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### **EVENTS: battles, deaths, injuries.**

Native Americans used the survey area for hunting and fishing and had permanent dwelling sites. Two Native American tribes were in constant conflict. The Dakota (Sioux) were being pushed from their home area by the Ojibwa (Chippewa) during the late 18th century and early 19th century. Burial mounds and artifacts can still be found. Some of the oldest remains of Native Americans were found near Pelican Rapids, Minnesota. The remains, nicknamed Minnesota Girl, were dated at about 11,000 B.C. (Otter Tail County Historical Museum).

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otter\\_Tail\\_County,\\_Minnesota](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otter_Tail_County,_Minnesota)

Otter Tail County was established March 18, 1858, and organized September 12, 1868. The name was derived from the Otter Tail Lake and River. The lake, from which the river was named, derived its name from the narrow sandbar which the Ojibwe said gave the impression of the tail of an otter.

Nearby military protection was at Grant County's Fort Pomme De Terre.

#### during the conflict:

No information has been found that indicates the extent of involvement by Otter Tail people in the U.S. Dakota War of 1862. There are many veterans from the Civil War associated with the history of Otter Tail County, but it appears that most of them settled in Otter Tail after the Civil War.

This publication states that a few of the early settlers in Otter Tail County were killed during the "Sioux War of 1862". <http://collections.mnhs.org/MNHHistoryMagazine/articles/13/v13i04p385-394.pdf>

#### post conflict:

Small bands of hostile Dakota operated in central Minnesota in the fall of 1862 and between the spring and fall of 1863. To prevent attacks the military stationed soldiers at various points on the Minnesota frontier. Curt Dahlin, [Dakota Uprising Victims](#).

May 2, 1863. Two men were killed at Lightning Lake in Ottertail County. They were soldier Comfort B. Luddington and civilian Silas Foot. Luddington, who was stationed at Pomme de Terre was assigned to accompany Foot to Fort Abercrombie. They camped overnight in Ottertail county near Lightning Lake, and were shot and killed as they slept. Because some soldiers from Fort Pomme de Terre were killed on the same day by buckshot and arrow, it was assumed that the killings were done by some roaming Dakota. DUV 78

### **HISTORIC PEOPLE CONNECTED TO CONFLICT**

#### People of Note

John W. Mason, attorney in Fergus Falls, came to Otter Tail County before the Civil War.

### **RESOURCES**

#### **Books (see attached bibliography for titles)**

DW, DUV

***See Resource section for Book titles and Codes, Journal titles and Codes***

This on-line version of the history of Otter Tail county claims to be the full text; the index indicates that the US Dakota War of 1862 is covered in Chapter 1. However, the online version does not include Chapter 1. Those interested in learning about the US Dakota War of 1862 as it affected Otter Tail County would need to find a copy of the book that shows Chapter 1.

[http://archive.org/stream/historyofotterta02maso/historyofotterta02maso\\_djvu.txt](http://archive.org/stream/historyofotterta02maso/historyofotterta02maso_djvu.txt)

**Articles****Photos****Paintings, sketches, & murals****MONUMENTS & HISTORIC SITES****INTERPRETIVE CENTERS****CEMETERIES WITH GRAVESTONES OF PARTICIPANTS****WEBSITES**

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