

PRESS RELEASE

Archaeological Study of the Wood Lake Battlefield: Public Archaeology at the Site of the Final Engagement of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862.

An archaeological study of the Wood Lake Battlefield will be conducted this fall. Wood Lake was the site of the last conflict between U.S. military and the Dakota forces before the Dakota were forced to flee from Minnesota, taken captive and relocated, or executed. As such, it is an important landscape that evokes a connection to a watershed moment in American history. Portions of the site where some of the heaviest fighting and greatest losses of human life occurred have never been plowed or redeveloped but are currently threatened by erosion.

Sigrid Arnott Consulting, LLC has assembled a team of experts to conduct an archaeological investigation of this 33-acre parcel for the Wood Lake Battlefield Preservation Association to identify archaeological features, recover archaeological artifacts, and interpret the findings within the context of the larger Wood Lake Battlefield historic site. The study will rely heavily on state-of-the-art non-invasive methods including: analysis of aerial laser scanning data to model terrain elements in 3-D, forensic analysis of ballistics, systematic metal detection, and mapping of buried artifacts and features identified using subsurface geophysical methods. The project will culminate with a one-day public archaeology event to be held on site September 12th (1-5PM). During this event Dr. Douglas Scott will discuss conflict archaeology and demonstrations of the high-technology archaeological methods used during the project will be conducted.

Project Contacts: Sigrid Arnott (612.229.3815, sigridarnott@gmail.com), David Maki (612.379.0094, maki@archaeophysics.com)

Directions to the Event:

From Granite Falls, Minnesota...

Take Highway 67 east (past the Upper Sioux State Park and Yellow Medicine River) to Rock Valle Lutheran Church. Turn west (right) on County Road 18. The Monument is on the left about ½ mile from the church. Continue on County Road 18 about ¼ mile. Turn north (right) on 600 Street (over the small bridge and up the hill). On your right will be the entrance to the Ravine area. Note: No motorized vehicles, metal detectors or horses are allowed on the property.

From Redwood Falls, Minnesota...

Take Highway 67 north from Redwood Falls (past Echo) to County Road 18 (turn before passing Rock Valle Church). The Monument is on the left about ½ mile from the church. Continue on County Road 18 about ¼ mile. Turn north (right) on 600 Street (over the small bridge and up the hill). On your right will be the entrance to the Ravine area. Note: No motorized vehicles, metal detectors or horses are allowed on the property.

In case of rain: The Upper Sioux Agency State Park Interpretive Center.