

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

Fort Thompson (South Dakota)

Fort Thompson, originally known as the Post at Crow Creek Indian Agency, was a military fort located two miles south of the present-day town of Fort Thompson. It was established to guard the eastern Dakota and Ho-Chunk peoples who were exiled there from Minnesota by the United States government after the Dakota War of 1862. The new Indian agency was along the Missouri River, at the mouth of Crow Creek, about halfway between Fort Randall and Fort Pierre. The fort was transferred from the military to the Crow Creek Agency in 1871.

Collections

Charles Edmund DeLand Papers, 1890-1935 (H69-005)

DeLand, a lawyer, historian and author, corresponded with Major Frederick T. Wilson with the Adjutant General's Office about the location of Fort Tecumseh, Fort Pierre, Fort Sully, Fort Meade, Fort Randall, and Fort Thompson. (Box 03339 A)

General Photo Collection - Fort Thompson (P97)

Includes the following images: administration building, 1948; bird's eye view, 1900, 1948; sketch by John Nairn for Harper's Weekly; drawing by a soldier of the fort looking west, 1863; Indian Fair, 1922 or 1923; Mission, 1931; Honor Roll, 1947; Stephen Crunn, carpenter and builder of the building in front of the old fort.

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 Thompson. (Boxes 05058 B-C)

Betty Gutch Map Collection (H2010-087)

This collection consists of eleven maps collected by Betty Gutch. The maps mainly cover the area around Pierre and Fort Pierre along the Missouri River. Includes one 1947 map of the Missouri River by the Corps of Engineers that show Fort Thompson. (MD 116, Folder 5)

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 1867 while Irvine was stationed at Fort Thompson. (Box 03346 A)

Lithograph Collection, ca 1850s-1880s (H2011-005)

This collection contains seven newspaper pages with lithographic images of scenes from Dakota Territory dating from the late 1850s to the early 1880s. Includes an image of Fort Thompson. (MD 118)

“A Narrative History of Crow Creek Reservation and Fort Thompson Community with Special Emphasis Upon the History of the Fort Thompson Vocational Boarding School, 1863-1941,” 1941 (H98-055))

This collection consists of a 30-page typewritten manuscript and 56 pages of accompanying black and white photographs. The manuscript was prepared by Principal Adolph G. Johnson of the Fort Thompson Community School on April 1, 1941. Photographs of students in 1887 and 1935-1941 are included along with images of buildings and staff members. The bulk of the photographs date from the 1930s-1940s. (Box 06888 A)

National Park Service Photograph - Fort Thompson (89-172)

Collection contains photographs of historic sites along the Missouri River taken in the 1940s. (Box 05719)

Timothy Nowak Collection (H2010-094)

This collection consists of maps, photographs, archaeological research materials, and microfilm on the history of Fort Randall compiled by Timothy Nowak, an archaeologist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Includes a plan of Fort Thompson. (MD 119, Folder 3)

Lewis Platt Smith Letters, 1869-1872 (H87-009)

Copies of letters sent by Lewis Platt Smith from Fort Thompson to his family in Rochester, New York. The letters date from October 1869 to January 1872, with one final letter written in April 1872 from Dr. Livingston of Fort Thompson informing the family of Platt's death. Originals are found in the library of the Rochester Museum and Science Center (Acc. #54.141) in Rochester, New York. (Box 03749 A)

South Dakota Photograph Collection - Negatives (H98-027)

This collection consists of photographic negatives copied from original printed retained by the donor. Includes an undated bird's eye view of Fort Thompson. (Box 06861 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). (Box 03644 B, MD 89)

Publications

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

Fort Thompson: Vol. 1, page 124, 311, 371; Vol. 9, page 271-273; Vol. 24, page 479, 558-561; Vol. 25, page 219; Vol. 26, page 228; Vol. 31, page 248-249

Fort Thompson Indian Agency: Vol. 1, page 300-301; Vol. 2.2, page 388

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

Fort Thompson: Vol. 6, page 411, 414; Vol. 18, page 224; Vol. 23, page 260; Vol. 37, page 163, 169-170, 172; Vol. 38, page 84

Vertical Files

“Fort Thompson”