

Aug. 21, 1965

Dear Mr. Jung,

I am sorry I haven't acknowledged your letter before. I was busy with harvest and other things and I also, wanted to talk to a former neighbor, who now lives in Granite Falls, Mr. Einar Viller. He owns the farm to the west. He is more up on the early history of this area, his Dad, Lars Viller, came here when it was all a sod prairie. Some of the stories told may not be too consistent and maybe when you see the things may be confusing. You will note that the dried up lake was quite a bit larger than the depression shown on the map. There just could not be a outlet running to the north-east. The outlet or over-flow would be to north-west. Einar Viller said that his Dad said it would run out this outlet when the lake would fill up. That was before the tile was put in.

There were no trees around this lake, but there was a lone tree standing on the creek bank and, as you see, quite close to the lake. Hence the ~~name~~ name Lone tree lake. This fact was told by a Mr. L.O. Homme and Einar Viller remembers seeing the tree roots.

Mr. Homme was one of the earliest settlers and he built and owned the place where the Monument now stands. How Battle Lake got its name I don't know.

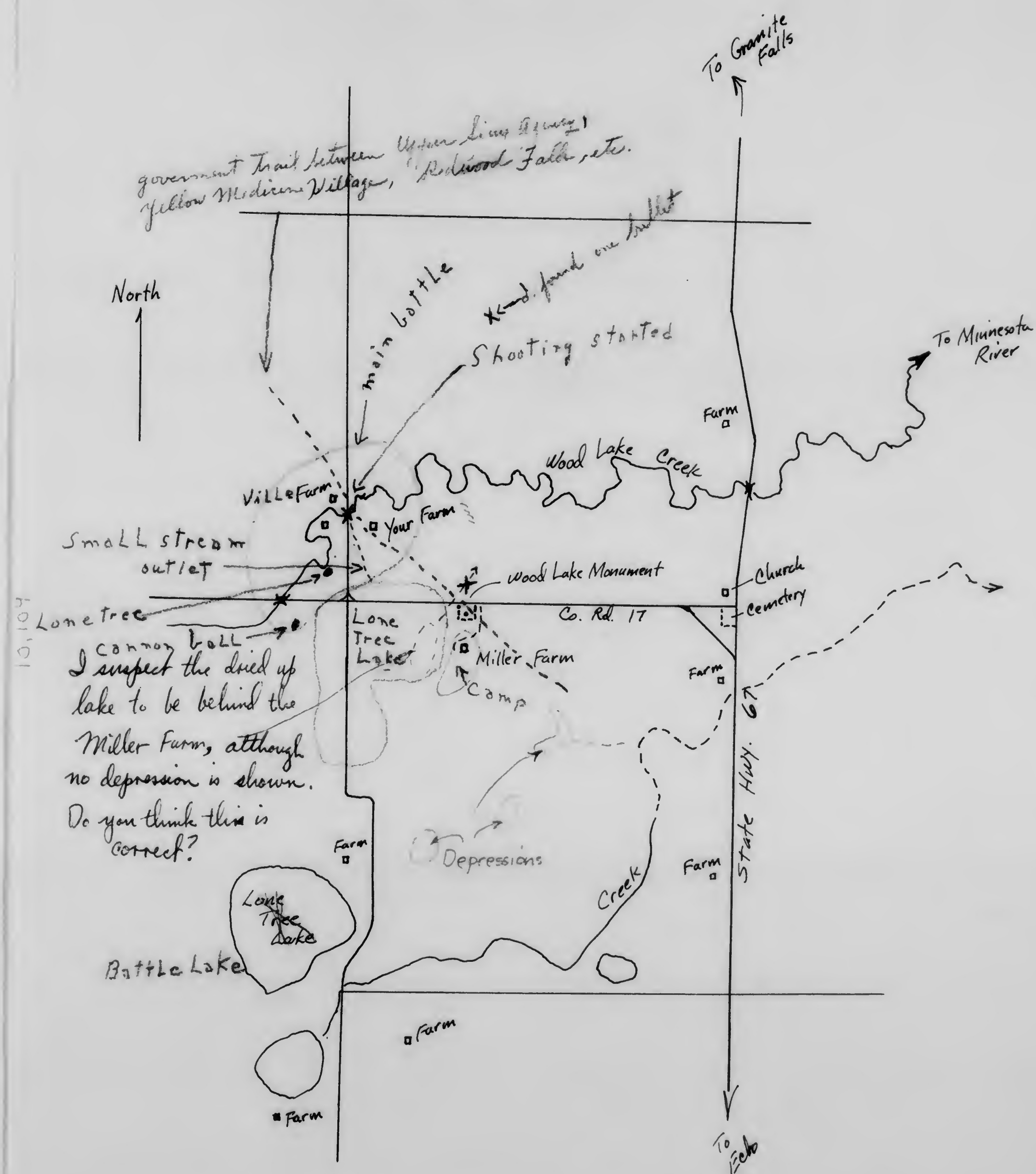
I can faintly remember a few old soldiers were up here to look over the Old Battle ground and Einar Viller remembers the accounts ^{one of them} he gave. A small group of soldiers (he was not one of them) with teams of horses & wagon and a dog started out on the government trail toward the Yellow Medicine Village to see if they could find some potatoes patches (some stories will say they headed for Upper Sioux Agency to get provisions) they had just crossed the creek when the dog started to act up and on close look they saw a Indian head in the tall grass along the creek margin. They took a shot at it and the Indian jumped up in the bushes. The soldiers

turned around heading for the camp. The men at the camp heard the shooting and they met the Indians along the creek ravine. We have found lots of bullets and they have been in the area marked with red. So there can't be any doubt but the battle site must be there. Old Sam Vill found a cannon ball and Eimer Vill found part of a cannon ball west of the lake which would indicate that there were Indians up the ravine. The Old Soldier said that he thought the Indians had planned to circle the camp but this failed when the Indians jumped the wagon of soldiers.

Hope this adds a little to your records.

Yours,
Alfred Olden

From the 1938 photo



Please mail back to me this map at your earliest convenience.
Thank you

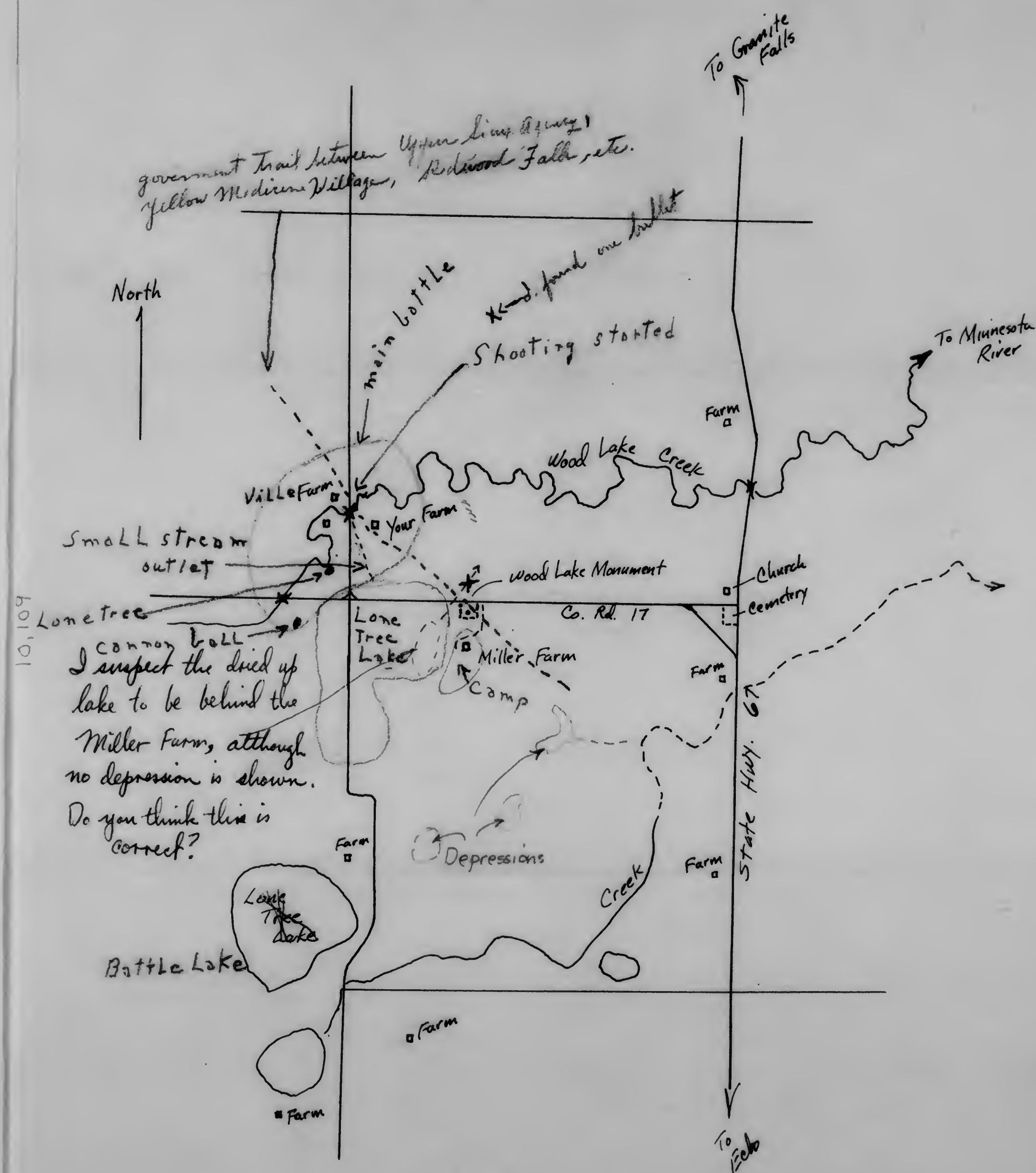
ENCLOSURE

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Hope this adds a little to your records.

Yours,
Alfred Odell

From the 1938 photo



I suspect the dried up lake to be behind the Miller Farm, although no depression is shown. Do you think this is correct?

Please mail back to me this map at your earliest convenience.

Thank you

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INTENTIONAL DUPLICATE EXPOSURE

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

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