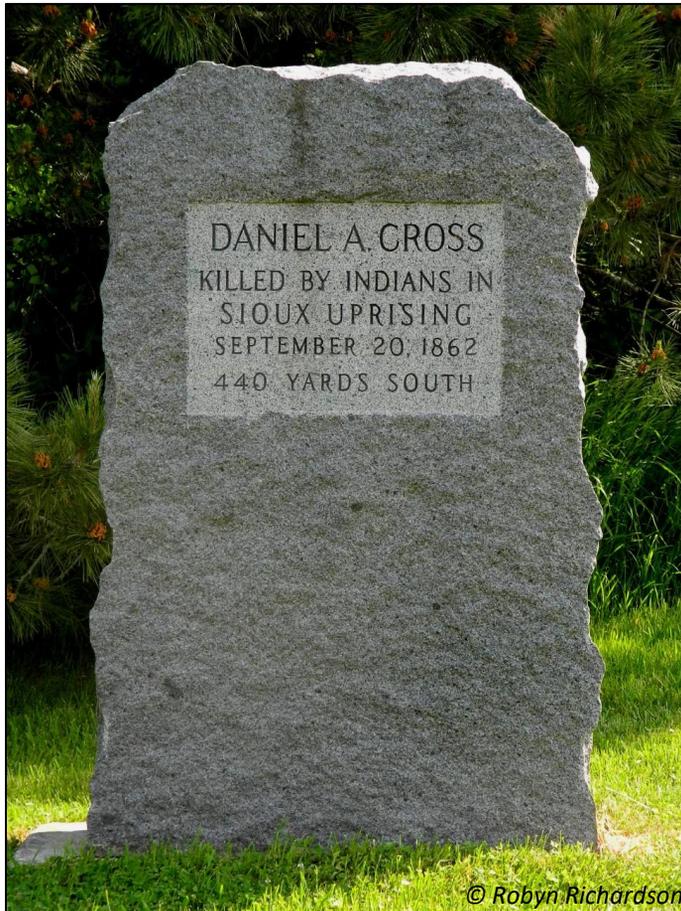


# Daniel A. Cross

September 20, 1862



**Marker Location:** *East on Hwy. 12 from Litchfield. Go South on CSAH 9. Turn West on County Road 18. Monument is on the NE corner of 550<sup>th</sup> Avenue and County Road 18.*

Daniel A. Cross was a member of the Hutchinson Guards who were recognized by the State as a regular military organization. They were sworn into service August 23, 1862 to serve seventy days.

In September of 1862, a small party of the Hutchinson Guards left the Hutchinson stockade and entered Meeker County in search of Caleb Sanborn and other missing settlers. Their names were Lewis Harrington, Frank Jewett, T.R. Webb, Dave Hern, Nathaniel Pierce, Daniel Cross, and Silas Greene. One of their first stops was at the home of Dr. Kennedy, a surgeon who lived in Greenleaf and served in the Fifth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry until 1865. The home had been completely ransacked with bottles of medicine, pills, and surgical instruments scattered everywhere. The soldiers left Dr. Kennedy's home looking for clues as to which way the Sioux had gone. When they reached the north side of Cedar Lake woods they were suddenly ambushed by thirteen Indians. Daniel Cross was shot and killed instantly. The soldiers had no time to pick up Cross's body as they ran to escape. Some men jumped into the double wagon; others went on foot to Caleb's farm and were met by more gun shots. The Indians quickly scalped Daniel Cross and put his scalp on a pole and carried it as a battle flag while they chased the men in the wagon.

One man in the search party, T.R. Webb, ran to Cedar Lake, jumped in a small boat and paddled his way to Cedar Island and hid there for the night. The Indians lined the lakeshore as Webb escaped.

It is written that when he had reached a safe distance from the shore, he turned to the Indians and thumbed his nose at them. Webb returned to Hutchinson the next morning. The remaining men made it to Hutchinson safely. The next day a group of men went out to find the bodies of Cross and Sanborn which had been badly mutilated and brought them back to Hutchinson.

Reference:

- Ketcham, Roule and Marsh, Tracy H., n.d., Action in Acton, Litchfield, Minnesota: James J. Reed Co.
- Smith, A.C., 1877, A Random Historical Sketch of Meeker County, Minnesota From Its First Settlement to July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1876, Litchfield, Minnesota, Belfoy & Joubert Publishers.