

Solon J. Buck, # 1.

NOV 2 1925

HEBRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 13

H. O. JOHNSON, SUPERINTENDENT

HEBRON, NORTH DAKOTA

November 23, 1925.

Mr. Solon J. Buck, Secretary,
Minnesota Historical Society,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Sir:

Last August I joined the Minnesota Historical Society and purchased a set of William Watts Tolwell's *A History of Minnesota*, which I have since read. In Appendix (8), Volume II, page 391 the following topic is discussed: "THE NUMBER OF KILLED AND WOUNDED IN THE SIOUX OUTBREAK". In the footnote at the bottom of page 392 reference is made to Satterlee's "VICTIMS OF THE INDIAN MASSACRE".

I am interested in this reference to a list of those who were murdered by the Sioux for the reason that my grandmother on my father's side and my father's brother were killed by the Sioux on August 23rd, 1862 in New Sweden Township, Nicollet County, Minnesota. I would like to know if there is any authentic or official record of these two victims. I note that Mr. Satterlee credits twelve casualties to Nicollet County, and that to these one name was added in 1923.

My grandmother's name was Mrs. Erick Johnson, nee Nilla Jons Dotter. My grandfather had the name of Erick Jenson when he came from Sweden in 1854, and I do not know whether or not he still retained this surname in 1862. I rather think that he had already changed his name to Johnson. My uncle, who was the second victim of the Outbreak, was a boy of 12, whose name was Pehr. Do the names of these two victims appear in Mr. Satterlee's list? Is there any other record of them?

This week I received a statement from my father's sister, Mrs. Ingar Holmquist, who resides at 405 5th Ave., N. E., Faribault, Minnesota, which she wrote out five years ago intending to use it in making application for a pension. I shall enclose a typewritten copy of this account. In it she recites the part that she and the other members of my father's family played in the Sioux Massacre. Unfortunately the statement is meager as to details. The writer leaves out too much to make the document entirely clear. The typewritten copy which I enclose differs from the original only in that the spelling and punctuation have been partly changed and improved. Also I have inserted the names where 'brothers' and neighbors were mentioned for the sake of clarity. At the time that Mrs. Holquist prepared this statement she submitted it to Mr. Andrew Nelson of St. Peter (since deceased), Mr. S. O. Strand of St. Peter, and Mr. C. C. Nelson of Lafayette, (R.F.D. # 1, New Sweden Township), and you will note that these three

certify that the statement is correct. All three of these men lived near Scandia Grove Swedish Lutheran Church in Nicollet County at the time of the Sioux Outbreak. This is the church referred to by Mrs. Holquist. Mr. C. C. Nelson lived on a farm adjacent to the one that my grandfather owned and on which the murders described took place.

The dates mentioned in Mrs. Holquist's statement do not appear to be quite accurate. I am quite certain, however, that she is correct in making the statement that "It was on the 23rd of August that the Indians murdered my mother and my brother". This leaves one date, the 24th of August, to be accounted for and I have written her about that day and date.

I might explain further that the twelve year old brother whom my aunt mentions as being with her and the mother and baby when the Indians came upon them was Pehr, the boy whom the Indians also killed. They took him with them a few hundred yards and then shot him. As my aunt states, he was not found until a week afterward. Possibly she has forgotten the exact length of time that the body of this boy lay undiscovered, since she states that he was buried in the same grave with her mother. She also states that two brothers were with her father. The younger of these two, Olof, is my father, who was three years old at the time. The older, Nels, was five years old. Both are still alive. The oldest brother, John, as the account indicates, escaped on horseback. He was fifteen years old. I might also explain that where the fugitives "hid in the grass" the slough grass grew very rank before the swamp lands were drained out in later years. This probably accounts for the fact that the family was split up in its effort to escape after jumping out of the wagon. My grandfather with Nels and Olaf waded out into a slough, or swamp, where the Indians did not find them. It was from this place that he heard the shots fired by the Indians.

Since the Sioux Massacre of 1862 claimed several hundreds of victims, I do not suppose that knowledge of two additional killings will add anything to early Minnesota history. However, I am naturally very desirous of having the names of my relatives listed with those of the other 363 settlers whose lives were lost in this outbreak. My grandmother and uncle were the only victims in New Sweden Township. This ought to be of some interest to the historian, especially since comparatively few of the entire number killed resided in Nicollet County.

I shall await your reply with a great deal of interest. I hope that I have made my letter sufficiently clear so that the essential facts may be gotten from it. I have indicated the addresses of Mrs. Holquist and those who certify that her statement is correct so that, if necessary or desirable, the facts can be corroborated by these people.

Thanking you for any information which you may give me with regard to whether or not the names of my relatives are on Saterlee's list of the victims of the Sioux massacre, I am,

Respectfully yours,

H. O. Johnson

INDIAN OUTBREAK IN (NEW SWEDEN TOWNSHIP) NICOLLET COUNTY, MINNESOTA, AUGUST, 1862.

Statement by Mrs. Ingar Holmquist, nee Ingar Johnson, or Jonson, of Faribault, Minnesota, 1920.

On the 14th of August we were told that the Indians had broke out and were killing people and burning houses, stables and grain. That same night all the dogs in the neighborhood kept howling all night. The men got their rifles ready but did not have any ammunition and we had 16 miles to St. Peter where ammunition could be bought but they went out anyway to see if they could see any Indians or fires, but they could not see anything. The next day all the men hitched up their teams and everybody went to the Church which was five miles from where we lived. We stayed there till the 21st of August. Then a man named Thorson told us that scouts had been out to see and there were no Indians so it was safe for us to return home. But the very same night after we were back home someone discovered fires and all the rest of the families (in the neighborhood) went back to the church in the night, except my parents, who had not been told of the fires. In the morning one of the neighbors was sent to tell us, but got scared and forgot to tell us. Some other men and father went on horseback out west on the prairie toward where they had seen the fires to see if there were any Indians. They rode on till they came to a big slough. They saw men on the other side of the slough who beckoned them to come. They rode as near as they could; then the Indians fired at them but did not hurt anybody. Our men turned around and galloped back as fast as the horses could go. Mother and we children were ready in the wagon to drive away. When we saw the men coming so fast we knew there was danger. Mother did not want to leave till father came. He jumped off the horse, and my brother (John) jumped on the horse father had been riding. Father took the lines of the team to drive away. We met the Indians. Father turned and drove to the end of the pasture. There he stopped while we jumped off the wagon and hid in the grass. The Indians took our horses and were pursuing my brother and a neighbor. They shot a neighbor boy (John Solomon, changed name later to Wilson) through the wrist. Then they came and found Mother, one brother, Pehr, twelve years old, one brother ten months old, and myself. They shot Mother in the chest. The last words she said were, "Lord Jesus receive my soul." They then kicked my twelve year old brother and told him to get up. Then they kicked me and said get up. I was in a trance and could hear and feel but could not move and see. They asked brother if I was dead. Do not remember his answer. Then two Indians dragged me across the pasture holding my wrists; they felt of my pulse and threw a feather mattress over me. I thought an Indian was near me watching. I have a big scar

Statement by Mrs. Ingar Holmquist on Indian Outbreak.

on my right side above my knee from being dragged. I lay there from between two and three o'clock until nightfall. When I got up it was dusk. It looked to me like the corn in the field was walking--fires all around, houses, stables and grain. I heard my little brother cry. He had laid by Mother and cried all that time. I went and got him and walked back to where I had been left. There I found a piece of bread and masticated it some as it was very dry and no water near. He ate it and went to sleep. I went through the fence into the field where some hay was cocked and went into one of the cocks with my brother. Father had gone farther away so the Indians did not find him. He had two small brothers with him (Olof and Nels). When it was dark father came to look for his dead as he had heard a shot for each one of us. He saw a dog sitting on one of the haycocks. He went and tipped it over. There he found a neighbor's wife with her little daughter. Then he turned them all over and found me in the last one. Father, my two brothers, myself, the neighbor's wife and her daughter walked five miles that night to the Church. There there were some soldiers who had started for St. Paul to go South, but had been called back. The next day father with the soldiers went to find my twelve year old brother (Pehr) and to bring mother to be buried. They did not find brother till a week after. He was buried in the same grave with mother. It was on the 23d of August that the Indians murdered my brother and my mother. I was then 14 years old and am now 73. We went to St. Peter and stayed in a fort that was not finished. I was so nervous that I could not sleep nights, thought I heard Indians outside the house. The next spring I began to sleep again nights, but dreamed of Indians and often woke up with a scream. Have never got over being nervous. The least little thing startles me. My father's name was Erick Johnson.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Ingar Holmquist,
East Side,
405 5th Ave.,
Faribault, Minnesota.

To the best of our knowledge and belief the above statement is true.

Signed, ANDREW NELSON
C. C. NELSON
S. O. STRAND

Witnesses.

ENCLOSURE

INDIAN OUTBREAK IN (NEW SWEDEN TOWNSHIP) NICOLLET COUNTY, MINNESOTA, AUGUST, 1862.

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Witnesses.

ENCLOSURE

INTENTIONAL DUPLICATE EXPOSURE

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

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