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(S.D.)-Dakota Men Hanged In 1862 Honored In Mankato



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 12/27/2012 09:17 AM

MANKATO, Minn. (AP) - Hundreds of people have turned out in Mankato to mark the 150th anniversary of the hanging of 38 Dakota men - the largest mass execution in U.S. history.

A new "Dakota 38" memorial was dedicated during the nearly two-hour ceremony in Reconciliation Park Wednesday.

Up to 500 people packed the area. About 60 horse riders rode in for the ceremony, and a group of Dakota runners from Fort Snelling also arrived.

Mankato resident Bud Lawrence helped start the reconciliation effort in the 1970s. Lawrence calls it "a great day, not only for the Dakota but for the city of Mankato."

The hangings on Dec. 26, 1862, marked the end of the U.S.-Dakota War that took place along the Minnesota River valley that fall.