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

pre-conflict:

Prehistoric Indian mounds are found in the county show the existence of native people from long ago. In more recent times Dakota people and white people had lived in the Wright County area prior to 1862. The name of the Wright County city, Cokato, comes from a Dakota word meaning "in the middle of" (referring to the Big Woods). The Mdewakanton leader Medicine Bottle and his band had spent the winter of 1858 or 1859 living on the north fork of the Crow River. DUV 76

during the conflict:

Aug. 20, 1862: after news of the attacks in western Minnesota reached Wright County, some Wright County residents began fleeing to what they hoped would be refuge in Minneapolis. Rockford had the only bridge over the Crow River for miles, and the town grew crowded with refugees.

Aug. 22, 1862: Daniel R. Farnham took his horse and rode to St. Paul to request a supply of weapons and was given 50 Belgian muskets and gun powder, which he brought back in a supply wagon.

Stockades were built for protection of the settlers at Rockford, Buffalo, Clearwater, Fair Haven, Greenwood, Maple Lake, Monticello, Medicine Lake and Beebe Lake, and possibly Watertown.

Home guard units were organized in Monticello and Clearwater. (MH 2: 56). Schools closed, businesses shut down. Settlers also feared the possibility of attacks by Ojibways as well as Dakotas. Fear and panic deepened, some people started to feel revengeful. Safe zones were set up at St. Michael, Franklin, French Lake and Maple Lake. Clearwater housed soldiers for two years during the conflict.

Some Wright County men served in the Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, which formed Aug.1, 1862, and was stationed at Monticello, Fort Snelling, Fort Ripley, and Paynesville .<http://www.annandaleonline.com/History/HistoryClub/Programs/RGeisinger-CivilWar-1993.htm> See Military, below.

Most deaths in Wright County occurred as a result of skirmishes in late June or early July 1863, in the year following the US Dakota War of 1862. The attacks were likely caused by a party of Dakota led by Little Crow when he returned to Minnesota from his escape to the plains. (DUV 76). The Amos Dustin family, Amos, Robert, and Jeanette, were killed on the east end of Smith Lake June 29, 1863; Kate Dustin, wounded with two arrows, led the two children Alma and Leon away and were found the next day. Kate died of her wounds in July 1863. DU 180 James A. McGannon, a traveler, was killed on the north side of Union Lake between Wright and Meeker counties on July 1, 1863. His coat was later found being worn on Little Crow's body when he was killed. DUV 77

The expected attacks by Dakota did not come; of the settlers who fled to Minneapolis and St. Paul for refuge, about one third of them never returned.

During the conflict:

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](#).

**HISTORIC PEOPLE CONNECTED TO CONFLICT****MILITARY UNITS THAT SERVED IN THE US DAKOTA WAR**

3rd MN, Co. A; 8th MN Co E.; 9th MN. Co. B.

July 29 1864: Anton Holzgen, serving in the 2nd MN Cavalry, Company D, was shot and died while on guard duty near Killdeer Mountain, Dakota Territory; he came from Maple Lake in Wright Cty Mn. DUV 112, Dalby database.

[https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/3rd\\_Regiment,\\_Minnesota\\_Infantry](https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/3rd_Regiment,_Minnesota_Infantry)

[https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/8th\\_Regiment,\\_Minnesota\\_Infantry](https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/8th_Regiment,_Minnesota_Infantry)

[https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/9th\\_Regiment,\\_Minnesota\\_Infantry](https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/9th_Regiment,_Minnesota_Infantry)

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

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

DW, DU, DUV,

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

**Articles**

"Living on Edge in Wright county" MH 2, [http://minnesotasheritage.org/herit2\\_sample.pdf](http://minnesotasheritage.org/herit2_sample.pdf)

"My Family's Flight from Wright Co. MH 2

Minnesota's Frontier: A Neglected Sector of the Civil War-

<http://collections.mnhs.org/MNHistoryMagazine/articles/38/v38i06p274-286.pdf>

**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**

Mission Cemetery, Waverly: Dustin family, victims of attack, Waverly Cemetery

**WEBSITES**

<http://www.wrighthistory.org/index.html>

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**WEB CONTENT**

<http://www.annandaleonline.com/History/HistoryClub/Programs/LucilleNelson-FtHarrian-4-3-06.htm>

Fort Harriman: see <http://www.annandaleonline.com/History>