

Military Records at the South Dakota State Archives - Forts and Posts

Fort Defiance / Gordon Stockade (South Dakota)

Fort Defiance, also known as the Gordon Stockade, was a civilian fortification on French Creek in present-day Custer State Park. It was established by an expedition of white settlers led by John Gordon in December 1874. Settlement of the area was illegal, and the settlers were removed by the U.S. Army in April 1875. The army then assumed control of the fort and began using it as a base of operations.

Collections

General Photo Collection - Gordon Stockade (P93)

Includes the following images: Crook's troops at the Gordon Stockade (Morrow Photo #119); group photo of the Gordon Stockade party, 1876; miscellaneous sketches of the stockade; remnants of the Gordon Stockade.

Fred Greguras Collection, ca 1890s-1950s (H2018-049)

This collection consists of brochures, manuals, booklets, and photographs of various military-related locations throughout South Dakota. The heart of the collection is photographs, dating from the late 1940s to the early 1950s, of military forts and ghost towns in South Dakota. Includes information on Fort Defiance and the Gordon Stockade. (Boxes 05058 B-C)

Stanley J. Morrow Photograph Collection (P194-198)

Includes a photograph of the Gordon Stockade at French Creek (#119).

South Dakota Dept. of Game, Fish and Parks Promotional Materials, 1959-1985 (2007-052)

Includes promotional photographs and negatives of living history demonstrations at the Gordon Stockade in Custer State Park, as well as copies of historical images. (Box 09246)

Publications

Aken, David. Pioneers of the Black Hills: Or, Gordon's Stockade Party of 1874. Fort Davis, TX: Frontier Book Co., 1968.

Van Nuys, Maxwell. The Daring Venture for Custer's Gold: The Aken and Tallent Accounts of the First Civilian Invaders of the Black Hills, the Illegal Gordon Party of 1874. Boulder, CO: Johnson Printing, 2005.

Mentions in South Dakota Historical Collections. Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historical Society.

Gordon Party: Vol. 13, page 27-28; Vol. 36, page 455; Vol. 37, page 241-244

Gordon-Russell Party: Vol. 34, page 44

Gordon Stockade: Vol. 37, page 242-243

Mentions in South Dakota History. Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historical Society.

Camp Harney: Vol. 31, page 201

Gordon, John: Vol. 2, page 146, 148, 151-152, 155-157, 159, 169; Vol. 7, page 385-386, 393;
Vol. 26, page 8-9; Vol. 28, page 3; Vol. 31, page 197, 200-201; Vol. 32, page 17

Gordon Party: Vol. 2, page 156-160; Vol. 7, page 385-401; Vol. 26, page 8-9; Vol. 31, page
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