



The Accompanying Papers File of the U.S. House of Representatives, 1865–1877

The Accompanying Papers File documents many forms of private relief claims submitted directly to Congress and is part of Records of the U.S. House of Representatives (Record Group 233). The series is under the subgroup Records of Legislative Proceedings, and forms part of the private claims records of Congress.

Types of Claims

The records consist of a specific series of bill files and supporting documentation related to private claims and other forms of private relief petitions submitted directly to the U.S. House of Representatives for the 39th through 57th Congresses (1865–1903). Before 1865, such records were filed among U.S. House committee papers; after 1903 they fell into a more systematic collection of legislative bill files. The records may include petitions, affidavits, letters, copies of House resolutions, and other documentation that support or oppose claims for relief for which a private bill was introduced. These claims included:

- Claims for property damage caused by the military
- Indian depredation claims
- Pension claims for the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, Old Indian Wars, the Civil War, and miscellaneous peacetime pensions for military service
- Claims for services rendered to the government
- Claims for patent extensions or violations
- Civil War–related court-martial and amnesty petitions

The Accompanying Papers File is arranged chronologically by Congress, then alphabetically by person, state, territory, or subject.

Finding Aid

A file title list containing approximately 10,000 files with a brief description of each claim is available for each of the first six Congresses in the series (39th Congress through 44th Congress), which cover Reconstruction (1865–1877). The file title list is available in the National Archives Building's Research Center and in the Center for Legislative Archives.

For more information, see the following reference reports:

- *American State Papers: Public Lands and Claims*
- *Records of the U.S. Congress Relating to Private Claims*
- *Early Congressional Private Claims in the U.S. House of Representatives, 1789–1817*
- *Early Congressional Private Claims in the U.S. Senate, 1797–1811*