

Devils Lake Agency

(see also Sisseton Agency)

Sometimes called Fort Totten Agency, this agency was created in 1871 to serve the Indians living on the Devil's Lake Reservation. Before 1871 the Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Cut Head Dakota people in that area were assigned to the Sisseton Agency.

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.

CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
Devils Lake (Sioux and Chippewa Indians), 1885-1890, 1892-1897	94, 95	9653
Devils Lake (Sioux and Chippewa Indians), 1898-1905	96, 97	9654

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 Devils Lake 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
Devils Lake Agency, 1871-1873	281	1449
Devils Lake Agency, 1874-1876	282	1450
Devils Lake Agency, 1876-1880	283, 284	1451