Ojibwe and Dakota War
Major Battles and Pattern of Warfare

By Robert Bell
Faculty Advisor: Dr. St. Germaine
History University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

This Project Attempts to Document As Many Battles In the Ojibwe and Dakota War That Can Be Found Through Primary Sources and Oral Histories, While Looking For A Pattern In the Warfare As Well. The Ojibwe Were Taking The Prime Hunting Land Away That The Dakota Used to Feed Their People and Trapped Furs For Trade.

1. Sault Ste. Marie, the Ojibwe lived here for 150 years after migrating from the Atlantic Coast in the sixteenth century.
2. A battle occurred between the Ojibwe and Dakota at Torch Lake in 1691. Two burial mounds are there, one for the Ojibwe and the other for the Dakota.
3. The Ojibwe move to Chequamegon Point.
4. After constant attacks from the Dakota and Fox, the Ojibwe move to Madeline Island.
5. Battle with the Fox Indians, in the winter of 1660.
6. After 400 Fox Indians kidnapped some Ojibwe women and escape by canoe into Lake Superior. The Ojibwe give pursuit. The Ojibwe caught the Fox at the mouth of the Montreal River and capsized the Fox canoes drowning them. This is the only naval battle of the war.
7. The Ojibwe and Dakota held a peace conference here under the watchful eyes of Daniel Greysolon Sieur du Lhut (Duluth). The Ojibwe and Dakota enter into a trade agreement, with the Ojibwe acting as a middleman in trade for the Dakota with the French.
8. Jean-Baptist Verendrye, son of a French trader, accompanies the Cree on an attack of the Dakota at Red Lake, many Dakota are killed.
9. The Cree shoot at a party of Dakota killing one. The Dakota were looking for revenge for the Red Lake attack in May, and asked the Cree who was shooting at them and the Cree told them it was the French, not the Cree. The Dakota find a party of 21 Frenchmen on Massacre Island, including Jean-Baptist Verendrye. The Dakota kill 19 Frenchmen and 2 drowned swimming away, on June 6, 1736. The Frenchmen were beheaded and the heads were wrapped in beaver pelts. The Ojibwe are forced to choose which side to fight on when the French want revenge. The Ojibwe sided with the French and the Cree, abandoning the Dakota.
10. The Ojibwe Attack the Dakota. The Cree and Assiniboine are as well, but are ravaged by smallpox, unknown to the Ojibwe. The Ojibwe unknowingly attack alone and push the Dakota west to the Red River and south to the Minnesota River, later in June 1736.
11. The Ojibwe attack and take a Dakota village at Mille Lacs in 1736.
12. The Ojibwe route the Dakota in very large, long battle, on the St. Croix.
13. The Ojibwe route Dakota, all 300 Dakota are killed or drowned, on the Brule.
14. The Ojibwe and the Potawatomi are attacked by the Dakota and Fox over the wild rice beds. 500 from both sides are killed and buried in a joint burial mound with members of all four tribes in it, at Mole Lake. 15.1825, Fort Snelling is established to keep peace between the tribes. 16. Between these years, 1799-1841, at Rice Lake there were at least four battles between the Ojibwe and the Dakota.
17. The last battle occurred at Vanceburg. Little Crow leads the Dakota in a surprise attack on an Ojibwe hunting party and killed a very popular Ojibwe Chief No-non-ga-be. With this battle and the Dakota War with the United States in 1862, the Ojibwe and Dakota War officially ends.
18. The Dakota attack and kill all of an Ojibwe hunting party at a trading post in 1786.

Conclusion
In our research we found that the Iroquois war had a great deal of influence in the war between the Ojibwe and Dakota. With the large number of refugees moving west to flee the Iroquois, flooded the Ojibwe’s land and made them move west as intruders in the Dakota Territory. The Ojibwe split into two groups and migrated west on both sides of Lake Superior. The southern route met with resistance from the Dakota and Fox Indians. This area had beaver, deer and other game for food and an abundance of wild rice, and made this a prime place to live. Every bend on the rivers in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, all of northern Wisconsin, and northern Minnesota, had a battle, and between the Red Cedar and Chippewa Rivers in Wisconsin became known as the “Road to War” because of all of the fighting. This was a lush hunting area and a major prize for either tribe to posses, and the Dakota spent the next 130 years trying to reclaim it. The United States built Fort Snelling, in 1825, at the junction of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers to try to keep peace between the two tribes with little success. This war was over a large number of people being crowded into a smaller space, and competition for trade with the Europeans. Every battle occurred near a trade post or a body of water near food. The war was spread over 3 states for 130 years. Both tribes fought for the right to trade with the Europeans.

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Bibliography
