

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

Fort Snelling (Minnesota)

Fort Snelling was located at the confluence of the Minnesota and the Mississippi Rivers in present-day St. Paul, Minnesota. The first troops arrived at the site in 1819, and construction began in 1820. Initially the fort was called Fort St. Anthony, but it was renamed Fort Snelling by the U.S. War Department. The fort was closed in 1858 after Minnesota achieved statehood, only to be reopened in 1861 to train Minnesota volunteers during the Civil War. The fort remained an active military post through World War II, before being officially decommissioned in 1946.

Collections

Pearl (Wood) Brennan Collection, ca 1940s (H2008-035)

This collection consists of six scrapbooks, photos, letters, and other information on Pearl (Wood) Brennan, including her time stationed at Fort Snelling with the U.S. Army Nurses Corps. (FB 600)

Fort Snelling Commemorative Envelopes, 1970 (H90-093)

This collection contains five color-tinted envelopes and one color-tinted card. (Box 03998 B)

General Photo Collection - Fort Snelling (P97)

Consists of a photo of a drawing of Fort Snelling.

Donald and Audrey Grosshuesch Collection, ca 1930s-1940s (H2015-069)

Collection of materials related to Donald and Audrey Grosshuesch and their family members. Includes a World War II-era military training certificates for Donald Grosshuesch from Fort Snelling and a photo of the soldiers at the fort.

Fred and Dorothy Halbur Collection (H2022-056)

This collection consists of items pertaining to Fred and Dorothy (Eichstadt) Halbur from the 1940s, particularly Fred's service during World War II. Specifically includes a photo album with several images of Fort Snelling, Camp Rucker (AL), and scenes from the Pacific theater of the war. (FB 728)

Lakota Journal Article on 1862 Sioux Uprising, 2005 (H2009-085)

This collection contains a laminated newspaper from the November 18, 2005 edition of the Lakota Journal. The newspaper article describes the events of the Sioux Uprising of 1862, which was an armed conflict between the United States and several bands of the eastern Sioux or Dakota that began on August 17, 1862, in southwestern Minnesota and ended with the mass execution of 38 Dakota on December 26, 1862. The events also included a forced march of 1,700 Dakota women, children, and elderly to Fort Snelling. The article discusses the march, the mass execution, and commemorative marches. (MD 113)

Daniel Shelbourn World War II Reminiscence, 2004 (H2016-030)

This collection consists of a ten-page reminiscence written by Daniel Shelbourn, completed in February 2004, of his service during World War II. The reminiscence begins with basic training at Fort Snelling and Fort Riley (KS) in 1945. In February of 1946, Mr. Shelbourn was transported to Europe and served in post-war Germany at the town of Bremerhaven. He would later be stationed at Bremen, Germany before returning to the United States as a Corporal and discharged on November 17, 1946. (Box 06490 B)

James C. Walton, Sr. World War II Photo Albums, ca 1930s-1940s (H2014-035)

This collection consists of two photo albums of images taken and collected during World War II by James C. Walton, Sr. James enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1941, enrolling at Fort Snelling, and served in the South Pacific during World War II, specifically in New Guinea, receiving an honorable discharge in 1945. The albums mostly consist of images taken in New Guinea, but the second album includes some images of basic training at Fort Snelling. (FB 675)

Maps

"A Reconnaissance of the Minnay Sotor Watpah," 1835 (H2024-006) - covers region from Fort Snelling west to the Coteau des Prairies in present-day northeastern South Dakota (MD 243)

Publications

Eastman, Mary H. Dahcotah, Or, Life and Legends of the Sioux Around Fort Snelling. New York: J. Wiley, 1849.

Hall, Stephen P. Fort Snelling: Colossus of the Wilderness. St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1987.

Hansen, Marcus Lee. Old Fort Snelling, 1819-1858. Iowa City, IA: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1918.

Jones, Evan. Citadel in the Wilderness: The Story of Fort Snelling and the Old Northwest Frontier. New York: Coward-McCann, 1966.

Lorbiecki, Marybeth. Painting the Dakota: Seth Eastman at Fort Snelling. Afton, MN: Afton Historical Society Press, 2000.

Monjeau-Marz, Corinne L. The Dakota Indian Internment at Fort Snelling, 1862-1864. St. Paul, MN: Prairie Smoke Press, 2005.

Pederson, Kern O. The Story of Fort Snelling. St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Historical Society, 1966.

Van Cleve, Charlotte Ouisconsin (Clark). "Three Score Years and Ten": Livelong Memories of Fort Snelling, Minnesota, and other Parts of the West. Minneapolis, MN: Harrison and Smith, 1888.

Ziebarth, Marilyn and Alan Ominsky. Fort Snelling, Anchor Post of the Northwest. St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Historical Society, 1970.

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

Fort Snelling: Vol. 1, page 246, 253; Vol. 2.2, page 135, 154; Vol. 20, page 584-585; Vol. 25, page 194

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

Fort Snelling: Vol. 3, page 297-298, 308; Vol. 5, page 344, 346; Vol. 6, page 188; Vol. 7, page 115, 117, 119, 169, 174, 186-187; Vol. 10, page 329-330; Vol. 21, page 281, 309; Vol. 26, page 26; Vol. 37, page 97, 164

Vertical Files

“Fort Snelling”