

Original Letter belongs to the heirs of David Davis, Bloomington, Ill.

29 of August '62

Fairbault Minnesota

My dear Laura

Your kind letter reached me by this evenings post.

We have been terribly frightened but now feel comparatively safe - for many armed men lie between us & the scenes of carnage & bloodshed. We are 40 or 50 miles from St. Peter & St. Peter is I believe 12 miles east from New Ulm where so many murders have been committed. Our poor desolated state. What will become of it - This Indian war will prove its ruin. Our village is full of refugees - from towns west of us - who have fled panic stricken from their homes. That immense Catholic church on a street behind our house is full of Irish. I think I will send you the Triweekly St. Paul Press of this week -- and after reading it if it will not be too much trouble will you send it to Mother. We could get but one copy there is such a demand for papers here. Please observe the article on the last page. If there is any possibility of a war with the Dakota nation I shall wish to remove from Minnesota.

I was much surprised to observe that your letter was postmarked Bloomington. I had supposed you were spending the summer in Maine -- I am greived to learn of your ill health. Is it your old complaint of rheumatism -- The little *evergreens* flourish well. They ceased growing about the middle of July. I find that is the custom of *evergreens* & the remainder of the season the new growth undergoes the process of hardening -- To return to the Indians - every Mothers heart has palpitated with fear as she has read of the horrid tortures which the savages have inflicted upon little children before their parents eyes --

5668-20 May 43- Paul Henry C. G.

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5668-20 4004-2-2nd. May 6-9

INTENTIONAL DUPLICATE EXPOSURE

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

0 3 9 4

Two children were found alive nailed to the side of the house - others fastened to the ground by stakes driven through them. It is estimated that 200 women & children have been carried into captivity. This is worse than death - Little did I think when a child I studied the history of the pilgrims & read of Indian wars that I should live to see the day when I should look fearfully around my own home for the skulking of the savage foe - This village has been a place of rendezvous for - one band of Sioux in particular called - *Wapetates* or Leaf Shooters, - - Mr Faribault an old Indian trader lives here - & there have been for years - a number of teepees or wigwams in the woods near his dwelling - When the news of the outbreak first reached us with it came a rumor that the "Big Woods" were full of the savages preparing an attack on Faribault - The excitement was intense - Schools were broken up & parents & children flew to find each other. Such a search for guns, powder & shot & bullets, was never known before - A company of cavalry was organized as soon as possible - & started out towards the setting sun to meet the foe - while all the men remaining in town organized themselves into a "Home Guard" - Few Ladies - few very few Mothers slept or undressed that night, although a patrol guard surrounded the town & every precaution was taken to secure safety for women & children in case of an attack. But the morning sun which rose over many a murdered family & desolated home - found the village of Faribault unmolested. If Gov. Ramsey sends a single regiment or company or one man to the war - I will not stay in F. through the winter. We need everyone & men from other states for the protection of our frontier. The savages have had a taste of blood they will want more. I have been indignant that Minnesota should

be called upon for so many men - Many ladies have prophesied that the Indians would rise - so many white men have gone to the war.

Ever yours dear Laura

Elisa.

MRS LEONARD (Laura) Swett to her sister.
MRS SWETT WAS LAURA GUNN of
CLINTON, ILLINOIS.

LEONARD SWETT WAS A PROMINENT BLOOMINGTON
ILL. LAWYER AND CLOSE FRIEND OF
PRES. LINCOLN