

Narrative from the Indian outbreak of 1862
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I have lived over 53 years between the Lower and Upper Sioux agency on the Minnesota river. The old government road between these two places passed thru our old home farm. I have seen Indians by the hundreds pass over this road back and forth, using the old primitive way of travel. Some tied to ponies, on foot, on horseback, in covered wagons and of late in cars. I have interviewed defending captives, survivors and Indians who participated in the Indian massacre of 1862.

The most horrid and cruel murder I have ever heard of is the narrative of Justice Kreuger as told by ~~him~~ he lived in Beaver Falls Township, Renville County.

Monday Aug 18 in the morning a messenger came on horseback reporting the Indians had started to kill all the whites and softly lie in fleeing to Ft. Ridgely 30 miles down the river. Other neighbors were notified including my brother Aug Kitzman. We got ready eleven wagons drawn by oxen going toward the Fort. In the mean time we heard word

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to the Aug Schwandt family who lived a few miles up the river. This is what was found thus as told by them son a boy of 14 years who was eyewitness. Mr Schwandt had been at work on the roof of the house when the Indians came he had been shot while up there and had pulled down blood streaks indicated this Mrs Schwandt had been taken to a field a little east of the house her head cut off the body lying in a pool of blood. a Mr Cross a kind man had also been killed on this spot his head being split wide open. Mrs Halty a daughter of the Schwandt family about to become a mother the child was cut out of the womans stomach torn and nailed to a nearby tree. It struggled and quivered for some time before it gave up its spirit. The 14 year old boy who lay on the grass left for dead from a Tomahawk wound was eye witness to this massacre.

There was eleven men each one with a musket gun who started from the Krieger and Kitzman home. After traveling a 8 or ten miles they met 12 Indians each one with guns. They showed friendliness showed signs of peace. Mr Kitzman knew some of them

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personally from last winter and spring hunt. They spoke English and refused the fleeing settlers. They had heard of two bad Sioux Indians but had discovered a large camp of Chippawa Indians who were further down and that they were murdering the whites and that some died in returning to their homes and they would go along as escorts and help fight the Chippawas if they came. It was agreed upon, the Indians were given a lunch of bread butter and milk late in the afternoon the Indians began to show a sudden mood. demanded money which they got. a ~~cave~~ councilation was held. Should they shoot the Indians or not as it had become certain trouble of a terrible nature was coming. but eleven guns against the same number of guns was no assurance of victory. It was decided to wait till they arrived home and inside a building to give the Indians fight. This never came to pass.

Just before entering the Aug Kitzman home a bunch of 14 Indians rose from the grass and gave fire eight of the eleven whites men fell dead

from the first fire some women and children ~~were~~ hit as there was over 20 people in the wagons. The cry of the wounded seem to please the savages as they took a long time to reload their guns. In the next fire all men were disposed of including women and some children hit by stray shot. Children bleeding were running from wagon to wagon calling for their parents who now were either dead or wounded. The Indians to save ammunition were clubbing them with their guns butts. It seemed as if the children would not stay dead but rose from the ground after fight for dead. A few of the middle aged women who still were unhurt were told if they would go to the Indians Wagons no harm would come some went. but I refused as I had four children then either dead or alive. I received a load of buck shots and felt as dead. a Indian came to rob me of my cloths which he did not being able to get my dress of he ran his knife down in front to rip my dress open. In doing so he cut a four inch gash in my stomach.

laying simmuncious I noticed some old women and about a dozen of the remaining children going into the house of Kitzman. Waking up later in the night I discovered the house had been set on fire and it became the funeral pyre of those who sought refuge for the night. There about 25 people were massacred in this place.

In a ~~very~~ dazed condition I wandered round the Minnesota river devoid of cloths. Now the next ten days until rescue was spent I don't know what I ate and how I slept is all a haze to me when caught I had some undercloths on which I believed I had taken some dead person found.

My rescue came this way. when Capt Grant Anderson and J. R. Brown were near Bear Creek burning dead on Sept 1st they discovered me and took me along altho I was in a demented condition. I laid in a Wagon. On the morning of Sept 2 our camp was attacked what ~~was~~ known as the battle of Buck Creek, for 36 hours I laid in the wagon with out nourishment of any kind and altho the wagon was

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Found signs of a bullet had
gone thru it. It was not touched by any
bullets. With Dr. Danks and I further
recovered and within two feet of the
massacre was happily marked to my second
husband.

All Davidson
Renall's mine