

RECORDS OF THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS (RECORD GROUP 75)

The Bureau of Indian Affairs, usually known as the Office of Indian Affairs, was established as a separate agency within the War Department in 1824. Congress established the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs in 1832. The Office of Indian Affairs was transferred in 1849 to the newly created Department of the Interior, where it has remained. In 1947 the Office of Indian Affairs was renamed the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

RECORDS OF PREDECESSOR OFFICES

Records from the Office of the Secretary of War

The two publications described below reproduce letters received and sent by the Office of the Secretary of War before the establishment of the Office of Indian Affairs in 1824. During this period, Indian affairs were handled directly by the Office of the Secretary of War. These records were transferred to the Office of Indian Affairs when it was established in 1824.

Letters Received by the Secretary of War Relating to Indian Affairs, 1800–1823. M271. 4 rolls.

This series primarily concerns Indians in the southern United States and the Seneca in New York. It represents only a small part of the original incoming correspondence relating to Indian affairs. The series contains correspondence from Indian superintendents and agents, factors of trading posts, territorial and state governors, military commanders, Indians, and missionaries. Some drafts of letters sent, vouchers, receipts, requisitions, abstracts and statements, certificates of deposit, depositions, and newspapers are included. The records relate to the negotiation of Indian treaties, land reserves of individual Indians, mission schools, government trading posts, issuance of licenses to private traders, distribution of annuities, slaves in Indian country, liquor control, investment of Indian monies, accounts, and other subjects. The correspondence is arranged by year, thereunder alphabetically by the name of the writer, and thereunder chronologically by the date of the letter.

Roll	Dates
1	1800–16
2	1817–19
3	1820–21
4	1822–23