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**Records of the
Idaho Superintendency
of Indian Affairs
1863-1870**



NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE
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are from

Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs

Record Group 75

in the National Archives Building

RECORDS OF THE
IDAHO SUPERINTENDENCY OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
1863-1870

On the 3 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced 3 volumes and a number of unbound records of the Idaho Superintendency of Indian Affairs, 1863-70.

From 1789 to 1824 Indian affairs were administered in the Office of the Secretary of War. In 1824 a separate agency, the Office of Indian Affairs, was created in the War Department. In 1849 the Office of Indian Affairs was transferred to the Department of the Interior, and in 1947 it was renamed the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

During the 19th century superintendencies and agencies were the two principal field jurisdictions of the Office of Indian Affairs. Superintendents had general responsibility for Indian affairs in a specific geographical area. Their duties included supervision of relations between the Government and citizens of the United States and the various Indian tribes and of the conduct and accounts of the Indian agents within their jurisdiction. Agents were usually responsible for the affairs of one tribe or reservation.

The Idaho Superintendency was established in 1863 with the organization of Idaho Territory from parts of Washington and Dakota Territories. The area that comprises the present State of Idaho was part of Oregon Territory from 1848 to 1853. Part of the area was transferred to Washington Territory in 1853 and the remainder in 1859. From 1863 until Montana Territory was organized in 1864, Idaho included Montana and part of Wyoming. Thereafter Idaho had its present boundaries. Indian tribes under the supervision of the Idaho Superintendency after 1864 included Nez Percé, Shoshoni, and Bannock. Coeur d'Alène, Kutenai, Pend d'Oreille, and Spokane Indians also lived or roamed in Idaho, and the Coeur d'Alène Reservation was located in Idaho; but the Coeur d'Alène and Spokane Indians were more closely associated with the Washington Superintendency and the Kutenai and Pend d'Oreille with the Flathead Agency of the Montana Superintendency.

Until 1869 the Territorial Governor served as ex officio superintendent. Thereafter an army officer was detailed to that position until the superintendency was discontinued in 1870. The headquarters of the superintendency was at the Territorial capital, which was located briefly at Lewiston, but was moved to Boise in 1864.

The Nez Percé, Flathead, and Blackfeet Agencies were assigned to the Idaho Superintendency in 1863, but the following year the Flathead and Blackfeet Agencies were transferred to the newly

organized Montana Superintendency. Later the Flathead Agency was temporarily returned to the Idaho Superintendency (from September 1865 to February 1866) and the Fort Hall and Lemhi Reservations were established in Idaho.

The Nez Percé Agency was a continuation of an agency for "Washington East of the Cascades" established in 1857 for the Nez Percé and other Indians. After 1861 the agency was called the Nez Percé Agency and was responsible only for the Nez Percé Indians. The headquarters of the agent was usually at Lapwai on the Nez Percé Reservation in western Idaho.

Special agent Charles F. Powell, appointed in 1867, was assigned to the Boise and Bruneau bands of Shoshoni. In 1869 these Indians, as well as some Western Shoshoni and Bannock, were moved to the Fort Hall Reservation in southeastern Idaho. George C. Hough served as special agent, without specific assignment, for the Indians in Idaho between 1866 and 1869. The Lemhi Agency was established in 1873, after the Idaho superintendency had been discontinued.

The records of the Idaho Superintendency consist mainly of the Superintendent's correspondence with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in Washington, with special agents Charles F. Powell and George C. Hough, and with the agents at the Nez Percé and Fort Hall Reservations. There is no correspondence with the Flathead, Blackfeet, or Lemhi Agencies. Some correspondence from these three agencies may be found in the records of the Montana Superintendency. The records relate to almost all aspects of Indian affairs within the Idaho Superintendency. There are documents relating to negotiation and enforcement of treaties; land surveys; intrusions on Indian lands; depredation claims; the location and establishment of the reservations; annuities and other payments; construction and repair of buildings, schools, mills, and blacksmith shops; traders and licenses; military operations and hostilities; purchase and transportation of supplies; accounts; and employees.

The records reproduced in this microfilm publication consist of four series of records of the Idaho Superintendency:

1. Register of Letters Received, 1867-70. This is a register of letters received by the superintendent and forwarded to Washington or to one of the Indian agents for action. Arranged chronologically by date of receipt, it shows for each entry the date the letter was received, name of the writer, subject matter, date of disposition, indication of action taken, and a copy of any endorsements on the letter. Most of the letters registered were not retained in the superintendent's files.

2. Letters Received, 1863-70. The letters are arranged by source and thereunder chronologically. Letters received from the Commissioner also include some letters from Treasury officials regarding finances and accounts. Letters received from Indian

agencies are filmed in order of the establishment of the agencies. Such documents as reports and accounts of agents and a few telegrams are also included.

3. Letters Sent, 1863-70. Handwritten and press copies of letters sent by the superintendent. For the period 1863-69 there are unbound handwritten drafts and copies of letters sent. For May 1867 through June 1870 there is a bound volume of handwritten copies of letters sent. There is some slight duplication between these two sets of letters. For July through December 1870 there is a volume of press copies of letters sent. All three sets of letters sent are arranged chronologically. Blank numbered pages in the volumes have not been filmed.

4. Miscellaneous Records, 1863 and 1866-70. The records consist of receipts, estimates of funds, bills of lading, contracts, inventories, proposals, and invoices. They are arranged chronologically.

The records reproduced in this microfilm publication are part of the records of the National Archives designated as Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Record Group 75. Related records in the same record group include Registers of Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-80 (M18), Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-80 (M234), Letters Sent by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-81 (M21), Report Books of the Office of Indian Affairs, 1838-85 (M348), Documents Relating to the Negotiation of Ratified and Unratified Treaties with Various Indian Tribes, 1801-69 (T494), Records of the Washington Superintendency of Indian Affairs, 1853-74 (M5), and Records of the Montana Superintendency of Indian Affairs, 1867-73 (M833).

Records have also been microfilmed for other superintendencies: Michigan, 1814-51 (M1), New Mexico, 1849-80 (T21), Oregon, 1848-73 (M2), Washington, 1853-74 (M5), Southern Superintendency, 1832-70 (M640), and Arizona, 1863-73 (M734).

The records reproduced in this microfilm publication were prepared by Jeanne Schauble, who also wrote these introductory remarks.

LIST OF OFFICIALS
1863-70
AND
DATES OF APPOINTMENTS

Commissioners of Indian Affairs

William P. Dole	Mar. 13, 1861
Dennis N. Cooley	July 10, 1865
Lewis V. Bogy	Nov. 1, 1866
Nathaniel G. Taylor	Mar. 29, 1867
Ely S. Parker	Apr. 21, 1869

Governors and Ex Officio Superintendents

William H. Wallace	Mar. 10, 1863
Caleb Lyon	Feb. 26, 1864

Army Officer Detailed as Superintendent

Col. De L. Floyd-Jones	June 17, 1869
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Agents

Nez Percé Agency

John W. Anderson (subagent)	Aug. 23, 1862
James O'Neil	July 2, 1864
Robert Newell	July 23, 1868
Lt. Joseph W. Wham	June 10, 1869
Capt. David M. Sells	Feb. 10, 1870

Blackfeet Agency

Henry W. Reed	Apr. 4, 1862
Gad E. Upson	Oct. 13, 1863

Flathead Agency

Charles Hutchins	Transferred from Nez Percé Agency, Sept. 30, 1862
Augustus H. Chapman	Sept. 22, 1865

Fort Hall Agency

Charles F. Powell (special)	Notified Apr. 18, 1867
Lt. William H. Danilson (special)	June 11, 1869

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