Military Records at the South Dakota State Archives - Dakota Territory

Collections

Lt. Charles D. Anderson Report, 1859 (H75-253)

A thirteen-page report written by Anderson describing his 20-day, 350-mile journey from Fort Laramie to Fort Randall in June and July 1859. The purpose of the journey was to determine the quality of the route in order to transport mail, troops, and munitions of war, and for purposes of emigration. (Box 03544 B)

Captain George Atkins Diary, 1864

Atkins served with Company G of the Eighth Minnesota Infantry. This is a microfilmed copy of his diary covering June 2, 1864 to September 26, 1864. The diary documents his journey from Fort Ridgeley to Killdeer Mountain, then on to Yellowstone before returning to Fort Ridgeley. (MF 3240)

Bear Necklace Discharge Papers, 1877 (H76-027)

Consists of Bear Necklace's discharge papers form the U.S. Army, issued June 30, 1877. Bear Necklace served as an Indian scout. (Box 03650 A)

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)

Dakota Territorial Records, 1861-1889

This collection contains microfilmed records of the territorial Supreme Court, legislature, governors, secretaries, and other offices.

- Dakota Territory, Judiciary (MF 1304-1311)
- Dakota Territory, Legislature (MF 1312-1318)
- Dakota Territory, Governor's Office (MF 1319-1347)
- Dakota Territory, Secretary (MF 1348-1362)
- Dakota Territory, Domestic Incorporation Records (MF 1363-1365)
- Dakota Territory, Foreign Incorporation Records (MF 1366-1369)
- Dakota Territory, Election and County Records (MF 1370-1371)
- Dakota Territory, Election Returns and 1885 Census Schedules (MF 1372-1373)
- Dakota Territory, Territorial Auditor (MF 1374)
- Dakota Territory, Public Examiner (MF 1375)
- Dakota Territory, Notary Publics (MF 1376)
- Dakota Territory, Public Health (MF 1377)
- Dakota Territory, Schools and Colleges (MF 1378)
- Dakota Territory, Penitentiary (MF 1379)
- Dakota Territory, County Governments (MF 1380)
- Dakota Territory, Military Records (MF 1381-1383)

- Dakota Territory, Federal-Territory Relations (MF 1384)
- Dakota Territory, Aliens and Consuls (MF 1385)
- Dakota Territory, Railroads (MF 1386)
- Dakota Territory, Insurance (MF 1387)
- Dakota Territory, Oversized Documents (MF 1388-1389)

Dakota Territory, Adjutant General, Annual and Biennial Reports, 1887-1889 (Box 07253 B)

Includes the annual and biennial reports written by the Adjutant General in January 1887, September 1888, and December 1889. (Box 07253 B)

Dakota Territory, Militia, First Dakota Cavalry Record Book, 1862-1865 (SC-060)

Company B of the First Dakota Cavalry was organized in 1863 and mustered out in 1865. This book contains a list of the company's officers, a descriptive roll of the company, and a register of deaths and desertions, as well as some information on Company A. (FB 44)

Davison County Register of Deeds, Military Duty Lists, 1889-1894 (99-079, 99-088)

Lists contain the names, ages, and hometowns of persons eligible to perform military duty in Davison County. (Box 07085 B)

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.

Alonzo Jay Edgerton Letter, 1863 (H75-416)

A letter written by Edgerton, who was Captain of Company B of the Tenth Minnesota Infantry, to the U.S. Quartermaster General. (Box 03650 A)

First South Dakota Infantry Photograph and General Orders, 1889 (H92-081)

Contains a photograph of an unknown soldier from the First South Dakota Infantry and General Orders #29. (Box 05510 B)

General Photo Collection - Military (P104)

Includes Sully Expedition photos; Carnahan's Company of the Twelfth Infantry marching, 1889; and Company A of the Fifty-First Iowa Infantry.

William A. Howard Papers, 1862-1878 (H75-004)

Howard served as governor of Dakota Territory from 1878-1880. These records include his correspondence concerning military discharges, the Secretary of Dakota Territory, and Howard's appointment as governor. (Box 03536 A)

William H. Illingworth Photograph Collection, 1874 (P176)

Photographer Illingworth accompanied the Custer Expedition to the Black Hills in 1874. Among this collection are images of Custer's camp at Hiddenwood; the camp at Limestone Peak; Captain Smith, the wagonmaster; Custer's permanent camp at French Creek; the camp on Castle Creek; Custer's wagon train on the prairie; the wagon train through Castle

Creek Valley; Custer with grizzly bear; and a group photo of the first Black Hills Expedition, 1874.

Major Henry Martyn Lazelle Report, 1877 (H75-326)

In this report, Lazelle describes his reconnaissance of the Little Missouri and the south fork of the Grand River in what is now Harding County, South Dakota. He mentions an encounter with Indians. (Box 03550 A)

Conrad Luther Discharge Certificate, 1879 (H95-033)

Luther was a first sergeant in the First U.S. Infantry at the Rosebud Agency. This collection contains his hand-written discharge document, issued in 1879. (Box 06033 A)

Arthur C. Mellette Family Papers, 1862-1930 (H94-041)

Arthur Mellette was the last territorial governor and the first governor of South Dakota. This collection includes military and other correspondence, letterbooks, manuscripts, and speeches. (MF 3506)

T. C. Madison Letter, May 13, 1856 (H75-191)

In this letter to the Office of the Surgeon General, Surgeon Madison describes the terrain around the Big Sioux River and his efforts to move his hospital due to a flood.

Military History of the Eleventh Kansas Volunteer Cavalry (H82-016)

Photocopy of the Official Military History of the Eleventh Kansas Cavalry, 1861-1865. This regiment fought in Indian Territory, Missouri, Arkansas, and Kansas before being transferred to Dakota Territory in 1865. (Box 03587 A)

Stanley J. Morrow Photograph Collection (P194-198)

Includes the following images: General Crook's army in camp near Buffalo Gap; soldiers fighting over horse meat; army in camp on French Creek; Fifth Cavalry leaving Custer City; and Lt. Crosby.

Frank William Niles Letters, 1863-1865 (H76-004)

Niles was a trooper with the Iowa Sixth Cavalry. This collection consists of copies of letters written by Niles to his family in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, while on duty in Dakota Territory. (Box 03563 B)

Timothy Nowak Collection (H2010-094)

This collection consists of maps, photographs, archaeological materials, and microfilm on the history of Fort Randall compiled by Timothy Nowak, an archaeologist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The microfilm includes Returns from Regular Army Infantry Regiments from 1854-1897 (MF 6170-6175), and First U.S. Infantry muster rolls from 1874-1875 (MF 6176)

Photograph - Governor Church and Military Officers, ca 1889 (H87-042)

Photograph of Governor L. K. Church and fourteen military officers, taken circa 1889. The names of the officers are included with the photograph. (MD 263)

George Henderson Roach Papers, 1873-1904 (H74-169)

Roach served with the Twenty-Sixth Illinois Infantry in the Civil War and was commissioned as a second lieutenant of the Seventeenth Infantry and sent to Dakota Territory. He served at many of the army posts in Dakota and at one time served with General George A. Custer. This collection consists of five military commissions and a Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States certificate. (MD 66)

Doane Robinson Papers, 1880-1946 (H74-009)

This collection combined South Dakota historian Doane Robinson's personal papers and the papers of the South Dakota State Department of History. Includes letters from A. M. English about First Dakota Cavalry and a letter from William Brewster detailed his service with the cavalry in 1867. Folder 106 contains correspondence with George Kingsbury about the First Dakota Cavalry and a roster of Company B. (Box 03361 B)

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

The South Dakota National Guard was organized in 1884 with two regiments of infantry and one of artillery. Several folders in this collection contain records that pertain to this early period in South Dakota National Guard history. These folders include the territorial Adjutant General's reports, a special orders book, a general orders book, National Guard roster for 1885-1889, militia pay warrants, and copies of laws passed in 1885 and 1887. (Boxes 03657 A - 03672)

John L. Taylor Letter and Petition, 1874 (H75-198)

In 1874, Taylor wrote a letter to the acting governor of Dakota Territory, Oscar Whitney, asking permission to form a militia for Clay County. This collection includes the handwritten letter, a typescript copy of the letter, and the petition. (Box 03543 B)

U.S. Adjutant General, Dept. of Dakota Annual Report, 1879

The annual report submitted by the Department of Dakota to the Adjutant General on October 1, 1879. Report details troop locations and activities, including action against the Cheyenne Indians and the capture of Little Wolf. (MF 1591)

U.S. Adjutant General, Letters Received, 1861-1889

The Adjutant General's Office kept records, orders, and correspondence regarding the Army and the militia. These letters were sent by officers, enlisted men, the Secretary of State, the President, governors, private persons, and other government officials. (MF 1536-1581, MF 5018-5025)

U.S. Adjutant General Returns, 1855-1906 (97-083)

- Returns from Regular Army Cavalry Regiments, 1874-1900 (MF 5030-5033)
- Returns from Regular Army Infantry Regiments, 1874-1882 (MF 5017)
- Returns from U.S. Military Posts, 1855-1906 (MF 1622-1631, 5026-5029)

U.S. Army Muster Roll and Payroll, 1856 (H75-067)

This collection contains oversize sheets of muster roll and payroll records for Company H of the Sixth U.S. Infantry. The records include names, ranks, enlistment, pay, and miscellaneous remarks on the soldiers. (MD 67)

U.S. Army Signal Corps Weather Reports, 1877-1891 (H74-002)

This collection consists of six volumes of weather records kept at Deadwood and Rapid City by the Signal Service and Signal Corps. Includes data from 1877 to 1891. (Box 03351 B)

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Dakota National Guard: Vol. 6, page 369-390, 393-394, 397-420; Vol. 24, page 441-447

Dakota Militia: Vol. 6, page 366, 368-372; Vol. 8, page 101-102, 106-107

Militia: Vol. 21, page 321-322; Vol. 24, page 422; Vol. 26, page 226-227; Vol. 37, page 249, 307-312; Vol. 38, page 166-167, 181, 186, 191, 206-207, 329-330, 354, 382-384, 386-387, 403-404, 429-430

Mentions in South Dakota History. Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historical Society:

Dakota Volunteer Cavalry: Vol. 31, page 215, 218; Vol. 32, page 11, 13

Maps

Historic Sites along the Missouri, undated - shows forts, Indian villages, and trading posts within present-day state of South Dakota (#701 - MD 32, Folder 1)

Lt. Warren's Report...in the Dacota Country, 1855 - military reconnaissance of Dakota (#2376 - MD 48, Folder 3)

Map of Lt. Warren's Route - Dakota Territory, 1855 (#223 - MD 24, Folder 4)

Map of Lt. Warren's Route - South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Montana, 1857 [printed 1929] (#224 - MD 24, Folder 4)

Map of Nebraska and Dakota, and Parts of Bordering States, 1867 - geography, tribes, forts (#1867-1868 - MD 43, Folder 2)

March of Big Horn and Yellowstone Expedition, August 4 to October 1874 (MF 1846)

Military Map of Nebraska and Dakota, 1855 - showing explorations made by G. K. Warren in 1855 in Dakota Territory (#1863-1866 - MD 43, Folder 2)

Military Map of Nebraska and Dakota, 1856 - survey map by G. K. Warren (#1951-1952 - MD 44, Folder 2)

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

Reconnaissance in the Dakota Country, 1855-1857 - Dakota and Nebraska surveyed by Lt. Warren and others (#1954 - MD 279, Folder 2; #1955-1956 - MD 251, Folder 2)

Reconnaissance in Dacota Country, 1855 - Warren, Long, Nicollet, Fremont, and Stansbury routes (#264-266 - MD 25, Folder 1)

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

Route of Lt. Warren from Fort Laramie to Bear Butte, 1929 (#280 - MD 25, Folder 1)

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

Sites of Military Forts and Battles, undated - sites in Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, and South Dakota (#235 - MD 24, Folder 4)

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

Vertical Files

“Gatling Gun”

“Gordon Stockade”

“Militia, Dakota - 1862”