



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minnesota State Archives

**U.S. GENERAL LAND OFFICE:
Duluth Land District (Minn.):
An Inventory of Its Records**

OVERVIEW

- Agency:** United States. Duluth Land District (Minn.).
- Series Title:** Duluth Land District Records.
- Dates:** 1855-1925.
- Abstract:** Correspondence; registers of homestead and other types of land entries; patent records; land contest records, and related materials covering land transfers in northeastern Minnesota.
- Quantity:** 79.7 cubic feet and 11 microfilm reels.
- Location:** See Detailed Description section for box locations.

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

The Northeastern land district, generally known as the Duluth district, was established by an act of Congress of July 8, 1856. The district's first land office was located in Buchanan and opened for business in September, 1856. The district was originally formed from a part of the Stillwater land district and several tracts were later added to the district. The following description of the district boundaries corresponds to the numbered diagrams on the accompanying sketch map.

(1) The Act of 1856 established the Northeastern (Duluth) land district, consisting of townships 61-64 in ranges 1-6 east of the 4th principal meridian and townships 46-70 in ranges 1-18 west of the 4th principal meridian.

(2) An executive order of May 25, 1858, added townships 46-70 in ranges 19-23 west of the 4th principal meridian to the Duluth district from the Northwestern district.

(3) By executive order of February 27, 1891, all townships north of the Mississippi River in ranges 24-27 west of the 4th principal meridian and ranges 25-29 west of the 5th principal meridian were added to the Duluth district from the St. Cloud district.

(4) Executive order of April 1, 1903, creating the Cass Lake land district, removed townships 53-64 in ranges 24-27 west of the 4th principal meridian and all land north of the Mississippi River in townships 143-152 in ranges 25-29 west of the 5th principal meridian from the Duluth district.

(5) An executive order of October 3, 1904, removed additional land from the Duluth district. Townships 65-71 in ranges 24-27 west of the 4th principal meridian and townships 153-160 in ranges 25-29 west of the 5th principal meridian were transferred to the Cass Lake district.

Land offices of the Duluth land district: Buchanan (September 1856 - ca. May 31, 1859); Portland (ca. June 7, 1859 - January 15, 1863); Duluth (January 15, 1863 - April 30, 1925).

Registers of the Duluth land district: Samuel Clark (1857 - February? 1859); John S. Watrous (August? 1859 - December? 1859); J. B. Culver (April? 1860 - April 1861); Luke Marvin (May 1861 - April 1869?); Ansell Smith (May 1869 - April 1873); William H. Feller (May 1873 - February 1876); Robert C. Mitchell (May? 1876 - March 1880); M. C. Russell (March 18, 1880 - August 1882); J. R. Carey (August 25, 1882 - March 1885); G. G. Hartley (April 1885 - December 1885); R. N. Marble (December 15, 1885 - June 1887); William Colvill (July 1887 - October 1, 1891); Monroe Nichols (October 2, 1891 - July 17, 1893); A. J. Taylor (July 17, 1893 - February 24, 1896); F. L. Ryan (February 24 - April 11, 1896); A. J. Taylor (April 13, 1896 - August 2, 1897); William E. Culkin (August 2, 1897 - December 7, 1898); J. W. Smith (December 9-23, 1898); William E. Culkin (December 24, 1898- ?); Charles H. Hartman (February 28, 1910- ?).

Receivers of the Duluth land district: John C. Whipple (August 1857 - May 22, 1861); Sidney Luce (May 22, 1861 - May 1, 1869); William H. Feller (May 22, 1867 - April 1873); L. Lewiston (April 26, 1873 - October 26, 1874); Joseph E. Knowlton (November 1, 1874 - January 24, 1876); Thomas H. Pressnell (January 25, 1876 - August 28, 1882); W. H. Spalding (September 1, 1882 - March 31, 1884); E. G. Swenstron (April 1, 1884 - July 1887); C. P. Maginnis (August 31, 1887 - March 31, 1890); S. L. Frazer (April 1, 1890 - March 21, 1894); T. L. Ryan (April 10, 1894 - April 16, 1898); J. Smith (May 1, 1896- ?); Neil B. Munson (May 1909 - August 1, 1910); Gustoph Bergquist (August 2, 1910 - 1914).

ORGANIZATION

These records are organized into the following sections:

- Abstract of Preemption Declaratory Statements, 1857-1898. 0.75 cubic feet.
- Abstract of Soldiers' Homestead Declaratory Statements, 1890-1907. 1 volume.
- Abstract of Timber and Stone Declaratory Statements, 1892-1908. 3 volumes.
- Contest Affidavits, 1888-1889. 2 folders.
- Contest Decisions, 1904-1911. 3 volumes.
- Contest Docket, 1887-1888. 1 volume.
- Correspondence: Miscellaneous, 1920-1924. 4 folders.
- Correspondence: Letters Received from GLO, 1858-1908. 37.8 cubic feet.
- Correspondence: Receiver's Letters Sent, 1857-1911. 2.2 cubic feet.
- Correspondence: Receiver's Miscellaneous Letters Sent, 1890-1907. 0.75 cubic feet.
- Correspondence: Register's Letters Sent, 1857-1911. 13.25 cubic feet.
- Correspondence: Register's Miscellaneous Letters Sent, 1900-1911. 3.0 cubic feet.
- Indian Traders' Applications to Enter Land, 1857-1858. 1 folder.
- Lists of Land Offered for Sale at Duluth, 1882. 0.3 cubic feet (6 folders).
- List of Lands Sold: Chippewa Pine Land, 1896-1898. 1 folder.
- Notices of Contest Decisions, 1904-1911. 3.0 cubic feet.
- Receiver's Abstracts of Collections, 1908-1913. 0.3 cubic feet (4 folders).

Receiver's Miscellaneous Accounts, 1908-1916. 8 folders.
Record of Patents Delivered, 1861-1908. 4 volumes.
Register of Certificates to Purchasers, 1857-1908. 2.5 cubic feet (6 volumes).
Register of Certificates to Purchasers of Chippewa Land, 1896-1908. 1 volume.
Register of Chippewa Half-Breed Scrip Entries, 1858-1880. 1 folder.
Register of Final Homestead Certificates, 1868-1911. 1.7 cubic feet (4 volumes and 3 folders).
Register of Final Homestead Certificates on Chippewa Land, 1903-1904. 1 volume.
Register of Forest Reserve Lieu Entries, September 1900-January 1905. 1 volume.
Register of Homestead Entries, 1863-1908. 3.0 cubic feet.
Register of Homestead Entries on Chippewa Land, 1896-1908. 2 volumes.
Register of Indian Allotment Entries: Dawes Act, 1888-1908. 3 volumes.
Register of Indian Allotment Entries: Nelson Act, 1896. 2 folders.
Register of Military Bounty Land Warrant Entries, 1857-1908. 2 volumes and 1 folder.
Register of Sioux Half-Breed Scrip Entries, 1858-1873. 1 folder.
Register of Supreme Court Scrip Entries, July 1874-June 1902. 1 volume and 1 folder.
Register of Surveyor General Scrip Entries, 1872-1873, 1892-1906. 1 volume and 1 folder.
Register of Valentine Scrip Entries, 1892-1905. 1 volume.
Serial Registers, 1908-1925. 4.25 cubic feet.

OTHER FINDING AIDS

Some of the volumes include indexes.

INDEX TERMS

These records are indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Topics:

- Afforestation—Minnesota.
- Artisans—Minnesota.
- Betterments—Minnesota.
- Bounties, Military—United States.
- Chippewa half-breed scrip.
- Cities and towns—Minnesota.
- Dakota Indians—Land tenure.
- Dakota Indians—Mixed descent.
- Deeds—Minnesota.
- Forest reserves—Minnesota.
- Homestead law—Minnesota.
- Indian traders—Minnesota.
- Islands—Minnesota.
- Land grants—Minnesota.
- Land scrip.

Land titles—Registration and transfer—Minnesota.
Land titles—Registration and transfer—Minnesota—Accounting.
Land titles—Registration and transfer—Minnesota—Cases.
Logging—Minnesota.
Mineral lands—Minnesota.
Ojibwa Indians—Genealogy.
Ojibwa Indians—Land tenure.
Ojibwa Indians—Reservations.
Pioneers—Minnesota—Biography.
Pre-emption rights (United States).
Public land sales—Minnesota.
Public land sales—Minnesota—Accounting.
Public lands—Minnesota.
Railroad land grants—Minnesota.
Sioux half-breed scrip.
Swamp lands—Minnesota.
Timber lands—Minnesota.
Timber trespass—Minnesota.

Places:

Bois Fort Reservation (Minn.).
Grand Portage Reservation (Minn.).
Red Lake Indian Reservation (Minn.).
United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—Veterans.
White Earth Indian Reservation (Minn.).

Organizations:

C. N. Nelson Lumber Company (Saint Paul, Minn.)
Northern Pacific Railroad Company.
St. Paul and Duluth Railroad Company.
United States. Buchanan Land Office.
United States. Cass Lake Land District.
United States. General Land Office.
United States. Portland Land Office.
United States. Supreme Court.
United States. Surveyor General.

Titles:

Treaty of La Pointe (1854).
United States. General Allotment Act (1887).
United States. Nelson Act.
United States. Preemption Act of 1841.
United States. Soldiers and Sailors Act.
United States. Timber and Stone Act.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation:

[Indicate the cited section and the volume and page or item and folder title here]. U.S. General Land Office: Duluth Land District (Minn.). Duluth Land District Records. Minnesota Historical Society. State Archives.
See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.

Accession Information:

Accession numbers: None (most records); 985-83 (Letters received (part); Register of homestead entries, 1863-1874; Unoffered pre-emption declaratory statements); 990-126 (microfilm of serial registers).

Processing Information:

MnPALS ID Nos.: 1704837-1704846; 1704848; 1704850-1704858; 1704860-1704869; 1704871-1704874; 1710905; 6157505

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.

Abstract of Preemption Declaratory Statements, 1855-1898. 0.6 cubic feet (2 volumes and 1 partial volume.

Abstracts of preemption declaratory statements filed in the Duluth land district under provisions of the General Preemption Act of 1841.

The Preemption Act of 1841 recognized the claims of those settlers or "squatters" who had settled on public land before it had been offered for sale. This act enabled the settler to purchase the claim at the minimum price rather than having to bid for it at public auction. The preemptor was required to file a declaratory statement within three months after the local land office had received the survey plat of the township in which the claim was located or within three months of making settlement. The declaratory statement, which gave the date of settlement and detailed the improvements made to the property, was used by the land office to determine the validity of the claimant's preemption, and it established the priority of his claim against those of other claimants.

When the land office announced that an area of land was to be offered for sale, the preemptor had to pay for his land before the date of the sale or risk losing it to the highest bidder. For land that was open to private entry, the preemptor had to make payment within one year of filing a declaratory statement. In 1854, preemption rights were extended to settlers on unsurveyed land.

The abstract for each declaratory statement gives statement number, date of settlement, date the declaratory statement was filed, name of preemptor, legal description of the tract preempted, and occasional remarks on the eventual disposition of the tract.

Arrangement: Numbered chronologically by date the statement was filed. There are separate sequences for preemptions on "unoffered" lands not yet open for settlement (Volumes 1-2) and on "offered" lands that were preempted after being opened for settlement (Volume 3).

Related materials: United States: General Land Office: Original Entry Tract Books (cataloged separately) cite the type and number of the certificate issued on the preempted parcel; the parcel can then be located in the appropriate register of entries.

Location	Volume	
114.J.3.3B-2	1	Nos. 1-1661, February 10, 1855 - June 19, 1880 (unoffered land)
	2	Nos. 1662-6106, June 22, 1880 - November 1898 (unoffered land).
	3	Nos. 264-468, July 1880 - March 1892 (offered land). Partial volume. Included in a volume with Abstract of Timber and Stone Declaratory Statements.

Abstract of Soldiers' Homestead Declaratory Statements, 1890-1907. 1 volume.

An abstract of declaratory statements filed by former soldiers seeking to enter additional homestead land in the Duluth land district under provisions of the Soldiers and Sailors Act of June 8, 1872, which was designed to provide a bonus to those who had served in the Civil War.

This act allowed a veteran whose original homestead was 40, 80, or 120 acres to make an additional homestead entry of 120, 80, or 40 acres, respectively. The act also allowed veterans to count their time in service against the residence requirement of the Homestead Act, thereby permitting them to make final proof after as little as one year's residence on their claims. Originally the act restricted the additional entry to land contiguous to the original homestead. This restriction was lifted by an act of March 3, 1873, which allowed the additional entry to be made on any offered or unoffered land open to homesteading. In addition, the soldiers' rights were made assignable, in effect creating a type of scrip.

The abstract for each declaratory statement gives statement number, date filed, name of the person filing the statement, legal description of the parcel applied for, and occasional remarks with citations to letters received from the commissioner of the General Land Office. The abstracts are recorded in a volume originally printed for register of timber culture entries.

Arrangement: Chronological by date the statement was filed.

Location Box

114.J.3.4F-2 --- Abstract of Soldiers' Homestead Declaratory Statements, nos. 70-179,
August 17, 1890 - March 12, 1907. 1 volume.

Abstract of Timber and Stone Declaratory Statements, 1892-1908. 0.9 cubic feet (2 volumes and 1 partial volume).

An abstract of declaratory statements filed in the Duluth land district under provisions of the Timber and Stone Act of June 2, 1878, as amended August 4, 1892.

The Timber and Stone Act provided that unoffered, unreserved public land valuable chiefly for timber or minerals could be sold to individuals in quantities not to exceed 160 acres at a minimum price of \$2.50 per acre. The purchaser had to file a declaratory statement swearing that he was not purchasing on speculation but intended the entry for his own use. The act of 1878 applied to several western states and territories but was extended to all public land states by the 1892 amendment.

The abstract for each declaratory statement gives statement number, date filed, name and residence of applicant, legal description of the tract applied for, and occasional annotations citing the certificate number in the Register of Certificates to Purchasers or citing letters received from the commissioner of the General Land Office.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

Location	Volume	
114.J.3.3B-2	[1]	Nos. 1-7109, September 15, 1892 - December 1902. Included in a volume with Abstract of Preemption Declaratory Statements.
114.J.3.4F-1	[2]	Nos. 7110-13944, January 1902 - June 1908.
114.J.3.4F-1	[3]	Nos. 1-358, November 21, 1892 - November 14, 1906. The volume is labeled "Timber Lands." Entries do not duplicate those in Volume 1. These entries may relate to ceded Chippewa land.

Contest Affidavits, 1888-1889. 2 folders.

Affidavits and other documentation relating to objections filed by the Northern Pacific Railroad Company to the allowance of preemption and homestead entries on certain land claimed by the railroad as part of its land grant.

The railroad's affidavits give the names of the preemption and homestead entrymen, legal description of the tract under dispute, date the land was selected as an indemnity grant by the Northern Pacific, and date the railroad filed objections to the entries made on the tract. Accompanying documentation may include the application to enter land, homestead affidavit and receipts, and notices sent to each party in the contest. Some affidavits are annotated to indicate the eventual disposition of the contest.

Arrangement: Chronological by date the railroad's affidavit was filed.

Related materials: See also the Duluth Land District's contest docket.

Location	Box	
115.L.8.6F	----	Contest Affidavits, 1888-1889. 2 folders.

Contest Decisions, 1904-1911. 0.3 cubic feet (3 volumes).

Copies of decisions rendered by the register and receiver of the Duluth land district on contested entries.

The register and receiver acted as arbiters in instances in which two or more individuals had filed claims to a parcel or in which an individual or the government challenged the validity of an entry. They took testimony from the contestants and witnesses and rendered their decision on the evidence presented. If the register and receiver differed in their verdict on a case, it was forwarded to the commissioner of the General Land Office for decision. Decisions of the register and receiver could be appealed to the commissioner.

The contest decisions give contest docket number; the names of the contestant (plaintiff) and entryman (defendant); type and number of entry being contested; sometimes the legal description of the contested tract; date the entry was made; grounds of the contest; a narrative summary of the evidence presented including date of settlement, improvements made, and biographical information; and the decision of the register and receiver with supporting reasoning and citations.

Arrangement: Chronological by date the decision was rendered.

Related materials: Notices of Contest Decisions.

Location	Box	
115.L.8.7B	---	Volume 1. Contest Decisions, July 7, 1904 - March 24, 1908. Volume 2. Contest Decisions, March 24, 1908 - November 12, 1909. Volume 3. Contest Decisions, November 23, 1909 - April 7, 1911.

Contest Docket, 1887-1888. 1 volume.

A summary record of official proceedings in contests brought by the Northern Pacific Railroad against homestead and other entries made on land within its land grant in the Duluth land district.

The docket entry for each contest case gives docket number, names of plaintiff (i.e., the Northern Pacific Railroad) and defendant (entryman), and a list with dates of each document filed or action taken in the case. Some are annotated with final disposition of the case.

Arrangement: Entries are numbered chronologically by date the contest was filed.

Finding aids: Indexed by name of defendant.

Location	Box	
114.J.3.7B-1	----	Contest Docket, 1887-1888. 1 volume.

Correspondence: Letters Received from GLO, 1858-1908. 37.8 cubic feet (38 boxes).

Letters received by the register and receiver of the Duluth land district from the commissioner of the General Land Office. They include letters of transmission and acknowledgment, instructions to the register and receiver, decisions of the land commissioner and secretary of the interior in contested cases, and notices of approval or rejection of land entries. Letters for 1858-1862 were sent to the predecessor Buchanan and Portland land offices.

The letters forwarding decisions of the commissioner and the secretary of the interior contain the most significant information. They generally include a summary of the facts in the case, giving information on the date of settlement and entry, improvements made on the claim, and biographical information on the contestants and witnesses. Some of these letters include transcripts of testimony and affidavits relating to the case.

Among the subjects discussed in the other letters are preemption, homestead, timber culture, military bounty land warrant, and cash entries; Chippewa half-breed scrip entries; use of soldier's additional homestead entries; timber and stone entries; state swamp land grants; land grants of the Northern Pacific and the St. Paul and Duluth railroads; the survey and settlement of Indian land, especially the Red Lake and White Earth reservations; Indian allotments; numerous allegations of fraudulent timber entries, many relating to the C. N. Nelson Lumber Company; timber trespass; public land sales; and the general operation of the land office.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

Related materials: United States. General Land Office. Original entry tract books (cataloged separately) include citations, by date sent, to letters received from the commissioner of the GLO regarding specific parcels of land.

Location	Box	
107.C.15.6F	1	1858 - May 1859 (Buchanan office). June 1859 - 1862 (Portland office). 1862-1875 (Duluth office) (All subsequent correspondence is for the Duluth office.)
107.C.15.7B	2	1876-1883.
107.C.15.8F	3	1884 - September 1886.
107.C.15.9B	4	October 1886 - September 1888.
107.C.15.10F	5	October 1888 - August 1889.
107.C.16.1B	6	September 1889 - August 1890.
107.C.16.2F	7	September 1890 - July 1891.
107.C.16.3B	8	August 1891 - March 1892.
107.C.16.4F	9	April 1892 - January 1893.
107.C.16.5B	10	February-November 1893.
107.C.16.6F	11	December 1893 - July 1894.
107.C.16.7B	12	August 1894 - May 1895.
107.C.16.8F	13	June-December 1895.
107.C.16.9B	14	January-June 1896.
107.C.16.10F	15	July 1896 - March 1897.
107.C.17.1B	16	April-October 1897.
107.C.17.2F	17	November 1897 - April 1898.
107.C.17.3B	18	May-November 1898.
107.C.17.4F	19	December 1898 - August 15, 1899.
107.C.17.5B	20	August 16, 1899 - March 1900.
107.C.17.6F	21	April-December 1900.
107.C.17.7B	22	January - April 19, 1901.
107.C.17.8F	23	April 20 - July 15, 1901.
107.C.17.9B	24	July 16 - November 22, 1901.
107.C.17.10F	25	November 23, 1901 - March 1902.
107.C.18.1B	26	April-July 1902.
107.C.18.2F	27	August-December 1902.
115.K.19.9B	28	January - May 11, 1903.
115.K.19.10F	29	May 12 - September 1903.
115.K.19.11B	30	October 1903 - February 18, 1904.

Location	Box	
115.K.19.12F	31	February 19 - June 1904.
115.K.19.13B	32	July-December 1904.
115.K.19.14F	33	January-June 1905.
154.K.15.2F	34	July-December 1905.
154.K.15.3B	35	January - September 7, 1906.
154.K.15.4F	36	September 7, 1906 - May 1907.
154.K.15.5B	37	June 1907 - May 1908.
154.K.15.6F	38	June-December 1908.

Correspondence, Miscellaneous, 1920-1924. 4 folders.

Miscellaneous letters received from the public and replies sent by the register and receiver of the Duluth land district. The letters received are mainly inquiries about the availability of land, procedures for entering land, the survey and entry of islands, and the status of entries.

Arrangement: Chronological by date of the letter received, with the land office reply immediately following.

Location	Box	
154.K.15.2F	----	Correspondence, Miscellaneous, January 1920 - June 1924. 4 folders.

Correspondence: Receiver's Letters Sent, 1857-1911. 2.2 cubic feet (17 volumes).

Copies of letters sent by the receiver of the Duluth land district in his capacities as receiver of public money and government disbursing agent.

Principal correspondents are the commissioner of the General Land Office, secretary of the treasury, and comptroller of the Treasury Department. The letters include transmittals of monthly and quarterly reports of accounts current and estimated office expenditures; inventories of office supplies and records; requests for information on procedural matters; responses to inquiries from the General Land Office or the Treasury Department about office receipts and expenditures; and reports on public auctions and the general operation of the land office. Occasional letters relate to contested entries. There are some miscellaneous letters to entrymen, lawyers, bankers, and land agents; after 1890, these sorts of letters were recorded in the separate set of Correspondence: Receiver's Miscellaneous Letters Sent.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

Provenance: Volumes 1-4 were originally inventoried as part of Receiver's Miscellaneous Letters Sent.

Location	Box	
115.L.9.6F	1	Volume 1. August 17, 1857 - January 3, 1880. Volume 2. January 16, 1880 - May 28, 1883. Volume 3. May 29, 1883 - November 29, 1890. Volume 4. April 8, 1884 - December 26, 1886. [Volume 5 missing] Volume 6. March 25, 1893 - December 22, 1894. Volume 7. December 26, 1894 - November 2, 1896. Volume 8. November 7, 1896 - April 11, 1898.

Location	Box	
115.L.9.7B	2	Volume 9. April 14, 1898 - July 12, 1899. Volume 10. July 13, 1899 - September 20, 1900. Volume 11. September 20, 1900 - October 10, 1901. Volume 12. October 11, 1901 - January 5, 1903. Volume 13. January 3, 1903 - March 24, 1904. Volume 14. March 25, 1904 - September 16, 1905. Volume 15. September 18, 1905 - March 12, 1907. Volume 16. March 13, 1907 - April 3, 1909.

Location	Box	
115.L.9.8F	3	Volume 17. May 1, 1909 - September 1, 1910. Volume 18. September 1, 1910 - April 6, 1911.

Correspondence: Receiver's Miscellaneous Letters Sent, 1890-1907. 0.75 cubic feet (6 volumes).

Letterpress copies of miscellaneous letters sent by the receiver of the Duluth land district, mostly to members of the public.

Many of the letters are answers to inquiries about the availability of land and procedures for entering land, or to requests for plat maps and field notes. Others are responses to inquiries from special agents of the GLO investigating entries, letters to banks relating to deposits of land office money, and instructions to entrymen on correcting errors in their entries.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

Location	Box	
115.L.9.8F	3	Volume 1. December 1, 1890 - October 17, 1892. Volume 2. October 18, 1892 - March 21, 1896. Volume 3. April 1, 1896 - April 18, 1902. Volume 4. April 23, 1902 - November 27, 1903. Volume 5. November 28, 1903 - December 13, 1904. Volume 6. December 19, 1904 - January 8, 1907.

Correspondence: Register's Letters Sent, 1873-1911. 13.25 cubic feet (90 volumes).

Handwritten and letterpress copies of outgoing letters of the register of the Duluth land district. They are written primarily to the commissioner of the General Land Office, with some additional letters to federal and state officials and private citizens. Some letters of the receivers are also included.

Letters to the GLO fall into two broad categories: routine interoffice communications, and letters relating to imperfect or contested entries. The routine administrative correspondence includes letters of transmittal and acknowledgment, monthly and quarterly reports of entries made, records of patents delivered, requests for record books and forms, inquiries on procedural matters, and general commentary on the operation of the land office.

The letters relating to contested entries include reports of the decisions of the register and receiver, accompanied by summaries of the facts and witnesses' testimony for those cases that were appealed to the commissioner of the GLO. In addition to naming the rival claimants and giving the legal description of the contested parcel, these letters often cite the date of settlement and entry, describe the improvements made--sometimes in great detail--and give biographical information on the contestants and witnesses in the case. The letters concerning imperfect entries are usually responses to requests from the commissioner for additional information needed to approve an entry. This most often related to the entryman's naturalization, change in name, witnesses' testimony, or procedural matters.

The series includes occasional letters to registers of other land offices and to the U.S. Surveyor General, and a few letters to the Minnesota governor or state land commissioner relating to state land grants. Volume 90 consists of letters to the register and receiver of the Cass Lake Land District regarding land transferred to that district from Duluth.

Letters to private individuals consist primarily of notices of hearings set, appeals forwarded, or decisions rendered in contested cases; requests for additional information or testimony; and procedural instructions necessary to perfect an entry.

Among the topics covered in the letters sent are: homestead and preemption claims, military bounty land warrant entries, railroad land grants, Sioux half-breed scrip entries, townsite locations, public land sales, and state land grants.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically. (Volume numbers were assigned at the time they were boxed; the original volumes bore no numbers.)

Related materials: Another volume of Register's Letters Sent, 1857-1873, is held by the Northeast Minnesota Historical Center, Duluth.

Location	Box	
114.J.3.7B-1	[1]	Volume 1. December 1873 - January 14, 1880.
115.L.10.1B	2	Volume 2. January 14, 1880 - May 25, 1883. Volume 3. May 28, 1883 - December 13, 1883. Volume 4. December 14, 1883 - April 16, 1884. Volume 5. April 16, 1884 - October 22, 1884. Volume 6. October 23, 1884 - April 25, 1885. Volume 7. April 27, 1885 - January 18, 1886. Volume 8. January 18, 1886 - December 14, 1886.

Location	Box	
115.L.10.2F	3	Volume 9. December 15, 1886 - August 12, 1887. Volume 10. August 12, 1887 - July 31, 1888. Volume 11. July 31, 1888 - May 30, 1889. Volume 12. May 31, 1889 - November 4, 1889. Volume 13. November 4, 1889 - April 28, 1890. Volume 14. April 28, 1890 - November 15, 1890. Volume 15. November 15, 1890 - April 29, 1891.
Location	Box	
115.L.10.3B	4	Volume 16. April 30, 1891 - October 9, 1891. Volume 17. October 9, 1891 - February 25, 1892. Volume 18. February 26, 1892 - August 11, 1892. Volume 19. August 12, 1892 - February 15, 1893. Volume 20. February 16, 1893 - July 22, 1893. Volume 21. July 24, 1893 - December 16, 1893. Volume 22. December 16, 1893 - April 27, 1894.
Location	Box	
115.L.10.4F	5	Volume 23. April 27, 1894 - September 10, 1894. Volume 24. September 10, 1894 - December 18, 1894. Volume 25. December 18, 1894 - May 1, 1895. Volume 26. May 1, 1895 - September 16, 1895. Volume 27. September 17, 1895 - December 20, 1895. Volume 28. December 20, 1895 - April 4, 1896. Volume 29. April 6, 1896 - July 29, 1896.
Location	Box	
115.L.10.5B	6	Volume 30. July 30, 1896 - October 26, 1896. Volume 31. October 26, 1896 - March 29, 1897. Volume 32. March 31, 1897 - July 24, 1897. Volume 33. July 24, 1897 - December 1, 1897. Volume 34. December 2, 1897 - April 7, 1898. Volume 35. April 8, 1898 - August 11, 1898. Volume 36. August 11, 1898 - November 30, 1898.
Location	Box	
115.L.10.6F	7	Volume 37. November 30, 1898 - April 8, 1899. Volume 38. April 8, 1899 - July 6, 1899. Volume 39. July 7, 1899 - October 5, 1899. Volume 40. October 7, 1899 - December 14, 1899. Volume 41. December 14, 1899 - February 9, 1900. Volume 42. February 10, 1900 - April 9, 1900.

Location	Box	
115.L.10.7B	8	Volume 43. April 9, 1900 - June 2, 1900. Volume 44. June 2, 1900 - August 24, 1900. Volume 45. August 25, 1900 - November 9, 1900. Volume 46. November 9, 1900 - January 14, 1901. Volume 47. January 14, 1901 - March 18, 1901. Volume 48. March 5, 1901 - April 10, 1901.
Location	Box	
115.L.10.8F	9	Volume 49. April 10, 1901 - June 3, 1901. Volume 50. June 3, 1901 - July 22, 1901. Volume 51. July 22, 1901 - September 5, 1901. Volume 52. September 6, 1901 - October 30, 1901. Volume 53. October 31, 1901 - December 31, 1901. Volume 54. January 1, 1902 - February 15, 1902. Volume 55. February 16, 1902 - April 23, 1902.
Location	Box	
115.L.11.1B	10	Volume 56. April 23, 1902 - June 24, 1902. Volume 57. June 25, 1902 - September 4, 1902. Volume 58. September 3, 1902 - October 31, 1902. Volume 59. November 1, 1902 - January 17, 1903. Volume 60. January 17, 1903 - March 17, 1903. Volume 61. March 16, 1903 - May 11, 1903. Volume 62. May 12, 1903 - July 7, 1903.
Location	Box	
115.L.11.2F	11	Volume 63. July 7, 1903 - September 15, 1903. Volume 64. September 16, 1903 - November 20, 1903. Volume 65. November 21, 1903 - February 5, 1904. Volume 66. February 5, 1904 - April 1, 1904. Volume 67. April 1, 1904 - June 7, 1904. Volume 68. June 9, 1904 - September 1, 1904. Volume 69. September 1, 1904 - November 4, 1904.
Location	Box	
115.L.11.3B	12	Volume 70. November 4, 1904 - February 6, 1905. Volume 71. February 4, 1905 - April 14, 1905. Volume 72. April 13, 1905 - June 23, 1905. Volume 73. June 23, 1905 - October 10, 1905. Volume 74. October 12, 1905 - January 29, 1906. Volume 75. January 30, 1906 - May 22, 1906. Volume 76. May 23, 1906 - October 7, 1906. Volume 77. October 7, 1906 - April 11, 1907.

Location	Box	
115.L.11.4F	13	Volume 78. April 11, 1907 - August 31, 1907. Volume 79. September 3, 1907 - December 31, 1907. Volume 80. January 2, 1908 - April 10, 1908. Volume 81. April 11, 1908 - July 17, 1908. Volume 82. July 18, 1908 - January 19, 1909. Volume 83. January 20, 1909 - June 17, 1909. Volume 84. June 17, 1909 - December 13, 1909.

Location	Box	
115.L.11.5B	14	Volume 85. December 13, 1909 - May 31, 1910. Volume 86. June 1, 1910 - December 30, 1910. Volume 87. December 31, 1910 - April 29, 1911. Volume 88. Acknowledgments of Patents Received, 1902-1905. In two sections: January 21, 1902-July 14, 1905 and June 9, 1902-January 14, 1905. Volume 89. Acknowledgments of Patents Received, January 16, 1905 - September 20, 1906.

Location	Box	
115.L.8.7B	----	[Volume 90]. Letters Sent to Cass Lake Land Office, July 1, 1903-May 19, 1906. Letters of the register (mainly) and receiver to the register and receiver at Cass Lake, regarding land transferred from the Duluth district to the Cass Lake district. They are primarily forwarding correspondence from the GLO, applications to enter land, and other documentation of entries, and communicating information about the status of entries, contests, or appeals.

Correspondence: Register's Miscellaneous Letters Sent, 1900-1911. 3.0 cubic feet (3 boxes, containing 19 volumes).

Letterpress copies of letters sent by the register of the Duluth land district to private individuals, attorneys, land agents, and special investigating agents of the General Land Office. Some receiver's letters are included also.

Letters to private individuals include replies to requests for information on the availability of land, the status of entries and contest cases, and procedures for making various types of land entries; instructions on perfecting erroneous applications to enter land; and discussions of alleged illegal cutting of timber on public land. Letters to special agents of the GLO explain cases in which the register was asking the special agent to investigate "suspicious proofs" made by entrymen, giving details of the entry and the reasons for questioning the proof.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically. (Volume numbers were assigned at the time they were boxed; the original volumes bore no numbers.)

Location	Box	
115.L.9.3B	1	Volume 1. November 9, 1900 - July 8, 1901. Volume 2. July 10, 1901 - January 25, 1902. Volume 3. January 25, 1902 - September 24, 1902. Volume 4. September 27, 1902 - March 7, 1903. Volume 5. March 7, 1903 - February 26, 1904. Volume 6. February 26, 1904 - August 29, 1904.

Location	Box	
115.L.9.4F	2	Volume 7. August 30, 1904 - February 8, 1905. Volume 8. January 30, 1905 - September 12, 1906. Volume 9. September 18, 1906 - March 15, 1907. Volume 10. March 19, 1907 - October 8, 1907. Volume 11. October 8, 1907 - July 22, 1908. Volume 12. July 22, 1908 - April 23, 1909.

Location	Box	
115.L.9.5B	3	Volume 13. April 27, 1909 - August 12, 1909. Volume 14. August 12, 1909 - November 2, 1909. Volume 15. November 2, 1909 - February 25, 1910. Volume 16. March 2, 1910 - July 7, 1910. Volume 17. July 9, 1910 - October 26, 1910. Volume 18. October 27, 1910 - February 17, 1911. Volume 19. February 27, 1911 - April 29, 1911.

Indian Traders' Applications to Enter Land, 1857-1858. 1 folder.

Applications by licensed Indian traders to enter land in the Duluth land district under provisions of the Chippewa Treaty of La Pointe of September 30, 1854.

The tenth article of the treaty allowed licensed traders and some craftsmen to enter the land on which they had established their posts or shops. The applications give the name of the applicant, the tract applied for, date of the applicant's settlement on the tract, and date a license was issued.

Location	Box	
115.L.8.6F	----	Indian Traders' Applications to Enter Land, 1857-1858. 1 folder. There are applications from Francis Bellair, Michael S. Bright, Reuben B. Carlton, Webster M. Carlton, Levi B. Coffey, Joel D. Crittenden, E. A. C. Hatch, Charles Kimball, J. W. Linde, George C. Nettleton, John T. Newton, William H. Newton, John Parry, Orin W. Rice, George R. Stuntz, Josiah Tallmadge, John S. Watrous, and Simeon Weaver.

Lists of Lands Offered for Sale at Duluth, 1882. 0.3 cubic feet (6 folders).

A list (470 pages in 5 sections) of lands "N. and W. 4th P.M." offered at public sale at Duluth, December 4, 1882, per Proclamation No. 877. An unidentified list (1 folder) for ranges 1E to 3E is probably part of this sequence, as well. For each parcel, the list gives range, township, section, and fractional section or lot number, acreage, and price per acre. Some entries are annotated to note sale or other disposition, and price paid.

Arrangement: Arranged by range, then township, then section.

Location Box

115.L.8.6F ---- Lists of Land Offered for Sale at Duluth, December 4, 1882. 6 folders.

Lists of Ceded Chippewa Pine Lands Offered at Public Sale, 1896-1898. 1 oversize folder.

Lists of pine lands ceded by the Ojibwe Indians from their reservations and offered for sale at public auction in the Duluth land district under provisions of acts of January 14, 1889, and February 26, 1896, as per departmental instructions of April 24, 1896.

The lists record land offered at auction on July 1, 1896 (2 pages) and August 2, 1898 (3 pages), and give the following information for each parcel: legal description, acreage, appraised value, purchaser's name, and purchase price (or "no bid" if the parcel was not sold). The July 1 list also gives entry number (recorded in the Register of Certificates to Purchasers of Chippewa Land).

Arrangement: Listed by parcel in the order in which they were offered at auction.

Location Box

114.J.3.1B-2 ---- Lists of Ceded Chippewa Pine Lands Offered at Public Sale, 1896-1898.
1 folder.

Notices of Contest Decisions, 1904-1911. 3.0 cubic feet (3 boxes containing 18 volumes).

Letterpress copies of notices sent to parties in contested entry cases informing them that the commissioner of the General Land Office had ruled on their claim. Some merely state that the commissioner's decision had been received at the land office and that the entryman had a specified amount of time in which to file an appeal. Others give a summary of the facts in the case, particularly in cases involving soldiers' additional homestead rights.

Indexes: Beginning with Volume 5, the volumes are individually indexed by name of person to whom the notice was sent.

Related materials: See also the district's Correspondence: Letters received from GLO, and Contest decisions.

Location	Box	
115.L.8.8F	1	Volume 1. September 19, 1904 - March 18, 1905. Volume 2. March 22, 1905 - November 21, 1905. Volume 3. November 21, 1905 - July 26, 1906. Volume 4. July 26, 1906 - May 23, 1907. Volume 5. May 24, 1907 - September 18, 1907. Volume 6. September 18, 1907 - December 24, 1907.

Location	Box	
115.L.9.1B	2	Volume 7. December 26, 1907 - April 3, 1908. Volume 8. April 4, 1908 - July 6, 1908. Volume 9. July 6, 1908 - October 17, 1908. Volume 10. October 19, 1908 - February 24, 1909. Volume 11. February 25, 1909 - June 9, 1909. Volume 12. June 10, 1909 - September 20, 1909.

Location	Box	
115.L.9.2F	3	Volume 13. September 21, 1909 - December 18, 1909. Volume 14. December 20, 1909 - March 17, 1910. Volume 15. March 19, 1910 - July 20, 1910. Volume 16. July 21, 1910 - November 4, 1910. Volume 17. November 5, 1910 - March 21, 1911. Volume 18. March 23, 1911 - March 31, 1911.

Receiver's Abstracts of Collections, 1908-1913. 0.3 cubic feet (4 folders).

A record of money collected by the receiver of the Duluth land district as the purchase price and/or fees for various types of land entries.

The abstracts for each type of entry were recorded separately and include: homestead entries, final homestead certificates, railroad selections, Valentine scrip entries, soldier's homestead declaratory statements, soldier's homestead entries, homestead entries for Chippewa land, public sale entries, timber and stone entries, private cash entries, installment payments on homestead entries on ceded Chippewa land, and cash purchases of excesses on warrant and scrip entries.

The abstract for each payment received gives date received, serial register number, receipt number, name of person making payment, area of the tract covered by the entry, rate per acre, and fees and commissions paid. Also included in a record of fees received for transcribing testimony, copying plats, and similar services.

Arrangement: Arranged by type of entry, thereunder chronological.

Related materials: See the district's Serial Registers.

Location	Box	
115.L.8.7B	----	Receiver's Abstracts of Collections, 1908-1913. 4 folders.

Receiver's Miscellaneous Accounts, 1908-1916. 0.4 cubic feet (8 folders).

Various accounts and records of money received and/or transmitted by the receiver of the Duluth land district.

Location	Box	
115.L.8.6F	----	<p>Abstracts of Money Received, July 1912 - June 1916. A record of fees and commissions received for entries made, proofs taken, and plats or field notes copied. Each abstract includes date the payment was received, receipt number, serial register number, name of person making payment, and type of entry or service for which payment was received.</p> <p>Abstracts of Collections and Expenditures in Contested Cases, 1908-1913. A record of fees received and expenses paid for transcribing testimony in contested cases. Each abstract gives the date the fee was paid, receipt number, voucher number, title of the contested case, amount collected from contestants, amount paid to the contest clerk, and net balance.</p> <p>Abstracts of Money Returned or Applied, July 1912 - December 1913. A record of deposits returned or applied to purchases of public land.</p> <p>Abstracts of Unearned Fees Received, April 1909 - June 1912. A record of unearned fees and deposits received for recording homestead applications, final homestead certificates, commutation of homestead entries, and contested cases. Each abstract gives date the fee was paid, receipt number, name of person making payment, type of entry, and amount received.</p> <p>Abstracts of Unearned Fees Returned, July 1908 - June 1912. A record of unearned fees returned to the payer or applied to other entries. Each abstract gives date returned, to whom, check number, and amount.</p> <p>Abstract of Treasury Deposits, July 1908 - July 1912. A record of money deposited with the U.S. Treasury. The abstract gives date of deposit and the amount deposited for various categories of funds received.</p> <p>Recapitulation of Abstracts of Collections, 1908-1912. Monthly and quarterly summary statements of money received for purchase of land or as fees and commissions paid on entries.</p> <p>Receiver's Accounts Current, July 1908 - April 1916. Monthly and quarterly totals of money received and deposited in the U.S. Treasury for land sales, fees and commissions, and miscellaneous income.</p>

Record of Patents Delivered, 1861-1908. 1.2 cubic feet (3 volumes and 1 folder).

A record of patents delivered to patentees or their agents for land entered in the Duluth land district.

Volume 1 lists only the name of the patentee, the person to whom the patent was delivered, and the date of delivery. Volumes 2-4 give the type and number of entry, person to whom the patent was issued, date the patent was issued, volume and page where the patent is recorded in GLO records, name and address of the person to whom the patent was sent, and date it was sent.

Arrangement: Within each volume, the entries are alphabetical by first letter of the surname of the patentee, thereunder chronological by date delivered.

Location	Box	
114.J.3.5B-2	----	[Volume 1], 1861-1868 (in folder). [Volume 2], 1873-August 1884. [Volume 3], September 1884-1903.
114.J.3.6F-1	----	[Volume 4], 1904-1908.

Register of Certificates to Purchasers, 1857-1908. 2.5 cubic feet (6 volumes in 3 boxes).

An abstract of certificates issued by the register of the Duluth land district for land entries made by cash purchase, scrip, or warrant. The certificate established the buyer's legal claim to a parcel of land pending issuance by the GLO of a patent that formally transferred title.

The abstract for each certificate gives certificate number, date issued, name of purchaser and county of residence, legal description and acreage of the parcel purchased, price per acre, and total purchase price. Most abstracts are annotated with the date the patent was issued and the volume and page in which it is recorded in GLO patent records. A few include citations to letters from the commissioner of the General Land Office.

After August, 1892, some entries are annotated with citations to the "Act of June 3, 1878 as amended August 4, 1892." These entries were made under provisions of the Timber and Stone Act of 1878, which was made applicable to land in Minnesota by amendment of August, 1892.

Arrangement: Arranged by chronologically assigned certificate number.

Related materials: See also the district's Register of final homestead certificates and Register of homestead entries (both cataloged separately).

Location	Box	
114.J.3.2F-1	1	Volume 1. Nos. 1-5908, December 1857 - December 1882. Volume 2. Nos. 5909-10549, January 1883 - March 1889.
114.J.3.2F-2	2	Volume 3. Nos. 10550-14503, April 1889 - December 1897. Volume 4. Nos. 14504-17996, January 1898 - November 1902.
114.J.3.3B-1	3	Volume 5. Nos. 17997-21251, December 1902 - December 1904. Volume 6. Nos. 21252-24198, January 1905 - June 1908. Spine titles: "Abstract of Lands Sold."

Register of Certificates to Purchasers of Chippewa Land, 1896-1908. 1 volume.

An abstract of certificates issued for land entries made by cash purchase in the Duluth land district for ceded Chippewa reservation (or pine) land, under provisions of the Nelson Act of January 14, 1889, and an act of February 26, 1896. This volume includes entries made on land in the Leech Lake, Bois Fort, and Pigeon River (Grand Portage) reservations. The procedure for making cash entries on this land was the same as for cash entries on public land, except that the minimum price was based on the appraised value of the timber on the land.

The abstract for each certificate gives certificate number, date issued, legal description and acreage of the parcel purchased, name and residence of the purchaser, appraised value per acre (often not filled in), and total purchase price. Most abstracts are annotated with the date the patent was issued and the volume and page in which it is recorded in GLO patent records. Some include citations to letters from the commissioner of the General Land Office. The series also records installment and commutation payments for homestead entries on ceded Chippewa land.

The first pair of facing pages is annotated with the heading "Public Sale of Ceded Chippewa Pine Lands Act of January 14, 1889 & Act February 26, 1896."

Arrangement: Arranged by chronologically assigned certificate number.

Related materials: See also the district's Register of final homestead certificates for Chippewa land and Register of homestead entries on Chippewa land.

Location	Box	
114.J.3.1B-2	----	Register of Certificates to Purchasers of Chippewa Land, Nos. 1-295, July 1, 1896 - June 19, 1908.

Register of Chippewa Half-Breed Scrip Entries, 1858-1880. 1 oversize folder.

An abstract of land entries made in the Duluth district with Chippewa half-breed scrip.

The treaty of September 30, 1854, between the Lake Superior Chippewa and the United States, and the treaty of April 7, 1866, between the Bois Fort Chippewa and the United States, reserved tracts of land for Chippewa mixed-bloods. The mixed-bloods did not take up this land and eventually it was opened for entry. Mixed-blood title to the tract was extinguished by dividing the reserves among the enrolled mixed-bloods and issuing scrip to each individual in proportion to their share of the reserve. By law the scrip could not be alienated, but this restriction was often evaded and much of the scrip was entered by someone other than the person to whom it was issued.

The abstract for each scrip entry gives certificate (scrip) number, date the scrip was issued, acre value of the scrip, person to whom it was issued, person by whom the scrip was located, date located, legal description and acreage of the tract located, number of register's and receiver's receipt, and occasional remarks with citations to letters from the commissioner of the General Land Office.

Arrangement: Chronological by date the scrip was located. There are several different lists, some on forms originally printed for other types of scrip.

Location	Box	
114.J.3.1B-2	----	Register of Chippewa Half-Breed Scrip Entries, 1858-1880. 1 folder.

Register of Final Homestead Certificates, 1868-1908. 1.5 cubic feet (4 volumes).

An abstract of all final certificates issued for homesteaded land in the Duluth land district.

The abstract for each final certificate gives certificate number; date the certificate was filed; legal description of the tract homesteaded; name of applicant and county of residence; number of the original homestead application (recorded in the separate series Register of Homestead Entries); commissions and fees paid; price per acre (commissions were based on the appraised price per acre); and various remarks relative to delivery of patents, citations to letters from the commissioner of the General Land Office, and citations to the Register of Certificates to Purchasers (separate series) if the acreage of the parcel originally entered was in excess of the applicant's homestead eligibility.

Final certificates for some Duluth homestead entries are recorded in the Cass Lake land district register.

Arrangement: Numbered chronologically by date the final certificate was issued.

Location	Box	
114.J.2.8F-1	1	Volume 1. Nos. 1-1612, February 1868 - May 1893. Volume 2. Nos. 1613-4211, June 1893 - September 1901.
114.J.2.8F-2	2	Volume 3. Nos. 4212-6431, October 1901 - June 1907. Volume 4. Nos. 6432-7013, July 1907 - June 1908.

Register of Final Homestead Certificates for Chippewa Land, 1903-1904. 1 oversize folder.

An abstract of final homestead certificates (nos. 1-6) for homestead entries made on ceded Chippewa reservation land under provisions of the Homestead Act of 1862 and the Nelson Act of January 14, 1889.

Final certificates for homesteads on ceded Chippewa land were issued after the entryman had proved up his claim, demonstrating compliance with the residency requirements as in regular homestead entries, and had paid for his homestead as provided for by the Nelson Act. These final certificates are for homestead entries on land that was transferred to the Cass Lake land district.

The abstract for each final certificate gives certificate number, date the certificate was issued, legal description of the tract homesteaded, name of the entryman, number of the original homestead entry (recorded in the separately cataloged Register of Homestead Entries on Chippewa Land) and occasional remarks with citations to letters received from the commissioner of the General Land Office.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

Related materials: See also the district's Register of homestead entries on Chippewa land and Register of certificates to purchasers of Chippewa Land.

Location	Box	
114.J.3.1B-2	----	Register of Final Homestead Certificates for Chippewa Land, Nos. 1-6, May 1903 - November 1904. 2 pages, removed from an otherwise blank volume.

Register of Forest Reserve Lieu Entries, 1900-1905. 1 volume.

An abstract of entries (nos. 1-839) made in the Duluth land district with forest reserve lieu scrip.

The Forest Reserve Lieu Act of June 4, 1897, allowed settlers or owners of un-perfected or patented claims in established forest reserves to relinquish such claims and select, in lieu, vacant land open for settlement in an amount equal to that relinquished.

The abstract for each lieu entry gives registers/receivers entry number, date entered, name of entryman, legal description of the tract entered, selection number, identification of the forest reserve tract being relinquished, and occasional annotations with citations to letters received from the commissioner of the General Land Office. Recorded in a volume printed as "Abstract of Land Sold."

Arrangement: Arranged by entry number, assigned chronologically in the order in which the sale was approved.

Location	Box	
114.J.3.4F-2	----	Register of Forest Reserve Lieu Entries, Nos. 1-839, September 4, 1900 - September 1905.

Register of Homestead Entries, 1863-1908. 3.0 cubic feet (8 volumes).

An abstract of all applications to acquire land under the provisions of the Homestead Act of 1862 that were filed in the Duluth land district.

Individuals seeking to acquire land under the Homestead Act first filed an application or "declaratory statement" with the local land office, thereby establishing their claim to a particular tract of land. They were then required to live on and improve the land for five years, after which time they presented the local land office a "final proof" of their compliance with the provisions of the Homestead Act. If the land office accepted the proof, it issued a "final certificate." The final certificate was then turned in to the General Land Office, which issued a patent formally transferring title to the homesteader.

The abstract for each homestead entry gives number of the application or declaratory statement; date of application; name of the applicant; legal description of the parcel entered; and remarks on the issuance of a patent, cancellation, or other disposition of the entry, with citations to relevant letters from the commissioner of the General Land Office.

Arrangement: Arranged by chronologically assigned application (entry) number.

Related materials: See also the district's Register of final homestead certificates and Letters received (both cataloged separately).

Location	Box	
114.J.2.6F-1	1	Volume 1. Nos. 1-890, January 1863 - December 1874. Annotated with final homestead certificate number. Volume 2. Nos. 891-4318, January 1875 - March 1889. Some are annotated with final homestead certificate number.

Location	Box	
114.J.2.6F-2	2	Volume 3. Nos. 4319-9389, April 1889 - July 1894. Falling apart. Volume 4. Nos. 9390-13214, August 1894 - December 1900.
114.J.2.7B-1	3	Volume 5. Nos. 13215-16211, January 1901 - March 1902. Volume 6. Nos. 16212-19422, April 1902 - September 1903.
114.J.2.7B-2	4	Volume 7. Nos. 19423-22592, September 1903 - December 1906. Volume 8. Nos. 22593-23723, January 1907 - June 1908.

Register of Homestead Entries on Chippewa Land, 1896-1908. 0.75 cubic feet (2 volumes).

An abstract of homestead entries in the Duluth land district on ceded Chippewa reservation land made under provisions of the Homestead Act of 1862 and the Nelson Act of January 14, 1889. An annotation on the first page of volume 1 also cites a commissioner's letter of March 27, 1896, and refers to the lands as "Chippewa agricultural lands."

The Nelson Act (after Minnesota Congressman Knute Nelson) called for the Ojibwe to cede all of their reservation land in Minnesota except the Red Lake and White Earth reservations. All Ojibwe except the Red Lake Band were then to be concentrated on the White Earth Reservation and given allotments in severalty. The Red Lake Ojibwe were to receive their allotments on the Red Lake Reservation. Land in excess of that needed to provide allotments for the enrolled tribal members was to be ceded to the government, surveyed, and appraised as agricultural or timber land. The agricultural land was to be opened for entry by "purchased homestead" and the timber land was to be sold at public auction with all proceeds placed in trust for the Ojibwe.

Under the Nelson Act, homesteads on ceded Ojibwe land had to be purchased at the rate of \$1.25 per acre with payments due in five equal installments. Residence requirements and "proving up" procedures were the same as for regular homesteads. Originally the homesteads on Ojibwe land could not be commuted, but a later amendment allowed them to be commuted to cash entries. The yearly installment and commutation payments are recorded in the Register of Certificates to Purchasers of Chippewa Land.

The abstract for each homestead entry gives entry number, date of entry, legal description and acreage of the tract entered, name and residence of the entryman, fees and commissions paid, and occasional notes on the eventual disposition of the entry with citations to letters received from the commissioner of the General Land Office.

Related materials: See also the district's Register of certificates to purchasers of Chippewa land, and Register of final homestead certificates for Chippewa land.

Location	Box	
114.J.3.1B-1	----	Volume 1. Nos. 1-492, May 1896-November 1904. Records entries made on land in townships 156-160, ranges 25-29. This land, originally in the St. Cloud land district, was transferred to Duluth in 1891 and to Cass Lake in 1903. Volume 2. Nos. 452, 465, 493-805, June 1904-June 1908. Records entries on land in the Pigeon River and Bois Fort reservations. Nos. 452 and 465 were incorrectly recorded in Volume 1, and were re-recorded in Volume 2.

Registers of Indian Allotment Entries under the Dawes Act, 1888-1908. 0.5 cubic feet (3 volumes).

Abstracts of land entries made in the Duluth land district under provisions of the Indian Allotment Act of February 8, 1887.

The Indian Allotment Act, often referred to as the Dawes Act, provided for the breaking up of Indian reservations by allotting land in severalty to enrolled tribal members and opening the remainder to settlement. Land "suitable for agricultural and grazing purposes" was to be allotted in tracts of 160 acres to all heads of families, 80 acres to all single persons over 18 and orphan children under 18, and 40 acres to all other children.

The registers record the applications of Indians to receive their allotted acreage. The abstract for each allotment entry gives application number, date of application, name and tribal affiliation of applicant and/or minor child, description of the tract applied for, and remarks on the disposition or cancellation of the entry.

Portions of the entries in Volume 1 are duplicated in Volumes 2 and 3, except that the tract descriptions in Volumes 2 and 3 are by metes and bounds. These entries were filed before the land was surveyed, and the claims were later adjusted to fit the survey subdivisions as recorded in Volume 1.

Arrangement: Arranged by chronologically assigned application number.

Indexes: An index of names in Volume [1], in the order in which they appear on the schedule, is available in PDF format:

http://www.mnhs.org/library/findaids/glo002/pdf/duluth_dawes_index.pdf

Location	Volume	
114.J.3.6F-2	[1]	Nos. 1-423, June [i.e., July?] 1888 - June 1902. 1 oversize folder. Each entry gives (as pertinent) application numbers, date of application, date of certificate, name of tribe, name of head of family or other applicant, name of minor child on whose behalf the application is being made, legal description and acreage of the tract entered, and remarks (usually noting whether the application was allowed or canceled, with a citation [to a letter from the GLO?]). Pages removed from a deteriorated volume.

Location	Box	
114.J.3.6F-2	[2]	Nos. 1-391, July 1888 - December 1894. Each entry gives date, entry number, applicant's name, and metes and bounds description of the land applied for. Entries 1-53 are apparently all for members of the Lac Court Orielles Band, although not always identified as such (see Volume 3), and many are annotated as having been adjusted and/or canceled. Some of the subsequent entries are also for the LCO Band; most are unattributed; and a few are annotated as adjusted or canceled.
114.J.3.6F-2	[3]	Nos. 1-53, July 1888 - February 1889. Duplicates of the entries in Volume 2, although the metes and bounds descriptions may vary somewhat. All are for the Lac Court Orielles Band.

Register of Indian Allotment Entries under the Nelson Act, 1896. 2 oversize folders.

A schedule of land entries made in the Duluth land district on Indian allotments in the Bois Fort and Grand Portage reservations under provisions of the Nelson Act of January 14, 1889.

The Nelson Act (after Minnesota Congressman Knute Nelson) called for the Ojibwe Indians to cede all of their reservation land in Minnesota except the Red Lake and White Earth reservations. All Ojibwe except the Red Lake Band were then to be concentrated on the White Earth Reservation and given allotments in severalty. The Red Lake Ojibwe were to receive their allotments on the Red Lake Reservation. An amendment to the act allowed other Indians to take up allotments on their former reservations. Land in excess of that needed to provide allotments for the enrolled tribal members was to be ceded to the government, surveyed, and appraised as agricultural or timber land. The agricultural land was to be opened for entry under the Homestead Act and the timber land was to be offered for sale at public auction with proceeds placed in trust for the Ojibwe.

This series records the allotment applications of those Ojibwe who chose to take up their allotments on land in the Bois Fort and Grand Portage reservations. The abstract for each allotment entry gives allotment number, Indian and/or English name of the allottee, tribal band of the allottee, legal description of the tract covered by the allotment, the allottee's number in the census of 1889 (Grand Portage list only), and occasional annotations giving year of birth for those not in the 1889 census and familial relationships of allottees.

Arrangement: There are separate folders for Bois Fort and Grand Portage; entries within each are by chronologically assigned allotment number.

Indexes: Indexes of the names, in the order in which they appear on the two schedules, are available in PDF format:

http://www.mnhs.org/library/findaids/glo002/pdf/bois_fort_index.pdf

http://www.mnhs.org/library/findaids/glo002/pdf/grand_portage_index.pdf

Location	Box	
114.J.3.6F-2	---	Bois Fort Reservation, nos. 1-693, August 29, 1896. 1 folder. Grand Portage Reservation, nos. 1-304, September 12, 1896 (patented in 1897). 1 folder.

Register of Military Bounty Land Warrant Entries, 1857-1908. 0.75 cubic feet (2 volumes and 2 oversize folders).

Registers or abstracts of public land entries made with military bounty land warrants in the Duluth land district.

Under acts of 1842, 1847, 1850, 1852, and 1855, Congress authorized the issuance of land warrants as a bounty for military service. The warrants entitled the holder to enter or "locate" a specified amount of public land. The warrants were transferable and most were entered by someone other than the person to whom they were originally issued.

The abstract for each warrant entry gives land office entry number, warrant number, date a warrant was issued, person in whose favor the warrant was issued, legal description of the tract located with the warrant, date located, and by whom located. Some entries are annotated with citations to decisions of the commissioner of the General Land Office.

Arrangement: By warrant type (act), thereunder numbered chronologically by date of land office entry.

Location	Box	
114.J.3.5B-1	----	Folder 1. Act of 1847. Nos. 1-12, 1857-1902. Volume 1. Act of 1850. Nos. 1-49, 1857-1905. Folder 2. Act of 1852. No. 1, March 12, 1902. Volume 2. Act of 1855. Nos. 1-555, 1857-1908.

Register of Sioux Half-Breed Scrip Entries, 1858-1873. 1 oversize folder.

An abstract of land entries made in the Duluth land district with Sioux half-breed scrip.

The Treaty of Prairie du Chien of 1831 set aside 320,819 acres of land near present-day Wabasha as a reserve for the Dakota mixed-bloods. They were expected to settle and take possession of the reserved tract, but this did not occur. As the surrounding area was opened for settlement, pressure arose to open the half-breed tract. The mixed-bloods' title to the tract was extinguished by dividing the reserve among the enrolled mixed bloods and issuing scrip to each individual in proportion to his or her share of the reserve.

A total of 640 individuals received scrip for 480 acres, and 38 persons were issued scrip for 360 acres. The scrip could be used to locate land, surveyed or unsurveyed, anywhere in the public domain. By law the scrip could not be alienated, but this restriction was often evaded and much of the scrip was entered by someone other than the person to whom it was issued.

The abstract for each scrip entry gives number and letter of the scrip certificate, date the scrip was issued, acreage for which it was issued, person to whom it was issued, person by whom the scrip was located, date located, legal description and acreage of the tract located, and volume and page in which the patent is recorded in the General Land Office records. Some entries contain other notes or citations to letters from the commissioner of the GLO.

The Sioux scrip appears to be distinguishable from the Chippewa scrip (above) by a letter suffix after the scrip number.

The register is in poor condition.

Arrangement: Chronological by date the scrip was located.

Location	Box	
114.J.3.1B-2	----	Register of Sioux Half-Breed Scrip Entries, 1858-1873. 1 folder.

Register of Surveyor General Scrip Entries, 1872-1873, 1892-1906. 1 volume and 1 oversized folder.

An abstract of land entries made with surveyor general scrip in the Duluth land district under provisions of an act of Congress of June 2, 1858.

This act was intended to settle outstanding claims of individuals or corporations (mainly in Louisiana, Florida, and Missouri) that had received land grants from foreign powers but had lost the land to settlers or whose title to the land had become clouded. The surveyor general of the district in which the claim was located certified the amount of land lost by the claimant and issued scrip of equal value which could be used to locate land in the public domain. This scrip, commonly known as "Surveyor General scrip," was transferable and most was located by someone other than the person to whom it was originally issued.

The abstract for each entry gives entry number, scrip number, date the scrip was issued, acre/value of the scrip, person to whom the scrip was issued, legal description of the tract located with the scrip, date of location, person who located the scrip, and occasional remarks with citations to letters from the commissioner of the General Land Office.

Arrangement: Entries are numbered chronologically by date located.

Location	Folder	
114.J.3.4F-2	1	Nos. 1-132, October 1872-May 1873. Nos. 231-333, October 1892-October 1897. An annotation states that this section begins with no. 231 by instructions in commissioner's letter of January 10, 1893.
114.J.3.4F-2	2	Nos. 231-459, October 1892-November 1906. On forms originally printed for Supreme Court scrip entries. Partially duplicates the contents of Folder 1.

Register of Valentine Scrip Entries, 1892-1905. 1 volume.

An abstract of land entries made in the Duluth land district with Valentine scrip.

“Valentine scrip” was a series of “Special Certificates of Location,” issued to San Francisco resident Thomas B. Valentine as the result of a disputed claim to a California rancho that had originally been part of a Mexican land grant. The legitimacy of Valentine’s 1850 purchase of the tract was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1874, and he was issued scrip in lieu of its approximately 13,000 acres, which had long since passed into other hands. Valentine sold most of the scrip, which was redeemable for any “unoccupied and unappropriated” U.S. public lands (Act of April 5, 1872, 17 Stat. 649). General Land Office case files (covering 263 of the initial 332 certificates) indicate that the scrip was redeemed in at least 17 states, including at least 25 certificates in Minnesota. For additional information on this scrip, see Robert Lee, “Valentine Scrip: The Saga of Land Locations in Southern Dakota Territory Originating from a Mexican Land Grant,” *South Dakota History* 2:3 (Summer 1972), pp. 261-299.

The entries in this volume are all for land in township 57, range 17, all in or around Cedar Island or Ely Lake in St. Louis County. Much information regarding the land embraced in these entries can be found in the records of the U.S. Surveyor General (separate record group); see especially Applications for Survey, September 15, 1904.

The abstract for each Valentine scrip entry gives entry number, scrip number, legal description of the tract located, by whom located, date located, metes and bounds description of the tract located, a plat sketch of the tract, and remarks with citations to letters from the commissioner of the General Land Office. Some entries also include copies of various affidavits. Recorded on pages originally printed for Surveyor General scrip entries.

Arrangement: Arranged by chronologically assigned entry number.

Related materials: Duluth Land District: Serial registers. U.S. Surveyor General: Miscellaneous Records: Petitions for surveys; Letters received; and Letters sent.

Location	Box
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114.J.3.6F-1	---- Register of Valentine Scrip Entries, Nos. 5-51 and miscellaneous entries or notes, May 16, 1892 - April 28, 1905.
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Serial Registers, 1908-1925. 4.5 cubic feet (15 volumes and 4 folders); 11 microfilm reels.

An abstract of land entries made in the Duluth land district from July 1, 1908, to April 21, 1925. The serial register is a consolidated record of all types of land entries, and supersedes the various registers for different types of entries.

The abstract for each entry gives serial number, type of entry (homestead, purchase, etc.), name and address of entryman, legal description of the tract entered, date of entry, and notations of all transactions involving the entry up to the issuance of a patent or cancellation of the entry.

The series also includes a summary record of entries and transactions for 1911-1917, entitled Schedule of Serial Numbers.

The serial registers (but not the summary record of entries) are also available in microfilm (11 reels, 35 mm). The microfilm is available for sale or interlibrary loan from the Minnesota Historical Society.

Arrangement: Arranged by chronologically assigned serial number.

Location	Box	
115.L.8.2F	1	Volume O. Nos. 1 - 999, July 1, 1908 - August 27, 1908. Volume 1. Nos. 1000 - 1999, August 27, 1908 - October 24, 1908. Volume 2. Nos. 2000 - 2999, October 24, 1908 - January 9, 1909. Volume 3. Nos. 3000 - 3999, January 9, 1909 - March 3, 1909. <u>Note:</u> Entry nos. 3610-6688 were made prior to July 1, 1908, and were still pending on March 3, 1909. On that date, all such pending entries were entered in the serial register and assigned consecutive serial numbers. Some of these entries date back to at least 1902.
115.L.8.3B	2	Volume 4. Nos. 4000 - 4999: entries prior to March 3, 1909. Volume 5. Nos. 5000 - 5999: entries prior to March 3, 1909. Volume 6. Nos. 6000 - 6999, entries prior to March 3, 1909, and March 3 - May 3, 1909. Volume 7. Nos. 7000 - 7999, May 3, 1909 - February 21, 1910.
115.L.8.4F	3	Volume 8. Nos. 8000 - 8999, February 21, 1910 - January 23, 1911. Volume 9. Nos. 9000 - 9999, January 23, 1911 - December 26, 1911. Volume 10. Nos. 10000 - 10999, December 26, 1911 - August 4, 1913. Volume 11. Nos. 11000 - 11999, August 5, 1913 - May 18, 1915.
115.L.8.5B	4	Volume 12. Nos. 12000 - 12999, May 18, 1915 - August 28, 1919. Volume 13. Nos. 13000 - 13999, August 29, 1919 - December 8, 1923. Volume 14. Nos. 14000 - 14276, December 11, 1923 - April 21, 1925.
115.L.8.6F	[5]	Schedule of Serial Numbers, 1911-1917. 4 folders. A monthly record of entries, proofs, declaratory statements, relinquishments, and other transactions on land in the Duluth land district. The schedule is a chronological record of entries and transactions listed in the serial registers. The record for each transaction gives date, serial number, receipt number, and type of transaction. Some also include explanatory remarks.

Location	Reel	
SAM 114	1	Nos. 00001 - 01335, July-September, 1908.
SAM 114	2	Nos. 01336 - 02765, September-December, 1908.
SAM 114	3	Nos. 02766 - 03999, December 1908 - March 1909.
SAM 114	4	Nos. 14000 - 05229, March 1909.
SAM 114	5	Nos. 05230 - 06651, March 1909.
SAM 114	6	Nos. 06652 - 07999, March 1909 - February 1910.

Location	Reel	
SAM 114	7	Nos. 08000 - 09412, February 1910 - June 1911.
SAM 114	8	Nos. 09413 - 10830, June 1911 - April 1913.
SAM 114	9	Nos. 10831 - 12252, April 1913 - December 1915.
SAM 114	10	Nos. 12253 - 13677, December 1915 - May 1922.
SAM 114	11	Nos. 13678 - 14276, May 1922 - April 1925.

Supreme Court Scrip Certificates of Entry, July 1874-June 1902. 1 volume and 1 oversize folder.

An abstract of land entries made in the Duluth land district with "Supreme Court scrip" under provisions of acts of Congress of June 22, 1860, March 2, 1867, and June 10, 1872.

The act of June 22, 1860, was intended to settle the remaining claims of individuals or corporations that had received land grants from foreign powers prior to 1846 but whose title to the land had become clouded or lost. The act allowed the United States Supreme Court to decide these cases and to issue scrip, which could be redeemed for land elsewhere in the public domain, as compensation to those claimants who established the validity of their grants. This scrip, commonly known as "Supreme Court scrip," was transferable and most was entered by someone other than the person to whom it was originally issued. The acts of March 2, 1867, and June 10, 1872, extended the time in which these claims could be brought before the Supreme Court.

The format of this series differs from Supreme Court scrip registers present for other land districts. It consists largely of a volume of duplicate scrip certificates rather than a typical register. Each "certificate of entry" gives land office entry number, name of the person entering the scrip, date the scrip was entered, acre value of the scrip, date of the Supreme Court order issuing the scrip, legal description of the tract entered, and occasional citations to letters from the commissioner of the General Land Office. The certificate forms were originally printed as Surveyor General scrip certificates, but "Surveyor" has been crossed out and "Court" written over it. Filed with these duplicate certificates are several pages from the actual Register of Supreme Court Scrip Entries, most of which is missing.

Location	Box	
114.J.3.1B-2	----	Supreme Court Scrip Certificates of Entry, Nos. 1-151, July 9, 1874 - June 9, 1902. 1 volume. Register of Supreme Court Scrip Entries, Nos. 143-149 and 1-3, January 25, 1882 - July 11, 1902.