

## Author Biography

Colin Mustful is a Minnesota author and historian with a unique story-telling style that tells History Through Fiction. His work focuses on Minnesota and surrounding regions during the complex transitional period as land was transferred from Native peoples to American hands. Mustful strives to create compelling stories about the real-life people and events of a tumultuous and forgotten past.

In addition to his newest novel, *Resisting Removal: The Sandy Lake Tragedy of 1850*, Mustful has also authored three novels which tell the story of the people and events surrounding the U.S. – Dakota War of 1862. This tragic event resulted in the expulsion of the Dakota people from beyond the borders of Minnesota as well as the hanging of thirty-eight Dakota in Mankato, Minnesota, on December 26, 1862. Utilizing elements of fiction and nonfiction, author Colin Mustful writes a unique cross-genre in order to convey this period of Minnesota history in a manner that is both compelling and educational.

In 2016, Mustful published an electronic textbook titled *Confronting Minnesota's Past: A Resource to Test Your Understanding on the U.S. – Dakota War of 1862*. Using the research from his novels and blog posts, Mustful has compiled a comprehensive tool on the U.S. – Dakota War and the people, places, and events leading up to that war. Additionally, Mustful has created an online academic course titled, *The U.S. – Dakota War of 1862* and published through Udemy.com.

In addition to being a novelist, Mustful has written several historical essays that consider the U.S. – Dakota War as well as other topics. One such essay, *The Tobacco Controversy of 1857*, was published in the Spring 2008 edition of the Hindsight Graduate History Journal from Fresno State University, California. Mustful has presented his work at several conferences including the Missouri Valley History Conference, the Northern Great Plains History Conference, and the International Conference on the Book. Also, in 2012, Mustful completed an internship in the Teacher and Education Department of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Colin Mustful is a graduate of Minnesota State University, Mankato, where he earned his Master of Arts in History (2007). His master's thesis, *The Generation of 1837: Attitudes, Policies, and Actions Toward Indian Populations of Argentina*, analyzed the genocide of the Pampas Indians throughout the nineteenth century as influenced and justified through the words and works of a group of political and intellectual elite known as the Generation of 1837. Mustful has continued to study the subjugation and genocide of western indigenous cultures through his research and writings. Two such works include, *Unwarranted Expulsion: The Removal of the Winnebago Indians* and *A Welcome Tragedy: The U.S. – Dakota Conflict of 1862*. In order to improve his ability to convey important historical topics, in 2019 Mustful earned a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing with a concentration in Publishing from Augsburg University in Minneapolis.

Mustful lives in Roseville, Minnesota, and works as a Special Education Para and food service employee. He is an avid soccer player as well as a coach and referee. Also, Mustful is a

runner who has completed nine marathons and one ultra-marathon. When not writing or working, Mustful enjoys travel adventures such as hiking the Pacific Crest Trail, working a seasonal job at a ski resort in Vermont, living and working at Yellowstone National Park, a Mission's trip to Panama and Paraguay, and spending a month on a family farm in Andalucía, Spain.

Previous Publications include:

- *The U.S. - Dakota War of 1862*, Online Educational Course, Udemy.com, 2017
- *Confronting Minnesota's Past: A Resource to Test Your Understanding on the U.S. - Dakota War of 1862*, Electronic Textbook, Amazon Kindle Direct, 2017
- *Ceding Contempt: Minnesota's Most Significant Historical Event*, Historical Novel, Lulu Press, 2016
- *Fate of the Dakota: A Novel and Resource on the U.S. - Dakota War of 1862*, Historical Novel, Lulu Press, 2016
- *Grace at Spirit Lake*, Historical Novel, Lulu Press, 2014
- *The Tobacco Controversy of 1857*, Scholarly Essay, Hindsight Graduate History Journal, 2008