Military Records at the South Dakota State Archives – American Indian Conflicts

Collections

John Anderson Photograph Collection, 1886-1902

Collection includes images of the Crook Treaty Council, 1889; Fort Niobrara, 1886; Indian soldiers of Company I of the 16th Infantry at Rosebud, 1890; council held to persuade Indians to sell Tripp and Gregory Counties, 1892; funeral procession at Fort Niobrara; African-American Infantry at Fort Niobrara, 1902; officers at Fort Niobrara, 1902; interior of canteen at Fort Niobrara, 1886; and a regiment camped near Fort Niobrara, 1885. (P184-185)

Battle of the Little Bighorn Papers, 1877-1953 (H75-266)

This collection contains various secondary source materials on the Battle of the Little Bighorn, including maps, letters, pamphlets, and a newspaper account. (Box 03544 B)

Major John R. Brennan Family Papers, 1882-1972 (H72-002)

Major Brennan was the superintendent of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. This collection primarily contains correspondence, diaries, newspaper clippings, and financial records pertaining to his role in this capacity as well as his ownership of Hotel Harney in Rapid City. Folder 1 of the collection contains a typescript copy of the 1877 Act of Congress to ratify the Treaty of 1876. (Box 03344 B)

Raymond Burnside Manuscript, 1929 (H88-026)

This manuscript describes the Battle of Slim Buttes and the battlefield when Burnside first visited it. He was instrumental in making the battlefield known in South Dakota. (Box 03749 B)

Daughters of the American Revolution – Daniel Newcomb Chapter in Yankton, Radio Scripts, 1938-1941 (H41-001)

This collection consists of radio scripts for programs that were broadcast over WNAX in Yankton. The program was sponsored by the Daniel Newcomb Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Folder 3 contains a radio script entitled, “The First Dakota Cavalry, Dakota’s First Soldiers,” by Harry A. Robinson, dated January 14, 1940.

Louis DeWitt Diary and Newspaper Articles, 1877, 1917 (H75-414)

Louis DeWitt was an Indian scout for General E. A. Carlington, and he played a part in the surrender of the Cheyenne at Chardon Creek, Nebraska in 1878. This collection contains a newspaper article from the Pierre Capital Journal about the event, as well as DeWitt’s diary from April 26 to August 10, 1877 describing army life on a trip up the Yellowstone River. (Box 03553 A)

George W. Doud Diary, 1862-1864 (H78-053)

Doud was a private in Company F of the 8th Minnesota Infantry. This is a typescript copy of his diary describing events during the Sioux Uprising of 1862. He wrote about military life, forts, social life and customs, and the atrocities of the uprising. (Box 03573 A)

"First in Battle: The True Story of the 7th Cavalry" VHS Tape, 2002 (H2002-044)

VHS videocassette produced by Greystone Communications for use on the History Channel. The program describes the military actions of the 7th Cavalry in American military history. Several photographs from the South Dakota State Archives collections were used in this film. (Box 09148 B) [For private or research use only. Cannot be duplicated.]

General Photo Collection - Military (P104)

Includes image of Custer's horse Comanche.

General John Gibbon Articles, 1877 (H75-312)

General Gibbon wrote two articles that appeared in the American Catholic Quarterly Review in 1877. The first article describes the Sioux War of 1876 and the Battle of the Little Bighorn, while the second article describes the pursuit of Sitting Bull. (Box 03549 A)

R. J. Gilbert Manuscript, 1951 (H82-045)

This manuscript, entitled "The Battle of the Little Bighorn: Reno's Contribution to Disaster," was written by Gilbert while he was a midshipman a the United States Naval Academy in 1951. (Box 03592 A)

John C. Grabill Photograph Collection, 1876-1891 (P191)

In October 1886, Grabill set up a photography studio in Sturgis, Dakota Territory, where he worked until early 1891. His most memorable photographs relating to Indian people are those taken at Pine Ridge Agency shortly after the Wounded Knee massacre in December 1890. Images in this collection include: Company O of the 3rd U.S. Infantry posed to take aim, 1890; Company C of the 3rd U.S. Infantry; General Miles and staff viewing the largest Indian camp in the U.S. near Pine Ridge, 1891; General Taylor and 70 Indian scouts, 1891; U.S. officials viewing hostile Indian camp; Custer's horse Comanche, 1876; Paul Wernert and the gunners of Battery E, 1st U.S. Artillery, 1891; officers of the 9th U.S. Cavalry, 1891; Fighting 7th Officers formal portrait; Fort Meade, 1888; "Grand Review" of U.S. troops; officers' quarters at Fort Meade, 1889; and Fort Meade with Bear Butte in the distance, 1888.

Captain Francis Joseph Ives Notebook, 1890 (H84-038)

Consists of a notebook kept by Captain Francis Joseph Ives, Assistant Surgeon for the U.S. Army in South Dakota in 1890. The notebook is a register of Indians that were injured at Wounded Knee and treated by Captain Ives. (Box 03616 B)

Jefferson Parish Kidder Papers, 1859-1883 (H01-001/SC 2)

Kidder served as Associate Justice of the Dakota Territorial Supreme Court from 1865 to 1876, at which time he became a U.S. Congressman. In 1880 he returned to South Dakota and resumed his position of Associate Justice. His papers contain biographical material,

correspondence, political material, and papers concerning Lyman S. Kidder. Lyman, Jefferson's son, served with the 2nd U.S. Cavalry in Dakota Territory. Lyman was killed by Indians near Beaver Creek, Kansas in 1867 and this collection contains correspondence by family about Lyman's death as well as attempts by Jefferson to learn more about the incident. Also included are a list of the other men killed in this battle, a sketch of the country covered by the 7th U.S. Cavalry, and newspaper articles. (Box 03649 A, MD 63)

J. B. McCloud Manuscript, undated (H76-015)

J. B. McCloud, a rancher in Custer County, joined the Spring Creek Volunteers in 1890 during the Messiah War. This manuscript describes the militia's activities, comments on the Ghost Dance, and discusses the cause of the Sioux troubles of 1890. McCloud and one of the militia companies quartered on his ranch also participated in a fight with the Sioux on his land. (Box 03564 A)

Col. Henry E. Maynadier Reports, 1866 (H75-445)

This collection consists of two reports to the U.S. Commissioner of Indian Affairs regarding Maynadier's efforts to seek peace with the Sioux. (Box 03650 A)

Stanley J. Morrow Photograph Collection (P193-198)

Includes the following images: graves on Custer's battlefield; bones gathered on Custer's hill before burial; Lt. Crittenden's grave; supposed grave of Lt. Sturgis; bluff where some of Custer's men were driven into the Little Bighorn; Captain Sanderson's camp; and the monument on Custer's battlefield.

Captain Luther North Letters and Manuscript, 1923-1924 (H75-190)

Captain Luther North commanded a company of Pawnee scouts from 1864 to 1877, mostly in the Nebraska area. This collection contains four letters describing the Battle of Summit Springs and the death of Tall Bull. (Box 03543 B)

Doane Robinson Article from Literary Digest, 1921

Microfilmed copy of an article from the September 17, 1921 issue of Literary Digest on the Custer Battle and Rain In The Face. (MF 3240)

Henry P. Smith Wounded Knee Diary, 1889-1891 (H2005-052)

Henry P. Smith was a rancher who lived on the White River across from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. His diaries includes entries about ranch and homestead events, the winter of 1890-1891, literary quotes, and the events at Wounded Knee. (Box 06653)

South Dakota National Guard Papers, 1885-1981 (H74-028)

The Spring Creek Volunteers were a militia that was organized by Merritt H. Day in the southern Black Hills during the Messiah War of 1890-1891. The South Dakota National Guard Papers include rosters of the two Spring Creek companies and material regarding the efforts of Congressman Francis H. Case to obtain a pension for the Spring Creek Volunteers in 1940 and 1941. (Boxes 03657 A – 03672, 07033 A – 07034 B; FB 57-58; MD 67 and 106)

South Dakota National Guard Rosters, 1885-1917

Rosters contain a listing of the names, ranks, date and locations of appointments for commissioned officers and non-commissioned officers. Also includes a register of men who transferred, were discharged, or died in service. The register of enlisted men has an index and includes the name, rank, date of enlistment, age, occupation, address, discharge date, and remarks. (MF 1766)

U.S. Adjutant General's Annual Report, 1879

Annual report for the Department of Dakota submitted on October 1, 1879. Details troop locations and activities, including action against the Cheyenne Tribe and the capture of Little Wolf. (MF 1591)

U.S. War Department, Special Report Relative to the Sioux Campaign, 1890-1891 (H75-772M)

Report written and submitted by Colonel E. A. Carr of the 6th U.S. Cavalry about the Sioux campaign. Also includes returns for November 1890 to January 1891. (MF 1938)

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Maps

"Area of Operation of the 6th U.S. Cavalry, December 1890" during Messiah War (#238 - MD 24, Folder 4)

"Cheyenne River Events, December 1890" during Messiah War (#237 - MD 24, Folder 4)

Custer's Battlefield, 1876 (#3051 - MD 300)

Custer Battlefield, 1908 (MD 82)

"Indian Scare of February 1879" - covers Fort Meade, Rapid City to Cheyenne River; Shoun Fight, Cavalry Expedition (#1536 - MD 40, Folder 3)

"Indian Treaties, 1851-1878" - shows forts, treaty sites, Battle of the Little Bighorn (#1717 - MD 42, Folder 1)

"Map of Sioux or Dacotah Country, 1700-1950" (#2080 and 2081 - MD 45, Folder 1)

"Map of Sioux or Dacotah Country, 1800-1953" (#2078 and 2079 - MD 45, Folder 1)

"Map of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers," 1876 (#1953 - MD 44, Folder 2)

Minnesota and Dakota, Route of Northwestern Indian Expedition, D. L. Kingsbury, 1864 (MF 1846)

"North and South Dakota Land to Open by Treaty of 1889," 1890 (MF 1846)

"Proposed National Cemetery of Custer's Battlefield," 1885 (MD 82)

"Route of 1st Dragoons in Indian Country," 1844 (MF 1846)

"Route of Custer Expedition," Rand McNally & Co., 1875 (MF 1846)

"Route of Sioux Expedition," Brig. Gen. H. H. Sibley, 1863 (MF 1846)

"Scene of Massacres and Depredations committed by Minnesota Annuity Sioux Indians," 1862-1863 (MF 1846)

"The Military in South Dakota, 1823-1944" - shows expedition routes, conflicts (#2082 - MD 45, Folder 1)

"Western South Dakota at Time of Messiah War," undated (#189 - MD 24, Folder 2)

Biographical Files

“Custer, George A.”

Vertical Files

“Black Hills Treaty”

“Camp Clarke Bridge, NE”

“Camp Collier (Red Canyon Post)”

“Camp Crook”

“Camp Sheridan”

“Camp Sturgis”

“Camp Whitney, ND”

“Crook’s ‘Horse Meat’ March”

“Crow Buttes, Battle of”

“Custer Battlefield and Historic Highway”

“Dull Knife’s Raid, 1878”

“Indian Battles”

“War of the Outbreak”