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CLAY COUNTY (S.D.) SCHOOLS

RECORDS, 1862-1971

(bulk dates, 1910-1970)

Quantity 2 linear ft.

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- PHOTOGRAPHS:** Photographs are located in Box 1 and 2.
- PRINTED MATERIAL:** Printed Materials are located in Box 1.
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- PROCESSED BY:** Anne Hinseth, March 2001
Updated, Gayla Koerting, March 2004

History

The Clay County (SD) Public Schools were organized in 1866, and by 1879 there were fifty-four districts. Franklin Taylor was appointed as the first Superintendent. In 1877, Vermillion, SD established its own independent school district. Because they had fewer community resources and less financial support, rural schools could not keep up with the changes in curriculum. Consolidation was proposed to alleviate the problem.

The plan for school consolidation was proposed as early as 1900, but it was not until 1951 that a school reorganization measure was enacted by the South Dakota legislature. This measure left wide latitude for the local school boards to determine when and how reorganization or consolidation should be put into action. Clay County did not act on the issue until 1961. By that time, enrollment in rural school districts had declined and some schools had already closed. A state referendum for compulsory reorganization was placed on the ballot and passed in 1968. Most rural schools were closed in 1969, and all were closed by 1971. The closed rural school districts were consolidated with the surrounding school districts of Beresford, Irene, Gayville – Volin, Wakonda, and Vermillion.

Scope and Content Note

The Clay County (S.D.) School Collection primarily contains records from its rural school districts. The collection is comprised of eight series: **Correspondence, Ledger Books, Manuscripts, Photographs, Printed Materials, Typescripts, Ephemera, and Oversize.**

The **Correspondence** series contains letters to and from several Clay County superintendents such as E.E. Collins, Charles Kahl and Elvira Bliss. The letters concern school district business.

The **Ledger Books** series consists of a superintendent book containing school accounts, statistics on school districts and officer information, a land book describing school district boundaries, and the minutes from the Clay County Teachers Association.

The **Manuscripts** series contains four items: two notebooks pertaining to the sale and description of school lands, a notebook by Mrs. Julia Simonson containing notes about rural students physical education and rules to playground games, and an essay on the history of Meckling, South Dakota by, a student, Orville Barkley.

The **Photograph** series contains eighth grade graduation pictures from 1896-1969. Also included in this series are photos of the Young Citizens League (YCL) candle lighting ceremonies and group photos of the annual state convention held in Pierre. The activity pictures contain photos of groups of children in costumes, Clay County School floats from 1954-1955 and a several schoolroom photos.

The **Printed Materials** series has eight sub-series: booklets, circulars, certificates, miscellaneous, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, posters and publications regarding the Blind. The booklets cover school related topics. The certificates sub-series includes certificates from Save the Children Federation, The United States Treasury and the Laura Ingalls Wilder Memorial Group. Also included are blank Clay County diplomas and teaching certificates. The Circulars are memoranda sent by the state to local school officials, relating to early education policy in South Dakota, which are organized chronologically. The Miscellaneous sub-series contains educational materials and several programs for events. The news clippings cover the history and issues of Clay County Schools. The pamphlets and posters contain materials that relate to YCL. The publications regarding the Blind contain several publications about Seeing Eye dogs and helping the blind become self-sufficient. Also included is a Braille copy of the Christian Record.

The **Typescripts** series includes contest winners of spelling and track and field days, YCL materials, county essays from two students, and Superintendent reports.

The **Ephemera** series includes school ribbons from spelling contests, the track and field day, and YCL convention. Also included are a card, a student drawing, an embossing stamp for the clay county Superintendent and a wood block picture of the old school house.

The **Oversize** series contains additional eighth grade graduation pictures and ledger books. The Ledger Books contain student, teacher, and school officer information.

Additional Resources

Country School Legacy, Richardson Collection, Special Collections, University of South Dakota

Young Citizens League, Richardson Collection, Special Collections, University of South Dakota

Briggs, Harold Edward

The early history of Clay County. Thesis (M.A., History)--University of South Dakota, 1924.

Schell, Herbert Samuel

Clay County: chapters out of the past. Vermillion Area Chamber of Commerce, 1985.

History of Clay County, South Dakota. Vermillion, S.D.: Clay County Historical Society, c1976.

Subjects:

Clay County (S.D.)--History.

South Dakota--History.

Rural Schools -- South Dakota -- Clay County -- History

Clay County (S.D.) --Rural Schools --History

Box No.	Description
Box 1	
	CORRESPONDENCE (1 folder)
	Superintendents
	Bliss, Elvira, 1939-1971
	Incoming
	Cecil
	n.d. (2 items)
	County Auditor, Esther Girard
	1969, Dec. 23 (2 items)
	Collins, E.E., 1895-1898
	Incoming
	Bridgman, L.B.
	1895, Mar. 8
	Tilton, H.G.
	1895, Dec. 21
	Outgoing
	Hart, Mr. and Mrs. McMunigal
	1906, Aug. 13
	Teacher
	1905, Sept. 7
	Young, William
	1906, July 19
	Cope, Alice
	Outgoing
	School Officer
	1926, Aug. 30
	1933, May 31
	Kahl, Charles N., 1888-1895
	Incoming
	Byrensen (?), Ole
	1893, Dec. 16
	Gill, Matthew
	1893, Feb. 25
	Hundley (?), J.A.
	1894, Feb. 10
	Johnson, John O.
	1891
	Pinkham, G.L.
	1918, Feb. 8
	Slattery, William
	1893, July 24
	Vinton, H.H. (4 items)
	1893-1894
	Outgoing
	Vinton, H.H.
	n.d.
	Other
	From Dye, Eugene A. to County Superintendents 1888, Jan. 24
	From Miller, Robert to School Administrators 1971, Mar. 17
	From Pinkham, Gilbert L. to County Superintendents 1890, Aug. 20
	From Salmon, Cortez (?) to County Superintendents 1898, July 17
	From Watson, William to County Superintendent of Schools 1894, Dec. 31

Box No. Description

Box 1 cont.

LEDGER BOOKS (3 folders)

Description of School Districts, 1862

Minutes of Clay County Teachers Association Meeting, 1896-1916

Superintendent Book, 1872-1876

MANUSCRIPTS (5 folders)

Barkley, Orville *Meckling, SD*

Complete List of School Lands

Games Notebook

Sale Book of 1891 School Lands

PHOTOGRAPHS (3 folders)

8th Grade Graduations, 1896-1969 (28 photos)

Activity Pictures, 1900-1955

Children in front of School House circa 1900

Clay County Activities, 1939-1942 (14 photos)

Float Pictures, 1954-1955 (6 photos)

Ireland District 5, n.d.

School Room, n.d. (3 photos)

YCL Pictures

Candle Lighting Service

Newdale District 43, 1945-1946

Spring Hill District 2, 1948

Clay County Convention, 1950

Lincoln District 12, 1953

Frog Creek District 34, 1957

District 54, 1958

District 18, 1959

Unidentified, n.d. (2 photos)

Clay County Courthouse, ca. 1935-1945 (includes pencil sketch of courthouse)

State Convention

10th Annual Convention12th Annual Convention, 193820th Annual Convention, 1949

1954

Undated Convention

PRINTED MATERIALS (8 folders)

Booklets

Crist, Raymond F., *Student's Textbook**The Goal of May Day A Year-round Program**The Gross Income Tax Law of South Dakota issues by Division of Taxation**How to Organize and Conduct a Chapter of The Young Citizens League*

Box No.	Description
Box 1, cont.	
	Certificates
	Clay County Public Schools Diploma Blanks (2 copies)
	Laura Ingalls Wilder Memorial Group, 1958, June 20
	Save the Children Federation, 1959, Jan.
	Save the Children Federation Award, 1953, Mar. and n.d.
	Teachers Certificate Clay County South Dakota Blank
	United States Treasury Award, 1957, Jan. 25
	United States Treasury Department, 1946, Jan. 16
	Circulars
	1885-1891
	Insurance Policies-Schools
	1939 (3 policies)
	Miscellaneous
	Collins, E.E., "An Open Letter"
	Indihar, Betty, <i>The Pioneer Princess</i>
	Pickeler, Hon. J.A., Speech of Hon. J.A. Pickeler of South Dakota, 1890, Feb. 18
	<i>Our Times An American Education Publication</i> v.8 no.22 1967, Mar. 8
	South Dakota Educational Association Annual Session Program, 1889, Dec. 26-28
	"The Story of the Christmas Seal"
	Young Citizens League Convention program, 1969, Apr. 18
	News Clippings
	Howel, Ira B., "The Great Seal of the United States", 1956, July
	Thomas, Warren G. "Education Bill Attacked," 1968, Oct. 12
	Sioux Falls Argus Leader
	"First County Rural Graduates", n.d.
	"First Officers in Present Court House", n.d. (features Alice Cope, County Supt. Of Schools)
	"School Measure Analyzed," n.d.
	"Some Reminiscences of the Life and Adventures of John Bruyer, Pioneer Resident of Clay County" <i>The Dakota Republican</i> , 1937, Mar. 4
	"South Dakota Beauty Acclaimed", n.d.
	"State Can't Afford Inefficiency"
	"Teachers and Students of Bon Homme School Speak Out for 'Country Schools'," 1969
	Pamphlets
	Guhin, M.M., <i>The Young Citizens League</i>
	<i>Constitution and By-Laws of the Young Citizens League</i> (2 copies)
	<i>United States Bureau of Education an office in the Interior</i> <i>Department, 1867-1888</i>
	<i>Young Citizens League of America</i>
	Posters
	Nathan, George Jean "Bad Officials are Elected by Good Citizens who do not Vote"
	"A Child's Bill of Rights"
	"I Teach School"
	"The Prayer of a Humorist"
	"Young Citizens League Code of Ethics" (3 items)

Box No. Description

Box 1, cont.

Publications regarding the Blind
Buddy's Bulletin v. 3 no. 1 1937, Mar.
Christian Record Benevolent Association
Christian Record v. 8 no. 6 1937
Dogs Against Darkness
The Seeing Eye Guide v.2 no. 3 1936, Oct
To Set this Man Free
 School Insurance Policies, 1939

TYPESCRIPTS (3 folders)

Clay County Field Meets, 1938-1970
 Clay County Spelling Contest, 1962-1970
 Miscellaneous
Be the Best of Whatever you are
 Clay County Teachers, 1948-1949
 Keep South Dakota Green Contest, 1954
My County by Laurence Cayce District no. 25
Our County by Carla Sorensen Busy Bend School District no. 9
 Report of County Superintendent of Schools, n.d.
Walt Disney, Showman and educator, remembers Daisy
 Winners of Scrapbook contest, n.d.
 YCL

EPHEMERA (1 folder and 2 items)

Card from Bloomingdale School
 Cartoon Drawing
 Clay County School Ribbons, 1970 (6 items)
 Embossing Stamp of Clay County Schools
 Picture of Old Log School House Monument woodblock print

PHOTOGRAPHS

8th Grade Graduation (7 photos)
 1908
 1911
 1912
 1913
 1914
 1930
 1947

Group of People at the Capital Building in Pierre
 Summer School and Institute Yankton College, 1912, June

CLAY COUNTY, DISTRICT #21, ELMWOOD

PRINTED MATERIALS (4 folders)

Teachers' Contracts, 1931
 Teachers' Term Reports, 1921-1927, 1942
 Textbook Inventory Lists, n. d. & 1929
 Misc.,
 Census of all Persons, 1931
 District Clerks Reports, 1927-1928, (2 items)
 Tuition Paid by Pupils, n.d.
 Young Citizens League Report, n.d.
 Teachers Register, 1900-1903 (1 item)

Box No. Description

Box 1, cont.**CLAY COUNTY, DISTRICT #3, NORWAY**

PRINTED MATERIALS (9 folders)

Building Contracts, 1924, 2 copies

Legal Papers, Abandoned School Site, 1934-1935

Teachers' Contracts, 1904-1918, 1945

Teachers' Reports, 1879-1900

Teachers' Reports, 1901-1920, 1943-1945

Teacher's Salary, Aldna Ufford, 1943-1944

Texbook Inventory, 1944-1946

School Census, 1911-1912

Misc.

Insurance Policy, 1949

Tuition paid by pupils, 1939

TYPESCRIPTS (1 folder)

By-Laws, Socials and Entertainment, 12 Jan. 1911

District Clerk's Minutes, 1924

Box 2

OVERSIZE

Ledger Books

Annual Report of the County Superintendent Clay County, South
Dakota, 1911-1931 (20 items)Record of 8th Grade Graduates, 1936-1970

Record of School Officers, Teachers and School Terms, 1898-1970

Box 3

OVERSIZE

Ledger Books

Clay County Institute, 1909-1943; Eighth Grade Graduates, YCL
(Youth Christian League)

Clay County Superintendent of Schools (2 bound volumes)

Volume I: Table of Contents

Teachers' Examinations

Population of Clay County Schools, 31 Mar. 1882

History of Superintendents for Clay County

Records of Reports of District Officers, 1879-1883

Organization of District 32 (Mt. Pleasant), 1872

Names and Addresses of School Officers, 1883

Apportionment Made, 19 Jan. 1885

Official Records, 1885

Report of Spring Examination held April 7, 1885

Private Examinations of Teachers, 1885

Official Records, 1885

Apportionment for July 1885

Official Records, 1885

Results of Public Examinations of Teachers,

29 Sept. 1885

Apportionment made January 7, 1886

Official Records, 1886

Results of Teachers' Examinations, 1886

Annual Reports

Box No. Description

Box 3, Cont. OVERSIZE

County Superintendents' Report of Inspections,
1885-1886

County Superintendents' Report of Inspections,
1889

Institute Fund, 1885-1888

District Maps

Volume II: Table of Contents

School District Officers and Teachers, 1887-1889

Quarterly Apportionments, 1885-1894

Record of Examinations of Applicants, 1889-1897

Certificates Granted, 1885-1889

Plats and Descriptions of School Districts

Meeting Minutes, Rural Schools, 1943-1970

Normal Institute Programs, 1907-1959

Box 4

OVERSIZE

LEDGER BOOKS

School Apportionment Record, 1895-1921

Teachers' Registers, 1880-1896; 1935-1945 (9 items)

CLAY COUNTY, DISTRICT #3, NORWAY

OVERSIZE

LEDGER BOOKS (7 bound vols.)

District Clerk's Records, 1887-1948 (5 vols.)

Teachers Register, 1906-1918 (2 vols.)

CLAY COUNTY, DISTRICT #36, RIVERSIDE

OVERSIZE

ACCOUNT BOOKS (5 items), 1956-1957, 1965-1967