

William Pitt Shattuck I

William Pitt Shattuck I was born 7 October 1830 in Elk Grove, Wisconsin. In 1856, he removed from Waukon, Iowa, to Hutchinson, Minnesota. He married Janette R. Mackenzie in 1858, and had one son, William Pitt Shattuck II, in 1860. He died before his 32nd year at 31 years old in 1862.

In the summer of 1862 and before the Dakota Uprising, Pitt went on a trapping expedition with others to Lake Osakis, Minnesota. The party established themselves in the northern remote region of Lake Osakis in Todd County. Pitt and his fellow trappers were totally unaware of the troubles that were surrounding them until Pitt surprised two Indians raiding his cache. He had just finished checking his trap lines. He was attacked, scalped alive, and killed. His body was then pushed "under the ice" before the two Indians escaped. The expedition party members attempted to recover Pitt's body, but were unsuccessful. Pitt's death was reported to Fort Snelling and to Pitt's wife in Hutchinson.

Pitt was finally recovered the following spring and was identified by his teeth. He was buried where he had been found, near the shores of Lake Osakis in Todd County.

Pitt's brother, Scott Shattuck, had enlisted in Iowa for the Civil War on 16 August 1862 and his regiment was transferred to Fort Snelling on 11 October 1862. On 18 October 1862, he re-enlisted in an Iowa Cavalry that would be standing against the Indians in the Dakotas. It is believed that Pitt's family in Waukon, Iowa, had been informed of his death by Scott Shattuck, who had come from Fort Snelling.

Pitt's brother-in-law, John H. Mackenzie, had left Hutchinson in 1861 to establish a trading post in Georgetown, Minnesota in the Red River Valley. In early September 1862, John and his family had to flee from Georgetown and escape to Canada for safety. In 1864, John, then living near Fort Garry, Manitoba, Canada, was asked by the U.S. Army to retrieve the Sioux chiefs, Shakopee and Medicine Bottle for prosecution. During their encounter, Shakopee brandished a knife, bragging that he had killed 13 whites with it. John recognized this unique knife as Pitt's trapping knife. It is not known whether Shakopee had traded this knife with another Indian or if it was actually taken by Shakopee.