



To Secretary of War Edwin Stanton went much of the credit for supplying the men, supplies, and equipment needed to successfully prosecute the Civil War.

Stanton County was named for Edwin M. Stanton, a member of President Abraham Lincoln's war cabinet. Born in Ohio in 1814, Stanton, a successful lawyer, moved in 1856 to Washington, D.C., to argue cases before the Supreme Court. After Stanton achieved a national reputation, President James Buchanan appointed him as attorney general in the waning months of that administration. A strong Unionist, Stanton replaced Simon Cameron as Lincoln's secretary of war in 1862. He proved more capable, vigorous, and honest than his predecessor and dramatically improved affairs at the beleaguered department.

At war's end Secretary Stanton took an active, some say harsh, role in the arrest, trial, and punishment of the Lincoln assassination conspirators. President Andrew Johnson, Lincoln's successor, retained Stanton but forced his resignation in 1868. President Ulysses S. Grant appointed him to the Supreme Court in 1869, but Stanton died before he could occupy the seat.

On January 10, 1962, the Nebraska legislature defined the boundaries of Stanton County.