



The Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) fighting stopped. The Anishinaabe retreated. The Ojibwe, reportedly left behind four dead, and retreated towards Lake Minnetonka.

While the Dakota did not follow them, some white men mounted horses in Shakopee and crossed the river on Murphy's ferry and went toward Chanhassen, where *caṅ-ha-saṅ haṅpi* (maple sugar) are abundant. It was far enough to conclude that they had left the area and would not soon return.

According to one newspaper, the Dakotas, though inferior in numbers, fought with characteristic vigor and desperation, and they won. The Anishinaabe held some of the warriors in reserve in the event the others were to perish, so the numbers were probably closer to even.

The Shakopee friends are cultivating a morbid taste, according to a correspondent noted. "Several bloody Chippewa heads were purchased as mementoes, and shown to the curious with great gusto." Another correspondent says, "We were treated to the delectable sign of their burning the body of a large Chippewa which they brought over, headless."

"A portion of our people protested against such an inhuman demonstration, but others advocated non-intervention with their affairs; since we had allowed them to remain amongst us, it is not fair to meddle with their customs...."

Governor Henry Sibley decided that separating them was the only way to keep this from happening.

A few days after the battle, he demanded that the Dakota still in the valley pack up their belongings and return to their reservation land.



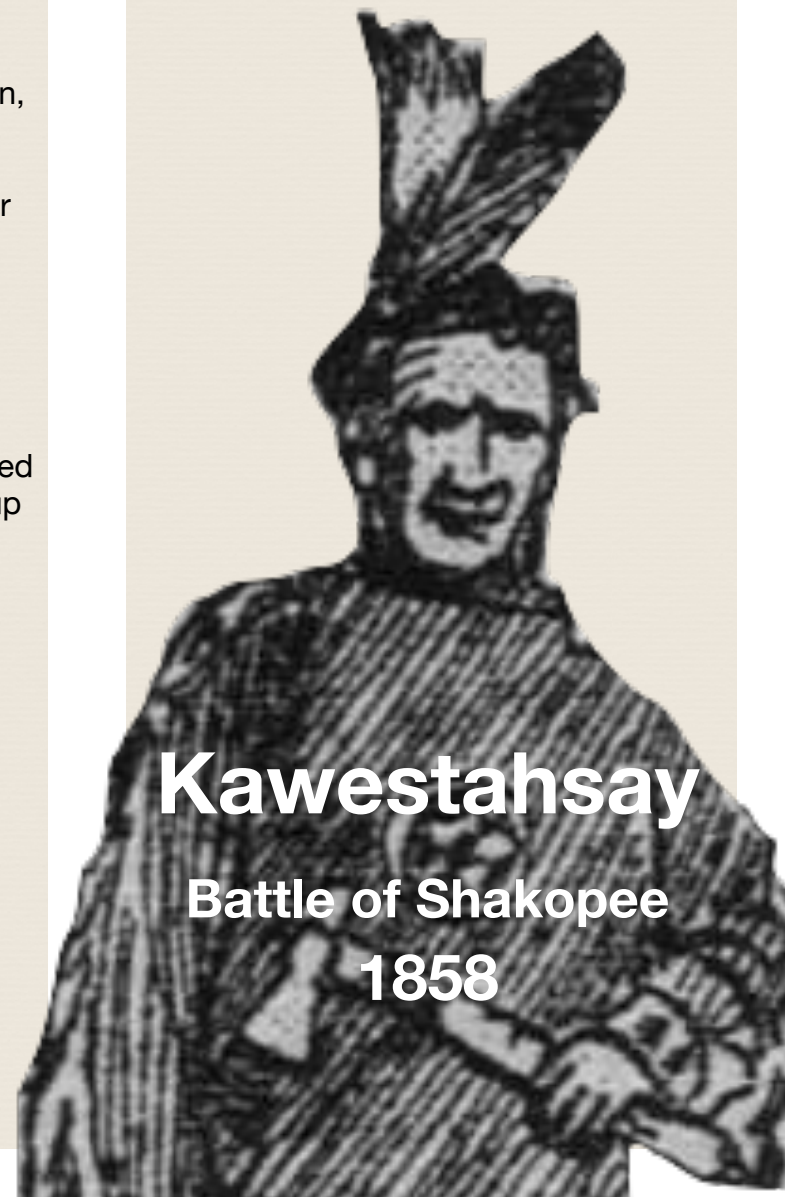
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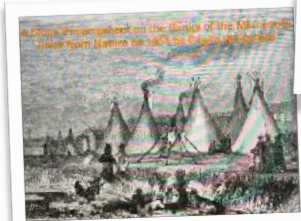
## SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY



# Kawestahsay

## Battle of Shakopee

### 1858

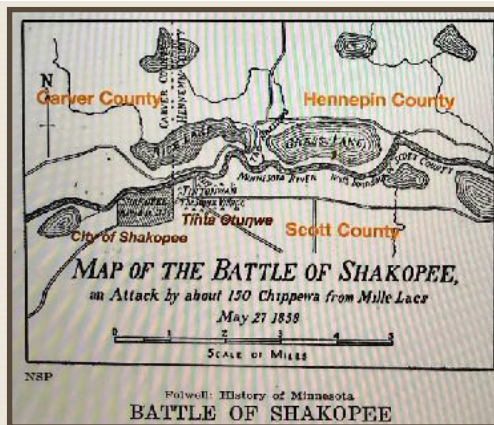


The last in a long series of conflicts between Dakota and Anishinaabe (sometimes called Ojibwa) took place on the banks of the Minnesota River north of the village of the Dakota leader Šakpedaŋ (Little Six) on May 27, 1858.

Dozens of Anishinaabe and Dakota warriors engaged in fighting that claimed lives on both sides but produced no clear victor.

After the treaties of 1851, almost all of the Dakota were forced to be moved to a reservation on the upper Minnesota in 1853, though a number of the Dakota would returned to the site of their old village of Tínta Otuŋwe.

The Anishinaabe and Dakota shared an uneasy coexistence throughout their history in the territory that became Minnesota. Early white explorers to the region wrote of fighting between the two groups occurring as far back as the fifteenth century. Both moved seasonally to hunt deer, gather wild rice, and make maple sugar.



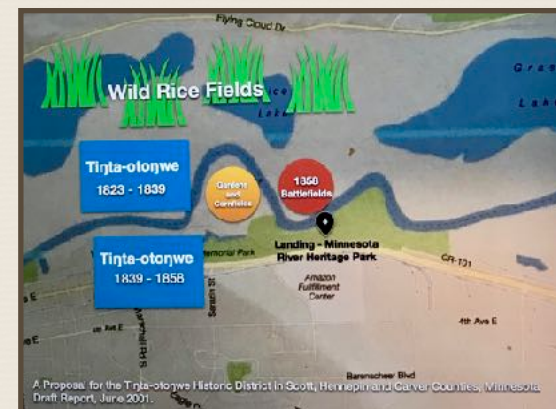
The Battle of Shakopee happened on May 27, 1858 on the north side of the Minnesota River. It happened over two hours and people of Shakopee watched from the hills as the battle happened.

They sometimes competed for these resources, especially in the border region.

Periods of peace and goodwill marked by treaties, trade, and intermarriage were often broken up by bloody skirmishes, usually on a local scale. This on-again, off-again pattern of fighting continued for hundreds of years.

White immigration and reliance on the fur trade intensified the two groups' competition for resources. The addition of guns made the fighting even more deadly.

By the late 1850s, treaties with the U.S. government had confined the Dakota to a reservation straddling the upper Minnesota River and the Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) to lands further north and east. This nominal separation did not prevent Ojibwe–Dakota tensions from turning violent again in 1858.



On May 26, 1858, between 150 and 200 Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) warriors approached an encampment of Dakota on the Minnesota River near Shakopee. They stopped in the woods on the river's north side and waited to ambush the unsuspecting Dakota the next morning.

Sometime between 4:30 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. on May 27, shots rang out from behind the cover of nearby trees. The Dakota man had just cast his line and the woman was preparing her hook. The Dakota man was killed.

Kawetahsay, an Ojibwe man, was wounded during the Battle of Shakopee according to the **Saint Paul Globe** on October 7, 1900.

Kawetahsay “was shot with an ounce ball in the lower jaw, taking a portion of it entirely away, cutting his tongue partially off, and passing out at the other side off of his face.”