

A copy is at the Brown County Historical Society and I hold the original:

St. Paul, Minn.

Feb. 24th 1961

Dear Niece Dalia-

Received your letter and must answer it before I forget about it.

In order to answer your questions I will have to go back in history for I do not know how much hour mother told you.

The best book on that massacre was written by Father Alexander Bergholz in the German language. It is on file at Concordia Library. He went back to Germany where he died. He used to pass our place in New Ulm nearly every evening going up to the hospital. Many times he would stop and visit with father.

Many Germans left that n 1848. They did not like the military regime. Grandfather and his family except Uncle John and my father came over with many others. Heading this aggregation was Carl Shurts who later on became editor of the St. Louis Freepress or Herald. After landing these immigrants went to different parts of the United States. During the Civil war there were at least two states, New York and Wisconsin composed of all Germans. President Lincoln whose real name was Linkorn had a personal body guard of all german soldiers.

Morton was the county seat where they farmed. Birch Coolie was an Indian Agency where most farmers traded. The massacre took place the middle of August 1862. The reason for this outbreak was caused by the Indian Agents under Gov. Ramsey who kept the money that was allotted to the Indians

THE BEGINNING OF THIS WAR. Grandfather, Uncle Martin and John had been to Birch Coolie. When they arrived home Grandmother was gone. Thinking that the Indians had been there and that she was either captured or killed, they decided to head for Fort Ridgely. Before leaving a neighbor walked in the yard. Uncle John said he would help him bury his dead. They were just finished when some Indians spied them. They managed to get to a marsh nearby where they hid in the rushes for three days. They got to Fort Ridgely, but Grandfather and Uncle Martin as well as horses and wagon were never found. They figured that they were killed and drowned by the Indians.

The people knew that this outbreak would happen sooner or later. Grandmother had a hiding place in their cornfield where she hid bread in damp towels for an emergency. Corn was in the toasting stage that is what she subsided on for some days. One day a French man came along on horseback driving a herd of cattle. He took her along to the Fort.

Grandfather came over in the early 70ties. He was born June 14th 1831, and was married in 1865. The following I have pieced together from what was told me when I was a boy. Two brothers died in Germany, one older and one younger than Fred. Fred and Lena were born in Germany.

If you can remember the old house in New Ulm you should recall that there was a hole in the floor above the stove pipe so I had heat in my room.

Uncle John would visit us every fall. Nine o'clock was our bedtime, but I would listen to Uncle John's experiences as soldier and father's as sailor.

In conclusion Martin's widow remarried a Scotsman by the name McGowan from Mankato. Her baby son was speared on her breast. They would visit us in Milford when I was a little boy. I saw her twice and both times she mentioned that son, wondering what he would have been had he lived.

From
Uncle Henry