

M2132

GENERAL CLAIMS AGAINST RUSSIA, 1807–1881

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National Archives and Records Administration  
Washington, DC  
2009

## INTRODUCTION

On the single roll of this microfilm publication, M2132, are reproduced records of five claims against Russia by U.S. citizens for indemnification of their losses. These records constitute the entire series, "General Claims Against Russia, 1807–1881," ARC Identifier 1142894,<sup>\*</sup> and has also been called Series 296, "Miscellaneous Claims Against Russia, 1801–1881," in George S. Ulibarri, comp., Preliminary Inventory 177, *Preliminary Inventory of Records Relating to International Claims* (Washington: National Archives and Records Service, 1974). These records are part of Records of Boundary and Claims Commissions and Arbitrations, Record Group (RG) 76.

## BACKGROUND

Claims of U.S. citizens against foreign governments and claims of foreign citizens or subjects against the U.S. Government are usually settled by direct diplomatic negotiation or—pursuant to the terms of treaties, conventions, or other international acts—by claims commissions, by arbitration, or by outright award. Before 1900, the United States and Russia had no treaty, convention, or other formalized agreement by which to settle claims by U.S. citizens.

## RECORDS DESCRIPTION

The records reproduced in this microfilm publication consist of correspondence, affidavits, statements of losses, and other documentary evidence, including printed testimony and other material, concerning five claims by U.S. citizens against Russia due to loss of property. There is no evidence of whether the claims were settled. The records are reproduced in this order:

Claim of Jacob C. Treadwell for destruction of cotton in Moscow by order of the Russian Government in 1811.

Claim of Eliphalet Lord and others for the vessel *Commerce*, seized in 1811.

Claim of Byrant and Sturgis for losses from the detention of the vessel *Pearl* in 1822.

Claim of Israel Thorndike for the capture of the vessel *Hector* in 1807 and loss of its cargo.

Claim of Benjamin W. Perkins (and subsequently by Anna B. Perkins, Administratrix) for damages and losses resulting from breaches of contracts made in 1855–56 for arms and powder.

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<sup>\*</sup> The Archival Research Catalog (ARC) is available for research online at [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov).

These records were filmed by National Archives in 2004 in response to a customer order. The National Archives retained a negative copy of the film, which was assigned the number M2132 in 2009 in order to issue it as a National Archives microfilm publication.

### **RELATED RECORDS**

A related series, "Index to General Claims Against Russia, 1807–1881," ARC Identifier 1142891, is a small card index. There is a master card for each vessel or claim and a cross-reference card for each claimant. A master card usually contains the name of the vessel or claim and a brief statement concerning the nature of the claim. A cross-reference card usually shows only the name of a claimant and a reference to the master card.