

# MONUMENTS AND TABLETS

ERECTED BY THE

MINNESOTA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.



SKETCHES  
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE  
OF THE  
MONUMENTS AND TABLETS

ERECTED BY THE  
MINNESOTA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

IN  
RENVILLE AND REDWOOD COUNTIES, MINNESOTA.

TO PRESERVE THE SITES OF CERTAIN INCIDENTS AND IN HONOR OF THE  
DEVOTION AND IMPORTANT SERVICES OF SOME OF THE CHARACTERS,  
WHITES AND INDIANS, CONNECTED WITH THE INDIAN  
OUTBREAK OF 1862.

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ILLUSTRATED.

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MORTON. MINN.:  
MINNESOTA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.  
1902.





*C. D. Gilfillan*

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#### THE MINNESOTA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

This society was organized at Morton, Renville County, Minnesota, February 2, 1895, and incorporated under the state law March 15 following. The first officers were: Hon. Charles D. Gilfillan, president; R. B. Henton, vice president; R. H. C. Hinman, secretary; T. M. Keefe, treasurer. The first annual meeting was held May 10, 1895.

The general purpose of the society is the preservation of the history of the Minnesota Valley, including the collection, preparation, arrangement, and publication of historical information, the marking of historic sites, and the commemoration of historic events connected with the Minnesota Valley.

The present officers (June 1, 1902) are Hon. Chas. D. Gilfillan, Morgan, Minn., president; Joseph Smith, vice president; R. H. C. Hinman, Morton, Minn., secretary; F. W. Orth, treasurer; R. I. Holcombe, St. Paul, Minn., historiographer.

All communications may be addressed to either the president or secretary, and any information or suggestion available for the purposes of the society will be gratefully received.





















## THE TRADING HOUSES.

The four trading houses at the Redwood Agency in 1862 were those of Capt. Louis Robert, Wm. H. Forbes, Nathan Myrick & Co., and Francois La Bathe, the latter a mixed-blood Sioux. All these stood west of the principal Agency buildings, La Bathe's coming first, then Myrick's, just east of the big ravine. Across the ravine to the northward, near the crest of the bluff, was Forbes's store, and to the west of Forbes's, about 150 yards, was Robert's. All of the trading houses were hewed log buildings. Myrick's was the largest in capacity. Robert, Forbes, and Myrick had also Indian stores at Yellow Medicine Agency and at Big Stone Lake, in the Sioux district. The firm of Myrick & Co. was composed of Nathan Myrick, his brother Andrew J. Myrick, and S. B. Garvie.

On the first day of the outbreak, Aug. 18, 1862, Capt. Robert, Nathan Myrick, and Maj. Forbes were absent from their stores. Robert was with the party in charge of the government money for the annual payment due the Indians, which party, in charge of Col. Clark W. Thompson, reached Fort Ridgely at noon of the first day of the outbreak. Capt. Robert was a prominent early pioneer of Minnesota, and for nearly twenty years had resided at St. Paul, where one of the city's principal streets still bears his name. At one time he was prominently connected with the steamboat interests of the Northwest, and as a master of one of his vessels he was given the title of "captain." He was largely engaged in the Indian trade and well known throughout the Indian country. When the outbreak began his store at the Lower Agency was and for some days had been in charge of Moses Mireau.

Maj. Wm. H. Forbes was another prominent trader and leading citizen of the State. For some years he was stationed at Fort Snelling as chief clerk under Gen. Sibley for the American Fur Company. He had been a member of both branches of the Territorial Legislature, postmaster at St. Paul, etc. Henry Belland and his cousin Joseph E. Belland, and another man had the conduct of Forbes's store at the Lower Agency, but on the first day of the outbreak Henry



























































































































































