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EVENTS: battles, deaths, injuries.

long ago:

Native people lived in the Lower St. Croix Valley in the pre-contact period of 10,000 to 1680 A.D.

Washington County's Grey Cloud Island has a long history of settlement by Native American peoples. It was an important place for the Woodland mound-builders (c. 100 B.C. to 600 A.D.) and for people of the Late Mississippian culture around 1000 A.D. The island has the largest concentration of mounds in the county.

pre-conflict:

The residents of Washington County in the late 1700's and early 1800's were mostly Dakota people and traders of French-Canadian ancestry. A number of the Dakota and the French-Canadian people married.

The only Indian village known to have existed in Washington County was on Grey Cloud Island. In the 1830s about 40 families of the Mdewakanton band headed by Medicine Bottle moved from Kaposia (South St. Paul) to the northwestern part of Grey Cloud Island.

<http://projects.wchsmn.org/communities/grey-cloud-island-township/>

Joseph R. Brown had established a store and warehouse on Grey Cloud Island in 1820; he was a "former soldier, Indian trader, promoter, and Justice of the Peace named Joseph Renshaw Brown. Joe Brown had been in the area since 1820, when he was shipped out from Philadelphia as a private in the frontier army that built Fort Snelling. Brown set up a store and farm at Grey Cloud Island, but kept a small warehouse at the head of Lake St. Croix to supply upriver fur trading operations. This warehouse, which was in what is now North Stillwater, or "Dutchtown," became the nucleus of a new village that he called "Dacotah,." Brown's claim became the county seat of St. Croix County, Wisconsin Territory in 1840." <http://historicstillwater.blogspot.com/2008/11/stillwater-minnesotas-early-history.html>

As early as 1840 a small settlement of French Canadians and their part-Indian families existed on the site of Lakeland Village along Lake St. Croix. Apparently these earliest settlers moved on, because by 1849 there were no buildings at the present village site.

<http://projects.wchsmn.org/communities/lakeland/>

After the Treaty of 1853 some of the early French-Dakota and other mixed-blood families who were living in Washington County, had moved to the Lower Sioux and Upper Sioux reservations in western Minnesota by the time the conflict broke out.

during the conflict:

Residents of Washington County were alarmed by the news of the outbreak on the western prairie. They were also afraid that the Ojibwe under Chief Hole In the Day might join forces with the Dakota and attack the St. Croix settlements.

There were some reports of sighting Dakota Indians and resulting panic, but the Dakota were actually far away. A potential threat existed at the time from a gathering of Ojibwe people under Chief Hole-in-the-Day at Gull Lake, but this situation was eventually resolved. DW 51

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Volunteer units formed to protect the Washington County settlers: the Frontier guards under Captain D. Bronson Jr., the Marine Guards under Capt. Robert Rich. Col. Francis H. Delano, former warden of the territorial prison was named commander of all the St. Croix Valley volunteer militia. Some of the volunteer units served a few days, others for over two months. Some of the volunteer groups were temporarily relieved in September and October by the Twenty-fifth Wisconsin Regiment and the Twenty-seventh Iowa Infantry. These temporary forces were sent to fight in the Civil War, after which the St. Croix area was defended by the Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Minnesota Volunteers and the First Regiment of Minnesota Mounted Rangers. DW 50-52

Men from Washington County served in several military units that fought in the U.S. Dakota War of 1862. See Military, below.

August 20-September 26, 1862: battles and attacks on the prairies raged, while those at home dealt with uncertainty and fear, newspaper and in-person reports that were sometimes accurate and sometimes exaggerated, aiding refugees, and worries about their loved ones on the farms, in the towns and on the battlefields.

September 26, 1862: see **Camp Release; the state breathed a sigh of relief.**

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.

By the early 1870's some Dakota people who returned or who had never left had formed communities at Grey Cloud Island. Roy Meyer, History of the Santee Sioux.

HISTORIC PEOPLE CONNECTED TO CONFLICT

Joseph R. Brown and family lived here in the 1830's and 1840's.

<http://projects.wchsmn.org/communities/st-marys-point/> Brown had a warehouse for his fur trade, located at what now is the north end of Stillwater.

<http://projects.wchsmn.org/communities/stillwater/>

Hazen Mooers, a trader who had lived in Red Wing, was on Grey Cloud Island in 1837 and married to Grey Cloud Woman. He was the farmer at Black Dog's Village. He moved to the Minnesota River Valley, worked as a trader and builder in various locations in Nicollet and Redwood counties. His son John Moores worked at the Redwood Agency and protected whites during the conflict.

Medicine Bottle, a Mdewakanton chief, left Little Crow's village at Kaposia in 1825 and lived at Grey Cloud Island until 1838, when he moved with his band to Pine Bend in Dakota County. He was on the western reservation by the outbreak of the conflict, fought against the whites, escaped to Canada, was captured, brought back to Fort Snelling and hanged in 1865. DW, TDE, LCSS

Andrew Robertson, Scotsman, married to Jane Anderson, son-in-law of Hazen Mooers, lived on Grey Cloud Island 1839-1844. He was the father of Thomas A. Robertson, below. Andrew was the farmer for Little Crow at Kaposia in 1847, head farmer at the Yellow Medicine Agency 1853-1857 and superintendent of schools on the Redwood Agency from 1857 to 1859. Case Historical Notes on Grey Cloud Island. See biography for Andrew Robertson d. May 11, 1859, Lower Sioux Agency Cemetery, Redwood County, Minnesota at Find a Grave.

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Thomas Anderson Robertson, son of Andrew Robertson above, born on Grey Cloud Island in 1839. See section (some) Notable People of US-Dakota War.

Jane Anpachiyawin "Day Break Woman" Anderson Robertson. Wife of Andrew Robertson. See biography Jane Anpachiyawin Anderson, burial at St. Marys Episcopal Cemetery (Agency Village), Roberts County South Dakota at Find a Grave.

Van Voorhees, Andrew, editor of Stillwater Messenger. DU

MILITARY UNITS WITH MEN FROM WASHINGTON COUNTY THAT SERVED IN THE US DAKOTA WAR

2nd MN Volunteer Cavalry, Co. K; 3rd MN. Co. F; 5th MN, Co. K; 6th MN, Co. I; 7th MN. Co. C; 8th MN Co. C.

list of pensioner files (does not differentiate between Civil War and US Dakota War service)

<http://files.usgwarchives.net/mn/washington/military/washin83.txt>

http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnwashin/1890_afton_lakeland.htm

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Washington_County,_Minnesota#Military

Note: see Section 5, this website, "Military units: USDakotaWar" for more information.

RESOURCES

Books (see attached bibliography for titles)

DW, DUV,

Articles

"The Lives and Influences of the Andrew Robertson Family:Members of the Santee Dakota Indian Metis Community", MH 1.

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

Photos

Paintings, sketches, & murals

MONUMENTS & HISTORIC SITES

INTERPRETIVE CENTERS

CEMETERIES WITH GRAVESTONES OF PARTICIPANTS

WEBSITES

Washington County Historical Society

<http://www.wchsmn.org/>

P.O. Box 167

Stillwater, MN 55082

(651) 439-5956

information@wchsmn.org

WEB CONTENT

Historical Notes of Grey Cloud Island

http://www.archive.org/stream/historicalnoteso00caserich/historicalnoteso00caserich_djvu.txt

Hazen Mooers as trader, husband of Grey Cloud Woman [http://www.mooers-](http://www.mooers-law.com/MooersMemoirsAutumn1998.pdf)

[law.com/MooersMemoirsAutumn1998.pdf](http://www.mooers-law.com/MooersMemoirsAutumn1998.pdf)

STUDY RESOURCE GUIDE US-DAKOTA WAR OF 1862 WASHINGTON COUNTY

Stillwater Historic Contexts: A Comprehensive Planning Approach, pp. 8-18, offers a comprehensive history of the area from 1680-1862. <http://www.ci.stillwater.mn.us/vertical/sites/%7B5BF821-C140-4887-AEB5-99440411EEFD%7D/uploads/%7B23C96160-179A-4C49-A0D9-64164F5EF0D1%7D.PDF>