

and wife. She took care of Mary Josephine Jessie, Jane Luce, and Pelagie Eliza, along with Sarah-Irène, who was born in 1847. Her last child, Lauren Phillippe, died in infancy in 1850. According to purchases in 1845-1846, the log cabin included a cookstove, and from 1842-1845 kitchen utensils including a pitcher, a coffee pot, a wrought iron tea kettle, four tin pans, three tin dishes, a set of blue cups and saucers, a dozen plates, six blue plates, four blue bowls, and a broom.

Wakan Yanjke Win's husband, Oliver died on October 12, 1850, after contracting quinsy while digging out Faribault Springs.

The girls were still very young when their father died. Their mother, Wakan Yanjke Win, remained in the home and raised the four girls, Jessie, Jane, Eliza, and Sarah-Irène. Wakan Yanjke Win preempted a quarter of the land in 1856, but gradually was forced to sell small parcels of it.

Wakan Yanjke Win died of typhoid fever on November 7, 1880. According to the Shakopee Argus, she had been unwell for weeks, but during the past ten days she was apparently improving.

Wakan Yanjke Win was buried at Valley Cemetery in Shakopee, Minnesota.

Eventually, the logs of the original house built by Oliver and Wakan Yanjke Win were covered with wood frame siding. The house was lived in by the Faribault family until the 1949 and was moved to Murphy's Landing during 1969. Now a historic site, the house is used to interpret the fur trading era at The Landing in Shakopee.



The Faribault Trading Post is the oldest house in Shakopee. It was built in 1844. It is now at The Landing in east Shakopee.



SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY  
2109 Boulder Pointe, Shakopee, MN 55379

952-693-3865

[shakopeeheritage.org](http://shakopeeheritage.org)



## SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY



**Wakan Yanjke  
Win**  
ca. 1817-1880



Wakan Yanke Wiŋ, or the Woman Who Sits at the High Place, was born in the Minnesota Valley area around 1817 among the large circle of her Dakota's relatives. According to some researchers, Wakan Yanke Wiŋ was the daughter of Colonel Menary, a soldier at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, and a "Sioux Indian girl." Wakan Yanke Wiŋ was a close relative of Sákpe II.

According to Patricia Jeanine Arnold Cates, the great great granddaughter of Wakan Yanke Wiŋ, her relative might be a full Dakota Indian because Wakan Yanke Wiŋ's father might be a Dakota, rather than a soldier. Patricia believes that she was full Dakota, but in census forms put her name as half Dakota in order to obtain script used for land purchase.

Wakan Yanke Wiŋ grew up as a Mdewakantonwanj, or the Spirit Lake People Eastern Dakota girl and young adult. She lived along the Mnisota Wakpá (or Minnesota River) Valley.

Wakan Yanke Wiŋ, wore long deerskin or elk skin dresses and moccasins on their feet. She also wore buffalo-hide robes in bad weather. Over time, Wakan Yanke Wiŋ learned how to sew clothing using material from the fort.



On left is the Faribault cabin, built in 1844, and now in The Landing in Shakopee. On right is a painting by David Geister, 2019 of Oliver Faribault, Wakan Yanke Wiŋ, Pelagie Eliza, Sarah-Iréne, Mary Josephine Jessie, Jane Luce, and Joseph Godfrey, who was enslaved here in Prairie des Français (Shakopee) ca. 1848.

Dakota women, like Wakan Yanke Wiŋ, were in charge of the home. Besides cooking and cleaning, she helped build her family's house and dragged the heavy posts with her whenever the tribe moved. Later, when she was married, Wakan Yanke Wiŋ became in charge of the log cabin built in Tínta Otunŋwe near the springs at Prairie des Français on the Rivière Saint-Pierre. Houses belonged to the women in the Dakota tribes. Wakan Yanke Wiŋ also took part in storytelling, artwork and music, and traditional medicine.

In 1837, she married Oliver Faribault in a civil/Indian ceremony. On February 11, 1844, Oliver married Wakan Yanke Wiŋ, in a religious ceremony) at the St. Francois Xavier Sioux Mission, located at Little Prairie on the St. Pierre River. Wakan Yanke Wiŋ spoke Dakota and French, and a bit of English.

Together, they had nine children:  
 Gabriel Olivier Faribault (b. 1838-December 1859)  
 Olivier Emile (b. abt 1840)  
 Angelique (b. unknown)  
 Mary Josephine Jessie (b. 1842)  
 Jane Luce (b. 1843)  
 Pelagie Eliza (b. 27 August 1845-December 1, 1937)  
 Sarah-Iréne (b. 1847-May 23, 1924)  
 Henriette Luce (b. 1848)  
 Lauren Philippe (b. 1850)



Gabriel Olivier Faribault, who was born in 1838, probably was with Pelagie's siblings, as is often done with young Dakota boys, in order to learn the Dakota way of living. He died in December of 1859. Oliver Emile, Angelique, Henriette Luce, and Lauren Philippe all died in infancy or early childhood.

In 1844, Wakan Yanke Wiŋ and Oliver built and established a trading post near three springs, later called Faribault Springs, in the midst of Tínta Otunŋwe, a Dakota summer planting village in what was later the East part of Shakopee.

Oliver Faribault was in his early thirties and Wakan Yanke Wiŋ was about 27 years old when they moved to the area. Mary Josephine Jessie, their daughter, was 2 years old, and Wakan Yanke Wiŋ was also pregnant with another daughter, Pelagie, who was born in 1845.

The Faribault's built their home on the West side of the springs. The original structure was a small cabin built with tamarack logs which were cut from a swamp near by. It is likely that Oliver Faribault, as well as Joseph Godfrey, who was enslaved, both worked on the building of the cabin.

Wakan Yanke Wiŋ spent her time as a mother