

## Northern Superintendency of Indian Affairs

The two principal types of field jurisdictions of the Office of Indian Affairs in the 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

The Northern Superintendency was created in 1851, but did not oversee Indians related to South Dakota until 1856 when the Minnesota Superintendency was discontinued and the St. Peters Agency transferred. In 1863 many Sioux and Winnebago Indians were moved from Minnesota to reserves on the Missouri River near the mouth of Crow Creek in Dakota Territory. Although it was located within the boundaries of the Dakota Superintendency, the Winnebago Agency continued to report to the Northern Superintendency. By 1865 most of the Winnebago had abandoned the Crow Creek area to settle on part of the Omaha Indian Reserve in eastern Nebraska, and the Winnebago Agency was moved to this new location. The St. Peters agent was assigned to the Sioux Indians at Crow Creek, and his agency transferred from the Northern Superintendency to the Dakota Superintendency in 1865.

Administrative reorganization efforts in 1865 left the Northern Superintendency in charge of the Winnebago Agency and the Upper Platte Agency. In 1866 the St. Peters Agency, now known as the Santee Sioux or Santee Agency, returned to the jurisdiction of the Northern Superintendency when the agency and the Sioux were moved to Nebraska from Dakota Territory. The Upper Platte Agency was renamed the Whetstone Agency and transferred to the Dakota Superintendency in 1869. When the Northern Superintendency was discontinued in 1876, the Winnebago and Santee Sioux Agencies became independent, reporting directly to the Office of Indian Affairs.

### Collections

ACCESSION #	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
H78-050	<i>Chester Adams Letters, 1863-1864</i> Chester Adams was a Special Agent of the Northern Superintendency in 1863 and 1864. He was assigned to the Sioux and Winnebago Agency above Fort Randall, Dakota Territory, with orders to assist in the procurement of cattle and farming implements for the Indians and to help them establish farms. This collection contains his correspondence from that time, including 21 letters and a telegram.	Box 3573A

## Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1851-1876 (M234).

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

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Northern Superintendency, 1861-1867	599	4736
Northern Superintendency, 1868-1876	600	4737

## Records of the Northern Superintendency of Indian Affairs, 1852-1876 (M1166).

This microfilm publication was produced by the National Archives and contains records relating to almost all aspects of Indian administration within the Northern Superintendency. There are documents relating to recommendations for appointments in the Indian Service; resignations, oaths of office, and bonds of employees in Indian Service; negotiations and enforcement of treaties; Indian councils, Indian delegations, and disturbances between Indians and non-Indians; hostilities and related military operations; enforcement of federal laws and regulations; intrusions on Indian lands; land surveys; bounty land and land scrip; land allotments; deeds to Indian property; Indian removal; annuities and other payments; purchase and transportation of goods and supplies; traders' licenses and applications; liquor traffic; medical treatment; construction and repair of buildings; location of agencies, missionaries, and schools; school curricula and statistics; school employees; population of agencies; charges against and removal of agents; instructions for agents; agents' reports; superintendents' annual reports; depredation claims; and accounts, bids, contracts and proposals.

These microfilm rolls were selected by State Archives' staff for their relevance to South Dakota tribes. *The complete publication may be viewed online through the National Archives Catalog (<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/191672759>).*

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