

St. Louis Superintendency of Indian Affairs

The two principal types of field jurisdictions of the Office of Indian Affairs in the 19th century were superintendencies and agencies. Superintendents had general responsibility for Indian affairs in a designated geographical area. Their duties included the supervision of relations between the tribes and non-Indians, the supervision of the conduct and accounts of agents responsible to them, the communication of instructions from the Commissioner to agents, and the granting of leaves of absence to subordinates. It was also common practice for them to receive contract bids, enter into contracts, and issue annuities to the Indians. Under each superintendent were agents, subagents, or special agents immediately responsible for one or more tribes.

The St. Louis Superintendency was established in 1822 and was responsible for the agencies located in the Midwest, including the St. Peters and Upper Missouri agencies. It operated until 1851, when it was succeeded by the Central Superintendency.

Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-1851 (M234).

The records in this microfilm publication consist of communications received by the Office of Indian Affairs from the St. Louis Superintendency concerning the general situation of the Indians, their population, education, health, and medical care, and their agriculture and subsistence. The letters cover such matters of administrative concern as emigration, land allotments, annuity payments, depredations, claims, complaints, traders, buildings, supplies, employees, and accounts. Correspondence is grouped by year and thereunder arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname or official position of the writer. Within each alphabetical section, correspondence is arranged by file number, which was assigned to each letter as they were registered.

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Records of the St. Louis Superintendency of Indian Affairs, 1807-1855.

This microfilm publication was produced by the Kansas Historical Society and contains records relating to almost all aspects of Indian administration within the St. Louis Superintendency. There are documents relating to land surveys; depredation claims; licenses issued to traders; negotiation and enforcement of treaties; intertribal relations; and financial accounts. Also included are records of the Missouri Fur Company.

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