

Dakota War Commemoration Symposium

Friday, August 24th 9:00am -3:00pm
Turner Hall – 102 South State Street, New Ulm, MN

Dr. Mary Lethert Wingerd , author of “North Country: The Making of Minnesota,” winner of a 2011 Minnesota Book Award. Dr. Wingerd is associate professor of history at St. Cloud State University. She will provide perspective on the history of the area we now call Minnesota as well as a framework for the U.S.-Dakota War.

Dr. Elden Lawrence, author of “Stories and Reflections: From an Indian Perspective” and “The Peace Seekers: The Indian Christians and the Dakota Conflict.” Dr. Lawrence was president of Sisseton Wahpeton College for several years and was visiting professor of ethnic studies at Minnesota State University, Mankato. He will share personal reflections and academic research on the war specifically related to his Christian Dakota ancestors.

Dr. Zabelle Stodola, author of “The War in Words: Reading the Dakota Conflict through the Captivity Literature” and co-author of “The Indian Captivity Narrative, 1550-1900.” Dr. Stodola is professor of English at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock. The working title of her presentation is “Snana: Minnesota's Pocahontas,” which will deconstruct and expose the reasons for the overly positive cultural stereotyping and sentimentalization of both Pocahontas and Snana (Maggie Brass).

Walt Bachman, B.A., M.A., J.D., author of the forthcoming “Black Dakota,” a biography of Joseph Godfrey. Mr. Bachman worked as a trial lawyer in Minnesota for 22 years and wrote “Law vs. Life,” a book of essays about the practice of law in America. He will speak about the Dakota and Winnebago war trials.

Speakers will be at 9:00, 10:00, 11:00 Break for Lunch 12:00-1:00 Speaker at 1:00-2:00 & 2:00-3:00
Lunch will be available for purchase at Turner Hall.
Times for each speaker will be published at a later date.