

**TITLE:** The Arizona Photograph Company Collection

**DATE RANGE:** 1894-1913

**CALL NUMBER:** FP FPC #19

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 20 linear feet (17 boxes)

**PROVENANCE:** Donated by Robert L. Spude, 1978.

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**RESTRICTIONS:** This collection has no restrictions.

**CREDIT LINE:** The Arizona Photograph Company Collection, FP FPC #19, Arizona Historical Foundation

**PROCESSED BY:** Rebekah Tabah, March, 2010

**HISTORICAL NOTE:**

The Arizona Photograph Company was formed by a group of photographers in Prescott during the early 1900s. The group included: confectionary store owner, part time photographer, and mining specialist Percival Armitage; Civil War veteran and gallery owner Erwin Baer; newspaper and portrait photographer Thomas Bate; California commercial photographer W.R. Humphries, who was also the organizer and promoter of the group; and A.E. Suppiger a St. Louis photographer who sent photographs of Arizona to the expositions held in St. Louis and Portland.

The groups' photographs included studio portraits, landscapes, local businesses, ranches, military forts, mills and hoists, pack trains, wagons, railroads, mines and miners. In 1902, W.R. Humphries was hired by the Development Company of America (DCA) to photograph various mines around the state for use in mining prospectuses, company reports, and brochures. Local newspapers, such as the *Prescott Courier*, also printed the Arizona Photograph Company's images to promote the region, showcase Prescott, and entice mine investors and industries.

After the Bankers' Panic of 1907, the group disbanded. Soon after Suppiger and Armitage left the Arizona Territory. Baer stayed in his Prescott gallery with various partners until 1913. Thomas Bates apprenticed under Erwin Baer before opening his own studio which he ran until 1927. Humphries continued photographing the mining boom and operated studios in Bisbee and later El Paso.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:**

**Provenance**

John Keelersays found nearly 500 glass plate negatives by The Arizona Photograph Company in an old men's store basement next to the Eagle Drug Store on the corner of

Gurley and Cortez in Prescott, Arizona. The glass plates were then donated to the Sharlot Hall Museum. Robert Spude, author and historian, was able to save another 600 plates. These came by way of a junk dealer in Humbolt, Arizona who was working at an old bank building in Prescott that was being renovated. All the attic contents had been cleaned out and tossed down a garbage chute. A stack of wooden crates caught the junkman's eye and when he open one of them found several photographic boxes containing historic 8x10 glass plate negatives. Knowing these were something special, he took the crates home rather than throw them down the chute. A few weeks later, Mr. Spude stumbled upon this find and traded for them. This collection of glass plates eventually were donated to the Arizona Historical Foundation.

This collection represents the photographs created by members of The Arizona Photograph Company between 1894 - 1909. The individual photographer of each photograph is unknown. This is not a complete collection of the company's photographs. (other photographs can be found at the Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott, Arizona <http://www.sharlot.org/>) All photographs are 8x10 gelatin silver glass plate negatives. The original condition of the plates varied from very poor and broken, to very good with minimal scratches, dirt and dust.

All the glass plate negatives in this collection were cleaned, re-housed, and scanned. The glass plates were cleaned of any dirt and dust, placed in four-flap enclosures, and housed in acid-free suspension boxes. Prints were also made. Previous attempts were made at making prints from the glass plates. Very few of the negatives had prints - some had never been printed before. This collection does not contain any historic prints made by the original members of the Arizona Photograph Company. All the glass plates had high resolution scans made, these were then used to create prints for every photograph in the collection. In addition, all photographs are available for viewing on the *Arizona Memory Project* website: <http://azmemory.lib.az.us/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=/ahfglass> This collection is also an Arizona Centennial Legacy Project funded by The Kemper and Ethel Marley Foundation.

The prints are arranged by subject, then alphabetically and chronologically within. The glass plate negatives are arranged by number. Broken plates have been removed and are stored separately.

**CONTAINER LIST:**

| <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> | <b>Title</b>   | <b>Date</b> |
|------------|---------------|--|-------------|
| <b>1</b>   | 1             | <b>Photographs:</b> Arizona Grand Lodge Cornerstone, Placement Ceremony  | 1907        |
|            | 2             | <b>Photographs:</b> Desert Landscapes                                    | 1900s       |
|            | 3             | <b>Photographs:</b> Farmers' Demonstration Train (Agricultural Displays) | Circa 1913  |
|            | 4             | <b>Photographs:</b> Farmland and Fields                                  | 1900s       |
|            | 5             | <b>Photographs:</b> Fort Whipple   | 1900s       |
|            | 6             | <b>Photographs:</b> Funeral Scenes                                       | 1900s       |
|            | 7             | <b>Photographs:</b> Groups Posing in front of the Bucky O'Neil           | 1900s       |

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|----------|----|---|-------|
|          |    | Statue,   |       |
|          | 8  | <b>Photographs:</b> Goddard Family Murderers  | 1903  |
|          | 9  | <b>Photographs:</b> Goddard Stage Stop (Black Canyon City)  | 1900s |
|          | 10 | <b>Photographs:</b> Masonic Temple Building Plans   | 1907  |
|          | 11 | <b>Photographs:</b> Medical Images (includes x-rays)  | 1900s |
|          | 12 | <b>Photographs:</b> Mining,<br>Angel Camp (near Wickenburg) (Bess Gold-Copper Co. and<br>Arizona Gold-Copper Co.) | 1900s |
|          | 13 | <b>Photographs:</b> Mining,<br>Big Bug Creek Mines  | 1900s |
|          | 14 | <b>Photographs:</b> Mining,<br>Black Hills, Cherry Creek District   | 1900s |
| <b>2</b> | 1  | <b>Photographs:</b> Mining,<br>Camp Durky, Chicago Mine   | 1900s |
|          | 2  | <b>Photographs:</b> Mining,<br>Castle Creek Mines   | 1900s |
|          | 3  | <b>Photographs:</b> Mining,<br>Congress Area Mines (Alaska Claim, United Gold Mining<br>Company)                  | 1900s |
|          | 4  | <b>Photographs:</b> Mining,<br>Copper Cobre Company   | 1900s |
|          | 5  | <b>Photographs:</b> Mining,<br>Crown King   | 1900s |
|          | 6  | <b>Photographs:</b> Mining,<br>Derby Mines  | 1900s |
|          | 7  | <b>Photographs:</b> Mining,<br>Humbolt Mines  | 1900s |
|          | 8  | <b>Photographs:</b> Mining,<br>Jersey Lily Mine   | 1900s |
|          | 9  | <b>Photographs:</b> Mining,<br>Kicker Mine  | 1900s |
|          | 10 | <b>Photographs:</b> Mining,<br>McCabe Mines   | 1900s |
|          | 11 | <b>Photographs:</b> Mining,<br>Oro Belle  | 1900s |
|          | 12 | <b>Photographs:</b> Mining,<br>Onyx Quarry (Mayer, Arizona)   | 1900s |
|          | 13 | <b>Photographs:</b> Mining,<br>Palo Alto Mine   | 1900s |
|          | 14 | <b>Photographs:</b> Mining,<br>Rebel Mine, Pride of Arizona Copper Co.  | 1900s |
|          | 15 | <b>Photographs:</b> Mining,<br>Rich Hill, Weaver Placer Gold Mine   | 1900s |
|          | 16 | <b>Photographs:</b> Mining,<br>Sierra Prieta and Hassayampa River   | 1900s |
| <b>3</b> | 1  | <b>Photographs:</b> Mining,   | 1900s |

|          |    |  |            |
|----------|----|--|------------|
|          |    | Silver Belt Mine   |            |
|          | 2  | <b>Photographs:</b> Mining,<br>Swiss Girl Mine   | 1900s      |
|          | 3  | <b>Photographs:</b> Mining,<br>Unidentified Mines (includes interior views)                                      | 1900s      |
|          | 4  | <b>Photographs:</b> Places,<br>Various   | 1903-1906  |
|          | 5  | <b>Photographs:</b> Portraits  | 1900s      |
|          | 6  | <b>Photographs:</b> Power Plant and Telephone Company<br>(includes Morris Goldwater and William Jennings Bryant) | 1900s      |
|          | 7  | <b>Photographs:</b> Prescott Buildings,<br>Businesses (various)  | 1900s      |
|          | 8  | <b>Photographs:</b> Prescott Buildings,<br>Churches  | 1900s      |
|          | 9  | <b>Photographs:</b> Prescott Buildings,<br>E.A. Rastner Store  | 1900s      |
|          | 10 | <b>Photographs:</b> Prescott Buildings,<br>Elks Club Theater   | 1900s      |
|          | 11 | <b>Photographs:</b> Prescott Buildings,<br>Hotels  | 1900s      |
| <b>4</b> | 1  | <b>Photographs:</b> Prescott Building,<br>The New York Store   | 1900s      |
|          | 2  | <b>Photographs:</b> Prescott Buildings,<br>Residences (exterior) (1 of 2)  | 1900s      |
|          | 3  | <b>Photographs:</b> Prescott Buildings,<br>Residences (exterior) (2 of 2)  | 1900s      |
|          | 4  | <b>Photographs:</b> Prescott Buildings,<br>Residences (interior)   | 1900s      |
|          | 5  | <b>Photographs:</b> Prescott Buildings,<br>R.H. Burmister & Son  | 1900s      |
|          | 6  | <b>Photographs:</b> Prescott Buildings,<br>Schools   | Circa 1908 |
|          | 7  | <b>Photographs:</b> Prescott Buildings,<br>Yavapai Club  | 1900s      |
|          | 8  | <b>Photographs:</b> Prescott Eagles' Band  | 1900s      |
|          | 9  | <b>Photographs:</b> Prescott Landscapes  | 1900s      |
|          | 10 | <b>Photographs:</b> Prescott Street Scenes   | 1900s      |
|          | 11 | <b>Photographs:</b> Railroads, Trains, and Stations  | 1894-1909  |
|          | 12 | <b>Photographs:</b> Winchester Rifle Tent (Prescott Fairgrounds)   | 1900s      |

| <b>Box</b> | <b>Title</b>                           |
|------------|--|
| <b>5</b>   | <b>Glass Plate Negatives: #1 - 32</b>  |
| <b>6</b>   | <b>Glass Plate Negatives: #33 - 64</b> |
| <b>7</b>   | <b>Glass Plate Negatives: #65 - 96</b> |

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| <b>8</b>  | <b>Glass Plate Negatives: #97 - 127</b>  |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>Glass Plate Negatives: #128 - 160</b>   |
| <b>10</b> | <b>Glass Plate Negatives: #161 - 192</b>   |
| <b>11</b> | <b>Glass Plate Negatives: #193 - 222</b>   |
| <b>12</b> | <b>Glass Plate Negatives: #223 - 255</b>   |
| <b>13</b> | <b>Glass Plate Negatives: #256 - 284</b>   |
| <b>14</b> | <b>Glass Plate Negatives: #285 - 315</b>   |
| <b>15</b> | <b>Glass Plate Negatives: #316 - 343</b>   |
| <b>16</b> | <b>Glass Plate Negatives: #344 - 362</b>   |
| <b>17</b> | <b>Glass Plate Negatives: Broken Plates (#7, 10, 50, 51, 106, 138, 139, 158, 167, 177, 225, 234, 304, 314)</b> |