

## Finding Aid to the U.S. Weather Service, Breckenridge and Moorhead Station Records

### United State Weather Bureau

United States Weather Bureau, Breckenridge & Moorhead Station Records, 1872-1905, 1911-1919  
3.2 linear ft.

Collection number: Mss 32

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### OVERVIEW

**Access:** The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Institute.

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### HISTORY

The first National Weather Service was created by a resolution passed Feb. 9, 1870. Congressman Paine, a leader in this campaign, named the secretary of War as its coordinator. It was further assigned to the Chief of Signal Officers in the Army.

The meteorological Division of the Signal Office was popularly called the “weather bureau”. The field stations numbered only 24 in 1870, but grew to 284 by 1878. The first correspondence in this collection is dated March 15, 1872. The first station was at Breckenridge, Minnesota; it was later transferred to Moorhead and officially established there on Jan. 1, 1881. Located first in the Merchants Bank, it was

moved July 1st, 1890 to the third floor of the First National Bank Building. As early as 1880 questions were raised on whether the role of the War Department included the running of Weather Stations. Frequently debated, it was recommended that this service be transferred to the new Department of Agriculture. The Weather Bureau was transferred to the Department of Agriculture on July 1, 1891.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The United States Weather Bureau Breckenridge and Moorhead Weather Stations records consists of Correspondence and Subject Files.

The [Correspondence Series](#) is divided into the main body of actual correspondence and various indexes and miscellanea. The correspondence is arranged chronologically. The major portion contains daily correspondence between March 15, 1872 and April 5, 1899. Various other files contain miscellaneous correspondence from later years, 1902-1903, and an amendment to the regulations dated April 1, 1919. The second part of the correspondence consists of indexes and various other data. There are indexes for both incoming and outgoing correspondence. Although the outgoing correspondence indexes are not as complete as the incoming, they are very informative for they contain copies of the outgoing correspondence for those years.

The [Subject Files Series](#) include a postage book, 1879-1881, cataloging stamps received and sent, and a scrapbook containing some newspaper clippings. A station Memorandum book contains some data for 1905. A guidebook of station regulations sent out by the U.S. Weather Bureau is also included, 1905. The final folder contains summary graphs for the years 1881-1903.

## BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box/Folder	Contents
	Historical material, and Finding aid
	<b>Correspondence Series</b>
1/2	1872
1/3	1873
1/4	1874
1/5	1875
1/6	Jan.-June, 1876
1/7	July-Dec., 1876
1/8	Jan.-June, 1877
1/9	July-Dec., 1877
2/1	Jan.-June, 1878
2/2	July-Dec., 1878
2/3	Jan.-June, 1879

2/4	July-Dec., 1879
2/5	1880
2/6	1881
2/7	1882
2/8	1883
3/1	Jan.-June, 1884
3/2	July-Dec., 1884
3/3	Jan.-June, 1885
3/4	July-Dec., 1885
3/5	Jan.-June, 1886
3/6	July-Dec., 1886
3/7	Index, 1887
3/8	Jan.-May, 1887
3/9	June-Aug., 1887
3/10	Sept.-Dec. 1887
4/1	Index, 1888
4/2	Jan.-June, 1888
4/3	July-Dec., 1888
4/4	Index, 1889
4/5	Jan.-June, 1889
4/6	July-Dec., 1889
4/7	Index, 1890
4/8	Jan.-June, 1890
4/9	July-Dec., 1890
5/1	Index 1891, 1894
5/2	Jan.-June, 1891
5/3	July-Dec. 1891
5/4	Jan.-June, 1892
5/5	July-Dec., 1892
5/6	Jan.-June, 1893
5/7	July-Dec., 1893
5/8	1894
6/1	Index, 1895-1896
6/2	Jan.-June, 1895
6/3	July-Dec., 1895
6/4	Jan.-June, 1896
6/5	July-Dec., 1896
6/6	Index, 1897-1898
6/7	1897
6/8	1898
7/1	Index, 1899-1900
7/2	Feb.-July, 1899
7/3	1902-1904
7/4	April 1, 1919 (amendment to regulations)

7/5 Index, Letters outgoing 1877  
7/6 Index, 1877  
7/7 Index, July 1880 - Dec. 1887  
7/8 Index, Letters outgoing, July 1880-Dec. 1884  
7/9 Index, Letters outgoing, Jan. 1885-Nov. 1887  
8/1 Index, 1911- ?

**Subject Files Series**

8/2 Postage Records, April 1879-Dec. 1881  
8/3 Scrapbook  
8/4 Station Memorandum, book, Jan. 1905-Dec. 1905  
8/5 Station Regulations, 1905  
8/6 Summary graphs, 1881-1903