

From Peter Sutherland
(1) 4016 South Queen Ave., Minneapolis.

July
August 9th 1908

Harmon Upham Esq
Secretary Minnesota
Historical Society

Dear Sir
at Leech Lake
August 5th 1862. Bishop Whipple being
warned of an immediate outbreak
among the Indians was hurrying out
of the country. He urged me to accompany
him - that I could not do and
leave my men & the tender mercy of
the Indians - next day August 6th
he hurried away. But before leaving
presented me with the Prayer Book -
I then held Council with my men
the conclusion arrived at was
to conceal our gunpowder - which
we accomplished on the
night of August 6th within the
stockade where our stables were

There was a large Pile of Horse
manure. in that we dug a
Trench and during the night scattered
all our Tubs of Gunpowder
for several Days between the 6th
and the 12th we could scarcely
see an Indian. They were all in
Council and did not visit us.
On the morning of the 12th they appeared
in full force and made a
Demand for every thing in our
Possession. that I refused. They
wanted to know if we intended
to fight. that I told them was
out of question. Six or seven
men to resist the entire Bands.
They went to work at once and
dressed every thing. When the
Pillage was complete. No one
would ask the other. how much
Gunpowder did you get the
answer was none. ~~their fathers~~

Their Leaders demanded of
me when the Gunpowder was
I told them that it was on
the way. This seemed to exasperate
them. The Cry was to kill and scalp
we were lined up for that purpose
at that moment. The War Chief
Big Dog and his Sons. interfered
in our behalf. at one time I saved
his life. he made a speech to his
People = you are going to kill this
man and his Children meaning his
men. Is it because he fed you
when you were hungry. or perhaps
that he cloathed you when you
were naked. If there be any
killing. begin on me first. The
old Chief and his Sons stood by us
we were then turned over to him.
he kept guard and ~~fed us~~ fed us
until relieved in Exchange. for
Savage Prisoners held at
Fort Ripley

4

They asked me if the white
man Chief would do that for
them - I said I did not know
but if they would procure for me
Paper I would write and urge
that they would do so - an old
Halfbreed volunteered to carry
the message on his arrival at the
Fork a Council of War was held
they made the demand that we
be surrendered first that the
Halfbreed assured them was out
of question - that the Indians
would not liberate ^{entirely} their
People were set free - he assured
the Commander that he would give
his life that they would keep good
faith with me - after long deliberation
they concluded to take the risk
they put the Indians in ambuscade
under the guidance of the Halfbreed
messenger in sighting the Indian

5

~~The Indian~~ Camp early in
the morning - the ~~Indians~~ refused
to go further - the Indians and
and Halfbreed talked over to their
Camp - a Council was held -
and my men were liberated - on
an arrival at Browning we did
not ^{only} under arms go ^{to} ^{the} Secretary of the Interior -
until Peace was declared

I feel proud to say that acting
on the warning of my friend
Bishop Whipple and the Secretary
of War ~~Gunderson~~ ^{Gunderson} we saved
the lives of so many on the frontier
at that time - the old chief
told me afterwards that had the
Gunderson ^{that} fallen into their hands
at ^{that} time even his influence could
not have saved ^{us}

DEFECTIVE PAGE

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

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A

My first meeting Bishop Whipple
 was I think in the fall of 1859.
 I was a few miles ahead of
 my train, traveling on foot
 with my gun and dog.
 At the side of a lonely lake I
 found the Bishop in company with
 two men. Their conveyance was
 broken down. On my arrival the
 Bishop introduced himself & my
 asking assistance which I gladly
 volunteered, assuring him that when
 my train arrived I had a skilled
 mechanic among my men that
 would repair the damage.
 On the arrival of my train Mr. Whitehead
 my foreman made a careful examination
 and reported that if we remained
 over to mend the damage to their
 conveyance we would be compelled
 to camp with them for the night
 that I concluded to do. By ten
 o'clock that night the repair was

B

Completed. In the morning I
 took all their baggage and ^{placed} down
 my team. The men I insisted would
 accompany me on foot - I ordered
 that the Bishop should occupy
 the conveyance alone - an early
 arrival at such a place. The Bishop
 at my request established himself
 at my Head Quarters. I surrendered
 my Bed to him which he refused
 to occupy unless I slept with him
 in all the visits he made to the
 North Country up to 1862 he occupied
 the same quarters with me as
 at first.

MS. from Peter Sutherland, on his
Service at Leech Lake, Aug., 1862, &c.
Ackd July 25, 1908.

Sept. 6.