October 23

**Minnesota’s War with the Dakota**

After losing land, drought, oppression and harassment, frustration boiled over on the Lower Sioux reservation on August 19, 1862, and Mdewakanton Dakota warriors began massacring white settlers of Minnesota. Fearing depopulation of the state, Governor Alexander Ramsey mobilized the resistance that led to crushing the Indians and the removal of almost all the Dakota from Minnesota for decades.

OUTLINE

I. Minnesota in 1862
   A. Two Minnesotas
   B. Situation of the Indians
      1. Ojibwe
      2. Dakota
      3. Their Conditions in Summer 1862

II. Uprising!
   A. Murder at Acton
   B. Little Crow’s Council
   C. Massacres and Opening Attacks

III. Sibley’s Indian Expedition
   A. Basics (Commanders, Goals, Stakes, Opposing Forces)
   B. Ramsey Chooses Sibley
   C. The 3rd Minnesota Arrives
   D. Sibley Marches to Engage Little Crow

IV. Indians Defeated
   A. Trials and Captivity
   B. The Travels and Travails
   C. Commemoration

READINGS
Anderson, Gary & Woolworth, Alan, Through Dakota Eyes (Minn. Historical Society, 1988)
Heard, Isaac, *History of the Sioux Wars and the Massacres of 1862 and 1863 (1864)*
Nix, Jacob, *The Sioux Uprising in Minnesota, 1862: Jacob Nix's Eyewitness History* (First published in German in 1887, republished Max Kade German-American Center in English in 1994)
Saterlee, Marion, *A Detailed Account of the Massacre by the Dakota Indians of Minnesota in 1862 (1923)*
Getting a head-start on next year:
Probable Topics:
The Eastern and Western Campaigns and battles (of course); Religion in the armies and at home; Emancipation Freedom and Black soldiers; Women at home, in the hospital, and in the line of battle. I’m also thinking of a session on why the soldiers fought and related issues.


Emory Thomas's *The Confederate Nation* (1979)
Reid Mitchell's *Civil War Soldiers* (1988)

James McPherson’s *For Cause and Comrades* (1998)

See also Larry M. Logue, *To Appomattox and Beyond: The Civil War Soldier in War and Peace* (1996)


Cornish, Dudley T. *The Sable Arm: Black Troops in the Union Army, 1863-1865* (1956)


Rable, George C. *Civil Wars: Women and the Crisis of Southern Nationalism* (1989)


U.S. Civil War Battlefield Guide Series, University of Nebraska Press, 1999 – present.