

US Post Office, 1789-1901

Statutes, Resolutions, Treaties, Conventions

Don Heller, Aug. 2023

Files available now

Sign the list, or send me an email

- Total of 24 GB
- HTML, PDF, JPG
- dheller.aps @ yahoo.com

Files available next year

On the APRL website

- Waiting for completion (by me) and website redesign (by APRL)

Statutes and Resolutions, 1789-1901

from US Statutes at Large, 1845-1976

- A quick demo — [US-Statutes.html](#)
- Example - vol. 15

Statutes and Resolutions, 1789-1901

from US Statutes at Large, 1845-1976

- Plain dumb HTML with links to
 - locally-stored files (searchable PDF, JPG)
 - Internet-stored web pages (Google Books, Internet Archive, HathiTrust, Library of Congress, Congress.gov, etc.)
 - anything and everything related to the US Post Office
- Printing is not recommended! Currently 418 + 406 printed pages from the HTML files alone (statutes + related materials).

Statutes and Resolutions, 1789-1901

from US Statutes at Large, 1845-1976

- Public and Private
 - Broadly applicable, or limited scope
- Public Acts later codified into the Revised Statutes and US Code
 - but these leave out the appropriations and other time-limited acts, so we (mostly) don't include them

Highlights and Lowlights

A very short and very subjective list

Highlights

- Organizational acts, on a temporary basis
 - 22 Sep. 1789, ... , 3 Mar. 1791
- Organizational acts, on a permanent basis
 - 20 Feb. 1792, ... , 3 Mar. 1825, 3 Mar. 1845, etc.
- Flogging abolished in the Navy, 28 Sep. 1850

Highlights and Lowlights

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Lowlights

- Only free white persons may carry the mails
 - 3 May 1802, 30 Apr. 1810, 3 Mar. 1825; repealed, 3 Mar. 1865
- For want of a 5-cent revenue stamp ... , 27 July 1868
- The Comstock Act, 3 Mar. 1873
- Destruction of Post Office records authorized, 15 Mar. 1898

US History

that every student of postal history needs to know

- Presidents and Congresses, 1789-1901
- States and Territories, 1787-1959
- Constitution and Amendments, 1787-1992
- Congressional session dates
- additional materials that might be interesting
 - House and Senate journals, Congressional Record, etc.
- Example - 7 Aug. 1953, Ohio statehood

Treaties

from US Statutes at Large, 1845-1950, vol. 1-64

- Treaties establishing land acquisition and international boundaries, 1763-1900
- Indian Treaties with postal relevance, 1805-1868
- Additional material from US treaty series edited by Malloy (1910), Miller (1931-1948), Bevans (1968-1976)
- Since 1951, published in U. S. Treaties and Other International Agreements
- Example - 15 June 1846, Oregon country divided, from vol. 9

Postal Conventions

from US Statutes at Large, 1845-1950, vol. 1-64

- Postal conventions, and commercial and diplomatic treaties with postal import, from 1844 to 1949
 - including many not published in the Statutes at Large
 - with references to treaty series from Belgium, Britain, Denmark, Netherlands, and Sweden,
 - and the Postmaster General's Reports
- Example - 9 May 1871 through 27 July 1871, from vol. 17

Revenue Collection

1694-1902

- Stamp Office
- Stamped paper
- Stamp duties
- Revenue stamps

Coins, Paper Currency

1778-1901

- Mint, coinage
- Legal tender, National currency
- Foreign currency, exchange rates

Confederate States

1860-1870

- Secession dates
- Admission (to the Confederacy), Readmission (to the Union)
- State-level documents, secession conventions and ordinances, initial provisions for postal services
- Confederate postal legislation, Provisional Government
- Confederate postal legislation, Permanent Government
 - more than in Dietz and other philatelic sources

Today's Software Distribution

24 GB total

- Timeline of Philatelic Literature, 1830-1875
 - Actually starts with 1500
- Includes links to
 - US Postal Laws and Regulations
 - Postmaster General Reports
 - Lists of US Post Offices
- Lots of other stuff, esp. British and French, but not everything is included here

Today's Software Distribution

- The Crawford Catalogue
 - in support of the Timeline

Today's Software Distribution

- US Postal Guide, 1874-1954
- US Postmasters General, 1789-2020
- US Assistant Postmasters General, 1789-1875
- US Official Register, 1816-1959, with unofficial sources since 1785
- US Government Manual, 1935-2022
- American State Papers (Finance, Post Office, Miscellaneous)
 - documents from 1789 to 1838, published 1832-1834, 1858-1861
- The National Calendar, 1820-1836
- John Melish, geographical publisher, 1771-1822

Today's Software Distribution

- US Statutes, Resolutions, Treaties, Postal Conventions
- UK treaty collections
 - British and Foreign State Papers, 1825-1977
 - Hertslet's Commercial Treaties, 1820-1925
- Treaty collections from Belgium, Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden

Once more ...

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- Thanks for your attention, looking forward to your comments