



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minnesota State Archives

**U.S. GENERAL LAND OFFICE.
Winona Land District (Minn.)
An Inventory of Its Records**

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Agency:** United States. Winona Land District (Minn.).
- Series Title:** Winona Land District records,
- Dates:** 1854-1904.
- Abstract:** Correspondence; registers of homestead, agricultural college scrip, half-breed scrip, military bounty land, and timber culture entries; patent records; purchase records for Indian reservation lands; land contest records; and related materials covering land transfers in southern Minnesota.
- Quantity:** 26.75 cu. ft.
- Location:** See Detailed Description section for box locations.

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY OF THE WINONA LAND DISTRICT

The Winona Land District was one of four districts established in the ceded Sioux territory by an act of Congress of April 12, 1854. The district's first land office was located in Winona and opened for business in December, 1854. The boundaries of the Winona Land District changed several times. The following boundary descriptions correspond to the numbered diagram maps (separate page). All ranges are west of the 5th principal meridian.

(1) Townships 106-110 in ranges 5-47. Established by act of April 12, 1854, and in effect through April, 1863.

(2) Townships 106-115 in ranges 5-47. Between April, 1863, and June, 1872, the Red Wing Land District was merged into the Winona district.

(3) Townships 106-110 in ranges 5-47. The Red Wing district was re-established in June, 1872, and the Winona district reverted to its original bounds.

(4) Townships 101-120 in ranges 3-47, fractional townships 121 in ranges 22-23, and townships 121-124 in ranges 36-49. In March, 1889, the Root River, Red Wing, and Minneapolis land districts were merged into the Winona district, with land offices first at Tracy and then at Marshall. This enlarged Winona district was in operation until June 23, 1903, when the Marshall office was closed and the district consolidated with the St. Cloud Land District.

Land offices of the Winona Land District: Winona (December 5, 1854 to ca. December 31, 1856); Faribault (January 24, 1857 to November 19, 1858); St. Peter (December 2, 1858 to ca. February 26, 1870); New Ulm (March 1, 1870 to ca. April 30, 1880); Tracy (ca. May 2, 1880 to February 28, 1889); Marshall (March 5, 1889 to ca. June 23, 1903).

Registers of the Winona Land District (incomplete list): D. Upman (1854-June 1857), Samuel Plummer (July 1857- ?), Abner Tibbets (May 1861?-1865?), Henry A. Swift (September 1865?-February 1869), L. M. Lange (1889-March 1894), C. P. Shepard (April 1889-April 1903).

Receivers of the Winona Land District (incomplete list): L. D. Smith (1855-June 1857), B. F. Tillotson (July 1857-April 1861), John Kern (April 1861-May 1865), John Downer? (May 1865-June 1867?), John Rudolph (May 1869-October 1873), A. A. Brown (October 1873-April 1876?), ? Goodnow (May? 1877- ?), P. K. Wisen (1886).

ORGANIZATION OF THE RECORDS

These records are organized into the following sections:

Abstract of Preemption Declaratory Statements, 1857-1898. 3 volumes.
Abstract of Soldiers' Homestead Declaratory Statements, 1872-1883. 1 volume.
Contest Docket, 1889-1898. 1 volume.
Correspondence: Letters Received from GLO, 1854-1904. 18.75 cu. ft.
Correspondence: Receiver's Letters Sent, 1854-1878. 2 volumes.
Correspondence: Register's Letters Sent, 1857-1869. 1 volume and 1 partial volume.
Homestead Final Proofs, 1870, 1879. 2 folders.
List of Patents for Winnebago Land, 1865-1878. 1 folder.
List of Suspended Preemption Entries, 1855-1861. 1 volume.
Receiver's Accounts, 1886. 1 folder.
Receiver's Estimates of Office Expenditures, 1854-1864. 1 folder.
Record of Patents Delivered, 1884-1903.
Register of Agricultural College Scrip Entries, 1864-1892. 1 volumes.
Registers of Certificates to Purchasers, 1855-1903. 5 volumes.
Register of Certificates to Purchasers of Sioux Land, 1865-1869. 3 volumes.
Register of Certificates to Purchasers of Winnebago Land, 1864-1878. partial volume.
Register of Chippewa Half-Breed Scrip Entries, 1864. 1 volume.
Register of Final Homestead Certificates, 1868-1903. 3 volumes.
Register of Homestead Entries, 1863-1903. 11 volumes.
Register of Military Bounty Land Warrant Entries, 1855-1895. 7 volumes.
Register of Sioux Half-breed Scrip Entries, 1857-1868. 1 volume.
Register of Supreme Court Scrip Entries, 1859-1880. 1 folder.
Register of Timber Culture Entries, 1886-1897. 1 volume.

OTHER FINDING AIDS

Some of the volumes include indexes.

INDEX TERMS

These records are indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Topics:

Afforestation—Minnesota.
Agricultural college lands—Minnesota.
Bailly family.
Betterments—Minnesota.
Bounties, Military—United States.
Cities and towns—Minnesota.
Dakota Indians—Land tenure.
Dakota Indians—Mixed descent.
Faribault family.
Grasshopper plagues, 1873-1877—Minnesota.
Homestead law—Minnesota.
Indian land transfers—Minnesota.
Indian reservations—Minnesota.
Land grants—Minnesota.
Land titles—Registration and transfer—Minnesota.
Land titles—Registration and transfer—Minnesota—Accounting.
Land titles—Registration and transfer—Minnesota—Blue Earth County.
Land titles—Registration and transfer—Minnesota—Waseca County.
Ojibwa Indians—Land tenure.
Ojibwa Indians—Mixed descent.
Pioneers—Minnesota—Biography.
Pre-emption rights (United States).
Public land sales—Minnesota.
Public lands—Minnesota.
Public lands—Minnesota—Brown County.
Railroad land grants—Minnesota.
Winnebago Indians—Land tenure.
Winnebago Tract.

Places:

United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—Veterans.

Persons:

Becker, G. L.
Ireland, John, 1838-1918.

Organizations:

Northern Pacific Railroad Company.
United States. General Land Office.
United States. Minneapolis Land District (Minn.).
United States. Red Wing Land District (Minn.).
United States. Root River Land District (Minn.).
United States. Supreme Court.

Types of Documents:

Chippewa half-breed scrip.
Deeds—Minnesota.
Land scrip—Minnesota.
Sioux half-breed scrip.

Titles:

United States. Land Grant Act of 1862.
United States. Preemption Act of 1841.
United States. Soldiers and Sailors Act.
United States. Timber Culture Act.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation:

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See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.

Abstract of Preemption Declaratory Statements, 1857-1898. 1.0 cu. ft. (3 volumes).

Abstracts of preemption declaratory statements filed in the Winona Land District under provisions of the General Preemption Act of 1841.

The Preemption Act of 1841 recognized the claims of those settlers or "squatters" who had settled on public land before it had been offered for sale. This act enabled the settler to purchase the claim at the minimum price rather than having to bid for it at public auction. The preemptor was required to file a declaratory statement within three months after the local land office had received the survey plat of the township in which the claim was located or within three months of making settlement. The declaratory statement, which gave the date of settlement and detailed the improvements made to the property, was used by the land office to determine the validity of the claimant's preemption, and it established the priority of his claim against those of other claimants.

When the land office announced that an area of land was to be offered for sale, the preemptor had to pay for his land before the date of the sale or risk losing it to the highest bidder. For land that was open to private entry, the preemptor had to make payment within one year of filing a declaratory statement. In 1854, preemption rights were extended to settlers on unsurveyed land.

The abstract for each declaratory statement gives statement number, date of settlement, date the declaratory statement was filed, name of preemptor, legal description of the tract preempted, and occasional remarks on the eventual disposition of the tract.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically by date the statement was filed. There are separate sequences for preemptions on "unoffered" lands not yet open for settlement and on "offered" lands which were preempted after being opened for settlement.

Related materials: United States: General Land Office: Original Entry Tract Books (cataloged separately) cite the type and number of the certificate issued on the preempted parcel; the parcel can then be located in the appropriate register of entries.

Location	Volume	
	[1]	[missing]
114.I.4.6F-1	2	Nos. 14314 - 17716, June 1857 - April 1863 (unoffered). Nos. 68 - 729, November 1860 - April 1863 (offered).
114.I.4.6F-1	3	Nos. 17717 - 20925, May 1863 - May 1871 (unoffered). Nos. 730 - 1523, May 1863 - March 1876 (offered).
114.I.4.6F-2	4	Nos. 20966 - 24606, June 1871 - June 1898 (unoffered).

Abstract of Soldiers' Homestead Declaratory Statements, 1872-1883. 1 volume.

An abstract of declaratory statements filed by former soldiers seeking to enter additional homestead land in the Winona land district under provisions of the Soldiers and Sailors Act of June 8, 1872, which was designed to provide a bonus to those who had served in the Civil War.

This act allowed a veteran whose original homestead was 40, 80, or 120 acres to make an additional homestead entry of 120, 80, or 40 acres, respectively. The act also allowed veterans to count their time in service against the residence requirement of the Homestead Act, thereby permitting them to make final proof after as little as one year's residence on their claims. Originally the act restricted the additional entry to land contiguous to the original homestead. This restriction was lifted by an act of March 3, 1873, which allowed the additional entry to be made on any offered or unoffered land open to homesteading. In addition, the soldiers' rights were made assignable, in effect creating a type of scrip.

The abstract for each declaratory statement gives statement number, date filed, name of the person filing the statement, legal description of the parcel applied for, and occasional remarks with citations to letters received from the commissioner of the General Land Office.

Arrangement: Chronological by date the statement was filed.

Location	Box	
114.I.4.4F-1	---	Abstract of Soldiers' Homestead Declaratory Statements, nos. 1-566, August 1872 - August 1883. 1 volume.

Contest Docket, 1889-1898. 1 volume.

A summary record of official proceedings in contests brought against land entries in the Winona land district.

The docket entry for each contest case gives names of plaintiff (contestant) and defendant (entryman), number of entry contested, legal description of the parcel covered by the contested entry, summary of documents filed and actions taken on the case, and citations to decisions of the register and receiver or the commissioner of the General Land Office.

Arrangement: Entries are chronological by date the contest was filed.

Indexes: Indexed by name of plaintiff.

Location	Box	
114.I.4.2F-1	---	Contest Docket, 1889-1898. 1 volume.

Correspondence: Letters Received from GLO, 1854-1904. 18.75 cu. ft. (18 boxes and 1 partial box).

Letters received by the register and receiver of the Winona land district from the commissioner of the General Land Office. They include letters of transmission and acknowledgment, instructions to the register and receiver, decisions of the land commissioner and secretary of the interior in contested cases, and notices of approval or rejection of land entries.

The letters forwarding decisions of the commissioner and the secretary of the interior contain the most significant information. They generally include a summary of the facts in the case, giving information on the date of settlement and entry, improvements made on the claim, and biographical information on the contestants and witnesses. Some of these letters include transcripts of testimony and affidavits relating to the case.

Among the subjects discussed in the other letters are preemption, homestead, Sioux half-breed scrip, military bounty land warrants, and cash entries; the Sioux half-breed reservation; railroad land grants, especially to the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba and the Hastings and Dakota; public land sales; the grasshopper plagues of the 1870s; the Winnebago Tract; Archbishop John Ireland's purchase of land in the Northern Pacific grant (1898-1899); land dealings of the Faribault and Bailly families; and the general operation of the land office.

Letters relating to entries in the Red Wing district between May, 1863, and June, 1872, are filed in the Letters Received for the Winona district. During this period the Red Wing district was merged with the Winona district.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

Related materials: United States. General Land Office. Original entry tract books (cataloged separately) include citations, by date sent, to letters received from the commissioner of the GLO regarding specific parcels of land.

Location	Box	
108.K.20.6F	1	1854 - October 1857: Winona. January 1857 - 1860: Faribault. November 1858 - 1859: St. Peter.
108.K.20.7B	2	1860-1863: St. Peter.
108.K.20.8F	3	1864-1866: St. Peter.
106.K.7.1B	4	1867-June 1868: St. Peter.
106.K.7.2F	5	July 1868 - April 1870: St. Peter. April 1870 - April 1872: New Ulm.
106.K.7.3B	6	May 1872 - 1874: New Ulm.
106.K.7.4F	7	1875-1877: New Ulm.
106.K.7.5B	8	1878 - October 1880: New Ulm.
106.K.7.6F	9	June 1880 - 1883: Tracy.
106.K.7.7B	10	1884-1889: Tracy.

106.K.7.8F	11	March 1889 - August 1890: Marshall.
106.K.8.1B	12	September 1890 - February 1892: Marshall.
106.K.8.2F	13	March 1892 - December 15, 1893: Marshall.
106.K.8.3B	14	December 16, 1893 - September 4, 1894: Marshall.
106.K.8.4F	15	October 1894 - May 1896: Marshall.
106.K.8.5B	16	June 1896 - July 1898: Marshall.
106.K.8.6F	17	August 1898 - January 1900: Marshall.
106.K.8.7B	18	February-December 1900: Marshall.
106.K.8.8F	19	January 1901 - June 1904: Marshall.

Correspondence: Receiver's Letters Sent, 1854-1878. 2 volumes.

Handwritten and letterpress copies of letters sent by the receiver of the Winona land district in his capacities as receiver of public money and government disbursing agent.

Principal correspondents are the commissioner of the General Land Office, secretary of the treasury, and comptroller of the Treasury Department. The letters include transmittals of monthly and quarterly reports of accounts current and estimated office expenditures; inventories of office supplies and records; requests for information on procedural matters; responses to inquiries from the General Land Office or the Treasury Department about office receipts and expenditures; and reports on public auctions and the general operation of the land office. Occasional letters relate to contested entries; one (August 18, 1855) takes note of the bitterness and conflict that often accompanied contested claims.

Between March, 1863, and May, 1872, the Red Wing land district was merged with the Winona district and the receiver's letters sent for those years are recorded in the Winona Receiver's letters sent. The Red Wing district was re-established in June, 1872.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

Location	Box	
114.I.4.2F-1	---	November 1854 - April 1876. 1 volume. May 1877 - June 1878. 1 volume.

Correspondence: Register's Letters Sent, 1857-1869. 1 volume and 1 partial volume.

Handwritten copies of outgoing letters of the register of the Winona land district. They are written primarily to the commissioner of the General Land Office, with some additional letters to federal and state officials and private citizens. Some letters of the receivers are also included.

Letters to the GLO fall into two broad categories: routine interoffice communications, and letters relating to imperfect or contested entries. The routine administrative correspondence includes letters of transmittal and acknowledgment, monthly and quarterly reports of entries made, records of patents delivered, requests for record books and forms, inquiries on procedural matters, and general commentary on the operation of the land office.

The letters relating to contested entries include reports of the decisions of the register and receiver, accompanied by summaries of the facts and witnesses' testimony for those cases that were appealed to the commissioner of the GLO. In addition to naming the rival claimants and giving the legal description of the contested parcel, these letters often cite the date of settlement and entry, describe the improvements made--sometimes in great detail--and give biographical information on the contestants and witnesses in the case. The letters concerning imperfect entries are usually responses to requests from the commissioner for additional information needed to approve an entry. This most often related to the entryman's naturalization, change in name, witnesses' testimony, or procedural matters.

The series includes occasional letters to registers of other land offices and to the U.S. Surveyor General, and a few letters to the Minnesota governor or state land commissioner relating to state land grants.

Letters to private individuals consist primarily of notices of hearings set, appeals forwarded, or decisions rendered in contested cases; requests for additional information or testimony; and procedural instructions necessary to perfect an entry.

Among the topics covered in the letters sent are: homestead and preemption claims, military bounty land warrant entries, railroad land grants, Sioux half-breed scrip entries, townsite locations, public land sales, and state land grants. There are also several references to Alexis Bailly and to members of the Faribault family.

Between April, 1863, and June, 1872, the Red Wing land district was merged with the Winona district. During this time, letters relating to land in what had been the Red Wing district are recorded in the Register's Letter Sent for the Winona district. The Red Wing district was reestablished in June, 1872, with a land office in Redwood Falls.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

Location	Box	
114.I.4.2F-2	---	July 1857 - May 1865. 1 volume. After 1861, the letters are very scattered. Toward the end of the volume is a list of attorneys licensed to practice before the Marshall land office.
114.I.4.2F-2	---	August 1865 - November 1866; February 1869 (partial volume, pp. 1-[9]) (The volume consists primarily of a Red Wing Land District contest docket.)

Homestead Final Proofs, 1870, 1879. 2 folders.

A fragmentary series of final proofs made on homestead entries in the Winona land district.

Homesteaders were required to submit a "final proof" to the local land office demonstrating that they had complied with the requirements of the Homestead Act and were entitled to receive a final certificate on their claim. The homestead final proofs give final certificate number; homestead entry number; name of homesteader; legal description of the tract homesteaded; date residence on the homestead began; description of the improvements made on the claim including the house, outbuildings, fences, and crops and trees planted; and date the proof was made. The proof may also include biographical information.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

Location	Box	
106.K.8.8F	19	Homestead Final Proofs, 1870, 1879. 2 folders.

List of Patents for Winnebago Land, 1865-1878. 1 oversize folder.

Three lists of patents issued to purchasers of land in the former Winnebago Indian reservation on the Blue Earth River in Blue Earth and Waseca counties.

The Winnebago Reservation, consisting of townships 106 and 107 in ranges 24-27, sections 31-36 of township 108 in ranges 24-27, and sections 6, 7, 18, 19, 30, and 31 of townships 106 and 107 in range 23, was set aside for the Winnebago Indians by the treaty of February 27, 1855 in which the Winnebago ceded title to the Long Prairie Reservation. The Blue Earth Reservation was opened for entry by an act of February 21, 1863, "for the removal of the Winnebago Indians and for the sale of their Reservation."

The lists give the name of the person to whom each patent was issued, legal description of the tract patented, and date the patent was issued. Not all of the patents recorded in these lists are recorded in the GLO tract books.

Arrangement: Entries are chronological by date the patent was issued.

Related materials: These lists appear to complement the district's Register of certificates to purchasers of Winnebago land.

Location	Box	
114.I.4.4F-1	---	List of Patents for Winnebago Land, 1865-1878.

List of Suspended Preemption Entries, 1855-1861. 1 volume.

A list of preemption entries suspended by the commissioner of the General Land Office pending presentation of additional proofs and explanations.

The list gives a citation to the commissioner's letter suspending the preemption entry, name of individual whose entry was suspended, number of the preemption declaratory statement and/or number of the certificate to purchaser, and citation to the register's letter in which the additional proof was forwarded to the GLO.

Arrangement: Chronological by date of commissioner's letter of suspension.

Related materials: See the district's Abstract of preemption declaratory statements, and Register of certificates to purchasers.

Location Box

114.I.4.6F-1 --- List of Suspended Preemption Entries, 1855-1861. 1 volume.

Receiver's Accounts, 1886. 1 folder.

Quarterly and monthly summaries of accounts current (money received from the sale of public land and for fees and commissions received for various types of land entries), registers of final homestead and timber culture receipts, and a recapitulation of cash receipts, all for the quarter ending June 30, 1886.

Location Box

106.K.8.8F 19 Receiver's Accounts, 1886. 1 folder.

Receiver's Estimates of Office Expenditures, 1854-1864. 1 folder.

An incomplete series of the receiver's yearly estimates of the expenses to be incurred in operating the land office during the following fiscal year. The estimates include salary of register and receiver, cost of hiring clerks and other office staff, expenses for conducting public auctions of land, binding volumes of records, and printing various notices in newspapers, and other miscellaneous expenses.

Location Box

106.K.8.8F 19 Receiver's Estimates of Office Expenditures, 1854-1864. 1 folder.

Record of Patents Delivered, 1884-1903. 1 volume.

Record of patents delivered to patentees or their agents for land entered in the Winona land district.

The record gives the type and number of entry, person to whom the patent was issued, date the patent was issued, volume and page where the patent is recorded in GLO records, and name and address of the person to whom the patent was delivered.

Arrangement: Roughly chronological by date delivered.

Indexing-Note: Indexed by name of patentee.

Location Box

114.I.4.6F-2 --- Record of Patents Delivered, September 1884 - June 1903. 1 volume.

Register of Agricultural College Scrip Entries, 1864 - 1892. 2 volumes.

An abstract of land entries (numbers 1-337) made in the Winona land district with agricultural college scrip under provisions of the Agricultural College Act of 1862.

The Agricultural College Act, commonly referred to as the Morrill Act, granted each state 30,000 acres of land for each of its United States senators and representatives. The proceeds from the sale of this land were to be used for the benefit of colleges of agricultural and mechanical arts in the state. Those states in which public land was still available for private entry selected their grant from the public land within their boundaries. Those states without sufficient public land received scrip of equal value, which could be redeemed for public land in the western states. The states receiving scrip could not enter the land directly but were required to sell the scrip to second parties, who then either used it to locate land or resold it.

The abstract for each scrip entry includes the following information: land office entry number, scrip number, the date a scrip certificate was issued, to what state the scrip was issued, acre value of the scrip, legal description of the tract located with the scrip, date located, and by whom located, with occasional added remarks. The two volumes are duplicates, but with some variations in entry information.

Arrangement: Entries are chronological by date the scrip was located (a certificate was issued).

Location	Box
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114.I.4.6F-1	---	Register of Agricultural College Scrip Entries, nos. 1-337, June 1864-May 1892. 2 volumes.
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The volumes largely duplicate each other, with some variations in annotations.

Register of Certificates to Purchasers, 1855-1903. 1.0 cu. ft. (5 volumes).

An abstract of certificates issued by the register of the Winona land district for land entries made by cash purchase, scrip, or warrant. The certificate established the buyer's legal claim to a parcel of land pending issuance by the GLO of a patent that formally transferred title.

The abstract for each certificate gives certificate number, date issued, name of purchaser and county of residence, legal description of the parcel purchased, total acreage of the parcel, price per acre, and total purchase price. Most abstracts are annotated with the date the patent was issued and the volume and page in which it is recorded in GLO patent records. A few include citations to letters from the commissioner of the General Land Office.

Between April 1863 and June 1872, the Winona register includes certificates to purchasers of land in what had been the Red Wing land district. During this time, the Red Wing land district was merged with the Winona district. The Red Wing district was reestablished in June, 1872, with a land office in Redwood Falls.

Included in this series is the receiver's register of receipts for cash entries, which essentially duplicates information in the register of certificates except for occasional differences in the annotations, most regarding excess or military bounty land warrant entries.

Arrangement: Chronological by date of entry. Entries between number 2000 and number 5534 are not always consecutive; in this sequence the receiver issued receipts for all types of entries consecutively while the register recorded the various entries in separate volumes.

Location	Volume	
		Register of Certificates to Purchasers:
114.I.4.5B-2	1	Nos. 1 - 5531, January 1855 - April 1863.
114.I.4.5B-1	2	Nos. 5534 - 8092, May 1863 - September 1885. Also includes entries no. 3861-3994 for the Red Wing land district, and entries no. 165-448 for Winnebago Reservation lands in townships 106-107 ranges 24 and 25 (see below).
114.I.4.5B-1	3	Nos. 8093 - 8255, October 1885 - January 1890.
114.I.4.5B-2	4	Nos. 8256 - 8944, February 1890 - April 1903.
		Register of Receipts for Cash Entries:
114.I.4.5B-2	1	Nos. 1-5387, January 1, 1855 - November 20, 1860. Includes a few receipts for entries made with military bounty land warrants and Sioux half-breed scrip.

Register of Certificates to Purchasers of Sioux Land, 1865-1869. 0.5 cu. ft. (3 volumes).

Abstracts of cash entries made in the Winona land district for land in the former Sioux Indian Reservation.

A reservation for the Dakota Indians had been established along the Minnesota River by the Treaty of 1851. In the aftermath of the Dakota Conflict of 1862, the Indians were removed and the land was opened for purchase.

The register records the following information for each entry: legal description of the tract purchased, acreage of the tract, price per acre, total purchase price, name of purchaser, date of purchase, certificate number, person to whom patented, date the patent was issued, and volume and page where the patent is recorded in General Land Office records.

Between May 1863 and May 1872, the register includes entries for land in the former Red Wing land district. During this time period the Red Wing district was merged with the Winona district and all purchases were recorded in the Winona register.

Included in this series in the receiver's register of receipts for cash entries, which essentially duplicates information in the register of certificates, except for occasional differences in the annotations.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically by date of purchase.

Location	Box	
114.I.4.7B-2	---	Register of Certificates to Purchasers of Sioux Land: Volume 1. Nos. 1 - 753, June 1865 - July 1868. Volume 2. Nos. 754 - 1153, July 1868 - February 1869.
114.I.4.7B-2	---	Register of Receipts for Cash Entries: Sioux Land: [Volume 3]. Nos. 70 - 1739, October 4, 1866 - May 27, 1873.

Register of Certificates to Purchasers of Winnebago Land, 1864-1878. partial volume.

An abstract of cash entries made in the Winona land district for land in the former Winnebago Indian Reservation on the Blue Earth River in Blue Earth and Waseca counties. This reservation consisted of townships 106-107, ranges 24-27; sections 6, 7, 18, 19, 30, and 31 of townships 106-107, range 23; and sections 31-16 of township 108, ranges 24-27.

The Blue Earth Reservation was set aside for the Winnebago by the Treaty of February 27, 1855, in which the Winnebago ceded their title to the Long Prairie Reservation in Todd County in exchange for the Blue Earth Reservation. The Blue Earth Reservation in turn was opened for entry by an act of February 21, 1863, "for the removal of the Winnebago Indians and for the sale of their reservation."

The register gives the following information for each entry: certificate number, date the land was sold, name and residence of purchaser, legal description of the parcel purchased, acreage of the parcel, price per acre, total price, annotations giving the date a patent was issued and volume and page in General Land Office records where it is recorded, and citations to letters from the commissioner of the GLO.

This register is included in volume 2 of the Winona district's Register of Certificates to Purchasers. Entry numbers 165-448 (May 1, 1865 - November 20, 1878) were recorded separately from the sale of public land and are found at the end of the volume. Prior to that time (October 3, 1864 - April 27, 1865), entries for Winnebago land were recorded and numbered consecutively with other cash entries and denoted by the annotation "Win Res" and an additional entry number (1-164); they are found between Register of Certificates entry numbers 5783 and 6025.

Arrangement: Arranged by chronologically assigned certificate number.

Related materials: See also the district's List of patents for Winnebago land. See also: Saint Cloud Land District: Letters Received: Letter of April 18, 1906.

Location	Box	
114.I.4.5B-1	---	Register of Certificates to Purchasers of Winnebago Land, 1864-1878. partial volume.

Register of Chippewa Half-breed Scrip Entries, 1874. 1 volume.

An abstract of land entries made in the Winona land district with Chippewa half-breed scrip.

The Treaty of September 20, 1854, between the Lake Superior Chippewa and the United States, and the Treaty of April 7, 1866, between the Bois Fort Chippewa and the United States, reserved tracts of land for Ojibwe mixed-bloods. They did not take up this land, and eventually it was opened for entry. The mixed-bloods' title to the tract was extinguished by dividing the reserves among the enrolled mixed-bloods and issuing scrip to each individual in proportion to his or her share of the reserve. By law the scrip could not be alienated, but this restriction was evaded, with all of the land entries being made by G. L. Becker on land in townships 108-109, range 35 (Brown County).

The abstract for each scrip entry includes the following information: entry number, scrip number, date the scrip was issued, person to whom issued, person by whom the scrip was located, date located, legal description of the tract located, and occasional remarks with citations to letters from the commissioner of the General Land Office.

Arrangement: Chronological by date the scrip was located.

Location	Box	
114.I.4.7B-2	---	Register of Chippewa Half-breed Scrip Entries, nos. 1-21, March 19, 1864. 1 volume.

Register of Final Homestead Certificates, 1868-1903. 1.0 cu. ft. (3 volumes).

Arrangement: Numbered chronologically by date the final certificate was issued.

An abstract of all final certificates issued for homesteaded land in the Winona land district.

The abstract for each final certificate gives certificate number; date the certificate was filed; legal description of the tract homesteaded; name of applicant and county of residence; number of the original homestead application (recorded in the separately cataloged Register of Homestead Entries); commissions and fees paid; price per acre (commissions were based on the appraised price per acre); and various remarks relative to delivery of patents, citations to letters from the commissioner of the General Land Office, and citations to the Register of Certificates to Purchasers (cataloged separately) if the acreage of the parcel originally entered was in excess of the applicant's homestead eligibility.

Beginning March 1, 1889, the Winona register also records final certificates for homestead entries made in the Red Wing, Root River, and Minneapolis land districts. Final certificates issued for homesteads in the Red Wing land district between 1867 and May, 1872, are also recorded in the Winona register; a transcript of these entries is included with the records of the Red Wing land district. During this time the Red Wing district was merged with the Winona district and all final certificates were recorded consecutively in the Winona register.

Location	Volume	
114.I.4.4F-2	1	Nos. 1 - 4339, January 1868 - December 1880.
114.I.4.4F-2	2	Nos. 4340 - 7710, January 1881 - September 1897.
114.I.4.5B-1	3	Nos. 7711 - 8316, October 1897 - April 1903.

Register of Homestead Entries, 1863-1903. 1.5 cu. ft. (11 volumes).

Arrangement: Arranged by chronologically assigned application (entry) number.

An abstract of all applications to acquire land under the provisions of the Homestead Act of 1862 that were filed in the Winona land district.

Individuals seeking to acquire land under the Homestead Act first filed an application or "declaratory statement" with the local land office, thereby establishing their claim to a particular tract of land. They were then required to live on and improve the land for five years, after which time they presented the local land office a "final proof" of their compliance with the provisions of the Homestead Act. If the land office accepted the proof, it issued a "final certificate." The final certificate was then turned in to the General Land Office, which issued a patent formally transferring title to the homesteader.

The abstract for each homestead entry gives number of the application or declaratory statement; date of application; name of the applicant; legal description of the parcel entered; and remarks on the issuance of a patent, cancellation, or other disposition of the entry, with citations to relevant letters from the commissioner of the General Land Office. Some abstracts also give the number and date of the final proof.

Between June 1863 and May 1872, the Winona register also includes homestead entries made in the former Red Wing land district. During this time the two districts were merged.

Included in this series is the receiver's register of homestead entry receipts, for fees and commissions paid by the homesteader at the time of entry. It is largely duplicative, except for occasional differences in annotations.

Related materials: See also the district's Register of final homestead certificates and Letters received; and the Red Wing Land District's Register of homestead entries, Register of final homestead certificates, and Letters received (all cataloged separately).

Location	Box	
		Register of Homestead Entries:
114.I.4.3B-1	---	Volume 1. Nos. 1 - 1231, January 1863 - April 1864. Volume 2. Nos. 1232 - 2074, May 1864 - April 1865. Volume 3. Nos. 2075 - 3021, May 1865 - May 1866. Volume 4. Nos. 3022 - 3905, June 1866 - January 1868. Volume 5. Nos. 3906 - 4716, February 1868 - May 1869. Volume 6. Nos. 4623 - 7241, May 1869 - June 1872. (Nos. 4623-4716 duplicate volume 5.) Volume 7. Nos. 7242 - 10852, June 1872 - December 1880.
114.I.4.3B-2	---	Volume 8. Nos. 10853 - 13320, January 1881 - December 1900. Volume 9. Nos. 13321 - 13390, January 1901 - June 1903.
114.I.4.4F-1	---	Register of Homestead Entry Receipts: Volume 1. Nos. 2466 - 3316, October 1865 - September 1866. Volume 2. Nos. 3317 - 6002, October 1866 - March 1871.

Register of Military Bounty Land Warrant Entries, 1855-1895. 0.8 cu. ft. (7 volumes).

Arrangement: Arranged by warrant law; thereunder numbered chronologically by date of land office entry.

Registers or abstracts of public land entries made with military bounty land warrants in the Winona land district.

Under acts of 1842, 1847, 1850, 1852, and 1855, Congress authorized the issuance of land warrants as a bounty for military service. The warrants entitled the holder to enter or "locate" a specified amount of public land. The warrants were transferable and most were entered by someone other than the person to whom they were originally issued.

The abstract for each warrant entry gives the land office entry number, warrant number, date a warrant was issued, person in whose favor the warrant was issued, legal description of the tract located with the warrant, date located, and by whom located. Some entries are annotated with citations to decisions of the commissioner of the General Land Office.

The series consists of some original records and some transcriptions. The original records have been labeled with letters and the transcriptions with numbers.

Location	Box	
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114.I.4.7B-1	---	Act of 1842: Volume A, Nos. 1 - 9, 1856-1860. Act of 1847: Volume A, Nos. 1 - 77, 1855-1857. Act of 1850: Volume B, Nos. 1 - 433, 1855-1867. Act of 1852: Volume B, Nos. 1 - 14, 1855-1857. Act of 1855: Volume 1, Nos. 1 - 1565, August 1855 - June 1856. Volume 2, Nos. 1566 - 3841, June-December 1856. Volume 3, Nos. 3842 - 5547, January-July 1857. Volume 4, Nos. 5548 - 6789, July-September 1857. Volume 5, Nos. 6790 - 11358, October 1857 - November 1895.
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Register of Sioux Half-breed Scrip Entries, 1857-1868. 1 volume.

Abstracts of land entries made in the Winona land district with Sioux half-breed scrip.

The Treaty of Prairie du Chien of 1831 set aside 320,819 acres of land near present-day Wabasha as a reserve for the Dakota mixed-bloods. They were expected to settle and take possession of the reserved tract, but this did not occur. As the surrounding area was opened for settlement, pressure arose to open the half-breed tract. The mixed-bloods' title to the tract was extinguished by dividing the reserve among the enrolled mixed bloods and issuing scrip to each individual in proportion to his or her share of the reserve.

A total of 640 individuals received scrip to the value of 480 acres, and 38 persons were issued scrip for 360 acres. The scrip could be used to locate land, surveyed or unsurveyed, anywhere in the public domain. By law the scrip could not be alienated, but this restriction was often evaded and much of the scrip was entered by someone other than the person to whom it was issued.

The abstract for each scrip entry gives entry or certificate number, number and letter of the scrip, date the scrip was issued, person to whom issued, person by whom the scrip was located, date located, legal description of the tract located, date a patent was issued, and volume and

page in which the patent is recorded in the General Land Office records. Some entries contain annotations on cancellations, relinquishments, and conflicting claims with citations to letters from the commissioner of the GLO.

Arrangement: Chronological by date of entry.

Location	Box	
114.I.4.7B-2	---	Register of Sioux Half-breed Scrip Entries, nos. 1-792, 1857-1868. 1 volume.

Register of Supreme Court Scrip Entries, 1875-1880. 1 oversize folder.

An abstract of land entries made in the Winona land district with "Supreme Court scrip" under provisions of acts of Congress of June 22, 1860, March 2, 1867, and June 10, 1872.

The act of June 22, 1860, was intended to settle the remaining claims of individuals or corporations that had received land grants from foreign powers prior to 1846 but whose title to the land had become clouded or lost. The act allowed the United States Supreme Court to decide these cases and to issue scrip, which could be redeemed for land elsewhere in the public domain, as compensation to those claimants who established the validity of their grants. This scrip, commonly known as "Supreme Court scrip," was transferable and most was entered by someone other than the person to whom it was originally issued. The acts of March 2, 1867, and June 10, 1872, extended the time in which these claims could be brought before the Supreme Court.

The abstract for each entry gives land office entry number, scrip number, acre/value of the scrip, date of the Supreme Court decree awarding the scrip, person to whom the scrip was issued, date the scrip was located (a land certificate was issued), legal description of the tract located, person who located the scrip, and occasional remarks with citations to letters from the commissioner of the General Land Office.

Arrangement: Arranged by chronologically assigned entry number.

Location	Box	
114.I.4.7B-2	---	Register of Supreme Court Scrip Entries, nos. 1-15, 1875-1880. 1 folder.

Register of Timber Culture Entries, 1886-1897. 1 volume.

An incomplete abstract of land entries (nos. 1940-2395) made in the Winona land district under provisions of the Timber Culture Act of March 3, 1873.

The intent of the Timber Culture Act was to encourage the planting of trees on the western prairies. The law enabled qualified individuals to acquire title to 160 acres of land on the condition that forty acres be planted to trees. Residence on the tract was not required. In the original act, the entryman was required to plant the entire 40 acres to trees in the first year after making entry. The time period was later extended to four years, and in 1878 the acreage was reduced to ten acres with a minimum of 2700 trees per acre at the time of planting and "675 living, thrifty trees" at the time of patenting. Timber culture entries could be "proved up" and patented after eight years. They could be made in addition to homestead or preemption entries. The Timber Culture Act was repealed in 1891.

The abstract for each timber culture entry gives application or entry number, date of application, legal description of the tract entered, acreage, name of the applicant and county of residence, and fees and commissions paid. Some entries include information on the date of final proof and the eventual disposition of the entry, with citations to letters from the commissioner of the General Land Office.

Entries made between 1873 and 1886 are missing.

Arrangement: Entries are chronological by date of application.

Location	Box	
114.I.4.4F-1	---	Register of Timber Culture Entries, nos. 1940-2395, 1886-1897. 1 volume.