



Guide to Catholic-Related Records in the West about Native Americans
[See User Guide for help on interpreting entries](#)

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new 2006

Pacific Alaska Region, Archives Branch

U.S. National Archives and Records Administration

W-508

6125 Sand Point Way Northeast
Seattle, Washington 98115-7999
Phone 206-336-5115

<http://www.archives.gov/facilities/wa/seattle.html>

Hours: Monday-Friday, 7:45-4:15; extended hours for microfilm research, by appointment only, first and second Tuesday of the month, 7:45-8:00 and the first and second Saturday of the month, 9:00-4:00

Access: Some restrictions apply

Copying facilities: Yes

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1849-present

Volume: Approximately 2-3 cubic feet

Description: 4 record groups include Native Catholic records.

A. "Record Group 48, Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior"

Inclusive dates: Between 1849-1903

Volume: Less than 1% of 159 reels of microfilm

Description: Within the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, the Indian Division managed the majority of Indian administration issues up until 1907 when the division was abolished. Contained within the incoming correspondence to this division are letters from religious leaders, generally filed in a miscellaneous category. Outgoing correspondence from the Indian Division contains materials pertaining to missionary work.

1. "Letters Sent to the Indian Division of the Department of the Interior, M606"

Inclusive dates: Between 1849-1903

Volume: Less than 1% of 127 reels of microfilm

2. "Selected Classes of Letters Received by the Indian Division of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, 1849-1880, M825"

Inclusive dates: Between 1849-1880

Volume: Less than 1% of 32 reels of microfilm

B. "Record Group 75, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs"

Inclusive dates: 1850-1986

Volume: Less than 1% of 5,500 cubic feet and 1604 reels of microfilm

Description: Selected surveying indicates that most Catholic-related records are correspondence, quarterly school reports, and school contracts, which typically comprise between .04 and .2% of the records from Bureau of Indian Affairs Agencies, e.g. Menominee Agency, Wisconsin, between .1 to .2% of ca. 100 cubic feet and Pine Ridge Agency, South Dakota, .04% of approximately 500 cubic feet. Major correspondents include the superior at the Catholic mission, the Indian agent or superintendent, and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Primary subjects include financial matters and the transfer of students to and from mission schools.

1. "Chemawa Indian School"

Inclusive dates: 1880-1975

Volume: Less than 1% of 103 cubic feet

Description: The Chemawa (or Salem) Indian School was established in 1880 in Forest Grove, Oregon and moved to Salem in 1885. From 1925 to 1938, the school had agency duties for the Grand Ronde and Siletz Reservations, until it was replaced by the Grande Ronde-Siletz Agency.

2. "Colville Indian Agency"

Inclusive dates: 1865-1973

Volume: Less than 1% of 504 cubic feet

Description: The Colville Agency was established in 1872 and has included the Colville, Spokane, and Coeur d' Alene Reservations. A separate agency was established for the Coeur d' Alene Reservation in 1905. Responsibility for the Spokane Reservation was separated from the Colville Agency in 1912 and reconsolidated in 1925.

3. "Fort Hall Indian Agency"

Inclusive dates: 1909-1963

Volume: Less than 1% of 160 cubic feet

Description: The Fort Hall Reservation was established in 1869. The Lemhi Agency was consolidated with Fort Hall in 1879, separated in 1880, and reconsolidated again in 1907.

4. "Grand Ronde-Siletz Indian Agency"

Inclusive dates: 1863-1958

Volume: Less than 1% of 151 cubic feet

Description: The Grand Ronde-Siletz Agency was established in 1938 from parts of the Chemawa Agency. It was preceded by the separate Grand Ronde and Siletz Agencies that were established in 1856 and consolidated in 1909 and 1925 respectively with the Chemawa Agency. The Grand Ronde-Siletz Agency was terminated in 1956.

5. "Hoquiam Indian Agency"

Inclusive dates: Unknown

Volume: Less than 1% of 3 cubic feet

Description: Washington State.

6. "Juneau Area Office"

Inclusive dates: 1887-1982

Volume: Less than 1% of 3 cubic feet

Description: The Juneau Area Office was established in Alaska in 1956.

7. "Klamath Indian Agency"

Inclusive dates: 1865-1960

Volume: Less than 1% of 705 cubic feet

Description: The Klamath Agency was established as a subagency in 1862 and

became a full agency in 1872. It remained an agency until the reservation was terminated in 1961.

8. "Malheur Indian Agency"

Inclusive dates: 1875-1882

Volume: Less than 1% of 4 cubic feet

Description: The Malheur Agency was established in 1873 for the Shoshoni, Bannock and Paiute of the Malheur Reservation. It was abolished in 1882 after most of the Indians had left, primarily for the Yakima Reservation.

9. "Northern Idaho Indian Agency"

Inclusive dates: 1871-1969

Volume: Less than 1% of 300 cubic feet

Description: The Northern Idaho Agency was established in 1933 through the consolidation of the Fort Lapwai/ Nez Perce, initially established in 1857 as the "Washington East of the Cascades" Agency, and the Coeur d'Alene Agency. The name was changed to Northern Idaho Agency in 1937.

10. "Olympic Agency"

Inclusive dates: 1973-1980

Volume: Less than 1% of unknown cubic feet

Description: Washington State.

11. "Portland Area Office"

Inclusive dates: 1887-1982

Volume: Less than 1% of 737 cubic feet

Description: The Portland Area Office was established in 1950 with jurisdiction over the agencies in Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

12. "Puget Sound Agency"

Inclusive dates: 1881-1983

Volume: Less than 1% of 16 cubic feet

Description: The Puget Sound Agency was established in 1851 and succeeded in 1861 by the Puyallup, Tulalip, Neah Bay, Skokmish, and Quinalt Agencies.

13. "Puyallup Indian Agency"

Inclusive dates: 1882-1923

Volume: Less than 1% of 43 cubic feet

Description: The Puyallup Agency was first established in 1861 and reestablished in 1888 through the consolidation of the Nisqually, Skokmish, and Quinalt Agencies. It was renamed the Cushman School Agency in 1910 and was abolished in 1920, with the transfer of tribes to both the Tulalip and Taholah Agencies.

14. "Seattle Support Center"

Inclusive dates: 1963-1971

Volume: Less than 1% of 42 cubic feet

Description: Unknown.

15. "Spokane Agency"

Inclusive dates: 1885-1950

Volume: Less than 1% of 14 cubic feet

Description: The Spokane Agency was established in 1912 when it was separated from the Colville Agency. In 1924 it was reconsolidated with Colville and became a sub-agency.

16. "Taholah Indian Agency"
Inclusive dates: 1886-1958
Volume: Less than 1% of 185 cubic feet
Description: The Taholah Agency was established in 1914. Both the Cushman School and Neah Bay Agencies, established in 1861, were consolidated with the Taholah Agency in 1920 and 1933 respectively. In 1950, the Taholah and the Tulalip Agencies were consolidated to form the Western Washington Agency.
17. "Tulalip Indian Agency"
Inclusive dates: 1854-1952
Volume: Less than 1% of 201 cubic feet
Description: The Tulalip Agency was established in 1861 from portions of the Puget Sound District Agency. In 1950, the Tulalip and Taholah Agencies were consolidated to form the Western Washington Agency.
18. "Umatilla Indian Agency"
Inclusive dates: 1862-1976
Volume: Less than 1% of 74 cubic feet
Description: The Umatilla Agency was established in 1861, with additional responsibilities transferred from the Warm Springs and Yakima Agencies in 1836.
19. "Wapato Irrigation Project"
Inclusive dates: 1906-1986
Volume: Less than 1% of 177 cubic feet
Description: The Wapato Irrigation Project was established in 1906 to ensure a water supply to the Yakima Reservation.
20. "Warm Springs Indian Agency"
Inclusive dates: 1861-1965
Volume: Less than 1% of 252 cubic feet
Description: The Warm Springs Agency was established in 1851 as the Roseburg Agency. It was consolidated with the Warm Springs Agency from 1917 to 1936.
21. "Western Washington Agency"
Inclusive dates: 1928-1975
Volume: Less than 1% of 246 cubic feet
Description: The Western Washington Agency was established in 1950 through the consolidation of the Tulalip and Taholah Agencies.
22. "Yakima Indian Agency"
Inclusive dates: 1850-1970
Volume: Less than 1% of 591 cubic feet
Description: The Yakima Agency was established in 1859.
23. "Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, M234"
Inclusive dates: 1906-1913
Volume: Less than 1% of 962 reels of microfilm
24. "Letters Received by the Office of the Secretary of War Relating to Indian Affairs, M271"
Inclusive dates: 1800-1823
Volume: Less than 1% of 4 reels of microfilm

25. "Letters Received by the Superintendent of Indian Trade, T58"
 Inclusive dates: 1806-1824
 Volume: Less than 1% of 1 reel of microfilm
26. "Letters Sent by the Office of Indian Affairs, M21"
 Inclusive dates: 1824-1881
 Volume: Less than 1% of 166 reels of microfilm
27. "Letters Sent by the Secretary of War Relating to Indian Affairs,
 M15"
 Inclusive dates: 1800-1824
 Volume: Less than 1% of 6 reels of microfilm
28. "Letters Sent by the Superintendent of Indian Trade, M16"
 Inclusive dates: 1807-1823
 Volume: Less than 1% of 6 reels of microfilm
29. "Records of the Idaho Superintendency of Indian Affairs, M832"
 Inclusive dates: 1863-1870
 Volume: Less than 1% of 3 reels of microfilm
30. "Records of the Montana Superintendency of Indian Affairs, M833"
 Inclusive dates: 1867-1873
 Volume: Less than 1% of 3 reels of microfilm
31. "Records of the Oregon Superintendency of Indian Affairs, M2"
 Inclusive dates: 1848-1873
 Volume: Less than 1% of 29 reels of microfilm
32. "Records of the Washington Superintendency of Indian Affairs, M5"
 Inclusive dates: 1853-1874
 Volume: Less than 1% of 26 reels of microfilm
33. "Register of Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs,
 M18"
 Inclusive dates: 1824-1880
 Volume: Less than 1% of 126 reels of microfilm
34. "Registers of Letters Received by the Office of the Secretary of
 War, Main Series, M22"
 Inclusive dates: 1800-1870
 Volume: Less than 1% of 134 reels of microfilm
35. "Report Books of the Office of Indian Affairs, M348"
 Inclusive dates: 1838-1885
 Volume: Less than 1% of 53 reels of microfilm
36. "Special Files of the Office of Indian Affairs, M574"
 Inclusive dates: 1807-1904
 Volume: Less than 1% of 85 reels of microfilm
- C. "Record Group 393, Records of U.S. Army Continental Commands, 1821-1920"
 Inclusive dates: 1846-1851
 Volume: Less than 1% within 7 reels of microfilm
 Description: "Records of the Tenth Military Department, 1846-1851, M210;"
 includes letters describing Indian attitudes about Catholic missions.

D. "Record Group 316 (formerly Record Group 200), Private Papers Given to the U.S. National Archives"

Inclusive dates: 1907-1969

Volume: Less than 1% of approximately 32 cubic feet

Description: Limited amount of Native Catholic related materials in two collections of non-federal records donated to the National Archives:

1. "Records of the Makah Tribal Council"

Inclusive dates: 1935-1969

Volume: Less than 1% of 19.5 cubic feet

Description: Includes minutes of tribal council meetings, clippings, correspondence, legal opinions and statements, maps, newsletters, reports, and surveys.

2. "Papers of Edwin P. Chalcraft"

Inclusive dates: 1907-ca. 1925

Volume: Less than 1% of 12 cubic feet

Description: Papers of Edwin P. Chalcraft, Bureau of Indian Affairs Superintendent of the Chehalis and Chemawa Indian Schools and the Grand Ronde-Siletz Agency; re: agency and school activities with photographs; Chemawa School had a Catholic chaplain.