

Written by Mrs. Rachel A. Linn  
of Kimball, Minn.,  
1932.

My father came to Minnesota in 1853; my father's name was A. Maservey.

I was born in 1855 down near Elk River. From there we moved to St. Cloud and later we moved to Maine Prairie. At that time the Indians were peaceable, they roamed over the country at will and hunted deer and begged for molasses. They was always well treated and then they went further away for awhile and then word came the Indians was killing whites on the frontier. That was the first Indian scare. We went to St. Cloud and staid awhile and then they thoughtnit was allright to go home but they broke out again near Eden Valley and Forest City and then is when they started to build the block house at Maine Prairie.

#### Building the Block House.

Early the next morning nearly every man was on hand. A site just south of the present Methodist Church was chosen for a fort. All day long men worked with eager haste to erect an inclosure capable of holding their families in case of an attack. The fort was forty feet square made by standing a double row of tamarack logs on end close together. They were sixteen feet above the ground and two feet in the ground, all roofed in making it, when finally finished, three stories high. The timbers were run out under the eaves at the corners and bullet proof. Rifle pits were built capable of holding three or four rifle men to protect the sides of the fort. House and barn logs, fence rails, barn timbers, bridge timbers, wherever found, was taken with or without leave but generally it was freely donated. All that and the following day the men worked like beavers but towards night of the second day no fresh news coming in from the scene of Indian depredation many began to doubt the danger and the idea began to prevail that they had not secured sufficient evidence to warrant them in going to such an outlay. Some did not purpose to do any more work on the fort until there was more proof of danger. The next morning only about half the men come back to work the others went to harvesting their grain. Those working on the fort had succeeded in getting the sides up when about four o'clock in the afternoon a horseback rider came to see them. The Indians were coming and they went home, got teams and took eatables and bedding and went back to the fort that night.

My father, A. Maservey, had one horse and Mr. Eli Atwood had one horse so they put them together. Mr. Atwood stayed with my father's folks all the time we was at the Fort. While they went home after their things they left me and my little sister with Mrs. Clark, a real old lady. They left us on the Mr. Crammer place on Pearl Lake. It was getting dark before they came back. I was so glad when we heard the wagons coming. Then it was heavy roads all around there and when we went to the Fort that night and we slept on the ground that night. We stayed there six or seven weeks before we dared to go home. The men went and harvested grain and went back to the Fort at night and when we went back home we slept in a log smoke house for a long time. It wasn't very safe to sleep in a frame house for the Indians could shoot through the walls.

It was while they was harvesting on my father's place there was a family at the Fort, that come from Paynesville, decided to go home to Paynesville. They had come to the Fort with ox teams. They started and got as far as Will White's farm past west of our place and the Indians fired on them. They didn't kill any of them but stunned the man. They turned their teams around and run them back to a house on Pearl Lake. They ran in there to get more bullets, they were out of ammunition. It was at noon time and my father, A. Maservey, was sitting in the shade of the house. They didn't see him or he would have been killed if he had been out in the field. They went back to the Fort and stayed awhile longer.



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INTENTIONAL DUPLICATE EXPOSURE

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

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