

NOTES ON SIOUX MASSACRE

by William J. Duley

Copied from notebook in possession of Henry Paul, Sr., Curry, Minnesota.

Mr. Paul was appointed by the Minnesota Legislature as one of the commissioners to erect a monument at Lake Shetek. The monument was dedicated on August 6 [2], 1927. Four hundred dollars were appropriated by the legislature. The Everett family, who owned a milling company in Waseca, sent five hundred dollars for the monument, since some member of the family was killed in the massacre.

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INTENTIONAL DUPLICATE EXPOSURE

DAKOTA CONFLICT OF 1862 MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTIONS  
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

3 2 2

July 27th 1885

Mr Arnold

Sir there is many events that might be of interest to you that i came in posession [sic] of from day to day in a little s[t]udy that i will make a note of my wife and myself have a historacal [sic] skitch of the deeds and depredations of the sioux outbreak which would make a book of about 100 pages which would contain nothing but solid facts I think that there is money in such a [book; I have been strongly impressed in my own mind to tak[e] the lecture field myself, my wife and myself to travail with such certificates as we can procure i think good money could be made by going east through the winter season (I being a prety good talker in public) perhaps we might form a junction and join in an enterpriz[er] of that kind and make it a profitabel moove. I have no relics to send you but still have the remnants of the coat i wore on the day of the Exe perhaps my wife might get you up something out of it to send in memory of that great day. The ax i never had i think Gen Marshal sent the ax to Barnums musium and i think it was burned at the great fire when Barnum was burned out some years ago, My saber I left in Minesota with (Capt Dickerson who is now dead) with instructions to deliver to the soldiers union at Mankato. Would be glad to accomodate you with any information that i am in possession of

Yours truly

Capt. W<sup>m</sup> J. Duley

Note look forward to Oct, for information in regard to no. of dead in Grave at Lake shetac.

Capt W<sup>m</sup> J. D.

Remember me to John Gage of your co. Dr. Brook of Mineiske A. P. Foster of plainview W<sup>m</sup> Windom and Thomas Wilson of Winona

S. A Kemp of Reeds landing  
Charles Reed

Kemp was a member of the constitutional convention in 57. And we became acquainted there.

W<sup>m</sup> J. Duley

I have seen many ups and downs since those days and would be pleased to see old friends and talk over old times I am living here in North Alabama and find the climate suitabel to our health and perhaps will remain here the balance of my days to[o] old to rambel much more

Capt. W<sup>m</sup> J. Duley

Mr Arnold

Sir yours of July 1<sup>st</sup> 85. Mailed 17.th at hand and glad to hear from old comrads at any time and pleased to hear that there is something to be done in memory of the dead that was so brutally murdered by those wild savages. I am now 66. years old and feebl and have never had any remuneration from the Government. But a feew days ago Recd a memorial from our Friend Gen Marshal signed by Gen Sibly Gov Hubbard, Col. Geneson, W<sup>m</sup> Crooks, and many others to[o] numerous to mention Recomending a special act of Congress in my case for a pension



and now would be pleased to have you to draw up a short memorial to that effect and get as many of the old friends and soldiers as you may conveniently meet with to sign the same it would strengthen my case Also state that I am the identical person that that [sic] supervised the Gallows. and is personly known to be the person who cut the rop[e] and la[u]nched the 38. demons into eternity. I need help now in my old age my daug[h]ter is in Texas my son is in Washington Teritory my wife and myself is alone. Note if you are disposed to do this in due time you will be richly rewarded &c Yours &c

Capt W<sup>m</sup> J. Duley

October 31<sup>st</sup> 1863.

1 <sup>st</sup> Mr. Foight. German	1
2. <sup>nd</sup> Andrew Cook.	1
3. <sup>rd</sup> Msses. Ireland and	1
2 children.	2
4 <sup>th</sup> Msses. Everett	1
5 <sup>th</sup> Mr. John Eastlick &	1
2 children	2
6 <sup>th</sup> Msses. Smith	1
7. <sup>th</sup> W <sup>m</sup> J. Duley &	1
Bell. Duley	<u>1</u>
Total	12

Note this is positively a correct list of the dead that is buried at Lake Shetac Killed by the Indians. the remains ware all put in boxes and trunks commencing at the North end of the grave and put down in regular order as No. commencing at No. 1 and up to No. 7. each family seperately perhaps I am the only person

living that kept a memorandum correctly in that case and now have the old memorandum pin[n]ed in the old family Bibel

Capt. W. J. Duley

Beeson p.o. Colbert Co.

Alabama

There will be a bill presented to congress the coming session to remuner[a]te me for the execution of the 38 Indians also a bill for special relief as a pension and memorials signed by old friends and associates will have great weight &.. help. If pres. Cleaveland was intitiled to pay for the hanging of one man I am entitiled to pay for 38, yours&c

Capt W<sup>m</sup> J. Duley

July 27<sup>th</sup> [18]85

I well remember the day at big mound and the discovery of the Indians you was out with me that morning and it is sickenen to me to think of the orders of C<sup>ol</sup> McPhale that night at Bufolo Lake and the march that night. Also the narrow escape of Maj. Brown, Waymouth & Lish, and John Renville at stony lake when we ware caught in a cross fire that morning I can remember the vivid scenes of those days well and never will fo[r]get them

Note

If you are Disposed to favor me with a memorial make it short and concise to the point. I want nothing but facts if i cannot effect any thing on facts or truth i want nothing on fals[e]hood

I was wounded in the batel at Lake Shetac have two balls in my left arm yet that i expect to carry to my grave that arm is at times partly paralyzed and some times almost useless

from the effects of those balls &c

I think it nothing more than right that i should be remunerated by the Government for services rendered, for i was only one in hundreds that that [sic] belonged to the fronties that remained to assist in the defence of the frontier against those wild demons or savages, I have writ[t]en quite len[g]thy more so than i expected when i commences but still it may give you some new ideas and new Itams of interest

Capt. W<sup>m</sup> J. Duley

You please to write Lake Shetac and give the necessary information that is wanted you can tare off the last leaf with my name attached and forward and any other information wanted that i may be in possession of will be freely given &c

Yours with Respect &c

Capt W<sup>m</sup> J. Duley

Note i write in this memorandom book it will be handy in your pocket &c

W<sup>m</sup> J. D.

Refer you to October 31<sup>st</sup> 1863 Gav[e] names &c No. also on last page

W<sup>m</sup> J. Duley

post office

Address

Beeson.

Colbert Co.

Alabama