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House Education Finance Committee  
Chair Youakim and Members

March 22, 2023

Regarding: HF2685 Genocidal Education bill

Dear Chair Youakim and Members:

Minnesota is the site of genocide of American and Immigrant civilians in 1862 and the Iowa Indigenous tribe in the 1700s. Excluding these Minnesota genocides is bias, discriminatory, and represents a single viewpoint.

HF2685's Section 1, subdivision 2 (a) (1) should read and ensure educational resources are available for

Examine the history of the genocide of Indigenous Peoples populations and Indigenous removal from Minnesota, including the genocide, ethnic cleansing, dispossession, and forced removal of ~~the Dakota, Ojibwe, and Ho-Chunk~~ Americans, Immigrants and Indigenous tribes:

These changes *acknowledge* non-Indigenous victims of genocide and Minnesota's full genocidal history dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> century genocide of the Iowa people who inhabited southern MN before the Dakota (as early as A.D. 900 per Iowa Tribe of Nebraska and Kansas Chairman Lance M. Foster).

Minnesota remains the only state in the US to experience attack by a nation that caused civilians to flee; this includes the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and Pearl Harbor.

On August 18, 1862 Dakota leaders ordered "*kill all whites*" resulting in the mass execution of over 260 civilians in the Minnesota River Valley. This day remains the largest mass execution in American history; Milford Township, Brown County where more than 50 perished at the hands of the Dakota.

Sources documenting Dakota genocide of Euro-American people in Minnesota include: August 18 Massacres, Mayhem, Abuse, and Attempted Extermination by Curtis Dahlin published by Curtis Dahlin, 2021. Mathematical total of those killed on August 18, eyewitness descriptions, classification of crimes against humanity, identification of victims.

Massacre in Minnesota The Dakota War of 1862, the Most Violent Ethnic Conflict in American History by Gary Clayton Anderson published by University of Oklahoma Press, 2019. Chapter five addresses August 18, Dakota's attempted ethnic cleansing, and identifies some victims by name.

Minnesota's Heritage Back to the Sources No. 1 through 7 published by Minnesota's Heritage (Roseville, MN) January 2010 through July 2012. Individual articles analyzing, examining, and pertaining to victims and chief leaders of the 1862 event, includes oral histories written by settler and Dakota descendants.

German Pioneer Accounts of the Great Sioux Uprising of 1862 edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann published by Little Miami Publishing Company, 2002. Translated eyewitness accounts (German to English).


Through Dakota Eyes - Narrative Accounts of the Minnesota Indian War of 1862 edited by Gary Clayton Anderson and Alan R. Woolworth published by Minnesota Historical Society, 1988. Account of Jerome Big Eagle identifying order to kill the whites, page 36; other eyewitness accounts.

Enclosed is a December 2022, editorial published by the Star Tribune briefly outlining the attempted genocide of Minnesota's civilians by Dakota Indians in August 1862 written by Curtis Dahlin listing forgotten facts and a brochure listing many of the women and children murdered on August 18, 1862.

I oppose distinct requirements that do not focus on all genocides. Your attention to these details will avoid future conflicts over this very sensitive topic.

If further documentation is needed or additional questions surface, I am available to help.

On behalf of descendants of victims of the U.S. – Dakota War, thank you,

  
Stephanie Chappell  
Authorized Representative, VOICES  
Retired MN Teacher  
Glencoe, MN

# Counterpoint: We should also remember other victims of 1862

The 650 men, women and children deserve our thoughts, too.

By Curtis Dahlin

DECEMBER 29, 2022 — 5:45PM

**Opinion editor's note:** *Star Tribune Opinion publishes a mix of national and local [commentaries](#) online and in print each day. To contribute, click [here](#).*

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In "Riders share history's burden" ([Dec. 27](#)) the Star Tribune reported about Dakota Indians riding to Mankato and gathering there on Dec. 26, the anniversary of the hanging of 38 Dakota in 1862. Gov. Tim Walz was in attendance, and he apologized to the Dakota for the hanging of the 38 and for the removal of Dakota from Minnesota.

But there is more to the story, as Walz, a former teacher, knows.

In 1862, the Dakota were unhappy and angry over their situation for a variety of reasons. By 1862, they had sold most of their land to the U.S. government. By mid-August, grievances came to a head among the Dakota, and some decided to wage war on settlers along the Minnesota River valley.

Early in the morning of Aug. 18, 1862, Dakota attacked the Lower Sioux Agency and then settlers who were living near them in Renville and Brown Counties. The Dakota's attacks that day were devastating, resulting in the killing of about 265 mostly unarmed men, women and children. Five Dakota warriors were killed. In the following days, the Dakota attacked Fort Ridgely twice and the town of New Ulm twice, but they were unable to take either place.

Ultimately, 650 whites were killed. Among them were 40 adult women and 100 children age 10 or under, including infants. Some were killed with great brutality, which particularly enraged the white population. In addition, the Dakota took about 150 white women and children captive, along with many mixed-bloods.

By the end of the conflict some 100 Dakota warriors were killed, but no Dakota women or children.

Gov. Alexander Ramsey learned of the attacks on the settlers on Aug. 19, and he selected Henry Sibley to lead the military response and stop the killing. Things got off to a rocky start for Sibley when on Sept. 2 and 3, a large burial party he had by then dispatched was badly mauled by the Dakota at the battle of Birch Coulee. Sibley continued to gather his force, and on Sept. 23 he

defeated the Dakota at the Battle of Wood Lake. Three days later, he freed the captives at what became known as Camp Release.

Sibley established a military commission to try those Dakota who were accused of crimes. Nearly 400 were tried, with just over 300 being convicted of capital offenses. The trials were brief and the Dakota were not represented by counsel. But neither were Civil War soldiers accused of crimes. It was a different time. White settlers were clamoring for justice, and after the war ended, had made several attacks on Dakota prisoners, killing three.

President Abraham Lincoln had his staff review all the trial transcripts. He cut the number to be executed to 39, and one late reprieve brought the number to 38. Lincoln spared the lives of 265 convicted Dakota.

The 38 were hanged at Mankato on Dec. 26, 1862. It was the largest mass execution in U.S. history, in response to the deadliest Indian uprising in U.S. history.

In November 1862, about 1,600 Dakota dependents were taken to a camp at Fort Snelling. Here they were humanely treated, fed soldier's rations and protected from revenge-minded whites, of whom there were many. While at least 100 Dakota died in the camp from disease that winter, the same type of disease toll was taking place in the white community. The following spring, many but not all Dakota were shipped out of the state, to ensure none could resume killing settlers.

The war was the most significant and tragic event in Minnesota's history. If violence were to erupt today killing the same proportion of the state's population, there would be some 18,000 dead.

So governor, we know your feelings about the 38. What are your feelings about the 650 who were murdered? Are they worthy of being mentioned and remembered? Since this is now a public issue, I would request that you respond in a public setting.

*Curtis Dahlin lives in Roseville.*

## Settler Women & Children

Charlie Bluehm, 6  
Elizabeth Bluehm, 9  
Eliabesth Bluehm, 42  
Wilhelmina Busse, 30  
Augusta Busse, 5  
Bertha Busse, 3 mos  
Caroline Busse, 2  
Frederick Hauff, 5  
Henrietta Hauff, 1  
Augustine Hauff, 26  
Clarissa  
    Henderson, 28  
Lydia Henderson, 2  
Gertrude  
    Humphrey, 1  
Jay Humphrey, 4  
Susan Humphrey, 33  
Katherine  
    Kochendorfer, 36  
Sarah  
    Kochendorfer, 3  
Daughter Lentz, 5  
Annie Reyff, 8  
Benjamin Reyff, 10  
Margreth Reyff  
Caroline Meyer, 26  
Johnny Meyer, 3  
Lydia Meyer, 2  
Sarah Meyer, 4  
Jos. Wm. Perrault, 8  
Gustav Roessler, 4  
Barabara Roesser, 27  
Justina Roessler, 25  
John Rohner Jr., 3  
Elizabeth Rohner, 40  
Kvam Sampson, 3  
Amelia Sieg, 8  
Anna Sieg, 30s  
Emmy Sieg, 11  
Freddy Sieg, 6  
Louisa Sieg, 12  
Anton Henle Jr., 8  
Maria Henle, 4  
Johnny Carrothers, 7  
Willie Carrothers, 6

## Murdered On August 18, 1862

Therese  
    Engenhofer, 20  
Monika Fink, 60  
Rosina Henning, 28  
Johanna Heyer, 51  
Julia Massopust, 18  
Mary Massopust, 31  
Maria Anna  
    Messmer, 60  
Brigitta Pelzl, 54  
Louisa Schmidt, 30  
Frederika Witt, 26  
Zeller, Ludrella, 38  
Caroline Walz, 19  
Christian  
    Schwandt, 1  
Bertha May, 1  
Henry May, 4  
Barbara May, 28  
Elizabeth Thiele, 20s  
Son Thiele, 4  
Barbara Zeller, 6  
John Martin Zeller, 1  
Ludrella Zeller, 38  
Monika Zeller, 8  
Anton Zeller, 3  
Caezilia Zeller, 5  
Conrad Zeller, 3  
Franz Massopust, 5  
Carl Maerkle, 2  
Anton Zettel, 3  
Johann Zettel, 1 ½  
Elizabeth Zettel, 8  
Stephan Zettel, 6  
Child Weiser, 9  
Child Weiser, 12  
Wife Weiser, 30-40  
Infant Weston  
Wife Weston  
Frederick  
    Schwandt, 7  
Caroline Stocker, 40s  
Joseph or Wm.  
    Perrault, 8

**I sent down from here in wagons to St. Paul between three and four hundred white women and children...many of them almost naked and God knows what is to become of them. They are objects of public charity. If you could hear one tenth of the stories told by these poor people, you would be horrified.**  
**– Brigadier General Henry Hastings Sibley**

# **The Minnesota Massacre**

**On August 18, 1862**

**Dakota Indians**

**Intentionally**

**Murdered Over 260 Settlers**

**More than 50 were under age 10**

**More than 50 were women**

**Once I saw a little girl of not more than 5 years, whose head had been hit...with knives. – Mary Schwandt, hostage**

**When the limb was off, the child [was] ... left to die.**

**– Justina Krueger, hostage**

Survivor accounts are recorded in oral histories  
and the National Archives

Prepared for HF2685 by Dakota War Historians and  
Victim Descendants of the Minnesota Massacre and US –  
Dakota War of 1862