

The Ghost Dance and Leadership of Sitting Bull

This pathfinder will lead researchers to several resources available at the North Dakota State Archives highlighting the Ghost Dance movement and the leadership role of Sitting Bull.

Archival Collections

10085 Orin Grant Libby Papers

Box 9, Folder 39

Documentation of Libby's professional and personal activities as Secretary of the State Historical Society of North Dakota, Grand Historian of the North Dakota Masonic Grand Lodge, and Professor of History at the University of North Dakota. Records relating to the SHSND consist of correspondence, research materials, and notebooks. Correspondence includes subject files concerning administration of the agency, historical research, curatorial applications, and agency projects. Research materials consist of original and copies, including biographies, census and enumeration records, Civil War and World War I letters, diaries and journals, newspaper clippings, reports, documents, historical sketches, and notebooks.

10105 Frank Bennett Fiske Papers, (Box 3, Folder 19 Box 3, Folder 62, Box 3, Folder 63)

Fiske family correspondence, minutes of the Catholic Order of Foresters (Fort Yates, ND), Fiske's research files, manuscripts, articles, diaries and journals, studio registers, cash books, guest register, programs, notes, notebooks, broadsides, audio recordings, and a play script by Angela Fiske.

10116 Nelson A. Mason Papers

Manuscripts, correspondence, printed material, affidavits, photographs, historical records and research, and newspaper clippings relating to research on the Battle of the Little Big Horn, Custer, Sitting Bull, and the Sioux.

10162 Frank Zahn Papers

Records of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation, including correspondence between James McLaughlin and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, supply estimates, orders, contracts, receipts, a census schedule (1887), Indian passes, Indian scout discharges, a key to a winter count, photograph studio register from the Frank Fiske studio, a horse registration claim register, and an account of the Ghost Dance Movement; an article (Continued on next page)

Useful Search Guidance

Subjects

- Ghost Dance Movement
- Hunkpapa Lakota (Sioux)
- Battle of the Little Bighorn
- Wounded Knee Massacre

People

- Tatanka Iyotanke/Iotanka (Sitting Bull), c. 1831-1890
- Caroline Weldon, 1844-1921

Locations

- Standing Rock Sioux Reservation

Journal Articles

Sitting Bull: Hero or Monster?

Roy P. Johnson – *North Dakota History* Vol. 29 Issues 1 & 2

Grand River Ghost Dance Shirt

Robert C. Hollow – *North Dakota History* Vol. 50 Issue 3

Family, Politics, and Show Business: The Photographs of Sitting Bull

Markus H. Lindner – *North Dakota History* Vol. 72 Issues 3&4

by Frank Fiske on Red Tomahawk, who was a member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and an autograph of Red Tomahawk.

10313 James McLaughlin Papers

Microfilm Roll #4351, 4365

Papers consist of correspondence pertaining to the Sioux Indians of Devils Lake and Standing Rock Agencies during McLaughlin's work as Indian Agent and Inspector. The correspondence documents his treaty-making and inspections, correspondence concerning the arrest and activities of Sitting Bull while on the reservation, and also contains personal business correspondence, such as his investments in land and mines.

10691 Roy Johnson and Louis Pfaller Collection

Newspaper clippings, articles, photographs, maps, pamphlets, and correspondence documenting the research of two historians, Johnson and Pfaller, on Major James McLaughlin, forts, battles, railroads, steamboats, exploration, pioneers, Native Americans, weather, murders, schools, missionaries, etc.

10898 Eric C. Jacobsen Collection

Contains photographs and papers related to Eric C. Jacobsen's family and work. Photo album containing photos of bridge construction in North Dakota. Bridges featured may include the Lost Bridge in Dunn County (N.D.), Lewis and Clark Bridge in Williston (N.D.), and the Four Bears Bridge at Elbowwoods (N.D.). Also includes photographs of archaeological sites, the Mandan Fair, and the Fort Berthold area. Correspondence in the collection is from America Elmira Collins, Jacobsen's grandmother, and Mary C. Collins, Jacobsen's great-aunt. Topics included in the correspondence include John Grass, Sitting Bull, and the Ghost Dance. Digital scans of papers are also included in the collection. Digital scans include correspondence with Mary C. Collins, John Grass, Russell Reid, George F. Will Sr., the Department of the Interior and include topics like genealogy, land allotments, archaeology, songs and stories in the Lakota language, day school students and research for bridge work. Originals of digital scans remain with donor.

11145 Robert Vogel Papers

Box 3, Folder 2

Copy of agreement between John M. Burke, general manager of the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show and Sitting Bull

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. Information for many of the manuscripts was told to Waggoner by tribal members. Waggoner worked with several individuals, including Frank Herriott and George F. Will Sr. to edit her manuscripts for publication. The collection includes original manuscripts by Waggoner, edited versions by both men, and related correspondence. The collection also includes correspondence about litigation undertaken by Waggoner's descendants to reclaim her manuscripts.

20121 Edward Roan Bear Papers

Affidavit and reminiscences relating to Sitting Bull, the Battle of the Little Big Horn, and the Ghost Dance movement.

21264 Charles Krauth Papers

Letter written in German by Charles "Karl" Krauth (Hebron, N.D.) to his brother Friedrich in Baden, Germany on December 28-31, 1890. The letter discusses fears of local residents about Indian uprisings, conflicts between the Sioux and the U.S. Army, the spread of the Ghost Dance movement across Dakota Territory, and the death of Sitting Bull. Krauth explains to his brother how and why Fort Sauerkraut was constructed by the men of Hebron. Transcriptions of the letter are available in German and English.

21405 Catherine (Caroline) Weldon Collection

Photograph depicting Catherine (Caroline) Weldon at age 71 at Mount Vernon (N.Y.) with her friend Aline Estoppey, in front of the Sauerland-Estoppey residence (1915), photograph of a portrait of Sitting Bull (oil on canvas), painted by Weldon during the summer of 1890 while living at Sitting Bull's camp on the Grand River on the Standing Rock Reservation (original resides at the Historic Arkansas Museum in Little Rock but the photograph was taken in 1997 while the painting was privately owned), transcripts of correspondence and news clippings by and about Weldon, a biographical sketch pertaining to Catherine (Caroline) Weldon's true identity, background, early and later life (written by Guggisberg), and family tree.

32027 Federal Records. Fort Buford. Letters Sent

The microfilm copies consist of the letters of communication sent from Fort Buford (DT). The collection consists of copies* of 6 rolls of microfilm each of which have been assigned a microfilm number which designates their location. A content note follows for each numbered rolls follows. Roll 14586 dates from 1867-1881 and is divided into three parts with the first two in consecutive order and the third part dated with the earliest letters. Part 1: October 22,1878 to February 6,1881. Most of the communications are copies of those sent from Fort Buford. However, from November 30, 1880, Fort Buford appeared to serve as the relay between Camp Poplar River, MT and Department of Dakota headquarters in St. Paul, MN, because this is the period of negotiations for the surrender of various Indian bands, especially that of Sitting Bull. Part 2: Handwritten note on title page states "Telegrams February 5, 1881 - November 14, 1882." These continue the messages received and sent regarding the surrender of Sitting Bull and his band. Part 3: June 29, 1867 to March 20,1875 begins with an Index of Letters. These were sent from Fort Buford. Roll 14587 dates from March 25, 1875 to February 27, 1884 and contains communications sent from Fort Buford. Roll 14588 is divided into two parts. Part 1 dates from March 1, 1884 to July 9, 1890, and contains communications sent from Fort Buford. Part 2, from July 20, 1890 to July 11, 1891, and contains communications sent from Fort Buford. Roll 14589 is divided into two parts. Part 1, dates from July 12, 1891, contains communications sent from Fort Buford. Several letters (dated April 28 and April.29) were received at Fort Buford. Part 2, dates from May 1,1893 to November 3, 1893, and contains communications sent from Fort Buford. Roll 14590 is dated from November 3, 1893 to October 1, 1895 and includes letters sent from Fort Buford.

Books

The Ghost-Dance Religion and the Sioux Outbreak of 1890

1965 - James Mooney; abridged, with an introduction by Anthony F. C. Wallace
Originally published as part 2 of the fourteenth Annual report of the Bureau of Ethnology to the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, 1892-93 (Washington ... 1896)

Call Number: 970.629 M779

Wounded Knee: Lest We Forget

1990 – Alvin M. Josephy, Jr., Trudy Thomas & Jeanne Eder; introductory essay by George P. Horse Capture

Published in conjunction with the exhibition, *Wounded Knee: Lest We Forget*, Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming, Sept. 17-Nov. 30, 1990, and Robinson State Museum/Cultural Heritage Center, South Dakota State Historical Society, Pierre, Dec. 15, 1990 through Mar. 15, 1991.

Call Number: 973.86 J83w

The Lakota Ghost Dance of 1890

2008 – Rani-Henrik Andersson

Call Number: 978.0049752 A5524w 2008

A Whirlwind Passed Through Our Country: Lakota Voices of the Ghost Dance

2018 – Rani-Henrik Andersson; foreword by Raymond J. DeMallie

"The inception of the Ghost Dance religion in 1890 marked a critical moment in Lakota history. Yet, because this movement alarmed government officials, culminating in the infamous massacre at Wounded Knee of 250 Lakota men, women, and children, historical accounts have most often described the Ghost Dance from the perspective of the white Americans who opposed it. In *A Whirlwind Passed through Our Country*, historian Rani-Henrik Andersson instead gives Lakotas a sounding board, imparting the multiplicity of Lakota voices on the Ghost Dance at the time. Whereas early accounts treated the Ghost Dance as a military or political movement, *A Whirlwind Passed through Our Country* stresses its peaceful nature and reveals the breadth of Lakota views on the subject. The more than one hundred accounts compiled here show that the movement caused friction within Lakota society even as it spurred genuine religious belief."

Call Number: 978.0049752 A5524w 2018

A History of the Ghost-Dance Religion Among the Indians

1935 – Anna Miller Marti

Call Number: 5327

Sitting Bull's Defiance

1902 – Hamlin Garland; illustrated by E.L. Blumenschein

Call Number: 813 G184si 1902

Online Resources

[Sitting Bull Exhibit to Explore Hunkpapa Lakota Leader's Life](#)

David L. Newell – 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

[Little Bighorn Battlefield—Sitting Bull](#)

Article on the National Park Service website

[Sitting Bull, Indian Patriot, Dominates History of Dakota](#)

Bismarck Tribune article from June 20, 1936

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.



North Dakota State Archives Subject Guides made possible through a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).