

Fort McPherson, Nebraska

RG503
& film

Fort McPherson, Nebraska

Records: 1854-1983

Cubic ft.: .75

Approx. # of Items: 600, including material
on 3 reels of microfilm

HISTORICAL NOTE

Fort McPherson was established in October 1863 on the south side of the Platte River near the site of present-day Maxwell in Lincoln County, Nebraska. The decision to build a fort at this point was hastened by the spreading Indian hostilities which began with the Sioux uprising in Minnesota in 1862. The new post was deemed necessary for the protection of settlements and for communications along the overland route between Fort Kearny and Julesburg, Colorado.

Originally named Cantonment McKean, initial construction was done by troops of the 7th Iowa Volunteer Cavalry. The site of the post, at the mouth of Cottonwood Canyon, was a strategic location in the Platte Valley. The post was later known as Fort Cottonwood until February 26, 1866, when it was officially designated Fort McPherson in honor of the late Major General James B. McPherson.

Fort McPherson played an important role in the Indian wars from 1864 until its abandonment in 1880. Numerous important campaigns and expeditions were launched from the fort including that of General Eugene Carr which culminated in the defeat of the Cheyenne Indians at the Battle of Summit Springs. William F. Cody, the North Brothers, and the Pawnee Scouts all served at Fort McPherson during this period.

On October 13, 1873, a tract of 107 acres was set aside as a national cemetery. Subsequent reductions have limited the size of the cemetery to twenty acres. Burials in the McPherson National Cemetery have included soldiers who served in the Indian wars through the West, as well as those who have served in the Civil War, Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, and the Korean War.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of three reels of microfilm and one box of archival and manuscript material arranged in three series: 1) Official Post Records, 1863-1880; 2) Fort McPherson National Cemetery, 1854-1983; and 3) Printed Matter and Historical Data.

The material relates to the history of the fort, 1863-1880, and to the history of the national cemetery, 1854 to current. The bulk of the collection exists on microfilm and includes typewritten

ADDED ENTRIES:

INDIANS OF NORTH AMERICA--WARS (1864-1882)
MILITARY POSTS--NEBRASKA
CEMETERIES--NEBRASKA
BURIAL--NEBRASKA
PAWNEE INDIANS
CHEYENNE INDIANS--WARS
SPOTTED HORSE (PAWNEE INDIAN)
Post Cottonwood, Nebraska Territory
Fort McPherson National Cemetery
LITTLE WOLF (OH-CUM-GA-CHE) (NORTHERN CHEYENNE)
DULL KNIFE (TAH-ME-LA-PASH-ME) (CHEYENNE CHIEF), d.1879
SIOUAN INDIANS
GRATTAN MASSACRE
UNITED STATES. ARMY--MILITARY LIFE
UNITED STATES. ARMY. CAVALRY. 5TH REGIMENT
UNITED STATES. ARMY. CAVALRY. 2ND REGIMENT
UNITED STATES. ARMY. INFANTRY. 9TH REGIMENT
United States. Army. Infantry. 18th Regiment
United States. Army. Cavalry. 2nd Regiment
Iowa. Cavalry. 7th Regiment
Nebraska. Cavalry. 1st Regiment
Livingston, Robert R (Robert Ramsay), 1827-1888
Rasmussen, Robert D., 1894-
Belden, George Pfouts, 1844-1871
O'Brien, George M (George Morgan), 1829-1887
McKean, Thos. J. (Thomas Jefferson), d.1870
Baumer, William, 1826-1869
Majors, Thomas Jefferson, 1841-1932
Fleming, Rufus Edward,
Norton, Henry,
Mizner, J. K. (John Kemp), d.1898
Carrington, Henry Beebee, 1824-1912
Chronological Index - 14

copies of official records housed at the National Archives as part of their collection RG98, Records of the U.S. Army Commands, and RG94, Records of the Office of the Adjutant General. Three loose-leaf binders in Series One include copies of official records, as well as additional data regarding military campaigns.

Series One also includes one volume compiled from microfilm at the National Archives by R. D. Rasmussen. This includes data regarding soldier deaths, campaigns and expeditions, and a chronological and alphabetical list of military events and activities.

Series Two consists of one reel of microfilm containing records of Fort McPherson National Cemetery. Included are burial records, 1854-1937, Building Plans, 1926-1942, and a list of cemetery superintendents, 1914-1983.

Series Three, Printed Matter and Historical Data, includes historical sketches of the fort and cemetery, programs, and miscellaneous printed matter.

Reels #1 & #2 were microfilmed for the Historical Society by the National Archives

DESCRIPTION

film

SERIES ONE OFFICIAL POST RECORDS, 1863-1880

NOTE: A diazo copy can be made by our agency of all reels marked with an asterisk. Negatives are stored in our vault.

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| * | Roll #1
#20,389 | Post Returns, 1863-1880
NARS, RG94, Office of the Adjutant General |
| * | Roll #2
#20,390 | Post Letters Sent, 1865-1867
NARS, RG98, Records of U.S. Army Commands |
| B.1 | v.1 | Official correspondence, reports, lists of deaths,
post returns, 1863-1871, compiled from NARS
microfilm by R. D. Rasmussen. |
| | v.2 | Post Returns, 1872-1880, compiled from NARS
microfilm by R. D. Rasmussen. |

v.3 Research data regarding soldiers' deaths, campaigns,
 battles, dates of campaigns and expeditions,
 military events and activities, and burial
 records. Compiled by R. D. Rasmussen

film

SERIES TWO FORT MCPHERSON NATIONAL CEMETERY, 1854-1983

- * Roll #3 Ft. McPherson, cemetery/site, records.
86 shots Burial Register, 1854-c.1937, vol. 1
#24,742 thru
Building Plans, 1926-1942 (7 sheets)
NOTE: Burial Register includes list of
cemetery superintendents, 1914-1983.
- b.1 f.1 Drawing, legislation, correspondence, and
Historical Sketches. Also proceedings
at erection of monument, 1928

SERIES THREE PRINTED MATTER AND HISTORICAL DATA

- B.1 f.1 Drawing of Post Cottonwood, 1864-1865
f.2 Historical Sketches, Fort McPherson
f.3 Ft. McPherson Centennial, 1963
f.4 Review by Nellie Snyder Yost of "Guardian of
the Tracks and Trails, and bibliograh
of Ft. McPherson
f.5 Negroes serving at Ft. McPherson, June 1870

END OF INVENTORY

JEP/cr 9/23/1970

AIP/pmc/WP51 10/9/1991

SRW/srw/WP6.1 1/17/2001