

M527 U.S. Office of Indian Affairs. Northern Superintendency.
Records, 1851-1876.

35 rolls positive microfilm. Originals in Record Group 75
in the National Archives, Washington, D.C. Microcopy M1166.

DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS

These records consist chiefly of correspondence, reports, procedural issuances, financial documents, licenses, and various other records that were either created by or received by the superintendent. They document the entire spectrum of the management of Indian affairs within the superintendency, which was established in 1851 as successor to the Michigan and Wisconsin superintendencies and (after 1856) the Minnesota superintendency. It was responsible for Indian tribes resident in Wisconsin and Minnesota, and certain tribes or agencies in Michigan and Nebraska. It was discontinued on June 30, 1876.

Superintendents' duties included supervision of relations between tribes and between Indians and non-Indians in the areas under their jurisdiction, and supervision of the conduct, accounts, and performance of Indian agents responsible to them. The records relate to appointments and resignations of Indian Service employees; negotiation and enforcement of Indian treaties; Indian councils and delegations; hostilities and related military operations; enforcement of Federal laws and regulations; intrusions on Indian lands; land allotments, deeds, surveys, and scrip; Indian removal; annuities and other payments; purchase and transport of supplies; traders' licenses; liquor traffic; medical treatment; construction and repair of buildings; location of agencies, missions, and schools; school employees, curricula, and statistics; charges against and removal of Indian agents; instructions to and reports of agents; superintendents' annual reports; depredation claims; and accounts, bids, and contracts.

Much of the correspondence of the superintendency was conducted with the commissioner of Indian affairs and with agents under the superintendency. The superintendent also corresponded with the Secretary of the Interior, other superintendents, military post commanders, Treasury Department officials, various other federal and state officials, agency employees, traders, contractors, business firms, attorneys, missionaries, and other private individuals.

An Introduction filmed at the beginning of Roll 1 of this microfilm publication gives an administrative history of the Northern Superintendency, provides some additional details on the content of the records, and lists the commissioners of Indian affairs and the superintendents and agents of the Northern Superintendency during the period of its existence.

13,872

ROLL LIST

Correspondence, 1851-1856:

Handwritten copies of letters received and sent, arranged chronologically in three volumes, the first two of which include registers.

Roll 1. Vol. 1. March 22, 1851-Dec. 24, 1854.

Roll 2. Vols. 2 and 3. Dec. 26, 1854-Sept. 5, 1856.

Register ("Statements") of Letters Received From and Letters Sent to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs:

Roll 3. 1865-1866.

Letters Received, 1852-Sept. 1871:

Arranged by year, thereunder by source (commissioner of Indian affairs, agencies, and miscellaneous), thereunder by date.

Roll 3. 1852-1856

Roll 4. 1857

Roll 5. 1858-1859

Roll 6. 1860

Roll 7. 1861-1866

Roll 8. 1867

Roll 9. 1868-1869

Roll 10. 1870-Sept. 1871

Letters Received, Oct. 1871-1876:

Arranged by year, thereunder alphabetically by name of sender.

Roll 11. Oct. 1871 (A-W)-1872 (A-W)

Roll 12. 1873 (B-W)-1874 (B-F)

Roll 13. 1874 (G-W)

Roll 14. 1875 (A-G)

Roll 15. 1875 (H-W)

Roll 16. 1876 (B-W)

Letters Sent:

Handwritten copies, arranged chronologically.

Roll 17. 1857-1861 (1 volume)

Registers of Letters Sent:

Registers that serve as guides to the letters sent on Rolls 18-21.

- Roll 17. Commissioner, agents, and others, 1869-1870
(Vols. 1-2).
Commissioner, agents, and others, 1871-1873
(Vols. 2-4).
Commissioner, 1873-1875; agents and others,
1873-1874 (Vol. 5).

Letters Sent to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs:
Chronological. Includes a few letters to other officials.

- Roll 18. Vol. 1. 1865-May 25, 1869.
Vol. 2. May 27, 1869-Jan. 31, 1872.
Roll 19. Vol. 3. Jan. 31, 1872-Aug. 2, 1875.
Vol. 4. Aug. 14, 1875-June 30, 1876.

Letters Sent to Agents and Various Persons:
Chronological. The volumes on rolls 22-23 contain
alphabetical indexes to surnames of addressees.

- Roll 20. Vol. 1. July 10, 1865-May 25, 1869.
Vol. 2. May 27, 1869-Jan. 18, 1872.
Roll 21. Vol. 3. Jan. 18, 1872-Oct. 28, 1874.
Roll 22. Vol. 1. Nov. 2, 1874-Dec. 1, 1875.
Roll 23. Vol. 2. Dec. 4, 1875-1876.

Administrative Records:

Arranged by year, thereunder generally by type of record
(see Introduction on Roll 1 for details). Roll 23 includes
18 letters (1849-1850) inherited from the Green Bay sub-
agency. Some of the same types of records are interfiled
with the letters received, particularly for the 1850s and 1860s.

- Roll 23. 1849-1855
Roll 24. 1856
Roll 25. 1857
Roll 26. 1858
Roll 27. 1858-1861
Roll 28. 1862-1866
Roll 29. 1867-1869
Roll 30. 1870
Roll 31. 1871
Roll 32. 1872
Roll 33. 1873-1874
Roll 34. 1875-1876

Miscellaneous Accounting Records:

Vouchers, voucher registers, statements of accounts
current, abstracts of disbursements, employee rosters.

- Roll 34. 1851-1855 (1 volume).

Statements of Receipts and Disbursements and Abstracts of
Disbursements:

Roll 34. 1866-1868 (1 volume)

Correspondence and Related Records Concerning the Pursuit
of Ink-pa-duta and His Band:

Correspondence, claims, receipts, and vouchers, arranged
chronologically, relating largely to the unsuccessful effort
to capture the Sioux responsible for the murder of settlers
near Spirit Lake, Iowa, and Jackson, Minnesota.

Roll 35. 1857-1859

Letters Sent From the Winnebago Agency:

1 volume of handwritten copies, arranged chronologically.

Roll 35. 1846, 1848, 1851-1852 (financial statements only),
1856-1862, 1865-1866, 1873.

SUBJECT HEADINGS

Indian agencies.

Indians of North America - Government relations

Inkpaduta, Dakota chief, 1815-1879.