

EARLY PATENT INFORMATION IN THE UNITED STATES SERIAL SET

Background

The United States of America issued its first patent on July 31, 1790 to Samuel Hopkins of Pittsford, Vermont. The Hopkins patent, on a method of "Making Pot and Pearl Ashes" for use in manufacturing soap, was the first in a series of 9,957 unnumbered patents that were referenced only by the inventor's name and issue date. These early patents were retroactively given serial numbers beginning with an "X" in order to distinguish them from a second, numbered series that began in July 1836, and are often referred to as the "X" patents.

Sixty years to the day from the *Declaration of Independence*, on July 4, 1836, a bill creating a new U.S. patent system was passed by Congress and signed into law. In order to distinguish those patents issuing under the new system, a new series of unique identification numbers were added to all subsequent patents. The first patent in the new series, US Patent 1, issued on July 13, 1836, to Senator John Ruggles of Maine for a locomotive steam engine. Senator Ruggles was an inventor in addition to being one of the architects of the new patent system, and was co-author of the 1836 patent bill.

On the morning of December 15, 1836, a fire began in the basement of the building housing both the Patent Office and the General Post Office. Lost in the fire were more than 10,000 patents -- all that had issued to that date -- plus all of the papers, books, and models stored in the Patent Office. Only 2,845 of the patents in the earlier unnumbered series were recovered from copies sent in by their inventors.

Finding Lists for Early Unnumbered Patents and Patentees

Year(s)	Serial Set-Rpt/Doc No.
1790 - 1804	American State Papers (ASP) 037-193
1790 - 1829	207-50
May 1st, 1805 - December 28th, 1810	American State Papers (ASP) 038-284
December 28th, 1810 - January 1st, 1812	American State Papers (ASP) 038-308
January 1st, 1812 - January 1st, 1813	American State Papers (ASP) 038-333
December 31st, 1812 - January 1st, 1814	American State Papers (ASP) 038-358
December 31st, 1813 - January 1st, 1815	American State Papers (ASP) 038-383

1817	7-48
1818	20-78
1819	33-35
1820	51-46
1821	64-18
1822	78-36
1823	94-25
1824	114-28
1825	133-22
1826	149-27
1827	170-34
1828	185-59
1829	195-16
1830	207-49
1790-1829	207-50
1831	217-39
1832	235-130
1833	255-58
1834	272-55
1835	288-64

Numbered Utility Patents

Year	Patent Numbers	Serial Set-Rpt/Doc No. (Locked Case)	Locked Case by SuDocs Number	CIS Serial Set on microfiche
1836	1-109	304-174		
1837	110-545	315-105		
..same	110-545	325-112		
1838	546-1060	346-80		
1839	1061-1464	356-111		
..same	1061-1464	365-106		
1840	1465-1922	378-152		
1841	1923-2412	402-74		

1842	2413-2900	420-109		
1843	2901-3394	442-177		
1844	3395-3872	451-75		
1845	3873-4347	484-140		
1846	4348-4913	499-52		
1847	4914-5408	519-54		
1848	5409-5992	542-59		
1849	5993-6980	555-15		
1850	6981-7864	600-32		
1851	7865-8621	624-118		
"	..same	645-102		
1852	8622-9511	682-65		
1853	9512-10357	696-27		
"	..same	719-39		
1854	10358-12116	753-42		
"	..same	785-59		
"	.illustrations	754-42		
"	..same	786-59		
1855	12117-14007	848-12		
"	.illustrations	849-12		
1856	14008-16323	882-53		
"	...continued	883-53		
"	..same	902-65		
"	...continued	903-65		
"	.illustrations	884-53		
"	..same	904-65		
1857	16324-19009	951-32		
"	...continued	952-32		
"	.illustrations	953-32		
1858	19010-22476	1009-105		
"	...continued	1010-105		
"	.illustrations	1011-105		
1859	22477-26641	1029-12		
"	.illustrations	1030-12		
1860	26642-31004	1083-7		

"	.illustrations	1084-7		
1861	31005-34044	1132-53		
"	.illustrations	1133-53		
1862	34045-37265	1166-52	I 23.1/1:862/v.1	
"	.illustrations	1167-52		
1863	37266-41046	1191-60	I 23.1/1:863/v.1	
"	.illustrations	1192-60	I 23.1/1:863/v.2	
1864	41047-45684	1225-51	I 23.1/1:864/v.1	
"	.illustrations	1226-51	I 23.1/1:864/v.2	
1865	45685-51783	1257-52		
"	...continued	1258-52		
"	.illustrations	1259-52		
1866	51784-60657	1298-109		
"	...continued	1299-109		
"	.illustrations	1300-109		
1867	60658-72958	1333-96		
"	...continued	1334-96		
"	.illustrations	1335-96		
"	...continued	1336-96		
1868	72959-85502	1375-52		
"	...continued	1376-52		
"	.illustrations	1377-52		
"	...continued	1378-52		
1869	85503-98459	1420-102	I 23.1/1:869/v.4	
"	...continued	1421-102		
"	.illustrations	1422-102		
1870		1455		
1871		1511		
1872		1564		
1873		1583		
1874		1648		
1875		1685		
1876		1754		
1877		1805		
1878		1855	I 23.1/1:878	

1879		1916		
1880		1965		
1881		2024		
1882		2109	C 21.1/2:882	
1883		2202	C 21.1/2:883 I 23.1/1:883	
1884		2313	C 21.1/2:884	
1885		2344		
1886		2492	I 23.1/1:886	
1887		2569		
1888				2658
1889		2699		
1890		2822		
1891		2906	I 23.1/1:891	
1892		3066	I 23.1/1:892 C 21.5/2:892	
1893		3173	C 21.5/2:893	
1894		3334	C 21.5/2:894	
1895		3356	C 21.5/2:895	
1896		3472	I 23.1/1:896	
1897		3609		
1898		3733	C 21.5/2:898	
1899		3855	C 21.5/2:899	

Year	Patent Numbers	Serial Set-Rpt/Doc No. (Locked Case)	Open Stacks	CIS Serial Set on microfiche
1900		4041		
1901		4232		
1902		4527		
1903		4607	C 21.1/2:903	

1904			C 21.1/2:904 I 23.1/1:904	
1905		5030	C 21.1/2:905	
1906		5198	C 21.1/2:906	
1907		5311		
1908			C 21.1/2:908 I 23.1/1:908	
1909			C 21.1/2:909 I 23.1/1:909	
1910			C 21.1/2:910 I 23.1/1:910	
1911		6256	C 21.1/2:911	
1912		6427	C 21.1/2:912 I 23.1/1:912	
1913			I 23.1/1:913	
1914		6834	C 21.1/2:914	
1915		7034	C 21.1/2:915	
1916		7186	C 21.1/2:916	
1917			I 23.1/1:917	
1918			C 21.1/2:918 I 23.1/1:918	
1919		7716	C 21.1/2:919	
1920		7819-20 ?		
1921		8044		
1922			I 23.1/1:922	
1923			I 23.1/1:923	
1924			I 23.1/1:924	

Design Patents

Patent No.	Serial Set-Rpt/Doc No.	Year
------------	------------------------	------

1-14		1843
15-26		1844
27-43	484-140	1845
44-102	499-52	1846
209-257	555-15	1849
258-346	600-32	1850
341-430 (reprints nos. 341 to 346)	624-118	1851
431-539	682-65	1852
540-625	696-27	1853
..same	719-39	"
626-682	753-42	1854
..same	785-59	"
683-752	848-12	1855
...continued	849-12	"
753-859	882-53	1856
...continued	883-53	"
860-972	951-32	1857
...continued	952-32	"
973-1074	1009-105	1858
...continued	1010-105	"
1075-1182	1029-12	1859
1183-1365	1083-7	1860
1366-1507	1132-53	1861
1508-1702	1166-52	1862
1703-1878	1191-60	1863
1879-2017	1225-51	1864
2018-2238	1257-52	1865
2239-2532	1298-109	1866
...continued	1299-109	"
2533-2857	1333-96	1867
...continued	1334-96	"
2858-3303	1375-52	1868
...continued	1376-52	"
3304-3809	1420-102	1869
...continued	1421-102	"

Agriculture Patents

Year	Serial Set-Rpt/Doc No.
1849	556-15
..same	575-20
1850	601-32
1851	625-118
..same	646-102
1852	667-55
..same	683-65
1853	697-27
..same	720-39
1854	755-42
..same	787-59
1855	818-20
..same	850-12
1856	885-53
..same	905-65
1857	928-30
..same	954-32
1858	988-47
..same	1012-105
1859	1028-11
1860	1099-48
1861	1122-39

Other source documents for historical research in United States patent documents include:

Serial 207, Document 50, issued in 1830, contains a list of all U.S. patents granted through 1829, arranged by broad classes and the patentees within each class.

A List of Patents for Inventions and Designs, Issued by the United States from 1790 to 1847. Washington: 1847.

A List of Patents Granted by the United States from April 10, 1790, to December 31, 1836, with An Appendix Containing Reports on the Condition of the Patent Office in 1823, 1830, and 1831. Washington: 1872.

Subject Matter Index of Patents for Inventions Issued by the United States Patent Office from 1790 to 1873, Inclusive. Washington: GPO, 1874. (3 vols.)

National Archives and Records Services, General Services Administration. *Additional Improvement Patents, 1837 - 1861.* Paulauskas, James A., ed. Washington: 1977. (Special List No. 39)

Women Inventors to Whom Patents Have Been Granted by the United States Government 1790 to July 1, 1888. Washington: GPO, 1888.

Women Inventors to Whom Patents Have Been Granted by the United States Government July 1, 1888 to October 1, 1892: Appendix No. 1. Washington: GPO, 1892.

Women Inventors to Whom Patents Have Been Granted by the United States Government October 1, 1892 to March 1, 1895: Appendix No. 2. Washington: GPO, 1895.

Researchers interested in further information should also consult the *Checklist of United States Public Documents, 1789-1909* in Documents/Microforms Reference, and the *CIS U.S. Serial Set Index* in Documents Indexes or the *Congressional Universe* database on the Marriott Library Web machines.

This list was compiled from reference sources in the former Documents/Microforms Division of the University of Utah's Marriott Library, and the former Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program Office of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). The list is in progress, and should not be considered complete. Additions and corrections are appreciated, and may be sent to:

Dave Morrison
J. Willard Marriott Library, University of Utah
295 S. 1500 E.
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

(801)585-6802
dave.morrison@utah.edu

dml/may88/rev. Oct2013