

Dakota Superintendency of Indian Affairs

The two principal types of field jurisdictions of the Office of Indian Affairs in the 19th century were superintendencies and agencies. Superintendents had general responsibility for Indian affairs in a designated geographical area. Their duties included the supervision of relations between the tribes and non-Indians, the supervision of the conduct and accounts of agents responsible to them, the communication of instructions from the Commissioner to agents, and the granting of leaves of absence to subordinates. It was also common practice for them to receive contract bids, enter into contracts, and issue annuities to the Indians. Under each superintendent were agents, subagents, or special agents immediately responsible for one or more tribes.

.An act of March 2, 1861 (12 Stat. 239), which created the Territory of Dakota, authorized the Territorial Governor to assume the duties of the Superintendent of Indian Affairs for that area. The Territorial Governor at Yankton served as ex officio superintendent until the superintendency was discontinued in 1870. From 1870-1877, the agencies in Dakota reported directly to the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington. The Dakota Superintendency was reactivated in 1877 with a full-time superintendent, but disbanded permanently in 1878.

Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1851-1867 (M234).

The records in this microfilm publication consist of communications received by the Office of Indian Affairs from the Dakota Superintendency 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
Dakota Superintendency, 1861-1867	250	1435
Dakota Superintendency, 1868-1870	251	1435
Dakota Superintendency, 1871-1873	252	1436
Dakota Superintendency, 1874	253	1436
Dakota Superintendency, 1875 (A47-I856)	254	1437
Dakota Superintendency, 1875 (I856-W1842 ½)	255	1437
Dakota Superintendency, 1876 (A4-H893)	256	1438
Dakota Superintendency, 1876 (H919-R310)	257	1438
Dakota Superintendency, 1876 (R357-Y3)	258	1439
Dakota Superintendency, 1877 (A6-D392)	259	1440
Dakota Superintendency, 1877 (D395-L338)	260	1440
Dakota Superintendency, 1877 (L358-W92)	261	1441
Dakota Superintendency, 1877 (W94-Y159)	262	1441

CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
Dakota Superintendency, 1878 (A10-D541)	263	1442
Dakota Superintendency, 1878 (D543-H853)	264	1442
Dakota Superintendency, 1878 (H858-M1460)	265	1443
Dakota Superintendency, 1878 (M1495-Y165)	266	1443
Dakota Superintendency, 1879 (A4-D252)	267	1444
Dakota Superintendency, 1879 (D264-G333)	268	1444
Dakota Superintendency, 1879 (G341-O353)	269	1445
Dakota Superintendency, 1879 (O354-Y151)	270	1445
Dakota Superintendency, 1880 (A2-D141)	271	1446
Dakota Superintendency, 1880 (D143-H1465)	272	1447
Dakota Superintendency, 1880 (H1505-Y82)	273	1448

Records of the Dakota Superintendency of Indian Affairs, 1861-1870, 1877-1878, and the Wyoming Superintendency, 1870 (M1016).

This microfilm publication was produced by the National Archives and contains records relating to almost all aspects of Indian administration within the Dakota Superintendency. There are documents relating to negotiation and enforcement of treaties; Indian delegations; intrusions on Indian lands; hostilities and depredations; enforcement of federal laws and regulations; traders and licenses; contracts; claims; location of agencies; construction and repair of buildings; purchase and transportation of goods and supplies; furnishing food and other subsistence to Indians; Indian education and farming; medical supplies and health; and agency accounts and employees. There is also documentation of general conditions among the Indian tribes, locations of Indian bands, hunting, and intertribal relations.

CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
Letters Received and Accounts, 1861-1863	1	6071
Letters Received and Accounts, 1864-1865	2	6072
Letters Received and Accounts, 1866	3	6073
Letters Received and Accounts, 1867	4	6074
Letters Received, 1868	5	6075
Letters Received from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and from the Cheyenne River, Crow Creek (Upper Missouri), Fort Berthold, and Grand River Agents, 1869	6	6076
Letters Received from the Ponca, Whetstone, and Yankton Agents, 1869 Miscellaneous Letters Received, 1869 Monthly Statements of Letters Received, 1869 Tabular Statements of Funds Remitted to the Superintendent, 1869	7	6077

CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
Letters Received from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and from the Cheyenne River, Crow Creek (Upper Missouri), Fort Berthold, and Grand River Agents, 1870	8	6078
Letters Received from the Ponca, Whetstone, and Yankton Agents, 1870 Miscellaneous Letters Received, 1870 Tabular Statements of Funds Remitted to the Superintendent, 1870	9	6079
Miscellaneous Records Relating to Indian Matters in Dakota, 1873 and 1876 Letters Received from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1877-1878 Accounts, 1877-1878	10	6080
Unbound Copies of Letters Sent, 1861-1866	11	6081
Letters Sent, 1865-1870	12	6082
Letters Sent, 1877-1878 Wyoming Superintendency - Letters Sent and Endorsements, 1870	13	6083