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Helene Leaf

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Family Ties to the Dakota Uprising – Minnesota 1862, Part 3

Claims for Depredations following the Dakota War of 1862

BY HELENE LEAF

As a follow up to the article about Mary Anderson, the Broberg families, and the Lundborg brothers who were killed in the Dakota Uprising in Minnesota in 1862, I continued to search for more information about Mary Anderson's fiancé and also what happened to those who survived. One of the interesting pieces of information that I ran across was that many of those who had lost property in the Uprising had filed claims.

In the book *Index to Claimants for Depredations following the Dakota War of 1862*, compiled by Mary Hawker Bakeman, the claimants' names and claim numbers are listed. Sometimes the amount of the claim, the location of the loss of property, and the location of the actual claim are noted.

Most of the attacks occurred in August and September of 1862 and the claims were filed later that year and during 1863. Minnesota appointed three men to hear these claims (the Claims Commission¹). About 2,500 claims were filed. About 500+ claims are available at NARA². The rest of the information for the book was gathered from the published list in the House of Representatives report on the work of the Claims Commission and records of payments and vouchers. The state of Minnesota paid these claims using the money that should have been used to pay the yearly Indian annuities.

Here is what I found regarding the

people listed in the previous articles (Parts I and II, "Family Ties to the Dakota Uprising – Minnesota 1862"³):

Broberg, Anna/Andreas, claim #1204. The file location is not known, but the full amount claimed, \$575.00, was awarded. This money went to Anna, the daughter and only person in her family to survive. Andreas, the father, was killed at the massacre site.

Broberg, Daniel (deceased), claim #1205. The file location is not known, but the full amount claimed, \$300.00, was awarded. This money most likely went to his son, Peter, the only one in his family to survive. Both of these claims are listed under the name Berburg.

Lundberg, Andrew (Swedish name Andreas Larsson Lundborg), claim #739, the father who was shot at but not injured. The file location is not known, but he received full payment of \$850.00 for relief of depredation damages. This claim seems to be a combination of 16 claims.

Lundberg, John (Johannes Lundborg), claim #742, Andreas Lundborg's oldest son who also survived. The file location is not known, but he received full compensation, \$630.00.

There were no claims filed for the three Lundborg brothers, Lars, Anders Peter, and Gustaf, who died at the Broberg cabin. Perhaps claims for their possessions were listed with their father's.

Patwell, Francis (also known as

Francois Patoille), who was the driver of the wagon in which Mary Anderson was riding when she was taken captive. He was killed. The file location is not known, but \$1,800 was claimed.

Reynolds, Joseph B. (Mary Anderson's employer), claim #1098. The location of this file is not known, but he received full payment of \$3,000 for relief of depredation damages. He received \$200 on 11/16 and \$500 on 11/23. No year is given. Mr. Reynolds also received some payment for being a witness.

There apparently is no more information available about the above claims. None of the actual claim forms have been microfilmed and NARA does not have the original claims forms listed above. I did not find any claim listed for Mary Schwandt Schmidt or her brother August who also survived. In her account, Mary stated that a claim had been filed, but that she did not receive the money.

Claims of Mary Anderson and Richard Holback

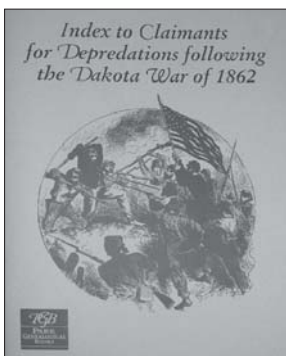
Of greatest interest to me were the claims of *Mary Anderson #2213* and *Richard Holback #2247*. Richard Holback (also spelled Hoback) was the fiancé of Mary Anderson; they were planning to get married in the fall of 1862. He was a teamster at the Upper Sioux Agency for about 5

years prior to the Uprising. He and Mary undoubtedly had opportunity to meet as he was traveling the road between the Upper Sioux Agency and the Lower Sioux Agency, and she was working at one of the stopping places along that road. It is also possible that Mary knew him from the time that her father had worked at one of the agencies.

The information about Richard Holback is found in the 1860 Minnesota Federal Census⁴, and the accounts written by Cecilia Campbell Stay⁵ and Mary Schwandt Schmidt⁶. Mary Schwandt Schmidt worked at the same place as Mary Anderson and was taken captive with her and another young girl. Cecilia lived at the Lower Sioux Agency and certainly would have known him. Both young girls were captives of the Indians and were present at the camp where Mary died and wrote about it in their accounts. Cecilia gave an account of the incident when his picture and \$10 from Mary Anderson were given to Richard Holback at Camp Release. He had joined the Renville Rangers⁷ and was part of General Sibley's troops that liberated the captives at Camp Release.

A detailed list

NARA and Ms. Bakeman have copies of these two files (plus about 500 more). I sent to Ms. Bakeman at Park Genealogical Books for copies of these two files. Below is the very detailed listing of the possessions of Mary Anderson and Richard Holback and the value of each item.



Mary Anderson # 2213

Schedule

1	Blanket Shawl	5.00
1	Wool Delaine Shawl Silk Fringe	5.00
1	Silk dress pattern and trimmings	25.00
1	Delaine	3.50
1	Calico	3.00
4	New Delaine Dresses @ 4.	16.00
4	New Calico Dresses	8.00
1	Shaker trimming	2.00
2	Wool hoods	3.00
1	Wool Lacey Dress	4.00
6	White Skirts	12.00
½	Doz. Chemise	12.00
½	Doz. Drawers	6.00
½	Doz. Handkerchiefs	1.50
2	Pr shoes new	4.00
1	Pr Rubbers	1.00
2	Embroidered Collars	2.00
4	Linen Collars	1.00
1	Lacey Dress pattern	2.00
1	Mosaic Pin	3.00
½	Doz. Pr. Cotton and woolen H???	2.20
30	Yards of Bleached Muslim	5.40
3	Pr. under Sleeves	1.20
1	Hoop Skirt	1.75
1	Trunk	2.00
1	Pr. Mitts and gloves	1.00
1	Pr. Mitts ?	.75
	Underclothes ? ?	25.00
	Sewing Accoutrements:	
	Needles, scissors, thimbles, thread, ivory silk, braid, tape, etc.	10.00
1	Embroidery for shirt	5.00
2	Belts	1.00
1	Leather Trunk	6.00
6	Set of Books	5.00

		\$179.30

Richard Holback #2247

Schedule

1	Cloth overcoat	16.00
1	Deer coat	15.00
1	India Rubber suit, coat and pants	12.00
6	Shirts, Linen Bosoms	12.00
2	Woolen Vests	6.00
6	Flannel Overshirts	15.00
2	Pair C Pants	9.00
1	Pair Fancy Buckskin Pants	9.00
2	Pair Moccasins, Fancy Beaded	4.00

4	Pair C (illegible)	75 cts each	3.00
1	Pair Shoe Packs?		2.00
1	Pr Blanket Leggings		3.00
1	Pr Knit Leggings		3.00
6	Pair Woolen socks		0.80
4	Pair Cotton socks		2.00
1	Neck Comforter		2.00
1	Fur Cap (otter)		7.00
1	Leather carved trunk		5.00
5	3 ½ Pt Blankets @ \$4		20.00
1	Leather Bed		10.00
2	Bed comforters	3 50/100	7.00
1	Pair pillows		3.00
2	Pair pillow cases		3.00
1	Musket Bar		2.50
1	Double barrel shot gun		20.00
1	Colt revolver		16.00
1	Silver Watch		13.00
1	Pair Cowhide Boots		2.50
			\$229.80

Reynolds, was the administrator of Mary's claim, but her mother received the compensation. Joseph Reynolds and his wife Valencia J. Reynolds were the two people who attested to the events that lead to her death and attested to her possessions and their value. A copy of Valencia J. Reynolds's statement is included [next page]. All the statements followed the same general format.

Besides learning of the numbers of items and their value, some of the personal life of each of these people was included. Richard Holback had been living in Goodell's Boarding House at the Upper Sioux Agency, and he was a widower with a three-year-old child. He was fighting the Indians at the time that these claims were being settled. He and Mary had planned to get married in the fall. Many of Mary's clothes were new because of the intended wedding. Mary's books consisted of a Swedish Bible and other Swedish religious books. Note that the places where some of Mary's clothes were purchased were included in Mrs. Reynolds's account and that she had bought some of them for Mary.

Mary and Richard were young people and owned no land. They were not settlers of homesteads yet. Their claims were interesting and showed what kinds of things young people of their age and situation possessed. The claims of some of the homesteaders would show what farmers and their families possessed. Many lost everything as they left quickly, some in the middle of a meal, some from tending their fields or gardens. A few had the chance to pack some goods, but then left them behind in their flight or when they were captured. Viewing these claims would give a good idea of what the settlers owned and a glimpse of what life was like for those settling in those still wild prairies and woodlands of Minnesota.

If the claim was for \$200 or less, it could be settled by the Claims Commission on the spot. The claims for Mary Anderson and Richard Holback were settled by the Claims Commis

For his claim, Richard Holback went before the judge in Ramsey County December 3, 1862, along with two other men, Moses Mireau and Edward Bibeau, who attested to the identity of Richard Holback. Both of these men were in the Renville Rangers also and also filed claims for depredations. Holback or a clerk writing for him gave an account of where he was living and working at

the time of the attack. He had to swear that all of his possessions were either taken or destroyed by the Indians. He (or a clerk for him) made out the list of possessions and a value was placed on each item. Later two acquaintances of Richard Holback had to attest that Richard Holback did indeed own these things at the time of the Uprising and that he lost them all. The two men who attested to these things were Joseph Fortier and Theophilus Richer, both of whom also had filed claims and received compensation. Both men stated very specifically about each item as being new or perhaps slightly worn, but that each article was worth what was claimed. Joseph Fortier was a clerk at the Upper Agency from 1855 to 1862 and also joined the Renville Rangers. Theophilus Richer was a carpenter at the Upper Agency since at least 1860^s and also joined the Renville Rangers. Thus they would have known the claimant well.

Mary had been killed. Her mother (also named Mary Anderson) went before a judge in Carver County (where she lived) to swear that Mary was her daughter and that she was her daughter's legal heir. She also had to attest to the facts of Mary's death. Mary's employer, Joseph B.



A girl in a hoop skirt around 1860 (Josefina Rådberg, born 1835).

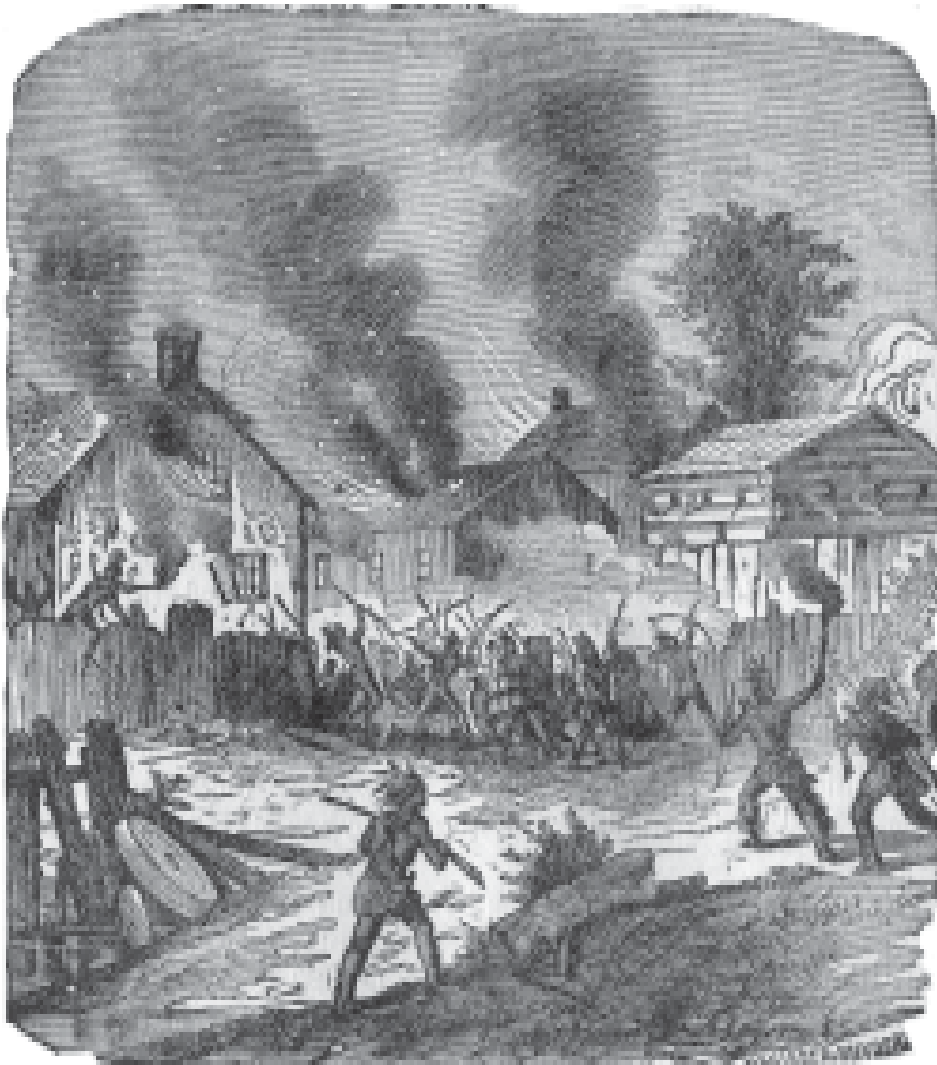
sion. The claims settled by the Commission were sent to NARA and thus were preserved. Those claims which were denied or were for more than \$200 were sent to Washington DC to be reviewed. The location of the original claim forms sent to Washington DC to be reviewed is unknown, and perhaps these papers were thrown away. Thus for most of the claims the only information available is the record of what was paid or denied to various individuals. One can only hope that some day some one somewhere will find a box or two that contains these forms. What a treasure that would be for historians and genealogists.

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- Roster of Renville's Rangers – According to Joseph Fortier*, Minnesota Historical Society Archives.
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- Stay, Cecilia Campbell, *Dakota War Collections*, M582. Reel 3, Minnesota Historical Society, St Paul.
- 1860 Federal Census*, Minnesota, Brown, Yellow Medicine, M653_567, p. 245.

Endnotes:

- ¹ Cyrus Aldrich, Albert White, and Eli Chase.
- ² National Archives Records Administration.
- Swedish American Genealogist*, Volume XXVII, No. 2 & 3.
- ⁴ *1860 Federal Census*, Minnesota, Brown, Yellow Medicine, M653-567, page 245.
- ⁵ Stay.
- ⁶ Schwandt.
- ⁷ The Renville Rangers was a company of soldiers recruited on August 19, 1862, in the area of the Upper Sioux Agency. They fought at Fort Ridgely and Wood Lake. The company was disbanded November 28, 1862.
- ⁸ 1860 Census.



Indians attacking a pioneering settlement. Picture from Svenskarne i Illinois, by Eric Johnson and C. F. Peterson, Chicago 1880.

Transcription of Mrs. Reynolds's letter

Before the Sioux Commission

In the Matter of the Estate of Mary Anderson - #2213

Mrs. V. J. Reynolds being sworn as a witness on behalf of claimant's sake:

I was acquainted with Mary Anderson who was living in my family at the time of the outbreak, and had been for a year from thereto. She was killed by the Indians at the time of the outbreak while endeavoring to escape. There were nine in our family, two whereof were taken prisoner besides the killing of claimant. I made out the schedule attached to the complainant in this case and all the articles therein mentioned were at our house at the time of the outbreak and were worth the prices therein charged for the same. All the articles specified therein were new. She was to have been married in the fall and I purchased her wearing apparel for her except the silk dress, which was purchased at Chicago by Mr. Magnes. It was all lost, taken, or destroyed by the Indians, and none has ever been recovered to my knowledge.

Goods Examined

The goods are charged at the cost of the material and the expense of making it up, 12 or 14 made up, some were not made. The \$25 charged for sundry clothing consists of all her every day clothing. One of the trunks was a [looks like pucking but I think it might be packing] trunk which I bought new for her at St. Paul. The other was leather-covered common-sized. The Books were Swedish books, consisting of Bible and other religious works.

Valencia J. Reynolds

Before the Sioux Commission
In the Matter of the Estate of Mary Anderson
Mrs. V. J. Reynolds
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The goods are charged at the cost of the material and the expense of making it up.

12 or 14 made up, some were not made -
The \$25 charged for sundry clothing, consists of all her every day clothing - One of the trunks was a pucking trunk which I bought new for her at St. Paul, the other was a leather covered common sized - The Books were Swedish books, consisting of Bible and other religious works.
Valencia J. Reynolds.

Helene H. Leaf lives in Moline, Illinois.
Her e-mail is <HHLeaf@aol.com>