Belt, Robert V. Papers, 1885–1898. .33 foot. Government employee and attorney. Five letter books (1885–1898) containing correspondence from Belt, an assistant commissioner of Indian affairs, to government officials regarding the administration of federal Indian policy and legal matters of his private law practice.

Part One: Copies of correspondence, etc. of R.V. Belt while in the Office of Indian Affairs.

Other than personal correspondence, which includes some of the Belt genealogy, there is also routine office correspondence. The copies of correspondence in this section include: loose memoranda; correspondence with various members of the Department of the Interior, Indian Division; C.C. Painter of the Indian Rights Association; memoranda on Oklahoma County, i.e. portion of Oklahoma Territory ceded by the Seminole and Creek Nations under the Treaty of 1866; Seger Colony of Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians and the investigation of it; memorandum and correspondence concerning Nooksack Indians; Indian schools and education; selling of liquor in Indian Territory; laws relating to various land cessions by some of the Five Civilized Tribes; workings of the Division of Indian Affairs, employment, salaries, and positions; Murphy Case, Fond du Lac Reservoir; Sioux Commission; Indian lands; employment of Indians in the Department of Interior. Other materials are concerned with various other subjects including: church work of the Methodist-Episcopal church and the Home Missionary Society; Civil War units, Purnell Legion, Maryland Volunteer Company A, Purnell Legion, Maryland Cavalry, First (McIntosh's) Brig. of the Second (Gregg's) Cavalry Division, Battle of Gettysburg, 8th Maryland Volunteers; and correspondence concerning pensions for Civil War veterans.

There is also a number of letters, etc. to various prominent Congressmen of this period. These letters are concerned mainly with Indian affairs. Among the Indian tribes and groups mentioned are: Ute, Cheyenne, Arapaho, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Seminole, Indians in Alaska, Osage, Sioux, and Pueblo.

Part Two: Correspondence, etc. from Belt while he was an attorney at law, May 1893 - October 22, 1898.

The majority of the legal work of Belt during this period was in the realm of Indian claims or concerned with the Indian reservations or land. These were with regard to claims by the Indians, for the Indians, against the Indians and with personnel in the Indian Service.
Some of the areas dealt with Indians concerned with: rights to cut timber; various types of land claims; Indian annuities; Indian schools and education; bids and contracts for various items for different reservations; bids for building contracts on the various reservations; patents; the Penny case; Indian Traders Licenses.

More specific areas concerned with in this legal correspondence with the following Indian tribes: Kaw, Ute, Cheyenne and Arapaho, Choctaw Nation, Yakima, Shoshone, Cherokee (western and eastern), Oto Missouri, Sioux--various bands including Sisseton, Wahpeton, and other bands, Mescalaro Apaches, Kickapoo, Chippewa, Pawnee, Kiowa, Klamoth, Quapaw, Pottawatomie, Miami, Clatsops and Tillamook, Chickasaw, Oneida, Wyandotte, Sac and Fox, Senecas, Catawka, Omaha. And other specific areas mentioned are: Digger Indians; Northern Pacific Railroad; Cherokee freedmen; Devils Lake Reservation; irregularities at Pine Ridge Reservation; Ft. Spokane; Choctaw and Chickasaw freedmen; Ft. Meade; Cherokee Nation "Old Settlers"; Dawes Commission; Mexican and Civil War Veterans' pensions; and part of the Civil War Record of Co. B, Purnell Legion Cavalry and Co. H, 8th Infantry Maryland Volunteers.

Pressed Letter Copy Books of Robert V. Belt, late chief of Indian Division, Assistant Indian Commissioner, Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and attorney at law.

**Five Books:** July 28, 1885 - December 9, 1893
May 1, 1895 - October 22, 1898

**Part One:**
Book 1: July 28, 1885 - April 11, 1893 and the first six pages of Book 2,
April 13, 1893 - December 9, 1893 are copies of correspondence, etc. written while Mr. Belt was in the Office of Indian Affairs.

**Part Two:**
The remainder of Book 2 - Book 5, May 1893 - December 1893 and May 1893 - December 9, 1893 and May 1895 - October 22, 1898 deal with Belt's private law practice.

All but a few pages of correspondence is written by R.V. Belt.

Books Two through Five have an index of the correspondence by the correspondent's names.
BOOK ONE: July 28, 1885 - April 11, 1893

1) Memoirs (loose) n.d., ca. 1885 possibly by the Secretary of Interior.
   a) population given as about 260,000.
   b) conditions and conduct of various Indian Tribes.
      1. Chirichahua Apaches.
      2. Cheyennes of the Indian Territory.
      4. Piutes.
      5. Conversion of a portion of Old Winnebago and Crow Creek Reservations to public domain via Executive Order, February 27, 1885.
   c) Unlawful intrusion upon and invasion of the rights of Indians as a cause of Indians troubles.
   d) Breaking up of tribal relations.
   e) Citizenship
   f) Indian youth.
   g) Indian Land Policy
   h) Living conditions on reservations.

2) Letter copies, by number.
   #383  Robert V. Belt to E.D. Bannister, July 28, 1885.
   #388-9 Belt to Col. R.S. Gardner, July 28, 1885.
   #1  Belt, office correspondence
   #2-6 Belt, personal correspondence
   #7  Belt, office correspondence
   #8  Belt to Hon. John Oberly, March 6, 1886. re: Oberly's position on the Civil Service Commission.
   #9-10 Office correspondence
   #13-14 Belt to The Herald Bureau, March 30, 1886. re: article concerning Cherokee Land Strip and Treaty of July 18, 1866.
   #15-19 Belt, personal correspondence.
   #20-25 Belt, office correspondence.
   #26-27 Belt to Mr. C.C. Painter (Corresponding Secretary, Indian Rights Assoc.), August 3, 1886. re: removal of Major Wright of Rosebud Agency, South Dakota; Bill for Relief of A.J. carrier.
   #28  Belt, Office correspondence
   #29-30 Belt to J.C. Harkness, deceased, n.d.
   #31-35 Belt, personal correspondence.
   #36-38 Belt to Hon. H.M. Teller, February 8, 1887. re: petitions to Senate for passage of the bill granting a charter to the Washington Cable Railroad Company.
   #39  Belt, personal correspondence.
#40-42 Belt, Office correspondence.
#43-45 Belt, personal correspondence.
#46-52 Belt, office correspondence.
#53 Belt, personal correspondence.
#54 Belt, November 26, 1887. re: employment of Indians in the Department of Interior.
#55-57 Belt, personal correspondence.
#58-64 Belt, office correspondence.
#65-66 Belt, personal correspondence.
#67 Belt, office correspondence.
#68 Belt to Hon. J.K. Jones, June 20, 1888. re: concerning enclosed memorandum on Oklahoma County.
#69-74 Belt, memorandum on Oklahoma County. re: portion of Oklahoma Territory ceded by Seminole and Creek Nations under and by Treaties of 1866.
#75 Belt, personal correspondence.
#76-78 Belt to Capt. R.H. Pratt, July 12, 1888. re: Sioux Commission and Sioux Reservations.
#79 Belt, office correspondence.
#80-81 Belt to C.C. Painter, August 2, 1888. re: Seger Colony of Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians in the Indian Territory and the Department's investigation of it.
#85-86 Belt to Mrs. H.M. Teller, November 6, 1888. re: Neunksack Indians and Lummi Reservation and memorandum on this.
#87-88 Belt memorandum on Nooksack Indians.
#90 Belt to Hon. H. Price, December 4, 1888. re: laws regulating selling of liquor in the Indian Territory.
#91-95 Belt to Hon. James K. Prince, December 6, 1888. re: extracts from treaties and laws regarding land ceded by Creeks, Seminoles, Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians in the Indian Territory.
#100 Belt to Mrs. H.M. Teller, December 26, 1888. re: educational provisions for Indians in Alaska.
#101-110 Belt's length of service, capacity; history seeking position of Indian school; superintendent or Assistant Commissioner of Indian Affairs.
#118 Signed letter of recommendation for R.V. Belt by ex-Secretary of the Interior I.J. Kirkwood.
#119-120 Signed letter of recommendation for R.V. Belt by L.Q.C. Lamar, Justice of Supreme Court and ex-Secretary of the Interior.
#121 Signed letter of recommendation for R.V. Belt by H. Price, ex-Commissioner of Indian Affairs.
#122-123 Signed letter of recommendation for R.V. Belt by H.L. Muldrow, Asst. Secretary of the Interior.
#124-124a Signed letter of recommendation for R.V. Belt by W. F. Vilas, ex-Secretary of the Interior.
#149 Belt to George Bird Grinnell, April 17, 1889. re: Grinnell's charges against Agent Baldwin of the Blackfeet Indian Agency.

#173-175 Belt to Capt. R.H. Pratt, Supt. Carlisle Indian Training School, January 8, 1890. re: Carlisle School.

#200-201 Belt to Dr. D. Dorchester, Supt. of Indian Schools, April 4, 1899. re: education of Pueblo and Apache Indians.

#210-212 Belt to Dorchester, May 29, 1890. re: Indian education.

#240-242 Belt to Mrs. S.E. Coleman, January 3, 1891. re: Belt genealogy.

#272-277 Belt genealogy.

#282-291 Belt to his wife, August 11, 1890. re: description of trip west through Nebraska, Colorado, Utah, California and San Francisco.

#311-315 Belt to Dr. Dorchester, August 10, 1891. re: Indian education, schools and school personnel.


#324 Belt to B.H. Miller, November 23, 1891. re: Murphy case, Fond du Lack Reservoir.

#338-339 Belt to Sen. H.L Dawes, May 13, 1892. re: Dawes presentation of the Choctaw and Chickasaw case in the Senate.

#342-352 Belt, memorandum on the Choctaw and Chickasaw case, May 28, 1892. re: Indian Appropriation Bill of March 3, 1891 and history leading up to this bill.

#367-368 Belt to Capt. Pratt, June 29, 1892. re: Indian Appropriation Bill.

#369-378 Belt speech "Our Country."

#405-407 Belt genealogy.

#431-433 Belt to Capt. William E. Dougherty, April 4, 1893. re: Indian agent, etc., Round Valley Agency.

#435-436 Belt to C.F. Merserve, April 7, 1893. re: Civil Service of Politics and Indian School Service.

BOOK TWO: April 13, 1893 - December 9, 1893.

1) Letter copies, by number.

    #2-4 Conditions of Digger Indians on Round Valley Agency and other California Agencies.
    #9-10 Rights to cut timber on the reservation.
    #16-20,191 Sac and Fox Indian lands, history of and claims.
    #21,22, 49-51, 182

    #29-31, Choctaw and Sioux Indians.
#42-43, 96. Land ceded to Northern Pacific Railroad in Montana.
137-139, 142.

#53, 202 Allotments and/or patents for Cheyenne and Arapahoe.

#56-58, 247-248, 306. Claims against Cheyenne and Arapahoe.

#65-66, Choctaw Nation.
149-152, 180-181, 251, 396.

#67-68, Yakima Reservation, land claims.

#99, Shoshone Reservation, personal claims.
104-105.

#108-114 Belt tells proper procedures for securing an attorney for Indian claims.

#119-120, Cherokee freedmen.
157-158.

#127-129, Osage
200-201, 408.

#130-133, Oto and Missouri Tribes, personal claims.
220-224.

#159-160 Cherokee Nation.

#177-178 Sisseton and Wahpeton Indians of Devils Lake Reservation, restoration of annuities.

#185-186 Cherokee, Carolina claims.

#194-196, Kickapoo Indians.
203-206.

#344-347, Chippewa Indians.
383-384, 419-420,
This is an incomplete inventory.

BOOK THREE: May 1, 1895 - April 9, 1896.

1) Index of names, Round Valley Reservation, California.
2) Claims, contracts, annuities, timber rights, land rights, and patents.
3) Klamath Indians.
4) Irregularities at Pine Ridge Reservoir, Capt. Chas. G. Penny; Mr. Cadman, Inspector; Mr. Dickinson, Special Agent. Charges presented by Dickinson against Penny as made by Howell Morgan; also involved in correspondence with Mr. George P. Comer and a Mr. Smith.
5) Cherokee.
6) Ft. Spokane.
7) Pensions.
8) Clatsops and Tillamook Indians.
9) The state of accounts of various Indian tribes.
10) Eastern band of Cherokees in North Carolina, large amount of correspondence.
11) Mexican War and Civil War Pensions.
12) Choctaw freedmen.
13) Choctaw and Chickasaw freedmen.
14) Various Indian schools and education.
15) Letters to various senators concerning Belt's cases.
16) Oneida.
17) Dawes Commission.
18) Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.
19) Sioux, various agencies, claims.

BOOK FOUR: March 1, 1896 - January 25, 1897.

1) Index of correspondence by correspondent's names.
2) Wyandotte.
3) Sac and Fox.
4) Cheyenne-Arapahoe.
5) Eastern Band of Cherokee in North Carolina.
6) Dawes Commission Bill.
7) Freedmen of Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, a great deal of information concerning these.
8) Indian schools and education.
9) Senecas and Sioux.
10) Contracts, a great deal of information.
11) Law business, other than that dealings with Indians.
12) Ft. Meade, South Dakota.
13) Penny case.
14) Some letters concerning Cherokee Removal.
15) Dawes Commission.
16) Part of Civil War Record of Col. B. Purnell, Legion Cavalry and Co. H., 8th Infantry, Maryland Volunteers.
17) Correspondence concerning Belt's attempt to gain appointment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs in McKinley's administration.
18) Indian Trader's license.

BOOK FIVE: January 26, 1897 - October 22, 1898.

1) Index.
2) Oto-Missouri.
3) Choctaw Freedmen and legislation, a great deal of information.
4) Sac and Fox.
5) Cheyenne and Arapahoe.
6) Various Sioux Reservations.
7) Osage.
8) Omaha.
9) Chippewa.
10) Ute.
11) Indian schools and education, physical plants.
12) Pensions.
13) Correspondence to various Congressmen. re: Indian claims and legislation.
14) Mescalaro Apache.