

Cheyenne River Agency

(see also Upper Platte Agency)

Established in 1869, this agency is sometimes called the Cheyenne Agency. The agency was located on the west bank of the Missouri River below the mouth of the Big Cheyenne River, about six miles from Fort Sully. The following Lakota bands settled at Cheyenne Agency: Miniconjou, Sisasapa, Oohenunpa, and Itazipco.

Headmen at this agency included: Lone Horn, Red Shirt, White Swan, Duck, and Big Foot of the Miniconjou; Tall Mandan, Four Bears, and Rattling Ribs of the Oohenunpa; and Burnt Face, Charger, Spotted Eagle, and Bull Eagle of the Itazipco.

Today the reservation is located in north-central South Dakota in Dewey and Ziebach counties. The tribal land base is 1.4 million acres with the eastern boundary being the Missouri River. Major communities include Cherry Creek, Dupree, Eagle Butte, Green Grass, Iron Lightning, Lantry, LaPlant, Red Scaffold, Ridgeview, Thunder Butte, and White Horse. Arvol Looking Horse, 19th generation keeper of the Sacred Pipe of the Great Sioux Nation, lives at Green Grass.

Collections

ACCESSION #	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
H76-105	Chief's Certificates, 1873-1874 (Man Afraid of His Horses, Red Cloud, Red Dog, High Wolf)	Box 3568A

Indian Register, 1876

This register contains a census of Indians on the Cheyenne River Agency in 1876. The original is the property of the National Archives and was microfilmed at the request of the South Dakota State Historical Society in 1960.

CONTENTS	MF LOCATION
Cheyenne River Agency Indian Register, 1876	9694 (Census Microfilm)

Indian Census Rolls, 1892-1924 (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.

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Cheyenne River, 1921-1929	38	9646
Cheyenne River, 1930-1932	39	9647
Cheyenne River, 1933-1942	40	9648

Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1871-1880 (M234).

The records in this microfilm publication consist of communications received by the Office of Indian Affairs from the Cheyenne River 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.

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Publications

TITLE	LOCATION
<i>Constitution and By-Laws of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, South Dakota.</i> Approved December 27, 1935.	KF 8221.D1 C5 1935a
In the Circuit Court of the United States, District of Dakota, Central Division. Jane E. Waldron, complainant vs. the United States of America, Black Tomahawk, and Ira A. Hatch, as Indian Agent at Cheyenne River Indian Agency, defendants. 1904.	KF 117.9 8 th cir. 1904 Wald
<i>Chief Martin Charger, Pretty Bear, and Certain Other Indians.</i> 59 th Cong. 1 st sess. Senate. Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1906.	E99.D1 G6 U5

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.

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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 Cheyenne River 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
Report of Irregular Employees, Pine Ridge Agency, 1905. Investigation of Cheyenne River Agency, 1901-1905. Investigation of Complaints at Lower Brule Agency, 1907. Report of Irregular Employees, Rosebud Agency, 1905. Special Series A – Indian Allotment Applications for Lands within the Great Sioux Reservation, 1891-1898 (unarranged).	5038
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
Docket 192 – The Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne River Reservation vs. the United States, 1951-1963	5098
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Cheyenne River Agency: Superintendent’s Annual Narrative and Statistical Reports from Field Jurisdictions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1910-1935 (M1011).

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Reports of Inspections of the Field Jurisdictions of the Office of Indian Affairs, 1874-1900 (M1070).

This microfilm publication from the National Archives contains reports prepared by inspectors for the Indian Service and submitted to the Office of Indian Affairs. Inspectors for the Indian Service were first appointed July 1, 1873, under the provision of an act of February 14, 1873 (17 Stat. 463). The 1873 act required each agency to be visited by an inspector at least once a year, preferably twice a year by alternate inspectors. The inspectors investigated all matters pertaining to the conditions of the Indians and the extent to which they adopted white civilization, reservation boundaries, the use of reservation lands, the state of industry, the character and abilities of the agent and other employees, school conditions, the state of agency fiscal records, and enforcement or violation of the law.

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