

Fort Bennett

Captain Edward P. Pearson and the 17th U.S. Infantry established Fort Bennett sixty miles north of Fort Pierre on May 17, 1870. Originally, the fort was known as the Cheyenne Agency, but was renamed Fort Bennett in 1878. It was abandoned in 1889.

Collections

Cheyenne Agency Military Station (H75-019)

Records, 1870-1880. Originally the Post was known as the Cheyenne Agency, but the post became Fort Bennett in 1878. The collection contains correspondence and records pertaining to routine matters at the post, and a bid to transport troops and supplies on the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers. 3536B

Fort Bennett Letters (H75-714)

Letters, 1870-1889. Includes post returns, letters sent, letters received, and a report of public buildings at Fort Bennett. MF 1638 and 1639

Fort Bennett Records (H75-12.5)

Records, 1879-1891. These records consist of a letters received book, 1879-1885; letters sent, 1879-1885; and regular supplies and sales to officers books, 1888-1891. Box 3626A

General Photo (H94-015)

Photograph of the military compound of Fort Bennett along Missouri River, 1890. This collection consists of three black and white prints that when pieced together make a panoramic view of Fort Bennett. Box 5719

General Photo (P93)

Includes birds' eye views, barracks, soldiers pitching camp, officers quarters, blacksmith shop, signaling to Ft. Sully from Ft. Bennett, post office, photographer C.H. Newcomb images of American Indians and soldiers around Ft. Bennett, two R. L. Kelly images of Ft. Bennett, the Episcopal Church and St. Johns Mission one mile from Fort Bennett, photo of the proposed ground plan of the fort, and views of the abandoned fort taken in 1952.

Returns for U.S. Military Posts (MF 48)

Post returns for Fort Bennett, Dakota Territory, for May 1870 to December 1880. Includes names of enlisted men and commissioned officers, ranks, regiments, companies, remarks and a record of events for that month. (MF 1622)

Wroten, George W. (H96-012 and H96-026)

Papers, 1887, 1888-1889, 1919. This collection consists of letters written by Wroten, then the Superintendent of the Cheyenne River Agency Boarding School for Indian Boys. The letters describe the school at Fort Bennett, weather conditions, Chief Hump, a murder at the agency, Crook Commission progress at visiting the agencies and White Swan. 6074A

Publications

Anderson, Harry H. A history of the Cheyenne River Indian Agency and its military post, Fort Bennett, 1868-1891. Vermillion : University of South Dakota, 1954.

Fort Bennett. South Dakota Historical Collections. South Dakota State Historical Society: Pierre, S.D. 28:478 79, 482-83, 492, 496, 497, 506, 528-532, 546-51; 27:46-50, 53-54;

Fort Bennett. South Dakota History. South Dakota State Historical Society: Pierre, S.D. 4:335, 10:3-5,7; 20:296; 21:281, 285, 293, 295, 310-13

Vertical Files

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