

SHERMAN HOUSE,  
B. F. FERRISS, PROP'R.

St. Paul, Minn., Dec 7 1883.

St Paul Pioneer Press.

I have in your issue  
of this morning an article about  
the "Skeleton Mystery". and am glad a little  
light upon the subject, and if suggested  
by <sup>Rev Mr. Swift</sup> ~~the writer~~. The skeletons have not been  
found, when I can tell only near where they  
can be - in 1863. The graves under the <sup>old</sup> ~~new~~  
dully, some ordered to meet <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>Command</sup> ~~the~~  
Genl Sibley, at or near the mouth of Apple  
River, about distance south of where the  
flourishing Capital of Dakota now stands  
- say 5 or 10 miles - The low water in the  
Missouri River detained Genl Sibley and  
was dependent upon St. Louis boats taking  
forward supplies - Consequently Genl Sibley  
after remaining at Apple River about

St. Paul, Minn., 1883.

Two weeks. Seeing nothing of Sully. Turned  
back with his command going north to  
Devils Lake. Saw Sully reaching Apple  
River and finding Sully gone, and in  
a northwestern direction. Took a course  
to the south of east and I think the  
third day out from Apple River.  
Met A. B. Howe, who had been sent  
out <sup>in the morning</sup> as command of a party of 400 men  
taking a course to the left of the  
main body. Came upon a party of Indians  
some 3300 in number - These he kept  
together as well as he could until he  
could send word to Sully who by this time  
was some miles away. During the time  
with a strong guard. Sully joined  
Howe with about 700 men. Reaching  
home about 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

St. Paul, Minn., 1883.

in the meantime the Indians had gathered  
on considerable ground, however they were  
finally surrounded and they announced  
the fact of surrendering them into a body.  
Even what they loaded with, this  
was accomplished during the afternoon  
- of course any one who was so engaged  
with the police, of conducting the business  
of 50,000 against the Indians, will be  
understand that our soldiers had  
to be very careful and not touch  
any of them - So that these Indians  
were driven into a body very much  
the same as so many Texas men  
would be - The last afternoon was  
cloudy and darkness came early  
after they had been getting nearly together  
in good positions, with our men  
a little above them not more than



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25 ft away. That is the position of  
our line to the north west, and  
such as it was getting dark. The  
Indians appeared. The Red all found  
as the cause of our loss -  
they it was getting dark. They wanted  
to go to their houses, and they did  
go. That is all but 200 of the Red  
and of course that we cut off as they  
were going out through the bushes.  
They cut in one place, and then  
went to their houses and we heard them  
singing. Hearing 24 men & women  
about as many more. They also say  
can be heard a few days later of  
the Indians can't trouble - and  
Bureau & Co. agreed - and 200 of the  
the later on back to St. Paul, and

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after fattening them for 5 or 6 weeks  
we made a fair division of our skins  
and bones and turned them loose  
(by order from the war dept.)  
with a good prospect of their coming  
out fat in the spring and being  
able to kill more whites than  
we had seen - Now we buried in  
three graves 7 ft deep on the side  
of a little knoll 14 men in one grave  
9 in another and 1 - Small 2 graves -  
one removed - in another - and all  
about 1/2 to 3/4 of a mile from where  
the dead were lay. This is near  
as I can remember after 20 years -  
is the history of White Stone Hills  
fought Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> 1863. - The cairn  
White Stone Hills are located near the  
James River ~~near~~ nearly south of

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of Dawson Junction now is such a  
2000 ft say about 50 to 60 miles  
East from the Missouri River. —

I would  
not be surprised if some one  
had found the remains of these  
people <sup>whose bones were</sup> ~~found~~  
thrown away at White Stone Hill  
in 1862 —

One who was there

W. H. Pegg  
Chicago



St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 7, 1883.

St Paul Pioneer Press,

I have read in your issue of this morning an article called the "Skeleton Mystery" and can cast a little "light upon the subject", and if as suggested by Rev Mr Neill the "skeletons" have not been found, why I can tell very near where they can be--- In 1863 the forces under Gen<sup>l</sup> Alf Sully, were ordered to meet Gen Sibley<sup>s</sup>, command at or near the mouth of Apple River, a short distance south of where the flourishing Capital of Dakota now stands -- say 5 or 10 miles -- The low water in the Missouri River detained Genl Sully, as he was dependant upon Steamboats to bring forward supplies--- Consequently Gen<sup>l</sup> Sibley after remaining at Apple River about two weeks, & seeing nothing of Sully, turned back with his command going north to Devils Lake. Gen<sup>l</sup> Sully reaching Apple River and finding Sibley gone, and in a northeastern direction, took a course to the south of east and I think the third day out from Apple River, Maj A. E. House, who had been sent out in the <sup>morning</sup> ~~evening~~ in command of a party of 400 men taking a course to the left of the main body, came upon a party of Indians -- some 3300 in number -- these he kept together as well as he could until he could send word to Sully who by this time was nine miles away, leaving the train with a strong guard, Sully joined House with about 1700 men, reaching him about 2 o'clk in the afternoon in the meantime the Indians had scattered over considerable ground. however they were finally surrounded and then commenced the task of driving them into a body, to see what they looked like, this was accomplished during the afternoon -- of course any one who is at all conversant with the policy of conducting the campaigns of 63, 4 & 5 against the Indians,

will understand that our soldiers had to be very careful and not hurt any of them -- so think these redskins were drove into a body very much the same as so many Texas steers would be -- after they had been gotten nicely together & in good position, with our ~~m~~<sup>n</sup> a little above them & not more than 25 ft away, that is that portion of our line to the north & west, and just as it was getting dark. The Indians opened the Ball, all firing at the same portion of our line -- it was getting dark & they wanted to go to their Tepees, and they did go, that is all but 253 of the tail end of them that we cut off as they were going out through the hole they cut in our line. in other words they licked us in about twenty minutes killing 24 men & wounding about as many more. they also killed over 60 ~~h~~<sup>r</sup>orses -- our slaughter of the Indians was terrific -- Two Bucks & a squaw -- and 253 captured the later we took to Ft Sully and after fattening them for 5 or 6 weeks we made a fair division of our stores and arms and turned them loose (by order from the War Dept) with a good prospect of their coming out fat in the spring and being able to kill more whites the next season--- Now we burried in ~~t~~<sup>h</sup>ree graves 7 ft deep on the side of a little knoll 14 men in one grave 9 in another and 1 -- ~~Leut~~<sup>Lieut</sup> J. J. Lenorth -- since removed -- in another -- and all about 1/2 to 3/4 of a mile from where the dead horses lay. This -- as near as I can remember after 20 years -- is the History of the Battle of White Stone Hills fought Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> 1863--- The said White Stone Hills are located near & west of the James River, nearly south of of where Jamestown now is, and is, I should say about 60 to 90 miles east from the Missouri River---

I would not be surprised if some one had found the remains of these poor fellows, whose lives were thrown away at White Stone Hills in 1863---

One who was there

(Signed) C. W. Fogg  
Chicago