

www.USDakotaWarMNCountyByCounty.com

Copyright © 2012

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

Watowan County was not heavily settled in 1862 when the US Dakota War of 1862 began. There were settlements at Madelia, Rosendale and Riverdale townships. *P. 436 Cottonwood and Watowan History.*

r  
A fort had been built at Madelia (Fort Cox) to protect the settlers. Other places with stockades were Garden City, and South Bend, Lake Hanska, North Branch. *Watowan Co. History, John A. Brown,*

On September 21, 1862, the Dakota attacked settlers at several locations in Watowan County.

Some settlers were living at the Rosendale settlement between present-day St. James and Madelia. Settler Ole Jorgenson heard about the attacks and sent a messenger to Madelia to warn them. On September 22 or 23, Jorgenson went out to warn others, accompanied by 14 year old Knute Knudson. While en route they recognized some horses running loose that belonged to another neighbor, and while trying to trace the horses were fired upon by two Dakota men. Knudson ran away to safety; Jorgenson was wounded and took refuge overnight in a slough, covering himself with grass. Jorgenson was discovered the next day by soldiers from the fort at Madelia.

Jorgenson constructed a stockade on his farm in 1863, which protected area settlers.

Ole Boxrud (aka Ole Stempen and Ole Erickson) was killed Ap. 16, 1863 while helping guard the settlement in Rosendale twp.

Ole Palme and Gabriel Ellingson were attacked and killed in 1863 near Kansas Lake. Additional attacks described on p.435, Cottonwood and Watowan Counties.

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

#### **RESOURCES**

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

DU, DUV, TDU 122-124

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

#### **Articles**

"An interesting statement--Defense of the town of Medalia [Madelia]--Massacre at Lake Shetek--Feeling of the Winnebagoes", article from Aug. 29, 1862 of Winona Daily Republican by John Fish of Winona, regarding his adventures in Watowan County and area and the defense of Madelia.TDU 122

#### **Photos**

#### **Paintings, sketches, & murals**

#### **MONUMENTS & HISTORIC SITES**

#### **INTERPRETIVE CENTERS**

#### **CEMETERIES WITH GRAVESTONES OF PARTICIPANTS**

**WEBSITES**

WATONWAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

<http://www.co.watonwan.mn.us/index.aspx?NID=174>

Wilma Wolner

**Director**

Wilma@cccinternet.net

Barb Nelson

wchs@cccinternet.net

Ph: (507) 642-3247

423 Dill Avenue SW

Box 126 (mailing)

Madelia, MN 56062

507-642-3247

Local Historical Organizations:

St. James Historical Society

c/o Tom Anderson

29860 - 710th Avenue

St. James, MN 56081

507-375-4560

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnwatonw/wchs.htm>

**WEB CONTENT**

History of Cottonwood and Watonwan Counties

[http://www.archive.org/stream/historyofcottonw01brow/historyofcottonw01brow\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/historyofcottonw01brow/historyofcottonw01brow_djvu.txt)

History of Cottonwood and Watonwan Counties. John A. Brown. Googlebooks