

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

Fort Rice (North Dakota)

Fort Rice is located approximately thirty miles south of present-day Mandan, North Dakota. It was established on July 7, 1864, by General Alfred H. Sully as a field base during his 1864 expedition. The fort was intended to guard northern plains transportation routes, encouraging their settlement and providing protection for Euro-American settlers. The post was abandoned on November 25, 1878, after the establishment of Fort Yates on the Standing Rock Agency. In 1913, the State of North Dakota acquired Fort Rice, and in the 1940s the Works Progress Administration marked the foundations of many of the fort's buildings. The fort is currently a North Dakota State Historic Site, although none of the original structures remain.

Collections

General Photo Collection - Fort Rice (P95)

Includes an image of the Sutler store, a general view of the buildings, and an image of the site of the fort.

Javan Bradley Irvine Letters, 1859-1902 (H72-003)

Irvine, an army officer, served in the Civil War and at Fort Rice, Fort Thompson, and Fort Sully. This collection includes letters written in 1866-1867 while Irvine was stationed at Fort Rice. (Box 03346 A)

Lydia B. Townsend Letter, 1949 (H75-184)

A six-page typescript letter discussing Donald Townsend's overland freighting business, which operated a route between Fort Rice and St. Paul, Minnesota. (Box 03543 B)

Upper Missouri Sioux Agency Records, 1863-1870 (H72-004)

This collection contains correspondence concerning events at the Upper Missouri Sioux Agency (also known as the Crow Creek Indian Agency), and Fort Rice. (Box 03644 B, MD 89)

U.S. Office of the Adjutant General. Military Orders (H76-069)

This series contains some official military orders pertaining to the posts of Fort Rice and Fort Berthold from 1864 to 1865. Includes warrants for payment, transfers of soldiers from one company to another, charges against soldiers, requests for supplies, and other administrative matters. (Box 03568 A)

Publications

Frank, Robert G. The Historical Significance of Fort Rice. 1964

Frontier Scout (Fort Rice post newspaper), July 14, 1864 - August 24, 1865 (MF 8758, MF 1118)

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

Fort Rice: Vol. 1, page 122, 378-379; Vol. 4, page 269; Vol. 5, page 330-331, 338-342, 345, 347; Vol. 6, page 345; Vol. 8, page 77, 90-92, 309, 328-329, 351, 564-565; Vol. 9, page 280;

Vol. 11, page 360; Vol. 24, page 116-117; Vol. 27, page 142-145; Vol. 28, page 142-145; Vol. 31, page 492-494

Fort Rice Military Reservation: Vol. 27, page 143, 145

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

Fort Rice: Vol. 3, page 245; Vol. 4, page 147, 151-152; Vol. 8, page 26, 29; Vol. 14, page 117; Vol. 21, page 46; Vol. 28, page 92; Vol. 35, page 158; Vol. 37, page 130, 132, 137-138, 157-158, 163, 169, 171-172; Vol. 39, page 137; Vol. 40, page 131, 164

Mentions in Wi-lyohi. Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historical Society.

Fort Rice: Vol. 18, No. 5

Vertical Files

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