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PAMPHLET DESCRIBING M833

**Records of the
Montana Superintendency
of Indian Affairs
1867-1873**



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GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
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The records reproduced in the microfilm publication
are from
Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs
Record Group 75
in the National Archives Building

RECORDS OF THE
MONTANA SUPERINTENDENCY OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
1867-1873

On the three rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced one volume and a number of unbound records of the Montana Superintendency of Indian Affairs, 1867-73.

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 the citizens of the United States and the Indian tribes, as well as the conduct and accounts of the Indian agents within their jurisdiction. Agents were usually responsible for the affairs of one tribe or reservation.

The Montana Superintendency was established in 1864 with the organization of the Territory of Montana. Originally Montana was divided between Washington and Dakota Territories, but in 1863 it had been made part of Idaho Territory. The principal tribes living in Montana were the Blackfeet, Piegon, Blood (Kainah), Grosventre, Flathead, Kutenai, Pend d'Oreille, Crow, Assiniboin, and several bands of Sioux.

The Territorial Governor served as ex officio superintendent until a separate official was appointed in 1869. The headquarters of the Montana Superintendency was located in the territorial capital, Bannock, until 1865 and then in Virginia City until 1869. After 1869 the superintendency was located in Helena until it was discontinued on June 30, 1873.

The Blackfeet and Flathead Agencies, transferred from the Idaho Superintendency, were the original agencies in the Montana Superintendency. The Blackfeet Agency was established in 1855 for the Blackfeet, Piegon, Blood (Kainah), and Grosventre Indians. Before the establishment of the Montana Superintendency, it was successively assigned to the Central, Dakota, and Idaho Superintendencies.

The Flathead Agency was established under the Washington Superintendency in 1854, principally for the Flathead, Upper Pend d'Oreille, and Kutenai Indians. In 1857 it was discontinued

and the agent was designated agent for "Washington East of the Cascades" under the temporarily consolidated Washington and Oregon Superintendencies. In 1861 the Flathead Agency was reestablished as a full agency. It was transferred from the Washington to the Idaho Superintendency in 1863, to the Montana Superintendency in 1864, and from September 1865 until February 1866 was reassigned to the Idaho Superintendency.

Three other agencies were established as part of the Montana Superintendency. The Crow Agency was established in 1869 for the Mountain Crows, but eventually it also became responsible for the River Crows. The Milk River Agency was established in 1870 for the Grosventre and Assiniboin Indians; but there were also River Crow, Sioux, and other Indians living in its area. In 1873 the Milk River Agency was moved to Fort Peck on the Missouri River, and it was renamed the Fort Peck Agency in December 1874. The Fort Belknap Agency was established in 1873 for the Indians still living along the Milk River. All five agencies continued to operate after the Montana Superintendency was abolished in 1873.

Also included in this publication are some papers from the Lemhi Agency in Idaho. This agency was established for the mixed Shoshoni, Bannock, and Tukuarika (Sheepeater) Indians who had lived in Montana before settling on the Lemhi River.

The records of the Montana Superintendency relate to most aspects of Indian affairs in its area, including negotiation and enforcement of treaties, Indian emigration and subsistence, removal of Indians, annuity and other payments to the Indians, location of agencies, traders and licenses, suppression of liquor traffic, hostilities and military operations, depredation claims, construction and repair of buildings, purchase and transportation of goods and supplies, employees, and accounts. Most of the correspondence of the superintendency was with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and with the agents in the superintendency, but there was also correspondence with Army officers, traders, contractors, residents of the Territory, Treasury officials, and others. The records are incomplete, and those for 1867-71 are fragmentary. The majority of the records cover the years 1872 and 1873.

The records reproduced in this microfilm publication consist of three series of records of the Montana Superintendency:

1. Letters Received, 1867-73. Letters are arranged by source (mainly the Commissioner and the agents) and thereunder chronologically. Some telegrams, reports of the agents in the superintendency, and statements of letters received from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the year 1871 and the month of April 1873 are also included.

2. Letters Sent, 1867, 1869-70, and 1873. One bound volume and unbound handwritten copies of letters sent by the superinten-

dent. The bound volume, which covers the period June 1869-January 1870, is arranged chronologically. The unbound letters, covering all years indicated, are arranged chronologically and precede the volume.

3. Miscellaneous Records, 1867-73. Consist of contracts, bonds, licenses, proposals, affidavits, vouchers, receipts, invoices, requisitions, financial statements, and statistical reports. The records are arranged by year and thereunder by kind of record.

The records reproduced in this microfilm publication are part of the records in 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), Special Files of the Office of Indian Affairs, 1807-1904, (M574), and Records Relating to the Investigation of the Fort Philip Kearney (or Fetterman) Massacre, 1866-67 (M740).

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
1867-73
AND
DATES OF APPOINTMENTS

Commissioners of Indian Affairs

Lewis V. Bogy	Nov. 1, 1866
Nathaniel G. Taylor	Mar. 29, 1867
Ely S. Parker	Apr. 21, 1869
Francis A. Walker	Nov. 21, 1871
Edward P. Smith	Mar. 20, 1873

Governors and Ex Officio Superintendents

Green Clay Smith	July 13, 1866
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Superintendents

Maj. Gen. Alfred Sully	June 1, 1869
Jasper A. Viall	Sept. 9, 1870
James Wright	Dec. 11, 1872

Agents

Blackfeet Agency

George B. Wright	Apr. 10, 1866
Nathaniel Pope (acting)	Aug. 25, 1868
Lt. William B. Pease	June 11, 1869
M. M. McCauley	Sept. 9, 1870
Jesse Armitage	Feb. 25, 1871
William F. Ensign	July 23, 1872

Flathead Agency

John W. Wells	Nov. 9, 1866
M. M. McCauley	July 25, 1868
Maj. Alvin S. Galbreath	June 11, 1869
Lt. George E. Ford	July 22, 1870
Charles S. Jones	Sept. 9, 1870
Daniel Shanahan	Nov. 15, 1872

Crow Agency

Capt. Erskine M. Camp	June 2, 1869
Fellows D. Pease	Sept. 9, 1870

Milk River—Fort Peck Agency

Lt. George E. Ford	Apr. 14, 1870
A. S. Reed (special)	Sept. 14, 1870
Andrew J. Simmons (special)	Jan. 17, 1871
Andrew J. Simmons (agent)	July 23, 1872

Fort Belknap Agency

William H. Fanton	Aug. 12, 1873
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2	the Flathead Agency, 1869-70 and 1872-73 the Milk River Agency, 1869-73 the Lemhi Agency, 1873 Miscellaneous Sources, 1867-73
3	Letters Sent: Unbound Pages, 1867, 1869, 1870, and 1873 Bound Volume, June 1869-Jan. 1870 Miscellaneous Records, 1867, 1869, and 1871-73