.

got what he appeared to prize more than anything else, unless it might have been a Sioux scalp in bygone days; what he got was a white wife. A waiter girl at a hotel in Washington succeeded in capturing his highness. He brought her to his home and treated her as his wife, and discarded his squaw wives for the remainder of his life. She had one child while living with him, and after his death she tried to get his property, but did not succeed on account of not being able to prove he married her.

Shortly after his death she returned to Washington, taking with her little Hole-in-the-Day from the far off land of the Chipewas. Hole-in-the-Day came to his end in the summer of 1868. While driving home from Crow Wing, some Leech Lake Indians lay in ambush not far from his home; and as he drove past they shot him in the back, killing him instantly. Having become a member of the Catholic Church, he was buried in the cemetery of that Church at Crow Wing.

M.H.S.C.  
V.10,  
Part 1  
P193

"The withdrawal of the troops from Fort Ripley, which had been under consideration for some time, was effected early in 1857. On the 25th of March the intelligence reached the fort, through a general order published in the New York Herald, that the Tenth Regiment was ordered to Leavenworth, and the Post was to be abandoned. On the 20th of the following month it was learned that Fort Snelling also was to be vacated and sold. In June, Lieutenant Kelly received orders to go to Leavenworth; and in July the military stores at Fort Ripley were offered for sale."

Ibid.  
P.196

"The chief event concerning Fort Ripley in the latter part

## FORT RIPLEY.

M.H.S.C.  
V.10,  
Part 1,  
P. 196  
cont.

of this year 1857 was the attempted sale of the Reserve, together with the fort, by the War Department, which took place on the 20th of October. The Reserve and adjoining lands, to the amount in all of about 60,000 acres, in various lots, received <sup>as</sup> bids about \$1,800., or an average of three cents an acre. It was less than two months after the great financial panic of August, 1857, which disastrously affected business interests throughout the United States. These very low offers, being under the price of \$1.25 per acre required for valid sales of government lands, were not accepted."

M.H.S.C.  
Vol.6  
P.401  
Contributed  
by  
George  
W.  
Sweet.

Considering it the duty of each of the old settlers of the state, and especially members of the Minnesota Historical Society, to contribute facts within their personal knowledge relating to the principal events in the early settlement of our state, I beg leave to offer the following account:

"On the 20th day of August, 1862, a messenger came to me at Sauk Rapids, requesting me without delay to call upon the commissioner of Indian affairs, Wm. P. Dole, \* \* \* in St. Cloud. \* \* \* I lost no time in complying with the request. I found on reaching there, Maj. L. C. Walker, Chippewa Agent, who had just arrived from the Chippewa agency. \* \* \* He was greatly excited, \* \* \* and feared that all the prisoners in the hands of the Indians had already been massacred, in retaliation for the unsuccessful attempt made by him to capture Hole-in-the-Day. \* \* \* He urged me to attempt to open communication with the hostiles. \* \* \* After considerable parley, and upon the urgent solicitations of Commissioner Dole, I reluctantly consented to attempt the mission. \* \* \*

P.402

"Between Fort Ripley and Crow Wing I met Peter Roy, United



## FORT RIPLEY.

Ibid.  
P. 402  
cont.

P.403

States interpreter, accompanied by Bad Boy, one of the chiefs, both of whom urged me to turn around and not expose myself to danger.\* \* \* At Crow Wing I sought out Clement H. Beaulieu, Sr.,\* \* \*whom I informed of the mission I had undertaken, and requested him to accompany me to the hostile camp. He consented, though he expressed his fears that we ~~were~~ were too late to save the lives of the prisoners in the hands of the Indians, and suggested that we might possibly share their fate. Taking a team with George Fairbanks as driver, we reached within a half mile of the Indian camp, where we left our team and proceeded on foot to the creek between Gull and Round Lakes, where we were stopped by an armed Indian, a picket guard, but pushing by him, he gave the alarm by a loud cry of 'A white man in camp', and instantly, with a terrific war-whoop, the whole force of Indians sprang to arms,\* \* \* and we were surrounded by more than three hundred warriors.\* \* \* Crowding our way through the excited mass towards the headquarters of Hole-in-the-Day, \* \* \* we met the renowned chief, whose face looked paler than usual.\* \* \*

"At my request, he ordered the warriors to move back and give us room, whereupon they formed themselves into a semi-circle of about thirty feet in diameter. In spite of Hole-in-the-Day's motions to the contrary, Big Dog, a brave old chief, a personal friend of mine, forced his way up to me, and, grasping my hand, pressed it three times distinctly, which he afterwards explained to me as meaning that he would sacrifice his own life before I should be harmed. Two or three others attempted the hand shaking, but were ordered back.

"All being seated on the grass, I informed Hole-in-the-Day that I had come to him from the commissioner of Indian affairs, to learn from his own mouth, what his complaints were, and what were

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Ibid. his intentions; that is, ~~whik~~ whether he wanted war or peace with the  
P.403 white people. He replied that he did not want war, but only his  
rights.\* \* \* I replied to him that if his object was to have their  
P.404 wrongs redressed they could never accomplish it by force,\* \* \* and  
that I was authorized by the commissioner to say that he would be glad  
to listen to their complaints, and if well founded, they should have  
redress. He then said that was satisfactory, and he would meet the  
commissioner and settle all difficulties peaceably. \* \* \*

"Hole-in-the-Day sent a guard to accompany us about three  
miles so as to pass us beyond their picket line. \* \* \* When about a  
mile from the fort, I heard in the direction of the post a single  
shot followed by a volley. \* \* \*

"Crossing the river in a small boat a few minutes after this  
alarm, I came near being shot by a picket in the darkness, but, hear-  
P-405 ing the click of his gun as he cocked it,\* \* \* I hailed him and then  
kept still until he could get the guard out and satisfy them I did not  
intend to storm the fort.

"After informing the commanding officer as to the state of  
affairs,\* \* \* I was informed that the ladies of the post \* \* \* desired  
my presence. It was now about two a.m., but I found the ladies \* \* \*  
perspiring over a red-hot stove casting bullets.\* \* \* Assuring the  
ladies that there were no Indians within fifteen miles of them and no  
danger of an attack for at least two days, I left at three o'clock,  
and reached Little Falls at sunrise, where I met Capt. Hall on his  
way to Fort Ripley to assume command, accompanied by Capt. Charles H.  
Beaulieu. \* \* \*

P.407 "Having reported again to Commissioner Dole as to the result of  
my second visit to Hole-in-the-Day's camp,\* \* \* I left him at Fort



F O R T   R I P L E Y .

Ibid.  
P.407  
cont.      Ripley, desiring a little rest.\* \* \* In his attempt to get the Indians under Hole-in-the-Day into a cul de sac,\* \* \* Gen. Dole found himself outgeneraled by the wily Indian, and was completely surrounded and at the mercy of the Indians.

"Realizing his perilous situation after an ineffectual attempt to send to Fort Ripley for reinforcements, he essayed conciliation in a harangue contrasting strongly with the terrible threats made a few hours before at Fort Ripley. In trembling accents he commenced, 'My Dear Red Bretheren', and by these means a conflict was avoided.

"Hole-in-the-Day afterwards stated to me that he only wanted to show Gen. Dole that he was not so easily to be outgeneraled."

M.H.S.C.  
Vol.9,  
P. 54      "In describing the Ojibway people as seen during more than twenty years of missionary work among them, I cannot claim infallibility for the impressions I am about to record but only that they appeared so to me. It should be stated also that the names Ojibway and Chippewa are exactly synonymous, the latter being a more anglicized form of the same word.\* \* \*

Ibid.  
P.132      "In 1862, I visited the Sioux Mission on the upper Minnesota river.\* \* \*

"I visited the Ojibways, on my return, at Crow Wing, and while I was there a letter came to Hole-in-the-Day, in care of the Rev. Mr. Peake, marked, 'In haste'. Hole-in-the-Day was at Leech Lake. I sent for his head warrior, who opened the letter. It was from Little Crow, and said: 'Your men killed one of our farmer Indians. I tried to keep my men back. They have gone for scalps. Look out.' On my way to Red Lake, I found the Indians turbulent, and felt that

F O R T   R I P L E Y.

Ibid.  
P.132  
cont.      an impending cloud hung over our border. When it broke the only light which fell upon the scenes of bloodshed was that which came from the loyalty of those Christian Indians who rescued so many women and children from death. Enmegahbowh, who had been made a prisoner, escaped and travelled thirty miles in the night to warn Fort Ripley of its danger. He sent Chief Bad Boy to the Mille Lacs Indians to call them to the defense of the fort: and before Hole-in-the-Day could begin war, the northern border was protected. I can never forget the love and bravery of those Christian Indians who proved their fidelity at the risk of their lives."\* \* \*

M.H.S.C.  
Vol.15,  
P.401.      \* \* \* On May 26, 1857, the Secretary of War had commissioned Mr. William King Heiskell "an agent to examine the Fort Ripley reservation near the mouth of the Crow Wing river, with a view to its sale. There is a mystery about this appointment. The appointee, when questioned, less than a year after, could not tell how he happened to be appointed, nor how he learned of his appointment, nor whether he had any interview with the secretary on the subject. He had not asked for the appointment."\* \* \*

Ibid.  
P.461.      On the 20th of August, 1862, T. B. Walker and George B. Wright, the principal government surveyor of this region, left Minneapolis for a series of government surveys. As they arrived opposite St. Cloud they were told of the outbreak of the Sioux Indians and the murder and massacre of so many settlers. They continued their journey to Fort Ripley and stayed there, standing guard with a view to defend the fort against an army of Sioux that were reported coming from the New Ulm country, the region of the outbreak, and



F O R T   R I P L E Y .

Ibid.   also against an additional force of Chippewas who were reported as  
P.461  
cont.   coming down from Leech Lake to attack the fort.

P.462.   "On our way from St.Cloud to Little Falls, we met the Chippewa agent, Lucius C. Walker, coming down in a buggy with his driver, and he seemed not so much excited as instead to have a rather apprehensive look, saying that the Indians were trailing him down and were then going down parallel to the road that we were on, but two or three miles farther east, on the old Indian trail from Crow Wing to St. Cloud. He waited a little and told us about this, and then proceeded on to St.Cloud, where he left his buggy and took a saddle-horse, and, with his revolver for defense, continued to travel down the road. About three miles below Big Lake, his body was afterward found by the roadside, with a bullet through his head."\* \* \*

"After our surveying crew had remained at Fort Ripley for some time, we came away and the party disbanded."\* \* \*

Ibid.   Mr. Frederick Driscoll, an early settler and pioneer, well known  
P.689   newspaper man, physically disabled for field duty, was given a commission which he was unable to accept, but he rendered valuable service in the quartermaster's department at Fort Ripley and elsewhere, during the most trying season.

## FORT RIPLEY.

History  
of  
Minn. by  
Polwell  
Vol. 2,  
P. 374

Seven miles below the junction of the Crow Wing and Mississippi rivers, on the west side of the Mississippi, stood Fort Ripley, consisting of some small one-story Buildings arranged on three sides of a square open to the river. There was a garrison of about thirty men of Company C of the Fifth Minnesota Infantry.

✓ "On the very day of the Sioux Outbreak, August 18, <sup>1862</sup> Lucius C. Walker, the Chippewa agent, learned that a number of warriors were collecting on Gull Lake in the northern part of the reservation and were threatening to attack the agency. He at once dispatched a messenger to Fort Ripley asking for military protection. On the following morning the agent was so much impressed with what he believed to be immediate impending danger that he abandoned the agency and started for the fort. At Crow Wing he met a detachment of twenty soldiers 375 ✓ from the fort on their way to the agency. Walker, believing that the notorious Hole-in-the-Day, head chief of the Chippewa of the Mississippi, was responsible for the disturbances, gave the commander of the detachment a written order for his arrest. A squad chased the chieftain to his frame house not far distant, from which he escaped to the opposite bank of the river. After an exchange of shots with the soldiers, he fled to join the gathering on Gull Lake.

Ibid.  
P. 375

✓ "It was now learned that a large number of Pillagers from Leech Lake, who had robbed the private and government buildings there and were holding seven persons in temporary captivity, were coming down. A few cattle had been killed and some horses had been stolen on both reservations. Bad Boy, a Pillager chief or headman unfriendly to Hole-in-the-Day, had come down to the fort with his family and a few others and had given the alarm of a possible attack, not only on the agency but also on the fort. The commander at the fort at once



## FORT RIPLEY.

Ibid.  
P.375  
cont.

proclaimed martial law over the surrounding region and called upon the settlers to come into the post for the protection he could not give them at their homes and for the common defense, if need be. The garrison and the refugees who came in, at once began preparation for defense. Sergeant Frantzkey of the ordnance corps of the regular army, who was on duty ~~at~~ at the post, found some ammunition for the four six-pound howitzers but no cartridges for the rifles. Bullets were molded and cartridges were made by candlelight. But no attack was made upon the agency or upon the fort and no further depredations were committed. Still the alarm spread rapidly along the northern frontier, causing a stampede to the fort or to the less exposed settlements. \* \* \* A large number of refugees collected at Fort Ripley and fifty men volunteered to aid in defense."

Historical "In 1862 Fort Ripley consisted of several small buildings  
Records arranged on three sides of a square open to the Mississippi River  
Survey. Morrison  
Co., P 9. and was garrisoned with about 30 men. The fort was abandoned as a  
military post in 1878. It had borne the name of Ripley since  
November 4, 1850.

"On April 1, 1880, Congress passed an act to restore to the public domain the military reservation of Fort Ripley. Under this act, the Secretary of War was authorized to turn over to the Department of the Interior all of the reservation except a narrow strip of land on each side of the railroad tracks. All lands within the reservation's boundaries, required to be turned over to the Secretary of the Interior, were to be subject to entry by actual settlers under <sup>e</sup>preemption and homestead laws. \* \* \* \*

F O R T   R I P L E Y .

Ibid.        "Camp Ripley, as the new site was called, is eight miles north of  
P. 9  
cont. Little Falls, almost in the geographic center of the state."\* \* \*

P. 30        "The site of old Fort Ripley is not included in Camp Ripley, but  
lies outside the latter's northern boundary. At one time plans were  
made to purchase the old fort and incorporate it within camp boundaries,  
but these were not carried through."

M.H.  
V. 15,  
P. 366       "A statement issued by the Crow Wing Historical Society advocating  
the reconstruction of old Fort Ripley exactly as it was on its old  
site is published in the Brainerd Daily Dispatch for June 26, 1934.  
Although the site of Fort Ripley is in Morrison County, the Crow Wing  
Historical Society offers to cooperate with other local historical  
societies in the restoration of the old fort."

Extracts from Judge L. B. Kinder's Talk of Fort Ripley--The Brainerd Daily  
Dispatch of June 13, 1928.

"The year gold was discovered in California, Fort Ripley was established.  
Abraham Lincoln was then but an obscure country lawyer, riding circuit, and  
Minnesota a wilderness save for some settlements about the lower St. Croix  
River, and Fort Snelling, Wisconsin, just admitted to the Union, had rejected  
it as worthless. Minnesota then had little but hopes and health. So healthy  
was it in fact, that in territorial days, only two men died, one of whom  
was hanged for killing the other.

"The Winnebagoes had just ceded their lands in Iowa for a tract extending  
along the Mississippi from Sauk Rapids to the mouth of the Crow Wing river.  
In compliance with the treaty, the United States sent Gen. George M. Brooke  
from St. Louis, to locate a fort both to protect the Winnebagoes and to stop



## FORT RIPLEY.

Ibid. the running warfare between the Sioux and Chippewas. In November, 1848,  
 cont. Gen. Brooke, with staff officers and a squad of dragoons, proceeded to the old trading post of Crow Wing. He located the fort on the west bank of the Mississippi *just below the mouth of the Nokanippi River.*

"Captain Dana, afterwards a citizen of St. Paul, Colonel of the First Minnesota, and brigadier general, was ordered from Boston to superintend the building. Arriving as Brooke was leaving for St. Louis, he found the country white with snow. Temporary log quarters were rolled up for the workmen. A portable saw-mill was installed and the winter spent in getting out logs and sawing lumber. The fort consisted of some sixteen frame buildings forming three sides of a square whose opening faced the Mississippi river. The barracks occupied the rear and part of the south side of the quadrangle. On the south side were officers' quarters, chapel and hospital. On the north were officers' quarters and the sutler's store. The buildings stood about fifteen feet apart. Along the east side was a log stockade; the northwest and southwest corners were flanked with log blockhouses with port-holes. For two years Gen. Dana superintended the construction. The builder was Jesse H. Pomroy of St. Paul, who two years later erected Fort Ridgely. On May 13, 1849, the first garrison, Co. "A", 6th Infantry arrived from Fort Snelling. The commander, Captain John B. S. Todd, (after whom Todd county was named) christened the new post 'Fort Gaines', an important fortification on Mobile Bay, being named for General Gaines. In 1850, the name was changed to Fort Ripley in honor of General Eleazor W. Ripley, a Portland, Maine lawyer, who distinguished himself in the War of 1812, and later served in Congress.

## F O R T   R I P L E Y .

Ibid.  
cont.

"Ft. Ripley was the hub of a world of wilderness. Its location on the west side of the river \* \* \* proved most inconvenient. To reach it from the military road from Fort Snelling to Crow Wing, a ferry with 800 foot cable had to be installed. About the fort was a military reservation one mile square; across the river was a large reservation to keep the whiskey sellers at their distance. Here, opposite the Fort, was the government farm where Baldwin Olmstead raised supplies for the soldiers.\* \* \* \*

"Fort Ripley's first eight years were singularly uneventful. Thanks to the diary of its first chaplain, Rev. Solon W. Manney, we have a day by day chronicle of this period. \* \* \* The soldier's chief perils were bad whiskey, freezing to death or walking into air-holes while drunk, and the ferry; cakes of ice or logs would drive it down stream. \* \* \* The young fort also witnessed marriages, christenings and dances. Within its walls Chaplain Manney smacked his lips over Fourth of July dinners of wild duck and green peas and framed the canons which governed the Episcopal Church in Minnesota for forty years.

"The protection Fort Ripley was giving northern Minnesota was quickly demonstrated when in June, 1857, the garrison was removed. The Leech Lake Indians destroyed mission property and drove out the missionaries. Near Gull Lake, the Indians murdered a German peddler. They were captured and brought to the fort. There being no garrison, Rev. Manney had Government Farmer Olmstead hitch up his wagon and take them before the Justice of Belle Prairie township, who committed them to Sheriff Pugh of Little Falls. On the way to St. Paul, a posse of whites from Swan River overtook them. Intimidating the sheriff by putting a rope around a deputy's neck, they seized the Indians and took them back to the prairie south of Little Falls. There, confessing their



## FORT RIPLEY.

Ibid. crime, they were hanged upon a pole between two trees, and buried  
cont. still hand-cuffed together.

"This, as might be expected, excited the Indians. \* \* \* Late in August the village of Crow Wing was thrown into panic by the discovery that Hole-in-the-Day was plotting revenge. A friendly chief, Crow Feather, informed Clement H. Beaulieu that he and other braves had been ordered to proceed to Crow Wing, kill the first white man they saw there and then go to Gull Lake and burn the mission buildings. Thanks to Beaulieu's influence, this deviltry was abandoned, but the danger of an Indian uprising still remained and appeals were sent to Fort Snelling. Troops were sent at once. Quiet was restored by their mere presence. \* \* \*

"That the annals of Fort Ripley are not more bloody, evidences the efficiency with which it protected this section of our state. The swords of its soldiers have long ago been sheathed or beaten into plowshares. The windows and boards of its buildings have been turned into claim cabins; the stones of its foundations used in a bridge across the Mississippi. Like the ~~prisoners~~ prisoners it knew, it is gone, but its memory is still cherished. The Crow Wing<sup>County</sup> Historical Society hopes some day to acquire its site for a Fort Ripley Memorial Park."

F O R T   R I P L E Y .

Morrison  
Co.  
by  
Clara K.  
Fuller.  
Vol.1,  
P.171-2

Ripley Township---Old Fort Ripley.

"The name Ft. Ripley was originally Ft. Gaines, and it was located on the Mississippi river, in the northern part of what is now Crow Wing county, but because of its nearness to Ripley township and its intimate associations in days gone by, it will here be mentioned as a part of the annals of Morrison County. In fact, a part of the government reservation was within Ripley township, and consisted of over fifteen hundred acres of land and two miles of river front. It was established in 1849, and used as a military post of the United States government until July, 1878. Just above the fort proper, a ferry was established by the government with eight hundred feet of strong cable, at a cost of two thousand five hundred dollars. When the fort was abandoned, this was sold to D. S. Moore, and was subsequently operated by him. The original barracks were built of logs, many of which were in existence in the nineties, and possibly some are still to be found, though greatly decayed by age and exposure to the elements.

"The later buildings, those in use until its abandonment, were three double sets of officers' quarters, one large hospital erected at a cost of four thousand five hundred dollars, barracks to accommodate two full companies, a bakery, powder magazine, three blockhouses with the necessary port-holes for cannon and musketry, bath houses, carpenter and blacksmiths shops, guardhouse, warehouse, two sets of laundress' quarters, wagon shed and stables for thirty mules, twelve horses, four oxen, and office r's horses. Several buildings were destroyed by fire in 1876. Another fire occurred in June, 1868, when Ordnance Sergeant Frantzkee with his four children perished in the flames. His wife escaped only to live a hopeless lunatic.



F O R T R I P L E Y .

Ibid. P.172. "A cemetery was laid out at an early date and enclosed with a high picket fence. Private Burns was the first to be laid to rest in that sacred enclosure. In all, up to 1880, there had been buried there fifty-two bodies, including soldiers and members of their families. Many of these were subsequently removed to the National cemetery at Rock Island, Illinois, with those of other military posts.

"When the post was finally abandoned ex-Sergeant Davis was given charge of the place, to prevent pillage of property. In the 'olden days', there were many happy gatherings at the fort, citizens from other points joining with officers and soldiers in social dances and general merrymaking. A library was also maintained, and theatres held frequently, and thus many a long winter night was spent on the wild frontier."

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.M78 R5n

The following article is by Lt. Col. J. E. Nelson, Ass't. Adj. General of the State of Minnesota.

"Other than knowing there is a small village on the east bank of the Mississippi approximately twelve miles north of Little Falls bearing the name Fort Ripley, probably not more than one person of a hundred that read these pages know that this was also the name of an early frontier army post around which occurred the settlement of a territory and the early development of one of the great states of the Union. \* \* \* The history of Fort Ripley is devoid of any reference to extensive campaigns against the Indian, massacres or any great war between Indian nations. The absence of these uprisings is indicative of the important part this military outpost played in the pacification of the Redmen within its territory." \* \* \*

F O R T   R I P L E Y .

MSS.        "The main reason for locating this military outpost was the result  
cont.        of an Indian treaty involving the establishment of a reservation for  
the troublesome Winnebago tribe then wandering about the plains of  
Iowa. The events leading up to this treaty take us back to the early  
history of Indian nations in what is now the state of Minnesota."

              seventeenth  
"About the middle of the ~~eighteenth~~ Century substantially the  
entire area of Minnesota was occupied by the most numerous and power-  
ful of the Sioux nations, the Dakotas. Raddison in 1660 and DuLuth  
in 1679 found large villages of these people on and about Lake Mille  
Lacs and there is earlier evidence indicating they had dominated this  
area for many ages before the visits of these explorers. About this  
time another great Indian Nation, the Chippewa, was being driven from  
their territory along the St. Lawrence River by the powerful, all-  
conquering Iroquois. In search of hunting grounds to the west, the  
Chippewa moved along the south shores of Lake Huron and Lake Superior  
establishing villages as they went and by the middle of the eighteenth  
century the intruders, equipped with white man's weapons, had seized  
the head waters of the Chippewa and St. Croix Rivers in what is now  
Wisconsin and established a few villages west of Lake Superior. They  
then pushed rapidly to the south and west and occupied Sand, Leech  
and Red Lakes. By the end of the Revolutionary War there was not a  
Sioux village west of the Mississippi River above the Falls of St.  
Anthony. Thus were the Dakota Nation of the mighty Sioux driven from  
a portion of the territory roamed by them for hundreds of years. Many  
are the tales of bloody conflicts, massacres, burning of villages, and  
the capture of women and children in the legends of both nations.\* \* \*

              "The boundary line between the Sioux and Chippewa Nations at this  
time was roughly through what is now Stillwater, Sauk Rapids, Alexan-  
dria, Otter Tail Lake and Moorhead."



F O R T R I P L E Y .

MSS.  
cont.

"The terms of the treaty with the Winnebago locating them in Central Minnesota obligated the Government to construct and occupy a cantonment within the limits of the Indian Grant for the purpose of protecting them from possible attacks by unfriendly Sioux and Chippewa bands between which they had been sandwiched, in the interest of peace between these warring people. Brigadier General George M. Brooke, Commandant of the Department of the West, with headquarters at St. Louis, received instructions from the War Department to proceed to the Crow Wing to establish the location of a new post. In November, 1848, with a squadron of Dragoons and several Staff Officers, after a thorough reconnaissance of the country, he decided that the terms of the Winnebago treaty and his instructions made it his duty to locate the cantonment on the west bank of the Mississippi seven miles south of the Crow Wing River.

"Captain Napoleon J. T. Dana , Quartermaster Department, U. S. Army, who was detailed to supervise the construction of the fort, joined General Brooke near the mouth of the Crow Wing River late in November and the General returned to St. Louis. The country was already covered with snow and the winter was spent in setting up a portable saw-mill, getting out lumber and erecting temporary accommodations for a small gang of carpenters and laborers. In the spring of 1849, Company A. of the 6th Infantry at Fort Snelling was moved to the new site, the commander of which was Captain John B. S. Todd who was the first commander of the post. The name of the post was announced as Fort Gaines, in honor of Brigadier General Edmund P. Gaines, then stationed at New Orleans. Subsequently his name was given to a new permanent fortification in process of construction at the entrance to Mobile Bay; and the cantonment in the Winnebago country was named

F O R T   R I P L E Y .

MSS.  
cont.

Fort Ripley in official orders by the War Department on November 4, 1850, in Honor of James W. Ripley, a distinguished officer of the War of 1812.

"No information is available giving the year the construction of Fort Ripley was completed. However, the fact that Company A, 6th Infantry was joined by a detachment of the First Dragoons during the summer of 1849 would indicate that most of it was completed before winter set in that year. The Cantonment was located on a plateau on the west bank of the Mississippi in the approximate center of a military reservation one mile square. The approaches from all sides were practically clear of timber for several hundred yards, beyond which were miles of dense forest. The buildings were placed within an area enclosed on three sides of a ten foot stockade, each side being 450 feet long. The east side was open to the river and was defended by a log blockhouse in the southeastern corner of the square. The wagon road to St. Paul was on the east side of the river and reached by means of a ferry capable of carrying several ox carts. Originally only one sally-port was provided which was through the stockade in the northeastern corner, and was in the direction of the ferry. A few years later another sally-port was cut through the west wall.

"The building formed a hollow square within the stockade, the east or river side being free of buildings. The barracks occupied the whole of the west side of the parade while on the remaining two sides were the quarters of the officers, the sutler's store, a chapel and a hospital. The only building of stone construction was the magazine situated in the northwest corner of the enclosure, all others were frame, or logs and clapp-board.



FORT RIPLEY.

MSS.  
cont.

The report of an inspector from the Surgeon General's Office followed a visit to Fort Ripley in 1870, stated, in part as follows:

"The officers' quarters, barracks and hospital are one story in height with portices, from 7 to 8 feet wide, extending the entire width of the several fronts. The officer's quarters are well constructed, ample in extent and conveniently arranged with necessary cellars, offices, etc. The various offices and store houses are commodious. The barracks, intended for two companies, are 263 feet long by 22 feet wide with rear additions or wings on the flanks and center. The building is divided into two sections, each section comprising two sets of quarters for married soldiers, orderly sergeants room, company store or office, two dormitories 20 x 32 x 11 feet, mess room and kitchen. The guard house was where was once the first sally-port.

"The hospital was under the same roof with the chapel and offices and was divided into three sections. \* \* \* The medical ward is 30 x 14 feet; the surgical ward had the same dimensions as the medical ward; no separate room is provided for hospital attendants so they perforce have to sleep in the wards. The building is without bath, wash-rooms, toilets or dead house."

"We are indebted to ~~the~~ Rev. Solon W. Manny of the Episcopal faith, who was the first chaplain at Fort Ripley, for a record of events between 1851 to 1859. \* \* \* \*

"Although the troops engaged in no major campaigns against the Indians, they served the better purpose of having detachments constantly among them quenching the kindling fires of threatening revolts against the whites and warfare against each other before they could be fanned into flame. \* \* \* The country contained many unscrupulous traders ever willing to best the Indian in a trade and the prevalent feeling of the

FORT RIPLEY.

MSS.  
cont.

Indian for the white man was one of distrust. These differences and the desire of the Indian to provide himself with the necessities of life frequently resulted in murder and theft which often threatened Indian Wars. The effect the presence of the soldiers had on the country was demonstrated in the spring of 1857 when the post was abandoned and ordered sold. \* \* \* \*

"The order abandoning the post transferred the personnel of the garrison to Fort Snelling. Trouble started in July with the threat of the Indians, \* \* \* to destroy the Christian mission of Rev. J. Lloyd Breck, which had been established on the shore of Leech Lake for the benefit of the Indians a few years before, and to do personal violence to the inhabitants. A few days later three Indians that had murdered a white man were taken from the custody of the sheriff while on his way to lock them up in Little Falls by a posse of whites and executed and buried, handcuffed to each other. The news of the execution spread rapidly. The Indians became intensely excited and threatened revenge. Small bands of Indians were seen skulking about ready to murder the first white man who should happen to come in their way. Chief Hole-in-the-Day, a crafty and faithless Chippewa tribal head living in the vicinity of Crow Wing, who appeared to be the instigator of the trouble was notified by message by Mr. Breck from Fort Ripley, carried by friendly Christian Indians, that he was known to be inciting the Indians to murder and plunder and that if he carried out his intentions, every means would be taken to bring him to speedy and summary punishment. Friendly Indians held a council and decided to stay by the Whites and with the coming of a small detachment from Fort Ridgely a few days later on, trouble subsided. This led to the re-occupancy of Fort Ripley on September 12, 1857,



## FORT RIPLEY.

MSS. and the cancellation of negotiations for its sale. It is interesting  
cont. to note the only bid the government had received was one of three cents  
an acre.

"Daily life was filled with the numerous labors necessary to the existence of the post. Supplies had to be transported from St. Paul, one hundred and thirty-five miles by wagon road to the south. Wood to carry the garrison through the long winter was cut and hauled from the forests near by. Fresh vegetables had to be furnished from gardens planted outside the stockade. Water to be hauled, meals to be cooked, buildings to be cleaned, repairs to be made and guards to be posted. These, with a score of other minor duties, and a limited amount of military drill, occupied the daily routine of the troops.

"Most of the officers and a few of the men were married so we find considerable reference in Rev. Manney's diary to teas, dinners and dances. Traders, settlers, Indian chiefs, pay-masters, Indian Agents, and Territorial officers were constant visitors at the garrison. The paymaster's visits were frequently three to six months apart, hardly often enough to satisfy the American soldier of today. Pay day was usually followed by much gambling and drinking, much to the consternation of the worthy chaplain. The penalty for desertion was extremely severe, fifty lashes and drummed out of service. Needless to say desertions were not numerous. The execution of the sentence of the court-martial was not without benevolence, however, as we find this entry following comments on the lashing and drumming of one of the deserters: 'Gave Quinlan a dollar as each of the officers did. <sup>also</sup> So did the privates ~~here~~ provide for his necessities very liberally.'

"Marriages were performed, babies were born and schools were conducted for the grown ups as well as the children. Church services

FORT RIPLEY.

MSS. were held every Sunday morning and we note they were usually well at-  
cont. tended. Christmas and Thanksgiving were days of great rejoicing and feasting. Wild game and fish were plentiful. Prairie chicken, grouse, partridge, wild pigeon, duck, venison and several varieties of fish were some of the choice morsels which appears to have been almost a daily diet of the men as well as the officers.

"In May, 1861, Companies A and E of the First Minnesota Volunteers were sent to Fort Ripley to relieve the regular troops for service in the War of the Rebellion. When the regiment was ordered south a few weeks later, Company E rejoined the regiment. Company A remained at Fort Ripley until the early spring of 1862 when they were replaced with Company C of the 5th Minnesota Volunteers under the command of Captain Hall. In the early morning of August 18, 1862, a large party of Sioux braves, who had gathered at the Lower Sioux Agency, six miles east of what is now Redwood Falls, for their annual payments, armed and painted for war, and without warning fell on the little village of traders and employees killing all who were not able to escape to Fort Ridgely, fourteen miles to the east, and looted and fired the stores and supply buildings of the Agency. This was the beginning of the Sioux war which ravaged southern Minnesota and the Dakotas for four years. The loss of life and atrocities committed among the settlers in this savage uprising is without parallel in American history and required the employment of thousands of troops before peace was resumed."

"When the Sioux outbreak enveloped southern Minnesota and the massacre at the Lower Sioux Agency was followed by attacks on New Ulm, Fort Ridgely, the battle of Birch Coulee, and others, the settlers in Fort Ripley territory became very much alarmed. Although the



## FORT RIPLEY.

MSS. Chippewa were ancient enemies of the Sioux, it was rumored they had agreed cont.

to make common war on the Whites. The Winnebago having been raised in territory surrounded by Sioux, had always been their friends and it was was believed they could easily be persuaded to aid in the uprising. Events were soon to prove these reports were not unfounded. Fort Ripley was then garrisoned by Captain Hall, and thirty men of Company C, 5th Minnesota Volunteers, the balance of the company having been dispatched to assist in the defense of Fort Ridgely. On August 18, Captain Hall received word from the Indian Agent Walker, on Gull Lake, that Chief Hole-in-the-Day, now leader of all the Chippewa Nation in Minnesota, was gathering a force of braves in the vicinity of Crow Wing, and small bands of marauders were killing cattle and about ~~xxx~~ to begin war upon the Whites. Captain Hall and his little detachment immediately started for the Agency and were met half way by the Indian Agent, and the Whites living in the vicinity of Gull Lake, who had fled from their homes. Agent Walker directed Captain Hall to proceed to the house of Hole-in-the-Day and place him under arrest. This the Captain attempted to do but the troublesome Chief had received warning that the troops were coming and escaped. The detachment immediately withdrew to the Fort and word was sent out for all the settlers to assemble at the post for its defense. A rider was dispatched to notify the Governor and request reinforcements. In answer to the plea, Governor Ramsey ordered one company of the 6th Minnesota ~~Yam~~ Volunteers and two companies of the 7th Minnesota Volunteers then being mobilized for service in the Civil War, to proceed at once to Fort Ripley. The Indian Commissioner from Washington was in St. Paul at that time and he and his party also started for Fort Ripley to negotiate with the Indians for a peaceful settlement of their alleged grievances. Both parties arrived at the post about the last of August. In the meantime Hole-in-the-Day's forces had grown to

## FORT RIPLEY.

MSS. five hundred warriors and they had moved their camp to the west bank of  
cont.

the Mississippi south of Gull Lake. Word was sent to the Chief that the Whites desired a council and after considerable evasion a meeting was held with some of the lesser chiefs at which both sides of the case were presented. After several days of negotiations the differences were settled to the satisfaction of all and the Commissioner returned to Washington, the citizens to their homes, and most of the <sup>soliders</sup> settlers to the south to take part in the War of the Rebellion.

"The defense of the Minnesota frontier from this time until the close of the Sioux War in 1865 was under the command of General Sibley and an extensive system of temporary forts sprang up throughout the State. Available sources of information as to just what forces occupied Fort Ripley and what took place there during this period are very meager but in view of the fact that the Sioux Forces were driven far into the Dakotas in 1863 it is presumed only a very small force was maintained at this post. Hole-in-the-Day had been stripped of his power and the friendly Indians controlled the actions of their people. Many of the Indians had been converted to Christianity which was a tremendous force to the continuation of peace in the territory. Settlers were moving in in great numbers and had formed several militia companies for their own protection. The little garrison, therefore, mainly served as a stabilizing force controlling the Indian affairs of the country in the interest of the Federal Government. The post was frequently visited by larger forces going to or returning from campaigns against the Sioux west of the Red River but no incidents to mar the peace and tranquility of the territory centering around Fort Ripley are of record.

"When the Minnesota Volunteer forces were mustered out of service at the close of the Civil War, Fort Ripley was again occupied by regular army troops and for the next twelve years the small force on duty there



FORT RIPLEY.

MSS. occupied their time with routine military affairs. The post was abandoned and troops withdrawn on July 11, 1877. The last troops stationed at Fort Ripley consisted of Company G, 20th Infantry. An act of Congress approved April 1, 1880, directed the War Department to turn the reservation over to the Interior Department for sale to settlers, and it was so transferred July 2, 1880.

"Several of the buildings were destroyed by a prairie fire in 1879 and the balance were either hauled away by settlers or allowed to deteriorate until they collapsed. A picture in the files of the Minnesota Historical Society taken in 1897 shows a few buildings in a dilapidated condition still standing. The only building remaining today is the old stone magazine. This building is in a fair state of preservation and serves as a monument to a little frontier army post which for twenty-seven years was the military pulse of a large territory and as a memorial to the many brave and gallant soldiers of the garrison who played so important a role in the peaceful settlement of a great state."

(Picture numbers are F.M.6.9. and <sup>M7</sup>03.4)

## FORT RIPLEY.

MSS.

FF612

.M78R5 "In 1848 the removal of the Winnebago Indians to their reservation west of the Mississippi having been commenced, a post was ordered to be established near the junction of the Crow Wing and Mississippi Rivers in the new Winnebago Country, as well to keep these Indians upon their reservation and protect them as to prevent the other Northern bands of Ojibways or Chippewas from warring with their hereditary enemies, the Sioux. A post was accordingly established April 13, 1849, on the West bank of the Mississippi by the arrival of Captain J. B. S. Todd of the 6th Infantry, and called Fort Gaines."

"The Reverend Mr. Balcourt, who, in 1830, became a missionary among the Ojibways, in a letter written in 1849, says that for generations the Chippewas had been in possession of the Country from the Northern lakes as far south as the Cheyenne (Bois du Chein), but that it once belonged to the Sioux, the Chippewas residing further north. But the Sioux became divided on account of jealousies among the women, which proved sufficiently powerful to produce a bloody conflict which ended in their becoming irreconcilable enemies. The stronger party retained the Country and the name Pawn, while the weaker party took refuge in the rocky precipices of the Lake of the Woods and assumed the name of Assini-Pawn, or Pawns of the Rocks. These latter allied themselves to the Crees and Chippewas, and by reason of their superior numbers when united, they forced the Sioux to fly beyond the Cheyenne on the Red River, and still further south to and beyond the Mississippi, East.

"In 1825, Governors Clark of Missouri, and Cass of Michigan, made a treaty at Prairie du Chein, with the Dakotas, Ojibways, Sauk and Foxes, Menomonees, Ioways, Winnebagoes, Pottowattomies and Ottowas. The line between the Dakotas and Ojibways commenced on Chippewa River, one-half days march below the Falls, and ran from thence to Otter Tail Lake, thence down Buffalo River to the Red River of the North &c; but



FORT RIPLEY.

MSS. neither tribe were willing to remain circumscribed, and the tribes con-  
cont. tinued their hostilities to each other."

"In 1766 Carver found the Ojibways and Dakotas at war, and was told that they had been fighting for forty years. Pike, when at Leech Lake, met an Ojibway chief called 'Sweet' who informed him that the Dakotas formerly resided there. During these wars one of the most severe battles fought between the Indians was fought below the mouth of the Crow Wing, where Fort Ripley now stands."

"After Sandy Lake had been taken from the Dakotas, sixty Ojibways descended the Mississippi. Upon their return they met, at this place, a party of over three hundred Dakotas, who had been to their village and murdered their wives and children, and were howling in fiendish joy over the scalps when they were seen by the Ojibways floating down the river in canoes. The Ojibways dug pits from which they assaulted their enemies."

"The Dakotas landed and a most desperate conflict ensued, resulting in the defeat of the Dakotas. The marks of this battle are still thought to be visable although the fight occurred about a century and a half ago."

"The Ojibway Indians of Leech Lake robbed one of the first traders that went into that country, while he was encamped at the mouth of the little Creek just above the present Fort Ripley."

"From this lawlessness they were given the name 'pillagers', which they have ever since borne. This name, however, is no more foreign to their language than is the name of Sioux to the Dakotas or Pawns." \* \* \*

"September 15, 1849, President Taylor declared two reservations at this point. The one on the east side of the river was made for the purpose of keeping away squatters from near the Chippewa lands that bound it on the north, as well as from the immediate vicinity of the military post, which was built upon the smaller reservation (about a

FORT RIPLEY.

MSS. square mile) on the west side of the Mississippi. The accompanying  
cont. map shows both reservations and the Chippewa line as far east as the military reservation extended."

"When the territory of Minnesota was organized June 1, 1849, the Indian title had been extinguished to but a small portion of the territory, principally on the East side of the Mississippi, below a line drawn east from the mouth of the Crow Wing to the western boundary of Wisconsin. The lands above were occupied by the Chippewas."

"To make room for the rapidly increasing population of Minnesota, Governor Ramsey of Minnesota, and ex-Governor Chambers of Iowa, in 1849, were appointed to treat with the Dakotas. In consequence of the absence of Indians on their fall hunts they accomplished little more than the purchase of the 'Half-breed Tract' of Lake Pepin."

"In 1850 an Indian Council was held at Fort Snelling, at which Governor Ramsey secured a treaty of peace between the Chippewas and the Sioux; whereupon the Chippewas returned up the Mississippi to their homes above Fort Ripley."

"In 1857, Secretary of War, John B. Floyd appointed two agents, Major Seth Eastman, U.S.A., and Mr. A. C. Jones, to dispose of the lands embraced within the reservation, the name of the post having been changed from Fort Gaines to Fort Ripley, November 4, 1850. Part of the land was sold to settlers and the money received by Mr. Jones, who gave his certificates of sale, but the Secretary refused to confirm the sales. A judgment was obtained against Jones October 18, 1876, on a suit brought September 11, 1874, for the recovery of \$1,799.22, the money received by him."

"January 14, 1877, a fire occurred by which Officers' quarters, laundresses' quarters, store house with stores and property were destroyed, and the War Department then decided to have the post dis-



## FORT RIPLEY.

MSS.  
cont.

continued, the garrison withdrawn and the reservation appraised for sale under the Act of February 28, 1873, and instructions accordingly were issued to General Terry February 8, 1877. The garrison was withdrawn in July following but the board did not appraise the lands, desiring specific instructions from the Department as to the construction of the words 'each piece or parcel of land' in the Act of February 28, 1873. Before such instructions were received, the members of the board except General Terry were assigned to other and remote duties, and Congress has again been asked for legislation to enable the lands to be restored to the ordinary condition of public lands, except a strip granted to a railroad company."

"A large number of squatters have settled upon the reservation, but they have not been disturbed because the reservation is not regarded as being needed for military purposes, and the early restoration of the lands to the ordinary conditions of public lands being contemplated."

"The following description of the Post and Vicinity by Surgeon J. F. Head, United States Army, published in Medical Statistics, United States Army, 1839 to 1855, is referred to by Dr. Winne, as giving a good account of its present condition:-

"Fort Ripley is situated in latitude 46°, 10', 30", north, longitude 94°, 18' 45" West, upon the West bank of the Mississippi, elevated 20 feet above that river, and probably about 1,000 feet above the Gulf of Mexico. The little river Nokay empties into the Mississippi from the east at about 300 yards north of this point. The post is built upon a sandy plateau, partially drained by shallow ravines at its northern and southern extremities, gradually sloping toward a narrow swamp about half a mile in rear of the fort. Beyond this is a range of thickly wooded hills, rising to a height of 100 to 150 feet, which slightly shelter the

FORT RIPLEY.

MSS. post from the northwest winds of winter. To the westward of these hills  
cont. again is a belt of broken surface thickly covered with woods and  
swamps." \* \* \* \*

"Above and below the fort the river is skirted by a narrow belt of swampy land, usually partially inundated in spring, supporting a growth of linden or basswood, elms, maple, and birch, which, with pine and poplar on the higher grounds, and a luxuriant undergrowth of hazel, and other shrubs, constitute the sylvan of this immediate neighborhood." \* \* \*

"On the East side of the Mississippi (here about 180 yards wide) a gentle undulating, sandy, and barren prairie, from a few hundred yards to three miles wide, extends from the mouth of the Nokai to the southward, bordered by a growth of oaks and pines along the river, and by a range of low hills, partially covered with oaks, on the West. Opposite to the post is a strip of land less sterile than the rest, which has been for several years under cultivation, and part of which is liable to overflow in the spring."

"The soil generally is a sandy alluvium. No rock has been found within many miles, except scattered boulders of granite, from which was obtained the little stone necessary for building the post. The land, at least when first cultivated, is more productive than might be supposed, being what farmers term warm, and adapted to the short summers."

"The climate is subject to great variations. \* \* \* The extremes of temperature observed are 96° in August, 1849, and 39° on January, 1852. The latest killing frost in spring was on June 17, 1849, and the earliest on August 14, 1851. A variation of temperature of 30° or 40° in a few hours is not uncommon; fires are necessary to comfort during a part of every month in the year, except occasionally July and August, and cattle must be foraged from seven to nine months."

"From about the last third of August till the ground is covered



## FORT RIPLEY.

MSS. with snow, which usually occurs in November, the weather is generally  
 Cont. clear and delightful, with a dry bracing atmosphere and equable temperature. After the first considerable fall of snow, the earth's surface remains constantly covered for about five months. The average depth of snow, as roughly estimated from the three winters since the occupation of the post, is from 2 to 3½ feet. An idea of the severity of the winter may be formed from the fact that more than double the Government monthly allowance of fuel required to warm the quarters, though used in large stoves."

"When the post was established it was within Military Department No. 6". \* \* \* \*

MSS. \* \* \* \* "Date of settlement in Minnesota: I was employed in 1848,  
 CCT  
 .S799 with others (seven in all) by Major Mc Rea of St. Louis, then Quarter-

Stearns Letter to Hon. J. F. Williams Dated May 8, 1872. master U. S. Army to go up to Wisconsin, as your state was then known, east of the Mississippi river to build a military post at some point on the west side of the river near the junction of the Crow Wing and the Mississippi. This was in September, 1848. A steamer was chartered in St. Louis to take us, stores, provisions, horses, cattle and all the articles necessary for the undertaking, to Fort Snelling. St. Paul was then a sort of way station, an appendage or rather a suburb of Pig's Eye; from Fort Snelling we transferred our goods and all things for the new post onto wagons and started for Crow Wing. This trip occupied us nine days, travelling was bad, no road most of the way, stoppages often. We were under Command of Brig. General Brooke who delayed us sometimes to examine localities on the route. \* \* \* \* At Sauk Rapids we found two log cabins filled with goods for the Indian trade. Honest David Olmstead was in charge of one of them. The Winnebago Indians

## FORT RIPLEY.

MSS.  
cont.

were as thick as fleas in a hog pen around the cabin and in the bushes surrounding it. \* \* \* From there to Crow Wing we found no inhabitants except of the Indian pursuasion. \* \* \* At last after ten days, we arrived at Crow Wing. \* \* \* Gen. Brooke, Hon. H. M. Rice and others, for some two or three days were examining the different points for the location of the Military Post. Gen. Brooke finally determined on the site opposite the mouth of the Nokasippi River, where the first blow was struck for the present Fort Ripley. It was then named Fort Gaines, changed, however, soon after to its present name. Myself, a young man by the name of Morrison, and one other were the first to land on the place to commence operations. It was a most dismal, forbidding location, I thought, that could have been selected. Hazel bushes, scrub oaks, and pine trees, which had been burned at the ground so much by the yearly fires that wind had blown them down in many places, so that they lay two and three deep across each other. In a few days things were got in order, the horse saw-mill, a circular saw, the first ever put in operation in the Territory was put up and commenced sawing lumber. About this time a Company of Infantry came up from Fort Snelling under the command of Captain S. Woods, and Lieut. Nelson. \* \* \* After sojourning with us a month or more, (the weather getting very cold) left for Fort Snelling and left some fifteen of us to take care of ourselves, and do the best we could with our Red-skin neighbors. During the winter we built three small houses, stables and a large store house for the use of the Post. Early in the spring Captain N.J.T. Dana came up and had charge of ~~all~~ the work and all things connected with the building of the Fort. \* \* \*



FORT RIPLEY.

MSS.  
cont.

The following is a letter from Capt. N.J.T.Dana regarding work done at Fort Ripley:-

"Mr. J. H. Pomroy had been Master Carpenter at this Post for twenty-two months during its erection, and during that time he has given every proof of his honesty, capacity, faithfulness and zeal. He has been constantly in charge of a gang of mechanics varying from ten to fifty at different seasons and has always conducted his work with satisfaction. He has built every permanent building at this Post; the work speaks for itself and shows his capacity for taking charge of any work in his line.

N. J. T. Dana,

Capt. U. S. A.

Assist. Quarter Masters Office)  
Fort Ripley, M. T. )  
June 1st, 1851. )

(In this particular file there is a very good picture of J.H.Pomroy.)

FORT RIPLEY.

MSS.  
FE 83.86  
D 728

The following is copied from the diary of "George W. Doud,  
Eighth Minnesota Volunteers, Company F., September 13, 1862-  
October 15, 1864."

\* \* \* \* "The spelling and punctuation of the original have been preserved. It may be well to note that the author's initial "S" is always written like a capital letter."\* \* \* \*

"Arival at Little Falls Dec 7th 1862."

16th We were quartered in the tarvern And after a little work was done we were verry comfortable once more We Staid thare untill the 25 of Dec In the mean time the weather was verry cold And we did not drill much Some times a Squad would go into the barn And drill in the manuel of arms. The cause of our Stoping thare was The quarters we ware to occupy at Ft Ripley was not compleetd And we remained thare untill thay ware ready"

17th Dec 25 we ware once more ordered to march to Ft Ripley The distance being 15 miles The Sun wrose verry clear and beautiful from behind the Sloap of the eastern hills And we ware almost certain we Should have a good day for our journey About 8 am we began to pack up for a Start And was ready to Start about:M. We ware all in line ready for a Start And the citisens requested us to wait for a Short time And behold the Ladies could be Seen coming in everry direction With Sarvers loaded down with Bread and butter Pies and cakes of the nicest kind Thay ware passed a long the line and we ate freely of them Some I thought ate 3 share But my eyes might have ben eclipsed."

18th "Soon all was consumed And we ware ready for a Start Then we returned our thanks to them And chear after chear went up from the Soldiers In behalf of the Ladies of little falls Then the Ladies and gents of little falls And the Soldiers bade each other a Diou And we marched for Ft Ripley All honor and glory to the Ladies of Little falls"



Page 60

FORT RIPLEY.

MSS. 19th As we passed a long the river Side And we viewed the ever green  
Doud Which oer hung the banks of the Mississippi Enraped in thair  
Diary white mantle of frost The Sun Shone on them So brightly It dazel-  
cont. ed our eyes And gave everry thing a fine and beautiful appearance  
Yes it was one of the beautifulest winter day I ever Saw in the  
northwest And a perfect winters morn of northern Minnesota About  
3 pm thare come a heavy fog and we could not See a person verry  
far off We ware Some weary yet we kept our pace good And arived at  
the fort a 6 in the evening and went into quarters We took our  
blankets and Spread them out in the bunks And went to bed in the  
morn we was about froze up We had no Straw to Lay upon And the  
boards was rather hard yet most of us Stood it well One or two  
gave out and went into the hospital the next day We was most of  
us verry tired caused by the Snow being damp and Slipping or giv-  
ing a way under our feet Most of us Stood it verry well

The end of our March" \* \* \*

\* \* \* \*

"Geo W. Doud: Co E 8 Minn Vol

Chapter 24

- 1st We arived at Ft Ripley Dec 25 1862 And remained thar untill  
Feb 25 1863 While we ware thare I gained Some knowledge of the  
~~Sax~~ Sourrunding country Which will probably be interesting to  
my readers
- 2nd Ft Ripley is Situated on a level flat On the west bank of the  
mississippi And covers about five acres It is a neat and Splendid  
garrison The best in the northwestern department When the Sun  
rises in the east And its glittering arrays Glances down the west-  
ern Sloop of the eastern mountains In a mid winters day It causes  
the valley to look grand and beautiful At noon day when the Sun

FORT RIPLEY.

MSS. Shing clear the Snow packs some because of its heat As it nears the  
Doud eastern Slope of the western mountains The beauties of a winters eve  
Diary cont. Seem to develop its Self in ful Soon the Sun passes behind the hills  
whose tops which are decked in evergreen And the earth is enraped in  
the dark mantle of night once more.

3rd The country east and northeast to Lake Superior Is one dense wilderness  
The distance being one hundred miles Noted for its quality of fine  
timber The only inhabitants is the Shippeway Indians Who roam there and  
hunt and fish at thair pleasure A good part of the country is covered w  
with a heavy groth of under brush And Swamps are verry numerous Con-  
taining from ten to two thousand acres in them A larg ammount of cran-  
berry if furnished from the marshes The marshes look verry beautiful  
covered with thair coat of cranberrys Some of the vines grow nearly a  
foot high And when you are on the marshes you can teeter them for fif-  
teen or twenty feet around. \* \* \* \*

5th Now I will return to Ft Ripley And its cenes. The Mississippi there is  
a bout twenty rods wide, wide, And the evergreen Pine Balsom And Spruce  
Which Oer hangs its watters from the banks; Gives it a most beautiful  
appearance. The Miss and its tributaries, IS filled with an abundance  
of fishes, kinds to numerous to mention The country in the vicinity  
is not verry good, The Land is verry Sandy broken and Swampy Agricul-  
tural pursuits does not ammount to much Sometimes you will See a gar-  
den and the different kinds of Vegetables dont Seem to grow to thair  
ful Size There Seems to be lack in the Strength of the mand to mateur  
the plants fully And the Seasons are so Short The plants are of a  
dwarf kind."\* \* \* \*



FORT RIPLEY.

MSS

A

.F966

Fuller

Papers

1860-88

War Department

April 6th, 1869.

Honorable Secretary Interior,

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that all that part of the Fort Ripley Military Reservation in Minnesota, lying east of the Mississippi river, being no longer required for Military purposes, is hereby relinquished to the charge of your Department for such disposition as is required by law.

Very Respectfully

Your obedient servant

(signed) Jno. A. Rawlins

Adjutant General's Office

Secretary of War.

Washington, February 3rd, 1870

"Official"

(signed) E.D. Townsend

Adjutant General.



state of

# Fort Ripley Reserve.

Minnesota





# FORT Ripley.

Pioneer Press January 31, 1931

Adjutant General Ellard A. Walsh directed the visitors about Camp Ripley and explained that the plan was to provide ultimately adequate training facilities for all Minnesota units and those of the entire seventh corps area.

Eleven military planes flew here from the Twin Cities for the activities using the airport which is part of Camp Ripley.

Mayor Kiewel pledged local co-operation with the state in activities connected with Camp Ripley.

tax, interest, penalty and costs, public lands, ditch liens, and county revenue), total for each, and total daily collections. Arr. alph. by name of local unit, chron. thereunder. No index. Handwritten under pr. heads. 240 pp. 18 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Unlabeled vol., and vols. 2-7, 1901-30, bsmt. va.; vols. 8-9, 1931--, off. va.

For treasurer's register of daily collections, 1887--, see entry 265.

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22. REGISTER OF RECEIPTS DELINQUENT TAXES, 1881--. 4 vols. (one unlabeled; 2-4). Daily register of delinquent real estate tax collections, showing date of collection, receipt number, description of property, tax years, amounts of tax, penalty, and costs, total, and total daily collections. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Handwritten under pr. heads. 300 to 480 pp. 14 x 9 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 14 x 9 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

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FORT RIPLEY

Little Falls Daily Transcript June 29, 1932

The regulars like Camp Ripley very much and the officers have cited the fine spirit of co-operation shown by General Walsh and his staff and with the excellent facilities afforded at Camp Ripley.

These regular troops consist of the 14th brigade with its provisional headquarters company; the 3rd Infantry. David L. Stone

commanding the 17th Infantry, Col. L. L. Gregg commanding; the 2nd battalion; 18th field artillery, under the command of Capt. W. F. Pride, and battery F, of this organization; whose home station is

Fort Snelling, also the field artillery commanded by Capt.

W. W. Woodbridge, the 14th cavalry, commanded by Col. Charles E.

Stodler; the 6th tank company. Capt. R. G. Howie commanding, and

Flight D., 16th observation squadron under command of Capt. Ross F. Cole.

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## FORT RIPLEY

The Brainerd daily dispatch, Oct. 8, 1930.

The Rotary club on Tuesday heard a comprehensive address by Major

P. C. Beetenberg, Construction Quarter Master, on the scope and aim of the military training camp south of Brainerd which has been christened Camp Ripley.

Construction of buildings, water and sewage systems and other improvements are being made at present on federal funds, and the site embraces 3000 acres which will ultimately be enlarged to 22000 acres or more.

Camp periods will generally start about June 16 and continue

to the end of August. After the Minnesota guard with all its branches

of infantry, <sup>cavalry</sup> cavalry, artillery, airplane units, etc, is successfully taken care of, will come other states with their guard. Even the

U. S. regular army is interested and will make use of the camp.

So immense will be this military training camp that the water and sewage system is one of capacity for a city the size of Brainerd. The demands are even greater. Every thing moves like clockwork in the camp. A demand for water, for instance, is a peak load demand of

10,000 men who wash at the same time for their meals, who take their showers in the same periods.

The new camp will give terrain and opportunity to handle 30,000 to 40,000 troops when it has attained maximum size. The construction

program covers a period of five years. At present there are 28 federal and two state buildings at camp. Next year it is hoped to have finished

148 federal and 10 state buildings.

Guardsmen are from 18 to 30 years of age, the mean age being between 19 and 20. They will come here ten to a Ford. It is the province of Brainerd clubs, organizations and individuals to see that they are directed to the right kind of associations and contacts.

tax, interest, penalty and costs, public lands, ditch liens, and county revenue), total for each, and total daily collections. Arr. alph. by name of local unit, chron. thereunder. No index. Handwritten under pr. heads. 240 pp. 18 x 12 x  $2\frac{1}{2}$ . Unlabeled vol., and vols. 2-7, 1901-30, bsmt. va.; vols. 8-9, 1931--, off. va.

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## FORT RIPLEY

Father Pierz was granted permission by Captain John Todd, in command at Fort Ripley to occupy a portion of the military reservation not exceeding twenty acres, in the vicinity of Crow Wing, as a site for a church. Father Pierz chose the hill on which the Indians celebrated their victory as this site and commenced the foundation. The fall and winter of 1852-53 were spent at Crow Wing. Father Pierz planned to leave Crow Wing at the beginning of May 1853 to visit Indian villages and establish missions, but he was deterred for a while.

Minnesota and Dakota, C. C. Andrews, p. 63.

In this book by Christopher C. Andrews is a chapter entitled "From St. Paul to Crow Wing in two days." He says, "It was near sunset when we reached Fort Ripley. The garrison stands on the west bank of the Mississippi, but the reservation extends several miles on both sides. The stage crosses the river on the ferry to leave the mail and then return. The great flag still flying from the high staff, ~~and~~ had an inspiring influence. Like most of our inland military posts, Fort Ripley has no stone fortifications. It is neatly laid out in a square and surrounded by a high protective fence. Three or four field pieces stand upon the bank of the river fronting it, and at some distance, present a war-like attitude.

Recollections of Chris. C. Andrews, p.11.

Andrews was reared a Democrat in politics, having no sympathy with abolitionism, when an armed rebel force attacked and siezed a Federal fortification and made its garrison prisoners, he was ready to fight for

## FORT RIPLEY

the preservation of the Union which had made the States a Nation. At the first public meeting of his townspeople he declared his sentiments and put his name <sup>on</sup> ~~of~~ a list of volunteers. He then spent a week at Fort Ripley taking lessons in the school of the soldiers, from a corporal of the regular army. Later, when the call came for a third regiment of Minnesota infantry, he set about-----

Minnesota History 9:261.

In its twenty-six years of activity Fort Ripley had not less than sixty different commanders at the fort during the Sioux War.

When news of the outbreak reached it the garrison of thirty men hurriedly molded bullets during all of one night and prepared vigorously to resist attack. For a time the attitude of Hole-in-the-Day seemed to threaten an uprising on the part of the Chippewa, but an order to cut off the supplies of the Indian brought an end to the disturbance and matters quieted down. After the Civil War there was little need for the post; one after another its buildings were destroyed by fire; in July 1878, it was abandoned, and two years later the site was sold.

The fifty two bodies in the post cemetery were removed to the national cemetery at Rock Island.

Historical Records Survey, Morrison County p. 8.

Camp Ripley, the Minnesota National Guard camp, located in Morrison County, was named for old Fort Ripley, originally called Fort Gaines and established as a military post in 1849 on the west bank of the Mississippi River below the mouth of the Crow Wing.



FORT RIPLEY

THE PRESERVATION OF THE

## FORT RIPLEY

Minnesota Historical Society Collections Vol. 10, Part 1, pp. 171,172.

The Rev. Joseph W. Hancock tells of his missionary work at Fort Ripley.

"The spring had been backward and rainy, streams and swamps were almost impassable for teams~~x~~ and therefore after due deliberat<sup>io</sup>n, we concluded to travel by water. It was a bright morning in June when we went aboard our boat. Besides myself, wife and our litt<sup>e</sup>le child, a young man, wishing to leave the place, took passage with us for St. Paul. He was a great help to us being skillful in the use of oars.

With our necessary baggage we took provisions for several days, because we could not ex~~x~~pect to see any human habitation until we should arrive at Fort Ripley. This fort was, at this time, occupied by United States soldiers, and was on the Mississippi, a few miles below the mouth of the Crow Wing River.

We noticed some clouds had begun to spread over the sky so we turned our boat to shore and had ~~h~~ust time to land and turn it bottom upwards putting ourselves and lading underneath it, when the rain began to pour down in torrents. Shower after shower followed, and we remained there until the light of day dawned when we launched our boat again. After rowing about between the tall trees for some time we found our way gack int<sup>e</sup> the Crow Wing river. Then we turned easterly and had been pursuing our new cours<sup>e</sup> but a few hours when we were overtaken by three long birchbark canoes, filled with Indians. It was a delegation of M<sup>e</sup>nominees, who, with their agen<sup>x</sup>y, had been looking over the country for a desirable place for settlement. Seeing one white man among them, I hailed him for information as to our present distance from Fort Ripley. He did not know the distance, but they expected to



## FORT RIPLEY

~~To~~ reach the fort by sunset that day. I asked them to take Mrs. Hancock and our baby aboard, and to put them in care of an officer's family at the fort. They granted my request and then three canoes were soon out of sight.

The young man and I pushed on until sundown. We reembarked the next morning and arrived at the fort before noon, where we found my wife and child who had been well cared for since we parted.

After a short rest our company were again on board the skiff, and were passing <sup>d</sup>own the Mississippi river."

Minnesota Historical Society Collections Vol. 10, Part 1, pl85.

The first in command at Fort Ripley was Captain John B. S. Todd, from <sup>whom</sup> ~~home~~ <sup>dd</sup> Todd county received its name, who afterward was a leading citizen of Dakota.

The Diary of Champlain Manney covers the period of his residence at Fort Ripley from Dec. 7th 1851, to May 17th, 1859.

Minnesota Historical Society Collections 12:695

After the abandonment of Fort Snelling in 1858, Father Gear continued to officiate at Mendota until his appointment as chaplain at Fort Ripley in the spring of 1860. In 1867 he was retired and moved to Minneapolis where he continued to reside until his death which took place Oct. 13, 1873.

## FORT RIPLEY

Historical Records Survey, Morrison County p. 10.

The camp embraces 13,000 acres. It extends about six and three-quarters miles north and south, and from one to four and one-half miles east and west, with the Mississippi River forming the eastern boundary. The State of Minnesota holds title to the land and the Federal Government to the buildings and installations.

Historical Records Survey. "Guide to Historical Marker." p. 21.

Fort Ripley, U. S. highway 371, N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 34, T. 43 N., R. 32 W., north side of Fort Ripley, Crow Wing County.

On the west bank of the Mississippi across from this point stood Fort Ripley, built in 1849 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.



## FORT RIPLEY

Minnesota Historical Society Collections. 6:161, 162

Rev. James Lloyd Breck, a minister~~X~~ of the Episcopal church, left St. Paul and travelled on foot up the Mississippi~~X~~ to the mouth of the Crow Wing and thence to the shore of Gull Lake.--- Under the tall pine trees of Gull Lake he immediately commenced his school. Soon after he obtained a tent from Fort Ripley, 22 miles distant, in which school was continued until~~X~~ the autumn, when the first log building was completed. To this additions were made from year<sup>to year</sup> until the St. Columba Mission House was the result with its church and bell.---

Minnesota Historical Society Collections 6:163.

In the spring of 1857, the turbulent spirits among the Pillagers became very insolent and troublesome, partly, at least in consequence of the removal of the U. S. Troops from Fort Ripley.

Minnesota Historical Collections 9:132.

There were forerunning signs of the coming of that awful massacre. These Indians had sold to the United States government eight hundred thousand acres of their reservatioj, for which they had never received a penny, except a few worthless goods sent to the Upper Sioux. They had been told by the traders that all had been paid out for claims, and that a large part of their annuities had also been thus used. It was true of the money which came too late, twenty-five thousand dollars had been taken from other trust funds to pay these annuities.

Minnesota Historical<sup>4</sup>, Vol. 9:249.

Among the materials relating to the Fort is a manuscript history, presumably by Jasper W. Johnson, compiled from the archives of the War department and accompanied by copies of original maps of the reservation.

Minnesota Historical<sup>4</sup>, Vol. 18:333.

A number of articles of local historical interest are included in an annual publication entitled the "Long Bow Country of Minnesota". Included is a review of the "Story of Old Fort Ripley" by Judge L. B. Kinder.

Manitoba Milestones by Margaret McWilliams. Minnesota Historical<sup>4</sup> 11:308

An early contact with Fort Ripley on the upper Mississippi is revealed: in 1853 after a U. S. postoffice had been established at this point.

Edward A. Bromley, "Old Fort Ripley on the Mississippi," Minneapolis Times, Sept. 5, 1897.

Minnesota Historical<sup>4</sup>, 19:50, 57.

State archives and papers of organizations are among the records that have enriched the society's collections during the year(1937)---- Among misc. mss. additions may be mentioned copies of more than fifty documents relating to Forts Ridgely and Ripley.



Minnesota History, 19:96.:96.

Descriptions of La Pointe, Mantorville, Anoka, Faribault and Sauk Rapids, and references to Forts Ridgely and Ripley in the fifties are to be found among the transcripts of items of Minnesota interest in the New York Tribune, made recently for the society from a file in the Boston Public Library.

Guide to Personal Papers by Grace Lee Nute and Gertrude W. Ackerman, p.112.

Autobiographies of (Bristol, who describes his life as a pioneer lawyer in St. Paul and Minneapolis, and Chas. T. Sterns,) who gives an interesting account of the building of Fort Ripley.

Minnesota Historical Society Scrap Books, Vol. 68 (1861-1912).

Minnesota in Three Centuries, 1655-1908.

U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. 21, ch. 40, pp.69,70,  
46th Congress, 2nd Session.

"Mail Book of Croffut and Clark, Minnesota State News," and Falls Evening News,  
(Minnesota History, 11:444) St. Anthony.

Transcript of items of Minnesota in the New York Tribune filed in Boston Public Library, 1855.

Minnesota History 16:111.

Philip D. Jordan, "Letters of Eliab Parker Mackintire, of Boston 1845-1863, to the Rev. Wm. Salter of Burlington, Iowa," pub. in N. Y. Pub. Libr. Bulletin, July 1935. ~~1935~~.

Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. 18, edited by Dumas Malone.

St. Paul Daily Times, 1854, by Thomas McLean Neeson.