Military Records at the South Dakota State Archives – Vietnam War

Collections

Michael Birnbaum Vietnam Collection, 1966-1968 (H2006-098)

This collection consists of various materials relating to the service of Michael Lewis Birnbaum, 9th Infantry Division, during the Vietnam War. Includes letters, maps, photos, booklets, magazines, newspapers, proficiency tests, and military cards. (Box 03540 C; MD 95, Folder 2)

Blunt (South Dakota) History, 1984-2009 (H2020-058)

Includes a DVD with information on Blunt Vietnam War veterans, compiled by Harry Kumpula in 2009. The video runs roughly 40 minutes and includes images from local veterans, images found online, and scenes from various Veterans' Day activities in Blunt and Pierre. (Box 09110 B, Digital Collections)

John H. Boyd Photographs and Military Records, 1920-1990 (H96-022)

John Boyd, a Rosebud Tribal member, lived on the Rosebud Reservation. Some of his children moved to the Seattle area to work in the World War II defense plants. This collection consists of scrapbooks that document the Boyd family. Includes a photograph and Vietnam War Army records for Preston G. Boyd. (FB 177-178)

Dick Erickson Letters, 1968 (H94-082)

This collection consists of two letters that were written by Dick Erickson while he was serving in the Vietnam War. Dick writes to his father, Don Erickson, about the conditions in Vietnam and his concerns over the presidential election. The letters are dated October 11th and November 12th, 1968. (Box 06842 B)

Gary Holler Vietnam War Collection, 1960s-2000s (H2016-093)

This collection consists of various materials relating to the military service of Gary Lee Holler during the Vietnam War. Holler was drafted into the U.S. Army in August 1965. He was stationed at Cam Rahn Bay (Vietnam) with the 174th Ordnance Detachment until his honorable discharge in August 1971. The collection contains some correspondence, newspaper clippings, certificates, photographs and slides, and six reels of 8mm color film footage. (Boxes 06561 A, 09384 B)

Harry Knapp Slide Collection, 1967-1968 (H2026-001)

This collection consists of over 500 color slides, as well as documents, military records, and scans concerning Harry Knapp's service during the Vietnam War. The slides show engineering work and equipment, as well as civilian scenes and various day-to-day operations. Identified locations in Vietnam; include Bao Loc, Cam Ranh, Da Lat, Da Nang, Nha Trang, and Wunder (Utah) Beach. Uniforms and the Fujica Half Camera used to take photographs in the collection were donated to the Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society. (Box 01911 A)

McPherson Family Papers (H91-081)

This collection consists of photographs, documents, and newspaper articles pertaining to Robert G. McPherson, Dennis McPherson, and Stuart McPherson's military activities. Dennis was killed in Vietnam. Items included in the collection are a code of conduct card, pay record, newspaper accounts of deaths, letter regarding posthumous awards, telegrams, certification of medals, list of Company C enlisted men, and a glossary of Australian terms. (Box 04543 A)

Jerry McQuay Film Collection, 1965-1967 (H2006-097)

The collection consists of four 8mm film reels donated by Jerry McQuay who served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam from 1965 to 1967 with the 155 Transportation Unit stationed in Cam Rahn Bay. (Box 09384 B)

Rapid City Journal - "The Face of Vietnam" Map, 1966 (H2013-046)

Consists the January 5, 1966 issues of the Rapid City Journal, which includes a color map of Southeast Asia including the countries of North and South Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand. (MD 120)

Harold H. Schuler Papers, 1989-1992 (H95-010)

This collection includes 86 photographs of Camp Rapid collected by the donor who used them for research purposes to write the book, Camp Rapid: Home of the South Dakota National Guard in 1995. Camp Rapid was created in 1932 and was the training area for the South Dakota National Guard. (Box 05976)

South Dakota Adjutant General, Annual and Biennial Reports, 1887-1982

Published reports submitted by the Adjutant General in 1887-1889, 1892-1894, 1898-1908, 1910-1912, 1914-1968, and 1979-1982. (Boxes 03657 A, 07182 B, 07187 C, 07221 B, 07228 A, 07253 B)

South Dakota Adjutant General Files, 1959-1965 (94-036)

This series consists of Adjutant General Homer Jensen's files from 1959 to 1965, including correspondence, photographs, pamphlets, convention materials, copies of orders, and newspaper clippings. The Adjutant General's Office was located at Camp Rapid in Rapid City and was responsible for overseeing the functions of Civil Defense and the National Guard for the state (see SDCL 1960 41.01, 41.01A and 41.01C). The majority of these records concern the National Guard division, but information on fallout shelters and radioactive fallout is also present. Almost all of the correspondence is congratulatory on either Major General Jensen's appointment to Adjutant General or his retirement from that office. He was assigned to duty as Adjutant General January 24, 1959, and retired November 1, 1963. Following his retirement, the Honorable Mr. Jensen served as Civilian Aid to the Secretary of the Army for SD.

South Dakota Adjutant General, Manpower Study, 1956

Copy of the South Dakota Manpower Study published in 1956. (Box 07187 C)

South Dakota Bureau of Administration, Dedications and Events, 1987-2007 (2007-025)

Includes photographs, ephemera, and records relating to the dedications for the World War II Memorial, Korean War Memorial, and Vietnam War Memorial. (Boxes 08519-08520)

South Dakota Dept. of Veterans, Annual and Biennial Reports, 1944-1955, 1965-1979

Contains the annual and biennial reports submitted by the South Dakota Dept. of Veterans. (Box 07228 A, 07221 C)

South Dakota Dept. of Veterans, Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes, 1944-1977, 1997-2010

Contains meeting minutes for the South Dakota Veterans Commission from 1944 to 1977 and 1997 to 2010. (Box 01378, 02186 B, 04961 C, 04957 B)

South Dakota Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs, Div. of Veterans Affairs, Conference Programs, 1966-1977 (83-063)

This series contains the programs for the annual Division of Veteran's Affairs conferences from 1966 through 1977. The statewide meetings consisted of panel discussions and workshops and programs include the names of officers and distinguished guest speakers as well as information on workshops and meetings. (Box 02186 B)

South Dakota Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs, Div. of Veterans Affairs, Newsletters, 1974-1976, 1979, 1981-1994

Contains intermittent issues of the "Vet Letter" newsletter published by the Division of Veterans Affairs. Newsletters include narratives about the activities of veterans' organizations and articles on issues of importance to veterans. (Boxes 02088, 07304 B)

South Dakota National Guard Papers, 1885-1995 (H74-028)

Includes reports from the Adjutant General, orders, discharges, correspondence, unit histories, pamphlets, and bulletins. (Boxes 03657 A - 03672, 07033 A - 07034 B; FB 57-58; MD 67, MD 106)

South Dakota National Guard Scrapbooks, 1946-1984

Contains four microfilmed scrapbooks about the South Dakota National Guard and its activities. (MF 1218-1219)

South Dakota Public Broadcasting - World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War Memorial Dedications on DVD, 1999-2006 (2007-029)

This series contains programming related to the dedication parades and ceremonies for the World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War memorials. Also includes documentaries produced by South Dakota Public Broadcasting that contain interviews with veterans and tell their stories. (Box 09188 B)

South Dakota Selective Service Reports of Separation, 1952-1970 (H82-003)

This collection consists of copies of the Selective Service Reports of Separation issued by the South Dakota Selective Service between December 1952 and December 1970. The reports include the name, address, and disposition for each person listed. (Boxes 03588-03590)

South Dakota Veterans' Bonus Program Files, 1949-1982 (83-065) (RESTRICTED)

Contains vouchers, correspondence, minutes, and reports. The bulk of the records fall between 1950 and 1975 and concern veterans of the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Due to the private information present in most of the records, this series is restricted. (Boxes 01549-01550 B)

South Dakota Vietnam Veterans' Bonus Claims on Microfilm, 1970-1976 (89-165) (RESTRICTED)

This series contains confidential records of bonus claims from Vietnam veterans to the Board of Veterans Affairs of South Dakota. Includes names, service numbers, branches of service, ranks, discharge and service information, addresses, and time in active service. (Boxes 04518 B - 04519 D)

South Dakota Vietnam Veterans Oral History Project, 1984-1985 (96-007)

This collection consists of transcribed interviews with 33 South Dakota Vietnam veterans on their experiences in Vietnam and how they were affected by the issues and controversies created by the war. Records include 85 audiocassettes, written transcripts for each interview, as well as the "Project Description and Interview Directory" by Thomas C. Magedanz, the project's director. All interviews were conducted by Magedanz from 1984 to 1985. The interviews were digitized in 2022 and added to the South Dakota Digital Archives. (Boxes 06081 A-B, 14195-14196)

Perry Stout Vietnam Collection, 1968-1970 (H2006-106)

Collection consists of Vietnam War era related materials. Includes a letter dated January 11, 1968 to Perry Stout concerning registration to vote, three issues of "The Afterburner" from November to December 1969, and two issues of the "Pacific Stars and Stripes" from December 1969 and February 1970. (Box 03552 C, MD 336)

U.S.O. Saigon Register Book, 1969-1972 (H73-005)

Register book for South Dakota servicemen at the United Service Organization club in Saigon, South Vietnam. (Box 03350 C)

Bill Van Camp "Letters from Vietnam", 2016 (H2017-026)

A booklet from 2016 titled "Letters from Vietnam" that contains transcripts of letters and audio tapes sent by Bill Van Camp to his wife Nancy from 1968 to 1973, while serving in the Army for the Vietnam War. The booklet covers Bill's basic training, his service in Vietnam, and his return to the United States. It also includes Vietnam and family photographs from the time period. The booklet also includes Nancy's memories and a few of her letters, offering an excellent representation of the family experience on the home front during the war. (Box 06570 A)

Vietnam Combat Arts Program - Jim Pollock, undated (H2010-102)

This collection consists of one CD containing information on the life and art of Jim Pollock. Includes biographical information, watercolor scans, website information, and items relating to the Vietnam Combat Arts Project. Jim Pollock was born and raised near Pollock, South Dakota. He entered service with the U.S. Army after graduating and was chosen for assignment to the U.S. Army's Vietnam Combat Artist Program. Art works completed during

this assignment are in the U.S. Army Center of Military History permanent War Art Collection in Washington, D.C. (Box 03749 C)

Vietnam Combat Arts Program, 1967, 2003 (H2007-093)

This collection consists of information about the Vietnam Combat Arts Program including a booklet and CD containing a video presentation by Jim Pollock given at the U.S. Library of Congress, Mary Pickford Theatre, on July 15, 2003. The Vietnam Combat Arts Program began in 1966 and sent artists to Vietnam who served on a 120-day temporary duty (TDY) with 60 days in Vietnam and 60 in Hawaii finishing their artwork. Artists were assigned to teams of four to six along with a team supervisor. According to the booklet, the artists were charged with "recording the army's operation and mission functions as a permanent contribution to the annals of military history." Pollock served with the artist team CAT IV from August to December 1967. (Box 03624 C, 07035 C)

Vietnam Era Veterans Association Newsletters, 1984-1985 (H84-025)

Consists of issues of the Vietnam Era Veterans Association's newsletters from 1984 and 1985. (Box 03616 B)

Vietnam Memorial Dedication Parade Photographs, 2006 (H2006-123)

This collection consists of 15 photographs of the Vietnam Memorial Dedication in Pierre, South Dakota, on September 15th and 16th in 2006. The collection mostly documents the parade through Pierre but also includes image of the helicopters that gave rides during the festivities. Parade photos were taken by Chelle Somsen near the corner of Capitol Ave and Huron Ave. (Box 03563 C)

James C. Walton, Jr. Collection, 1967-1971 (H2016-088)

The collection consists of photographs and letters sent by James C. Walton, Jr. to his parents James and Helen Walton of Webster (S.D.) while James served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War. Sergeant Walton was a Senior Security Policeman, Law Enforcement, 3rd Security Police Squad, Bien Hoa Air Base, Republic of Vietnam. He was stationed in Vietnam from June 1969 to June 1970. The collection also includes a journal written while Mr. Walton served in Vietnam from July 21, 1969 to June 16, 1970. Three photo albums of images supplement the collection and were taken in Vietnam during his service; specifically at the Bien Hoa Air Base and while securing various convoys. Other items of note include an English/Vietnamese Dictionary and an Air Force pamphlet titled, "Information on Vietnam for Air Force Personnel" dated July 10, 1968. There is also copied email correspondence between Mr. Walton and fellow servicemen who were stationed with him at the various air bases. (Box 06566, 06608)

Harold Warner Audio Tapes, 1968-1969 (H2010-099)

This collection consists of nine audio tapes belonging to Harold Warner. The tapes acted as "letters" to his family in Elkton, South Dakota, while he was a soldier during the Vietnam War. The tapes document his activities and routines from 1968 to 1969. Also included are tapes Warner received from family members. (Box 09256 B)

Publications

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

Vietnam Mobilization: Vol. 28, pages 177-178

Vietnam Moratorium: Vol. 28, pages 177-178

Vietnam War: Vol. 28, pages 161-190; Vol. 34, page 175

Vertical Files

“USO”

“Veterans”

“Vietnam”

“Vietnam South Dakota War Dead”