



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minnesota State Archives

U.S. SURVEYOR GENERAL OF MINNESOTA An Inventory of Its Accounting Records

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Agency:** United States. Office of Surveyor General of Minnesota.
- Series Title:** Accounting records,
- Dates:** 1850-1907.
- Abstract:** Accounts of survey appropriations and expenditures.
- Quantity:** 1.2 cu. ft (4 v. and 17 folders in 2 partial boxes).
- Location:** See Detailed Description section for box locations.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS

Quarterly accounts of survey appropriations received and of expenditures for salaries, survey work, and incidental expenses by the St. Paul surveyor's office, supplemented by vouchers that give additional details on expenses or that document work not itemized in the quarterly accounts, and by accounts of deputy surveyors for work done under contracts. They include payrolls (incorporated into the accounts), expenses for surveying the Red Lake Indian Reservation, accounts for the surveyor general's office at Detroit, Michigan (1850-1857), accounts of the surveyor general as federal timber agent, and two lists of tracts surveyed in the Northern Pacific Railroad Company's land grant.

RELATED MATERIALS

Contracts for Surveys, and Letters Sent and Received, of the U.S. Surveyor General's Office (each separately cataloged) contain correspondence relating to payment of deputy surveyors and disputes over the cost of survey work.

INDEX TERMS

This collection is 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:

Surveying--Minnesota--Accounting.
Public lands--Minnesota--Surveying.
Railroad land grants--Minnesota.
Timber trespass--Minnesota.

Places:

Red Lake Indian Reservation (Minn.)--Surveying.

Organizations:

United States. Office of Surveyor General of Michigan.
Northern Pacific Railroad Company.

Types of Documents:

Payrolls.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation:

[Indicate the cited volume and page or item and folder title here]. U.S. Office of Surveyor General of Minnesota. Accounting Records. Minnesota Historical Society. State Archives.

See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.

Accession Information:

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

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

Location	Box	
111.E.9.9B	---	Quarterly Accounts, 1850-1877. 1 volume. Accounts of the Surveyor General's office at Detroit with Charles Nobel and Leander Chapman, surveyors general northwest of the Ohio (1850-1857); of the St. Paul office (1857-1861); and of the surveyor general acting as timber agent (1862-1877), largely for expenses incurred in investigating timber trespass and receipts for stumpage illegally cut on government land.
111.E.9.9B	---	Appropriations, 1857-1885. 1 volume. Appropriations and expenses for salaries of the surveyor general, surveyors, draughtsmen, and various clerks, and for office and incidental expenses. Entries are by fiscal year, and thereunder by expense category. Beginning in 1881, they appear to cover only surveyors' salaries and expenses.
111.E.9.9B	---	Journal, 1879-1907. 1 volume. Quarterly accounts of appropriations and salary and contingent expenses for the St. Paul office. Entries for 1879 and 1880 duplicate those in "Appropriations," above.
111.E.9.9B	---	Quarterly Accounts, 1881-1882, 1904-1907. 5 folders. Quarterly reports on expenditures from three funds: salaries paid out of the general appropriation, contingent office expenditures, and salaries paid out of funds from private survey payments (1881-1882 only). For each fund there is a report of adjustment to the GLO, a balance sheet, and an abstract of payment; vouchers give details on the incidental expenses. Most information is duplicated in the "Journal," above.

Location	Box	
111.E.10.1B	---	Surveyors' Accounts, 1880-1884, 1896-1906. 8 folders. Accounts of deputy surveyors for work done under contracts or special instructions from the surveyor general. Accounts include the following information: name of the deputy surveyor, date the contract or special instructions were issued, description of the area surveyed, type of survey (base lines, township lines, etc.), proportions to be paid at the high and low rates depending on difficulty of the work, total cost of survey, surveyor general's approval of the accounts, and date approved. Arranged chronologically by date the contract or special instructions were issued.
111.E.9.9B	---	Accounts for Survey of Red Lake Indian Reservation, 1891-1907. 2 folders, 1 volume. Accounts for appropriations and salaries for survey and platting of the Red Lake Chippewa Indian Reservation, as follows: Pay Vouchers, 1891 – February 1893. 1 folder. Account Book, March 1893 – 1903. 1 volume. Pay Vouchers, 1896-1907. 1 folder. These vouchers contain some details on work done, and citations to correspondence.
111.E.9.9B	---	Accounts for Northern Pacific Railroad Survey, 1870, 1888. 1 folder. Two lists of tracts surveyed in the Northern Pacific Railroad Company's land grant. The 1870 list cites, for each surveyor's contract, the tracts to be surveyed, area of each tract, and date and amount of each contract payment. The 1888 list cites the tracts being surveyed, acreage of each, cost per acre, and total cost for survey field work, and cost of office work.
111.E.9.9B	---	Miscellaneous Vouchers, 1899, 1901. 1 folder. Vouchers for survey done in a Thief River Falls homicide case (1899); voucher for plats and transcriptions done for the Northwest Improvement Company (1901).