

US-Dakota War Work

Due Date: Friday, 3/8 (E.O.C.)

Directions: Please use this document for all of your written US-Dakota War work.

- Make sure that each piece goes into the appropriate box
- Make sure that each piece has a centered title and your name under the title
- Make sure that each piece has an introduction
- Make sure each piece has at least one image
- Do not turn in this assignment until you are told to
- **DO NOT DELETE THESE INSTRUCTIONS**

Before the War

The Man They Call Thomas Galbraith
Julia Robbins



Thomas J. Galbraith was an American politician. He was born in 1825 and died in 1909. He was a Sioux Agent appointed by the United States government before the war. All of that changed after he had been working for a bit. He worked hard for the U.S. government and truly did not get along very well with the Dakota.

As a Sioux Agent he had to fulfill the treaty obligations made with the Dakota by enforcing Indian affairs code and regulating the traders. By the spring of 1862, Galbraith was fed up with the inefficiencies of the Indian system and resigned from his post as a Sioux Agent. Then he agreed to hold his post until the payment of the annuities was made. Throughout the summer Galbraith got more and more fed up with the Dakota. He was very mad when the annuities

payment got delayed. After the annuity payment got delayed, Galbraith tried to get the Dakota to take greenbacks instead of the gold that they had been promised, but they refused. Thomas was ready to move on.

Before the annuities were to be payed he raced of to find something new to do. On August 18, Galbraith and a group of Civil War recruits known as the Renville Rangers took off from the Upper Agency. Galbraith believed he would deliver the recruits to Fort Snelling then return to the reservation to make the annuity payment to the Dakota. He hoped to then accept a leadership position in a Minnesota regiment as thanks for his recruiting efforts.

The war was all around the area but Galbraith and the Renville Rangers had not heard of it, yet. News of the outbreak of war overtook Galbraith and his recruits at St. Peter on August 19. The Renville Rangers changed course and marched to the aid of Fort Ridgely. Meanwhile, Galbraith's wife, Henrietta, and their two children were being led to safety from their home at the Upper Agency. Most of the family was being led by the Wahpeton Dakota leader Anpetu Keca (John Other Day). But the war was just beginning and was bringing a few twists and turns for the family.

Many lives were lost in this war and anyone who came out of it alive was lucky to be alive. Galbraith helped defend Fort Ridgely and was wounded at the battle of Birch Coulee. After the war Galbraith was exonerated in two congressional investigations into allegations that his conduct at the Agency brought on the U.S. Dakota War. Galbraith died in Cheyenne, in 1909. Galbraith was lucky to have lived a life, or at least some of a life after the war.

Thomas Galbraith was a man who took part in the war but did not play a very major part in the war but it was big enough to affect the war in some ways. He got fed up with the Dakota many times but worked with them for the U.S. government which he worked for for an amount of time. He had a family that was affected by the war as well. He came out of the war injured but still breathing which is pretty good if you think about the fact that many lives were lost in that war.

During the War

After the War