

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS
PAMPHLET DESCRIBING M37

**Despatches From Special Agents
of the Department of State
1794-1906**



NATIONAL ARCHIVES TRUST FUND BOARD
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WASHINGTON: 1985

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Record Group 59

DESPATCHES FROM SPECIAL AGENTS
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1794-1906

On the 22 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the 51 volumes and unbound papers that compose despatches from special agents of the Department of State, 1794-1906. The records are part of General Records of the Department of State, Record Group (RG) 59.

History

Special agents have been employed by Presidents and Secretaries of State to conduct foreign affairs since the ratification of the Constitution. Special agents have negotiated and exchanged ratifications of treaties, collected information, delivered ceremonial letters, taken testimony in foreign countries, mediated wars and international disputes, inspected U.S. consulates, and observed and reported on political conditions in other countries. During the 18th and 19th centuries, U.S. Navy officers, acting as special agents, were often given special diplomatic missions besides their regular duties.

Records Description

The correspondence from special agents and related material is arranged by the name of the agent and thereunder chronologically. The records include 47 volumes that are numbered 1-24 and 28-50, four unnumbered volumes, and a small amount of unbound material. The unnumbered volumes and unbound records have been filmed with the numbered volumes to which they most closely relate.

For this publication, notes have been prepared and filmed at the start of each roll. The notes give the name of each agent, the purpose of the mission, and the inclusive dates of the despatches and other communications relating to the mission. Cities and countries are identified by names in use when the despatches were written. For this descriptive pamphlet, the notes have been consolidated as the appendix, beginning on page 3.

Related Records

Records of special missions of the Department of State not included in this publication and additional material relating to special agents are scattered among numerous series in RG 59. Letters from the State Department to special agents appear in diplomatic instructions, 1801-1906 (M77); instructions to special agents, 1823-1906 (rolls 152-155 of M77); consular instructions, 1801-1906 (filmed from 1801 through 1834 on M78); and domestic letters, 1784-1906 (M40). Other related records

in RG 59 include notes to and from foreign legations in the United States, 1784-1906; miscellaneous letters, 1789-1906 (M179); credences; and many small series relating to individual missions that are described in Preliminary Inventory of the General Records of the Department of State, No. 157 (Washington: 1980). A List of Documents Relating to Special Agents of the Department of State, 1789-1906, Special List No. 7 (Washington: 1951), serves as a guide to State Department correspondence with selected special agents.

Records dated after August 1906 relating to special agents are filed by subject in the State Department central-numerical file for the period 1906-10 and in the decimal file after 1910.

Additional documentation concerning special missions of U.S. Navy officers through 1886 can be found in Naval Records Collection of the Office of Naval Records and Library (RG 45) and, after 1886, in General Records of the Department of the Navy, 1798-1947 (RG 80).

Sally M. Marks wrote this introduction and arranged the records for filming.

APPENDIX

This appendix provides a description of the mission of each special agent and the inclusive dates of his correspondence. It is arranged by volume and thereunder by the names of the agents whose reports appear in the volumes. Within each volume, the agents' names appear in rough chronological order according to the beginning dates of their missions.

Volume 1

Nathaniel C. Higginson

Special agent to collect data for the presentation of claims against Great Britain for the seizure and condemnation of vessels belonging to U.S. citizens in the British West Indies and other Caribbean Islands in the possession of Great Britain.

Apr. 3-July 2, 1794

Samuel Bayard

Special agent to prosecute claims and appeals against Great Britain for the seizure and condemnation of vessels belonging to U.S. citizens.

Nov. 9, 1794-Aug. 18, 1797

John Spear Smith

U.S. Charge d'Affaires in Great Britain. This correspondence relates to the impressment of two U.S. seamen by the captain of the British sloop Plover on the high seas, a forged diplomatic document, and the appointment of Reuben G. Beasley as U.S. consul in London.

Sept. 14-Oct. 30, 1811

Henry Craig

Special agent for impressed seamen at the Windward Islands, West Indies.

Oct. 24, 1794

Volume 2

William Shaler

Special agent to observe and report on revolts against Spain in Cuba and Mexico.

June 8, 1810-Feb. 17, 1814

Member of a mission to negotiate peace with Great Britain following the War of 1812 (Treaty of Ghent).

Feb. 7, 1814-Mar. 5, 1815

Volume 3

Joel R. Poinsett

Special agent to observe political conditions in Central and South America and promote friendly relations between the United States and colonies in revolt against Spain and Portugal.

Feb. 20, 1813-ca. 1823

Unnumbered Volume

"A Brief Sketch of the Present Political State of Mexico," ca. 1823, by Poinsett.

Volume 4

Alexander Scott

Special agent to report on the movement in Venezuela for independence from Spain.

Apr. 21, 1812-Apr. 17, 1813

Anthony Morris

Unofficial representative to Spain from 1810 to the appointment of George W. Erving as U.S. Minister to Spain in 1814. During his assignment to Spain, Morris sought to arrange for the settlement of claims of U.S. citizens against Spain and for the cession of East Florida to the United States.

Jan. 4, 1814-Dec. 15, 1815

Christopher Hughes

Special agent to obtain the release of U.S. citizens held prisoners in Cartagena by Gen. Pablo Morilla, commander of the Spanish forces in New Granada.

Mar. 14-July 6, 1816

Jacob Lewis

U.S. consular agent accredited to the Provinces of Venezuela, Cumana, and Maracaibo to guard personal and commercial rights of U.S. citizens along the Spanish Main.

June 12, 1816-May 14, 1819

Edward Coles

Special agent to determine whether a U.S. Minister would be well received at the Czar's court in St. Petersburg, Russia, following a diplomatic misunderstanding in which the U.S. Minister to Russia was excluded from the court.

Dec. 15-23, 1816

Unbound Manuscript

This manuscript is labeled "South American Missions: C.A. Rodney, John Graham, Theodoric Bland, 1815-1818" and contains letters from Rodney, Graham, and Bland (July 13, 1817-Feb. 10, 1819); Joel R. Poinsett (May 23, 1817); Henry M. Brackenridge (July 15-Nov. 8, 1817); and James Biddle (Oct. 2, 1817). Also included are lengthy reports by Rodney and Graham on Chile and Argentina.

Volume 5

Jeremy Robinson

Special agent for commerce and seamen in Lima, Peru. Although Robinson's commission was revoked soon after his appointment, he reported unofficially to the State Department on South American affairs for several years.

Aug. 4, 1817-Sept. 21, 1823

Volume 6

John B. Prevost and James Biddle

Special agents to take peaceful possession of the area surrounding the mouth of the Columbia River in the Northwest Territory for the U.S. Government. Following this mission, Prevost and Biddle were charged with reporting on political, social, and commercial conditions in Chile and Peru.

July 10, 1817-Jan. 10, 1825

Volume 7

John B. Prevost and James Biddle

Special agents to take peaceful possession of the area surrounding the mouth of the Columbia River in the Northwest Territory for the U.S. Government. Following this mission, Prevost and Biddle were charged with reporting on political, social, and commercial conditions in Chile and Peru.

Feb. 9, 1818-Jan. 10, 1825

Eighty-five of the despatches in this volume are duplicates of despatches contained in volume 6.

Volume 8

Baptis Irvine

Special agent to obtain restitution or indemnity for two private U.S. ships seized and condemned by Venezuelan Adm. Luis Brion and to collect general information regarding conditions in Venezuela.

Feb. 20, 1818-Nov. 27, 1819

Volume 9

Samuel D. Forsyth

Special agent to assist Charles S. Todd, special agent for commerce and seamen, in obtaining general information on New Granada and promoting friendly relations with that country. Forsyth was also instructed to assist Capt. William Low of Baltimore, Md., in the recovery of a shipping claim against Colombia.

Apr. 17, 1820-Oct. 24, 1821

Edward Wyer

Special agent to obtain indemnity for property of U.S. citizens in Haiti and Santo Domingo seized and confiscated during the reign of Henri Christophe.

Feb. 7-Apr. 10, 1821

Thomas Randall

Special agent for commerce and seamen to obtain copies of court papers relating to cases involving U.S. vessels captured by Spanish privateers and taken into ports of Cuba and Puerto Rico. Randall was also instructed to receive Spanish archives relating to Louisiana and the Floridas from officials in Havana, Cuba.

May 17-June 25, 1824

Alexander McRae

Special agent to observe and report on the proceedings of the Congress of European Powers, which was expected to consider the affairs of Spain and South American countries.

Apr. 16, 1824-Dec. 13, 1825

Thomas B. Robertson

Special agent to gather information for the formulation of an accurate assessment of conditions in Cuba by observing demographical, agricultural, and political conditions; defense capabilities; and Cuban relations with other Central and South American countries.

Jan. 19, 1826 (letter from Robertson declining appointment)

Daniel P. Cook

Special agent to gather information for the formulation of an accurate assessment of conditions in Cuba by observing demographical, agricultural, and political conditions; defense capabilities; and Cuban relations with other Central and South American countries.

Mar. 12-16, 1827

Robert M. Harrison

Special agent to ascertain the effect upon the British West Indies of Anglo-U.S. laws preventing direct trade between the islands and the United States.

July 19, 1827-June 19, 1828

Volume 10

Edmund Roberts

Special agent to negotiate commercial treaties with Cochin China, Siam, Muscat, and Japan.

Feb. 1, 1832-Mar. 4, 1837

Volume 11

Jeremy Robinson

Special agent (messenger) to effect the transfer of Spanish archives relating to Louisiana and the Floridas from Havana to the State Department.

May 14-Dec. 29, 1833

J. Waller Barry

Special agent to procure copies of documents relating to U.S. history from the public archives of Great Britain.

Aug. 27-Nov. 6, 1833

Charles Biddle

Special agent to investigate the status of projects for the construction of a canal and a railroad across the Isthmus of Panama.

Nov. 8, 1835-Dec. 21, 1836

William A. Slacum

Special agent to explore the area surrounding the Columbia River in the Northwest Territory, observing general characteristics of the area, particularly the political, physical, statistical, and geographical features of Indian and white settlements in the region.

Mar. 5-Oct. 10, 1836

Volume 12

Richard Rush

Special agent to declare and prosecute the claim of the U.S. Government to the legacy of James Smithson, who had bequeathed funds for the establishment of an institution in his will.

July 25, 1836-Sept. 15, 1838

Nathaniel Niles

Special agent to conclude a commercial agreement with Sardinia for the importation of U.S. tobacco and, if possible, to negotiate a general trade agreement.

Sept. 23, 1841

Aaron Vail

Special agent to investigate the condition of U.S. prisoners in Canada, particularly those arrested and imprisoned on suspicion of participating in civil disturbances in the Province of Upper Canada. Vail was also charged with securing the release of U.S. prisoners arrested unjustly.

Apr. 24-May 5, 1838

Benjamin Tappan

Special agent to exchange ratified copies of a treaty of peace, friendship, navigation, and commerce between the United States and Ecuador signed at Quito on June 13, 1839, and to press for the adjustment of claims of U.S. citizens the Ecuadorian Government had previously agreed to settle.

Feb. 5, 1840-Dec. 6, 1841

Albert Fitz

Special agent to ascertain the strength of British military and naval forces in certain islands of the British West Indies. Fitz was also instructed to examine and provide diagrams of defense fortifications in the islands.

July 21, 1842

Volume 13

Duff Green

Special agent to ascertain the attitude of prominent British political figures toward the annexation of Texas by the United States.

Aug. 3, 1843-Apr. 3, 1845

Special agent to investigate atrocities committed by parties of armed Mexicans during incursions into Texas.

Nov. 29, 1859-Feb. 20, 1860

Gilbert L. Thompson

Special agent to explain to the Mexican Government the motives that compelled the United States to seek annexation of Texas and to discuss boundary questions.

May 2-6, 1844

Delazon Smith

Special agent to conclude a convention with Ecuador for the adjustment of claims of U.S. citizens and to press for the payment of U.S. claims that the Ecuadorian Government had previously agreed to settle.

Nov. 6, 1844-Aug. 10, 1845

John Hogan

Special agent to collect demographical, geographical, military, and economic data on the Dominican Republic for the purpose of determining the U.S. position toward formal recognition of the recently independent country. Hogan was also instructed to analyze the Dominican Republic's ability to maintain its independence.

Ca. Oct.-Dec. 22, 1845

Charles A. Wickliffe

Special agent to counteract French and British efforts to frustrate the annexation of Texas by the United States. Wickliffe was charged with convincing officials and citizens of Texas that union with the United States would promote and secure their best interests.

Apr. 15-July 18, 1845

Edward Hopkins

Special agent to collect political, demographical, economic, and military data on Paraguay for the purpose of determining the U.S. position toward formal recognition of the recently independent country. Hopkins was also instructed to analyze Paraguay's ability to maintain its independence.

Aug. 5, 1845-May 25, 1849

Volume 14

A. Dudley Mann

Special agent to negotiate a commercial treaty with the German Kingdom of Hanover (1846); to secure the accession of the German Grand Duchies of Oldenburg, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, and Mecklenburg-Strelitz to the provisions of a treaty of friendship and commerce between the United States and Hanover, signed on June 10, 1846; to visit officials in certain States of the German Zollverein and discuss why they should consent and accede to the terms of the Hanoverian Treaty (1847); to obtain general information regarding conditions in Hungary under the Kossuth Provisional Government for possible recognition of Hungarian independence by the United States (1849); to negotiate a treaty of friendship and commerce with the Government of Switzerland (1850); and to report on rules and regulations observed in ports of Great Britain, Holland, and Germany concerning emigrants (1846-50).

Apr. 30, 1846-Sept. 2, 1852

Volume 15

Moses Y. Beach

Special agent to provide information relating to the negotiation of a peace treaty with Mexico.

June 4, 1847

Thomas B. King

Special agent to convey instructions and despatches to U.S. military and naval commanders in California, to assure the inhabitants of California and New Mexico of the President's concern for their welfare, and to collect information about the ethnic composition of the population and resources of the region.

May 16, 1849-Mar. 22, 1850

Benjamin E. Green

Special agent to investigate reports of British negotiations for the cession of the Bay of Samana and, if the cession had not been completed upon Green's arrival in the Dominican Republic, to intervene and endeavor to defeat the proposed transfer. Green was also to report on the advisability of

recognizing Dominican independence and to conclude a convention with Haiti for the settlement of certain claims of U.S. citizens.

June 16, 1849-Aug. 7, 1850

Volume 16

Israel Andrews

Special agent to collect information relating to commercial and political conditions in Canada and to advise the State Department of the effect of Great Britain's previously restrictive trade policy on U.S.-Canadian trade.

June 28, 1849-May 13, 1854

Volume 17

Israel Andrews

Special agent to collect information relating to commercial and political conditions in Canada and to promote support for a U.S.-Canadian commercial treaty in the various Provinces of Canada.

Feb. 23, 1850-Nov. 11, 1867

Volume 18

Ralph R. Gurley

Special agent to assess the political, economic, and military stability of Liberia for the purpose of determining the U.S. position toward recognition of that country.

Sept. 22, 1849-Feb. 20, 1850

Malcolm W. Mearis

Special agent to investigate in Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston the formation of an armed expedition against Cuba.

Aug.-July 29, 1851

Joseph Balestier

Special agent to deliver to the King of Cochin China a letter of friendship and conciliation from the President and to negotiate and conclude a treaty of commerce and friendship; to negotiate with the Government of Siam for the removal or moderation of tonnage duties on U.S. ships; to conclude treaties of friendship and commerce with the Sultan of Brunei and the Rajah of Sarawack (Island of Borneo); to convey to the Rajah of Subi the gratitude of the President for the kind treatment shown the survivors of the Mary Ellen, a Boston ship wrecked off the coast of Subi in 1846; to make a show of U.S. naval strength off the coast of the islands of Bali and Lombok; and to visit ports on the west coast of Sumatra.

Dec. 6, 1850-Nov. 25, 1851

Inserted in volume 18 are typed copies of correspondence concerning the Balestier mission dated January-May 1851 from Executive letters, Naval Records Collection of the Office of Naval Records and Library (RG 45).

James E. Harvey

Special agent to inform district attorneys, marshals, and collectors in certain U.S. east coast and southern port cities of preparations for an expedition to invade the island of Cuba and to take measures to halt the expedition as soon as hostile intent was ascertained.

Aug. 13, 1849

Leonidas McIntosh

Special agent to obtain information on the projected expedition for the invasion of Cuba, alleged to be reconnoitering near New Orleans.

Aug. 27, 1849

Robert Greenhow

Special agent to collect information concerning the validity of claims, assumed by the U.S. Government under provisions of the U.S.-Mexican Treaty of February 2, 1848, of U.S. citizens against Mexico.

June-Oct. 23, 1850

George G. Goss

Special agent to direct completion of a U.S. cemetery near Mexico City.

Feb. 7-Sept. 14, 1853

Robert M. Walsh

Special agent to negotiate with British and French representatives for the cessation of hostilities between the Dominican Republic and Haiti and to make arrangements with the Haitian Government for the reciprocal recognition of consuls.

Feb. 5-June 10, 1851

Special agent to present to the Costa Rican Government U.S. and British recommendations for the settlement of boundary disputes between Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

May 28-Nov. 19, 1852

Volume 19

John H. Aulick

Special agent to negotiate and conclude with Japan a treaty of friendship and commerce that would allow U.S. vessels to enter one or more Japanese ports and afford protection for U.S. sailors shipwrecked off the coast of Japan. Aulick was also to obtain permission from the Emperor of Japan for U.S. ships to purchase coal supplies in Japanese ports.

Feb. 20, 1852

William M. Burwell

Special agent to persuade the Mexican Government to ratify a suspended U.S.-Mexican treaty (approved by the U.S. Senate on March 11, 1851, but never laid before the Mexican Congress), which guaranteed the United States the right-of-way across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. Burwell was also charged with proposing a treaty to release the United States from responsibility for the provisions of article 11 of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which made the United States responsible for restraining Indians from crossing the Mexican border, in exchange for monetary remuneration.

Apr. 5-May 12, 1852

William Miles

Special agent to negotiate, with the U.S. Minister to Peru, a satisfactory settlement to a U.S.-Peruvian dispute over rights to the guano trade in the Lobos Islands and to thwart any attempts by U.S. vessels to defraud the Peruvian Government after the conclusion of the settlement.

Sept. 17-Dec. 13, 1852

Matthew Perry

Special agent to negotiate a treaty or convention of commerce, navigation, and friendship with the Emperor of Japan to include the following provisions: protection for U.S. seamen shipwrecked off the coast of Japan, permission for U.S. vessels to buy provisions and refit in Japanese ports, and permission for U.S. vessels to sell or barter their cargoes in certain ports of Japan. This material consists of undated notes submitted to the Secretary of the Navy, ca. 1853-54.

Unnumbered Volume

"Journal of Journey in Japan," by James Morrow, February 26, 1853, to November 10, 1854. Morrow was a special agent detailed by the Department of the Navy to accompany Matthew Perry's expedition to Japan to observe and collect specimens of plant life and to introduce vegetables not indigenous to the countries visited by the Perry squadron.

William J. McCluney

Special agent to exchange ratifications of a convention of friendship and commerce, concluded by the United States and Borneo on June 23, 1850, with the Sultan of Borneo.

Feb. 6, 1853-Apr. 3, 1854

Thomas Jefferson Page

Special agent to exchange ratifications of a treaty of commerce, concluded by the United States and Paraguay on March 4, 1853, with the President of Paraguay.

June 14, 1853-Jan. 28, 1856

Christopher L. Ward

Special agent to deliver instructions to the U.S. Minister to Mexico about the provisions of a treaty to establish a new boundary between the United States and Mexico.

Oct. 31-Dec. 4, 1853

Charles R. Buckalew

Special agent to deliver instructions for the exchange of ratifications of a treaty of commerce, concluded by the United States and Paraguay on March 4, 1853, to Thomas Jefferson Page, commander of the U.S.S. Water Witch, in the vicinity of Asuncion. In the event of Page's absence, Buchalew was instructed to complete the mission.

Jan. 14, 1855

William L. Cazneau

Special agent to negotiate a treaty of friendship, commerce, and navigation with the Dominican Republic (1854) and to collect information on the domestic affairs of that country, including the stability of the government, trade prospects, and the effectiveness of protection afforded foreigners (1859).

Jan. 23, 1854-July 1, 1861

Joel Abbot and Henry A. Adams

Special agents to exchange ratifications of the treaty of peace and friendship, concluded between the United States and Japan on March 31, 1854, with the Emperor of Japan.

Apr. 3-June 25, 1855

Joseph W. Farbens

Special agent to investigate circumstances surrounding the U.S. naval bombardment of San Juan del Norte (formerly Greytown), Nicaragua, in July 1854, and the validity of resulting property claims against the United States.

Dec. 21, 1854-Feb. 21, 1855

Volume 20

Roger A. Pryor

Special agent to negotiate the settlement of a property claim by Rev. Jonas King, missionary and former U.S. consul in Athens, against the Greek Government and to report on internal economic and social conditions in Greece.

July 26-Nov. 6, 1855

Amos B. Corwine

Special agent to investigate circumstances surrounding a massacre of U.S. citizens and destruction of their property at a railroad depot in Panama on April 15, 1856. These records consist of depositions of witnesses to the attack and other supporting documents collected by Corwine.

April 15, 1856

Isaac E. Morse

Special agent to negotiate an agreement with the Colombian Government to guarantee safe transit for U.S. citizens and their property across the Isthmus of Panama. Morse was also to discuss with the Colombian Government a proposal for a new administration of the isthmus in which the United States would have a controlling part, the cession of certain islands in the Bay of Panama to the United States, and the payment of an indemnity to U.S. citizens injured during the Panama riot of April 15, 1856.

Nov. 7, 1856-July 7, 1857

Charles W. Bradley

Special agent to exchange ratifications of a treaty of friendship and commerce, concluded between the United States and Siam on May 29, 1856, with the King of Siam.

June 17-29, 1857

William Carey Jones

Special agent to observe and report on conditions in Central America and to extend assistance to U.S. citizens in Nicaragua who participated in the filibustering expedition of William Walker.

May 16, 1857-Apr. 7, 1858

Francis J. Grund

Special agent to ascertain the views of certain European countries on commercial and political issues, such as the situation in Central America, freedom of navigation on the Elbe and Schelde Rivers, and the right exercised by the British in peacetime to board and search vessels in the British West Indies. Grund was also to report on the possibility of establishing commercial relations with Austria and the condition of Jewish people in Switzerland and other European countries.

Aug. 6, 1858-June 5, 1859

Volume 21

William M. Churchwell

Special agent to report on various political parties and factions in Mexico.

Jan. 21-Mar. 8, 1859

H. Willis Baxley

Special agent to investigate the disbursement of funds appropriated by the U.S. Government for destitute and sick U.S. seamen in certain Pacific ports located in South America and Hawaii and to effect reforms in medical service and supplies when necessary.

June 19, 1860-Mar. 7, 1862

George Ashmun

Special agent to apprise the Canadian people and Government officials of the nature of the political crisis in the United States, particularly regarding the secession of certain Southern States.

Apr. 13, 1861 (letter of appointment) and
Apr. 18, 1861 (letter terminating mission)

Lemuel D. Evans

Special agent to observe and report on conditions along the border between Texas and Mexico.

Apr. 13, 1861 (letter of appointment)

Reverdy Johnson

Special agent to investigate a dispute between Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Butler, U.S. Military Governor of New Orleans, and foreign consuls in New Orleans.

July 25-Aug. 5, 1862

Volume 22

Cuthbert Bullitt

Special agent to collect information on the state of the cotton market in the Confederate States, particularly regarding export trade.

July 10-Aug. 15, 1862

Samuel B. Ruggles

Special agent to serve as delegate to the International Statistical Conference at Berlin, 1863; the Monetary Conference at Paris, 1867; and the International Statistical Conference at The Hague, 1869.

Sept. 11, 1863-Apr. 28, 1870

Preston King

Special agent to confer with Canadian authorities about possible U.S. action against Confederate insurgents gathered along the U.S.-Canadian border.

Nov. 14-Dec. 23, 1863

B. W. Saunders

Special agent to obtain information in Europe on the operations of Confederate agents and the activities of Confederate cruisers.

Dec. 26, 1863-Aug. 19, 1864

Frederick W. Seward

Special agent to conclude a convention for the cession or lease of certain territory of the Dominican Republic to the United States.

Jan. 19-23, 1867

Volume 23

Isaac F. Redfield

Special agent to act as counsel for the United States in the settlement of suits pending in England and France against persons holding vessels, cotton, and other property under the authority of pretended official agents of the Confederate Government.

Dec. 20, 1866-Feb. 11, 1869

Volume 24

George A. Sharpe

Special agent to identify U.S. citizens in Europe implicated in the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln and the attempted assassination of Secretary of State William H. Seward.

Feb. 15-May 8, 1867

Walter H. Bidwell

Special agent to report on conditions in a colony of U.S. citizens located near Jaffa, Syria.

Jan. 28-Sept. 12, 1867

Charles Hawley

Special agent to represent U.S. interests during a plebiscite on the proposed cession of the Danish West Indies from Denmark to the United States.

Nov. 13-Dec. 12, 1867

Paul S. Forbes

Special agent to present Spanish authorities with a proposal to end hostilities in the Cuban war for independence against Spain.

July 20-Sept. 15, 1869

Orville E. Babcock

Special agent to report on political and economic conditions in the Dominican Republic. This material consists of background documentation on a convention between the Dominican Republic and the United States, signed on September 4, 1869.

September 4, 1869

Volume 28

A. B. Steinberger

Special agent to collect information on the Samoan Islands in order that the U.S. Government might consider the acquisition of a harbor in the islands.

Aug. 17, 1872-Nov. 27, 1874

Volume 29

A. B. Steinberger

Special agent to observe and report on the internal affairs of Samoa.

Feb. 2, 1875-July 13, 1877

Volume 30

A. B. Wood

Special agent to inspect certain U.S. consulates in Europe.

Oct. 17-Nov. 11, 1876

George Walker

Special agent to communicate to certain European governments U.S. views on the international remonetization of gold and silver as the world currency.

July 10-Nov. 16, 1879

Gustavus Goward

Special agent to inspect U.S. consulates in Central and South America.

July 16, 1880-Oct. 17, 1881

Theodore Dwight

Special agent to examine the papers of Benjamin Franklin and records relating to early U.S. diplomatic history in the Public Records Office in London, to examine the papers of the Marquis de Lafayette and the Marquis de Rochambeau, to purchase books on international law and diplomacy and the laws of

European states, to investigate affairs of the consulate general in London and the consulate in Havre, and to deliver cipher codes to U.S. legations in The Hague and Brussels.

July 23-Dec. 5, 1881

George Earl Church

Special agent to examine and report on political and economic conditions in Ecuador, particularly regarding Ecuadorian relations with Colombia and the Ecuadorian attitude toward and connections with disturbances between Bolivia, Chile, and Peru.

Aug. 3-Oct. 2, 1881

Volume 31

S. Dana Horton

Special agent to ascertain the attitude of European governments and public opinion toward a multilateral monetary treaty on bimetallism.

Nov. 21, 1879-Nov. 22, 1882

Volume 32

S. L. Phelps

Special agent to secure for the United States the right to use Lake Nicaragua as an anchorage and rendezvous point for war vessels and to use certain islands in the lake as naval coaling and refitting stations.

Dec. 2, 1882

W. Scott Lord

Special agent to investigate the conduct of B. O. Duncan, U.S. consul in Naples, Italy, and the official affairs of the Naples consulate.

Feb. 16-June 28, 1883

Francis O. St. Clair

Special agent to investigate the affairs of several U.S. consulates in New Brunswick, Canada, particularly regarding alleged violations by Canadian loggers of article III of an 1842 treaty between the United States and Great Britain concerning the St. John River.

Apr. 9, 1884

Frederick F. Low

Special agent to investigate circumstances surrounding the purchase of consulate property in Yokohama, Japan, for the U.S. Government by Consul General Thomas Van Buren.

Aug. 14-Nov. 28, 1884

Willard P. Tisdell

Special agent to introduce and extend U.S. commerce into the Congo Valley (Congo Free State) and to report on the political, economic, geographical, and social conditions in that region.

Oct. 29, 1884-Mar. 20, 1886

Somerville P. Tuck and James O. Broadhead

Special agents to search the records dated 1792-1801 of French prize courts and archives for documents relating to the claims of U.S. citizens against the French for spoliations committed before July 31, 1801.

June 22, 1885-June 16, 1886

Manton Marble

Special agent to ascertain the attitude of European governments with respect to the international establishment of bimetallicism and to promote the use of bimetallic currency.

Mar. 30, 1886

William H. Schuetze

Special agent to deliver letters and gifts of appreciation to Siberian Tunguses who had extended assistance to survivors of the Jeanette Arctic Exploring Expedition.

Apr. 17-Oct. 25, 1886

Edward O. Shakespeare

Special agent to study the history of and cures for cholera and kindred diseases in Europe.

Nov. 29, 1885

Volume 33

George H. Bates

Special agent to report on problems connected with the maintenance of Samoan autonomy and neutral influence guaranteed the Samoan Government by treaties with several maritime powers and to conclude a treaty of friendship, commerce, and navigation with the Government of the Tonga Islands.

Aug. 18-Dec. 10, 1886

Somerville P. Tuck and James O. Broadhead

Special agents to search the records dated 1792-1801 of French prize courts and archives for documents relating to the claims of U.S. citizens against the French for spoiliations committed before July 31, 1801 (second mission).

Sept. 16, 1886-May 9, 1888

John G. Walker

Special agent to ascertain the views of Central and South American countries toward participation in a proposed Pan American Conference scheduled to be held in 1889.

Apr. 24, 1889

Volumes 34-36

James H. Blount

Special agent to investigate and report to President Grover Cleveland on political conditions in the Hawaiian Islands, the causes of the revolution that overthrew the government of Queen Liliuokalani in January 1893, and the attitude of the native population toward annexation of the islands by the United States.

Apr. 6-Aug. 8, 1893

Volmes 37 and 38

James H. Blount

Special agent to investigate and report to President Grover Cleveland on political conditions in the Hawaiian Islands, the causes of the revolution that overthrew the government of Queen Liliuokalani in January 1893, and the attitude of the native

population toward annexation of the islands by the United States. Material filmed on this roll consists primarily of transcripts of testimony and reports given in response to questions posed by Blount to various individuals on the causes of the revolution, the dethronement of the Queen, the establishment and operation of the provisional government, relations with the United States, annexation, land tenure, and labor.

Apr. 6-June 17, 1893

Volumes 39-41

James H. Blount

Special agent to investigate and report to President Grover Cleveland on political conditions in the Hawaiian Islands, the causes of the revolution that overthrew the government of Queen Liliuokalani in January 1893, and the attitude of the native population toward annexation of the islands by the United States. Much of the material filmed on this roll consists of undated reports, statements, and supporting documents on the causes of the revolution, land tenure, political and social conditions, and labor.

1882-July 15, 1893

Volumes 42 and 43

James H. Blount

Special agent to investigate and report to President Grover Cleveland on political conditions in the Hawaiian Islands, the causes of the revolution that overthrew the government of Queen Liliuokalani in January 1893, and the attitude of the native population toward annexation of the islands by the United States. Material filmed on this roll consists primarily of letters and petitions relating to annexation.

1892-93

Unbound petitions to Blount about the restoration of Queen Liliuokalani dated 1893.

Volumes 44 and 45

George H. Scidmore

Special agent to investigate claims of U.S. citizens against the British Government for alleged violations of their

property rights in the Fiji Islands. Material filmed on this roll consists of Scidmore's final report and enclosures to the Department of State.

July 3, 1893

Volumes 46 and 47

George H. Scidmore

Special agent to investigate claims of U.S. citizens against the British Government for alleged violations of their property rights in the Fiji Islands. Material filmed on this roll consists of enclosures to Scidmore's final report of July 3, 1893, to the Department of State, which is filmed on roll 19 of this publication.

July 3, 1893

Volume 48

John W. Foster

Special agent to ascertain the policy of the Russian and British Governments on fur seal and sea otter hunting in the North Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea and to discuss the participation of those governments in a proposed conference for the consideration of adequate protection of seals and otters scheduled to be held in Washington, D.C., in October 1897.

Apr. 30-Nov. 8, 1897

Edward O. Wolcott

Special agent appointed together with Charles J. Paine and Adlai E. Stevenson as special envoys to Great Britain, France, and Germany to ascertain the views of those governments concerning an international agreement on bimetallism.

June 29-Aug. 6, 1897

William J. Calhoun

Special agent to investigate the circumstances surrounding the arrest, imprisonment, and death of U.S. citizen Ricardo Ruiz de Ugario in Guanabacoa, Cuba, on February 17, 1897.

June 10-22, 1897

Volume 49

William R. Day et al.

Commissioners to the United States and to the Spanish Peace Commission in Paris, 1898-99 (Day served as president of the U.S. delegation).

Nov. 11, 1898-Feb. 27, 1900

Bartlett Tripp

Commissioner to the Samoan Islands to restore tranquility and order, establish a provisional government, and consider certain proposals for the future government of the islands and the modification of the Final Act of the Berlin Conference. Tripp was also charged with reporting the conclusions of his Commission to the governments of the three-power Samoan protectorate.

Apr. 10-Dec. 26, 1899

William J. Calhoun

Special agent to investigate and report on general conditions in Venezuela, particularly regarding U.S. interests in Venezuela and Venezuelan relations with other countries.

July 30, 1905-Jan. 27, 1906

Jacob H. Hollander

Special agent to report on internal conditions in Santo Domingo, particularly the financial affairs of that country, and to survey and report on the internal affairs of certain West Indies islands.

Aug. 28, 1905-Aug. 6, 1906

Unnumbered Volumes

Two unnumbered manuscript volumes submitted by Hollander entitled "Report on the Debt of Santo Domingo," 1905.

Volume 50

Henry White and Samuel R. Gummere

U.S. representatives at the International Conference on Moroccan Affairs, held in Algeciras, Spain, in 1906.

Nov. 24, 1905-Apr. 7, 1906

F. W. Whitridge

Ambassador Extraordinary to represent the United States
on the occasion of the wedding of King Alfonso XIII of Spain.

June 11, 1906

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