

Fort Totten Agency (see also Devils Lake Agency)

Often called the Devils Lake 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.

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Fort Shaw School, 1910 Fort Totten (Devils Lake Sioux and Turtle Mountain Chippewa Indians), 1906-1909	161	9656
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