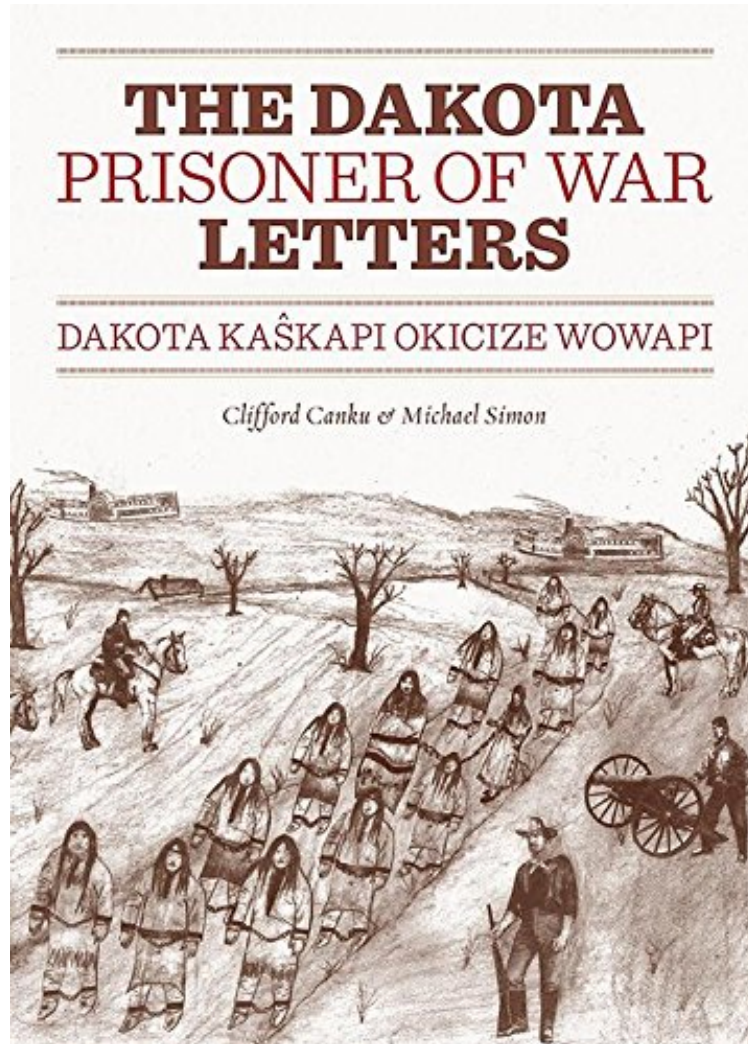


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Dakota Prisoner of War Letters: Dakota Kaskapi Okicize Wowapi

Clifford Canku, Michael Simon
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Clifford Canku, Michael Simon : Dakota Prisoner of War Letters: Dakota Kaskapi Okicize Wowapi before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dakota Prisoner of War Letters: Dakota Kaskapi Okicize Wowapi:

11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. HauntingBy CateThe letters contained in this book, written by Dakota prisoners held at Camp McClellan in Davenport, IA following the Dakota - U.S. War of 1862, have been translated into Dakota English, and are heartbreaking and revealing. They give voice to a group of people whose own history has been largely written from the white perspective, and are of great historical and cultural importance. The letters are addressed to Christian missionary Rev. Stephen Riggs and one to Henry Sibley. I am not trained in the art of

interpreting historical documents, but I sensed a great sadness and a shift in Dakota spiritual life that is painful to bear witness to. To me, the sense of loss is palpable as these men cope with imprisonment, the loss of their families, the loss of their ancestral homelands, and the drastic changes to their culture. I couldn't help but imagine what was happening to these men and their families, and the hardships they endured, only to be faced with more trials and tribulations after their release. I am grateful that Dr. Canku and Mr. Simon translated and published these correspondences. Please note: It is very necessary to read the intro carefully, for the translations were done into Dakota English, and therefore reads differently than Standard English. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A must read for all of us at Crow Creek. By Margery Koster This book gives us insight into the suffering of the prisoners but it can also be a great learning tool for those of us who would like to become fluent speakers of the Dakota language. 9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Dakota Prisoner Letters By Louis R. Garcia I highly recommend this book to any historians who wish to investigate the prison camps. Genealogists will also like this book as many names of the prisoners and deaths within the camp are mentioned in the letters. Finally anyone interested in the Dakota language will enjoy this book as the words are translated into English word for word. The original spelling and the modern spelling is also included.

In April 1863 after the U.S. Dakota War of 1862, after the hanging of thirty-eight Dakota men in the largest mass execution in U.S. History some 270 Dakota men were moved from Mankato, Minnesota, to a prison at camp McClellan in Davenport, Iowa. Separated from their wives, children, and elder relatives, with inadequate shelter, they lived there for three long, wretched years. More than 120 men died. Desperate to connect with their families, many of these prisoners of war learned to write. Their letters, mostly addressed to the missionaries Stephen R. Riggs and Thomas S. Williamson, asked for information, for assistance, and for help sending and receiving news of their loved ones. Dakota elders Clifford Canku and Michael Simon, fluent Dakota speakers, provide both the Dakota transcription and the first published English translation of fifty of these letters, culled from Riggs's papers at the Minnesota Historical Society. They are a precious resource for Dakota people learning about the travails their ancestors faced, important primary source documents for historians, and a vital tool for Dakota language learners and linguists. These haunting documents present a history that has long been unrecognized in this country, in the words of the Dakota people who lived it. The dedication written by the authors, both of whom are descendants of Dakota prisoners of war, declares: "Our relatives are watching over us. / We are humbled as we honor our ancestors. / Woecon kin de unyakupi do / We accept this responsibility you gave us."

About the Author The Rev. Michael Simon, translator and co-editor is an instructor of Dakota language for the Moorhead (Minn.) Public Schools; a fluent Dakota speaker; and an enrolled member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate