http://history.nd.gov/historicsites/sibleysully/history3.html

While Sibley waited for Sully at the Missouri River, Sully waited for his steamboats at Fort Pierre (at present-day Pierre, South Dakota). Sully's arm of the campaign was plagued by a succession of delays. The first occurred when the expedition's original commander, General John Cook, was replaced by Sully during the campaign's critical planning phase. Cook, as commander of the Military District of Dakota, was accused of failing to decisively respond to the Dakota War of 1862 and was removed in response to public outcry. To make matters worse, the Second Nebraska Cavalry, a major component of the command, arrived late at the Sioux City, Iowa muster site.

Unquestionably, however, the biggest factor in the command's late departure was a prolonged drought that prevented the expedition's steamboats from moving on the uncommonly low water levels of the Missouri River. On the July 25 rendezvous date, Sully's troops had just arrived at Fort Pierre and were still three weeks ahead of the steamboats. In mid-August, Sully, desperate to advance, loaded the available supplies onto borrowed wagons and marched overland toward Devils Lake with rations adequate for a mere twenty-three days.

In late August, long after Sibley had departed for Minnesota, Sully's command reached Long Lake, southeast of present-day Bismarck. Realizing that he had missed Sibley, Sully still hoped to catch up with the Dakotas. Captured informants reported that the Dakotas had escaped Sibley's army by crossing the Missouri, but had returned after Sibley departed and had moved eastward to hunt buffalo for winter provisions. Sully turned his army eastward toward the James River.

On September 3, 1863, a scouting party discovered an Indian village near Whitestone Hill. The soldiers stalled the Indians' escape long enough for Sully to bring his main force into battle position. The confrontation at Whitestone Hill is considered to be the bloodiest fight between whites and Indians in eastern North Dakota. Twenty-three soldiers and an estimated two hundred Indians were killed, including many women and children. Another 158 Indians were captured and most of the Indians' food, shelter, tools, weapons, and transportation were destroyed, leaving the survivors destitute in the face of the coming winter (see [**Whitestone Hill**](http://history.nd.gov/historicsites/whitestone/index.html)). With his mission essentially accomplished and supplies dangerously low, Sully and his men returned to winter quarters, thus ending the 1863 field campaign.

http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1G2-3401801126.html

**DAKOTA EXPEDITIONS OF SIBLEY AND SULLY**

**DAKOTA EXPEDITIONS OF SIBLEY AND SULLY** (1863–1865). In 1863, during the American Civil War, Major General John Pope ordered Union general Henry Hastings Sibley to march from Camp Pope near Fort Ridgely, Minnesota, against the Dakota (Sioux) Indians, who had taken part in hostilities of 1862 in Minnesota. He was to drive them west toward the Missouri River, and General Alfred Sully was ordered to proceed up the Missouri and intercept the Dakotas before they could cross to the western side of the river. Sibley set out on 16 June and established his field base at Camp Atcheson, North Dakota. He defeated the Dakotas in three battles: at Big Mound, Kidder County, on 24 July; at Dead Buffalo Lake on 26 July; and at Stony Lake on 28 July. Retreating Dakota fighters held back Sibley's army until their families crossed to safety on the western side of the Missouri.

Sibley established his camp at the mouth of Apple Creek, near present-day Bismarck, North Dakota. On 1 August he began his return march by way of Camp Atcheson to Fort Abercrombie, which he reached on 23 August. Meanwhile, Sully established headquarters at Sioux City, Iowa, and set up a base camp at Fort Pierre, South Dakota. On 13 August he left the fort for a quick march northward. On 3 September he fought a battle near White Stone Hill, North Dakota; the Dakota camp was dispersed and their supplies destroyed. Sully took prisoners and returned to his winter quarters at Sioux City.

Sully conducted the next two summer campaigns. In the **summer of 1864** his army proceeded up the Missouri River from Sioux City, accompanied by two steamboats that carried his supplies to the rendezvous point at the site of the new army post at Fort Rice, North Dakota. Leaving a part of his force to construct the fort, he marched northwest to the Dakota camp located in the Killdeer Mountains. There a battle was fought on 28 July, and the Dakotas were defeated and scattered. **The following summer, Sully's force moved up the Missouri River to Fort Rice and marched north of Devils Lake. On 2 August he set out for the Mouse (Souris) River and from there marched southwest to Fort Berthold. There he met the famous Jesuit missionary Father Pierre Jean De Smet. Sully's force returned to Fort Rice on 8 September and went into winter quarters at Sioux Falls, South Dakota.**

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