

# Little Crow (Taoyateduta)

July 3, 1863



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**Monument Location:** *From Litchfield, go east on Hwy. 12 to CSAH 9 South to County Road 18. Go east for 3 miles. The monument is on the south side of the road.*

**Monument reads:**

“Chief Little Crow Leader of the Sioux Indian Outbreak in 1862 was shot and killed about 330 feet south of this point by Nathan Lamson and his son Chauncey, July 3, 1863 – Erected 1929.”

On the morning of July 3, 1863, Nathan Lamson and his son, Chauncey, decided to go hunting a mile or so from their farm. Before they could reach their intended hunting spot, Nathan Lamson saw movement up ahead in the woods. The two stopped and looked through thick brush only to discover an adult Indian male and a teenage boy picking raspberries. It was later discovered that the pair were Little Crow and his son Wowinapa.

Nathan Lamson surrounded by tall bushes, rested his gun against a tree and fired at the older Indian wounding him in the hip. Little Crow fired back and wounded Nathan in the shoulder. Chauncey came out from his hiding place and stepped into a path that led to a nearby farmhouse. With his son’s gun in his hands, Little Crow carefully moved along the path behind the bushes

towards Chauncey. As he came around a bend, the two came face to face. Both aimed and shot at each other simultaneously. Chauncey shot Little Crow through the chest mortally wounding the Chieftain while Little Crow's bullet sailed past Chauncey's left ear leaving him unharmed.

Chauncey made his way home as fast as he could to sound the alarm. A group of men from the Hutchinson Stockade went in search of Nathan Lamson. When they reached the spot where Nathan had been shot, they found the body of Little Crow. Nathan's white shirt and gun were found in a nearby plum grove, but there was no trace of him.

Nathan made his way home by the next morning and explained that he discarded his gun because it had jammed. He left his white shirt behind because he believed it would give away his whereabouts too easily. Nathan told the agonizing story of watching Wowinapa for three to four hours tend to his dying father. Nathan was close enough to hear Little Crow groaning and watched as his son tried to stop the bleeding and ran frequently to a nearby lake to bring water to the dying chief. When Little Crow died, Wowinapa was overcome with grief. He laid his father's body out on the ground, put new moccasins on his feet, folded his hands across his chest, and wrapped the body in his father's blanket. Nathan Lamson said the death scene filled him with remorse.

The jacket found on Little Crow's body belonged to James McGannon who had been killed two days before in South Haven. Chauncey scalped Little Crow and brought the scalp back to Hutchinson. Little Crow's body was brought into Hutchinson some time later and dragged down the town's main street while firecrackers were placed in his ears and nose. His body was then dumped in an open grave at a slaughterhouse and covered with gravel. Some time later the head was removed.

The US Army troops captured Wowinapa on July 28, 1863. He told them how and where his father had died and this prompted exhumation of Little Crow's body on August 16, 1863. Little Crow's identity was verified by the scarred and malformed wrists which were a result of a gunshot wound during a battle with his brother over which one of them would become chief. The Minnesota Legislature awarded Nathan Lamson \$500 bounty for killing Little Crow and Chauncey received \$75 bounty for the chief's scalp.

Little Crow's scalp was received by the Minnesota Historical Society in 1868 and his skull in 1896. Other bones were collected at other times. The Mdewankanton Dakota Chief's remains were returned to his grandson Jesse Wakeman, son of Wowinapa, for a proper burial in 1971.

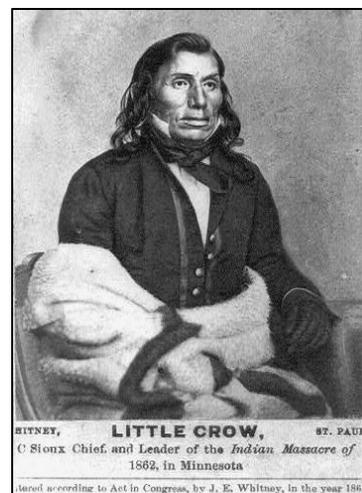
#### References:

- Ketcham, Roule and Marsh, Tracy H., *Action in Acton, Litchfield, Minnesota*: James J. Reed Co.
- Little Crow n.d. In Wikipedia. Retrieved June 17, 2017 from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little\\_Crow#cite\\_note-9](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_Crow#cite_note-9)



Little Crow, reluctant leader of the Dakota conflict, in a photo taken during negotiations for the 1858 treaty in Washington, D.C

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Little Crow often dressed in white man's clothes.

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