



National Archives and Records Administration

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001

Indian Agents and Superintendents, 1849–1907

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in the Department of the Interior employed agents and superintendents to conduct the agency's business in the field. Indian agents were directly responsible for the affairs of one or more tribes. Special Indian agents carried out specific assignments for the Bureau. Superintendents had general responsibility for Indian affairs in an assigned geographic area, usually a territory, but often larger.

Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior (RG 48)

Appointments Division, 1849–1907

The Appointments Division handled business concerning the status of employees appointed by the President and the Secretary of the Interior. The following three series of records of the Appointments Division are a good starting place to search for Indian agents and superintendents employed from 1849 to 1907. These records are located at the National Archives at College Park; the microfilmed appointment files listed below are available at both College Park and the National Archives Building in Washington, DC.

___ **Central Office Appointment Papers, 1849–1907** (Entry 14). These records consist primarily of letters of application and recommendation, petitions, briefs, reports, oaths of office, applications for leave, letters of resignation, and related records.

___ **Field Office Appointment Papers, 1849–1907** (Entry 15). These records consist primarily of letters received and copies of some letters sent, memoranda, petitions, reports, affidavits, briefs, oaths of office, applications for leave of absence, resignations, charges against employees, and related records. The records of several states and territories reproduced on microfilm are

___ M1245, *Interior Department Appointment Papers: Alaska, 1871–1907*. 6 rolls. DP.

___ M576, *Interior Department Appointment Papers: Territory of Arizona, 1857–1907*. 22 rolls. DP.

___ M732, *Interior Department Appointment Papers: California, 1849–1907*. 29 rolls. DP.

___ M808, *Interior Department Appointment Papers: Territory of Colorado, 1857–1907*. 13 rolls. DP.

___ M1119, *Department of the Interior Appointment Papers: Florida, 1849–1907*. 6 rolls. DP.

___ M693, *Interior Department Appointment Papers: Idaho, 1862–1907*. 17 rolls. DP.

___ M849, *Interior Department Appointment Papers: Mississippi, 1849–1907*. 4 rolls. DP.

___M1058, *The Department of the Interior Appointment Papers: Missouri, 1849–1907*. 9 rolls. DP.

___M1033, *Interior Department Appointment Papers: Nevada, 1860–1907*. 3 rolls. DP.

___M750, *Interior Department Appointment Papers: Territory of New Mexico, 1850–1907*. 18 rolls. DP.

___M1022, *Interior Department Appointment Papers: New York, 1849–1906*. 5 rolls. DP.

___M950, *Interior Department Appointment Papers: North Carolina, 1849–1892*. 1 roll. DP.

___M814, *Interior Department Appointment Papers: Territory of Oregon, 1849–1907*. 10 rolls. DP.

___M831, *Interior Department Appointment Papers: Territory of Wisconsin, 1849–1907*. 9 rolls. DP.

___M830, *Interior Department Appointment Papers: Wyoming, 1869–1907*. 6 rolls. DP.

___ **Charges and Protest Files, 1849–1907** (Entry 17). These records consist of correspondence, reports, petitions, testimony, and related records concerning charges against Interior Department employees in Washington, DC, and in the field.

Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (RG 75)

The records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs include those of the Bureau as well as its predecessor agencies. The entries listed below contain the records wherein researchers can easily locate an Indian agent or superintendent. The records listed in these entries are located in the National Archives Building in Washington, DC.

___ **Special Files, 1807–1904** (Entry 98). The records in this entry consist of correspondence, reports, accounts, affidavits, and other records relating chiefly to claims and investigations. The investigations were mainly concerned with the conduct of Bureau employees. There are 303 Special Files, which have been reproduced on microfilm.

___M574, *Special Files of the Office of Indian Affairs, 1807–1904*. 85 rolls. DP.

Rosters of Employees

The Employees Section of the Bureau, known as the Appointments Section until 1911, had charge of matters relating solely to field employees of the Bureau. The employee rosters listed below contain information on Indian agents.

___ **Rosters of Field Employees, 1848–1950** (Entry 974). 1 volume, no name index.

___ **Roster of Superintendents and Agents, 1853–1963** (Entry 975). 1 volume, no name index.

___**Rosters of Field Officials, 1849–1911** (Entry 976). 8 volumes, most of the volumes include indexes to names of officials.

Annual Reports of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs

During the 19th and early 20th centuries, the annual reports of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs included the annual reports of BIA agencies and superintendencies. Although there rarely is biographical information about the agent or superintendent, the reports give an overview of his activities for that year.

The annual reports are reproduced in the *Congressional Serial Set*. Researchers can identify the citations for these reports in the Congressional Information Service's *Index to the Congressional Serial Set*. Robert M. Kvasnicka and Herman J. Viola's *The Commissioners of Indian Affairs, 1824–1977* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1979), also contains the *Serial Set* citations for the Commissioner's annual reports.

For more information, see the following reference report: *Employees of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the Official Register of the United States, 1817–1925*.

Rev. June 2013