



# Traverse des Sioux

## Presentation and Outline

Source: <http://www.mnopedia.org/multimedia/painting-treaty-traverse-des-sioux>

# Treaty Council Depictions

American Perspective: Representation of parties at negotiation council.

Painter: Franklin B. Mayer, 1885, a witness to the negotiations.

1905 recreation by Francis Davis Millet displayed until recently in Minnesota Governor's Reception Room at Capitol

Controversy:

- Dakota perspective not represented
- Romanticized imagery
- Inaccurate depiction of Dakota present at signing
- No acknowledgement of theft by fur traders



Source: <http://www.mnopedia.org/multimedia/treaty-traverse-des-sioux>

# Land Cession

## Traverse des Sioux and Mendota treaties, 1851

### Promises:

- Reservation land 10 miles north and South of the Minnesota River as far east as the Yellow Medicine River
- Some 24,000,000 acres ceded by Dakota

### 35th Congress Revisions:

- Reservation land north of the Minnesota River denied
- Dakota confined to 10 miles from south shore of Minnesota River



### Source:

<http://usdakotawar.org/history/treaties/minnesota-a-treaty-interactive>

### Source:

<http://treatiesmatter.org/treaties/land/1851-Dakota>

# U.S. Officials

Stephen Riggs, Missionary and Interpreter  
Significant Linguistic Issues:

- Direct, literal translation between English and Dakota is impossible
- Dakota Words for concepts like sale and cession did not exist
- Property rights were unrecognized by Dakota
- Dakota likely understood agreement as a 50 year lease on land

Alexander Ramsey, Territorial Governor

- Highly motivated to promote white settlement
- Threatened to withhold rations at negotiation
- Veiled threat that soldiers would protect his “friends”



Alexander Ramsey, cir. 1848

Source:

<http://www.mnopedia.org/multimedia/alexander-ramsey-0>



Stephen Riggs, cir. 1862

Source:

<http://www.mnopedia.org/multimedia/reverend-stephen-riggs>

# Treaty Articles One, Two, & (Three)

## Art. 1 - Kinship

- Kinship bonds acknowledged and guaranteed in perpetuity

## Art. 2 - Language of Sale:

- Concepts of ownership remained culturally misunderstood
- Comprised almost all of the traditional Dakota ancestral homelands

## Art. 3 - Definition, Parameter of Reservation

- Stricken by government in Washington, D.C.

### TREATY WITH THE SIOUX—SISSETON AND WAHPETON BANDS, 1851.

July 23, 1851.  
10 Stat., 949.  
Proclamation, Feb.  
24, 1853.

*Articles of a treaty made and concluded at Traverse des Sioux, upon the Minnesota River, in the Territory of Minnesota, on the twenty-third day of July, eighteen hundred and fifty-one, between the United States of America, by Luke Lea, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and Alexander Ramsey, governor and ex-officio superintendent of Indian affairs in said Territory, commissioners duly appointed for that purpose, and See-see-toan and Wah-pay-toan bands of Dakota or Sioux Indians.*

Peace to exist.

ARTICLE 1. It is stipulated and solemnly agreed that the peace and friendship now so happily existing between the United States and the aforesaid bands of Indians, shall be perpetual.

Cession of lands to the United States.

ARTICLE 2. The said See-see-toan and Wah-pay-toan bands of Dakota or Sioux Indians, agree to cede, and do hereby cede, sell, and relinquish to the United States, all their lands in the State of Iowa; and, also all their lands in the Territory of Minnesota, lying east of the following line, to wit: Beginning at the junction of the Buffalo River with the Red River of the North; thence along the western bank of said Red River of the North, to the mouth of the Sioux Wood River; thence along the western bank of said Sioux Wood River to Lake Traverse; thence, along the western shore of said lake, to the southern extremity thereof; thence in a direct line, to the junction of Kameska Lake with the Tchan-kas-an-data, or Sioux River; thence along the western bank of said river to its point of intersection with the northern line of the State of Iowa; including all the islands in said rivers and lake.

ARTICLE 3. [Stricken out.]

Payment to said Indians.

ARTICLE 4. In further and full consideration of said cession, the United States agree to pay to said Indians the sum of one million six

“Peace and friendship”

Areas ceded

Article 3, removed by Congress

# Art. 4 - Fur Traders

## Exploitation of Debts: Settling Affairs

- Fur traders extended credit to Dakota hunters for decades
- Bands and individuals in deep debt, according to fur traders
- Extraction of funds from Indians by traders was illegal
- Legitimized extraction for windfall for traders
- Debts were dubious, at best
- A traders' paper was introduced in negotiations that was never read aloud

hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars (\$1,665,000,) at the several hundred, in the manner and for the purposes following, to wit:

1st. To the chiefs of the said bands, to enable them to settle their affairs and comply with their present just engagement; and in consideration of their removing themselves to the country set apart for them as above, which they agree to do within two years, or sooner, if required by the President, without further cost or expense to the United States, and in consideration of their subsisting themselves the first year after their removal, which they agree to do without further cost or expense on the part of the United States, the sum of two hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars, (\$275,000): *Provided*, That said sum shall be paid to the chiefs in such manner as they, hereafter, in open council shall request, and as soon after the removal of said Indians to the home set apart for them, as the necessary appropriation therefor shall be made by Congress.

2d. To be laid out under the direction of the President for the establishment of manual-labor schools; the erection of mills and blacksmith shops, opening farms, fencing and breaking land, and for such other beneficial objects as may be deemed most conducive to the prosperity and happiness of said Indians, thirty thousand dollars, (\$30,000.)

The balance of said sum of one million six hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars, (\$1,665,000,) to wit: one million three hundred and sixty thousand dollars (\$1,360,000) to remain in trust with the United States, and five per cent. interest thereon to be paid, annually, to said Indians for the period of fifty years, commencing the first day of July, eighteen hundred and fifty-two (1852,) which shall be in full payment of said balance, principal and interest, the said payment to be applied under the direction of the President, as follows, to wit:

3d. For a general agricultural improvement and civilization fund, the sum of twelve thousand dollars, (\$12,000.)

4th. For educational purposes, the sum of six thousand dollars, (\$6,000.)

5th. For the purchase of goods and provisions, the sum of ten thousand dollars, (\$10,000.)

6th. For money annuity, the sum of forty thousand dollars, (\$40,000.)

ARTICLE 5. The laws of the United States prohibiting the introduction and sale of spirituous liquors in the Indian country shall be in full force and effect throughout the territory hereby ceded and lying in Minnesota until otherwise directed by Congress or the President of the United States.

ARTICLE 6. Rules and regulations to protect the rights of persons and property among the Indians, parties to this treaty, and adapted to their condition and wants, may be prescribed and enforced in such manner as the President or the Congress of the United States, from time to time, shall direct.

In testimony whereof, the said Commissioners, Luke Lea and Alexander Ramsey, and the undersigned Chiefs and Headmen of the aforesaid See-see-toan and Wah-pay-toan bands of Dakota or Sioux Indians, have hereunto subscribed their names and affixed their seals, in duplicate, at Traverse des Sioux, Territory of Minnesota, this twenty-third day of July, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one.

L. Lea, [SEAL]  
Alex. Ramsey, [SEAL]

Een-yang-ma-nee, (Running Walker or "the Gun.")	Hoak-shee-dan-wach-tay, (Good Boy.)
Wee-tchan-h'pee-see-tay-toan, (the Star face or the "Orphan.")	Es-tay-tcho-ka, (Face in the midst.)
Es-tay-sa-keen-yah, ("Limping Devil" or "Thunder Face.")	Hay-ha-ben-day-ma-za, (Metal Horn.)
Esch-ta-huon-la, ("Sleepy Eyes.")	Am-pay-too-sha, (Red Day.)
Oo-pee-yu-hen-day-n. (Extending his train.)	Eesh-ta-huon-la-koosh-ka, (Sleepy Eyes young.)
	A ha-wang-ma-nee, (Who goes galloping on.)
	Ma-h'pee-wee-tchah-ta, (Cloud man.)

"Settling affairs"

Trusts.

Terms of payment

"Prohibition of spirituous liquors"

Laws respecting liquor to remain in force.

Rules may be prescribed.

Source:

<https://dc.library.okstate.edu/digital/collection/kapplers/id/26430>

# Broken Promises

1858 Treaties in Washington, D.C.

- Permanent reservation was objectively only temporary
- Dakota leaders kept from Minnesota for months

Annuity Payments

- Dakota dependence on government established
- Payments frequently delayed
- Traders continued debt collections
- Credit lines at agencies were irregular

Violent conflict would be result.



Source: <http://treatiesmatter.org/exhibit/welcome/broken-promises/>