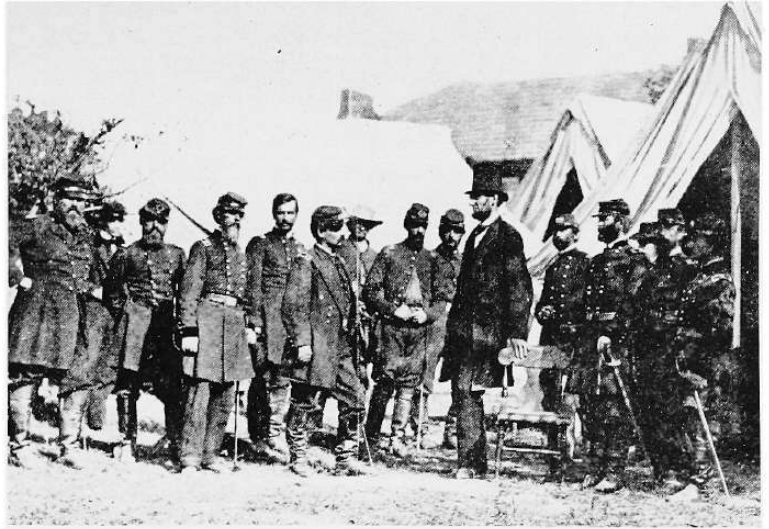


LINCOLN at the  
front in 1862



## LINCOLN'S SIOUX WAR ORDER

PERHAPS the most valuable single manuscript in the collection of the Minnesota Historical Society is an item in the Neill Papers in the handwriting of Abraham Lincoln. On three sides of a folded sheet of Executive Mansion stationery, the Civil War president penned the names of thirty-nine Indians and half-breeds sentenced to be hanged for crimes committed in the uprising of 1862.

Before Lincoln wrote this order on December 6, 1862, a military commission found more than three hundred Indians guilty of massacring white settlers during the outbreak. But the president, after a careful examination of the individual records, selected only thirty-nine for execution. The names of these Indians, with their numbers in the records of the trials, were carefully written out by Lincoln himself.

How the Minnesota Historical Society

acquired this important manuscript is a story in itself. Edward Duffield Neill, pioneer Presbyterian minister and educator, was one of Lincoln's secretaries at the time he was assassinated. After the tragedy, Neill asked permission to select some mementos from the president's papers. The order for the execution of the Sioux had a special interest for the pioneer Minnesotan, and it was among the items he acquired.

Neill also obtained a manuscript of four sheets which the president addressed to the United States Senate. In it he explained that "Anxious to not act with so much clemency as to encourage another outbreak on the one hand; nor with so much severity as to be real cruelty on the other, I caused a careful examination of the records of trials to be made." This was done with a view to determining who among the Indians had been "proven guilty of violating females," and "who were proven to have

Executive Mansion,

Washington, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1862.

Brigadier General H. H. Sibley  
St. Paul  
Minnesota.

Ordered that of the Indians and Half-breed, sentenced to be hanged by the Military Commission, composed of Colonel Brooks, Lt. Colonel Manski, etc, Captain Grant, Captain Bailey, and Lieutenant Olin, and lately, sitting in Minnesota, you came to be executed on the way the nineteenth day of December, instant, the following names, to-wit

- |                              |         |                |
|------------------------------|---------|----------------|
| "Ee-ke-ha-ma-chai"           | No. 2.  | by the record. |
| "Sagon" alias "Plan-doo-tai" | No. 4.  | by the record. |
| "My-a-tek-to-wal"            | No. 5.  | by the record. |
| "Haw-haw-shoon-ke-yag."      | No. 6.  | by the record. |
| "Mug-ga-kom-a-dwi."          | No. 10. | by the record. |
| "Wah-pey-dun-tai."           | No. 11. | by the record. |
| "Ma-ke-huwi."                | No. 12. | by the record. |
| "Soo-ma-mi."                 | No. 14. | by the record. |
| "Ea-te-mi-ma."               | No. 15. | by the record. |
| "Odes-in-gan-kna."           | No. 19. | by the record. |
| "Do-wan-pa."                 | No. 23. | by the record. |
| "Koo-paw."                   | No. 24. | by the record. |

THE hanging of the Sioux, as pictured in John Stevens' panorama of the Sioux War



participated in massacres, as distinguished from participation in battles."

The president reported that only two of the former class were found, and the latter group "numbered forty, and included the two convicted of female violation." Since the trial commission strongly recommended the commutation of one sentence, Lincoln ordered that thirty-nine Indians be executed. One of the number was respited before the president's order was somewhat belatedly carried out at Mankato on December 26, 1862, in what has been branded "America's Greatest Mass Execution."

In 1868 Neill gave his Lincoln manuscripts to the Minnesota Historical Society, which he had helped to found almost twenty years earlier. The documents have since been supplemented by photostatic

"Shoon - kw shu" (White Boy)	No 35. by the record.
"Doo-kaw-e-cha-tay-mani"	No 67. by the record.
"E-tay-hoo-tay."	No 68. by the record.
"Am-da-cha."	No 69. by the record.
"Koo-pee-doo or Mamme-omne-ko-tai"	No 70. by the record.
"Mehpe-o-ka-na-ji"	No 96. by the record.
"Henry Miloria" a Half-breed.	No 115. by the record.
"Charkay-doo" or "Charkay-etay."	No 121. by the record.
"Daphnie Campbell" a Half-breed.	No 138. by the record.
"Jah-ta-ka-gay."	No 155. by the record.
"Koo-pee-ja."	No 170. by the record.
"Hypolite Ange" a Half-breed.	No 175. by the record.
"Koo-pee-shu."	No 178. by the record.
"Ma-kan-taw-ka."	No 210. by the record.
"Doo-kaw-ka-gay-e-na-ji"	No 235. by the record.
"Ma-ka-t-e-na-ji."	No 254. by the record.
"Pa-gee-hoo-tay-ma-ne."	No 264. by the record.
"Ja-tay-hoo-doo."	No 275. by the record.
"Ma-shu-choon" or "Doo-kaw-shu-ka-shu-ka-ma- ka."	No 318. by the record.
"A-e-cha-gai"	No 327. by the record.
"Koo-taw-in-koo."	No 333. by the record.
"Chay-tow-hoo-ka."	No 342. by the record.
"Koo-ka-hoo."	No 355. by the record.

"Koo-hin-hoo"	No 373. by the record.
"O-gee-tay-a-ko."	No 377. by the record.
"May-hoo-way-wa."	No 382. by the record.
"Ma-kan-gee-ma."	No 383. by the record.

The other condemned prisoners you will hold sub-  
ject to further orders, taking care that they neither  
escape, nor, subjected to any unlawful violence.  
Abraham Lincoln, Pres-  
ident of the United States.

copies of numerous items relating to the Sioux War found among the papers bequeathed to the Library of Congress by the president's son, Robert Todd Lincoln.

The summer of 1952 marks the ninetieth

anniversary of the Sioux Massacre. As a reminder of this event, which wracked the Minnesota countryside during the trying Civil War era, Lincoln's order is herewith reproduced in facsimile.



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