
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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PC 063

Herndon, Elsie Prugh, 1869-1955
Photograph collection, ca. 1895-1934

DESCRIPTION

Photographs and photograph albums mostly documenting Elsie and Frazier Herndon's missionary work among the Tohono O'odham Indians, from 1895 to 1924, and among the Navajo Indians at Tuba City from 1924 to 1934.

2 boxes, 1 linear ft.

RELATED MATERIAL

Elsie Prugh Herndon manuscript collection, MS 1038

ACQUISITION

Donated by Margaret Hale Magness, a step-granddaughter of Frazier and Elsie Herndon in 1989.

ACCESS

Original albums are restricted due to fragile condition; copies are available for patron use.

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Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society - Tucson, Archives Department.

PROCESSING

This finding aid was prepared by Kim Frontz, September 2000.

ARRANGEMENT

Four series: Family and friends. Tucson Indian Training School. Landscapes, etc. Albums.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Elsie Prugh Herndon was born on January 31, 1869 in New Alexandria, Pennsylvania. She studied missionary work at Park College in Parkville, Missouri. In 1895, after graduating, she took a position at the Tucson Indian Training School. One year later she married Frazier Smith Herndon, the school's superintendent. The couple worked as missionaries to their students until 1903. Then they began traveling throughout southern Arizona to preach the gospel to the entire Tohono O'odham nation. During the next twenty years, Frazier Herndon built the John Elliot Memorial Church for the Tohono O'odham in South Tucson and, in 1916, helped to establish the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation in Sells, Arizona.

In 1924, the Herndons moved to Tuba City, Arizona to work with the Navajo Indians on the newly formed reservation. Their work continued until 1934 when they retired and moved back to Tucson. They had two sons, James Prugh born in 1897 and Thomas Ralph born in 1898. James Herndon served in the military from 1918 to 1945 and was assistant comptroller for the University of Arizona. Thomas was a mining engineer for forty years in San Francisco del Oro, Mexico.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Photographs of the Herndon's life in Tucson and Tuba City, Arizona. The Indian schools' buildings, students, and teachers are well represented. There are many photographs of Tohono O'odham as well as some of Pima and Navajo Indians. Many of the student portraits are by photographer Henry Buehman including a Tohono O'odham girl with a doll. There are photographs of Harry Azul and other families of Pima Indian leaders. There is an image of adobe making (f.11), a Chinese cook (f.8), and a football team (f.8), and Tohono O'odham Indians watching a Punch and Judy show (f. 12). A photograph of Tohono O'odham elders at Sells, Arizona includes Governor Hunt. Images taken at Tuba City include John Collier and others. There are also photographs of Hopi actors working in the movie "The Vanishing American".

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

SERIES 1: FAMILY AND FRIENDS

BOX 1

- f.1 Herndon, Elsie Prugh
- f.2 Herndon, Frazier Smith
- f.3 Herndon, James Prugh
- f.4 Prugh family
- f.5 Cook, Charles H., Pima Indian missionary
- f.6 Neal family

SERIES 2: MISSIONARY WORK

- f.7 Tucson Indian Training School
- f.8 Tucson Indian Training School - Teachers and students
- f.9 Tucson Indian Training School - Student portraits
- f.10 Tucson Indian Training School - Portraits

- f.11 Indian dwellings
- f.12 Indian ceremonies
- f.13 Sells, Ariz. – Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation
- f.14 Tuba City, Ariz. – Navajo Indian Reservation

SERIES 3: LANDSCAPES, ETC.

BOX 2

- f.15 Flagstaff, Ariz. – Northern Arizona Normal School
- f.16 Fort Tuthill, Ariz.
- f.17 University of Arizona
- f.18 Arizona monuments
- f.19 Arizona landscapes
- f.20 Cactus
- f.21 Portraits – unidentified
- f.22 Tucson, Ariz. Souvenir album 92180– printed with additional photos glued in (includes cyanotypes, Indian homes, and cowboys)
- f.23-24 Albums 92190, 92191 – Tohono O'odham Indians incl. San Miguel, Sells (includes Tohono O'odham women at well with water carriers)
- f.25 Album 92192– Tuba City, Ariz. and Navajo Indians, ca. 1930 (an album with notes signed by friends along with photos unrelated to the autographs)
- f.26 Album 92193– Herndon family and children
- f.27 Album 92194– Indian school buildings
- f.28 Album 92195– Herndon family, children and friends, 1900 to 1920, Ajo area, Continental, Ariz. (incl. son Ralph in gas mask)
- f.29 Album 92196– Tucson postcards (including San Agustin Mission, Presbyterian Church, Y.M.C.A., St. Joseph's Orphans home, Congregational Church, N. Main St. Home, Country club.)
- f.30 Album 92197 - Postcards (including San Xavier, University of Arizona)