



Podcast 9 Transcript

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1857

John G. Wells

Well's New Sectional Map of Minnesota: From the Latest Government Surveys

This map anticipates the formation of Minnesota as a state, and cuts off the Dakota Territory, and indicates that this territory of Dakota is proposed. The map is particularly interesting for the way it depicts the counties in northern Minnesota. These counties- Doty, Lake, and Superior- existed only for a very short time, really just for a matter of days. Doty and Superior counties had the shortest lives of all the counties authorized within Minnesota. On February 20, 1855, the Territory Legislature created Doty County in the area east and south of the St. Louis River. The rest of northeastern Minnesota became Superior County. Then on March 3, 1855, for reasons that are not known, the legislators changed Doty to Newton County, and Superior to St. Louis County. A year later, on March 1, 1856, St. Louis became Lake County, and Newton became St. Louis County. The three counties on this map are a mysterious blend of the decisions of 1855 and 1856. Soon, other maps depicting the state would replace this curiosity.