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VERMILLION, SOUTH DAKOTA

PAPERS, 1880-1985
(bulk dates, 1888-1980)
Quantity .5 linear ft.

ACCESS: This collection is open for research without restrictions.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Negatives are located in Box 2.

PRINTED MATERIAL: Printed Materials are located in Box 1.

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PROCESSED BY: Gayla Koerting, July 2006.

ACCESSION NO.: RC2000-14

History

The town received its name from the nearby river, derived from a Sioux name, Wase Wakpala, for “red stream,” that was later translated by fur traders to Vermillion. The town was founded in 1859, and the post office was established in April 1860. The articles of incorporation were not filed until 1862. Settlers began to arrive seven years later below the bluff, and the local government was organized by 1873. At that time Vermillion was often referred to as “Vermillion-Under-The-Hill” or “Vermillion on the Bottom.” However, Vermillion suffered a devastating flood on March 27, 1881; the town was relocated, re-platted in 1884, and rebuilt on the bluff.

The growth of the city flourished with the founding of the flagship institution for higher education in the state, The University of South Dakota, in 1862. USD is designated as the public liberal arts university in the state and is home to a large College of Arts and Sciences, a School of Education and the state’s only School of Law, School of Medicine, accredited School of Business and College of Fine Arts. The university attracted students, faculty, and staff into the area and aided in attracting businesses into the area.

Scope and Content Note

The Vermillion, South Dakota Collection contains four series: **Correspondence**, **Photographs**, **Printed Materials**, and **Typescript**.

The **Correspondence** series consists of three individual letters relating to Vermillion history from 1888, 1909, and 1954.

The **Printed Materials** series contains two books on Vermillion history, newspaper clippings, and promotional literature from various city agencies. Visitor information, maps, guides, and other brochures were produced by the Chamber of Commerce for students attending USD or those individuals coming to teach/work at the university. The Vermillion Development Company produced city economic profiles to encourage business opportunities in the area. Student handbooks, play productions, and commencement materials from Vermillion Middle and High School are also included in this series.

The **Photograph** series contains five 8 x 10 negatives of the Vermillion High School Basketball Team, ca. 1940s.

The **Typescript** series consists of a 2 page document entitled “The Military Road” by USD professor of history Cedric Cummins.

Additional Resources

Lathrop, A.H. *Life in Vermillion before the 1881 Flood and Shortly After*

Vermillion, SD: Clay County Historical Society, 1970. Location: 3rd floor, Chilson Collection, F659 .V4x L37

Schell, Herbert S. *Clay County: Chapters Out of the Past*. Vermillion, SD: Vermillion Area Chamber of Commerce, 1985. Location: 3rd floor, F657 .C6 S36

Smith, Elizabeth T. *Historic Vermillion and Clay County*. Chicago: Arcadia Publishing, 2002. Location: 3rd floor, F659 .V4 S64 2002

Svingen, Orlan J. *The History of Vermillion to 1900*. MA Thesis, University of South Dakota, 1975. Location: 3rd floor, LD5071 .3x Sv36

Subjects:

Vermillion (S.D.) – History
Clay County (S.D.) – History
South Dakota – History
Vermillion (S.D.) – Social life and customs

Box No. Description**Box 1**

CORRESPONDENCE (3 folders)

Andrews, Elva Cornelius to Ellwood C. Perisho (Prof.), ca. Nov. 1909
w/ encl. "A Few of the Things that Elva Cornelius Andrews Has to
be Thankful For, Thanksgiving, 1909"

Taylor, Franklin to Jacob Denel, 16 December 1888

Rothrock, E. P. (State Geologist) to Cedric Cummins (Prof.), 22 June
1954

PRINTED MATERIALS (21 folders)

Books: (2 folders)

Jordan, George T., *Vermillion and Vicinity*, Published by J.E.
Jonnason, 1909.

Lathrop, A.H. *Vermillion Reminiscences: Notes on the Early Days
of Vermillion, South Dakota; Its People and Institutions.*
Reprint of series of articles published in *Dakota Republican*,
1920-1947.

Brochures: (2 folders)

"The Bluffs" (Multi-level Gulf Course and Residential
Development), n.d.

Resident and Visitor Information

Know Your Town, n.d.

Snow Control Brochure, 1990

Vermillion Briefs, August 1995

Vermillion, Home of the University of South Dakota, ca. 1950s
(2 copies)

Clay County: (3 folders)

Events

Burbank High School, "His Uncle's Niece, A Farce in Three
Acts," by Raymond W. Sargent, 28 April 1933

Dalesburg Bank Concert, 23 February 1934

Prairie Center Community Club, "Mrs. Briggs of the Poultry
Yard," 10 March 1934

National Swedish Ladies' Concerts, City Hall, 17 Nov. 1890

Map, includes information on abandoned homes, airfield, area
designations, cemeteries, churches, creeks, houses, schools,
Spirit Mound, highways, towns, townships, township halls,
n.d.

Clay Rural Water System, ca. 1975

Newspaper Clippings: (3 folders)

Minneapolis Sunday Tribune

"Anna's Place: Boarding House 'Slows Down' After 45 Years,"
(Anna Vaith) 24 November 1957

Sioux Falls Argus Leader

"Boarding House Reach Not Always Necessary," (Anna Vaith),
22 May 1977

"Water Project Almost Finished," 29 June 1980

Vermillion Plain Talk

"Six Small White Marble Headstones are Symbol of Diphtheria
in Vermillion," n.d.

"Vermillion was Physically Demolished, but it's Moral Fiber
Stood the Test," 25 March 1967

"After 1880, Vermillion and Big Mo Changed, One Went South,
Other North," 18 February 1965

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Railroad Plans Made in 1872,” 3 June 1965 “New Historical Society to Form-Seek City History,” 17 February 1969 & 24 February 1969 Research Paper: (1 folder) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gerth, Steven. “Indian Trade and Relations on the Vermillion River,” USD, n.d. Vermillion Chamber of Commerce: (5 folders) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Profiles, n.d., 1978, 1981 General Information, churches, schools, realtors, eating establishments, lodging, n.d. Maps, total of 3, n.d. “Program of Action,” 1986 Promotional Brochures, ca. 1940s, 1970s, 1980s, 1996 Vermillion Development Company: (1 folder) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Profiles, 1974-1977, 1989 Vermillion High School: (3 folders) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities/Athletics Handbook, 1993-1994 Programs, Commencement, 1975 & 1979 Programs, Plays, 1933-1934 Vermillion Middle School: (1 folder) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Handbook, 1984-1985 Vermillion Parks and Recreation: (1 folder) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guides, 1994-1996
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TYPESCRIPT (1 folder) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cummins, Cedric. “The Military Road,” n.d. EPHEMERA (1 folder) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diploma- Vermillion High School, 1918, May Coverdale
Box 2	<p>PHOTOGRAPHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vermillion High School, Basketball Team, [1940’s?], total of 5 8x10 negatives