

Your memorialists would further represent, that the distance between Sioux city and Yankton is sixty miles, and the service asked for would accommodate eight post offices daily, being the number between Sioux city and Yankton, besides affording increased mail facilities to several military posts that receive their mail from Yankton.

And, as in duty bound, your memorialists would ever pray.

MILITARY HEAD QUARTERS

CHAPTER 48.

A Memorial to the Hon. Secretary of War, Praying that the Head Quarters of the Upper Missouri Military District be established within the Territory of Dakota.

To the Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War:

Your memorialists, the legislative assembly of the Territory of Dakota, would most respectfully represent, that in their opinion, it would be economy on the part of the government, besides affording much better protection to the citizens of northern Nebraska, western Minnesota, and north western Iowa, as well as the territory of Dakota, against hostile Indians, to remove the head quarters of this military district from its present location to some suitable point on the Missouri river within this territory, between the Big Sioux river and Fort Randall. By the diagram accompanying this memorial it will be observed that the city of Yankton, the capital of this territory, and other eligible points within the limits mentioned, are much nearer the several military posts now established on the frontier, than any eligible point east of the Big Sioux river, and in order to avail itself of this advantage, the government has deemed it necessary to keep a large amount of military stores at the above named town, in charge of an A. A. Quarter Master and a guard of troops.

Asking that headquarters of this district be established within the territory of Dakota.

Your memorialists would further represent that, in their opinion, there is no necessity for any military establishment at the town of Sioux City, Iowa, nor that any troops should be stationed there for the protection of its inhabitants or adjacent settlements, for the reason that there is a line of settlements and military posts in Dakota territory, that fully protect that place and surroundings against all danger from Indian attacks, as will be more fully shown by reference being had to the accompanying diagram.

Your memorialists would further represent the military posts at Fire Steel creek on the Dakota river, and at Sioux Falls on the Big Sioux river can be supplied from a point, as recommended herein, at one half the land transportation that is required to supply the same from Sioux City, and if said posts be supplied, as at present, from Yankton, the maintenance of a military establishment at Sioux City will entail upon the government a great expense from which no beneficial results can possibly be derived.

Further, your memorialists are fully of the opinion that the nearer the head quarters of this military district are to the field of active operation against the hostile Indians, so much the more effective will such movements be. And in thus expressing their views, your memorialists have only stated what they believe will result, if acted upon, in a great saving to the government and at the same time render all future military operations in this territory more effective.

Be it resolved by the legislative assembly of the territory of Dakota, That our delegate in Congress be, and is hereby requested to use all proper means to bring this subject to the favorable consideration of the war department.

And be it further resolved, that a copy hereof, be forwarded to each, the Hon. Secretary of War, the commanding generals of this military department and district, and to our delegate in Congress.

Copies to be
sent to secretary
of war, com-
manding gener-
als of depart-
ment and
district, and
delegate.