

Sisseton Agency

(see also Santee Agency and Devil's Lake Agency)

Established in 1867 for the Upper Agency Santee bands of the Sissetons and Wahpetons, this agency was located on the Lake Traverse Reservation in northeastern South Dakota in present-day Roberts County. The agency was first assigned to an agent in Minnesota until, in 1869, it was assigned to the Dakota Superintendency.

Chiefs of the Sisseton and Wahpeton bands prior to the 1862 Minnesota uprising included: Sisseton--Waanatan, Sweet Corn, Standing Buffalo, Scarlet Plume, White Lodge, and Lean Bear; Waphton--Inkpa, Extended Tail Feathers, Spirit Walker, Sleepy Eyes, Iron Walker, Red Iron, Cloudman, Simon, Running Walker, Inihan, John Other Day, and Akipa. In 1874, after being located on Lake Traverse Reservation, the federal government recognized Gabriel Renville as the head chief of the people residing there.

Today the Sisseton Reservation is considered an "open reservation" because its 106,153 acres are not located on a consolidated land base. For this reason, the reservation is not displayed on state maps. Paul War Cloud is a noted contemporary artist from the Sisseton Reservation.

Indian Census Rolls, 1886-1939 (M595).

Because Indians on reservations were not citizens until 1924, nineteenth and early twentieth century census takers did not count Indians for congressional representation. Instead, the U.S. government took special censuses in connection with Indian treaties, the last of which was in 1871. The result of many treaties was to extinguish Indian ties to land. Typically, the Indians agreed to reduce their landholdings or to move to an area less desired for white settlement. Some treaties provided for the dissolution of the tribes and the allotment of land to individual Indians. The censuses determined who was eligible for the allotments.

These census rolls were usually submitted each year by agents or superintendents in charge of Indian reservations, as required by an act of July 4, 1884. The data on the rolls vary to some extent, but usually given are the English and/or Indian name of the person, roll number, age or date of birth, sex, and relationship to head of family. Beginning in 1930, the rolls also show the degree of Indian blood, marital status, ward status, place of residence, and sometimes other information. For certain years – including 1935, 1936, 1938, and 1939 – only supplemental rolls of additions and deletions were compiled. Most of the 1940 rolls have been retained by the Bureau of Indian affairs and are not included in this publication.

CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
Sisseton (Sisseton and Wahpeton Sioux Indians), 1886-1891, 1893, 1895, 1897-1898	507	9681
Sisseton (Sisseton and Wahpeton Sioux Indians), 1899-1907	508	9681

Sisseton (Sisseton and Wahpeton Sioux Indians), 1909-1914	509	9681
Sisseton (Sisseton and Wahpeton Sioux Indians), 1915-1918	510	9682
Sisseton (Sisseton and Wahpeton Sioux Indians), 1919-1924	511	9682
Sisseton (Sisseton and Wahpeton Sioux Indians), 1925-1927, 1929	512	9682
Sisseton (Sioux Indians), 1930-1931	513	9683
Sisseton (Sioux Indians), 1932-1933	514	9683
Sisseton (Sioux Indians), 1934-1936	515	9683
Sisseton (Sioux Indians), 1937-1939	516	9684
Sisseton (Sioux Indians), 1916-1920	517	9684

Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1867-1880 (M234).

The records in this microfilm publication consist of communications received by the Office of Indian Affairs from the Sisseton Agency concerning the general situation of the Indians, their population, education, health, and medical care, and their agriculture and subsistence. The letters cover such matters of administrative concern as emigration, land allotments, annuity payments, depredations, claims, complaints, traders, buildings, supplies, employees, and accounts. Correspondence is grouped by year and thereunder arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname or official position of the writer. Within each alphabetical section, correspondence is arranged by file number, which was assigned to each letter as they were registered.

CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
Sisseton Agency, 1867-1871	824	1474
Sisseton Agency, 1872-1873	825	1475
Sisseton Agency, 1874	826	1475
Sisseton Agency, 1875	827	1476
Sisseton Agency, 1876	828	1476
Sisseton Agency, 1877-1878	829	1477
Sisseton Agency, 1879	830	1478
Sisseton Agency, 1880	831	1478

Publications

TITLE	LOCATION
<i>The Sisseton Reservation Area, its Resources and Development Potential [prepared for the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe by the Planning Support Group of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in cooperation with the Aberdeen Area Office and the Sisseton Agency].</i> Billings, Mont: The Group, 1972.	E98.E2 U49a no.204

<i>Treaty between the United States of America and the Sisseton and Wahpeton bands of Dakota or Sioux Indians.</i> Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1867.	KF8228 .S62 1867
<i>Sisseton and Wahpeton Bands of Sioux Indians v. the United States [in the Court of Claims of the United States no. 22524] 1901-1907.</i> Washington, D.C.: McGill & Wallace, n.d.	KF8208 .S62 no.2252

Records, 1884-1948.

These records are housed at the National Archives regional records center in Kansas City, Missouri. As part of the Indian Archives Project, the South Dakota State Archives paid to have these records microfilmed to make them more accessible to tribal members in South Dakota.

These records consist of several series with varying arrangements. Included are Superintendent's annual reports, student records including records cards and census reports, probate records, plat books, maps, and related records, allotment and allottee records, Works Progress Administration correspondence, realty contract ledgers, farm leases correspondence, and household surveys.

SERIES DESCRIPTION	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
<p>Annual Reports, 1919-1923 - These reports are arranged in chronological order. They were submitted by the agent to the Office of Indian Affairs for compilation for the agency's printed annual report which formed part of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs' printed report to the Secretary of the Interior. The statistical reports cover such matters as the health, education, acreage, law and order, employment, reservation and census statistics of the Indians on the Sisseton reservation. The narrative section of the annual reports details the achievements and future plans in the areas of law and order, health, education, employment, and allotment and sales.</p> <p>Student Record Cards, 1923-1930 – These cards are grouped in chronological sections (1923-1925, 1926-1930, and “Over 18 not in school”), then arranged alphabetically by surname. Information provided on the cards includes name; date of birth; jurisdiction; post office; parents' names, tribal affiliations, and degree of blood; fiscal year; school; date of entry; grade level; and miles to public school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Record Cards, 1923-1925 [Adams – Wynd] • Student Record Cards, 1926-1930 [Abraham – Woods] • Student Record Cards, Over 18 not in school [Abraham – Ironboy] 	1	6671

<p>Student Record Cards, 1923-1930 (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Record Cards, Over 18 not in school [Ironheart – Wynde] <p>Permanent School Census Cards, 1931-1952 – The cards are grouped by gender, and thereunder arranged alphabetically by surname. Information provided on the cards includes: student name; degree of blood; sex; birth date; parents’ names, tribal affiliations, and addresses; year; school attended; date of entrance; grade level; miles to public school; and record of attendance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent School Census Cards, Boys [Abraham – Ypina] • Permanent School Census Cards, Girls [Abraham – Blackthunder] 	2	6672
<p>Permanent School Census Cards, 1931-1952 (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent School Census Cards, Girls [Block – Yankton] <p>Records of Students and Related Records, 1930-1931 – These records are arranged alphabetically by first letter of surname and consist of two volumes (one for each year). Information provided in the student records include the student number; name; age; grade level; degree of blood; school; sex; parents’ names; address; and remarks. There is also a list for students over the age of 18. Related records include information on individual schools, such as the name, location, teacher, salary, clerk, session length, and list of pupils. Also included opposite each page is a brief description of visits to each school. There is also a brief daily report for the school year. The name or position of the person providing the information is unknown.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records of Students and Related Records [A – Heminger] 	3	6673
<p>Records of Students and Related Records, 1930-1931 (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records of Students and Related Records [Heminger – White, and Schools] <p>Annual School Census Reports, 1933-1941 – Arranged chronologically by year of census. These annual school censuses were taken to record reservation children enrolled in BIA or other schools during each academic year. Information provided is as follows: student number, name, sex, age, grade level, tribe, degree of blood, distance of child’s home from public school, name of parent or guardian, name or number of school, length of school term, grades taught, reason for</p>	4	6674

<p>nonattendance, and date of transfer to other school. There is no census for 1938.</p> <p>Probate Records, 1911-1934 - Correspondence includes reports on probate fees, copies of official receipts for probate fees, regulations concerning probates and wills, and determinations of heirs. There are seven volumes containing estate probate information, including the name of the deceased, date of death, list of heirs and amount of interest in the estate, and date heirs determined. Correspondence is arranged chronologically, but the volumes begin with alphabetical name indexes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters Regarding Probate Matters, index and p. 1-177 [Apr 14 - May 29, 1914] 		
<p>Probate Records, 1911-1934 (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters Regarding Probate Matters, p. 178-407 [Jun 1 – Oct 3, 1914] • Heirship and Probate Correspondence, 1922 • Estates – Heirship Cases, 1921-1934 • Publication, “Regulations Relating to the Determination of Heirs and Approval of Wills Except Members of the Five Civilized Tribes and Osage Indians,” approved May 31, 1935 • Probate Estates, Vol. 1, index and p. 1-300 [1911-1920] 	5	6675
<p>Probate Records, 1911-1934 (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Probate Estate Vol. 2, index and p. 1-300 [1911-1920] • Probate Estate Vol. 3, index and p. 1-201 [1919-1930] • Index of Names of Heirs of Deceased Sisseton-Wahpeton Allottees, Vol. 1, 1925? • Index of Names of Heirs of Deceased Sisseton-Wahpeton Allottees, Vol. 2, 1929 [A-H] 	6	6676
<p>Probate Records, 1911-1934 (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Index of Names of Heirs of Deceased Sisseton-Wahpeton Allottees, Vol. 2, 1929 [H-Z] • Index of Names of Heirs of Deceased Sisseton-Wahpeton Allottees, Vol. 2, 1929, p. 1-300 • Index of Names of Heirs of Deceased Sisseton-Wahpeton Allottees, Vol. 3, 1929, index and p. 1-279 • Estates for Probate from June 1928-1930, p.1-297 <p>Allotment Records, 1888-1892 – Consists of three volumes of records tracking original Indian allotments. Entries are arranged by township and range numbers.</p>	7	6677

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allotment Record, Vol. 1 [covers T126-129N of R48W; T125-129N of R49W; T122-129N of R50W; and T119-123N of R51W], p. 1-59 		
<p>Allotment Records, 1888-1892 (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allotment Record, Vol. 1 (continued), p. 60-249 Allotment Record, Vol. 2 [covers T126-129N of R52W; T119-130N of R53W; and T124-126N of R54W], p. 1-237 Allotment Record, Vol. 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> p. 1-58 – Allotments in T127-130N of R54W, and T129-130N of R55W p. 59-60 – “Recapitulation,” information includes township, range, and area (acres, 100th) p. 61-83 – Lands purchased for Indians with trust funds and lands acquired in ways other than allotments and inheritance. These entries are arranged alphabetically by first letter of surname. <p>Plat Book, Sisseton Agency, North District, 1923 – Entries are arranged by township and range. Information in the volume includes name, allotment number, serial number, land description, and type of land use [hay, plow, pasture]. There is an index which includes the allotment number, Indian name, English name, serial number, and page number of the entry. The index is alphabetical by first letter of surname (sometimes Indian, sometimes English).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plat Books, Sisseton Agency, Index and p. 1-13 	8	6678
<p>Plat Book, Sisseton Agency, North District, 1923 (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plat Books, Sisseton Agency, p. 14-300 <p>Plat Maps and Related Records, 1930 – Plat maps are arranged by range, then by township [covers R48-55W of T119-130N]. Related records include list of land owners (name, allotment number, and land description), description of lands not recorded at the U.S. Land Office, and a handwritten list of land descriptions including whether the lands are recorded at Pierre and if they are Indian or non-Indian lands.</p> <p>Land Allotment Registers, 1875, 1888, and undated - Consists of three allotment registers, which all record the number of the allotment, name of the allottee, gender, age, legal land description, acres, and 100th. The 1888 and undated registers also include both the Indian and English names of the allottee, and remarks about familial relationships.</p>	9	6679

<p>List of Original Allottees Living, April 1, 1937 – Entries are arranged alphabetically by surname. There are two lists: the original handwritten one and the typescript list. There are two additional pages at the end of the handwritten list. Information provided include name (English and Indian), allotment number, legal land description, and number of acres.</p> <p>Works Progress Administration (WPA) Correspondence, 1935-1936 – Letters are in chronological order. Correspondence includes letters, telegrams, lists of Indians employed by the WPA, and information about projects (such as digging wells). Correspondents include the WPA offices in South Dakota, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the South Dakota State Board of Health, the agency superintendent, and others with business with the WPA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence, Dec. 1935 – Aug. 1936 		
<p>Works Progress Administration (WPA) Correspondence, 1935-1936 (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence, Aug. 1936 <p>Realty Contract Ledgers, 1927-1954 – Arranged numerically by contract number. There are three volumes. Information recorded in each volume varies slightly, but generally includes contract number, name, date, and information about the type and amount of the contract.</p> <p>Farm Leases Correspondence, 1923-1937 –Correspondence concerning leases, lease payment, trespass, loans, delinquent leases, and other correspondence concerning leasing of land. Correspondents are the lease holder, land owner, Indian Field Service, agency superintendent, and others with interests in land leases. Also included are land lease cards, copies of leases, and official receipts. Records are arranged alphabetically by last name of the lessee and thereunder arranged chronologically.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Farm Leases [A-B] 	10	6680
<p>Farm Leases Correspondence, 1923-1937 (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Farm Leases [B-J] 	11	6681
<p>Farm Leases Correspondence, 1923-1937 (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Farm Leases [J-P] 	12	6682
<p>Farm Leases Correspondence, 1923-1937 (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Farm Leases [P-Z] • Delinquent Leases [A-B] 	13	6683

Farm Leases Correspondence, 1923-1937 (continued) • Delinquent Leases [B-L]	14	6684
Farm Leases Correspondence, 1923-1937 (continued) • Delinquent Leases [L-S]	15	6685
Farm Leases Correspondence, 1923-1937 (continued) • Delinquent Leases [S-Z] Industrial (Family) Survey, 1922 – Survey of households on the Sisseton Reservation. Gives information about the head of household (name, address, age, degree of blood, family); health conditions of the household; and the sanitary condition of the home. Also includes information about the house, barn, garden, livestock, farm equipment, and acreage of crops planted. Entries are arranged alphabetically by surname. Documents did not film well; they are dark and very difficult to read.	16	6686

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Special Case Files, 1882-1970.

These files were selected from the Bureau of Indian Affairs's Special Case files for their pertinence to the Indian nations of South Dakota. They were microfilmed at the request of the SD State Archives. The originals are available in Washington, D.C. at the National Archives. The files listed here pertain to the Sisseton Agency. For a complete list of Special Case files at the State Archives, see the "Special Topics" section of this guide.

The Special Case files bring related documents together from different places in the general incoming correspondence. Subjects mostly deal with land and property matters.

DESCRIPTION	MF LOCATION
Case #180 - Sale of lands in Redwood Co, Minnesota "for the relief of the Mdewakanton band of Sioux Indians" (H.R. 10869), 1889-1906. Case #63 – Sioux Reservation, Wagon Road Route No. 3, 1882-1884 Case #83 – Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Right of Ways, Sisseton Agency, 1880-1890 Case #88 – Standing Rock Agency, Restoration of Lands East of the Missouri River ("Executive Addition to Sioux Reserve") to Public Domain, 1881-1882. Case #92 – Cheyenne River Agency relative to Ponca Agreement, 1882 Case #91 – Crow Dog Case - Murder of Spotted Tail, 1881-1883	5041

Sisseton Agency: Superintendent's Annual Narrative and Statistical Reports from Field Jurisdictions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1910-1935 (M1011).

CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
Sisseton, 1910-1922	139	4463
Sisseton, 1923-1938	140	4464
Wahpeton School, 1910-1935	162	4467