

Chief Little Crow's War

BY JADON GIBSON
Contributing Writer

Agreements between the government and Indian tribes were frequently broken by one party or the other. Pioneers were pressing westward and the Native Americans attempted to thwart their settlement in early America. Treaties in the early 1850s ceded large tracts of land in the Minnesota territory to the United States in exchange for money and goods. The eastern Sioux, or Dakota, in turn, agreed to live on a 20-mile-wide Indian reservation along the upper Minnesota River.

When Minnesota became a state in 1858, the northern half of the Indian reservation was lost. In addition, treaty violations by the United States due to late or less-than-full payments for tribal lands caused hunger and hardships among the Dakotas. Little Crow, the chief speaker of the tribe during the 1850's, lost much of his standing among his people.

The Dakotas experienced several bad growing seasons, and their hunters were less successful because hunting was done in a more concentrated area. This also resulted in less furs, which they usually traded for other needs.

The payments for the lands sold to the government became less than the agreed amount. Much of this was due to goods being lost or stolen.

By the summer of 1862, the Dakotas demanded the annuities directly from Thomas Galbraith, their agent. The traders refused to provide food and supplies under this arrangement, so the negotiations broke down.

Chief Little Crow and Chief Chaska, who was also known



Little Crow was born about 1810 in Kaposia along the Mississippi River near St. Paul. (Photo submitted)

as His Thunder, traveled to Washington twice during this period to get the government to abide by their promises and to have the annuity payments paid directly to the tribe. This would allow them to receive the payments in a timely fashion and to trade for goods and services on a firmer footing. Little changed after the visit from the two Dakota chiefs.

By 1862, the Dakotas had

insufficient food, clothing, blankets, and other essential items. Hunger was rampant, and with the great need for food, they were forced to eat their dogs and many horses to survive. Little Crow, Chaska and other Native American leaders saw the breakdown between the Dakota and the government adversely affecting the Native Americans while benefiting the United States. Although the

payments to the Dakotas were guaranteed, they were often late or not paid at all. This was largely due to the government's preoccupation with the Civil War.

On Aug. 4, 1862, the northern Dakota successfully negotiated with the government to obtain food. When the two other bands of Dakotas negotiated with Indian Agent Thomas Galbraith he informed them, "I haven't

learned why your payments are late and we cannot give you any more rations. Perhaps the traders can extend and distribute food without payment until later."

This perturbed Andrew Myrick, a traders' representative, because feelings between the Indians and traders "were not better but were running worse." They had decided in advance not to extend more credit as they were being hurt by the late payments, too. Bitter words passed between the two parties.

"We can't offer more credit," the traders offered. "Our people are hungry," the chiefs responded.

"Let them eat grass," Myrick said, offending the chiefs who left the council in a huff and stalked back to the reservation. Galbraith requested soldiers for protection.

Something had to be done. Chief Little Crow decided to lead the fight to drive the white man out of and regain the Minnesota River Valley. If nothing more, it may force the government to live up to their prior agreement and make the annuity payments, allowing them to make needed purchases.

The outbreak of the war was attributed to the heated exchange at the council.

"We made a treaty with the government but still have to beg for what we get and can't get that until our children are dying from hunger."

Jadon Gibson is a widely read Appalachian writer from Harrogate, Tennessee. His writings are both historical and nostalgic. Thanks to Lincoln Memorial University, Alice Lloyd College, and the Museum of Appalachia for their assistance.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Winchester/Clark County Board of Adjustments will hold a meeting on **Thursday, October 5th, 2023 at 6:00 PM in the City Commission Chambers located at 32 Wall Street, Winchester, KY.** The meeting agenda can be viewed on the City of Winchester's website under Agendas & Minutes.

Winchester Sun: Sept. 26, 2023
MEETING 10.5.23

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**Clark County Conservation District
Bids for Haybuster Seed Drill**

General Information:

The Clark County Conservation District will be accepting sealed bids for a 10-foot 2008 Duratech Haybuster 107 C No till Drill with 2 large seed compartments and a small Legume Box. This piece of equipment is located at the Conservation District Office and can be viewed at any time. **Bids will be accepted starting September 28, and close on October 10, 2023 at 4:30 pm.** All bids must be physically in the Conservation District Office at this time. **Any bid that is not received on time will not be considered.**

You can drop a bid off during regular business hours or by mail at 667 Tech Drive, Winchester, KY 40391. You can also submit a bid by E-mail at angela.embry@ky.nacdn.net or call 859-744-2322.

Condition:

The Haybuster has a total of 5,867 Acres on the acreage meter and a new meter was installed last year. A few disks need replacing. All seed tubes seem to be in good working order. It is suggested to view the seed drill prior to submitting a bid. Pictures are available.

Information to Include:

The following information must be included with each bid: Name, address, city, state, zip code and phone number. All bids and other information must be legible.

Bidding Guidelines:

- It is the bidder's responsibility to ensure that their bid is received in its entirety by the said deadline.
- Bids may not be materially altered after the bids have been opened.
- The successful bidder is responsible for handling, loading and removal of the sold equipment from its current location.
- Returns will not be accepted.
- Item is offered "as is" and "where is" to the highest bidder. The buyer acknowledges that item is sold "as is" and "where is" with all faults.
- The CCCD reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, if deemed in the best interests of the CCCD and the KY Division of Conservation and may decide not to make an award on any individual item.

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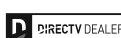
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