

Mrs. Pernilla Ofelt's Account of the  
Sioux Uprising, 1862.

A Short Narrative of the Experiences  
of Pernilla Manson (Mrs. Ofelt) During  
the Sioux Uprising in Minnesota in 1862.

Mrs. Pernilla Ofelt's Account of the  
Sioux Uprising, 1862.

A Short Narrative of the Experiences  
of Pernilla Manson (Mrs. Ofelt) During  
the Sioux Uprising in Minnesota in 1862.

INTENTIONAL DUPLICATE EXPOSURE

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

0077



# 1.

Mrs. Pernilla Ofelt, one of the few remaining pioneers that went through the horrors of the Sioux Indian Massacre in August, 1862 celebrated her eightieth birthday anniversary last Friday at her pleasant home at 1614 Franklin Avenue S.E., and many of her friends and neighbors called during the day and paid her their respects. In spite of the hardships passed through in her younger days, she enjoys excellent health and spoke vividly of the time when they were compelled to flee from their home to escape the fate that over-took so many of the frontier settlers in that part of the state during the terrible week in the later part of August, 1862 when many hundred settlers were killed by the murderous Sioux Indians.

Mrs. Ofelt was born in Färlef, Skåne. Her father, Ola Manson with his family came to Carver in the summer of 1857, and remained there only a few months when they proceeded into the wilderness, and settled near what is now Grove City. In talking about the early days, she said that Minnesota was still a territory and was passing through a panic, due largely to the so-called wild cat banking. The money that these banks issued was good one day and worthless the next. Interest on money was as high as three per cent a month. Money almost went out of circulation and there was much suffering among the settlers. In 1861, just as the settlers began to get a little foothold, the civil war broke out. A large percent of the men from the frontier settlement enlisted or were drafted, and in many cases the women and children had to take care of the isolated homes. Meantime the Indians became dis-satisfied about payments they had coming from the government which were delayed, and after waiting for months for the pay they started to drive the settlers out of the territory they had previously sold, robbing and killing as they went along. Many of the settlers had been able to improve their condition and were ready to harvest a beautiful crop when the war whoop of the Sioux Indians was heard. Mrs. Ofelt said she was then helping a neighbor six miles away from home, taking care of a sick woman and a two weeks old baby.

# 2.

It was at noon when three Indians rode up and asked for something to eat. This was nothing unusual, as Indians frequently called for something to eat when on their trapping and hunting expeditions. When told to come in they left their rifles out-side. There was no bread in the house, but she had baked some dough-nuts, these being set on the table together with raspberries that had just been picked in the nearby woods. The Indians seemed to enjoy their feast and after their fill took their guns and disappeared. It is very likely that the dough-nuts and raspberries saved her life as well as the life of the other woman and child, as it was only a few hours after that word was received to flee to Forest City, as the Indians had killed several people in Acton, a small trading post six miles away. Mrs. Ofelt hitched up the only horse, helped the sick woman and the small baby into the wagon and started across the country Forest City some twenty miles away, and reached there safely that evening. Her father and the rest of the family had oxen, but arrived safely during the night. Forest City was a small inland town but became the refuge for hundreds of settlers who built stockades around the place and held the Indians at bay until help arrived from Fort Snelling. There was much suffering for want of food and shelter during the three weeks stay in this place, as all had come away hurriedly with only the clothes on their backs and without food. Home guards were organized for defense, and soldiers from Fort Snelling soon scattered the Indians.

Mrs. Ofelt said they felt thankful they had escaped with their lives and with hundreds of others decided not to return and abandoned their home and settled in Vasa, Goodhue County, where she later married N.P. Ofelt, a successful farmer and lived there until her husband's death a few years ago, when she moved to Minneapolis to be near her daughter.

By P.P.Quist.

DEFECTIVE PAGE

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

0078



Mrs. Pernilla Ofelt, one of the few remaining pioneers that went through the horrors of the Sioux Indian Massacre in August, 1862 celebrated her eightieth birthday anniversary last Friday at her pleasant home at 1814 Franklin Avenue S.E., and many of her friends and neighbors called during the day and paid her their respects. In spite of the hardships passed through in her younger days, she enjoys excellent health and spoke vividly of the time when they were compelled to flee from their home to escape the fate that over-took so many of the frontier settlers in that part of the state during the terrible week in the later part of August, 1862 when many hundred settlers were killed by the murderous Sioux Indians.

Mrs. Ofelt was born in Färlef, Skåne. Her father, Ola Manson with his family came to Carver in the summer of 1857, and remained there only a few months when they proceeded into the wilderness, and settled near what is now Grove City. In talking about the early days, she said that Minnesota was still a territory and was passing through a panic, due largely to the so-called wild cat banking. The money that these banks issued was good one day and worthless the next. Interest on money was as high as three per cent a month. Money almost went out of circulation and there was much suffering among the settlers. In 1861, just as the settlers began to get a little foothold, the civil war broke out. A large percent of the men from the frontier settlement enlisted or were drafted, and in many cases the women and children had to take care of the isolated homes. Meantime the Indians became dis-satisfied about payments they had coming from the government which were delayed, and after waiting for months for the pay they started to drive the settlers out of the territory they had previously sold, robbing and killing as they went along. Many of the settlers had been able to improve their condition and were ready to harvest a beautiful crop when the war whoop of the Sioux Indians was heard. Mrs. Ofelt said she was then helping a neighbor six miles away from home, taking care of a sick woman and a two weeks old baby.

It was at noon when three Indians rode up and asked for something to eat. This was nothing unusual, as Indians frequently called for something to eat when on their trapping and hunting expeditions. When told to come in they left their rifles out-side. There was no bread in the house, but she had baked some dough-nuts, these being set on the table together with raspberries that had just been picked in the nearby woods. The Indians seemed to enjoy their feast and after their fill took their guns and disappeared. It is very likely that the dough-nuts and raspberries saved her life as well as the life of the other woman and child, as it was only a few hours after that word was received to flee to Forest City, as the Indians had killed several people in Acton, a small trading post six miles away. Mrs. Ofelt hitched up the only horse, helped the sick woman and the small baby into the wagon and started across the country Forest City some twenty miles away, and reached there safely that evening. Her father and the rest of the family had oxen, but arrived safely during the night. Forest City was a small inland town but became the refuge for hundreds of settlers who built stockades around the place and held the Indians at bay until help arrived from Fort Snelling. There was much suffering for want of food and shelter during the three weeks stay in this place, as all had come away hurriedly with only the clothes on their backs and without food. Home guards were organized for defense, and soldiers from Fort Snelling soon scattered the Indians.

Mrs. Ofelt said they felt thankful they had escaped with their lives and with hundreds of others decided not to return and abandoned their home and settled in Vasa, Goodhue County, where she later married N.P. Ofelt, a successful farmer and lived there until her husband's death a few years ago, when she moved to Minneapolis to be near her daughter.

By P.P.Quist.

INTENTIONAL DUPLICATE EXPOSURE

DEFECTIVE PAGE

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

0079