

PRELIMINARY INVENTORY OF RECORDS RELATING TO  
CIVIL WAR CLAIMS  
UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN

(Record Group 76)

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#### NOTE

The 2024 version of this preliminary inventory is updated to reflect (1) the removal of entries for cartographic records now in the custody of the special media branches, and (2) the inclusion of descriptions of series of records identified since preparation of the original preliminary inventory in 1962.

Unless otherwise noted, the entry number for each entry includes the prefix PI-135 (e.g. "PI-135-25" or "PI-135 25").

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## INTRODUCTION

During the Civil War the Confederate Navy was strengthened by ships that were built in Great Britain; and Britain allowed Confederate vessels to use certain ports in the British Empire to take on armaments, supplies, and fuel. Two of the ships built in England, the Alabama and the Florida, and other Confederate cruisers caused extensive damage to the Union merchant and whaling fleets. The United States accused Great Britain of failing to act as a neutral during the conflict, even though she had professed her neutrality. The United States claimed that Great Britain was responsible for prolonging the war, for transferring much of the American merchant fleet to the British flag, for the decline in trade, and for increased insurance rates. The United States also held Great Britain liable for the many claims resulting from the actions of the Confederate cruisers.

The differences between the United States and Great Britain that grew out of the Civil War, as well as questions concerning boundaries, navigation, and fisheries that had been a long-time source of irritation, made it difficult for the two countries to carry on friendly diplomatic relations. Their relations steadily deteriorated until 1871 when they agreed that a Joint High Commission should be established to negotiate a treaty that would provide the means for settling their chief differences. The Joint High Commission, composed of five representatives from each country, convened on February 27, 1871, in Washington. Negotiations were completed on May 6, and 2 days later the Treaty of Washington, consisting of 43 articles, was signed.

Articles 1-11 provided that the claims of United States citizens against Great Britain that resulted from actions of the Confederate cruisers should be arbitrated at Geneva to determine the extent of British responsibility. This group of claims is generically known as the Alabama claims. The United States presented one case, which represented all the Alabama claims, to the international Geneva Tribunal of Arbitration on December 15, 1871; and the tribunal granted the United States an award on September 14, 1872. The United States then established a domestic claims commission to examine the validity of each claim in order to divide the award equitably among the individual claimants. The Geneva award was distributed by two domestic Courts of Commissioners of Alabama Claims, which functioned in 1874-76 and 1882-85, respectively.

Articles 12-17 of the treaty provided for the establishment of a Mixed Claims Commission to settle claims of British subjects against the United States and claims of United States citizens against Great Britain, except the Alabama claims, that arose out of acts committed against persons or property during the Civil War. The Commission met from September 26, 1871, to September 25, 1873.

The remaining 26 articles of the treaty provided for procedures to settle questions on boundaries, navigation, and the North Atlantic fisheries.

Most of the records that were produced or accumulated in carrying out the provisions of the Treaty of Washington are in Record Group 76, Records of Boundary and Claims Commissions and Arbitrations. This inventory describes only the records in Record Group 76 that relate to claims of United States and British nationals resulting from the Civil War. These records, amounting to 373 cubic feet, were received from the Department of State.

The inventory is organized by commission or organizational unit, and the records are described as those of the commission or unit that produced or accumulated them.

Related records are in Record Group 59, General Records of the Department of State; Record Group 84, Records of the Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State; Record Group 43, Records of United States Participation in International Conferences, Commissions, and Expositions (includes records of the United States Commissioners of the United States-British Joint High Commission, 1871); Record Group 46, Records of the United States Senate; Record Group 233, Records of the United States House of Representatives; Record Group 39, Records of the Bureau of Accounts (Treasury); Record Group 50, Records of the Treasurer of the United States; Record Group 217, Records of the United States General Accounting Office; Record Group 45, Naval Records Collection of the Office of Naval Records and Library; and Record Group 109, War Department Collection of Confederate Records (includes the plans of the cruiser Alabama).

RECORDS RELATING TO CIVIL WAR CLAIMS  
UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN

RECORDS OF THE GENEVA TRIBUNAL OF ARBITRATION, 1871-72

The Treaty of Washington, signed May 8, 1871, provided in articles 1-11 for the establishment of a tribunal of five Commissioners to arbitrate the United States claims against Great Britain arising from the actions of certain Confederate cruisers. The tribunal convened in Geneva on December 15, 1871, and the United States and British Agents presented their countries' cases. The tribunal met again on December 16 and then adjourned until June 15, 1872. The two Agents were required to prepare their nations' counterclaims and to make them available to the tribunal by April 15, 1872. The case of the United States, which supported claims for direct losses resulting from the destruction of vessels and their cargoes by insurgent Confederate cruisers, also supported indirect claims for expenditures incurred in the pursuit of the cruisers and in the prolonging of the war, for the loss of the United States merchant fleet to the British flag, and for the increase in insurance rates. Great Britain maintained that the Treaty of Washington did not provide for the arbitration of indirect claims. Fearing the collapse of the arbitration the United States Agent agreed to withdraw the indirect claims. This extra-judicial agreement was formally announced by the president of the tribunal on June 19, 1872, when he dismissed the indirect claims on the ground that international law was not applicable in such cases.

The final decisions of the tribunal were announced on September 14, 1872. They were rendered separately for each of the Confederate cruisers and were based on three rules established by article 6 of the Treaty of Washington. Great Britain was held responsible for all the destruction caused by the Alabama, the Florida, and their tenders, but for the destruction by the Shenandoah only after her departure from Melbourne on February 18, 1865. Great Britain was not held liable for the actions of the Georgia, the Sumter, the Nashville, the Tallahassee, or the Chickamauga. The United States was awarded \$15.5 million, payable in gold.

The tribunal, as provided in article 1 of the Treaty of Washington, consisted of five Commissioners or Arbitrators: Charles Francis Adams, representing the United States; Sir Alexander Cockburn, Great Britain; Count Frederic Sclopis, Italy; Jacques Staempfli, Switzerland; and Marcos Antonio d'Araujo, Brazil. Count Sclopis was chosen president. The United States Agent was J. C. Bancroft Davis; he was assisted by William M. Evarts, Caleb Cushing, and Morrison R. Waite. The British Agent was the Lord Chancellor, Lord Hatherly, who prepared the case of Great Britain; he was assisted by Lord Tenterden and Mountague Bernard.

The cases, counterclaims, arguments, and supporting documents of the United States and Great Britain, as presented to the tribunal, were printed; they are described in entries 1-8. Documents accumulated by

the United States Agency (the Agent's office) for information purposes and for preparing the United States case are described in entries 9-15. Some of these documents were later used at the two domestic Courts of Commissioners of Alabama Claims to validate certain claims and to protect the interests of the United States Government.

CASE OF THE UNITED STATES. 1871-72. 4 vols. 4 in. 1

Four printed copies (two in English, one in French, and one in Portuguese) of the case of the United States as presented to the Geneva Tribunal, in which the United States charged Great Britain with failure to perform her duties as a neutral and with pursuing an unfriendly course toward the United States by permitting the Confederacy to use British territory as a base for naval operations. The United States asked indemnification for the destruction of merchant vessels and their cargoes, for injuries to persons, and for expenditures incurred in the pursuit of the Confederate cruisers and in the prolongation of the war.

COUNTERCASE OF THE UNITED STATES ("CONTRE MEMOIRE DES ETATS UNIS"). 1872. 1 vol. 2 in. 2

A printed copy (in French) of the counter case of the United States as presented to the Geneva Tribunal in answer to charges made by Great Britain. The appendix contains correspondence and documents submitted as evidence in support of the United States case. The English version is printed in volumes I and II of the records described in entry 9.

ARGUMENT OF THE UNITED STATES. June 15, 1872. 2 vols. 3 in. 3

Two printed copies (one in English and one in French) of the argument of the United States as presented to the Geneva Tribunal. Included are a general discussion of the controversy and a statement on the Confederate armed cruisers, the failure of Great Britain to perform her international duties as a neutral, and the nature and amount of damages claimed by the United States.

ARGUMENT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR INDIRECT CLAIMS. 1872. 2 vols. 1 in. 4

Two printed copies (one in English and one in French) of the argument of the United States supporting indirect claims as submitted to the Geneva Tribunal. Included are opinions of British statesmen and extracts from journals and newspapers relating to indirect claims.

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES. 1869-71. 10 vols. 2 ft. 5

Printed correspondence, memoranda, circulars, proclamations, depositions, newspaper extracts, reports, protests, and other documents presented by the United States as evidence in support of its case against Great Britain. This material was assembled in seven volumes labeled "Claims of the United States against Great Britain" and in three additional volumes containing French translations of the more important documents. For an index to these records see entry 8.

CASE OF GREAT BRITAIN. 1872. 3 vols. 6 in.

6

A printed copy of the case of Great Britain as presented to the Geneva Tribunal. It consists of introductory statements on the course pursued by Great Britain during the American Civil War (particularly relating to the reception of war vessels in her ports) on international rights and duties and on the prevention of the unlawful equipping of vessels; and statements relating to the Alabama, the Florida, the Georgia, and the Shenandoah. The appendix, which contains the documents submitted as evidence in support of the British case, consists mostly of correspondence relating to the damages caused by Confederate cruisers, proclamations and regulations issued by the British Government during the war, and a report by a royal Commission inquiring into the enforcement of the neutrality laws. For an index to the records contained in the appendix see entry 8.

COUNTERCASE OF GREAT BRITAIN. 1872. 2 vols. 4 in.

7

A printed copy of the counter case of Great Britain as presented to the Geneva Tribunal in answer to charges made by the United States. The appendix contains copies of documents, correspondence, and other evidence presented with the counter case. For an index to the records contained in the appendix see entry 8.

INDEX TO EVIDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN. 1872.

1 vol. 1 in.

8

An index to the documents and correspondence submitted as evidence with the cases and counter cases of the United States and Great Britain. Shown for individual documents are the topic or name of author, date, to whom addressed, and the number of the page and volume where they appear. The index is in three parts: one to evidence submitted with the United States and British cases (entries 5 and 6), one to evidence submitted with the United States counter case (entry 9), and one to evidence submitted with the British counter case (entry 7). Each part is arranged alphabetically by name of author or topic. The page numbers given in the index to British documents correspond to the numbers appearing in brackets in the volumes for the British case and counter case.

#### Records of the United States Agency

The records described in entries 9-15 below were apparently accumulated by the United States Agency when the case of the United States was being prepared for presentation to the Geneva Tribunal. These records were used by the United States Counsels at the two domestic Courts of Commissioners of Alabama Claims, 1874-76 and 1882-85.

"PAPERS RELATING TO THE TREATY OF WASHINGTON." 1872. 6 vols.

1 ft.

9

Printed documents produced or accumulated in carrying out the provisions of the Treaty of Washington. They relate to the Alabama claims, British claims against the United States, and the San Juan Island



boundary dispute. Included are copies of the cases, counter-cases, and arguments of the United States and Great Britain, as presented to the Geneva Tribunal; instructions to the United States Agent and Counsel; correspondence; opinions; the final report of Robert S. Hale, United States Agent and Counsel of the Mixed Claims Commission; the United States memorial on the San Juan Island boundary dispute; and maps and charts. There are name and topic indexes in volumes III and IV.

PRINTED CORRESPONDENCE. Feb. 2-June 27, 1872. 1 vol. 1/2 in. 10

Printed letters with enclosures, telegrams, reports, memoranda, and other communications between the Department of State and the United States Minister to Great Britain and the Agent to the Geneva Tribunal. Most of the correspondence relates to the objections raised by Great Britain to the indirect claims of the United States. Arranged chronologically.

RECORDS RELATING TO CONFEDERATE CRUISERS. 1860-64. 4 in. 11

Clearance certificates and registration papers of cruisers, crew lists of the Florida, a map illustrating the cruise of the Alabama, an account of the cruise of the Sumter, and affidavits describing the activities of Confederate cruisers. Included are copies of records of gunpowder exports from Liverpool and a list of vessels sailing with supplies from Glasgow to Confederate ports. Arranged for the most part alphabetically by name of cruiser.

RECORDS OF THE FLORIDA. 1862-64. 8 vols. 1 ft. 12

Logbooks kept by the commander and other officers on board the Florida, a journal kept by the medical officer, a record of payments made by the paymaster, and a list of the officers and crew aboard.

DIARY OF MIDSHIPMAN CLARENCE CARY. Sept. 17, 1864-Mar. 18, 1865.

1 vol. 1 in.

This diary was kept by Cary while he was serving on the Confederate cruiser Chickamauga. This vessel captured seven Union merchant ships off the coast of New England, and then sailed to Bermuda and to a port near Wilmington, N. C., where her midshipmen fought alongside Confederate troops to repulse the first attack on Fort Fisher by Union forces. Some drawings, sketches, crew lists, and notes on how to perform certain tasks aboard ship are included. Arranged chronologically. The United States used this diary at the Geneva Tribunal to show that Great Britain had aided the Confederate cruisers. 13

RECORDS RELATING TO DESTROYED VESSELS. ca. 1860-65. 8 in. 14

Originals and copies of ships' papers of Union vessels destroyed by Confederate cruisers. The records--gathered from port authorities, consular officers, and other sources--consist of clearance certificates, ships' registrations, cargo manifests, crew lists, and a number of sea letters granted to vessels undertaking whaling voyages. Most of the sea letters are signed by President Lincoln. Included is a record of the

proceedings of the New York Chamber of Commerce on the burning of the Brilliant by the Alabama, 1862. Unarranged.

OTHER RECORDS. 1861-71. 5 in.

15

Newspaper clippings commenting on British activities during the Civil War and on the Geneva Tribunal of Arbitration; letters regarding the publication of material on the Alabama claims, the establishment of a claims commission, and the value of Union vessels destroyed; documents concerning neutrality precedents; a report of the Senate Joint Committee on the Conduct of War entitled Red River Expedition, Fort Fisher Expedition, and Heavy Ordnances, 1865; and a bound index to letters received by the Department of State relating to the claims against Great Britain (some of the letters are in the records described in this entry and others apparently are in the records described in entry 55). Included is a volume of printed confidential memoranda and correspondence for use by the United States Commissioners participating in the American-British Joint High Commission. Unarranged.

#### RECORDS OF THE COURT OF COMMISSIONERS OF ALABAMA CLAIMS, 1874-76

This court was a domestic claims commission established by an act of Congress, approved June 23, 1874 (18 Stat. 245), to distribute the money awarded to the United States by the Tribunal of Arbitration at Geneva. The court was to adjudicate the claims of United States citizens who suffered direct loss or damage by the Confederate cruisers Alabama, Florida, and their tenders, and by the Shenandoah after her departure from Melbourne on February 18, 1865.

The court consisted of five judges appointed by the President: Martin Ryerson, Kenneth Rayner, William A. Porter, Caleb Baldwin, and Hezekiah G. Wells, who was designated as the presiding judge. The clerk of the court was John Davis, and the Counsel, appointed to represent the interests of the United States Government before the court, was John A. J. Creswell. When Martin Ryerson resigned, the vacancy was filled by the appointment of Harvey Jewell on February 26, 1875. The vacancy created by the death of Caleb Baldwin, about the time the court was completing its work, was not filled.

The judges met in Washington on July 26, 1874, and organized the court. Two days later they formulated rules and regulations for the court's procedures. They did not meet again until January 22, 1875, the deadline for filing claims.

When a claim was filed with the court it was assigned a docket number. The court received and docketed 1,382 claims, amounting to \$12,673,541, exclusive of interest. This amount did not include the claims for unestimable losses. The task of settling the claims was so great that the date first set for concluding the court's work had to be postponed several times. The act creating the court granted the President authority to extend it for no more than 6 months. On June 2, 1875,

the President, by a proclamation (19 Stat. 661), moved the termination date to January 22, 1876. This date was extended to July 22, 1876, by an act, approved December 24, 1875 (19 Stat. 1). An act, approved March 6, 1876 (19 Stat. 6), provided for the filing of new claims with the court for a 3-month period. During this interval 685 claims were received, amounting to \$1,825,866, exclusive of interest. As the court was again pressed for time, another act, approved July 22, 1876 (19 Stat. 96), extended the time limit for the court to January 1, 1877.

On December 29, 1876, the court adjourned after having passed upon all 2,067 claims. It awarded \$9,316,120, including interest. Not all of the money, however, that was awarded to the United States by the Geneva Tribunal was distributed. In 1882 Congress established another Court of Commissioners of Alabama Claims to adjudicate certain claims that were excluded from the jurisdiction of the first Court of Commissioners.

The records produced or accumulated by the first Court of Commissioners of Alabama Claims are described in entries 16-35. The records of the United States Counsel before this court are described in entries 36-40. A few series of records were used by both courts. They are included with the records of the second Court of Commissioners of Alabama Claims and are described in entries 55-57.

MINUTES ("JOURNAL"). July 22, 1874-Dec. 29, 1876. 6 vols.

1 ft.

16

Minutes of sessions of the court giving date, names of members present, and a brief summary of the business transacted. The minutes are signed by the clerk and the presiding judge of the court. Arranged chronologically.

CASE FILES. 1874-76. 40 ft.

17

Documents submitted by individual claimants as evidence to validate their claims, together with the petitions that initiated the claims before the court. Each petition gives claimant's name, citizenship, date and place of birth, and residence; amount claimed; and a brief statement of the incidents that led to the claim. Documents submitted as evidence include proofs of citizenship, demurrers, and notices. Some of this material has been printed and is described in entry 18. Arranged by docket number of claim. The index to dockets, described in entry 20, serves as an index to the case files.

PRINTED EVIDENCE. June 23, 1874-Mar. 6, 1876. 156 vols. 24 ft.

18

Petitions, amendments to petitions, correspondence, depositions, briefs, arguments, and other written testimony submitted to the court in support of claims. Original manuscripts of these printed records are described in entry 17. The first set of volumes is numbered 1 to 48 and is arranged by docket number; the second set is unnumbered and is arranged alphabetically by name of ship destroyed and thereunder by docket number.

DOCKETS. July 29, 1874-July 24, 1876. 6 vols. 1 ft. 19

Dockets that were used by the court to record the progress on each claim. Entries in them give name and address of claimant and of claimant's attorney, docket number of claim, amount of claim, date when petition was filed, and dates when important actions were taken on the claim or when additional evidence was submitted. Arranged by docket number. Indexed by name of claimant in the records described in entry 20.

INDEX TO DOCKETS. 1874-76. 1 vol. 1 in. 20

An index to dockets described in entry 19. Each entry gives claimant's name, docket number, and volume and page number of the docket book where information about the claim is to be found. Arranged alphabetically by name of claimant.

LISTS OF CLAIMS. 1877. 2 vols. 2 in. 21

Two lists of claims presented to the court. One list, labeled "Claims Arranged by Vessel Destroyed," gives claimant's name, docket number, and amount of claim. Arranged alphabetically by name of vessel destroyed and thereunder by docket number. The other list--printed and labeled "Index"--gives claimant's name, docket number, nature of claim, amount and date of award, date from which interest was computed, and name of vessel on which loss was sustained. Arranged alphabetically by name of claimant.

MEMORANDA AND OPINIONS. ca. 1874-76. 4 in. 22

Copies of memoranda and opinions rendered by the court on claims, including war risk premium claims, which usually contain the Commissioners' decisions on the validity of the claims. Arranged for the most part by docket number of claim.

AWARDS. Feb. 4, 1874-Dec. 29, 1876. 3 in. 23

Records that appear to be the court's working copies of the awards it granted. They usually contain the following information: date of award, name of claimant, docket number, amount of award, rate of interest, and date from which interest was to be computed. They often also contain annotations and the initials of the presiding judge. Original awards are part of the minutes of the court described in entry 16. Arranged chronologically by date of award. For lists of awards see entry 24.

LIST OF JUDGMENTS RENDERED IN THE FIRST GROUP OF CLAIMS. 1874-1876.  
1 box. P-92

A list of judgments rendered by the Court of Commissioners of Alabama Claims in the first group of claims.

LISTS OF AWARDS. 1874-76. 3 vols. 4 in. 24

Usually shown for each allowed claim are name of claimant, docket number, date and amount of award, amount of accumulated interest, date from which interest was computed, and remarks. Entries for disallowed claims give only claimant's name, docket number, and date on which petition was dismissed. There are several lists and parts of lists, but the most complete one appears on pages 40-120 of volume A. Arranged by docket number.

- RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE COURT. 1874. 1/4 in. 25  
Printed copies of the first and third editions of a pamphlet containing rules and regulations adopted by the Commissioners, which prescribe the method and time limit for filing claims and the procedures for taking testimony, printing petitions, and ordering or hearing claims. Included are copies of the treaty between the United States and Great Britain, signed March 8, 1871; copies of the award of the Geneva Tribunal on September 14, 1872; and copies of the act of June 23, 1874, creating the court.
- FINAL REPORT. Jan. 5, 1877. 1 vol. 1/2 in. 26  
A printed report of the court, prepared by John Davis, clerk of the court, and submitted to the Secretary of State. It consists of a brief description of the court's organization, personnel, and accomplishments. Included are copies of opinions rendered on the more important cases, synopses of arguments of the Counsel, rules of the court, and copies of treaties and legislation dealing with the settlement of claims.
- PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS FILED LATE. June 1876. 2 in. 27  
Some of these late claims were eventually presented to the second Court of Commissioners during the period 1882-85. Arranged roughly in chronological order.
- LIST OF AGENTS. 1875-76. 1 vol. 1/4 in. 28  
A list of agents commissioned by the court to take testimony from witnesses who could not appear before the Commissioners. Arranged alphabetically by name of agent.
- ATTORNEYS' CERTIFICATES. 1874-76. 2 in. 29  
Statements certifying that the person named was a qualified attorney and was eligible to represent clients before the court. Included are attorneys' memoranda and powers of attorney. Arranged alphabetically by name of attorney.
- LIST OF ATTORNEYS. ca. 1874-76. 1 vol. 1/4 in. 30  
A list of attorneys and their mailing addresses. Arranged alphabetically by name of attorney.
- LETTERS SENT. Nov. 13, 1874-Feb. 28, 1877. 5 vols. 6 in. 31  
Press copies of letters sent chiefly by John Davis, clerk of the court. Many of them are replies to the letters described in entry 33. Arranged chronologically. Within each volume the letters are indexed by name of addressee.
- INDEX TO LETTERS SENT ("INDEX TO CORRESPONDENCE"). n.d. 2 vols. 32  
3 in.  
An index to letters described in entry 31. Each entry gives name of addressee, date of letter, and a brief summary of the letter. Arranged alphabetically by name of addressee.

LETTERS RECEIVED. June 25, 1874-Feb. 24, 1877. 13 vols. 3 ft. 33

Letters received by John Davis, clerk of the court, from claimants or their attorneys regarding the status of claims or other business of the court. The last volume also contains a number of letters of application and of recommendation for employment with the court. Replies to most of these letters are described in entry 31. Arranged chronologically. Indexed by name of correspondent in the records described in entry 34.

INDEX TO LETTERS RECEIVED. 1874-77. 2 vols. 3 in. 34

An index to letters described in entry 33. Each entry gives name of correspondent, date of letter, and a brief summary of the letter. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.

PRINTED FORMS AND FORM LETTERS. 1874-76. 2 vols. 1 in. 35

Samples of printed forms used to record expenditures and of form letters sent by the court to the Secretary of the Treasury and to claimants acknowledging receipt of mail. Unarranged.

#### Records of the United States Counsel

REGISTER OF CLAIMS. Oct. 15, 1874-Dec. 19, 1876. 4 vols. 8 in. 36

This register was kept by the United States Counsel appointed to represent the interests of the Government before the Court of Commissioners. The information in the register is similar to that contained in the docket books described in entry 19. Shown are name and address of claimant and of claimant's attorney, amount of claim, name of vessel on which loss or injury was sustained, and dates on which evidence was submitted or on which important action was taken by the court. Arranged by docket number.

INDEX TO REGISTER OF CLAIMS. 1874-76. 1 vol. 1/2 in. 37

An index to the register described in entry 36, giving name and docket number for each claimant. Arranged alphabetically by name of claimant.

REPORTS ON UNION VESSELS DESTROYED. 1875-76. 1 in. 38

Reports by three officials--John M. Gowan, Douglas Ottinger, and John A. Henriques--who were responsible for determining the monetary value of the vessels and equipment destroyed by Confederate cruisers. The reports give the estimated value of each vessel, and they usually include the place where it was built and its age, tonnage, and physical condition. They were addressed to the United States Counsel, John A. J. Creswell. Arranged alphabetically by name of Union vessel.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS FILED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. 1871-72. 2 vols. 2 in. 39

A 247-page list entitled List of Claims Filed With the Department of State, published in 1871, which enumerates the documents submitted to the Department in connection with each claim, and a revised list

published in 1872. Arranged by name of Confederate cruiser and there-  
under alphabetically by name of Union vessel on which the claimant sus-  
tained the alleged loss or injury.

LETTERS SENT BY THE UNITED STATES COUNSEL. Oct. 5, 1874-May 12, 1875.

1 vol. 1 in.

40

Press copies of letters sent by John A. J. Creswell chiefly to  
attorneys outside Washington. The letters give instructions on taking  
testimony in cases pending before the court and on preventing the intro-  
duction of fictitious claims or excessive valuations. Arranged chrono-  
logically. Indexed by name of addressee.

#### RECORDS OF THE COURT OF COMMISSIONERS OF ALABAMA CLAIMS, 1882-85

The Court of Commissioners of Alabama Claims was reestablished by an  
act of Congress, approved June 5, 1882 (22 Stat. 98), to distribute the  
remainder of the money awarded to the United States by the Tribunal of  
Arbitration at Geneva. The first Court of Commissioners, 1874-76, had  
awarded to claimants \$9,316,120 of the original \$15.5 million award. A  
balance of \$10,089,005, which included interest received from certain  
investments, was on deposit in the Treasury. The second Court of Com-  
missioners was authorized to adjudicate two classes of claims: Class I,  
claims directly resulting from damage done on the high seas and within  
4 miles of shore by Confederate cruisers, except those claims already  
settled; and Class II, claims for the payment of premiums for war risks,  
whether paid to corporations, agents, or individuals. The latter class  
of claims had been excluded by law from the jurisdiction of the first  
Court of Commissioners.

The second Court of Commissioners met in Washington on July 13, 1882.  
The President had appointed Hezekiah G. Wells as presiding justice, and  
James Harlan and Asa French as associate judges. James Harlan became  
presiding justice on November 10, 1884, following the resignation of  
Hezekiah G. Wells, and Andrew S. Draper was appointed to fill the result-  
ing vacancy. The clerk of the court was Daniel W. Fessenden, and John  
A. J. Creswell was again appointed United States Counsel to represent the  
interests of the United States.

As provided in the act reestablishing the court, claimants had 6  
months to file claims and the court had 18 months to conclude its work  
after the date for filing claims had expired. Each claim accepted by the  
court was given a docket number. The court assigned docket numbers to  
5,751 claims, of which 1,602 were Class I claims, totaling \$10,520,503,  
and 4,149 were Class II claims, totaling \$17,541,494.

The court was unable to dispose of the great number of claims within  
the allotted time. On June 3, 1884, the President approved an act  
(23 Stat. 33) to extend the period of adjudication to December 31, 1885.  
By this date the court had completed its work and adjourned. Judgments  
rendered by the court were as follows: Class I claims--378 disallowed,



230 dismissed, and 994 awarded, totaling \$3,346,016; and Class II claims-- 260 disallowed, 267 dismissed, and 3,622 awarded, totaling \$16,312,944. As provided by the act reestablishing the court, Class I claims were paid in full and the money remaining was divided among Class II claims.

The records produced or accumulated by the second Court of Commissioners are described in entries 41-63. The records described in entries 55-57 were also used by the first Court of Commissioners.

MINUTES ("JOURNAL"). July 13, 1882-Dec. 31, 1885. 8 vols. 1 ft. 41

Minutes of sessions of the court giving date and place, names of members present, and a brief summary of business transacted. The minutes are signed by the clerk of the court. Most of the volumes contain a name index. Arranged chronologically.

COURT PROCEEDINGS. 1882-85. 4 boxes.

P-4

Handwritten records of court orders and proceedings of the Court of Commissioners for claims concerning the actions of the C.S.S. Alabama during the American Civil War.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF JUDGMENTS. 1883-85. 2 boxes.

P-5

Bulletins, or announcements of judgments made by the Court of Commissioners regarding claims relating to actions by the C.S.S. Alabama during the American Civil War. Bulletins were written on a daily basis and include the case number, plaintiff's name and date of claim, and dollar amount awarded to the plaintiff. Entries are handwritten.

CASE FILES. 1882-85. 180 ft.

42

Documents submitted by individual claimants as evidence to validate their claims, together with the petitions that initiated the claims before the court. Each petition gives claimant's name, citizenship, date and place of birth, and residence between 1861 and 1865; amount claimed; and a brief statement of the events that led to the claim. Documents submitted as evidence include statements of insurance premiums paid, proofs of citizenship, depositions, notices, and demurrers. Arranged by docket number. The lists described in entry 44 serve as an index to the case files.

PETITIONS. 1882. 41 boxes.

P-93

Printed volumes containing the petitions to the Court of Commissioners of Alabama Claims.

CLAIMANTS' EXHIBITS. ca. 1860-65. 25 ft. 275 vols. 43

Account books, cash books, day books, cargo invoices, journals, ledgers, and letter books submitted by business firms and insurance companies to validate their claims. This material originally comprised part of the case files described in entry 42, but it has been segregated because of its irregular size and bulk. Arranged by docket number, with some gaps.

ALPHABETICAL LISTS OF CLAIMS. 1884. 2 vols. 1 in. 44

A printed and a manuscript list of claims before the court showing claimant's name and docket number of claim. Arranged alphabetically by claimant's name. The lists serve as an index to the records described in entry 42.

NUMERICAL LISTS OF CLAIMS. 1883. 2 vols. 1/2 in. 45

Two lists of claims before the court. One list is printed; it shows docket number, class of claim, claimant's name, name and residence of attorney, nature and amount of claim, name of vessel destroyed and name of cruiser that destroyed it, date of destruction, and remarks. The other list is incomplete; it shows docket number, class and amount of claim, and date when claim was filed. Both lists are arranged by docket number.

DOCKETS. Aug. 14, 1882-Dec. 30, 1885. 21 vols. 4 ft. 46

Dockets used by the court to record the progress on each claim. Entries in them give name and address of claimant and of claimant's attorney, docket number, amount of claim, date when petition was filed, and dates when important actions were taken on the claim or when additional evidence was submitted. The dockets show that docket numbers were set aside for 5,770 claims. Since the court did not authorize the clerk to enter certain claims in the docket book, only 5,751 of the claims were entered. Arranged by docket number. Indexed by claimant's name within each volume. For an index to the dockets see entry 48.

PRINTED DOCKETS. 1882-85. 2 vols. 1 in. 47

Volumes I and V of the dockets printed for the judges of the court. These volumes, containing annotations apparently of the presiding justice, Hezekiah G. Wells, usually show name of claimant and of his attorney, docket number, amount of claim, dates when actions were taken on the claim, and remarks. Arranged by docket number, with some gaps.

INDEX TO DOCKETS. 1882-85. 2 vols. 3 in. 48

An index to dockets described in entry 46. Each entry gives claimant's name and docket number of claim. Arranged alphabetically by name of claimant.

PRINTED OPINIONS. Nov. 24, 1882-June 11, 1885. 4 in. 49

Each opinion contains the Commissioner's decision on the validity of the claim; the amount of compensation, if any, due the claimant; the reasons for arriving at the decision; and, if an award was made, the date from which interest was to be computed. Arranged for the most part chronologically.

LISTS OF AWARDS AND DECISIONS. 1882-85. 14 vols. 1 ft. 50

Usually shown for each claim are claimant's name; docket number; name of claimant's attorney; date of award; and, if claim was allowed, the amount of award; date from which interest was to be computed; amount of accumulated interest; and remarks. Original awards are part of the minutes of the court described in entry 41. Grouped separately by Class I and Class II claims and arranged thereunder by docket number.

LIST OF CLAIMANTS RECEIVING AWARDS. 1882-85. 2 vols. 4 in. 51

Each entry in the list gives claimant's name, docket number, class of claim, and date and amount of award. Arranged alphabetically by name of claimant. The list serves as an index to the records described in entry 50.

RULES OF THE COURT. 1882. 1/4 in. 52

A printed copy of a 37-page pamphlet containing rules adopted by the Commissioners. Included in the text are the articles in the treaty between the United States and Great Britain, signed March 8, 1871, relating to the settlement of claims; the award of the Geneva Tribunal on September 14, 1872; the act of June 23, 1874, creating the first Court of

Commissioners; and the act of June 5, 1882, reestablishing the Court of Commissioners.

PRINTED ORDERS, CIRCULARS, AND NOTICES OF THE COURT. 1882-85.

1/2 in.

53

Relate to scheduling claims for adjudication, reporting important actions of the court and certain financial matters, establishing procedures for attorneys and counsels, and to other administrative and judicial procedures of the court. Included with the notices are an account of the proceedings of the final meeting of the court and a statement by attorneys concerning their expenses. Grouped by type of document and arranged thereunder chronologically.

PETITIONS AND RELATED PAPERS FILED LATE. 1883-85. 4 in.

54

Unarranged.

DOCUMENTS TRANSFERRED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. ca. 1861-65.

50 ft.

55

Documents relating to claims filed with the Department of State and later transferred to the first and second Courts of Commissioners. They consist of ships' clearance papers, insurance policies, statements regarding claims, registration and ownership papers, and affidavits. Documents relating to an individual claim have been placed in an envelope with identifying notations. (The lists described in entry 56 serve as a key to the notations.) The envelopes are grouped for the most part under such topics as "Insurance" and "Miscellaneous," or by name of Confederate cruiser. For lists of documents relating to claims that arose from actions of the Confederate cruisers Alabama, Florida, Shenandoah, Clarence, and Tacony see entry 57.

LISTS OF CLAIMS RESULTING FROM ACTIONS OF CONFEDERATE CRUISERS.

n.d. 6 vols. 1 ft. ee

56

Each entry gives name of Confederate cruiser and of Union vessel it destroyed, name of claimant, and amount of claim. Separate volumes contain claims for which the Alabama, the Florida, the Shenandoah, and other Confederate cruisers were responsible. The claimants' names for the most part are listed alphabetically under name of Union vessel destroyed. These lists serve as a key to the records described in entry 55.

LISTS OF DOCUMENTS TRANSFERRED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. ca.

1871-74. 2 vols. 3 in.

57

Lists of documents that were transferred from the Department of State to the first and second Courts of Commissioners. The documents relate to claims resulting from actions of the Confederate cruisers Alabama, Florida, Shenandoah, Clarence, and Tacony; and they are listed under names of claimants, which are arranged alphabetically under names of Union vessels destroyed by the Confederate cruisers named above.

Marginal notations identify the envelopes, described in entry 55, that contain documents for individual claims.

REPORTS ON UNION VESSELS. Apr. 9-June 22, 1883. 1 in. 58

Reports by three officials--T. W. White, J. A. Henriques, and George W. Moore--giving the estimated value of Union vessels destroyed by Confederate cruisers. Arranged chronologically.

RECORD OF INCOMING AND OUTGOING DOCUMENTS ("ORIGINAL PAPERS").

1884-85. 1 vol. 1 in. 59

A record of documents submitted as evidence with each claim. Each entry gives docket number of claim, date when document was received by the court and date when it was returned to claimant, and occasionally the type of document. Arranged by docket number.

MISCELLANEOUS PRINTED DOCUMENTS OF THE COURT. 1885-87. 1 in. 60

A letter of the Secretary of State relating to court expenditures, a statement of expenditures of the court, a brief on the right of counsel to the custody of United States Treasury notes, and a partial list of Southern bondholders in Great Britain. A brief on the compensation of attorneys and on other questions presented to the District Court of Eastern Louisiana relating to the Alabama claims is also included. Arranged chronologically.

LETTERS SENT. Aug. 14, 1882-June 26, 1886. 8 vols. 1 ft. 61

Press copies of letters sent by Daniel W. Fessenden, clerk of the court. Many of them are replies to the letters described in entry 62. Arranged chronologically. Within each volume the letters are indexed by name of addressee.

LETTERS RECEIVED. 1882-86. 7 ft. 62

Letters received by the court from claimants and their attorneys regarding the status of claims or other business of the court. Many of the letters transmitted documents. Grouped by year and thereunder arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.

ACCOUNT OF DISBURSING AGENT, ANDREW H. ALLEN. Aug. 3, 1882-Dec. 30, 1885. 2 vols. 3 in. 63

Shows funds received and funds expended. Given under funds received are number and amount of draft and date of its issuance; and, under funds expended, name of payee, date and nature of expense, number and amount of check, and number of invoice. Arranged chronologically.

RECORDS OF THE MIXED CLAIMS COMMISSION  
UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN, 1871-73

The Treaty of Washington, signed May 8, 1871, provided in articles 12-17 for the establishment of a Mixed Claims Commission between the United States and Great Britain to adjudicate all claims of British

subjects, corporations, or companies against the United States and all claims of United States citizens, corporations, or companies against Great Britain (except those claims generically known as the Alabama claims) resulting from acts committed against the person or property of such individuals, corporations, or companies during the period April 13, 1861-April 9, 1865.

The Mixed Claims Commission was to consist of three Commissioners--one to be appointed by the President of the United States; one, by Her Britannic Majesty; and one, conjointly by the United States and Great Britain. James Somerville Frazer of the United States, Russell Gurney of Great Britain, and Count Louis Corti of Italy were named as the three Commissioners. The interests of the two Governments before the Commission were to be represented by an Agent and a Counsel. Robert S. Hale was appointed United States Agent and Counsel, and his clerk was Edward Hayes. Henry Howard was the Agent and James M. Carlisle was the Counsel for Great Britain.

The Commission met in Washington on September 26, 1871. Count Corti was chosen to act as presiding Commissioner and Thomas C. Cox as secretary. Claimants were given 6 months to file claims after the Commissioners first met and the Commission was to complete its work 18 months after the filing date had expired.

The Commission had planned not to meet during the hot Washington summer, but it was soon evident that it could not complete its task by the deadline if a recess was taken. Both Governments agreed, therefore, on January 18, 1873, to an additional article that allowed the Commission to meet outside Washington. It met in Washington for the last time on June 3, 1873, and then moved to Newport, R. I., where it continued in session until September 25, 1873.

Each claim that was filed with the Commission was assigned a docket number. A separate series of numbers was maintained for the British and the United States claims. By March 26, 1872, the deadline for filing claims, 421 British claims and 18 United States claims had been received and docketed. The Commissioners, in accordance with article 14 of the treaty, agreed to extend the filing date for 3 months, in which period 57 British claims and 1 United States claim were filed. The 478 British claims amounted to about \$96 million, including interest; the 19 United States claims totaled a little less than \$1 million, exclusive of interest. Final decisions on British claims were rendered as follows: 1 was dismissed because of indecorous language but was later refiled; 30 were dismissed as not being within the jurisdiction of the Commission; 258 were disallowed; 8 were withdrawn; and 181 were awarded, totaling \$1,929,819. The Commission dismissed all 19 United States claims.

The records produced or accumulated by the Mixed Claims Commission, including the documents presented to it on behalf of claimants of the

United States and Great Britain, are described in entries 64-76. The records of the United States Agency are described in entries 77-85.

MINUTES. Sept. 26, 1871-Sept. 25, 1873. 1 vol. 2 in. 64

Minutes of sessions of the Mixed Claims Commission giving date and a brief summary of business transacted. The minutes are signed by the presiding Commissioner and the secretary. Arranged chronologically.

CASE FILES FOR UNITED STATES CLAIMANTS. 1871-73. 6 in. 65

Usually included in each case file is the memorial that initiated the claim before the Commission, which contains claimant's name, date and place of birth, and residence between April 13, 1861, and April 9, 1865; a brief statement of events that led to the claim; and amount of claim. Also included are briefs and arguments, as well as demurrers and depositions substantiating the memorial. Some of the material in the case files is duplicated in the printed memorials and testimony described in entries 67 and 68. Arranged by docket number of claim. Indexed by the records described in entry 66.

PRINTED MEMORIALS OF UNITED STATES CLAIMS. 1871-73. 1 vol. 2 in. 67

Each memorial usually contains claimant's name, date and place of birth, and residence between April 13, 1861, and April 9, 1865; a brief statement of events that led to the claim; and amount of claim. Included are some briefs, demurrers, and decisions. These records duplicate in part the records described in entry 65. Printed testimony submitted in connection with each claim is described in entry 68. Arranged by docket number of claim.

PRINTED TESTIMONY ON UNITED STATES CLAIMS. 1871-73. 1 vol. 2 in. 68

Depositions, correspondence originating in Canada and the Confederate States, interrogatories, and other documentary proof. Part of the testimony was submitted by United States claimants to support statements and charges made in the memorials, and the remainder was submitted by the British Counsel in reply to the statements and charges. These records duplicate in part the records described in entry 65. Arranged by docket number of claim.



CASE FILES FOR BRITISH CLAIMANTS. 1871-73. 10 ft.

70

Usually included in the files are memorials, briefs, arguments, demurrers, notices, and depositions. Many of the documents have been printed and are described in entries 72 and 73. Arranged by docket number of claim. Indexed by the records described in entry 71.

PRINTED MEMORIALS OF BRITISH CLAIMS. 1871-73. 34 vols. 5 ft. 72

Each memorial usually contains claimant's name, date and place of birth, and residence between April 13, 1861, and April 9, 1865; a brief statement of events that led to the claim; and amount of claim. Included are some briefs, arguments, demurrers, and final decisions. These records duplicate in part the records described in entry 70. Printed testimony submitted in connection with each claim is described in entry 73. Arranged by docket number of claim.

PRINTED TESTIMONY ON BRITISH CLAIMS. 1871-73. 38 vols. 6 ft. 73

Depositions; interrogatories; cross-examinations of witnesses; correspondence from the files of the War, State, and Treasury Departments; special field orders of the War Department; and invoices. Part of this testimony was submitted by the British claimants to support statements and charges made in the memorials, and the remainder was submitted by the United States Agent in reply to the statements and charges. These records duplicate in part the records described in entry 70. Arranged by docket number, from 3 to 478. Testimony for the claims docketed as Nos. 1 and 2 is printed with the memorials described in entry 72.

DOCKETS OF BRITISH CLAIMS. 1871-73. 1 vol. 2 in. 74

Dockets containing the following information for each claim: claimant's name, docket number, dates when evidence was filed or when important action was taken by the Commission, and, if claim was allowed, amount of award. Arranged by docket number of claim.

DECISIONS AND AWARDS ON BRITISH CLAIMS. 1871-73. 6 in. 75

Final decisions rendered by the Commission and signed by the three Commissioners. Each decision gives claimant's name, docket number, date of decision, place where the decision was rendered, a brief statement on reasons for allowing or disallowing the claim, and, if claim was allowed, amount of award, including interest. Arranged by docket number of claim.

MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS AND LISTS OF CLAIMS. ca. 1871-73. 4 in. 76

A draft copy of the dissenting opinion of Commissioner Frazer on the saltpetre cases; a brief on the case of the St. Albans Bank; a report on the Confederate cruiser Alabama; affidavits; newspaper clippings; a list of correspondence relating to the St. Albans raid; copies of Army

orders; memoranda and notes of the United States Commissioner; and lists of claims pending, claims decided, and claims originating in South Carolina. Most of these records were apparently used for reference purposes. Unarranged.

Records of the United States Agency

DOCKETS OF UNITED STATES CLAIMS. 1871-73. 1 vol. 2 in. 77

Dockets kept by Robert S. Hale, United States Agent, which contain the following information for each claim: claimant's name, docket number, and dates when evidence was filed or when important action was taken by the Commission. All of these United States claims were disallowed. Arranged by docket number.

DOCKETS OF BRITISH CLAIMS. 1871-73. 1 vol. 2 in. 78

Dockets kept by the United States Agent, which contain information similar to that in the docket book described in entry 74. Arranged by docket number, from 1 to 478. Docket Nos. 401-478, however, are on pages 101-178 of the docket book of United States claims described in entry 77. Indexed within the volume by name of claimant.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS. ca. 1872. 2 in. 79

A list of documents in the files of the Department of State relating to claims of British subjects against the United States. Given are claimant's name, docket number, documents pertinent to the claim, dates when the documents were sent or received, and a summary of each pertinent document. Arranged by docket number of claim, with some gaps.

LETTERS SENT. Oct. 7, 1871-Nov. 20, 1873. 2 ft. 80

Press copies of letters sent chiefly by the United States Agent to claimants, claimants' attorneys, United States consulates and legations, and the State, Treasury, War, Navy, Justice, and Interior Departments. The letters usually relate to the information and testimony to be used in protecting the interests of the United States Government and its citizens before the Commission. Some of the letters are replies to the letters described in entries 81 and 82. Interspersed among the press copies are a few original letters sent by Hale and addressed to Edward Hayes and A. Johns, clerks. Arranged chronologically. Indexed by name of addressee.

LETTERS RECEIVED. 1871-73. 2 ft. 81

Letters received by the United States Agent from claimants, claimants' attorneys, and special agents employed to take testimony from witnesses living outside Washington. Some of the letters acknowledge receipt of instructions, and others relate to the status of claims, progress in taking testimony, transmittal of evidence, and routine matters. Replies to many of these letters are described in entry 80. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.

MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS RECEIVED. 1871-73. 6 in.

82

Letters received by the United States Agent from the State, Treasury, War, Navy, Justice, and Interior Departments; several State governments; the Court of Claims; United States consulates and legations; and the Washington Post Office. Many of the letters are replies to Hale's requests for information on claims, copies of certified documents, or lists of qualified attorneys. Replies to some of the letters are described in entry 80. Arranged by name of originating agency and thereunder chronologically.

NOTICES RECEIVED. 1871-73. 6 in.

83

Printed notices received by the United States Agent from the secretary of the Commission stating that new claims had been filed with the Commission and transmitting copies of memorials, briefs, and information on the status of specified claims. The notices relate to both British and United States claims. Arranged by docket number: United States claims, Nos. 1-19; and British claims, Nos. 1-478.

TELEGRAMS RECEIVED. 1872-73. 2 in.

84

Telegrams received by the United States Agent, mostly from attorneys taking testimony for use before the Commission. The telegrams informed Hale that testimony had been obtained from specified witnesses or that evidence would be transmitted, or they requested instructions or information on routine matters. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.