

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

Pamphlet Accompanying
Microcopy No. 25

MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS SENT BY THE
GENERAL LAND OFFICE, 1796-1889



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
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MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS SENT BY THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE
1796-1889

On the 228 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the 264 letter books containing handwritten transcripts of outgoing "miscellaneous" communications of the General Land Office from 1812, the date of its establishment as a bureau in the Treasury Department, to 1889. Four letter books containing communications relating to the public lands sent by the Secretary and the Register of the Treasury from 1796 to 1812 precede these communications.

The first two volumes of the series, transcripts of communications sent by the Secretary of the Treasury from 1796 to May 1812, concern matters of general policy in the administration of the public lands. In the third volume and the greater part of the fourth, transcripts of communications sent by the Register of the Treasury from 1802 to 1812 concern the bookkeeping aspects of public lands disposal, chiefly the transmission of cash receipts and land patents. The latter part of the fourth volume (April-August 1812) contains transcripts of both types of communications but issuing from the General Land Office rather than from the separate offices of the Secretary and the Register of the Treasury. In 1849 the General Land Office was placed under the jurisdiction of the newly created Department of the Interior. This transfer produced no important change in the manner of keeping records, and no break in the letter book series. In 1946 the General Land Office was consolidated with the Grazing Service in the Department of the Interior to form the Bureau of Land Management.

The outgoing letters here reproduced are "miscellaneous" in contrast to certain categories of correspondence that were transcribed in special letter book series. Among the latter is the series of letters to Surveyors General, 1796-1901, filmed as Microcopy 27. In 1829, a separate series of communications to the Registers and Receivers of district land offices was begun; and after that date such communications no longer appear in the "miscellaneous" series, except in some of the last volumes.

Other series were established for communications concerning private land claims, Indian matters, military bounty land warrants, and the like.

The volumes are identified by two sets of numbers. There are 24 volumes numbered in order for the years 1796-1829. In November 1829 a new set of numbers was started. Volumes with these numbers, especially the first 24, are often designated as "new series." The volumes from November 1829 to July 1877 are numbered in order from 1 to 147, except that the numbers 92, 94, 105, 106, 108, 110, and 111 are not used. Until July 1877, letters were generally transcribed in the chronological order in which they were dispatched, which was usually, but not necessarily the same as the chronological order of their writing. Occasionally there is some overlapping of the dates covered by volumes and consequently of the dates of the rolls of this microcopy.

From July 1877 through June 1886 two volumes were used at the same time. In one volume were copied letters to persons whose surnames or official titles begin with letters in the first part of the alphabet; the other volume was used for the last part of the alphabet. Except for the first two such volumes, the divisions were A-I and J-Z. During July and August 1886 three volumes were used. After August 10, 1886, the alphabetical divisions were not used.

Some of the later volumes of the series contain for the most part names and addresses of persons to whom identical or form letters were sent. The last two volumes contain chiefly letters relating to Soldiers Additional Homestead Entries. In these later volumes, 1886-89, there are some letters to Registers and Receivers and to other persons not usually found among the "miscellaneous letters." Within all the volumes the letters were copied in chronological order.

After the alphabetical divisions were started in July 1877, one number was assigned to two volumes. Many of

these volumes are differentiated by the suffixes "A" and "B." For clarity these suffixes have been used consistently, even when the volumes are not actually so marked. The corresponding "A" and "B" volumes do not cover the same time period. For information concerning the contents of individual volumes, see the table of contents.

Brief abstracts of the contents of some of the letters together with cross-references and the initials of the transcribing clerks appear in the margins.

On unnumbered preliminary pages in every volume except 198A there is an index of personal names or official titles of addresses, and in some of the later volumes also of names of persons mentioned in the letters.

The records reproduced in this microcopy are part of the records in the National Archives designated as Record Group 49, Records of the Bureau of Land Management.

COMMISSIONERS OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Appointment</u>
Edward Tiffin	May 7, 1812
Josiah Meigs	October 11, 1814
John McLean	September 11, 1822
George Graham	June 26, 1823
Elijah Hayward	September 30, 1830
Ethan Allen Brown	July 24, 1835
James Whitcomb	October 21, 1836
Elisha M. Huntington	July 3, 1841
Thomas H. Blake	May 19, 1842
James Shields	April 16, 1845
Richard M. Young	January 6, 1847
Justin Butterfield	July 1, 1849
John Wilson	September 16, 1852
Thomas A. Hendricks	August 8, 1855
Samuel A. Smith	October 13, 1859
Joseph S. Wilson	February 23, 1860

NameDate of Appointment

James M. Edmunds	March 19, 1861
Joseph S. Wilson	September 1, 1866
Willis Drummond	February 4, 1871
Samuel S. Burdett	June 1, 1874
James A. Williamson	June 24, 1876
Noah C. McFarland	June 17, 1881
William A. J. Sparks	March 26, 1885
Strother M. Stockslager	March 27, 1888
Lewis A. Groff	September 16, 1889

CONTENTS OF MICROCOPY 25

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Volume</u>	<u>Inclusive Dates</u>	<u>Price</u>
1	1	July 15, 1796-Aug. 10, 1810	\$3
2	2	Aug. 22, 1810-May 25, 1812	\$1
3	3	Jan. 7, 1802-Feb. 1, 1809	\$3
4	4	Feb. 1, 1809-Aug. 14, 1812	\$2
5	5	Aug. 14, 1812-Aug. 15, 1814	\$3
6	6	Aug. 16, 1814-Aug. 13, 1816	\$4
7	7	Aug. 14, 1816-Dec. 4, 1817	\$3
8	8	Dec. 5, 1817-Mar. 23, 1819	\$3
9	9	Mar. 23, 1819-Feb. 3, 1820	\$3
10	10	Feb. 3, 1820-May 10, 1821	\$3
11	11	May 11, 1821-Aug. 22, 1822	\$3
12	12	Aug. 23, 1822-Jan. 13, 1824	\$3
13	13	Jan. 14-Sept. 9, 1824	\$2
14	14	Sept. 10, 1824-Mar. 15, 1825	\$2
15	15	Mar. 16-Aug. 29, 1825	\$2
16	16	Aug. 29, 1825-Mar. 4, 1826	\$2
17	17	Mar. 3-Sept. 8, 1826	\$2
18	18	Sept. 8, 1826-Mar. 12, 1827	\$2
19	19	Mar. 13-Aug. 30, 1827	\$2
20	20	Aug. 20, 1827-Feb. 2, 1828	\$2
21	21	Feb. 3-July 28, 1828	\$2
22	22	July 29, 1828-Mar. 15, 1829	\$2
23	23	Jan. 8-May 29, 1829	\$2
24	24	May 30-Oct. 31, 1829	\$2
25	1	Nov. 2, 1829-Sept. 7, 1830	\$2
26	2	Sept. 8, 1830-Dec. 20, 1831	\$2
27	3	Nov. 30, 1831-Oct. 3, 1832	\$2
28	4	Oct. 4, 1832-Feb. 27, 1834	\$2
29	5	Mar. 1, 1834-Mar. 17, 1835	\$2
30	6	Mar. 18, 1835-Mar. 28, 1836	\$2
31	7	Mar. 29, 1836-Feb. 9, 1837	\$2
32	8	Feb. 9-Nov. 22, 1837	\$2
33	9	Nov. 24, 1837-June 18, 1838	\$2
34	10	June 16, 1838-Mar. 1, 1839	\$3
35	11	Mar. 2-Nov. 15, 1839	\$2
36	12	Nov. 14, 1839-Mar. 30, 1840	\$2
37	13	Mar. 30-Sept. 17, 1840	\$2
38	14	Sept. 17, 1840-Apr. 19, 1841	\$2

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Volume</u>	<u>Inclusive Dates</u>	<u>Price</u>
39	15	Apr. 20, 1841-Mar. 6, 1842	\$3
40	16	Mar. 7-Dec. 9, 1842	\$3
41	17	Dec. 10, 1842-Oct. 18, 1843	\$3
42	18	Oct. 19, 1843-May 18, 1844	\$3
43	19	May 20, 1844-Mar. 12, 1845	\$3
44	20	Mar. 12, 1845-Jan. 28, 1846	\$3
45	21	Jan. 27-Sept. 12, 1846	\$3
46	22	Sept. 12, 1846-July 23, 1847	\$3
47	23	July 24, 1847-Apr. 1, 1848	\$3
48	24	Apr. 3-Nov. 11, 1848	\$3
49	25	Nov. 13, 1848-Mar. 9, 1849	\$3
50	26	Mar. 9-Aug. 4, 1849	\$3
51	27	Aug. 6-Dec. 19, 1849	\$3
52	28	Dec. 19, 1849-Mar. 22, 1850	\$3
53	29	Mar. 23-July 9, 1850	\$3
54	30	July 15-Dec. 7, 1850	\$3
55	31	Dec. 9, 1850-Mar. 25, 1851	\$3
56	32	Mar. 25-Aug. 21, 1851	\$3
57	33	Aug. 20, 1851-Jan. 13, 1852	\$3
58	34	Jan. 14-Apr. 21, 1852	\$3
59	35	Apr. 22-Sept. 4, 1852	\$3
60	36	Sept. 6, 1852-Feb. 28, 1853	\$3
61	37	Mar. 1-Aug. 29, 1853	\$3
62	38	Aug. 31, 1853-Jan. 25, 1854	\$3
63	39	Jan. 26-Apr. 29, 1854	\$3
64	40	Apr. 19-Sept. 23, 1854	\$3
65	41	Sept. 22, 1854-Feb. 3, 1855	\$3
66	42	Feb. 3-May 5, 1855	\$3
67	43	May 2-Sept. 4, 1855	\$3
68	44	Sept. 6, 1855-Jan. 19, 1856	\$2
69	45	Jan. 21-Apr. 17, 1856	\$3
70	46	Apr. 17-June 30, 1856	\$3
71	47	July 1-Oct. 4, 1856	\$3
72	48	Oct. 6, 1856-Jan. 19, 1857	\$3
73	49	Jan. 19-Mar. 31, 1857	\$3
74	50	Apr. 1-June 20, 1857	\$3
75	51	June 22-Sept. 4, 1857	\$3
76	52	Sept. 4-Dec. 4, 1857	\$3
77	53	Dec. 5, 1857-Feb. 10, 1858	\$2
78	54	Feb. 10-Apr. 8, 1858	\$2
79	55	Apr. 9-June 17, 1858	\$3

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Volume</u>	<u>Inclusive Dates</u>	<u>Price</u>
80	56	June 18-Sept. 22, 1858	\$2
81	57	Sept. 23, 1858-Jan. 7, 1859	\$3
82	58	Jan. 8-Mar. 8, 1859	\$3
83	59	Mar. 9-June 15, 1859	\$3
84	60	June 16-Sept. 22, 1859	\$3
85	61	Sept. 22, 1859-Jan. 9, 1860	\$3
86	62	Jan. 9-Mar. 15, 1860	\$3
87	63	Mar. 13-May 25, 1860	\$3
88	64	May 26-Aug. 28, 1860	\$3
89	65	Aug. 29-Dec. 28, 1860	\$3
90	66-67	Dec. 28, 1860-Oct. 4, 1861	\$5
91	68-69	Oct. 4, 1861-Sept. 4, 1862	\$5
92	70-71	Sept. 5, 1862-Jan. 13, 1864	\$5
93	72-73	Jan. 8, 1864-Jan. 30, 1865	\$5
94	74-75	Jan. 30-Dec. 30, 1865	\$5
95	76-77	Jan. 2-July 18, 1866	\$5
96	78-79	July 16, 1866-Jan. 31, 1867	\$6
97	80-81	Jan. 30-June 29, 1867	\$6
98	82-83	July 1-Nov. 25, 1867	\$6
99	84-85	Nov. 22, 1867-Feb. 26, 1868	\$5
100	86-87	Feb. 26-June 26, 1868	\$6
101	88-89	June 25-Dec. 10, 1868	\$5
102	90-91	Dec. 11, 1868-May 8, 1869	\$6
103	93, 95	May 5-Sept. 24, 1869	\$6
104	96-97	Sept. 15, 1869-Feb. 19, 1870	\$6
105	98-99	Feb. 19-June 18, 1870	\$6
106	100-101	June 18-Oct. 4, 1870	\$6
107	102-103	Oct. 4, 1870-Jan. 27, 1871	\$6
108	104, 107	Jan. 27-May 8, 1871	\$6
109	109, 112	May 8-Sept. 16, 1871	\$6
110	113-114	Sept. 16, 1871-Jan. 18, 1872	\$6
111	115-116	Jan. 18-Apr. 20, 1872	\$6
112	117-118	Apr. 20-Aug. 12, 1872	\$6
113	119-120	Aug. 13-Dec. 6, 1872	\$6
114	121-122	Dec. 6, 1872-Apr. 11, 1873	\$6
115	123-124	Apr. 11-Aug. 7, 1873	\$6
116	125-126	Aug. 8-Dec. 15, 1873	\$6
117	127-128	Dec. 16, 1873-Apr. 21, 1874	\$6
118	129-130	Apr. 22-Aug. 8, 1874	\$6
119	131-132	Aug. 8-Dec. 19, 1874	\$6

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Volume</u>	<u>Inclusive Dates</u>	<u>Price</u>
120	133-134	Dec. 12, 1874-Apr. 17, 1875	\$6
121	135-136	Apr. 19-Sept. 2, 1875	\$6
122	137-138	Sept. 2, 1875-Jan. 11, 1876	\$6
123	139-140	Jan. 11-Apr. 20, 1876	\$6
124	141-142	Apr. 20-Aug. 22, 1876	\$6
125	143-144	Aug. 22, 1876-Jan. 24, 1877	\$6
126	145-146	Dec. 30, 1876-May 23, 1877	\$6
127	147	May 23-July 19, 1877	\$3
128	148A	July 19-Oct. 25, 1877 (A-J)	\$3
129	148B	July 19-Oct. 28, 1877 (K-Z)	\$3
130	149A	Oct. 26, 1877-Feb. 4, 1878 (A-I)	\$3
131	149B	Nov. 1, 1877-Feb. 5, 1878 (J-Z)	\$3
132	150A	Feb. 5-Mar. 29, 1878 (A-I)	\$3
133	150B	Feb. 5-Apr. 15, 1878 (J-Z)	\$3
134	151A	Mar. 29-May 28, 1878 (A-I)	\$3
135	151B	Apr. 15-June 6, 1878 (J-Z)	\$3
136	152A	May 28-July 30, 1878 (A-I)	\$3
137	152B	June 6-July 24, 1878 (J-Z)	\$3
138	153A	July 30-Oct. 10, 1878 (A-I)	\$3
139	153B	July 24-Sept. 14, 1878 (J-Z)	\$3
140	154A	Oct. 10-Dec. 24, 1878 (A-I)	\$3
141	154B	Sept. 16-Nov. 20, 1878 (J-Z)	\$3
142	155A	Dec. 24, 1878-Mar. 11, 1879 (A-I)	\$3
143	155B	Nov. 20, 1878-Jan. 25, 1879 (J-Z)	\$3
144	156A	Mar. 11-May 24, 1879 (A-I)	\$3
145	156B	Jan. 27-Mar. 31, 1879 (J-Z)	\$3
146	157A	May 24-Aug. 9, 1879 (A-I)	\$3
147	157B	Apr. 1-June 12, 1879 (J-Z)	\$3
148	158A	Aug. 9-Oct. 30, 1879 (A-I)	\$3
149	158B	June 12-Aug. 27, 1879 (J-Z)	\$3
150	159A	Oct. 30, 1879-Jan. 7, 1880 (A-I)	\$3
151	159B	Aug. 27-Nov. 8, 1879 (J-Z)	\$3
152	160A	Jan. 9-Feb. 25, 1880 (A-I)	\$3
153	160B	Nov. 8, 1879-Jan. 23, 1880 (J-Z)	\$3
154	161A	Feb. 25-Apr. 8, 1880 (A-I)	\$3
155	161B	Jan. 23-Mar. 18, 1880 (J-Z)	\$3
156	162A	Apr. 9-May 27, 1880 (A-I)	\$3
157	162B	Mar. 18-May 17, 1880 (J-Z)	\$3
158	163A	May 27-July 19, 1880 (A-I)	\$3
159	163B	May 17-July 15, 1880 (J-Z)	\$3
160	164A	July 19-Sept. 7, 1880 (A-I)	\$3
161	164B	July 15-Sept. 7, 1880 (J-Z)	\$3

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Volume</u>	<u>Inclusive Dates</u>	<u>Price</u>
162	165A	Sept 8-Nov. 16, 1880 (A-I)	\$3
163	165B	Sept. 7-Nov. 26, 1880 (J-Z)	\$3
164	166A	Nov. 16, 1880-Jan. 29, 1881 (A-I)	\$3
165	166B	Nov. 26, 1880-Jan. 29, 1881 (J-Z)	\$3
166	167A	Jan. 29-Apr. 7, 1881 (A-I)	\$3
167	167B	Jan. 29-Mar. 23, 1881 (J-Z)	\$3
168	168A	Apr. 8-June 21, 1881 (A-I)	\$3
169	168B	Mar. 24-May 19, 1881 (J-Z)	\$3
170	169A	June 21-Oct. 1, 1881 (A-I)	\$3
171	169B	May 19-July 19, 1881 (J-Z)	\$3
172	170A	Oct. 3-Dec. 8, 1881 (A-I)	\$3
173	170B	July 20-Oct. 7, 1881 (J-Z)	\$3
174	171A	Dec. 8, 1881-Feb. 6, 1882 (A-I)	\$3
175	171B	Oct. 7-Nov. 29, 1881 (J-Z)	\$3
176	172A	Feb. 7-Apr. 10, 1882 (A-I)	\$3
177	172B	Nov. 29, 1881-Jan. 21, 1882 (J-Z)	\$3
178	173A	Apr. 11-June 26, 1882 (A-I)	\$3
179	173B	Jan. 21-Mar. 7, 1882 (J-Z)	\$3
180	174A	June 26-Sept. 2, 1882 (A-I)	\$3
181	174B	Mar. 7-May 3, 1882 (J-Z)	\$3
182	175A	Sept. 2-Nov. 20, 1882 (A-I)	\$3
183	175B	May 4-July 5, 1882 (J-Z)	\$3
184	176A	Nov. 20, 1882-Jan. 23, 1883 (A-I)	\$3
185	176B	July 5-Sept. 1, 1882 (J-Z)	\$3
186	177A	Jan. 24-Mar. 22, 1883 (A-I)	\$3
187	177B	Sept. 1-Nov. 11, 1882 (J-Z)	\$3
188	178A	Mar. 23-May 22, 1883 (A-I)	\$3
189	178B	Nov. 11, 1882-Jan. 11, 1883 (J-Z)	\$3
190	179A	May 22-July 27, 1883 (A-I)	\$3
191	179B	Jan. 12-Mar. 6, 1883 (J-Z)	\$3
192	180A	July 28-Oct. 1, 1883 (A-I)	\$3
193	180B	Mar. 6-May 2, 1883 (J-Z)	\$3
194	181A	Oct. 2-Dec. 20, 1883 (A-I)	\$3
195	181B	May 3-June 20, 1883 (J-Z)	\$3
196	182A	Dec. 20, 1883 - Mar. 1, 1884 (A-I)	\$3
197	182B	June 20-Aug. 13, 1883 (J-Z)	\$3
198	183A	Mar. 1-May 17, 1884 (A-I)	\$3
199	183B	Aug. 13-Oct. 15, 1883 (J-Z)	\$3
200	184A	May 17-Aug. 11, 1884 (A-I)	\$3
201	184B	Oct. 15, 1883-Jan. 7, 1884 (J-Z)	\$3
202	185A	Aug. 11-Nov. 21, 1884 (A-I)	\$3
203	185B	Jan. 7-Mar. 6, 1884 (J-Z)	\$3

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Volume</u>	<u>Inclusive Dates</u>	<u>Price</u>
204	186A	Nov. 21, 1884-Mar. 7, 1885 (A-I)	\$3
205	186B	Mar. 7-May 17, 1884 (J-Z)	\$3
206	187A	Mar. 7-May 19, 1885 (A-I)	\$3
207	187B	May 19-July 28, 1884 (J-Z)	\$3
208	188A	May 19-Aug. 7, 1885 (A-I)	\$3
209	188B	July 28-Oct. 11, 1884 (J-Z)	\$3
210	189A	Aug. 7-Oct. 31, 1885 (A-I)	\$3
211	189B	Oct. 11, 1884-Jan. 7, 1885 (J-Z)	\$3
212	190A	Oct. 31, 1885-Jan. 28, 1886 (A-I)	\$3
213	190B	Jan. 7-Mar. 19, 1885 (J-Z)	\$3
214	191A	Jan. 28-Apr. 15, 1886 (A-I)	\$3
215	191B	Mar. 19-June 4, 1885 (J-Z)	\$3
216	192A	Apr. 15-June 12, 1886 (A-I)	\$3
217	192B	June 4-Aug. 28, 1885 (J-Z)	\$3
218	193A	June 12-Sept. 9, 1886	\$3
		a) June 12-30, (A-I)	
		b) July 2-Aug. 7 (A-G)	
		c) Aug. 7-Sept. 9, (A-Z)	
219	193B	Aug. 29-Nov. 14, 1885 (J-Z)	\$3
220	194A	Sept. 9, 1886-June 4, 1887	\$3
221	194B	Nov. 14, 1885-Feb. 6, 1886 (J-Z)	\$3
222	195A	June 4, 1887-Jan. 7, 1888	\$3
223	195B	Jan 11-Apr. 22, 1886 (J-Z)	\$3
224	196A	Aug. 12, 1886-Apr. 9, 1888	\$3
225	196B	Apr. 22-June 15, 1886 (J-Z)	\$3
226	197A	July 2-Aug. 10, 1886 (O-Z)	\$3
	197B	June 15-Aug. 10, 1886	
		a) June 15-30 (J-Z)	
		b) July 1-Aug. 10 (H-N)	
227	198A	Jan. 7, 1888-Feb. 8, 1889	\$3
228	198B	Feb. 8-Sept. 16, 1889	\$3
Total			\$756