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EVENTS: battles, deaths, injuries.

Pre-conflict: Early relationships between the first white settlers and the roving bands of Indians had been cordial. A group of about forty settlers, many from Iowa, lived at the infant town of Springfield, in the fall of 1856 and settled around the trading post established by the three Wood brothers, William, George, and Charles, who had come from Indiana. Several bands of roving Indians visited on occasion and were received kindly, with the settlers sharing supplies.

On March 1857, a lawless band of Indians led by Inkpaduta, angered by an event that took place in Iowa, massacred 50 settlers at Okoboji and Spirit Lake, Iowa, took four women hostage, then proceeded to Springfield, where on March 26, 1857 they attacked the settlement and killed six settlers. The terrified settlers fled and went to Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The area which was to become Jackson County was slowly resettled between 1857 and 1859. A group of Norwegian immigrants settled in the Belmont area.

Aug. 17, 1862. The outbreak of the US Dakota War took place in north central and western Minnesota. It reached Jackson County on Aug. 24, 1862, when a party of 50 Dakota led by White Lodge attacked families in a Norwegian settlement in Belmont Township; 12 men, women, children and infants were killed. DU 184

Names of those killed: Johanes Axe, Lars Gjornevik, Mrs. Gjornevik, Ole Fohre, Mikkol Olson (Slaabaken), Knud and Breta Midstad, Anna Langeland, her children Anna, Aagaata, Nickolai and Knud. DUV 98

All the remaining settlers fled, leaving the area again deserted. Most of the settlers fled to Spirit Lake and Estherville.

Stockades were built at Heron Lake, and Lake Little Spirit to protect settlers. At Spirit Lake, Iowa a stockade was built around their courthouse and at Estherville, Iowa, a stockade named Fort Defiance was built but not completed until 1863. DU 184

August 29, 1862: the former settlers from Jackson County, now in Spirit Lake, sent a letter to Governor Ramsey asking protection, stating that 4 people had been killed and 4-5 were missing. DUV 151 n248.

August 20-September 26, 1862: in Minnesota battles and attacks on the prairies raged, while those at in non-battle areas dealt with uncertainty and fear, with newspaper 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. There were no settlers during this period in Jackson County, all having fled.

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

Because of fear of further attacks, no new permanent settlers came to live in Jackson county until June 1864. The Fort Belmont stockade was built once the area was resettled.

HISTORIC PEOPLE CONNECTED TO CONFLICT

MILITARY

Many men from Jackson County served in Brackett's Battalion per
https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Brackett%27s_Battalion,_Minnesota_Cavalry

RESOURCES

Books See *Resource section: Book titles and Codes, Journal titles and Codes*

DU, DUV, DW

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

Articles

Photos**Paintings, sketches, & murals****MONUMENTS & HISTORIC SITES**

Jackson State Monument in Ashley Park, contains the reburied remains of many of the settlers who had been killed. <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=cr&CRid=2340687>

Fort Belmont Civilian Fort Replica & Museum <http://www.fortbelmont.org/>

INTERPRETIVE CENTERS**CEMETERIES WITH GRAVESTONES OF PARTICIPANTS**

Ashley Park Cemetery in Jackson: the victims of Belmont Township

Riverside Cemetery, Des Moines twp., Jackson Co. MN. Julius Wheeler, who died at the age of 17 at Fort Abercrombie on August 6 1879 and was involved in the Indian Wars, per

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnjackso/cemeteries/riversidecem.htm>

WEBSITES

"Our History" <http://www.jacksonmn.com/historical.htm>

http://www.dakotavictims1862.com/Family_and_Friends_of_Dakota_Uprising/Family_and_Friends_of_Dakota_Uprising_Victims.html

History of Fort Belmont-<http://www.jacksonmn.com/historical.htm>

Explore Minnesota: Fort Belmont in Jackson, Minnesota.

www.jacksonmn.co/our-history

Belmont Massacre TV documentary site <http://www.astrimyastri.com/projects.php>

An Illustrated History of Jackson County, Minnesota, Arthur P. Rose, 1910. Google books.

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