

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

**Pamphlet Accompanying
Microcopy No. 21**

**LETTERS SENT
BY THE OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
1824-1882**



**THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
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GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
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LETTERS SENT BY THE OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
1824-1882

On the 166 rolls of this microfilm publication are re-produced handwritten transcripts of communications sent by the Office of Indian Affairs during the period March 18, 1824 - January 5, 1882. They are the communications that were copied in the volumes, usually known in the Office as "Record Books," through the end of 1880 and include later letters in volumes begun before January 1, 1881. The last date of complete coverage is January 10, 1881.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs was established as a separate agency within the War Department in 1824; and in 1832 Congress established the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs. The Bureau, usually known as the Office of Indian Affairs until 1947, was transferred in 1849 to the newly created Department of the Interior, where it has remained. Until March 1849 the Commissioner of Indian Affairs reported to the Secretary of War; thereafter he reported to the Secretary of the Interior.

The letters include instructions to superintendents, agents, and other field officials of the Bureau; reports to the Secretary of War; acknowledgments of and replies to incoming letters; notices of appointment; and many other communications concerning all aspects of the operations of the Office. Until 1869 the letters were transcribed in chronological order. Beginning in that year two or more volumes were used simultaneously, and letters relating to certain broad subjects (such as land, civilization, and finance) were copied into different volumes. Within each volume the arrangement remained chronological.

Most of the volumes are indexed by name of addressee, with some index entries for subjects. In most of the volumes there are marginal notations beside transcripts giving page numbers of copies of other letters to the same person. Beginning in 1868 the surname or the initials of the clerk who drafted each letter are usually given. There are references beginning in 1876 to related incoming correspondence and in some volumes to the division of the

Bureau that handled the letter. More specific information concerning marginal notations is given in the notes for the individual rolls.

The names of the Commissioners of Indian Affairs who served during the period covered by a volume are also given in the roll notes. No attempt has been made to give the names of persons who served as Acting Commissioner during the temporary absence of the Commissioner; however, names are given of persons who served as Acting Commissioner for an extended period of time during which there was no regularly appointed Commissioner.

In addition to the indexes in the individual volumes, there are also registers or "abstracts" of the letters sent for most years. They have not been included in the microfilm publication program, but they are available for use in the National Archives.

Not all the letters sent by the Office of Indian Affairs were copied in the "Record Books" reproduced in this microfilm publication. Beginning in 1838 letters to the member of the President's Cabinet with supervisory responsibility for Indian affairs (the Secretary of War until 1849 and thereafter the Secretary of the Interior) were copied in separate volumes called "Report Books." For a time letters to the President, the President of the Senate (normally the Vice President), the Speaker of the House of Representatives, chairmen and members of committees of Congress, and occasionally other officials were copied in the Report Books; but by 1870 these volumes were used only for letters to the Secretary of the Interior. The Report Books have been reproduced by the National Archives as Microcopy 348.

Other letters were copied in special volumes. These include letters concerning the Chickasaw Indians and Agency, 1832-61; letters concerning Indian trust funds, 1843-57 and 1861-64; and letters relating to the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia in 1876, 1876-77. Some letters, particularly form letters, were not copied at all.

In 1870, in addition to the handwritten copies, the individual divisions of the Bureau began to make press copies of outgoing letters.

Related records of the Bureau that have been reproduced as part of the microfilm publication program include the letters sent by the Secretary of War relating to Indian affairs, 1800-24 (Microcopy 15); letters received by the Secretary of War relating to Indian affairs, 1800-23 (Microcopy 271); and letters received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-80 (Microcopy 234). Other than the later letters in the Report Books, 1838-85 (Microcopy 348) and the 1881-82 letters included in this microfilm publication, correspondence of the Office later than 1880 has not been microfilmed. Also in the National Archives are records of some of the field offices of the Office of Indian Affairs; these include the originals of many of the letters copied in the Record Books. Some of these records are available in microfilm publications: Microcopies 1, 2, 5, and 208. Originals of letters sent to other offices may often be found among the records of those offices now in the National Archives.

The records reproduced in this microfilm publication are part of the records in the National Archives designated as Record Group 75, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

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<u>Roll</u>	<u>Inclusive Dates</u>	<u>Price</u>
1	Mar. 18, 1824-May 3, 1825	\$3
2	May 4, 1825-May 31, 1826	\$3
3	June 1, 1826-Mar. 31, 1827	\$3
4	Apr. 1, 1827-June 5, 1828	\$3
5	June 5, 1828-June 7, 1829	\$2
6	June 8, 1829-July 30, 1830	\$3
7	Aug. 1, 1830-Dec. 31, 1831	\$3
8	Jan. 1-July 4, 1832	\$3
9	July 5, 1832-Jan. 27, 1833	\$3
10	Jan. 28-June 18, 1833	\$2
11	June 19-Dec. 31, 1833	\$2
12	Jan. 1-May 31, 1834	\$2
13	June 1-Sept. 30, 1834	\$2
14	Oct. 1, 1834-Jan. 31, 1835	\$2
15	Feb. 1-Apr. 28, 1835	\$2
16	Apr. 28-Aug. 23, 1835	\$2
17	Aug. 24, 1835-Jan. 31, 1836	\$3
18	Feb. 1-May 31, 1836	\$3
19	June 1-Sept. 30, 1836	\$3
20	Oct. 1, 1836-Jan. 27, 1837	\$3
21	Jan. 28-June 20, 1837	\$3
22	June 21-Nov. 27, 1837	\$3
23	Nov. 28, 1837-Mar. 31, 1838	\$3
24	Apr. 1-July 26, 1838	\$3
25	July 27, 1838-Jan. 30, 1839	\$3
26	Jan. 31-June 30, 1839	\$3
27	July 1-Dec. 31, 1839	\$3
28	Jan. 1-June 30, 1840	\$2
29	July 1-Dec. 31, 1840	\$2
30	Jan. 1-Aug. 1, 1841	\$3
31	Aug. 2, 1841-Feb. 23, 1842	\$3
32	Feb. 24-Oct. 2, 1842	\$3
33	Oct. 3, 1842-May 15, 1843	\$3
34	May 16, 1843-Feb. 25, 1844	\$3
35	Feb. 26-Oct. 15, 1844	\$3
36	Oct. 15, 1844-July 22, 1845	\$3
37	July 23, 1845-Mar. 20, 1846	\$3
38	Mar. 21-Oct. 31, 1846	\$3
39	Nov. 2, 1846-July 31, 1847	\$3
40	Aug. 2, 1847-May 31, 1848	\$3

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Inclusive Dates</u>	<u>Price</u>
41	June 1, 1848-Mar. 31, 1849	\$3
42	Apr. 1, 1849-Jan. 31, 1850	\$3
43	Feb. 1-Oct. 31, 1850	\$3
44	Nov. 1, 1850-July 20, 1851	\$3
45	July 21, 1851-Mar. 31, 1852	\$3
46	Apr. 1, 1852-Jan. 20, 1853	\$3
47	Jan. 21-Aug. 24, 1853	\$3
48	Aug. 25, 1853-Mar. 27, 1854	\$3
49	Mar. 28-Aug. 26, 1854	\$3
50	Aug. 27, 1854-Feb. 20, 1855	\$3
51	Feb. 21-June 12, 1855	\$3
52	June 13-Oct. 27, 1855	\$3
53	Oct. 28, 1855-Mar. 19, 1856	\$3
54	Mar. 20-July 31, 1856	\$3
55	July 31-Dec. 31, 1856	\$3
56	Jan. 1-May 25, 1857	\$3
57	May 26-Oct. 31, 1857	\$3
58	Nov. 1, 1857-Apr. 30, 1858	\$3
59	May 1-Oct. 23, 1858	\$3
60	Oct. 25, 1858-Apr. 29, 1859	\$3
61	Apr. 30-Aug. 23, 1859	\$3
62	Aug. 24, 1859-Feb. 9, 1860	\$3
63	Feb. 10-June 26, 1860	\$3
64	June 27-Dec. 7, 1860	\$3
65	Dec. 8, 1860-June 1, 1861	\$3
66	June 3-Oct. 23, 1861	\$3
67	Oct. 24, 1861-Mar. 25, 1862	\$3
68	Mar. 26-Aug. 7, 1862	\$3
69	Aug. 8, 1862-Jan. 20, 1863	\$3
70	Jan. 20-June 5, 1863	\$3
71	June 5-Oct. 14, 1863	\$3
72	Oct. 15, 1863-Jan. 8, 1864	\$3
73	Jan. 9-Apr. 23, 1864	\$3
74	Apr. 25-July 28, 1864	\$3
75	July 28-Dec. 7, 1864	\$3
76	Dec. 8, 1864-Apr. 4, 1865	\$3
77	Apr. 4-Aug. 3, 1865	\$3
78	Aug. 3-Dec. 8, 1865	\$3
79	Dec. 9, 1865-Apr. 6, 1866	\$3
80	Apr. 6-July 17, 1866	\$3
81	July 18-Oct. 26, 1866	\$3
82	Oct. 27, 1866-Apr. 18, 1867	\$3

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Inclusive Dates</u>	<u>Price</u>
83	Apr. 19-Aug. 2, 1867	\$3
84	Aug. 3-Nov. 14, 1867	\$3
85	Nov. 15, 1867-Feb. 25, 1868	\$3
86	Feb. 26-June 9, 1868	\$3
87	June 10-Sept. 24, 1868	\$3
88	Sept. 25, 1868-Jan. 13, 1869	\$3
89	Jan. 14-Apr. 30, 1869	\$3
90	Apr. 30-July 8, 1869	\$3
91	July 8-Oct. 14, 1869	\$3
92	Land and civilization, Aug. 2-Dec. 14, 1869	\$3
93	Finance and miscellaneous, Oct. 14, 1869- Mar. 12, 1870	\$3
94	Land and civilization, Dec. 15, 1869- Apr. 14, 1870	\$3
95	Finance and miscellaneous, Mar. 14- Aug. 3, 1870	\$3
96	Land and civilization, Apr. 15-Aug. 25, 1870	\$3
97	Finance and miscellaneous, Aug. 4- Dec. 30, 1870	\$3
98	Land and civilization, Aug. 26-Dec. 21, 1870	\$3
99	Finance and miscellaneous, Jan. 3- May 23, 1871	\$3
100	Land and civilization, Dec. 22, 1870- Apr. 19, 1871	\$3
101	Finance and miscellaneous, May 24- Aug. 26, 1871	\$3
102	Land and civilization, Apr. 20-Aug. 24, 1871	\$3
103	Land and civilization, Aug. 25, 1871- Jan. 25, 1872	\$3
104	Finance and miscellaneous, Aug. 28- Dec. 18, 1871	\$3
105	Finance and miscellaneous, Dec. 19, 1871- Apr. 23, 1872	\$3
106	Land and civilization, Jan. 26-May 21, 1872	\$3
107	Finance and miscellaneous, Apr. 24- Oct. 16, 1872	\$3
108	Land and civilization, May 22-Oct. 8, 1872	\$4

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Inclusive Dates</u>	<u>Price</u>
109	Finance and miscellaneous, Oct. 17, 1872-Apr. 16, 1873	\$3
110	Land and civilization, Oct. 9, 1872- Mar. 21, 1873	\$3
111	Finance, Apr. 17-July 30, 1873	\$3
112	Land and civilization, Mar. 21-July 26, 1873	\$4
113	Finance, July 31-Nov. 15, 1873	\$3
114	Land and civilization, July 28-Dec. 20, 1873	\$3
115	Finance, Nov. 17, 1873-Mar. 17, 1874	\$3
116	Land and civilization, Dec. 20, 1873- Apr. 7, 1874	\$4
117	Finance, Mar. 18-July 15, 1874	\$3
118	Land and civilization, Apr. 7-Aug. 4, 1874	\$3
119	Finance, July 13-Sept. 21, 1874	\$3
120	Land and civilization, Aug. 5-Nov. 23, 1874	\$4
121	Finance, Sept. 22-Dec. 22, 1874	\$3
122	Land and civilization, Nov. 24, 1874- Mar. 20, 1875	\$3
123	Finance, Dec. 22, 1874-Apr. 3, 1875	\$3
124	Miscellaneous, Mar. 22-July 7, 1875	\$3
125	Finance, Apr. 3-June 24, 1875	\$3
126	Miscellaneous, July 8-Nov. 6, 1875	\$3
127	Finance, June 25-Sept. 25, 1875	\$3
128	Miscellaneous, Nov. 6, 1875-Mar. 18, 1876	\$3
129	Finance, Sept. 25, 1875-Jan. 19, 1876	\$3
130	Miscellaneous, Mar. 18-Aug. 28, 1876	\$4
131	Finance, Jan. 20-Apr. 20, 1876	\$3
132	Miscellaneous, Aug. 28, 1876-Mar. 22, 1877	\$3
133	Finance, Apr. 20-Aug. 21, 1876	\$3
134	Accounts, Nov. 17, 1876-Sept. 8, 1877	\$3
135	Finance, Aug. 21-Dec. 14, 1876	\$3
136	Miscellaneous, Mar. 22-Sept. 3, 1877	\$3
137	Finance, Dec. 14, 1876-Apr. 21, 1877	\$3
138	Miscellaneous, Sept. 3, 1877-Mar. 13, 1878	\$3
139	Finance, Apr. 20-Aug. 25, 1877	\$3
140	Accounts, Sept. 10, 1877-Apr. 10, 1878	\$3

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Inclusive Dates</u>	<u>Price</u>
141	Finance, Aug. 25-Dec. 15, 1877	\$3
142	Miscellaneous, Mar. 14-July 31, 1878	\$3
143	Accounts, Apr. 10-Sept. 23, 1878	\$3
144	Miscellaneous, July 31, 1878-Jan. 20, 1879	\$3
145	Finance, Dec. 17, 1877-Mar. 27, 1878	\$3
146	Accounts, Sept. 23, 1878-Feb. 1, 1879	\$3
147	Land, Jan. 2-Aug. 2, 1879	\$3
148	Accounts, Feb. 3-June 13, 1879	\$3
149	Accounts, June 13-Sept. 29, 1879	\$3
150	Miscellaneous, Jan. 21-Sept. 25, 1879	\$3
151	Accounts, Sept. 30, 1879-Jan. 26, 1880	\$3
152	Land, Aug. 2, 1879-Apr. 5, 1880	\$3
153	Finance, Mar. 27-July 10, 1878	\$4
154	Miscellaneous, Sept. 25, 1879-Oct. 15, 1880	\$4
155	Accounts, Jan. 26-June 15, 1880	\$4
156	Finance, July 11-Oct. 13, 1878	\$4
157	Accounts, June 15-Oct. 9, 1880	\$4
158	Land, Apr. 6, 1880-May 6, 1881	\$4
159	Miscellaneous, Oct. 16, 1880-Jan. 5, 1882	\$4
160	Finance, Oct. 16, 1878-Mar. 31, 1879	\$4
161	Finance, Apr. 1-July 31, 1879	\$4
162	Accounts, Oct. 11, 1880-Feb. 7, 1881	\$4
163	Finance, Aug. 1-Dec. 13, 1879	\$4
164	Finance, Dec. 15, 1879-May 4, 1880	\$5
165	Finance, May 4-Aug. 31, 1880	\$4
166	Finance, Sept. 1, 1880-Jan. 10, 1881	\$4
Total		\$508