

INTRODUCTION

WHY THIS WEBSITE?

To provide detailed information on the U.S. Dakota War of 1862 as it happened within an individual county, and how it affected people within that county.

WHY A COUNTY APPROACH?

Understanding the conflict, a wide-ranging event that covered one-third of the state and affected thousands of people, may be overwhelming at first to one who is trying to understand this complex historic event.

Looking at how the event occurred in one's own county or city, may bring the facts closer to home, to the roads one travels and places one knows, and provide another perspective.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT TO LEARN HERE ABOUT YOUR COUNTY?

What happened in YOUR county?

- events: battles and attacks

- historic people from your county

- what Dakota people lived in your county before or during or the war.

- ordinary people-settlers, farmers, townspeople, adults, children, and the effect of the conflict on their lives

- what military units from your county served in the US Dakota War

- captives, prisoners, escapees, refugees who walked your county's roads and trails

- injuries and deaths, burials in your county's cemeteries

- what Dakota people returned to live in your county in later years

- monuments and interpretive centers

- books, articles and web information about your county

WHO MAY FIND THIS WEBSITE HELPFUL?

- Residents of the county

- Local historians

- Educators

- Librarians

- Media: TV, radio, newspapers, writers

- County historical societies (many of whom have been well aware of this information, but may find a few additional resources or connections relating to their specific county.)

Genealogists (who already are sharing many details of their genealogical research on county histories and adding to the growing knowledge of local history and people.)
Military history buffs

WHERE DID THIS INFORMATION COME FROM?

This information on this site is a compilation of materials from many books, journals, articles, newspapers and websites about the U.S. Dakota War of 1862. The sources have been from both older history books and from the current historians of the U.S. Dakota War of 1862. What makes this website different is that the material is linked to the county in which the action-event took place.

WHAT WILL YOU NOT FIND ON THIS SITE?

This site covers the conflict only as it occurred in Minnesota (except for a few events that occurred just across the border and whose impact affected people nearby in Minnesota.) The expeditions led by Sully and Sibley, involving hundreds of Minnesota military men, scouts, etc. in 1863 and later that took place in Dakota Territory are not covered here, except in passing.

WHERE CAN YOU FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EVENTS IN YOUR COUNTY?

You can get the books or journals cited at your local library or bookstore. Some of the material can be read on-line. Visit the monuments and cemeteries in your county. Check with your county historical association or with the Minnesota Historical Society.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To all the historians, researchers, and writers of the history of the U.S. Dakota Conflict of 1862, from the 1860's to 2012, I am most thankful for your work. Your books and articles are listed on the Reading List in the Resources section. Without your extensive research and writing, this website could obviously not have been made. My sincere thanks to all of you.

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