

Office of the Adjutant General

The Continental Congress appointed an Adjutant General of the Continental Army in 1775. After 1783, no provision was made for such an officer until 1792 when an act provided for an adjutant who was also an inspector. In 1821, the departments of the Adjutant and Inspector General were placed under separate heads. The Adjutant General's Office has been in continuous existence since 1821 except for the brief period 1904-1907. The duties of Adjutant General included matters relating to command; discipline; recruitment; administration of the Military Establishment; recording, authenticating, and communicating the orders and instructions of the Secretary of War; issuing commissions; and compiling various army registers and directors.

Annual Reports, 1871-1880 (M666).

These are the annual reports submitted to the Adjutant General each year by the War Department bureaus and geographical commands. All of the reports were microfilmed as part of M666 (Letters Received, 1871-1880). Rolls containing reports related to the administration of Dakota Territory were selected for purchase by the State Archives and are listed here.

CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
Annual Reports, 1871 Military Division of the Missouri Department of Dakota Department of the Missouri Department of the Platte	44	1546
Annual Reports, 1872 Military Division of the Missouri	98	1550
Annual Reports, 1872 Department of Dakota Department of the Platte	99	1550
Annual Reports, 1873 Military Division of the Missouri Department of the Platte	137	1551
Annual Reports, 1873 Department of the Missouri Department of Dakota	138	1551
Annual Reports, 1874 Military Division of the Missouri Department of Dakota Department of the Platte	184	1554
Annual Reports, 1875 Department of the Platte	242	1557
Annual Reports, 1875 Department of the Missouri	243	1557
Annual Reports, 1875 Department of Dakota	244	1557

CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
Annual Reports, 1876 Military Division of the Missouri Department of the Missouri Department of the Platte Includes report by Maj. Marcus A. Reno, Commander of the 7 th Cavalry Regiment, relating to the Battle of the Little Big Horn on June 25 and 26, 1876, between the 7 th Cavalry and Sitting Bull's band of Sioux Indians.	313	1566
Annual Reports, 1876 Department of Dakota Includes reports of field commanders engaged in military operations against Sitting Bull and his band of Sioux Indians.	314	1566
Annual Reports, 1877 Military Division of the Missouri Department of the Platte Department of the Missouri	387	1570
Annual Reports, 1877 Department of Dakota	388	1570
Annual Reports, 1878 Military Division of the Missouri Department of the Missouri Department of Dakota	451	1572
Annual Reports, 1879 Military Division of the Missouri Department of Dakota Department of the Platte Department of the Missouri	544	1573
Annual Reports, 1879 Department of Dakota (continued) Fort Custer, Montana Territory	545	1573
Annual Reports, 1879 Department of Dakota		1591
Annual Reports, 1880 Inspector General, Department of the Platte Inspector General, Military Division of the Missouri	587	1575
Annual Reports, 1880 Department of the East Department of the South	588	1575
Annual Reports, 1880 Department of the Missouri Department of the Platte	590	1575
Annual Reports, 1880 Department of Dakota	591	1575

Letters Received, 1861-1870 (M619).

This series reproduces letters and reports received by the Adjutant General from 1861 to 1870, including correspondence from officers and enlisted men of the Army, the Secretary of War, the President, officials of other government departments, members of Congress, territorial governors, private persons, and business firms.

According to recordkeeping practice of the time, letters received were entered in registers alphabetically by the initial letter of the surname or office of the writer and thereunder chronologically by date of receipt. The letters are arranged to correspond with these registers, and are numbered in a separate sequence under each letter of the alphabet for each year. Several years after the original filing, the Adjutant General's office attempted to bring together files relating to certain subjects, which resulted in "consolidated files." Each of these files was assigned a "file number" corresponding to its new location.

Using a published index provided by the National Archives, the State Archives purchased microfilm rolls containing consolidated files of interest to the history of Dakota Territory and its tribes. The descriptions of the files are included below, along with the assigned file number.

CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
551 A 1861 - Report of Adj. Gen. Lorenzo Thomas, dated 21 Oct. 1861, relating to alleged irregularities in the administration of the Department of the West, commanded by Gen. John Charles Fremont.	3	1536
163 F 1862 - Report of Capt. James L. Fisk of the "North Overland Expedition" from Fort Abercrombie to Fort Benton, Dakota Territory, July-Sept. 1862. Includes a journal of the expedition kept by Samuel Bond.	96	1536
145 I 1865 - Papers relating to the investigation of charges made against Maj. Gen. Alfred Sully and his administration of Indian affairs on the Upper Missouri River, 1865.	367	1537
5 I 1866 - Papers relating to the Sioux uprising in Minnesota in 1862, 1862-1916.	483	1537
44 M 1867 - Communications relating to the request of the Hudson's Bay Co. to transport powder and arms through the United States to the Red River Settlement in Canada, Jan-May 1867.	560	1538
102 M 1867 - Papers relating to the Fetterman Massacre near Fort Phil Kearny, Dakota Territory, on Dec. 21, 1866.	560	1538
523 M 1867 - Reports of the campaigns of Gens. Winfield S. Hancock and George A. Custer against the Sioux and Cheyenne Indians, Mar-May 1867.	562	1538

CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
590 M 1867 - Reports of the campaigns of Gens. Winfield S. Hancock and George A. Custer against the Sioux and the Cheyenne Indians, Mar-May 1867.	563	1539
1093 M 1867 - Reports of the campaigns of Gens. Winfield S. Hancock and George A. Custer against the Sioux and the Cheyenne Indians, Mar-May 1867.	565	1539
42 I 1868 - Correspondence relating to the implementation of the Medicine Lodge treaties with the Kiowa, Kiowa-Apache, Comanche, Cheyenne, and Arapaho Indians, July-Sept. 1868	629	1540
1285 M 1868 - Papers relating to the engagement on the Arickaree Fork of the Republican River, Kansas, between scouts under Maj. George A. Forsyth and a band of Sioux and Cheyenne Indians, Sept. 17-20, 1868.	642	1540
106 I 1869 - Papers relating to the military expedition against the Piegan Indians and to other matters concerning Indians in Montana Territory, 1869-1870.	711	1541
703 M 1869 - Correspondence relating to the policy to be adopted in regard to Indians who refuse to go on reservations, May-Aug 1869.	722	1541
65 I 1870 - Papers relating to the claim of Yankton Indians for services as scouts under Gen. Alfred Sully in 1864, 1870-1892.	791	1542
102 R 1870 - Copies of reports by Generals Sheridan and Custer and by other officers relating to activities against the Indians in the Military Division of the Missouri, 1868-1869.	812	1542

Letters Received, 1871-1880 (M666).

This series reproduces letters and reports received by the Adjutant General from 1871 to 1880, including correspondence from officers and enlisted men of the Army, the Secretary of War, the President, officials of other government departments, members of Congress, territorial governors, private persons, and business firms.

According to recordkeeping practice of the time, letters received were entered in registers, generally in chronological order by date of receipt, and numbered consecutively within each year. The letters are arranged to correspond with these registers. Several years after the original filing, the Adjutant General's office attempted to bring together files relating to certain subjects, which resulted in "consolidated files." Each of these files was assigned a "file number" corresponding to its new location. Annual reports were filed together at the end of the letters for each year.

Using a published index provided by the National Archives, the State Archives purchased microfilm rolls containing consolidated files of interest to the history of Dakota Territory and its tribes. The descriptions of the files are included below, along with the assigned file number.

CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
113 AGO 1871 - Correspondence relating to the provision of food and of ammunition for hunting to nearly 3000 starving Indians of the Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Sioux tribes under Chief Red Cloud at Fort Laramie, Wyo., 1871-1872	2	1543
1305 AGO 1871 - Correspondence relating to the arrest of Kiowa Chiefs Satanta, Satank, and Big Tree, charged with attacking a corn train of 12 wagons. The arrest was made by troops under Gen. William T. Sherman at Fort Sill, Indian Territory, May-June 1871	10	1543
1339 AGO 1871 - Correspondence relating to the request of financier Jay Cooke that 800 to 1000 troops be sent to Dakota and Montana Territories to protect the Northern Pacific Railroad engineer-surveying parties, 1871.	10	1543
2019 AGO 1871 - Correspondence relating to activities of the Sioux Indians in 1871-1872 in various locations, including the settlement on the Milk River, Mont.; to activities of Santee, Yankton, and other Sioux tribes; and to the attack on Gallatin Valley, Mont., by Sioux tribes from the Big Horn area.	16	1543
2564 AGO 1871 - Correspondence relating to recommendations that locations of military posts at Cheyenne, Grand River, Lower Brule, and Whetstone Agencies in Dakota Territory be moved to the vicinity of other posts, and that the military station at the Whetstone Agency be discontinued, Apr. 1872	25	1544
3248 AGO 1871 - Correspondence relating to reports of an Irish-American Fenian Brotherhood movement against Fort Pembina, Dakota Territory, and extending into Manitoba, Canada, in violation of neutrality laws, 1871-1872.	31	1544
3810 AGO 1871 - Correspondence relating to the buffalo hunt of Grand Duke Alexis of Russia on his visit to the West, Nov. 1871 - Jan. 1872.	36	1545
1388 AGO 1872 - Correspondence relating to reports by William H. Miller, subagent of the Whetstone Agency, Sioux Indian Reservation, Dakota Territory, that the commander of the agency refused to provide a guard to protect the property that was under the charge of the agent, 1872.	58	1547

CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
<p>1603 AGO 1872 - Correspondence relating to the attack on a Miniconjou Sioux war party by Capt. Charles Meinhold's Company of the 3rd Cavalry on the South Fork of Loup River, Nebr., and to the subsequent recommendation that the Medal of Honor be awarded to four members of the company, which included William F. ("Buffalo Bill") Cody, a guide, 1872.</p>	61	1547
<p>3323 AGO 1872 - Correspondence relating to the attack on the escort party of the surveyors of the Northern Pacific Railroad by Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Sioux warriors on Aug. 14, 1872, at the mouth of Pryor's River in the Yellowstone Valley. Included is a journal, which was kept by Maj. John W. Barlow, relating to the escort of the surveying party, July 27 - Oct. 1, 1872.</p>	80	1548
<p>3512 AGO 1872 - Correspondence and reports of Col. David S. Stanley relating to his escort of Northern Pacific Railroad engineers surveying the proposed railroad route from Heart River, Dakota Territory, to the mouth of the Powder River, 1872.</p>	81	1548
<p>3699 AGO 1872 - Correspondence relating to events at the Red Cloud Agency, including Chief Red Cloud's refusal to move to White River and the capture by troops from Fort Laramie of 450 Indian ponies grazing illegally on the south side of the Platte River on the Fort Laramie Military Reservation, 1872.</p>	83	1549
<p>563 AGO 1874 - Correspondence relating to increased Sioux Indian activities in the Department of the Platte, 1874, including the murder of Lt. Levi H. Robinson while in charge of a lumber train near Laramie Peak, Wyo., and to the request for the establishment of a military post to protect the Red Cloud and Whetstone Agencies.</p>	143	1552
<p>1224 AGO 1874 - Correspondence relating to disturbances at the Standing Rock Indian Agency, Dakota Territory, including the arrest of Chief Rain-in-the-Face of the Hunkpapa [Uncapapa] band of Sioux for the murder of two men on Col. David S. Stanley's Yellowstone expedition, and to the request for troops to enforce the enrollment of Indians at the agency, 1874.</p>	147	1552
<p>1741 AGO 1874 - Papers relating to Lt. Col. George A. Custer's Black Hills Expedition, 1874-1876, including reports by the chief engineer of the expedition on the physical characteristics of the region.</p>	152	1553

CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
<p>5009 AGO 1874 - Correspondence relating to reports that miners have been working in the Black Hills country of the Sioux Indian Reservation, 1874-1875.</p>	181	1553
<p>56 AGO 1875 - Correspondence relating to permission given by the Indian agent at Wichita Agency, Indian Territory, for his charges to go north to hunt and to protest lodged by Lt. Col. T.H. Neill, the commanding officer at Cheyenne River Agency, Dakota Territory, 1875.</p>	185	5018
<p>3517 AGO 1875 - Correspondence relating to requests for military protection of the Crow Indian Agency, Mont., from the attacks of the Sioux, 1875. Also included is a report by Capt. George L. Tyler of a fight between Crow, Gros Ventre, and Nez Perce Indians and the 1200 to 1500 Sioux Indians below the mouth of the Big Horn River in June 1875.</p>	221	1555
<p>4228 AGO 1875 - Correspondence relating to charges against Capt. John S. Poland, commanding, U.S. Military Station at Standing Rock Indian Agency, Dakota Territory, of arbitrary action in assuming control of trading and other activities of the Indians and businessmen at the agency, 1875-1876.</p>	225	1555
<p>6160 AGO 1875 - Papers relating to military expeditions against the Sioux Indians in the Big Horn, Powder River, and Yellowstone River areas, Nov. 1875 - July 1876.</p>	238	1556
<p>1929 AGO 1876 - Correspondence relating to the total number of Indian scouts authorized to be employed by the Army and to requests for permission to enlist scouts in various departments, 1876-1878.</p>	259	1558
<p>2440 AGO 1876 - Papers relating to the charge by Gen. George Crook that Col. Joseph J. Reynolds and Capt. Alexander Moore failed to carry out orders in an attack on the village of Chief Crazy Horse near Powder River, Mont., in Mar. 1876, and the subsequent general court-martial of Reynolds and Moore.</p>	264	1558
<p>3570 AGO 1876 - Correspondence relating to Gen. George Crook's battle with the Sioux and Cheyenne Indians under Chief Crazy Horse at Rosebud Creek, Mont., June 1876.</p>	271	1559
<p>3770 AGO 1876 - Papers relating to the defeat of Gen. George A. Custer and his whole command by Sitting Bull's band of Sioux Indians in the battle on the Little Big Horn River, Mont., June 25-26, 1876.</p>	273	1559

CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
3830 AGO 1876 - Correspondence pertaining to the offer of volunteer military service by Montana citizens in response to the Custer defeat, 1876.	274	5019
4163 AGO 1876 - Papers relating to military operations in the Departments of the Platte and Dakota against the Sioux Indians (“Sioux War Papers”), 1876.	277-279	1560
“Sioux War Papers” continued, 1876-1877.	280-283	1561
“Sioux War Papers” continued, 1878-1879.	284-287	1562
“Sioux War Papers” continued, 1880-1881.	288-290	1563
“Sioux War Papers” continued, 1877-1890.	291-292	1564
4408 AGO 1876 - Correspondence relating to the proposed prohibition on the sale of arms and ammunition by Indian traders to Indians, 1876-1878.	294	1565
1322 AGO 1877 - Correspondence, reports of surveys, and maps of locations of three wagon roads through the Sioux Reservation in Dakota Territory provided for by the agreement of 1876 with the Sioux. The three routes were from Bismarck to Deadwood City, from Fort Pierre to Deadwood City, and from Fort Niobrara, Nebr., to Custer City.	322	1567
1469 AGO 1877 – Correspondence relating to timber cutting by whites on the Sioux Reservations in Dakota Territory, 1877-1880.	323	5020
2526 AGO 1877 - Correspondence relating to the appointment of military officers to witness deliveries by contractors at Indian agencies. Also included are reports of the appointed officers, 1877.	330	1567
4751 AGO 1877 - Correspondence and reports relating to General of the Army William T. Sherman’s tour of the West, July-Oct. 1877.	360	1568
7441 AGO 1877 - Correspondence relating to requests for establishing a military post in the Black Hills to protect settlers and the subsequent selection of a site for a military reservation at Bear Butte, Dakota Territory, 1877-1878.	381	1569
1036 AGO 1878 - Correspondence pertaining to affairs at Standing Rock Agency, Dakota Territory, including the butchering of hogs and the cutting of timber, 1878.	394	5021
6470 AGO 1878 - Papers relating to military operations against the Northern Cheyenne, 1878-1879. Included is a report by a Board of Officers on the arrest and confinement of a number of Cheyenne Indians in the vicinity of Fort Robinson, Nebr.	428-430	1571

CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
8705 AGO 1878 - Correspondence relating to the confinement of nearly 150 Northern Cheyennes at Fort Robinson, Nebr., their refusal to return to the Indian Territory, their escape from the fort, and the attack by Capt. Henry W. Wessells' Company, 1878-1879.	449	1571
2993 AGO 1880 - Rosters of officers of each staff office or department in the War Department, showing the different details of service for each officer from 1866 to 1880.	563	1574
3153 AGO 1880 - Correspondence pertaining to complaints of the Sioux Indians at Standing Rock Agency, Dakota Territory, about the number of troops at the reservation, the amount of timber cut there, and the cattle still due them for the seizure of ponies by the Army, 1880-1883.	565	5022
3619 AGO 1880 - Correspondence relating to unauthorized white settlement on the Sioux Reservation at Fort Pierre, Dakota Territory, 1880.	568	5023

Letters Received, 1881-1889 (M689).

This series reproduces letters and reports received by the Adjutant General from 1881 to 1889, including correspondence from officers and enlisted men of the Army, the Secretary of War, the President, officials of other government departments, members of Congress, territorial governors, private persons, and business firms.

According to recordkeeping practice of the time, letters received were entered in registers, generally in chronological order by date of receipt, and numbered consecutively within each year. The letters are arranged to correspond with these registers. Several years after the original filing, the Adjutant General's office attempted to bring together files relating to certain subjects, which resulted in "consolidated files." Each of these files was assigned a "file number" corresponding to its new location. Annual reports were filed together at the end of the letters for each year.

Using a published index provided by the National Archives, the State Archives purchased microfilm rolls containing consolidated files of interest to the history of Dakota Territory and its tribes. The descriptions of the files are included below, along with the assigned file number.

CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
5200 AGO 1881 - Correspondence relating to a request from the Dept. of the Interior that the War Dept. provide means of transportation for supplies and help to move Little Chief and members of his band from the Cheyenne & Arapaho Agency, Indian Terr., to the Pine Ridge Agency, Dakota Terr., Aug. 1881 - Aug. 1883.	48	1576

CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
364 AGO 1882 - Papers and a report of Mar. 4, 1882, from the Secretary of War relating to a statement of expenditures for Indian wars and for the observation and control of Indians from July 1, 1871 to June 20, 1882.	77	1576
3111 AGO 1883 - Correspondence relating to the plan to visit Indians in Montana and Dakota by members of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and to the request of Senator H. L. Davis that the military provide the Senators with transportation facilities and other necessary aid during the course of their tour, July 1883 - May 1885.	224	1577
2487 AGO 1884 - Correspondence relating to the killing of Sioux Chief White Thunder by Indians Thunder Hawk and Spotted Tail, at the Rosebud Agency, Mont., in May 1884, as a result of an old feud, June-Oct. 1884. Includes correspondence relating to disturbances at the Pine Ridge Agency, Dakota Territory, resulting from the arrival of T. A. Bland, publisher of the magazine <u>Council Fire</u> .	279	1577
1153 AGO 1885 - Correspondence and several reports relating to a suspected outbreak of intertribal warfare, reported by Joseph Terrill, who lived near Fort McKinney, Wyo., involving Arapaho, Blackfeet, Cheyenne, Crow, Piegan, Shoshoni, and Sioux Indians in the area of Wyoming and Montana, Feb.-May 1885.	341	1577
2104 AGO 1886 - Papers pertaining to the appointment of Capt. J.M. Bell as temporary Indian Agent at Pine Ridge Agency, Dakota Territory, 1886.	446	5024
3089 AGO 1888 - Papers pertaining to Indian problems in the Departments of the Platte and Dakota. Included are documents concerning citizens' protests against troop removals, Indians under Lost Bull who left the Tongue River Agency in Montana, and Sioux from Pine Ridge Agency, Dakota Territory, who left for Tongue River to participate in a sun dance, 1888.	634	5025
3140 AGO 1885 - Correspondence and report of Lt. Gen. P. H. Sheridan, dated July 24, 1885, relating to disturbances caused by Indians of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Agency, Indian Territory, June-July 1885.	362	1578
3140 AGO 1885, continued - July 1885 - Sept. 1886.	363	1578
7125 AGO 1885 - Papers relating to a recommendation by Gen. F. C. Armstrong, U.S. Indian Inspector, that troops be sent to preserve order among Northern Cheyenne Indians at Tongue River, Mont., and papers relating to attacks by Rosebud Indians in the Tongue	402	1579

River area against their agency, Nov.-Dec. 1885.		
CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
5304 AGO 1886 - Papers relating to intertribal hostilities among the Blood, Piegan, Gros Ventre, and Crow Indians in the border region of the Department of Dakota, Oct. 1886 - Aug. 1887.	483	1579
755 AGO 1887 - Correspondence containing appeals for clemency in the court-martial of Maj. Frederick W. Benteen, formerly Colonel of the 10 th Mo. Cavalry, Mar.-Apr. 1887.	516	1580
3324 AGO 1887 - Papers relating to the removal of Pine Ridge Cheyennes from the Tongue River Agency in Montana where they had traveled to hold a Sun Dance, June-Oct. 1887.	537	1580
5199 AGO 1887 - Papers relating to protection for Indians who accepted allotments of land in severalty on the Yankton Reservation, Dakota Territory, and to the removal of intruders who settled illegally on the Red Pipestone Reservation, Minn., Sept.-Oct. 1887.	554	1581
5499 AGO 1888 - Correspondence relating to the sale of light wines and beer at military trading posts and a manuscript by Maj. Theodore Schwan concerning the history of the problem of removing the sale of these liquors from trading posts, Nov. 1888 - Jan. 1889.	653	1581
1253 AGO 1889 - Correspondence relating to the encroachment of white settlers on the Sioux Reservation, Dakota, and a printed report transmitted to Congress by the President and a presidential proclamation, both of which relate to dividing part of the reservation into separate units, to securing relinquishments of Indian title to the remainder, and to subsequent opening of these lands under the homestead and preemption laws, 1889-1890.	676	1581

Indexes to Letters Received, 1846, 1861-1889 (M725).

The following microfilm rolls contain name and subject indexes to the above collections of letters received by the Office of the Adjutant General. There is one name index for each year of correspondence, and two subject indexes which cover the years 1861-1871. The subject indexes are limited to subjects of general interest or to subjects involving principles that would be applicable to similar cases in the future. Entries in all indexes are generally arranged in alphabetical order by the first two letters of the name, title, or subject. Each entry gives the name, title, or subject and the file number where the original letter can be found. The State Archives does not have a complete set of M619, M666, and M689, so the indexes may refer to letters which are not available in Pierre.

CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
Name Index with Supplement, 1846 (Indexes to Reports of Engagements and Expeditions, 1846-1848) Subject Index, 1861-1870 Subject Index, 1871	1	6053
Name Indexes, 1861-1864	2	6054
Name Indexes, 1865-1867	3	6055
Name Indexes, 1868-1872	4	6056
Name Indexes, 1873-1876	5	6057
Name Indexes, 1877-1880	6	6058
Name Indexes, 1881-1883	7	6059
Name Indexes, 1884-1886	8	6060
Name Indexes, 1887-1889	9	6061

Registers of Enlistments in the United States Military, 1798-1914 (M233).

These registers contain the names of enlisted men in the Regular Army, showing for each man when, where, and by whom he was enlisted, the period of enlistment, place of birth, age, civilian occupation, personal description, organization assignment, and enlistment number, with pertinent remarks. The information in the registers was compiled from enlistment papers, muster rolls of the Regular Army, and other records.

The Registers of Enlistments from 1871 to 1877 are grouped alphabetically by last name, and thereunder in reverse chronological order by year. The Indian Scout registers are grouped by year, then alphabetically by name.

CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
Register of Enlistments, 1871-1877, A-G	38	5992
Register of Enlistments, 1871-1877, H-O	39	5993
Register of Enlistments, 1871-1877, P-Z	40	5994
Indian Scouts, 1866-1877	70	5995
Indian Scouts, 1878-1914	71	5996

U.S. Army Returns

According to Army Regulations and War Department General Orders, the commanding officers of every post, regiment, department, army corps, division, brigade, and detached command were required to submit a return to the Adjutant General at specified intervals, usually monthly, on forms provided by that office. The returns are a type of personnel report, designed to show the strength of each unit. The National Archives and Records Administration reproduced these returns in several microfilm publications. Rolls containing records of interest to South Dakota history were purchased by the State Archives as part of the Indian Archives Project.

Returns from U.S. Military Posts, 1865-1916 (M617).

These returns show the units that were stationed at a particular post and their strength, the names and duties of the officers, the number of officers present and absent, a listing of official communications received, and a record of events. Returns are filed alphabetically by the name of the post and thereunder in chronological order.

CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
Fort Bennett, May 1870 - Dec. 1880	106	1622
Jan. 1881 - Dec. 1891	107	
Crow Creek Agency, Feb. 1864 - Apr. 1871	274	1623
Fort Dakota, Jan. 1866 - May 1869	281	1623
Grand River Agency, May 1870 - May 1875	413	1624
Fort Hale, July 1870 - July 1884	435	1624
Fort James, Jan. - Oct. 1866	533	1624
Fort Meade, Aug. 1878 - Dec. 1891	764	1625
Jan. 1892 - Dec. 1903	765	
Jan. 1904 - Dec. 1916	766	
Fort Niobrara, Apr. 1880 - Dec. 1894	864	1626
Jan. 1895 - Sept. 1906	865	
Fort Pierre, July 1855 - May 1857	920	1627
Fort Randall, June 1856 - Dec. 1866	988	1628
Jan. 1867 - Dec. 1879	989	
Jan. 1880 - Nov. 1892	990	
Fort Sisseton, June 1864 - Dec. 1872	1179	1629
Jan. 1873 - Dec. 1880	1180	
Jan. 1881 - June 1889	1181	
Fort Sully, June 1864 - Dec. 1874	1238	1630
Jan. 1875 - Dec. 1884	1239	
Jan. 1885 - Oct. 1894	1240	
Whetstone Indian Agency, June 1870 - Apr. 1872	1424	1631
Pine Ridge Agency, Nov. 1890 - June 1891 (roll also includes Camp Pinal to Pocatello)	1532	5026
Red Cloud Agency, Nov. 1877 - May 1879 (roll also includes Ragay to Camp Red Willow)	1535	5027
Spotted Tail Agency, Dec. 1877 - July 1878 (roll also includes Siquijor [Philippines] to Springfield [TN])	1543	5028
Yankton Agency, Dec. 1865 - Mar. 1866 (roll also includes Camp A.E. Wood to Young's Point)	1550	5029

Returns from Regular Army Cavalry Regiments, 1874-1900 (M744).

These returns report the strength of each cavalry regiment in total number of men present, absent, sick, or on extra daily duty, and give a specific accounting of officers and enlisted men by name. Some returns also include an accounting of strength in terms of horses, artillery, and other information of interest. They are filmed numerically by regimental number. Records filed with the Adjutant General's office as "Historical Data" were filmed before the monthly returns for each regiment. After the December returns for each year are filmed any other kind of return filed by the Adjutant General's office for that year. These additional returns appear on the microfilm in the order as follows:

1. Annual and Quarterly Returns of Alterations and Casualties
2. Monthly Returns of Battalions, Companies, Detachments, and Squadrons
3. Special Field Returns and Field Returns
4. Returns of Casualties
5. Tri-monthly Field Returns.

The only exception to this pattern are the returns of the 8th Cavalry Regiment, which were filmed in the same order in which they were bound; the company, field, and other miscellaneous returns for a specific month have been filmed immediately after each pertinent monthly return in the same year.

CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
1 st Cavalry, 1897-1900	9	5030
4 th Cavalry, 1877-1883	43	5031
7 th Cavalry, 1874-1881	72	5032
8 th Cavalry, 1890-1897	82	5033

Returns from Regular Army Infantry Regiments, 1874-1882 (M665).

These returns report the strength of each infantry regiment in total number of men present, absent, sick, or on extra daily duty, and to give a specific accounting of officers and enlisted men by name. Some returns also include an accounting of strength in terms of horses, artillery, and other information of interest. The returns were filmed numerically by regimental number. Records filed with the Adjutant General's office as "Historical Data" were filmed before the monthly returns for each regiment. After the December returns for each year are filmed any other kind of return filed by the Adjutant General's office for that year. These additional returns appear on the microfilm in the order as follows:

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4. Returns of Casualties
5. Tri-monthly Field Returns.

CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
8 th Infantry, 1874-1882	94	5017