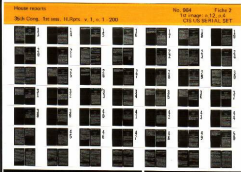


Congress and My Family History

Angela McComas
2010

U. S. Serial Set


- ◆ Started in 1817, with the Fourteenth Congress
- ◆ Continuous publication



U. S. Serial Set


◆ Purpose:

- ◆ Provide members of Congress and staff with information
- ◆ Provide a permanent record of Congressional work
- ◆ Influence public opinion



U. S. Serial Set

- ◆ Includes in chronological order:
 - ◆ Committee reports
 - ◆ Congressional Journals
 - ◆ Public and Private Bills
 - ◆ Court of Claims
 - ◆ Presidential messages
 - ◆ Investigations
 - ◆ Eulogies



U. S. Serial Set

- ◆ Public Bills – general usage
 - ◆ Pensions to groups of soldiers
 - ◆ Payment to state or territory
 - ◆ Public land sales
- ◆ Private Bills – specific usage
 - ◆ Pension increase to one soldier
 - ◆ Payment to town or county
 - ◆ Land disputes w/ individuals

American State Papers

- ◆ Bill enacted in 1830 to publish papers of the first Thirteen Congresses, 1789-1817
- ◆ Organized in ten subject groups

Foreign Relations	Indian Affairs
Military Affairs	Commerce/Navigation
Finance	Naval Affairs
Post Office Depts.	Public Lands
Claims	Miscellaneous

Examples

- ◆ Damages for losses during war
- ◆ Correction of a military record
- ◆ Increases to pensions
- ◆ Indian depredation claims
- ◆ Registering foreign land grant

Indexes

- ◆ CIS U.S. Serial Set Index – Finding Lists
 - ◆ First half is list of names, second list of bills
- ◆ Grassroots of America: An Index to the American State Papers, Land Grants and Claims, 1789-1837
 - ◆ Phillip W. McMullin
- ◆ Guide to American Indian Documents in the Congressional Serial Set, 1817-1899
- ◆ Biographical and Historical Index of American Indians and Persons Involved in Indian Affairs

Citations



◆ H.r.p. 26 (36-1) 964



Citations

House reports
36th Cong., 1st sess. H.Repts. v. 1, n. 1-200

No. 964 Fiche 2
1st sess. n. 12, p. 4
CIT. US SERIAL SET

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▶ H.rp. 20 (36-1) 964


Citations

H.rp. 20 (36-1) 964

****In Grassroots, this number is a page number, not Report number.**


What's next?

- ◆ Papers found in the Serial Set are summaries of action taken.
- ◆ Each deposition, each form of proof is filed with the bill in the National Archives in Washington, D.C.
- ◆ The Serial Set provides the citation needed to request copies of this information




What's next?

- ◆ National Archives did not receive documents for preservation until 1930's
- ◆ Housed in basements, attics and storage rooms, suffering from neglect, vermin, and pilferage
- ◆ Much from the House of Representatives was lost when the British burned the Capital in War of 1812



What's next?

- ◆ Records are not under the Freedom of Information Act, but the spirit of this act is enforced.
- ◆ Documents containing personal data are kept private for 30 (House) to 50 (Senate) years.



What's next?

- ◆ National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408
- ◆ Record Group 46 – Senate
- ◆ Record Group 233 – House of Representatives
- ◆ Record Group 128 – Joint Committees of Congress



What's next?

- ◆ Guide to the Records of the United States House of Representatives at the National Archives, 1789-1989
◆ Charles E. Schamel, et al.
- ◆ Guide to the Records of the United States Senate at the National Archives, 1789-1989
◆ Robert W. Coren, et al.

Internet Access

✦ <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lawhome.html>

Internet Access

Lexis Nexis

Internet Access

**Thank you.
Congress and My Family Research
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MidwestGenealogyCenter.org**

