

Yankton Agency

(see also Rosebud Agency, Santee Agency)

The Yankton Agency (often spelled “Yancton”) was created in 1859 to serve the Yankton people. Agency headquarters were located on the Missouri River near Greenwood in present-day Charles Mix County in South Dakota. The Yankton agent also oversaw the Santee Agency from April 1877 through June 1878. In 1933, the Yankton Agency was abolished. The Yankton Sioux transferred to the Rosebud Agency, and the Santee Sioux and the Ponca were transferred to the Winnebago Agency. Yankton was reopened as a sub-agency to the Rosebud Agency in 1937, and then reestablished as a full agency in 1967.

Headmen included Struck-by-the-Ree, Mad Bull, White Swan, War Eagle, Black Eagle, Pretty Rock, Feather-in-his-ear (Feather Necklace), Smutty Bear, Iron Bear, Medicine Cow, Jumping Thunder, The Left Hand or Crazy Walker, and Walking Elk.

Like the Sisseton Reservation, the Yankton Reservation land base was lost as a direct result of the Dawes Allotment Act. Seventy-five percent of the Indians who received fee patents sold their land and spent the proceeds. It is now considered an "open reservation" because the land base is not consolidated.

Today the 40,000 acres of tribal land are located on the east bank of the Missouri River in southeastern South Dakota in Charles Mix County. Fort Randall Dam and Fort Randall Chapel are popular tourist attractions.

School Census, 1927-1928, 1930-1931.

These records were filed with the Rosebud Agency records held by the National Archives facility in Kansas City, Missouri. They were 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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| Yankton Reservation School Census, 1927-1928, 1930-1931 | 34 | 3684 |

Indian Census Rolls, 1885-1931 (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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| Yankton, 1885-1887, 1890, 1892-1894, 1895-1907, 1909-1911, 1913-1917 | 680-683 | 9691 |
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| Yankton (Ponca, Santee, and Yankton Sioux Indians), 1928-1931 | 687-688 | 9693 |

Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1859-1876 (M234).

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

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| Yankton Agency, 1873-1876 | 962 | 1512 |

Publications

| TITLE | LOCATION |
|--|------------------|
| Cwach, Elmer Duane. <i>A History of the Yankton Indian Agency During the Nineteenth Century</i> . Vermillion: State University of South Dakota, 1958. | E99.Y25 C98 |
| Flood, Renee S. and Shirley A. Bernie. <i>Remember Your Relatives: Yankton Sioux Images, 1851-1904</i> . Marty, S.D.: Marty Indian School, 1985. | E99.Y25 F46 1985 |
| <i>Memoranda in behalf of a bill (S5151) to extend the benefits of the act of June 27, 1890, to the members of the company of Yankton Sioux Indian scouts under the command of Gen. Alfred Sully in his campaign in Dakota Territory in 1864-65</i> . 57 th Cong. 1 st Sess. Sen. Doc. 298. Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1902. | E99.Y26 U52 |
| <i>Report of Hon. Theodore Roosevelt Made to the United States Civil Service Commission Upon a Visit to Certain Indian Reservations and Indian Schools in South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas</i> . Philadelphia: Indian Rights Association, 1893. | E78.S63 R8 |
| <i>Treaty Between the United States and the Yankton Tribe of Sioux or Dacotah Indians</i> . April 19, 1858. Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1902. | KF8228.Y25 1858 |
| <i>An Appraisal of the Lands of the Yankton Sioux Tribe Acquired by the United States Under Treaty of April 19, 1858, Ratified February 16, 1859</i> , Royce 410 Lands, Indian Claims Commission, Docket No. 332-C, Yankton Sioux Tribe vs. United States of America. Denver: T.C. Hitchings & Co., 1975. (3 volumes) | KF8228.Y25 1975 |

Land Records, 1902-1942.

The records of the Yankton Agency are housed at the National Archives regional records center in Kansas City, Missouri. As part of the Indian Archives Project, the South Dakota State Archives paid to have these records microfilmed to make them more accessible to tribal members in South Dakota.

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Bureau of Indian Affairs, Special Case Files, 1879-1907.

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 Yankton 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.

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| Case #143 – Missionary Lands on Crow Creek and Lower Brule Agencies, 1887-1904 Case #158 – Yankton and Missouri Valley Railway through the Yankton Reservation, 1889 Case #190 – Irrigation on Pine Ridge and Rosebud Reservations, 1892-1905 Case #191 – Farming and Grazing Leases, 1900-1907 (Crow Creek, Pine Ridge) | 5043 |
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| Docket 74 – Black Hills Land Claim, Sioux Nation Original Papers, 1975-1977, 1983, 1987 (hearing transcripts) – Yankton | 5084 |

Yankton Agency: Superintendent’s Annual Narrative and Statistical Reports from Field Jurisdictions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1910-1931 (M1011).

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