

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

Pamphlet Accompanying
Microcopy No. 220

REPORTS TO CONGRESS FROM THE
SECRETARY OF WAR, 1803-70



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
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REPORTS TO CONGRESS FROM THE SECRETARY OF WAR
1803-70

On the 5 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced 11 bound volumes of reports of the Secretary of War to Congress for the period from February 3, 1803, to December 29, 1870. The volumes contain copies of letters and accompanying reports to Members of Congress in response to congressional resolutions and inquiries.

The Department of War was created by Congress on August 7, 1789, and the Secretary of War was made responsible for all matters relating to military and naval affairs, including the supervision of Indian affairs, military pensions, and the granting of bounty lands for military service. Naval affairs were withdrawn from the Secretary's jurisdiction when the Navy Department was created on April 30, 1798. As the responsibilities of the Secretary of War became too great for direct administration by one office, various subordinate bureaus and staffs were created to assume direct supervision of and responsibility for specific functions of the War Department. Among those created by 1825 were the Quartermaster's Department, the Ordnance Department, the Adjutant General's Office, the Office of the Surgeon General, the Inspector General's Department, the Office of the Chief of Engineers, the Pay Department, the Office of the Commissary General of Subsistence, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In 1849, all of the powers of the Secretary of War over bounty-land and pension matters and those relating to Indian affairs were transferred to the newly created Department of the Interior. Since the middle of the nineteenth century the Secretary of War and his office have become more and more concerned with the policy and general administration of the War Department.

The letters and reports reproduced in this microfilm publication relate to the various functions and responsibilities of the Secretary of War, including those delegated to other officers. Among the subjects reported on are the strength and organization of the Army and the militia, Indian affairs, the granting of pensions, the pay and employment of civilian and military personnel, appropriations, property and damage claims, the construction and opening of military roads and canals, improvements to navigation, surveys for railway routes, and fortifications for the defense of the country's coasts and frontiers. In many instances the Secretary of War responded to Members of Congress by enclosing a report prepared for that purpose by the subordinate officer charged with the specific function or responsibility concerned. Some of these reports were not copied in the volumes reproduced on this microcopy, so that only the transmittal letters are present.

In general the transmittal letters and the accompanying reports are arranged chronologically by date of transmittal. Some documents, however, are out of order. Volume 2, for instance, contains documents dated to January 20, 1829, while volume 3 contains documents dating from January 14, 1829. Blank pages in the indexes and in the text of the volumes have not been reproduced.

The documents reproduced in this microfilm publication are part of a body of records in the National Archives designated as Record Group 107, Records of the Office of the Secretary of War.

In the same record group in the National Archives are letters received by the Secretary of War that were registered, 1801-60 (Microcopy 221); registers of letters received by the Secretary, 1800-1860 (Microcopy 22); letters received by the Secretary that were not registered, 1789-1860 (Microcopy 222); letters sent by the Secretary relating to military affairs, 1800-1861 (Microcopy 6); letters sent by the Secretary to the President of the United States, 1800-1863 (Microcopy 127); and confidential and unofficial letters sent by the Secretary, 1814-47 (Microcopy 7).

In Record Group 75, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, are 6 volumes of letters sent by the Secretary of War that relate to Indian Affairs, 1800-24 (Microcopy 15). These volumes were transferred to the Interior Department when the Office of Indian Affairs became a part of that Department.

In Record Group 15, Records of the Veterans Administration, are papers relating to military-pension and bounty-land matters for the period when those matters were under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of War.

Secretaries of War Appointed March 5, 1801 - October 25, 1869

<u>Date of Appointment</u>	<u>Name</u>
March 5, 1801	Henry Dearborn
March 7, 1809	William Eustis
January 13, 1813	John Armstrong
September 27, 1814	James Monroe
August 1, 1815	William H. Crawford
October 8, 1817	John C. Calhoun
March 7, 1825	James Barbour
May 26, 1828	Peter B. Porter
March 9, 1829	John H. Eaton

Date of AppointmentName

August 1, 1831	Lewis Cass
March 7, 1837	Joel R. Poinsett
March 5, 1841	John Bell
October 12, 1841	John C. Spencer
March 8, 1843	James M. Porter
February 15, 1844	William Wilkins
March 6, 1845	William L. Marcy
March 8, 1849	George W. Crawford
August 15, 1850	Charles M. Conrad
March 7, 1853	Jefferson Davis
March 6, 1857	John B. Floyd
January 18, 1861	Joseph Holt
March 5, 1861	Simon Cameron
January 15, 1862	Edwin M. Stanton
May 28, 1868	John M. Schofield
March 11, 1869	John A. Rawlins
September 9, 1869	William T. Sherman
October 25, 1869	William W. Belknap

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