



Chippewa Enumeration, 1885–1940

The Chippewa, organized into numerous autonomous bands, lived in the Great Lakes region, primarily in present-day Wisconsin, Michigan, North Dakota, and Minnesota. Although the Federal Government never forcibly removed the Chippewa from the Great Lakes region, it created several reservations and related records to document the inhabitants.

Indian Census Rolls

___M595, *Indian Census Rolls, 1885–1940*. 692 rolls. DP. The records are arranged by Indian agency, sub-agency or other jurisdiction; then by census year. There is no index. Agents or superintendents in charge of Indian reservations usually submitted census rolls each year, as required by an act of July 4, 1884 (23 Stat. 98). The data on the rolls vary, but usually include the English name, Indian name, or both; roll number; age or date of birth; sex; and relationship to the head of the family. Beginning in 1930, the rolls also show the degree of Indian blood, marital status, ward status, and place of residence. For certain years, including 1935, 1936, 1938, and 1939, only supplemental rolls of additions and deletions were compiled.

Because the Chippewa were divided into numerous bands, locating census rolls for them is difficult. Researchers should consult the descriptive pamphlet (DP) for additional information, including a list of Chippewa tribes with their associated jurisdictions. See especially the headings for

Bad River Chippewa	Net Lake Chippewa
Bois Fort Chippewa	Otter Tail Pillager Chippewa
Cass & Winnibigoshish Chippewa	Pembina Chippewa
Chippewa	Red Cliff Chippewa
Fond du Lac Chippewa	Red Lake Chippewa
Grand Portage Chippewa	Rice Lake Chippewa
Gull Lake Chippewa	Turtle Mountain Chippewa
Lac Courte Oreilles Chippewa	Vermillion Lake Chippewa
Lac du Flambeau Chippewa	White Earth Chippewa
Leech Lake Pillager Chippewa	White Oak Point Chippewa
Mille Lac Chippewa	

___M2039, *Correspondence, Field Notes, and the Census Roll of All Members or Descendants of Members Who Were on the Roll of the Ottawa and the Chippewa Tribes of Michigan in 1870, and Living on March 4, 1907 (Durant Roll)*. 4 rolls. DP. This series reproduces the 1908 census named for its compiler, Horace B. Durant. The census enumerated members of these tribes alive in 1907 who were eligible for compensation under certain treaties signed in the 19th century. The publication consists of two major sections:

1. **Census, or Durant Roll.** The information on the census gives the 1870 census roll number. This number indexes Durant's field notes and consists of two numbers separated by a hyphen. The first number is assigned to a

specific family; the second number is the page number on the field notes. The series also includes the Durant roll number, Indian name, English name, relationship to head of household, age, sex, tribal band, and residence. Entries on the Durant Roll are arranged alphabetically by first letter of the surname and then grouped by the tribal bands Sault Ste. Marie, Mackinac, Traverse, and Grand River.

2. **Field Notes.** Durant's field notes record for each family the name of the head of the household on the 1870 roll, and names of the wife or husband, children, and grandchildren. Letters pertaining to various families are occasionally filed with the field notes. Field notes do not exist for everyone enumerated on the Durant Roll. The cover sheets for each page number list the tribal band, chief, and area of Michigan where the data was collected.

Correspondence

___M234, *Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824–1881*. 962 rolls. DP. This series contains correspondence received concerning Indian lands, emigration, treaty negotiations, subsistence, annuity payments, conflicts, and many other topics. The letters are arranged alphabetically by name of field jurisdiction or other subject heading, then by year, then by the first letter of the writer's surname, and then by date of receipt. The letters relating to the Chippewa Agency are on **rolls 149–168**. There are three specific lists that relate to the Chippewa:

1. An 1838 list of Chippewa, Ottawa and Pottawatomie entitled to benefits at the Council Bluffs Agency. File H571, **roll 215**.
2. 1878 lists of heads of families for Pillager and Lake Winnebigoishish Chippewa. File K259, **roll 166**.
3. 1878 lists of heads of families for White Oak, Point and Mississippi Chippewa, File K266, **roll 166**.

___M18, *Registers of Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824–1880*. 126 rolls. DP. This series indexes the correspondence in M234. For each letter, the registers identify the name of the author; the date it was written and, beginning in April 1834, the date it was received; the place where it was written; a summary of its contents; the jurisdiction or other heading under which it was filed; and, beginning in July 1836, the file number assigned to each letter upon its receipt.

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