



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Thomas Bailey Marquis papers

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Collection Overview

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|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Repository: | National Anthropological Archives |
| Title: | Thomas Bailey Marquis papers |
| Date: | 1922-1971 (bulk 1922-1935) |
| Identifier: | NAA.1976-105 |
| Creator: | Marquis, Thomas Bailey, 1869-1935 |
| Extent: | 2 Linear feet (3 boxes, 1 map folder) |
| Language: | English . |
| Digital Content: | Image(s): Thomas Bailey Marquis papers |

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Received from Anna Rose Heil, Marquis' daughter, in 1976.

Related Materials

The National Library of Medicine holds the Thomas B. Marquis papers, 1906-1973, which includes documents related to his publications and his work as a physician, as well as his diary and correspondence.

Processing Information

Processed by Alex Brown, July 2023

Preferred Citation

Thomas Bailey Marquis papers, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

Access to the Thomas Bailey Marquis papers requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

Thomas Bailey Marquis (1869-1935) was a printer, physician, writer, and amateur historian who spent most of his working life in Montana. He served with the U.S. Army Medical Corps in WWI. When he returned, he worked as a government physician on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation and, later, the Crow Reservation. His work with the Cheyenne fueled his personal interest in George Armstrong Custer and the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Marquis began collecting artifacts related to the battle and interviewing survivors, which led to the publication of numerous books and pamphlets. He displayed the artifacts, together with photographs and

hand-drawn maps, in the Custer Battle Museum in Hardin, Montana, where he lived during the last years of his life. After his death, his museum's collection was donated to the National Parks Service and is now incorporated into displays at the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument. As the only individual who worked to record Cheyenne eyewitness accounts of that era, Marquis' writings are of great value to scholars interested in battles and life on the plains.

Scope and Contents

The Thomas Bailey Marquis papers comprise material related to the Custer Battle Museum and the Native people with whom Marquis interacted. Included are museum visitors' registers, inventories of museum artifacts, photographic displays, certificates of artifact authenticity, and newspaper clippings. There are also contracts delineating the disposition of museum artifacts by Marquis' heirs and a 1917 census of the Northern Cheyenne with extensive annotations. Photographs include snapshots of many of the Cheyenne people interviewed by Marquis, as well as some landscapes and structures at Lame Deer. Finally, Marquis' papers contain numerous drawings made by Wooden Leg and Limpy (Cheyenne), along with a collection of maps made by Marquis based on his interviews.

Materials relating to Marquis' medical practice were turned over to the United States Army Medical Library and are now housed at the National Library of Medicine.

Please note that the contents of the collection and the language and terminology used reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution or National Anthropological Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Apsáalooke (Crow/Absaroke)
- Battle of the Little Big Horn
- Inunaina (Arapaho)
- Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)

Cultures:

- Apsáalooke (Crow/Absaroke)
- Inunaina (Arapaho)
- Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)

Names:

- Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument (Agency : U.S.)

Container Listing

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Box 1, Folder 1 | Custer Battle Museum - Visitors' Registers, 1931-1935 |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Custer Battle Museum - Inventories, 1942, undated |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Custer Battle Museum - Museum display photos and notes, undated |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | Custer Battle Museum - Contractual Agreements, 1936 |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Custer Battle Museum - Custer rifle documents, 1927-1930 |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Custer Battle Museum - Photo print consignment documents, 1931 |
| Box 2, Folder 1 | Drawings by Wooden Leg (Cheyenne), 1927, undated |
| Box 2, Folder 2 | Drawings by Limpy (Cheyenne), 1930 |
| Box 2, Folder 3 | School papers and drawings from Crow Indian School, 1925-1928 |
| Box 2, Folder 4 | Census of the Northern Cheyenne of Tongue River Agency, 1917 |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Newspaper clippings, 1930-1971 |
| Box 2, Folder 6 | Special edition of the Billings Gazette featuring George Armstrong Custer and the Battle of the Little Bighorn, 1961 May 27 |
| Box 2, Folder 7 | Custer Battlefield Museum and National Monument pamphlets, 1952 |
| Box 2, Folder 8 | Notes and correspondence, undated |
| Box 2, Folder 9 | Copy negatives and associated prints taken from museum displays, undated Notes: This folder contains 57 copy negatives and corresponding prints, all of which were taken from the photographic museum displays contained in Box 3 of this collection. |
| Box 2, Folder 10 | Copy negatives and associated prints from unknown originals, undated Notes: This folder contains 7 copy negatives and corresponding prints. Two are portraits and the rest are illustrations. Location of originals is unknown. |
| Box 2, Folder 11 | Copy negatives taken from Marquis' manuscripts, undated Notes: This folder contains 18 copy negatives of images used in Marquis' manuscripts. |
| Box 3 | Photographic displays showing primarily Cheyenne individuals, likely from Custer Battle Museum, 1922-1935 Notes: This box contains 13 museum displays ranging from 8x10 in to 10x17 in. Displays are made from heavy-duty cardboard with |

wire hangers. Multiple photos are pasted onto each, with labels written directly onto the photo print. Some photographs show water damage or other wear.

Map-folder 1

Maps, 1927-1933

Notes: This folder contains a mixture of printed and hand-drawn maps in a range of sizes.