

Crow Creek Agency

(see also Lower Brule Agency and Upper Missouri Agency)

Operating under the name Upper Missouri Agency in 1861, the agency was renamed Crow Creek Agency in 1874. By 1871 the agency was located at Soldier Creek on the east bank of the Missouri River, about eight miles from present day Crow Creek.

The Lower Yanktonai were settled at Crow Creek Agency after the treaty of 1859 ceded all lands of the Yankton and Yanktonais to the federal government, a result of the Spirit Lake massacre.

After the 1862 uprising in Minnesota, members of the Mdewakanton and Wahpekute bands of Santee and Winnebago Indians were moved to Crow Creek. The Winnebagos were removed to the Omaha reservation in Nebraska in 1865. In 1866, after the arrival of several hundred Lower Yanktonai, Sicangu, and Oohenunpa, the Santee were removed to a separate reservation in Nebraska. The following year, the Sicangu and Oohenunpa settled on the west bank of the Missouri River across from the Crow Creek Agency at Lower Brule Agency.

Drifting Goose, leader of the Hunkpati band of Yanktonai, is remembered for refusing to sign the 1859 treaty. He was proud of the fact that he "signed nothing" and gave up "nothing." His scare tactics against non-Indians forced President Rutherford Hayes to set aside a 65,000-acre reservation along the James River for his Hunkpati band. A year later, in 1880, Drifting Goose and his people gave up their reservation and settled at Crow Creek Agency.

Today the reservation is located along the east bank of the Missouri River in central South Dakota in Hughes, Hyde, and Buffalo counties. The land base is 125,591 acres. Contemporary artist Oscar Howe (1915-1983) and writer Elizabeth Cook-Lynn are from Crow Creek Agency.

Agency Records, 1880-1882.

CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
Crow Creek Agency, Ration Issue Book, 1880-1882	1	1620
Crow Creek Agency, Land Allotment Book, 1880-1881	2	1621

Correspondence, 1872-1945.

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.

This record series mostly consists of correspondence, including subject correspondence, decimal correspondence, correspondence received from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, general correspondence, letters received at Lower Brule, and copies of letters sent to the Commissioner.

Interspersed throughout the correspondence are land records, including surveys, allotments, transactions, inheritance, and leases.

DESCRIPTION	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
Subject Files - Land, Correspondence Advertising Indian Lands, 1907-1911 Land Allotments, 1893-1914	1	6572
Subject Files - Land, Correspondence Land Allotments, 1914-1918 Land Contracts, 1909-1918	2	6573
Subject Files - Land, Correspondence Land, Misc., 1904-1915 Land Sales, 1905-1922 Land Surveys, 1909 (one document)	3	6574
Subject Files - Land, Correspondence Land Surveys, 1910-1922 Decimal Correspondence - 310 (Transfer of Land) Patent in Fee, 1908-1914	4	6575
Decimal Correspondence - 310 (Transfer of Land) Land Sales, Lodge Smoke (or Wiki), Antoine Rondell, 1914-1915 Contracts, 1908-1934 (A-C)	5	6576
Decimal Correspondence - 310 (Transfer of Land) Contracts, 1908-1934 (C-Li)	6	6577
Decimal Correspondence - 310 (Transfer of Land) Contracts, 1908-1934 (Li-Pr)	7	6578
Decimal Correspondence - 310 (Transfer of Land) Contracts, 1908-1934 (Pr-Z) Land Survey Field Notes - Sioux Reserve, 1875	8	6579
Land Survey Field Notes - Sioux Reserve, 1875 Sioux Land Certificate Stubs (Treaty of April 29, 1868), 1881-1885 Letters Pertaining to Survey of Land and Allotments, 1886-1887 Record Book of Allottees and Related Records, 1889- 1896 Land Allotment Register (Act of March 2, 1889), 1891-1895 Sale of Land, Deceased Indians, 1904-1909	9	6580
Sale of Land, Deceased Indians, 1904-1914 Sale of Land, Non-Competent Indians, 1908 Land and Timber Sales, 1917-1918 Misc. Land Records and Reports, 1934-1935	10	6581

DESCRIPTION	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
Misc. Land Records and Reports, 1934-1935 Applications for Allotments, 1908-1915 Application for Fee Simple Patents, 1910-1914 Wills, 1910-1916 Deed Book, Vol. 1, 1920-1922 Rehabilitation Loan Land Deeds, 1939-1941 Land Transactions, 1936	11	6582
Land Transactions, 1936-1937 (Lower Brule)	12	6583
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Land Transactions, 1937	14	6585
Land Transactions, 1937-1940	15	6586
Land Transactions, 1940-1941 Inherited Interests in Estates, circa 1930 (A-J)	16	6587
Inherited Interests in Estates, circa 1930 (K-Z, other agencies A-Th)	17	6588
Inherited Interests in Estates, circa 1930 (other agencies Th-Z) Lease Register, 1906-1924 Record Book of Leases, 1919-1924 Sale of Grazing Privileges, 1929-1938 Lease Accounting Cards (Form 5-396), 1925-1943	18	6589
Lease Accounting Cards (Form 5-396), 1925-1943	19	6590
Lease Accounting Cards (Form 5-396), 1925-1943	20	6591
Lease Accounting Cards (Form 5-396), 1925-1943	21	6592
Lease Accounting Cards (Form 5-396), 1925-1943	22	6593
Lease Accounting Cards (Form 5-396), 1925-1943	23	6594
Lease Accounting Cards (Form 5-396), 1925-1943	24	6595
Lease Accounting Cards (Form 5-396), 1925-1943 Lease Accounting Cards, Grazing Permits, and Lease Correspondence, 1926-1945	25	6596
Lease Accounting Cards, Grazing Permits, and Lease Correspondence, 1926-1945 Powers of Attorney for Grazing Permits on Allotted Land, 1931-1945 Register of Correspondence Received, 1902-1910	26	6597
Register of Correspondence Received, 1902-1910 Copies of Letters Sent to the Commissioner Concerning Land, Apr 1906 - Mar 1909	27	6598
Copies of Letters Sent to the Commissioner Concerning Land, Mar 1909 - Jul 1910	28	6599
Copies of Letters Sent to the Commissioner Concerning Land, Oct 1910 - Jun 1911 Copies of Letters Sent to the Commissioner Concerning Land, Sep 1907 - Nov 1908	29	6600

DESCRIPTION	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
Copies of Letters Sent to the Commissioner Concerning Land, Nov 1908 - Dec 1909	30	6601
Copies of Letters Sent to the Commissioner Concerning Land, Dec 1909 - May 1910	31	6602
Copies of Letters Sent to the Commissioner Concerning Land, May 1910 Correspondence Received from the Commissioner, Dec 1872 - Mar 1874	32	6603
Correspondence Received from the Commissioner, Mar 1874 - Feb 1880	33	6604
Correspondence Received from the Commissioner, Feb 1880 - Apr 1882	34	6605
Correspondence Received from the Commissioner, Apr 1882 - Mar 1885	35	6606
Correspondence Received from the Commissioner, Feb 1885 - Mar 1887	36	6607
Correspondence Received from the Commissioner, Mar 1887 - Mar 1890	37	6608
Correspondence Received from the Commissioner, Mar 1890 - Feb 1893	38	6609
Correspondence Received from the Commissioner, Feb 1893 - 1895	39	6610
General Correspondence Received, 1878-1880 (reverse chronological order)	40	6611
General Correspondence Received, 1878-1882 (chronological order)	41	6612
General Correspondence Received, 1883-1889 (reverse chronological order)	42	6613
General Correspondence Received, 1886-1893 (chronological order)	43	6614
General Correspondence Received, 1893-1894 (chronological order)	44	6615
General Correspondence Received, 1894-1895 (chronological order)	45	6616
Letters Received at Lower Brule, 1913-1917 (A-D)	46	6617
Letters Received at Lower Brule, 1913-1917 (D-I)	47	6618
Letters Received at Lower Brule, 1913-1917 (I-N)	48	6619
Letters Received at Lower Brule, 1913-1917 (N-W)	49	6620
Letters Received at Lower Brule, 1913-1917 (W-Z) Letters Sent to the Commissioner, 1868-1878	50	6621
Letters Sent to the Commissioner, 1878-1880	51	6622
Letters Sent to the Commissioner, 1880-1882	52	6623
Letters Sent to the Commissioner, 1882-1884	53	6624
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Letters Sent to the Commissioner, 1886-1887	55	6626
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Letters Sent to the Commissioner, 1891-1892	58	6629
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Letters Sent to the Commissioner, 1900-1902	64	6635
Letters Sent to the Commissioner, 1902-1903	65	6636
Letters Sent to the Commissioner, 1903-1904	66	6637
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Letters Sent to the Commissioner, 1905-1906	68	6639
Letters Sent to the Commissioner, 1906-1907	69	6640
Letters Sent to the Commissioner, 1907-1908	70	6641
Letters Sent to the Commissioner, 1908 (Feb-Oct)	71	6642
Letters Sent to the Commissioner, 1908-1909	72	6643
Letters Sent to the Commissioner, 1909-1910	73	6644

Indian Census Rolls, 1886-1942 (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
Crow Creek - Lower Yanktonai Sioux and Lower Brule Sioux, 1886-1905	87, 88	9649
Crow Creek - Lower Yanktonai Sioux, 1906-1920	89	9650

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Crow Creek - Lower Yanktonai Sioux and Lower Brule Sioux, 1921-1929	90	9651
Crow Creek - Lower Yanktonai Sioux and Lower Brule Sioux, 1930-1939, 1942	91, 92	9652

Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1871-1876 (M234).

The records in this microfilm publication consist of communications received by the Office of Indian Affairs from the Crow Creek 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
Crow Creek Agency, 1871-1876 Crow Wing Agency, 1835-1840	249	1434

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Special Case Files, 1880-1986.

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 Crow Creek 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 #92 - Sioux land cession to Poncas, 1881-1882 Case #96 - Executive Addition of Nebraska lands to Sioux Reservation at Pine Ridge Agency, 1880-1882 Case #101 - Dakota Central Railroad Right of Ways on Sioux Reservation, 1879-1881 Case #104 - Reduction of Great Sioux Reservation, 1881-1884 (opening land to white settlement and grazing) Case #115 - Proposed Reduction of Crow Creek and Old Winnebago Reservations, 1880-1886 (arguments for and against opening the land for settlement and allowing illegal settlers to remain)	5042

DESCRIPTION	MF LOCATION
Case #143 – Missionary Lands on Crow Creek and Lower Brule Agencies, 1887-1904 Case #158 – Yankton and Missouri Valley Railway through the Yankton Reservation, 1889 Case #190 – Irrigation on Pine Ridge and Rosebud Reservations, 1892-1905 Case #191 – Farming and Grazing Leases, 1900-1907 (Crow Creek, Pine Ridge)	5043
Case #191, continued – Farming and Grazing Leases, 1901-1906 (Crow Creek)	5044
Dockets 115 – The Sioux Tribe of the Crow Creek Reservation vs. the United States, 1964-1986	5096

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

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Crow, 1929-1935 Crow Creek, 1910-1921	31	4448
Crow Creek, 1922-1935	32	4449