

Native American/Western Photograph Collection

P23 is an artificial collection of 148 photographic images consisting of glass plate negatives, cabinet cards, and assorted prints of: Native American peoples in Indian Territory, Oklahoma "Boomer" settlers and towns, western cowboys, and scenes from the 1890 massacre at Wounded Knee. The images date from the late-1880s through the early-1900s. The Indian tribes represented in the collection include the Ponca, Kiowa, Comanche, Osage, Pawnee, Apache, Cherokee, Sac and Fox, Otoe and Sioux.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Artificial Collection

Title: Native American/Western photograph collection

Dates: circa 1880-1901

Size: 1.7 linear feet, 6 boxes

Location: P23

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: Unrestricted access.

Additional physical form available: The entire of collection of 148 images has been digitized and can be accessed via the Library website. In addition, prints have been made from 10 of the glass negatives (see: box 1, folder 9).

Related collections in other repositories:

Cunningham-Prettyman Collection, Robert Cunningham Collection, Western History Collections - University of Oklahoma Libraries
Robert E. Cunningham Oklahoma History Collection, Donald C. and Elizabeth E. Research Center, National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.

Acquisition information: Three albums containing cabinet cards and prints were gifted to Missouri Valley Special Collections by a Mrs. J. M. Curtice in July of 1928—as noted in one of the album pages. The provenance of the glass plate negatives and Wounded Knee photographs is unknown, but they may have been donated along with the aforementioned albums.

Custodial history: Three albums containing prints and cabinet cards were part of a personal collection donated by Mrs. J. M. Curtice, and were originally classed in the regular book collection. The fifteen Wounded Knee photographs were added to the Wild West Collection (P2) in the early 1990s. During the same period, the glass plate negative collection was partially processed--each plate placed in a protective sleeve and labeled--before scanning and cataloging of the images began in 2005. Scanning and cataloging of the collection was completed in 2007 by librarian Jeremy Drouin.

Citation note: Native American/Western photograph collection (P23), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Collection Description

Scope and content note

The collection consists of primarily glass plate negatives, cabinet/boudoir cards and assorted photographic prints of Native American peoples in Indian Territory, scenes from the Pine Ridge Agency during the 1890 standoff at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, and Oklahoma "Boomer" settlers and settlements. The dates of the images range from the late-1880s through the early-1900s. The principal tribes represented in the collection include the Ponca, Kiowa, Comanche, Apache, Pawnee, Osage, Cherokee, Sac and Fox, Otoe and Sioux.

The images that comprise P23 were originally three separate collections. The first component is consisted of three albums containing photographic prints, cabinet cards and art prints donated to Missouri Valley Special Collections by Mrs. J.M. Curtice in July 1928. One of the books, a photographic album entitled *Collection of Oklahoma Indian and Cowboy Views*, published by Prettyman & Cornish, Arkansas City, KS, contains twenty-four 4" x 7" black and white prints mounted on twelve 5" x 8" double-sided pages. The images show scenes around Guthrie, Oklahoma during the period of the April 22, 1889 land rush--including early settlers and ranch scenes. Also included are photographs of Ponca, Pawnee and Osage Indians--including portraits and scenes of reservation life in Indian Territory.

The publishers of the book, William S. Prettyman and his protégé George B. Cornish, were prominent western photographers based in Arkansas City, KS during the late-1880s. Prettyman made several trips into Indian Territory photographing many of the principal chiefs of the Osage, Comanche, Otoe, Sac and Fox and Pawnee tribes. He was also a witness to the early land openings in Oklahoma and photographed numerous scenes of boomer settlers and settlements. George Cornish, was largely responsible for preserving many of Prettyman's original plates and producing the album.

During processing, the pages/cards were removed from the album so the images could be scanned. They were then placed in archival folders in the same order they were found in the book.

The other two albums were simply titled *Indian Photographs*. They consisted of assorted studio portraits and field photographs of tribal leaders, families and individuals. One album contained twenty-one prints, including nineteen 5.5" x 8.5" boudoir-style cards--fourteen of which were identified as being produced by the *W.L. Sawyer's Indian Art Gallery* or *Lenny & Sawyer's Indian View*. The gallery was owned by William J. Lenny and William Sawyers, two entrepreneurs in Purcell, Oklahoma (formerly Indian Territory) who sold images of native peoples to "curiosity seekers" in the late-1880s and early-1890s.

The second book of Indian Photographs consisted of larger 7" x 9" images mounted on 9.5" x 11.5" pages. These photographs contained similar scenes of peoples in Indian Territory. As with the other books, the pages were removed and placed in folders in the exact order they were found.

The second component of the collection includes fifteen photographs of Indian and soldier camps at the Pine Ridge Agency during the 1890-1891 stand-off at Wounded Knee, SD. The photographs have cloth backs and appear to be originals--four are copyrighted 1891 by the Northwestern Photo Co., Chadron,

Neb. The other images appear to be by the same company. Prints have been made and are found with the originals.

The third component of the collection consists of sixty-seven glass plate negatives--all of which appear to be copy negatives. Many of the plates are copy negatives taken from old cabinet cards. The images are primarily of Ponca, Kiowa, Otoe, Pawnee and Sac and Fox tribes, but the Comanche, Apache, Kaw, and Shawnee tribes are also represented. In addition, there are miscellaneous scenes of new settlements in Indian Territory (Oklahoma). Some of the negatives include a title, name of the studio and/or identification number, while others have no identifying marks. Any information found on the negative is included in the item description. The principal photographers and studios include: William S. Prettyman, Thomas Croft, George B. Cornish, William E. Irwin (Irwin & Mankins) and Drake, Ground Floor Studios.

Bibliography

Cunningham, Robert E. *Indian Territory: A Frontier Photographic Record by W.S. Prettyman*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1957.

Mautz, Carl. *Biographies of Western Photographers: A Reference Guide to Photographers Working in the 19th Century American West*. California: Carl Mautz Publishing, 1997.

Collection Inventory

Box 1 - Photographs

Folder 1 - Curtice Collection -*Collection of Oklahoma Indian and Cowboy Views (#1-12)*

Includes original jacket plus twelve double-sided cards

1. Robbers' Cave in Cherokee Strip.
2. Mud Lodge Indians' Winter House.
3. Tepee, Indian Summer House.
4. Ponca Indians, located 30 miles south of Arkansas City.
5. Pawnee Indians, located 70 miles south of Arkansas City.
6. Otoe Indian, Two Wives and Family.
7. Cowboys Roping a Steer.
8. Cowboys Branding Calves.
9. Cowboys on the Round-up.
10. Cowboys at Home.
11. A typical Boomer Family.
12. The way they nominated the first Mayor of Guthrie, Ok.

Folder 2 - Curtice Collection - *Collection of Oklahoma Indian and Cowboy Views (#13-24)*

13. Boomers waiting on the State Line April 19th.
14. Boomers approaching R.R. Bridge which they crossed.
15. Salt Fork River R.R. Bridge on which Boomers crossed.
16. Boomers Crossing their Horses on the R.R. Bridge.
17. Boomers waiting at the Oklahoma Line April 21st.
18. Boomers Claim Shanty, Oklahoma Territory.
19. Holding Down a Town Lot, Guthrie, April 22, 1889.
20. The Way They voted for the First Mayor of Guthrie.

21. A Street Scene in Guthrie 10 days after the Opening.
22. A Frontier Home.
23. Pawnee Indian Squaw and Papoose.
24. Osage Indian Chiefs and Councilors.

Folder 3 - Curtice Collection: *Indian Photographs (Cabinet Cards)*

1. Huma of Otoes - Second Chief; W.L. Sawyer's Indian Art Gallery.
2. Kiowa Braves on Horseback; W.L. Sawyer's Indian Art Gallery.
3. Lone Wolf (a Kiowa); W.L. Sawyer's Indian Art Gallery.
4. Apaches (as they appear every day); W.L. Sawyer's Indian Art Gallery.
5. A Comanche Brave (One Who Fears Nothing); Lenny & Sawyers Indian Views
6. Apache Chiefs - Davako and Dor-Con-Each-La; W.L. Sawyer's Indian Art Gallery.
7. Wichita Grass Wig-Wam; W.L. Sawyer's Indian Art Gallery.
8. Two Kiowa Girls in Full Dress; W.L. Sawyer's Indian Art Gallery.
9. [Unidentified tribe members seated in groups]
10. The Indian Police of the Kiowa, Comanche, and Wichita Agency of Anadarko; W.L. Sawyer's Indian Art Gallery.

Folder 4 - Curtice Collection: *Indian Photographs (continued)*

1. Two Comanche Dudes (very stylish). Lenny & Sawyers, Indian Views.
2. Comanches [studio portrait of four men]. W.L. Sawyer's Indian Art Gallery.
3. [large group of Indians and white men facing away for the camera]
4. [unidentified group of Indians and white men facing away from the camera]
5. Granny Houston an aged Wichita Squaw (109 years of age)
6. Waiting at the Oklahoma Line
7. Chief Geronimo Apache. From original painting by E.A. Burbank - Copyrighted, Brush & Pencil, Chicago 1899. Chicago Colortype Co.
8. Siem-O-Nad-O Mojave. From original painting by E.A. Burbank - Copyrighted, Brush & Pencil, Chicago, 1899.
9. [Otoe family posing in front of a wooden structure]
10. Wild Horse 2, Chief of the Comanches. W.L. Sawyer's Indian Art Gallery.
11. Indians Killing Beef on the reserve near Fort Sill I.T. [Indian Territory]. W.L. Sawyer's Indian Art Gallery.

Folder 5 - Curtice Collection: *Indian Photographs (large)*

1. Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railway brochure, dated June 18, 1990. The cover features a painting by H.G. Maratta (1900) of a Native American woman from an unidentified southwestern tribe.
2. [Mother carrying a child on her back]
3. [Pawnee women curing a cowhide]
4. [Pawnee family posing in front of an earth lodge]
5. [Pawnee family seated inside a tipi]
6. [Studio portrait of Osage band]
7. [Elderly Pawnee interpreter, Baptiste Bayhulle]
8. [Two Ponca families posing in front of tipi]
9. [Three hunters camped in front of a cave]; From left to right, Reverend A.C. Kronk, J.W. "Cherokee" Jordan, and photographer, W.S. Prettyman

Folder 6 - Battle of Wounded Knee (Photographs 1-4)

Includes originals (4.25" x 7") and prints.

1. No. 56 1009. [Encampment scene showing Indians sitting and soldiers on horseback.].
2. Indian Fighting at Pine Ridge Agcy 126. [Soldiers firing from behind a barricade].
3. Two Strike and Crow Dogs Camp, Pine Ridge Agcy S.D.
4. Untitled [Two rows of soldiers on horseback].

Folder 7 - Battle of Wounded Knee (Photographs 5-8)

1. Includes originals (4.25" x 7") and prints.
2. No. 42 [Soldiers behind barricade]
3. Untitled [Group of soldiers relaxing in camp]
4. Untitled [Group portrait of 28 soldiers]
5. Birds Eye View of Battle Field at Wounded Knee S.D. looking S.W. Copyrighted Jan 1st (?) 1891 by the N.W. Photo Co. Chadron Neb. [Distant view of men and horses in a deserted Indian camp].

Folder 8 - Battle of Wounded Knee (Photographs 9-12)

Includes originals (4.25" x 7") an prints.

1. [Distant view of men searching a deserted Sioux camp] Copyrighted by the Northwestern Photo Co. Jan 1st 1891 Chadron, Neb South View.
2. Gathering up the Dead at the Battle of Wounded Knee S.D.
3. No. 39, Leaders of the Hostile Indians at Pine Ridge Agcy S.D. During the Late Sioux War. Chief Two Strike, Chief Crow Dog, Chief High Hawk. Copyrighted NW Photo Co Chadron Neb. 1095.
4. No 23. [Birds-eye view of a soldier camp].

Folder 9 - Battle of Wounded Knee (Photographs 13-15)

Includes originals (4.25" x 7") and prints (8" x 10").

1. No. 28. [Group of Sioux women and children in front of a building].
2. 1007 [Sioux camp].
3. Disarming the Hostile Indians at Pine Ridge Agency S.D. Jan 1891.

Folder 10 - Prints from Glass Plates

1. Ponca Indian Religious Dance Invoking Great Spirit D9
2. Shawnee's Dressed for War Dance. (Croft)
3. [Tribal gathering] Copyright 1903 by T. Croft
4. [Studio portrait of a gentleman, seated]
5. [Thomas Croft portrait]
6. [Pig suckling a cow]
7. Ponca Indian Squaw Dance. Copyrighted July '94 By T. Croft
8. Ponca Indian Sun Dance. Copyrighted July '94 By T. Croft
9. Sac and Fox Bark House
10. " "

Box 2 Glass Negatives - Ponca Tribe

Folder 1 - Ponca Indians, 1-5

1. Chief White Eagle
2. White Tail and Wife, Ponca

3. Phillip Other, Ponca
4. Browning King Ponca
5. Browning King Ponca (Duplicate)

Folder 2 - Ponca Indians, 6-10

6. Little Hole, Ponca
7. " "
8. Indian Religious Dance, Morning Departed Braves
9. " "
10. Indian Religious Dance, Morning Departed Braves (positive image)

Folder 3 - Ponca Indians, 11-15

Print for #11 found in box 1, folder 9

11. Ponca Indian Religious Dance, Invoking Great Spirit
12. Indian Ghost Dance, Looking for the Messiah
13. Indian Ghost Dance, Looking for the Messiah (damaged)
14. Running Over Water and Family, Ponca
15. Ponca Indian Squaw Dance

Folder 4 - Ponca Indians, 16-19

16. [Ponca Indian Sun Dance] Copyright 1903 by T. Croft.
17. Pete Mitchell, Ponca
18. Ponca Indian Burying Ground
19. Chief White Eagle (damaged)

Folder 5 - Ponca Indians, 20-23

Prints: box 1, folder 9

20. Ponca Indian Sun Dance. Copyrighted July '94 By T. Croft
21. Ponca Indian Sun Dance. Copyrighted July '94 By T. Croft
22. Ponca Indian Squaw Dance. Copyrighted July '94 By T. Croft
23. Ponca Indian Squaw Dance. Copyrighted July '94 By T. Croft

Box 3 Glass Negatives - Kiowa, Otoe, Pawnee Indians

Folder 1 – Kiowa, 1-5

1. Humming Bird, Kiowa Chief. 23
2. Humming Bird's Camp. Kiowa's. 21
3. Mon-Cah Codle, Kiowa Girl. 24 [by] Irwin & Mankin, Chickasha and Duncan
4. Do-Chan-No, Kiowa Girl
5. Little Bows Teepee, Kiowa. 20 [by] Irwin & Mankin Chickasha and Duncan I.T.

Folder 2 – Otoe, 1-4

1. Otoe Indian Police
2. White Horse, Otoe Chief (damaged)
3. White Horse, Otoe Chief
4. White Horse & Grandson, Otoe. 27

Folder 3 – Pawnee, 1-6

1. Pawnees 4 [Pawnee women curing a cowhide]
2. " "
3. Pawnee Indians Teepee [Pawnee family inside a tipi]
4. " "
5. Eagle Chief [Pawnee]
6. Sitting Bull's Mud Lodge, Pawnee

Box 4 - Glass Negatives: Sac and Fox Indians**Folder 1 - Sac and Fox, 1-4**

1. Chief Pa Ship Pa Ho, Sac and Fox
2. Sac & Fox Chief and Council
3. Sac and Fox Band
4. Sac and Fox Band (duplicate)

Folder 2 - Sac & Fox, 5-6

5. Sac and Fox Bark House
6. Sac and Fox Bark House (damaged)

Folder 3 - Kaw, Osage, 1-2

1. No-Pa-Wy Kaw Indian Bark House (damaged)
2. Osage Band

Folder 4 - Comanche, Shawnee, 1-4

1. Arko Comanche
2. Comanche Indian Town, I.T.
3. Comanche Jack
4. Shawnee Dressed for War Dance

Box 5 - Glass Negatives - Miscellaneous**Folder 1 - Unidentified Tribes. 1-4**

1. Indian Gathering [Ponca]
2. Indian Gather [Ponca] (duplicate)
3. Indian Ceremony [Ponca]
4. [Ponca] Ceremony

Folder 2 - Unidentified Tribes, 1-5

1. [Three Indian men standing next to a tipi]
2. " "
3. [Three Indian men]
4. " "
5. Yellow Bull

Folder 3 - Settlements

1. Roping Steers on 101 Ranch. Bliss. O.T.
2. 4,000 Wagons crossing Salt Fork River on R.R. Bridge [by] W.S. Prettyman, Arkansas City, Kas.
3. A Street Scene in Guthrie Ten Days after the Opening
4. The Start [1889 Oklahoma Land Rush]
5. Start of run taken from west side of Chiloco Reservation (damaged/cracked)
6. [Town of Perry, OK]

Folder 4 - Miscellaneous Photos

Prints of these three negatives are found in box 1, folder 10

1. [Portrait of unidentified white male] (damaged/cracked)
2. [Thomas Croft portrait] (damaged/flaking)
3. [Pig suckling a cow]

Processed by Special Collections Librarian, Jeremy Drouin, 2005-2007.