



EARLY U.S. PATENT DATA 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, a method of “Making Pot and Pearl Ashes” for use in manufacturing soap, was the first in an unnumbered series of 9,957 patents referenced only by the inventor’s name and issue date. These early patents – often referred to as the “X” patents – were later given serial numbers with an “X” prefix to distinguish them from a second, sequentially-numbered series that began in July 1836.

On July 4, 1836, sixty years to the day from the *Declaration of Independence*, a bill creating a new United States 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 was issued on July 13, 1836, to Senator John Ruggles of Maine for a locomotive steam engine; this was patent number one in the United States. Senator Ruggles was an inventor in addition to being one of Maine’s senators and 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 – most of them the unnumbered patents 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		304
1837	110-545	315-105		315
..same	110-545	325-112		325
1838	546-1060	346-80		346
1839	1061-1464	356-111		356
..same	1061-1464	365-106		365
1840	1465-1922	378-152		378
1841	1923-2412	402-74		402
1842	2413-2900	420-109		420
1843	2901-3394	442-177		442
1844	3395-3872	451-75		451
1845	3873-4347	484-140		484
1846	4348-4913	499-52		499
1847	4914-5408	519-54		519
1848	5409-5992	542-59		542
1849	5993-6980	555-15		555
1850	6981-7864	600-32		600
1851	7865-8621	624-118		624
“	..same	645-102		645
1852	8622-9511	682-65		682
1853	9512-10357	696-27		696
“	..same	719-39		719
1854	10358-12116	753-42		753
“	..same	785-59		785

Year	Patent Numbers	Serial Set-Rpt/Doc No. (Locked Case)	Locked Case by SuDocs Number	CIS Serial Set on microfiche
“	.illustrations	754-42		754
“	..same	786-59		786
1855	12117-14007	848-12		848
“	.illustrations	849-12		849
1856	14008-16323	882-53		882
“	...continued	883-53		883
“	..same	902-65		902
“	...continued	903-65		903
“	.illustrations	884-53		884
“	..same	904-65		904
1857	16324-19009	951-32		951
“	...continued	952-32		952
“	.illustrations	953-32		953
1858	19010-22476	1009-105		1009
“	...continued	1010-105		1010
“	.illustrations	1011-105		1011
1859	22477-26641	1029-12		1029
“	.illustrations	1030-12		1030
1860	26642-31004	1083-7		1083
“	.illustrations	1084-7		1084
1861	31005-34044	1132-53		1132
“	.illustrations	1133-53		1133
1862	34045-37265	1166-52	I 23.1/1:862/v.1	1166
“	.illustrations	1167-52		1167
1863	37266-41046	1191-60	I 23.1/1:863/v.1	1191
“	.illustrations	1192-60	I 23.1/1:863/v.2	1192
1864	41047-45684	1225-51	I 23.1/1:864/v.1	1225
“	.illustrations	1226-51	I 23.1/1:864/v.2	1226

Year	Patent Numbers	Serial Set-Rpt/Doc No. (Locked Case)	Locked Case by SuDocs Number	CIS Serial Set on microfiche
1865	45685-51783	1257-52		1257
“	...continued	1258-52		1258
“	.illustrations	1259-52		1259
1866	51784-60657	1298-109		1298
“	...continued	1299-109		1299
“	.illustrations	1300-109		1300
1867	60658-72958	1333-96		1333
“	...continued	1334-96		1334
“	.illustrations	1335-96		1335
“	...continued	1336-96		1336
1868	72959-85502	1375-52		1375
“	...continued	1376-52		1376
“	.illustrations	1377-52		1377
“	...continued	1378-52		1378
1869	85503-98459	1420-102	I 23.1/1:869/v.4	1420
“	...continued	1421-102		1421
“	.illustrations	1422-102		1422
1870	98460-110616	1455		1455
1871	110617-122303	1511		1511
1872	122304-134503	1564		1564
1873	134504-146119	1583		1583
1874	146120-158349	1643		1643
1875	158350-171640	1685		1685
1876	171641-185812	1754		1754
1877	185813-198732	1805		1805
1878	198733-211077	1855	I 23.1/1:878	1855
1879	211078-223210	1916		1916
1880	223211-236136	1965		1965

Year	Patent Numbers	Serial Set-Rpt/Doc No. (Locked Case)	Locked Case by SuDocs Number	CIS Serial Set on microfiche
1881	236137-251684	2024		2024
1882	251685-269819	2109	C 21.1/2:882	2109
1883	269820-291015	2202	C 21.1/2:883 I 23.1/1:883	2202
1884	291016-310162	2313	C 21.1/2:884	2313
1885	310163-333493	2344		2344
1886	333494-355290	2492	I 23.1/1:886	2492
1887	355291-375719	2569		2569
1888	375720-395304			2658
1889	395305-418664	2699		2699
1890	418665-443986	2822		2822
1891	443987-466314	2906	I 23.1/1:891	2906
1892	466315-488975	3066	C 21.5/2:892 I 23.1/1:892	3066
1893	488976-511743	3173	C 21.5/2:893	3173
1894	511744-531618	3334	C 21.5/2:894	3334
1895	531619-552501	3356	C 21.5/2:895	3356
1896	552502-574368	3472	I 23.1/1:896	3472
1897	574369-596466	3609		3609
1898	596467-616870	3733	C 21.5/2:898	3733
1899	616871-640166	3855	C 21.5/2:899	3855

Year	Patent Numbers	Serial Set-Rpt/Doc No. (Locked Case)	Open Stacks	CIS Serial Set on microfiche
1900	640167-664826	4041		4041
1901	664827-690384	4232		4232
1902	690385-717520	4527		4527
1903	717521-748566	4607	C 21.1/2:903	4607

Year	Patent Numbers	Serial Set-Rpt/Doc No. (Locked Case)	Open Stacks	CIS Serial Set on microfiche
1904	748567-778833	4856	C 21.1/2:904 I 23.1/1:904	4856
1905	778834-808617	5030	C 21.1/2:905	5030
1906	808618-839798	5198	C 21.1/2:906	5198
1907	839799-875678	5311		5311
1908	875679-908435		C 21.1/2:908 I 23.1/1:908	5477
1909	908436-945009	5768	C 21.1/2:909 I 23.1/1:909	5768
1910	945010-980177	6020	C 21.1/2:910 I 23.1/1:910	6020
1911	980178-1013094	6256	C 21.1/2:911	6256
1912	1013095-1049325	6427	C 21.1/2:912 I 23.1/1:912	6427
1913	1049326-1083266		I 23.1/1:913	6691
1914	1083267-1123211	6834	C 21.1/2:914	6834
1915	1123212-1166418	7034	C 21.1/2:915	7034
1916	1166419-1210388	7186	C 21.1/2:916	7186
1917	1210389-1251457		I 23.1/1:917	7388
1918	1251458-1290026		C 21.1/2:918 I 23.1/1:918	7520
1919	1290027-1326898	7716	C 21.1/2:919	7716
1920	1326899-1364062			7847
1921	1364064-1401947	8044		8044
1922	1401948-1440361		I 23.1/1:922	8188
1923	1440362-1478995		I 23.1/1:923	8329
1924	1478996-1521589		I 23.1/1:924	8485

Design Patents

Patent No.	Serial Set-Rpt/Doc No.	Year
1-14	433-150	1843
15-26	451-75	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

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

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 Desk Reference, and either 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 Documents and Microforms Division of the University of Utah's Marriott Library, and the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program Office of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The list is in progress, and should not be considered complete. Additions and corrections are appreciated, and may be sent to:

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