



august kiesling blacksmith shop

August Kiesling had built a log structure here which was used as his blacksmith shop and family dwelling.

The last crucial engagement of the Second Battle of New Ulm took place at this site on August 23, 1862.

Indian forces occupied the building late in the afternoon. Colonel Flandrau and about sixty men charged from the defense lines toward the blacksmith shop. The Indians were driven out and retired from the area. The buildings in this area outside the barricades were then burned.

This encounter cost the lives of 4 defenders and about 17 were wounded. Indian casualties are unknown. This melee is regarded as the turning point of the battle.

August Kiesling left the Valley, but returned to run a farm across the Minnesota River up to 1891. He retired to New Ulm and passed away in 1907 aged 90.

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