

**TITLE:** Elsie Prugh Herndon papers

**DATE RANGE:** 1895-1934

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1038

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 7.5 linear ft. (15 boxes, 1 item)

**PROVENANCE:** Donated by Margaret Hale Magness, a step-daughter of Frazier and Elsie Herndon, in 1989, 1990, and 1992

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**CREDIT LINE:** Elsie Herndon papers, MS 1038, Arizona Historical Society-Tucson

**PROCESSED BY:** Charles Herner under the supervision of Adelaide Elm in 1992; Finding aid transcribed by Nancy Siner, September 2015.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:** Elsie Minnie Annabell Prugh Herndon was born January 31, 1869 in New Alexandria, Pennsylvania. In 1895, two years after graduating from Park College in Parkville, Missouri, where she studied missionary work, Elsie accepted a teaching position at the Tucson Indian Training School. A year later she married the superintendent, Frazier Herndon. In 1903, the couple left the Indian School to accept positions as Presbyterian missionaries to the Tohono O'odham Indians. Over the next thirty years, Frazier Herndon built five churches on tribal lands, and in 1916, he helped establish the Tohono O'odham reservation.

In 1926, the Herndons moved to Tuba City, Arizona and performed missionary work about the Navajos until 1934 when they retired to Tucson. Frazier died in Tucson in 1936 and Elsie in 1955 in Ajo. The couple had two sons, Prugh and Thomas Ralph.

Throughout their residence in Arizona, the Herndons collected a great deal of information concerning the Tohono O'odham Indians. Elsie carefully preserved this material and late in life organized the bulk of it into twelve scrapbooks. In addition to collecting materials, Elsie wrote letters to the Missionary Board on the east coast, describing missionary life among Arizona's Native Americans to those who provided the major support for it. She collected several Tohono O'odham myths and legends which she used as the basis for a number of short stories. Elsie apparently intended to use these legends as a basis for a book which she never completed. Elsie documented life at the school and on the reservation in letters, articles, reports and hundreds of photographs.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:** The bulk of this collection deals with the Herndon's experiences while serving as Presbyterian teachers and missionaries to the Tohono O'odham (or Papago, as they were called) from 1895-1926. Much of this information is in the form of original material consisting of manuscripts, letters, scrapbooks and reports. There is also some information dealing with the Navajo Indians and a great deal of published material from a variety of sources dealing with Indians in general. The collection is organized into nine series.

**Series I: Manuscripts** - consists of personal reminiscences and Tohono O'odham legends records primarily by Elsie Herndon, with some contributions by Mary Abbott, E.P. Alch, T.D. Lesnet, and Frazier Herndon. The manuscripts written by Elsie Herndon are either biographical in nature or based on Tohono O'odham legends. Many of Elsie's accounts of Indian legends are revisions of the same basic story. Folders are arranged in alphabetical order by author's last name, and then by date.

**Series II: Correspondence, 1864-1963** - contains incoming and outgoing correspondence dealing with church and missionary activities, the death of Frazier Herndon and other personal family matters. Significant correspondents include Reverend Charles h. Cook, Thomas C. Moffett, Mrs. Howard Billman, Elizabeth Browth, J.H. Abrams, and Harmon H. McQuilkin. Correspondence in this series is group by year and filed in chronological order.

**Series III: Scrapbook Material** - contains a variety of material which was obviously intended to be place in a scrapbook, or was removed from an existing scrapbook for purposes of preservation. This series includes a great deal of genealogical information on the Herndon and Peart families, as well as some published material regarding the plight of Native Americans. Folders are identified by subject and filed in alphabetical order.

**Series IV: Diaries and Journals, 1910-1934** - contains an intermittent collection of Herndon diaries. Most of the information in the 1910-1928 diaries is concerned with missionary activities. The Elsie Herndon diaries of 1926 and 1934 are detailed. The diaries and journals are filed by author's name and date.

**Series V: Reports, 1896-1903** - contains a limited number of reports dealing with missionary work among the Tohono O'odham Indians. This series includes some reports written by authors other than the Herndons and some which are not related to Indians or church work. Reports are arranged in chronological order.

**Series VI: Maps** - contains one copy of a map of Papagueria by Carl Lumholtz, dated 1912

**Series VII: Published Material** - contains a wide variety of published accounts dealing primarily with Native Americans. Elsie Herndon contributed articles to some of these publications. Material is arranged in folders by subject or title and filed in alphabetical order.

**Series VIII: Photograph Albums** - contains photocopies of six Herndon photograph albums which were transferred to a photo collection PC 063. The majority of these photographs were taken on the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation. Folders are arranged in chronological order by album number.

**Series IX: Scrapbooks** - consists of twelve oversized scrapbooks. They contain correspondence, reports, printed documents, photographs, and manuscripts material dealing with a variety of subjects including Herndon genealogy, missionary activities, and Indians in general.

**CONTAINER LIST:**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>
<b>1</b>	1	<b>Series I: Manuscripts</b> - Abbott, Mary H. "Papagoes, Presbyterians and Tucson Indian Training School"	1979
	2	Aich, E.P. "Flowers from the garden of a missionary manse"	undated
	3	Cook, C.H., Reverend	1900
	4	Fragments	1911
	5	Herndon, Elsie. "Tucson"	1934
	6	Herndon, Elsie. "Reminiscences of forty years of missionary work"	undated
	7	Herndon, Elsie. "A short history of the Papago mission"	undated
	8	Herndon, Elsie. "A thesaurus of legendary treasure"	undated
	9	Herndon, Elsie. "Aw Aw Tum, my people."	undated
	10	Herndon, Elsie. "Aw Aw Tum, the people."	undated
	11	Herndon, Elsie. "I, personally, having a good time"	1948
	12	Herndon, Elsie. "I remember"	undated
	13	Herndon, Elsie. "My people by Scholah-Vinyah Maah, part I"	undated
	14	Herndon, Elsie. "My people by Scholah-Vinyah Maah, part II"	undated
	15	Herndon, Elsie. "Navajo myths"	undated
	16	Herndon, Elsie. "Old Schuckson"	undated
	17	Herndon, Elsie. "Our Indian Sunday schools: in need of some improvements"	undated
	18	Herndon, Elsie. "Papago legend as told by Mrs. E.P. Herndon"	undated
	19	Herndon, Elsie. Short stories	undated
	20	Herndon, Elsie. "Shod with sandals."	undated
	21	Herndon, Elsie. "Thesaurus legendary"	undated
<b>2</b>	22	Herndon, Elsie. "The Colonel (kernel) of corn - a Navajo myth"	undated
	23	Herndon, Elsie. "The corn people, a Navajo myth a la mode"	undated
	24	Herndon, Elsie. "The vision of Narva"	undated
	25	Herndon, Elsie. Copy of notebook #5	undated
	26	Herndon, Elsie. "Ye good old days"	undated
	27	Herndon, Frazier. Papago trip - diary and typed manuscript	1904
	28	Herndon, Frazier. Sermons	1916, 1931, 1932
	29	Lesnet, T.D. (Mrs.) "Our trip through the desert and what we saw"	1921
	30	Miscellaneous Indian School students	1898, 1900
	31	Miscellaneous Tucson Indian Training School	undated
	32	Miscellaneous manuscripts	undated
	33	<b>Series II: Correspondence</b> - Herndon family	1864-1910
	34	Herndon family	1911-1935
	35	Herndon, Frazier. Death of	1936
	36	Herndon family	1937-1963
<b>3</b>	37	<b>Series III: Scrapbook Material</b> - Certificates	1918, 1927

	38	Clippings book (blank)	undated
	39	Deed, property in Missouri	1867
	40	Description of deer-skin skirt	undated
	41	Herndon genealogy	1865-1939
	42	Miscellaneous	undated
	43	Mission architecture plans	undated
	44	Notebook "Yesterday - Today - Tomorrow"	undated
	45	"Whispers of Arizona"	1944
	46	<b>Series IV: Diaries and journals</b> - Herndon diaries	1910-1918, 1934
	47	Herndon, Elsie diary	1926
	48	Journal, Tuba City	1926-1934
	49	<b>Series V: Reports</b> - Reports	1889-1929
	50	<b>Series VI: Maps</b> - Papageria	1912
<b>4</b>	51	<b>Series VII: Published Material</b> - Programs, dedications	1906, 1941, 1953, undated
	52	"Casa Grande Ruin, Arizona"	1916
	53	"Consolidated National Bank, Tucson"	undated
	54	<u>Good Housekeeping</u>	1939
	55	Herndon, Elsie. "A Papago Missionary Journey"	1907
	56	"Hope Snake Dance"	1922
	57	"Indians at Work"	1935, 1937
	58	"Indians of the Stone Houses"	undated
	59	Miscellaneous	1902-1964
	60	Miscellaneous newspaper clippings	1935-1990
	61	Navajo Bible: <u>God Bizad Diyini</u>	1917
	62	<u>Papago Verb Stems</u>	1913
	63	Pima or Papago dictionary (words and phrases)	undated
	64	<u>Presbyterian Sabbath School Visitor</u>	
	65	<u>The American Indian and Missions</u>	
	66	<u>The Atlantic Monthly</u>	
	67	<u>The Christian Indian</u>	
	68	<u>The First Church of Orange</u>	
	69	<u>The Home, The Church, The School</u>	
	70	<u>The Indian School Journal</u>	
<b>5</b>	71	<u>The Indian Sentinel</u>	
	72	<u>The Missionary Review of the World</u>	
	73	<u>The Native American</u>	
	74	Brown, Emily. <u>The Passion at Pascua</u>	
	75	<u>The Phoenix Redskin</u>	
	76	<u>The Redman</u>	
	77	<u>The Trading Post</u>	
	78	<u>Triumphant Songs (Hymnal)</u>	
	79	<u>Tucson</u>	

	80	<b>Series VIII: Photograph Albums (photocopies)</b> - Album No. 1	
	81	Album No. 2	
	82	Album No. 3	
	83	Album No. 4	
	84	Album No. 5, Part I	
	85	Album No. 5, Part II	
	86	Album No. 6	
<b>6</b>		<b>Series IX: Scrapbooks</b> - Scrapbook 1 (photocopies)	1900-1910
		Scrapbook 2 (photocopies)	1891-1920
<b>7</b>		Scrapbook 1 (originals) - Contains correspondence, newspaper and magazine articles dealing primarily with the missionary activities of Reverend Charles H. Cook and the Herndons among the Tohono O'odham Indians. There are several manuscripts written by Elsie Herndon on the history of the Tucson Indian School. Includes 26 photographs (15 photographs removed and put in PC 063)	1900-1910
		Scrapbook 2 (originals) - Contains correspondence between the Herndons and Mrs. Howard Billman, George McAfee, Harvey Shields, Thomas C. Moffett, the Board of Home Missions and the Department of Interior dealing primarily with missionary activities on the Tohono O'odham Reservation. There is also some manuscript material by Elsie Herndon on the same subject, and 86 photographs (2 photographs removed and put in PC 063)	1891-1920
<b>8</b>		Scrapbook 3 (photocopies)	1896-1923
		Scrapbook 4 (photocopies)	1893-1936
<b>9</b>		Scrapbook 3 (originals) - Contains correspondence between the Herndons and Josephine Petrie, George Wilson, Thomas C. Moffett, Ralph Aspaas, John Bailey Kelly and the Board of Home Missions. Also contains copies of Frazier Herndon's monthly reports from 1898-1913 and some newspaper clippings and magazine articles. Has a few Elsie Herndon manuscripts and two photographs	1896-1923
		Scrapbook 4 (originals) - Contains correspondence between the Herndons and M.L. Girton, Louise Herndon, Marrion Prugh, Mary B. Miller, Charles H. Cook and Cato Sells, Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Much of the correspondence deals with the death of Frazier Herndon. Also miscellaneous information including newspaper clippings, commissions issued to Frazier by the Board of Home Missions, a partial translation of the Bible into Tohono O'odham, a short manuscript by E.P. Aich and another by Elsie Herndon describing her experiences at the Tucson Indian Training School	1893-1936
<b>10</b>		Scrapbook 5 (photocopies)	undated
		Scrapbook 6 (photocopies)	undated

		Scrapbook 7 (photocopies)	1950, undated
		Scrapbook 8 (photocopies)	1908-1918
<b>11</b>		Scrapbooks 5 (originals) - The bulk a manuscript by Elsie Herndon tracing the history of the Tucson Indian Training School and her association with it. There are also a few newspaper clippings and a long scholarship letter written by a student, Ella Thompson, in 1899. Includes 7 photographs.	undated
		Scrapbooks 6 (originals) - Autobiographical account of Elsie Herndon's life. Contains genealogical information and relates Elsie's experiences with the Tohono O'odham Indians. Illustrated with newspaper clippings and photographs (15; 4 removed to PC 063), and contains some articles written by Indian students, 1900-1903.	undated
		Scrapbooks 7 (originals) - Contains three manuscripts: "The Creation Story of Awawtam, the People by Scolah-Vinyah Maah, the Curly Head," "Old Schuk-sown," and an untitled manuscript date August 21, 1950, apparently written at Monte Vista Grove. The first two are about Tohono O'odham legends, the third is an autobiography by Elsie Herndon.	1950, undated
		Scrapbooks 8 (originals) - Contains correspondence between Frazier Herndon, S.M. Brosius, Agent of the Indian Rights Association, and Frank Thackery, Department of the Interior concerning their efforts to enlarge the Tohono O'odham Reservation. Supporting data for these efforts contains much information on the Tohono O'odham Indians and their reservation. Contains 20 photographs, newspaper clippings, and information on Cato Sells, Commissioner of Indian Affairs	1908-1918
<b>12</b>		Scrapbook 9 (photocopies)	
		Scrapbook 10 (photocopies)	
<b>13</b>		Scrapbook 9 (originals) - Contains newspaper clippings, magazine articles and short manuscripts. Published materials deal with the Tucson area and Indians in general, including many clippings from <u>The Native American</u> , 1903-1931; manuscripts deal primarily with missionary activities among the Tohono O'odham. Includes eight photographs	1884-1931
		Scrapbook 10 (originals) - Contains magazine articles, newspaper clippings, and fourteen short stories written by Elsie Herndon about the Navajo Indians. There are a number of drawings and watercolors by Navajo children.	1926-1934
<b>14</b>		Scrapbook 11 (photocopies) - Original scrapbook not in AHS possession; an autobiographical account of Herndon's activities among the Tohono O'odham and Navajo Indians. Details information on missionary activities in general and how the Tohono O'odham Reservation was established, and ends with	1903-1936

		the death of Frazier in 1936. Illustrated with photographs, newspaper clippings, and magazine articles.	
<b>15</b>		Scrapbook 12 (photocopies)	1877-1949
<b>16</b>		Scrapbook 12 (originals) - Large autobiographical manuscript with genealogical information. Illustrated with photographs (25), newspaper clippings, magazine articles and family correspondence. Much of the manuscript material is devoted to Elsie's recollections of her early life.	1877-1949