

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:

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

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

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

Box	Title
5	Glass Plate Negatives: #1 - 32
6	Glass Plate Negatives: #33 - 64
7	Glass Plate Negatives: #65 - 96

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