

The War Department and Indian Affairs, 1800-1824

Rare primary sources chronicle the unique, often controversial, relationship between the U.S. government and Native American nations

Date Range: 1800-1824
Content: 7,588 pages
Source Library: U.S. National Archives

TITLE	SOURCE	DETAILS	COLLECTION
Letters And Messages	Letters Sent/Received by the Secretary of War Relating to Indian Affairs, 1800-1824	N.D. 17pp	The War Department and Indian Affairs, 1800-1824 View Document Full Citation About This Collection
Secretary Of War, Letters Received, 1803.2	Letters Sent/Received by the Secretary of War Relating to Indian Affairs, 1800-1824	1803.2, 17pp	The War Department and Indian Affairs, 1800-1824 View Document Full Citation About This Collection
Secretary Of War, Letters Received, 1803.1	Letters Sent/Received by the Secretary of War Relating to Indian Affairs, 1800-1824	1803.1, 17pp	The War Department and Indian Affairs, 1800-1824 View Document Full Citation About This Collection
Records Of The Office Of The Secretary Of War Letters Sent, Indian Affairs, Volume A	Letters Sent/Received by the Secretary of War Relating to Indian Affairs, 1800-1824	November 17, 1800-April 20, 1804, 47pp	The War Department and Indian Affairs, 1800-1824 View Document Full Citation About This Collection
Secretary Of War, Letters Rec'd., 1805	Letters Sent/Received by the Secretary of War Relating to Indian Affairs, 1800-1824	1805, 47pp	The War Department and Indian Affairs, 1800-1824 View Document Full Citation About This Collection
Secretary Of War, Letters Received, 1806	Letters Sent/Received by the Secretary of War Relating to Indian Affairs, 1800-1824	1806, 36pp	The War Department and Indian Affairs, 1800-1824 View Document Full Citation About This Collection
Secretary Of War, Letters Received, 1807	Letters Sent/Received by the Secretary of War Relating to Indian Affairs, 1800-1824	1807, 37pp	The War Department and Indian Affairs, 1800-1824 View Document Full Citation About This Collection
Secretary Of War, Letters Received, 1808.3	Letters Sent/Received by the Secretary of War Relating to Indian Affairs, 1800-1824	1808.3, 43pp	The War Department and Indian Affairs, 1800-1824 View Document Full Citation About This Collection
Records Of The Office Of The Secretary Of War Volume B	Letters Sent/Received by the Secretary of War Relating to Indian Affairs, 1800-1824	April 20, 1804-Jul 9, 1808, 169pp	The War Department and Indian Affairs, 1800-1824 View Document Full Citation About This Collection
Secretary Of War, Letters Received, 1810	Letters Sent/Received by the Secretary of War Relating to Indian Affairs, 1800-1824	1810, 36pp	The War Department and Indian Affairs, 1800-1824 View Document Full Citation About This Collection
Secretary Of War, Letters Received, 1811	Letters Sent/Received by the Secretary of War Relating to Indian Affairs, 1800-1824	1811, 37pp	The War Department and Indian Affairs, 1800-1824 View Document Full Citation About This Collection
Secretary Of War, Letters Received, 1812.13	Letters Sent/Received by the Secretary of War Relating to Indian Affairs, 1800-1824	1812.13, 36pp	The War Department and Indian Affairs, 1800-1824 View Document Full Citation About This Collection
Secretary Of War, Letters Received, 1814	Letters Sent/Received by the Secretary of War Relating to Indian Affairs, 1800-1824	1814, 36pp	The War Department and Indian Affairs, 1800-1824 View Document Full Citation About This Collection
Secretary Of War, Letters Received, 1815	Letters Sent/Received by the Secretary of War Relating to Indian Affairs, 1800-1824	1815, 47pp	The War Department and Indian Affairs, 1800-1824 View Document Full Citation About This Collection
Letters Received By The Office Of The Secretary Of War Relating To Indian Affairs, 1800-1824	Letters Sent/Received by the Secretary of War Relating to Indian Affairs, 1800-1824	1800-1824, 17pp	The War Department and Indian Affairs, 1800-1824 View Document Full Citation About This Collection
Secretary Of War, Letters Received, 1816.1	Letters Sent/Received by the Secretary of War Relating to Indian Affairs, 1800-1824	1816, 17pp	The War Department and Indian Affairs, 1800-1824 View Document Full Citation About This Collection
Secretary Of War, Letters Received, 1816.2	Letters Sent/Received by the Secretary of War Relating to Indian Affairs, 1800-1824	1816, 17pp	The War Department and Indian Affairs, 1800-1824 View Document Full Citation About This Collection
Secretary Of War, Letters Received, 1816.3	Letters Sent/Received by the Secretary of War Relating to Indian Affairs, 1800-1824	1816, 17pp	The War Department and Indian Affairs, 1800-1824 View Document Full Citation About This Collection

Archives Unbound presents topically-focused digital collections of historical documents that support the research and study needs of scholars and students at the college and university level. Collections in Archives Unbound cover a broad range of topics from the Middle Ages forward from Witchcraft to World War II to twentieth-century political history. Collections are chosen for Archives Unbound based on requests from scholars, archivists, and students.

Available Collections from Archives Unbound [VIEW ALL >>](#)

Select a collection to learn more about its contents or to browse the free index.

- [Alexander II and the Policy of "Rassification," 1883-1896](#)
- [East Germany from Stagnation to the New Economic Policy, 1950-1963](#)

From 1789 until the Bureau of Indian Affairs was established in 1824, such affairs were under the control of the secretary of war, except for a government-operated factory system of trade with the Indians begun in 1795.

A November 1800 fire in the War Department destroyed most of its previous records; therefore, the records of the Office of the Secretary of War during its period of direct administration of Native American affairs exist only from late 1800 until 1824. During this period the department kept most of its incoming correspondence in one series. Copies of outgoing letters were recorded in several sets of letter books, one of which was for Native American affairs.

The War Department and Indian Affairs, 1800-1824 consists of letters to and from the War Department, including many sent to the superintendent of Indian trade, Treasury Department officials and persons having commercial dealings with the War Department. Some letters were signed by department clerks or by the president.

Scholars will find speeches to Native Americans, proceedings of conferences in Washington, licenses of traders, passports for "Indian country," and instructions to commissioners, superintendents, agents and other officials. With its scope and depth of primary sources, the collection supports research in Native American studies, political studies, social history and more.

Free trial

Try this and other Archives Unbound collections free. Visit www.gale.com/ArchivesUnbound or contact your Gale Representative at 1-800-877-GALE.

The War Department and Indian Affairs, 1800-1824

The correspondence in this collection covers a range of key subjects:

- The establishment and maintenance of peace and friendship with Native Americans
- Proposal to remove Native Americans to west of the Mississippi River following the War of 1812
- Land-related topics such as roads across Native American land, land reserves for individual Native Americans, and boundaries and surveys
- Complaints from Native Americans about violations of terms of treaties
- The purchase and distribution of annuity goods, including complaints of late deliveries
- Discussion of “civilizing” Native Americans and educating them in the “useful arts”: raising crops and livestock, smithery and carpentry, and sewing, spinning and weaving
- Mission schools and the use of the Civilization Fund to support such schools; plus allowing missionaries to reside on Native American land to spread Christianity

Other subjects include:

- Office of Indian Trade and the government factories
- Private trade, with frequent mention of the legislation regulating trade with Native Americans
- The sale of liquor to Native Americans
- The issuance of passports
- Horse-stealing and other depredations committed by and against Native Americans
- Slaves held by Native Americans
- Visits of Native American delegations to Washington
- Disputes between tribes and states
- The investment of Native American funds
- And much more

Exchange for } Foot of the Rapids of the
 Dec. 14 33. 962 } Chicaque of Lake Erie 30th Apr. 1817

Sir

On the first day of January next pay this our first bill of exchange second of the same tenor, I do not unpaid to Henry P. Hunt or order the sum of six thousand four hundred thirty three dollars, nine-ty six and one half cents being an account of presents distributed to the Indians at this place at the treaty yesterday concluded

P. A. Mitchell
 Lieut. Genl
 7th Hawtins

Sir,

Department of War, 7. April 1817.

I enclose an account exhibiting the amount of clothing furnished by John Hawking, to the regiment of Creek warriors, which he was authorized to raise during the late war. The muster rolls of these warriors are, I understand, among the papers of John Hawking, which will be delivered to you, on your arrival at the agency. Whatever sum may be due them, after deducting the amount of clothing, will be transmitted to you by the paymaster general, as soon as he is furnished with a certified copy of the muster rolls. Please &c.

George Graham, A. S. W.

James Pomy

Sir,

Department of War, 9. April, 1817.

You are hereby, with the approbation of the President of the

Washington, Dec. 1. 1823.

Sir,

On behalf of the Board of Managers of the General Convention of the Baptist Denomination the subscribers are instructed to submit to you the enclosed statement of the sums which they have expended, and of the labours which they are pursuing, for the amelioration of the condition of the Indians. They have already employed more than 16,000 dollars; at the Fort Wayne and Lacey stations. They are grateful for the propri-