

Native American Boarding Schools

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the federal government formed Native American boarding schools. Twelve of these schools were identified in North Dakota by the Department of the Interior's recent Indian Boarding School Initiative. This pathfinder will lead researchers to several resources available at the North Dakota State Archives highlighting student and teacher experiences at the Native American Boarding Schools located in North Dakota.

Archival Collections

10093 Fort Stevenson Indian School Records

These records contain the Fort Stevenson Indian School records. Information in the book contains students' English names, their Indian names, behavior, academic ability, and school activities. The records document the discipline measures or punishments that individual students received for any behaviors considered to be unacceptable by the school staff.

10259 Indian Schools Census Reports

Annual census reports of Indian schools at Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, Fort Totten Indian Reservation, and the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation.

10286 Harold W. Case Papers

Correspondence, diaries, sermons, subject files, reports, scrapbooks, maps, photographic materials, records of various civic and women's organizations, and records of the Fort Berthold Mission. Included are a diary, architectural drawings, pamphlets, and stationery letterhead for Reverend Case. Congregational missionary. The American Missionary Association scrapbook contains letters to and from Susan W. Hall, wife of Charles Hall, American Missionary Association representative at Elbowoods (N.D.).

10513 Fort Berthold Indian Reservation Records

Photocopy of the disbursing agent's journal recording daily events at the reservation, and letters, photographs, notes, programs, and brochures concerning the Congregational Mission.

10525 Mary Carroll Scrapbook

The scrapbook includes an index of topics, a collection of pictures, postcards, and newspaper clippings about North Dakota, ephemera relating to the people, politics and historical events in North Dakota. Items of interest are a postcard of the Indian school in Bismarck (N.D.) and notes about the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Useful Search Guidance

Subjects

- Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative

People

- Harold W. Case, 1895-1985
- Lydia Frerking Schneider
- Josephine Waggoner, 1872-1943

Locations

- Wahpeton Indian School (Circle of Nations School)
- Bismarck Indian School
- Fort Berthold Agency Boarding School
- Fort Totten Indian School
- Maddock Agricultural and Training School
- Sacred Heart Mission
- Seven Dolors Mission
- St. Mary
- St. Mary (Turtle Mountain)
- St. Michael's Mission School
- Standing Rock Agency Agricultural
- Standing Rock Indian Industrial School

Journal Articles

An Introduction to the Federal Indian Boarding School Movement

Jeffrey Hamley – *North Dakota History* Vol. 61 Issue 2

"You Didn't Dare Try to be Indian:" Oral Histories of Former Indian Boarding School Students

Carole Barrett and Marcia Wolter Britton – *North Dakota History* Vol. 64 Issue 2

Henry Gayton—Selfridge: The Indian Boarding School at Fort Yates

Larry J. Sprunk – *North Dakota History* Vol. 43 Issue 2

10553 Frank E. Vyzralek Collection

The collection includes the research files, personal papers, photographs and audiovisual materials of lifelong researcher and former North Dakota State Archivist Frank Edward Vyzralek. The research files include original work and information compiled about agriculture, arts and entertainment, business and industry, city and town life, education, ethnicity, Indians of North America, history, military, people, places, politics and government, religion and transportation. These broad areas of research are organized further by topic. Notable areas of research include North Dakota photographers, baseball, beer and bottling, mills and elevators, crime, the North Dakota Teachers Insurance and Retirement Fund, North Dakota "Centennial Moments," biographies, place names, Bismarck (N.D.), railroads and steamboats. The personal papers primarily consist of Vyzralek's correspondence, genealogical research, organizational materials, and family papers.

11113 Lydia Frerking Schneider Papers

Consists of 1933, 1934 and 1935 yearbooks from the Bismarck Indian School, correspondence, printed material, and photographs of students, the BIS and Fort Yates schools, and Lydia Frerking.

11236 Josephine Waggoner Papers

Consists of manuscripts written by Josephine (McCarthy) Waggoner (1871-1943) including stories of Lakota and Dakota tribal members, their traditional customs and beliefs, Waggoner's own life experiences, and biographies of Lakota and Dakota chiefs.

11453 Vance E. Nelson Papers

Research used for Nelson's 1992 thesis: Interpretive Programming: Fort Totten State Historic Site. Includes photocopies of Federal records, Nelson's notes from a research trip to Grey Nun Sisters Archive at St Boniface (Winnipeg, Man.), and documents from other repositories. Research in the collection could be of interest to those researching the Federal Indian Boarding School, the Grey Nun's School at Fort Totten, the history of the Dakota Indians, State Historic sites and interpretive programs in North Dakota, the history of the Fort Totten State Historic Site and Fort Totten Indian Reservation.

11517 Marilyn Cross Hudson Collection

Research, writings, working and subject files, and other materials created or collected by Hudson. Major subjects include the written, recorded or photographed tribal and oral histories of the MHA Nation, Elbowoods, the bottom lands of the Missouri River prior to development of the Garrison Dam, Native American veterans, Native American ranching, and the Cross family. Included are records of tribal, state and federal government proceedings leading up to construction of the Garrison Dam and the subsequent impacts on the tribe and its communities. The collection includes: writings and correspondence of Martin Cross, father of Marilyn Cross Hudson, who served 6 terms on the MHA Nation Tribal Council, 4 of those terms as Chairman; photographs, records and documents of Chief Old Dog, grandfather of Marilyn Cross Hudson; cemetery records, both on and off the Fort Berthold Reservation, and; boarding school records.

20455 Florence Jenson Papers

Typescript entitled "A History of Benson County." History describes early settlement, Indians, the Fort Totten Indian School, churches, steamboat traffic, and harvesting buffalo bones.

20708 C. H. Kermott Papers

Letters relate to charges of mismanagement of the Indian School at Fort Totten.

20755 Mrs. Alfred (Hoiland) Zuger Papers

Copies of clippings about the "Sakakawea Junior club" at the US Indian School, Bismarck.

21133 Mike and Linda Graham Collection

Twenty digital scans and photocopies of correspondence, reminiscences, invitations, funeral programs, newspaper clippings, published article and photographs.

21276 Ewald C. Witzleben Papers

Letters written to E. C. Witzleben upon his retirement from the Indian Service from students, friends, and colleagues. Collection also includes digital scans of three items: a letter from W. S. Campbell to Ewald C. Witzleben requesting information about Sitting Bull; a photograph of E. C. Witzleben, Father Bernard Strassmaier, Frank and Francine Fiske at the Standing Rock Reservation, ca. 1930; and the program for the Witzleben farewell at the Fort Yates Agency school, January 10, 1930.

21430 Ida Mae Garrison (Evans) Papers

Three oral interviews with Selfridge native Ida Mae Garrison, in which she discusses Medicine Joe, betrothal, drum circle, Crazy Horse treaties, her experiences at the Bismarck and Pipestone (Minn.) Indian Schools, the great spirit, snakes, Chased by Bull, conversion to Christianity, native foods, move to Washington D. C., Pipestone quarry, Cheyenne boyfriend, Round House, feasts and dancing.

21555 Mayme Gall Papers

Two-page letter to Florence Davis, SHSND Librarian, about her time as a seamstress at the Bismarck Indian School, and a newspaper clipping about a near drowning of Gall (then Miss Scholtz) and other school employees in the Missouri River on their way back to the school from Fort Abraham Lincoln. They were rescued by Alexander Sage of the institution.

31857 Historical Society. Education and Interpretation. Indian Boarding Schools Oral History

Includes audio interviews with North and South Dakota residents about their experiences attending boarding schools as children. The audio interviews were transcribed, and are included with the collection.

Books

Boarding School Seasons: American Indian Families, 1900-1940

2000 - Brenda J. Child

Call Number: 370.89973 C536b 2000

Boarding School Blues: Revisiting American Indian Educational Experiences

2006 – edited and with an introduction by Clifford E. Trafzer, Jean A. Keller, and Lorene Sisquoc

Call Number: 371.82997 B6625 2006

The Indian Boarding Schools: Bittersweet Memories

1999 – KAT Productions

Discusses the history of the Indian boarding school movement, beginning with church-run education on reservations, and then the later federally funded boarding schools off-reservation.

Call Number: 371.82997 I3939 1999

Pipestone: My Life in an Indian Boarding School

2010 – Adam Fortunate Eagle; afterword by Laurence M. Hauptman

Call Number: 371.82997 E116p 2010

Education for Extinction: American Indians and the Boarding School Experience, 1875-1928

1995 – David Wallace Adams

Call Number: 371.9797 A2117e 1995

Learning to Write "Indian:" The Boarding-School Experience and American Indian Literature

2005 – Amelia V. Katanski

Call Number: 810.98997 K1952& 2005

Indian School: A Survivor's Story

2011—produced by American Indian Services, Inc.

Call Number: 371.82997 I394 2011

Bismarck Indian School

General Information File

Online Resources

[How Do You Interpret Controversial History?](#)

Nick Gronseth – State Historical Society of North Dakota Blog

[SHSND Photobook](#)

State Historical Society of North Dakota's Online Search Portal for all digitized photographs

[Digital Horizons](#)

Online consortium of historic photographs from the collections of the State Historical Society of North Dakota

[WorldCat](#)

State Historical Society of North Dakota's publication search portal

External Resources

[North Dakota Schools Identified in Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative Report](#)

KX News article written by Nicholas Quallich

[Circle of Nations](#)

Website of the Circle of Nations school located in Wahpeton, North Dakota

State Archives

For more information related to the collections and resources available at the North Dakota State Archives, please email archives@nd.gov or call (701) 328-2668.



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