The 1830 Removal Act allowed President Andrew Jackson to move Indians to land west of the Mississippi River. Army officers in the Office of the Commissary General of Subsistence in the War Department oversaw the removal process between 1830 and 1836. After 1836, the Bureau of Indian Affairs assumed responsibility for Indian removal.

The records in this edition primarily relate to the administrative details of removal. The majority of the documents were written and created by U.S. government officials involved in the removal process, however, there are also letters from individual Indians, and many of the reports by government officials contain extensive lists of Indian names.

The collection consists of four series.

**Letters Received [by the Office of the Commissary General of Subsistence from Army officers, disbursing officers, Indian agents, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and individual Indians] 1831–1836.**

Document types include correspondence, reports, petitions, muster rolls, journals of emigrating and exploring parties, account books, and records of disbursements and provisions issued. The files are arranged alphabetically by name of tribe. The tribes covered are Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek, Kickapoo, Ottawa, Potawatomi, Quapaw, Seminole, and Winnebago.

**Cherokee Removal Records, Eastern Cherokee Census Rolls, 1835–1884.**

The census rolls list the heads of Cherokee families that were removed. The lists include the name of the head of the family and their property holdings at the time of removal. The lists were made in order to determine eligibility for payments according to the terms of the December 1835 removal treaty with the Cherokees.

**Miscellaneous Cherokee Removal Records, 1820–ca.1854.**

This series includes correspondence, property valuations, receipts for payments, petitions, depositions, claims, powers of attorney concerning removal, and other items related to the changes in control of the land.

**Records of the First Board of Cherokee Commissioners, Decisions on Claims of Attorneys against the Cherokee Nation, 1837–1838.**

Article 10 of the December 1835 treaty with the Cherokees provided for the payment by the United States of claims from people who had provided services to the Cherokees. The decisions include summaries of the claims and evidence presented. The files are arranged chronologically by the date of the decision.
Letter from Captain J. B. Clark informing General George Gibson that he will be ready as soon as he is called to participate in the removal of the Choctaw Indians. This letter is indicative of the collection’s focus on the military and administrative details of Indian removal.

Indian Removal to the West, 1832–1840
Files of the Office of the Commissary General of Subsistence
19 reels PIN 0000101098
Source Note: Record Group 75, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Records of the Office of the Commissary General of Subsistence, Entries 201, 219, 222, and 235. Document image and photographs courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.