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CASE, RALPH H.

PAPERS, 1921-1957
(bulk dates, 1930-1956)
Quantity 10 linear ft.

- ACQUISITION: Richard W. Case donated his father's papers to the University of South Dakota in 1974. Dr. Herbert T. Hoover, Professor of history at USD, assisted in acquiring the donation
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- PROCESSED BY: Mary Ellen Ducey, Anne Hinseth and Theresa Hessey, March 1999
Box 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 16 updated by Doris Peterson, February 2007

Accession Number: RC79-0001

History

Ralph H. Case, Esq., was born at Fort Bennet on the Cheyenne River Reservation on November 27, 1879. After graduating from Yankton College in Yankton, South Dakota, he joined the army and gained the rank of major. After serving several years in public office, Case studied law in Washington, D.C. In 1922, he was admitted to both Maryland and South Dakota Bar Associations.

In 1911, Case returned to South Dakota and met with the Black Hills Council. The tribal elders asked him to assist in prosecuting for reimbursement for the illegal taking of the Black Hills, which are sacred to the tribes of the Sioux Nation. The 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty established the Great Sioux Reservation that encompassed the Black Hills. In 1874, General George Armstrong Custer led an expedition that discovered gold in the Black Hills. The public encouraged opening the area for settlement in violation of the 1868 treaty. Congress expropriated the Black Hills and surrounding plains by an agreement approved on February 18, 1877. This provides the basis for the Black Hills Claim.

Case eagerly accepted the assignment. However, Congress assigned attorneys to represent Indian tribes and named Charles Evans Hughes as Sioux tribal attorney. Hughes resigned after President Harding named him Secretary of State. Case remained in contact with the Sioux tribes and traveled to the Rosebud Reservation in September 1921. After the Commissioner of Indian Affairs allowed Indian tribes to elect attorneys, all eight Sioux reservations elected Case, along with attorney C.C. Calhoun. These two attorneys signed a contract with the Sioux Nation on December 22, 1922.

In 1923, Case began litigation by filing the first Sioux petition under the U.S. Court of Claims, which had been established in 1855. In 1943, the Supreme Court denied certiorari in the Black Hills Claim thus upholding the decision of the Court of Claims that it did not have jurisdiction. The claim was at a standstill. In 1946, Congress established the Indian Claims Commission under which the Black Hills Claim could be re-filed. Case remained under the employment of the eight Sioux tribes and he re-filed the claim in August 1950.

Case expressed an intense personal interest in his work with the Sioux and garnered sharp criticism for allowing personal correspondence to monopolize his time. The Black Hills Claim, a lifelong obsession, drained the family finances. Because of this Case attempted to ensure that his son succeed him in his work. Despite his efforts, Case's work for the Sioux seemed to be a series of failures. Tribal members on the Standing Rock reservation voted to remove him as attorney in 1955. Despite the decision, Case continued to litigate the Black Hills Claim for the other tribes involved.

Throughout his 35 years of work on the Black Hills Claim, Case did not secure a victory. During this time, he dealt with the prosecution of numerous other claims including the Sioux pony claims, Wounded Knee claims, Cheyenne River coal claim, Lower Brule land claim, and the Fort Randall Dam claim. Case succeeded in securing victories for Sioux tribes on other, smaller claims such as the Oahe Dam Claim. His efforts to assist the tribes continued until his death in 1957. Following Case's death, attorneys Marvin Sonosky and Edward Lazarus succeeded in winning the Black Hills Claim for a total of \$108,000,000, an amount which the tribes chose not to accept.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Ralph Hoyt Case span the years 1922-1957, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period of 1944-1956. The materials relate to the prosecution of the Black Hills Claim, involving the Rosebud, Pine Ridge, Cheyenne River, Standing Rock, Crow Creek, Lower Brule, Fort Peck and Santee Reservations. Additional items relate to smaller claims, including the Lower Brule land claim, Sioux pony claims and the Oahe Dam claim. The collection consists of correspondence, legal papers, legislative bills, newspaper clippings and other printed material.

The Case Papers have been arranged into series based on a specific claim, which adheres to the original order of the material. Correspondence, court documents and items relating to a specific claim or tribe remain together. The correspondence is filed chronologically and includes letters written to Case from various tribal members as well as federal and state officials. Much of the correspondence dealing with specific claims comes from individual tribal members interested in the progress of a specific case. Court documents are filed by number and include briefings, defendant briefs, plaintiff finding of fact, both in manuscript and print versions. The subject files contain additional print material relating to tribes or reservations.

This **Sioux Claims** series contains materials relating to claims specifically made by Sioux Tribes, including the Black Hills Claim; Sioux Personal Claims; Wounded Knee Claims; Pony Claims; Oahe Claim; Lower Brule Land Claim; Cheyenne River Coal Claim; Fort Randall Claim.

General Tribal Claims series includes claims associated with other American Indian tribes, not specifically the Sioux.

General **correspondence** series is arranged chronologically.

Subject Files contains articles, newsletters, minutes and additional material relating to tribes or reservations.

Newspaper Clippings are newspaper articles from national and regional newspapers pertaining to the Sioux tribe, the National Indian Defense Association and various claims.

Card Files contain an index of tribe members.

Additional Resources

Ralph H. Case Database, Richardson Collection, Special Collections, University of South Dakota <http://192.236.50.85/casearch.htm>

Subjects

Assiniboin Indians
 Blackfeet Indians
 Caddo Indians
 Cherokee Indians
 Cheyenne River Indian Reservation (S.D.)
 Chickasaw Indians
 Chippewa Indians
 Choctaw Indians
 Comanche Indians
 Crow Creek Sioux Indians

Crow Creek Sioux Indian Reservation (S.D.)
Crow Indians
Dakota Indians--Claims
Dakota Indians--Government relations
Dakota Indians--Land tenure
Dakota Indians --Land transfer
Delaware Indians
Fort Randall Dam (S.D.)
Fort Peck Indian Reservation (Mont.)
Gros Ventre Indians
Indians of North America
Indians of North America--Claims
Kiowa Indians
Land tenure--Black Hills (S.D. and Wyo.)
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
Lower Brule Sioux Indian Reservation (S.D.)
Lummi Indians
Miami Indians
Mohegan Indians
Nez Perce Indians
Oahe Dam (S.D.)
Omaha Indians
Ottawa Indians
Pawnee Indians
Pine Ridge Indian Reservation (S.D.)
Ponca Indians
Potawatomi Indians
Quinault Indians
Rosebud Indian Reservation (S.D.)
Santee Indians
Seminole Indians
Shoshone Indians
Sioux Indians
Standing Rock Indian Reservation
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Three Affiliated Tribes
United States. Indian Claims Commission
Winnebago Indians
Wounded Knee Creek, Battle of, 1890
Wounded Knee Massacre, S.D., 1890
Winnebago Indians
Yakima Indians

Box No.	Description
Box 1	SIOUX CLAIMS Black Hills Claim Correspondence (12 folders) 1942-1956, n.d.
Box 2	SIOUX CLAIMS, cont. Black Hills Claim, cont. Attorney Contracts, 1921-1922 Sioux Expense Account, 1922-1927 Report to Tribal Councils, 1942 Report to the Sioux Nation, 1943 Attorney Contracts, 1947 Sioux Nation Council Diary, 1950 Sioux Nation Council Minutes, 1951 Report to the Sioux Nation, 1952 Vouchers and Receipts, 1942-1949 Vouchers 1953-1956 Lower Brule, 1952-1956 Pine Ridge, 1952-1955 Crow Creek, 1953-1955 Santee, 1953-1955 Congressional Record – “Certain Claims of the Sioux and the Indian Claims Commission”
Box 3	SIOUX CLAIMS, cont. Black Hills Claim, cont. Court Documents 1922 #33728 #C-531-(1) #C-531-(7) #C-531-(11) (6 folders)
Box 4	SIOUX CLAIMS, cont. Black Hills Claim, cont. Court Documents, cont. #C-531-(12) #C-531-(15) #C-531-(16) #C-531-(17) #C-531-(18) #C-531-(19) #C-531-(20) #C-531-(21) #C-531-(22) #C-531-(23) #C-531-(24) #C-531-(11-24) #C-531-(18-24) #C-531-(18)-(19)-(20)-(21)-(22)-(23)-(24) Supreme Court 1948, Oct. Term

Box No.	Description
Box 5	SIOUX CLAIMS, cont. Black Hills Claim, cont. Court Documents, cont. #74 (5 folders) Appeals 10-52; 4-55 1953-56 Supreme Court 368, 526, 527, 527 & no. # Court Documents, n.d. Newspaper clippings, 1944-45 Sioux Personal Claims Correspondence, 1928-1946 Re-adjudication, 1928 Property Vouchers, 1946
Box 6	SIOUX CLAIMS, cont. Sioux Personal Claims, cont. Legislature Material, 1943-1954 Wounded Knee Claims Correspondence, 1937-1956 Attorney Contract, 1949 Legislative Materials, House Bills and Hearing Transcripts, 1937-1939 Court Documents, 1951, n.d. News clippings, 1950-1951 Sioux Pony Claims Cheyenne River, Correspondence, 1943-1952 Cheyenne River, Claimant List Legislative Materials Newspaper clippings, 1957, n.d. Oahe Claim Cheyenne River Correspondence 1948-1957, n.d. (5 folders)
Box 7	SIOUX CLAIMS, cont. Oahe Claim, cont. Subject File Standing Rock Vouchers, 1949-1955 Newspaper clippings, 1949-1950 Congressional Reports, 1949-1956 Cheyenne River Supplemental Contracts, 1955-1956 Fort Yates Statement, 1953 Cheyenne Agency Relocation, n.d. Attorney Contracts, 1947 Cheyenne River Land Exchange Program, 1949-1950 Cheyenne River Vouchers, 1949-1952 Standing Rock BIA Investigations, 1949 Harper Report, 1949 (2 folders) Cheyenne River Long Range Program, 1950 Impacts of Reservoirs, 1951 Cheyenne River Attorney Contract, 1952-1955 Dam Vouchers- Cheyenne River, 1952-1955 Cheyenne River Congressional Records, 1954

Box No.	Description
Box 7, cont.	SIOUX CLAIMS, cont. Oahe Claim, cont. Tribal Programs, 1955
Box 8	SIOUX CLAIMS, cont. Oahe Claim, cont. Dam- Legislative Material, 1944-1955 Legislative Drafts of HR 358.2, 1949 Cheyenne River- Legislative Material, 1953-1954 Standing Rock- Oahe Dam Legislative Materials, 1955 Court Documents Exhibits, 1947-1950 Standing Rock- Oahe Dam Court Documents, 1953-1955 Lower Brule Land Claim Correspondence, 1947-1956 (2 folders) Distributional copies, 1950-1951 Survey, 1951 Court Documents n.d. - 1944 C-531-(11) and no.78 1950, no.78 1951, no.78 Hearing Transcript, 1951, no.78
Box 9	SIOUX CLAIMS, cont. Lower Brule Land Claim, cont. Court Documents, cont 1952, no.78 1953-1954, no.78 Hearing Transcript 1954, no.78 Transcript 1955, no.78 Findings of Fact 1955, no.78 1956, no.78 1952-54, no.10-52, 54-22 Cheyenne River Coal Claim Correspondence, 1950-1956, n.d. Geological Survey, 1950 Vouchers, 1951-1954 Tribal Council Minutes, 1955 Court Documents 1951-1952 1954-1956
Box 10	SIOUX CLAIMS, cont. Fort Randall Dam Claim General Correspondence, 1954-1956 Congressional Records, 1954-1955 Vouchers, 1954-1955 Crow Creek Estimated Damages, 1954 Lower Brule Estimated Damages, 1955 Legislative Material, 1952-1953 Legislative Material, 1955-1956

Box No. Description

Box 10, cont.

GENERAL TRIBAL CLAIMS

Ponca

Correspondence, 1923-1951

Legislative Material, 1929

Attorney Contracts, 1929

Quinaiaelt Tribe

General Correspondence, 1942-1951

Subject File, 1939-1951

Klamoth Tribe

Correspondence, 1940-1953

Court Documents, 1929-1942

Legislative Material, 1949-1950

Court Documents, 1951-1954

Cherokee Indians

Correspondence, 1942-1953

Court Documents, 1943-1953

Box 11

GENERAL TRIBAL CLAIMS, cont.

Loyal Creek Indians

Correspondence, 1942-1943

Winnebago Indians

Correspondence, 1942-1952

Court Documents, 1942-1943

California Indians

Correspondence, 1943

Three Affiliated Tribes- Ft. Berthold

General Correspondence, 1946-1950

Legislative Material- Joint Resolution

Court Documents, 1955

Mohegan Indians

Correspondence, 1950

Stockbridge Indian Claim

Correspondence, 1950-1951

Choctaw Indians

Court Documents, 1951-1954

Assiniboine Indians

Court Documents, 1952

Blackfeet & Gros Ventre

Court Documents, 1952

Kaw Tribe

Court Documents, 1952

Lummi Indians

Court Documents, 1952

Nez Perce

Court Documents, 1952-1955

Santee

Court Documents, 1952

Seminole Indians

Court Documents, 1952-1955

Suittle Sauk Indians

Court Documents, 1952

Box No. Description

Box 11, cont.

GENERAL TRIBAL CLAIMS, cont.

- Ottawa Indians
 - Court Documents, 1953
- Pawnee Indians
 - Correspondence, 1953
 - Court Documents, 1953-1954
 - Miscellaneous- Map
- Yakima Tribe
 - Court Documents, 1953
- Chickasaw Indians
 - Court Documents, 1954, n.d. (2 folders)
- Crow Indians
 - Court Documents, 1954

Box 12

GENERAL TRIBAL CLAIMS, cont.

- Delaware Indians
 - Court Documents, 1954-1955
- Ft. Peck Indians
 - Court Documents, 1954
- Miami Indians
 - Court Documents, 1954
- Omaha Indians
 - Court Documents, 1954
- Osage Indians
 - Court Documents, 1954
- Sac and Fox Indian
 - Court Documents, 1954
- Shoshone Indian
 - Court Documents, 1954
- Coeur D'Alene Indians
 - Court Documents, 1955
- Creek Indians
 - Court Documents, 1955, n.d.
- Kiowa, Comanche, Apache
 - Court Documents, 1955, n.d.
- Muckleshoot Indians
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- Nooksack Indians
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- Potawatomi
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- Pueblos and Pecos Indians
 - Court Documents, 1955
- Tillanook Indians
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 - Legal Materials, 1955
- Caddo Indians
 - Court Documents, 1956
- Colville Reservation Indians
 - Court Documents, 1956
- Qupa Tribes
 - Court Documents, n.d.

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Box 13	CORRESPONDENCE Cheyenne River, 1943-1956 (7 folders) Crow Creek, 1940-1955 Fort Peck, 1949-1950 Pine Ridge, 1943-1955 Rosebud, 1944-1953
Box 14	CORRESPONDENCE, cont. Santee, 1942-1953 Sioux Tribes, 1922-1953, n.d (5 folders) Standing Rock, 1943-1956 (4 folders)
Box 15	CORRESPONDENCE, cont. General, 1920-1956 (5 folders)
Box 16	SUBJECT FILES Individual Claims- Court Documents, 1956 Crow Creek Meeting Transcript, 1889 SD State Bar Association, 1922-1935 Admission to MD Bar, 1922 Winter Count, 1926? Cheyenne River Constitution & Bylaw, 1935 Congressional Records, 1944-1956 Crow Creek Contract, 1948 Standing Rock- Congressional Records, 1949-1950 Pine Ridge Gunnery Range Investigation and Legislation, 1949-1952 Pine Ridge Tribal Council Minutes and news Sheet, 1950-1955 Rosebud – The Citizens news newsletter, 1950 Rosebud Tribal Council Minutes, 1951 Rosebud – Future planning, 1953 Standing Rock Tribal Newsletters, 1954-1955 Cheyenne River – Miscellaneous, 1954, n.d. Standing Rock-Miscellaneous, 1955, n.d. Misc. Active Members Const. Division, 1924-1929 Outline of Sioux History Facts on Indian Cases Misc. Legislative Mat. Lake Herman Article Cheyenne River Cattle Programs National American Indian Defense Assn. James Curry Standing Rock, Crow Creek, and Lower Brule Consolidation Legislative Materials, 1955 Creation of Indian Claims Commission Legislative Materials, 1943- 1946 Legislative Material- Creation of Indian Claims Commission, 1945 House and Senate Reports, House Bills, and Hearing Transcripts

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
Box 16, cont.	NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS Sioux Tribe National American Indian Defense Assn. 1929-45 1929-40 1942-55
Box 17	CARD FILES
Box 18	CARD FILES
Box 19	CARD FILES
Box 20	CARD FILES