

“What kind of arrogance would lead someone in an emergency room to turn somebody away?”

Bob Brown, Albert’s grandson, noted “His hip was protruding out of his side, he had a massive skull fracture—it pissed me off!”

Dr. J. Anthony Malerich said that he needed to go to the Pipestone Indian Hospital by ambulance, which was several hours away.

When Albert Jr. arrived a week later in Pipestone, his father was still covered with dirt and blood.

Because of the delay in treatment, Albert passed away in Pipestone of a fractured skull.

The family shipped his body home in a train and buried it in St. Peter’s cemetery in Mendota.

They abandoned the land at Shakopee, and it lay fallow for years.

Albert Leclair died on January 28, 1942, hastened by the discrimination of Dr. J. Anthony Malerich and the first hospital in Shakopee.



This information from the the Mendota MdeWakanton Dakota Tribal Community at <https://mendotadakota.com/mn/>



Albert Leclair’s farm outside Shakopee, Minnesota.



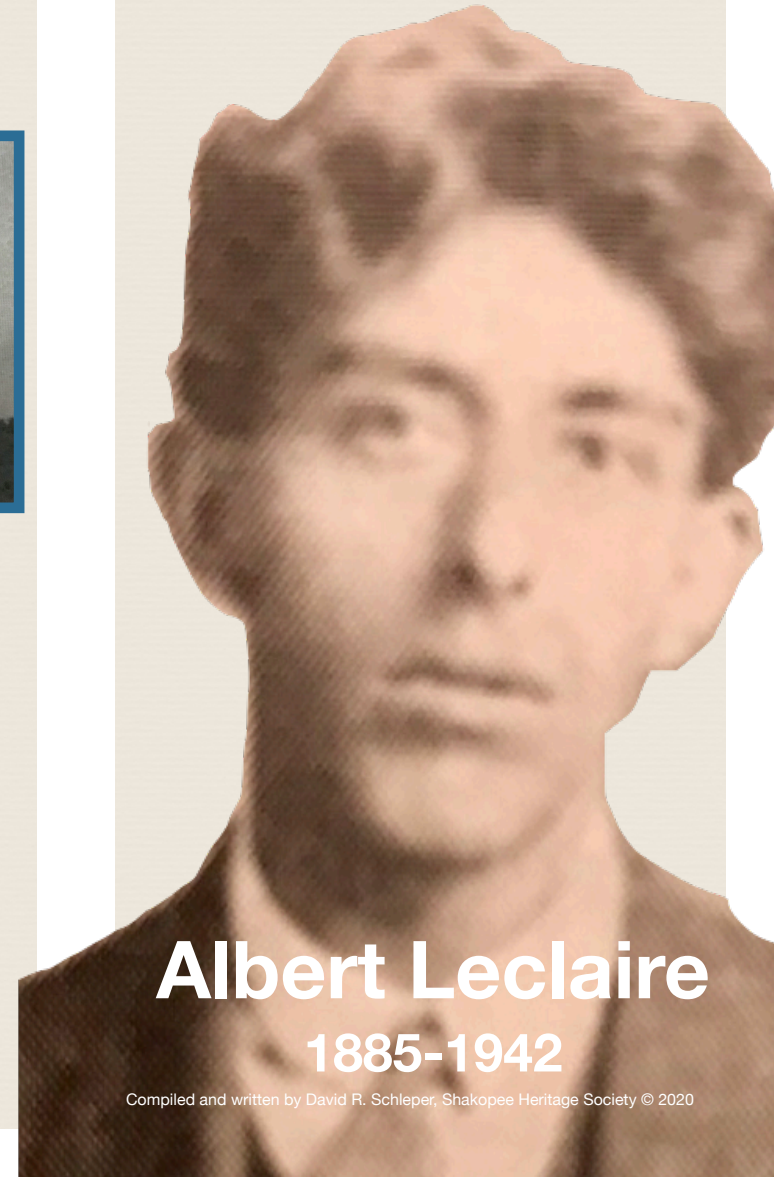
SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY  
2109 Boulder Pointe, Shakopee, MN 55379

952-693-3865

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



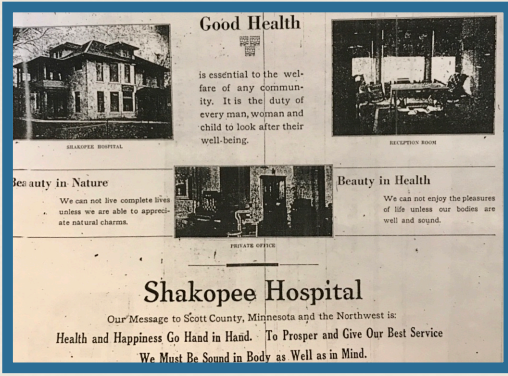
## SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY



**Albert Leclair**  
1885-1942



On the northeast corner of Holmes Street and Second Avenue, Dr. P.M. Fischer erected a private hospital adjoining his residence from 1915-1937. The hospital was bought in 1938 and reopened by Dr. J. Anthony Malerich until 1944.



Albert LeClaire was born on May 12, 1885 in Mendota, first of seven children of Frederick LeClaire and Celina Robinette.

Albert's grandparents were Jean-Baptiste Octave Wakon LeClerc and Marguerite Dupuis, and Vanosse Robinette and Mathilde LaBattle.

Albert LeClaire married Lillie Felix on July 12, 1904 in Hastings.

Lillie Felix was born on September 6, 1881. Her parents were Peter Felix Jr. and Margaret Bellecourt. Her grandparents were Peter Felix and Mazasnawin Iron Woman Rosalie Frenier.

Albert and Lillie and their 3 children moved just outside Shakopee to a 17 acre farm in 1919.

Albert LeClaire farm was part of Shakopee until 1972, when the City of Prior Lake annexed the reservation.

The Prior Lake Indian Settlement became the Shakopee Mdewakanton Dakota Community and is the site of the Little Six bingo parlor, according to Mary Losure in ***Our Way or the Highway: Inside the Minnehaha Free State***, which was published in 2002 by the University of Minnesota Press, p. 85-87.

At a school in Shakopee, Albert and Lillie's older children were called "half-breed" and "dirty Indians."

The two youngest would come home with cuts and bruises. Lillie complained to the teacher, who was told that her children just needed to toughen up.

Lillie decided to move back to Mendota with the older children, while Albert and Russell stayed and farmed.

Albert applied to get more land for farming. Albert had to note the "degree of Indian blood." He noted that his father, Frederick LeClaire, was one-quarter Mdewakanton Dakota, while his mother, Celina Robinette, who was one-half Mdewakanton Dakota.

And Albert ended up with 40 acres of land for farming.

Albert LeClaire was not very successful with farming.

Four years later, he was thrown from a car that overturned in the ditch near his farm outside Shakopee in December of 1941. The hospital and Dr. J. Anthony Malerich refused to treat him because he was an Indian.