

Rosebud Agency

(see also Whetstone Agency, Spotted Tail Agency, and Upper Platte Agency)

Originally known as the Upper Platte Agency, it was renamed Whetstone Agency in 1869, then Spotted Tail Agency in 1874, before finally acquiring the name Rosebud in 1878. The Agency served the Sicangu Lakota people led by Spotted Tail as well as members of the Sans Arcs, Oglala, Hunkpapa and Miniconjou bands.

Whetstone Agency was located on the Missouri River where the free-flowing whiskey trade caused Spotted Tail to insist upon relocating the Agency away from accessible river traffic. The Agency first located on the White River near the Nebraska-Dakota border, then moved to Beaver Creek in northwestern Nebraska. A year later, it was moved to the site of the old Ponca Agency on the Missouri River above Yankton. It finally located on Rosebud Creek, in 1878, near its junction with the south fork of the White River.

Chief Milk (an Oglala) and his band were the first to settle on the Rosebud, making their home north of Bonesteel. Swift Bear followed and eventually settled south of Burke on Ponca Creek. Later Medicine Bull settled south of the White River; Good Voice established his band at Oak Creek; Quick Bear, Red Fish, and Red Leaf located in the Norris area, with Red Leaf later moving north of Burke. Other prominent headmen at Rosebud were He Dog, Two Strike, Hollow Horn Bear, Ring Thunder, Stranger Horse, and Yellow Hair.

Today the Rosebud Reservation is situated north of the Nebraska border in central South Dakota in Todd County. It has a land base of 882,416 acres. U. S. Congressman Ben Reifel and nationally renowned opera singer, White Eagle, were Rosebud tribal members.

Records, 1847-1936.

This microfilm publication consists of Rosebud Agency records held by the National Archives facility in Kansas City, Missouri. The records were originally filmed as part of a regional archives microfilm project (6NC-77-2) in 1977. Copies of the microfilm were purchased by the SD State Archives for the Indian Archives Project.

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Register of Indian Families, ca 1894-1902 Marriage Records, 1847-1878, 1906-1917	32	3682
Rosebud School Census, 1915-1916, 1918-1919, 1926 Ponca Reservation School Census, 1927-28, 1930-32 Santee Reservation School Census, 1927-28, 1931-32	33	3683
Yankton Reservation School Census, 1927-1928, 1930-1931 Family Enrollment Report, 1929 Genealogy (Decimal Code 053) Military Records (Decimal Code 601) Employees – Tribal Roll – Degree of Indian Blood (Decimal Code 063.0) Maps and Charts (Decimal Code 014)	34	3684
Annuity Payrolls, 1913-1914 Allotment Records, 1889-1936 This series consists of allotment books. The records, submitted on standard form 5-367a, provide information on allotted Indian land on the Rosebud Indian Reservation. The information provided on each form includes the allottee's name; the allotment number; the individual Indian money account number; the allottee's date of birth, sex, and date of death; the legal description and acreage of the allotted land; and information on improvements, issuance of fee or trust patents, and rental value. Each form includes the probate number and date, and a list of the allottee's heirs, providing information on their names, individual Indian money account numbers, dates of birth, shares in the estate, and relationships to the decedent. Each form includes a list of leases associated with the allotment, providing information on the lessees' names, the lease numbers and types (e.g., agriculture, petroleum, gas), the dates of approval and expiration, and the annual rental amounts.	35	3685

The records also include a schedule of lieu allotments issued on September 12, 1908, submitted on standard form 5-193. The information in each entry includes the allotment number; the legal description of the land to be issued in lieu of the original allotment; the allottee's name; the legal description of the land to be relinquished; and the reason for relinquishment (e.g., rough, sandy, hilly, poor soil, cut by a creek). The schedule includes a certification that the lieu allotments were issued correctly, signed by the Rosebud Agency superintendent and the special allotting agent. Index to Allotment Books Allotment Books, 1 - 500		
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Indian Census Rolls, 1886-1943 (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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Rosebud (Brule and Other Bands of Sioux Indians), 1886 (totals only), 1887, 1891	427	9670
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Rosebud (Sioux Indians), 1927-1930	438-440	9674
Rosebud (Sioux Indians), 1931 (with birth and death rolls, 1924-1931), 1932	441-442	9675
Rosebud (Sioux Indians), 1933	443	9676
Rosebud (Rosebud and Yankton Sioux Indians), 1934-1935	444	9677
Rosebud (Rosebud and Yankton Sioux Indians), 1936-1939, 1942-1943	445	9678

Correspondence with Agency Farmers, 1899-1931.

These records are housed at the National Archives facility in Kansas City, Missouri and were microfilmed at the request of the SD State Archives for the Indian Archives Project.

The correspondence is arranged in three separate systems: chronologically by year, 1912-1929; alphabetically, 1914-1931; and alphabetically by district, 1899-1924 and represents three separate series of Rosebud Agency records at the National Archives.

Chronological Correspondence with Farmers, 1912-1929. These are primarily letters received from and copies of letters sent to the district farmers. In most cases the correspondent is the superintendent, but there are letters to or from the day school inspector, teachers, local merchants, or other agency employees. Occasionally there are copies of letters from and to persons other than the farmer. The correspondence chiefly concerns the farmers' supervision of school attendance and truancy, the use of school land and property, student health, the transfer of students to other reservation districts, school staffing, vacations, allotments, rations, construction of buildings, equipment, supplies, and the distribution of annuity payments.

Alphabetical Correspondence with Farmers, 1914-1931. This series consists chiefly of letters received and copies of letters sent by farmers in the Black Pipe District. Correspondents are the agency superintendent, other agencies, agency employees, private citizens, and businesses. The subjects covered include the farmer's responsibilities as, in effect, a subagent: such matters as allotment leases, work for Indians, students, applications for prorata shares of tribal funds, purchases by Indians using trust funds, and other matters which came up in the day-to-day operation of the district.

Alphabetical Correspondence with Farmers by District, 1899-1924. The series consists of correspondence from and to the farmer in charge of the district. His correspondents include additional farmers, the agency superintendent, the supervisor in charge, and other agency employees. Subjects include monthly subsistence checks, leases and lease payments, allotments, heirship, school attendance, cattle brands, supplies, and equipment. There is a bulletin on Peyote in the 1923 Black Pipe District correspondence. There are only two documents from 1899 and no correspondence for 1900-1904.

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Alphabetical Correspondence with Farmers by District (Ponca and Spring Creek Districts)	17	5346

Correspondence with the Ponca Agency, 1863-1872.

These records are housed at the National Archives facility in Kansas City, Missouri and were microfilmed at the request of the SD State Archives for the Indian Archives Project.

Arranged chronologically by date of correspondence. This series consists primarily of correspondence between the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Ponca Agent (the Ponca Agency at the time was an independent agency; it was never linked to the Rosebud Agency). The correspondence includes circulars, General Order No. 4 issued by the Headquarters, Military Division of the Missouri, subjects include the Big Horn expedition of 1870, treaties, and schools. There is a treaty dated January 23, 1863 between the Pawnee Nation and the Yankton Sioux Tribe made and concluded in Grand Council at the Ponca Village on the Ponca Reservation in the Territory of Dakota. A letter dated August 1871 discusses the proposed visit of the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia who wants to witness Indian ceremonials and participate in a buffalo hunt.

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Correspondence with the Ponca Agency, 1863-1872	1	5347

Decimal Correspondence, 1906-1917.

These records are housed at the National Archives facility in Kansas City, Missouri and were microfilmed at the request of the SD State Archives for the Indian Archives Project.

The correspondence is arranged chronologically by year and thereunder numerically according to a local version of the field office decimal code provided by the Office of Indian Affairs in 1925. It was used by the agency from 1909-1917. Most of the superintendent's office records were channeled into this file. Apparently the agency placed pre-1909 documents in the file as well, as correspondence created as early as 1906 appears.

Much of the file consists of letters received and copies of letters sent; correspondence with all classes of agency correspondents, from the Office of Indian Affairs to business firms, agency employees and private individuals, are represented. In addition, there are forms, reports, bills, receipts and various other documents created or received in the course of operating the agency. While the superintendent's office was directly involved in the creation or receipt of much of the documentation, other agency officials administrative divisions are also represented.

DECIMAL CODE	CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
310	Lands	1	5255
320-340 050	Lands General and Statistical	2	5256
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700-800	Health and Social Relations, Education	35	5289
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160-163.1	Administration and Control		
163.1	Administration and Control	37	5291
163.1-261	Administration and Control, Finance and Accounts	38	5292
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310-360	Lands	41	5295
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DECIMAL CODE	CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
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566-730	Supplies and Stock, Health and Social Relations	46	5300
730-920 160	Health and Social Relations, Industries & Employment Administration and Control	47	5301
160.1-261	Administration and Control, Finance and Accounts	48	5302
261-308	Finance and Accounts, Lands	49	5303
308-370	Lands	50	5304
400-510	Buildings and Equipment, Supplies and Stock	51	5305
510-569	Supplies and Stock	52	5306
569-920 160-162	Supplies and Stock, Industries and Employment Administration and Control	53	5307
162-261	Administration and Control, Finance and Accounts	54	5308
261-264	Finance and Accounts	55	5309
264-310	Finance and Accounts, Lands	56	5310
310-510	Lands, Supplies and Stock	57	5311
510-550	Supplies and Stock	58	5312
550-800	Supplies and Stock, Education	59	5313
800-920 160-163	Education, Industries and Employment Administration and Control	60	5314
163	Administration and Control	61	5315
163-264	Administration and Control, Finance and Accounts	62	5316
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320-510	Lands, Supplies and Stock	64	5318
510-561	Supplies and Stock	65	5319
562-916 030	Supplies and Stock, Industries and Employment General and Statistical	66	5320
060 160-163	General and Statistical Administration and Control	67	5321
163-261	Administration and Control, Finance and Accounts	68	5322
261-420	Finance and Accounts, Buildings and Equipment	69	5323
500-566	Supplies and Stock	70	5324
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566-920 030-163	Supplies and Stock, Industries and Employment General and Statistical, Admin. and Control	72	5326

DECIMAL CODE	CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
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800-926	Education, Industries and Employment	75	5329
163-916	Administration and Control, Education		

Law Enforcement Case Files, 1913-1925.

These records are housed at the National Archives facility in Kansas City, Missouri and were microfilmed at the request of the SD State Archives for the Indian Archives Project.

Arranged alphabetically by last name of person or name of company and thereunder chronologically by date of correspondence. There is a U.S. attorney's file at the beginning of the series. Most of the files are those of people accused of crimes; the remainders pertain to the stock detectives, superintendent, district farmer, other agencies, and businesses with interests in crimes committed by Indians. The type of crimes were usually of the following nature: horse or cattle stealing, selling cattle that they did not own, using pasture land without permission, selling liquor to Indians, and drunkenness.

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Downs – Kline	6	5352
Kline (continued) – Robinson	7	5353
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Stewart (continued) - Zitnap	9	5355

Manuscript Collections.

CONTENTS	ACCESSION #	LOCATION
George Whirlwind Soldier Papers - Correspondence, Lease Agreements, Speeches, 1919-1949.	H88-015	Box 3750A

Miscellaneous Correspondence Received, 1878-1913.

These records are housed at the National Archives facility in Kansas City, Missouri and were microfilmed at the request of the SD State Archives for the Indian Archives Project.

The correspondence is arranged chronologically by year and thereunder by date of document. One folder containing undated correspondence is at the beginning of the series.

The letters, mostly manuscript until ca. 1890 and a mixture of manuscript and typescript thereafter, were addressed to the agent from such persons as commercial suppliers, other Indian agencies, agency employees, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Indian boarding schools, and other persons doing business with or interested in the Rosebud Agency. Occasionally there are copies of outgoing correspondence. There is also some correspondence addressed to agency employees other than the agent; most of the 1900-1901 correspondence, for example, is addressed to the day school inspector.

All aspects of the business of the agency were discussed in this correspondence, including employees, employment, financial matters, Indian trading licenses, allotments, the purchase of supplies, and general agency and Office of Indian Affairs policies.

There are significant gaps in last years of these records: gaps of up to several months after 1900, no correspondence for 1911-1912, and practically none for 1910 and 1913.

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Aug 1881 – Mar 1882	5	5244
Apr 1882 – Oct 1882	6	5245
Oct 1882 – Sept 1885 (bulk: 1883)	7	5246
Sept 1885 – Sept 1889	8	5247
Sept 1889 – Aug 1891	9	5248
Aug 1891 – Nov 1893	10	5249
Nov 1893 – Dec 1895	11	5250
Dec 1895 – Sept 1898	12	5251
Oct 1898 – Oct 1899	13	5252
Oct 1899 – May 1900	14	5253
May 1900 – Jan 1913 (large gaps in 1900-1910, 1911 and 1912 missing)	15	5254

Publications.

TITLE	LOCATION
<i>Corporate Charter of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, South Dakota.</i> Ratified March 16, 1937. Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1937.	KF8221.D1 C61 1937
<i>Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, in relation to the affairs of the Indians at the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota.</i> Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1892.	E99.D1 U55

Quarterly School Reports, 1886-1920.

These records are housed at the National Archives facility in Kansas City, Missouri and were microfilmed at the request of the SD State Archives for the Indian Archives Project.

Arranged chronologically by date of report and thereunder alphabetically by name of school. The quarterly school reports were filled out and sent to the Indian Office in Washington. Information provided varies as the report forms changed periodically. All reports provide the name and location of the school, quarter ending date, and a teacher's certificate; sometimes there is also an agent's/superintendent's certificate attesting to the correctness of the report.

Reports for 1886-1892 contain the following information regarding employees: names of employees, positions, salary, number of days on duty during month, how subsisted (by government rations, at personal expense, or contractor). Student information includes: name of student, tribe, age, boarding, day, reads, writes, works in arithmetic, advanced to higher grade during quarter, and number of days in attendance.

Reports for 1894-1904 contain the following information: name of employee, positions, salary, number days on duty during quarter, how subsisted; name of student, tribe, age, sex, boarding, day, number of days in attendance.

The 1910 report includes two sections. The first describes pupils enrolled during the quarter (name, degree of blood, tribe, date entered, name of agency, age, and number of days in attendance). The second describes pupils withdrawn during the quarter (name, degree of blood, tribe, date withdrawn, cause of withdrawal, age, and - if transferred to other Indian schools - name of school). There is also a summary section which lists the number of pupils in each grade, the number of days school was in session, new pupils enrolled, enrollment during preceding quarters, withdrawals, present enrollment, and the number of boys and girls in school.

The 1912-1920 reports include the student's name, age, tribe, degree of blood, name of agency and reservation. Also included is the date entered, months in school before enrollment, grade (on entering here, at date of report) in what trade or industry instructed during quarter, distance to nearest public school from home, number of days in attendance, and remarks. The reports include a recapitulation section and a section for breakdown of pupils, by grade, ages, tribes, degree of blood, number of outing pupils, number of pupils transported at government expense, and value of school products consumed.

There are gaps in the records. Not all quarters are available for any given year and the schools the reports cover vary from quarter to quarter and one year to the next. There are no reports for 1893, 1895, 1905-1909, and 1911.

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Quarterly School Reports, 1886	9	5355
Quarterly School Reports, 1886-1896	10	5356
Quarterly School Reports, 1897-1901	11	5357
Quarterly School Reports, 1902-1916	12	5358
Quarterly School Reports, 1917-1920	13	5359

Records of Indian Police on Duty, 1878-1904.

These records are housed at the National Archives facility in Kansas City, Missouri and were microfilmed at the request of the SD State Archives for the Indian Archives Project.

Arranged chronologically by date of entry or report. The records cover the following years, 1878-1880, 1882-1883, 1888, 1901, and 1903-1904. There is one undated sheet. The information given varies from year to year. Information usually given is name, rank, date service began, and pay per month, along with discharge date, physical description, degree of blood, and tribe. Starting with 1888 an official form "Descriptive Statement of Proposed Changes in the Indian Police Force" was used to record information. Information on the form is as follows: name, position, full blood or mixed, name of tribe, birthplace, married or single, number in family, age, height, weight, measurement of chest (lungs inflated), measurement of chest (lungs not inflated), date of commencing service, compensation per month, and remarks. There are also quarterly reports for fiscal year 1904. The information on these reports is as follows: name, rank, period of service, rate of pay, and amount received.

CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
Record of Indian Police on Duty, 1878-1904	9	5355

Records Relating to Spotted Tail's Murder and Wanda Spotted Tail, 1879-1882, 1919-1922.

These records are housed at the National Archives facility in Kansas City, Missouri and were microfilmed at the request of the SD State Archives for the Indian Archives Project.

Arranged chronologically by date of correspondence. This series consists of records of the murder of Spotted Tail in 1881 by Crow Dog, and the later attempt by a Wanda Spotted Tail to prove that she was Spotted Tail's daughter and therefore gain an allotment on the Rosebud Reservation. The murder correspondence includes narratives of the events of the murder, attempt to secure funding for the appeal of Crow Dog's death sentence, and a copy of the Abstract of Plaintiff in Error. The Wanda Spotted Tail correspondence contains her letters to the superintendent at Rosebud and copies of his replies, as well as other correspondence in her campaign to be acknowledged as the daughter of Spotted Tail. The testimony of Spotted Tail's son William to the effect that Wanda Spotted Tail is not his sister and he knows nothing about her is also included.

NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
4	5350
5	5351

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 Rosebud 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
Report of Irregular Employees, Pine Ridge Agency, 1905. Investigation of Cheyenne River Agency, 1901-1905. Investigation of Complaints at Lower Brule Agency, 1907. Report of Irregular Employees, Rosebud Agency, 1905. Special Series A – Indian Allotment Applications for Lands within the Great Sioux Reservation, 1891-1898 (unarranged).	5038
Case #180 - Sale of lands in Redwood Co, Minnesota "for the relief of the Medawakanton band of Sioux Indians" (H.R. 10869), 1889-1906. Case #63 – Sioux Reservation, Wagon Road Route No. 3, 1882-1884 Case #83 – Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Right of Ways, Sisseton Agency, 1880-1890 Case #88 – Standing Rock Agency, Restoration of Lands East of the Missouri River ("Executive Addition to Sioux Reserve") to Public Domain, 1881-1882. Case #92 – Cheyenne River Agency relative to Ponca Agreement, 1882 Case #91 – Crow Dog Case - Murder of Spotted Tail, 1881-1883	5041
Case #191, continued – Farming and Grazing Leases, 1896-1907 (Rosebud, Lower Brule, Standing Rock)	5045
Case #191, continued – Farming and Grazing Leases, 1901-1905 (Rosebud)	5046
Case #203 - Petitions for Sale of Inherited Lands, 1903-1907 (Lower Brule, Rosebud)	5071
Case #203 - Petitions for Sale of Inherited Lands, 1905-1907 (Rosebud) Docket 74 – Black Hills Land Claim, Sioux Nation Original Papers, 1950-1969	5072

Spotted Tail Agency Correspondence, 1875-1878.

These records are housed at the National Archives facility in Kansas City, Missouri and were microfilmed at the request of the SD State Archives for the Indian Archives Project.

Arranged chronologically by date of correspondence. This series primarily includes correspondence received by the Spotted Tail Agency. (Spotted Tail Agency was an early [1874-1878] name for the Rosebud Agency) There is also correspondence received by the acting Indian Agent at Camp Sheridan, Nebraska and the commander of the District of the Black Hills at Camp Robinson. The correspondents include the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, military officers, other Indian agents, businesses, employees, and Indian traders. Subjects discussed are change of location of the agency, transfer of Indians between agencies, rations, supplies, finances, estates, crimes, education, and proceedings of boards of survey. Some of the correspondence mentions various Sioux chiefs, among them Spotted Tail, Crazy Horse, and Red Cloud.

CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
Correspondence, 1875-1877	1	5347
Correspondence, 1877-1878	2	5348
Correspondence, 1877-1878	3	5349
Correspondence, 1878-1882	4	5350

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

CONTENTS	NARA ROLL #	MF LOCATION
Rocky Boy, 1934-1935 Rosebud, 1910-1928	118	4460
Rosebud, 1929-1935 Roseburg, 1910-1917 Round Valley School, 1910-1923	119	4461