Watonwan 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 Watonwan History.

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. Watonwan Co. History, John A. Brown,

On September 21, 1862, the Dakota attacked settlers at several locations in Watonwan 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 Watonwan 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 Watonwan 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
Wilma Wolner
Director
Wilma@ccinternet.net
Barb Nelson
wchs@ccinternet.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