



## **James Simpson**

### **Early Superintendent of the Dakota Territorial School for the Deaf**

James Simpson served as an early superintendent of the Dakota Territorial School for the Deaf following the brief tenure of Jennie Wright in 1881. His leadership marked the beginning of a more organized phase in the school's development as it transitioned from a volunteer-supported effort into a structured territorial institution.

Simpson had prior experience in education and became connected to the school through family ties. He was married to Anna Laura Wright, the sister of Jennie Wright. This connection helped provide continuity in leadership during the school's formative years.

Under Simpson's administration, efforts continued to stabilize enrollment, improve instructional organization, and strengthen institutional oversight. His period of leadership laid groundwork for the school's later expansion and increased territorial recognition.

Further developments during his superintendency are discussed in the Simpson Era section of the SDSD history.