

Henderson/Earle Markers (remarks at the site)

Curtis Dahlin, August, 2014

- Early morning, Aug. 18, Dakota rounding up settlers horses, word of killings
- 28 neighbors at home of Jonathan and Amanda Earle and 6 children
- Decided to head to Ft. Ridgely, 18 miles away, shocked to hear that the Dakota intended to kill them (Helen Carrothers in particular)
- Clarissa (Mrs. Stephen) Henderson sick, buggy, featherbed, 2 babies (Lydia and unk)
- About 16 Dakota demanded the parties horses
- Men left to pull Clarissa's buggy by hand;
- Dakota fired on them, Stephen held up a white pillowcase, had a finger or more shot off
- Most settlers now fled, with most men leaving Clarissa: Jehiel Wedge stayed, shot
- Dakota pulled Clarissa and babies from the buggy, put the mattress over her and set it on fire
- This took place about 1.25 miles southwest of this point. They had come less than 1 mile from the Earle place
- Fleeing settlers: women and children could not run as fast as the men: members of the Earle, White, Carrothers (11 in #) and were taken captive (Move to the Earle marker)
- Jonathan Earle a heavy-set man, was tiring.
- 15 year-old son, Radnor, had a rifle but no bullets, loaded with pebbles.
- Dropped down in the grass, facing the oncoming Dakota, fired at them and then they came up and killed him, but this gave Jonathan time to escape. Took place about ½ mile to the northwest, just this side of the turkey barn
- Also killed were Eugene White and Willie and Johnny Carrothers (7 killed)
- Some who escaped eventually made it to Ft. Ridgely
- JRB Burial Party of 170 men, including Stephen Henderson and Ezmon Earle
- Radnor buried by Ezmon on Sept. 1, where he was shot. Gravestone erected, moved to LeMars Iowa Memorial Cemetery to be next to Jonathan, who died in 1874.
- Stephen found and buried Clarissa and babies on Sept. 1. That night, the burial party camped at Birch Coulee, attacked by the Dakota early the next morning. Stephen, traumatized by events, tried to flee the camp, shot and killed. Buried on the battlefield, and is probably still there.
- Most of the women and children freed at Camp Release on Sept. 26, 1862. Jonathan Earle and Nathan White went to Camp Release. Helen Carrothers and 2 children freed/escaped earlier

Kietzmann Massacre (remarks at the site)

- Settlers in western Flora Twp, on the west edge of settlements
- Heard about killings late on Aug. 18
- About 61 settlers from 13 families gathered at home of Paul and Dorothea Kietzmann, decided to head to Ft. Ridgely, about 30 miles away
- Had mostly slow-moving oxen, traveled all night, probably on the Ft. Ridgely to Ft. Abercrombie trail; went about 14 miles
- Aug. 19, about 2 hours after sunrise, encountered a party of 8 Dakota on horseback, one was a friend to Paul K., and expressed great friendship for him
- Convinced them that it was the Chippewa who were killing whites, and that the Dakota would protect them, escorting them back to their homes. Some settlers skeptical and uneasy about that, but did turn around and head back home.
- The men placed their guns in wagons for the return trip.
- The Dakota became insolent as they approached the settlers homes, demanding money. The settlers nervously complied, but were now very concerned about their fate. The 11 armed men retrieved their guns from the wagons. Hoped to make it to a cabin, where they could better defend themselves.
- The Dakota who attacked them numbered 13-14. Fired their first volley on those men with guns, killing many. It was about 4 p.m. The massacre took place in the north half of Section 20, Flora Twp.
- Settlers then scattered, but a few probably remained in their wagons. The Dakota beat women and children with their gun butts.
- In the pandemonium, Mrs. August Yess became entangled in chains used by the oxen, dragged into the brush by them, injuring her, but also escaping
- 10 or more children and Mrs. Anna Zabel made it to the Krueger's cabin, Zabel left with some children, as too dangerous. The Dakota later burned the cabin with 7 children in it.
- Those killed were Paul and Dorothea Kietzmann, Paul Jr., Pauline and Wilhelmina; Frederick Krueger and two young daughters; August Frass; Emiel Grundman, his wife and 4 children; August Horning, his wife and 2 very young sons; Gottlieb Zable; Mr. and Mrs. John Thiele and 2 very young children; Michael Wagner; Uris Andermach; and William Lammers.
- Dakota took about 23 women and children captive, including Justina Frass and children Bertha and Amelia; August Gluth; Louis and Gustav Kietzmann; Dorothea Krause and children Frederick, Emma and an unnamed son whose fate is unknown; Pauline Krause; Henrietta Krueger; Sophia Lammer and children Frederick and Charles; Paulina Urban and children Ernestine, Albert, Rosina and

Louisa; Emma Newman and 2-3 children; and mixed-blood family Louis and Mary Laramie and children Louis and Edward.

- 12 managed to escape, eventually reaching Ft. Ridgely
- The Dakota remained in the area for a number of days, undoubtedly looting homes and destroying what they could not take with them.
- Probably buried here in shallow graves in the fall of 1862, by soldiers or militia under Gen. Henry Sibley.
- Some bones were found in 1880s

(The following are commentaries related while on the bus.)

Justina Krueger

- Member of the Kietzmann Party, sister of Paul Kietzmann
- Husband Frederich killed in the second volley
- Justina shot with buckshot, dragged out of the wagon and left to die
- Lost consciousness, waking up at night. Dakota checked to see if she and others were dead. She pretended to be dead.
- After the Dakota left, she got up and set out for Ft. Ridgely.
- Could find little food, but kept on drinking water, Dakota still in the area, saw many dead
- Reached vicinity of Beaver Creek on Sept. 1, rescued by JRB Burial Party
- JRB party camped at Birch Coulee. Dr. Jared Daniels treated her wounds.
- Ordeal not over: in a wagon when the Dakota attacked, 5 slight wounds, over 200 bullet holes in her blanket.
- To Ft. Ridgely, St. Peter, St. Paul, where she married John Meyer on Nov. 3, 1862

Missionary Party

- Williamson and Riggs Missions located east of Granite Falls, word received late on Aug. 18. Cunningham, Pettijohn, Hunter, Robertson, Orr, Moore, unk Germans
- Friendly Christian Dakota, including Zoe, urged them to flee, which most did on Aug. 19, just over 40, crossing to the north side of the MN River
- Dr. Thomas Williamson, Margaret and Aunt Jane remained behind, but caught up with the party on Aug. 21, after the photo was taken. Simon A. and Rob. Hop. Ch.
- Went through dangerous territory, sometimes perhaps 1-3 miles from MN River
- Andrew Hunter, of the party, went into Beaver Falls on Aug. 21, former home
- Aug. 21 photo by Adrian Ebell, perhaps near Morton, on the cover of Jan's book

- Andrew Hunter went into Ft. Ridgely the night of Aug. 22, but told to go on
- Three Germans left the Party on Aug. 23 to go to New Ulm, but were killed,
- Reached safety on Aug. 25, some miles west of Henderson

John and Caroline Meyer Home, Section 7, Beaver Falls Twp

- About 4.5 miles southeast of the Schwandt home, up on the bluff
- Aug. 18, neighbors gathered to flee to Ft. Ridgely
- 17 killed, many by the notorious Cut Nose, a brutal man, hanged at Mankato
- Hauff, Meyer, Sieg, Thiele, Zitzlaff
- Found by JRB Burial Party, but not buried until the spring of 1863

The Burial of the Dead

- JRB Burial Party buried 70, including 25 soldiers and many at LSA
 - Thomas Barnes, of the 6th MN and the JRB Party stated “After we go some distance from the fort [Ridgely], we began to find dead bodies and bury them. They had been lying in the hot August sun for over a week, and when we began to lift them, they would burst open, and the smell was awful. We dug a shallow grave near the body; three men with shovels would lift the body and lay it in the grave.”
 - Louis Thiele of Flora Twp, along with John Mooer, a mixed blood, buried many bodies, probably including his wife and child. This was probably in October, 1862. He reported that dogs had eaten many of the corpses, so all that was left were bones and pieces of clothing, so “they simply dug a hole beside the skeletons, rolled the bones in the covered them up.”
- Very few Renville Co. settlers returned to their homes to bury the dead. At first, it was too dangerous, and likely too intimidated and traumatized to do so.
- Crude wooden markers probably were placed on some graves, but they would not last long.