



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

Anonymous Assiniboine drawings to illustrate Edwin  
Denig's "Indian Tribes of the Upper Missouri,"

National Anthropological Archives  
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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	
Administrative Information .....	1
Biographical / Historical .....	1
Scope and Contents .....	2
Names and Subjects .....	
Bibliography .....	2
Container Listing .....	

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Anthropological Archives
<b>Title:</b>	MS 2600-b-1 Anonymous Assiniboine drawings to illustrate Edwin Denig's "Indian Tribes of the Upper Missouri"
<b>Date:</b>	ca. 1853
<b>Identifier:</b>	NAA.MS2600B1
<b>Creator:</b>	Denig, Edwin Thompson, 1812-1858 (Collector)
<b>Extent:</b>	37 Items (drawings pasted onto 19 mounts; graphite and ink; mounts 18 x 22 cm.-36 x 24 cm.)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Image(s): MS 2600-b-1 Anonymous Assiniboine drawings to illustrate Edwin Denig's "Indian Tribes of the Upper Missouri"</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

These are the original drawings that accompanied Edwin Thompson Denig's 451 page manuscript, entitled "Report to Hon. Isaac I. Stevens, Governor of Washington Territory, on the Indian Tribes of the Upper Missouri, by Edwin Thompson Denig." It is unclear when or how they were acquired by the Smithsonian.

### Citation

Manuscript 2600-b-1, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

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## Biographical / Historical

Edwin T. Denig was born on March 10, 1812 in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. He entered the fur trade in 1833 as an employee of the American Fur Company. He would be employed in the fur trade for the next 23 years. During this period he worked at Fort Pierre and Fort Union, eventually rising to the position of bourgeois at the latter post. In 1854 he authored a 451 page manuscript, entitled "Report to Hon. Isaac I. Stevens, Governor of Washington Territory, on the Indian Tribes of the Upper Missouri, by Edwin Thompson Denig." Denig left Fort Union in 1856. He died on September 4, 1858 near the city of Winnipeg, Canada. For further biographic information, see Edwin Thompson Denig, *Five Indian Tribes of the Upper Missouri: Sioux, Arickaras, Assiniboines, Crees, and Crows* (edited and with an introduction by John C. Ewers), University of Oklahoma Press, 1961.

## Biographical / Historical

Fort Union trading post was constructed by the American Fur Company in 1828 and was located near the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers. It was established to open trade with the Assiniboine, yet it served a variety of tribes, including the Crow, Arikara, Mandan, Hidatsa, Plains Cree, Chippewa, Blackfeet, and Sioux. These tribes exchanged beaver pelts and buffalo robes for trade goods at Fort Union. In 1866, the trading post was sold to the Northwestern Fur Company. A year later, the United States Army purchased the facility, which it subsequently dismantled. For further information, see: National Park Service, Fort Union Trading Post: Grandest Fort on the Missouri <http://www.nps.gov/fous/history.htm> Edwin Thompson Denig, Five Indian Tribes of the Upper Missouri: Sioux, Arickaras, Assiniboines, Crees, and Crows (edited and with an introduction by John C. Ewers), University of Oklahoma Press, 1961.

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## Scope and Contents

These are the original drawings that accompanied Edwin Thompson Denig's 451 page manuscript, entitled "Report to Hon. Isaac I. Stevens, Governor of Washington Territory, on the Indian Tribes of the Upper Missouri, by Edwin Thompson Denig." The drawings depict utensils, tools, game pieces, plants, warfare, hunting, a tipi, a scalp dance, and a map. Five of the drawings are attributed to anonymous Assiniboine artists. The drawings that are not attributed to the Assiniboine may have been drawn by Edwin T. Denig. All of the drawings were likely created between 1853 and 1854, while Denig was working on the report. Records indicate that his original manuscript included 15 pages ink drawings. The manuscript was published in 1930, in the Forty-sixth Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology. Prior to being photographed for the publication, the 15 pages of drawings were trimmed into 39 smaller drawings, which were subsequently arranged and pasted onto 19 mounts. Included with the drawings is typed page identifying the drawings as "Original sketches for Plates 64-80 and Figs. 30-35 of Denig's "Indian Tribes of the Upper Missouri," edited by J.N.B. Hewitt, BAE-AR 46, Washington, D.C., 1930. " The page also contains a list of negative numbers.

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## Bibliography

Edwin Thompson Dennig, Indian Tribes of the Upper Missouri, Ed. by J. N. B. Hewitt, Bureau of American Ethnology Forty-sixth Annual Report (1928-1929), United States Government Printing Office, 1930.

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## Local Numbers

NAA MS 2600-b-1  
OPPS NEG 42,514

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## Place

United States North Dakota Fort Union.

## Place

United States Dakota Territory Fort Union.

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## Album Information

MS 2600B1 000

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Assiniboin
- Assiniboine (Stoney)
- Indians of North America -- Great Plains

### Cultures:

- Assiniboine (Stoney)
- Indians of North America -- Great Plains

### Types of Materials:

- Ledger drawings

## Container Listing

### [Anonymous Assiniboine drawing of musical instruments, ca. 1853](#)

1 Drawings (visual works) (graphite and ink, mounted on paper; 13 x 19 cm., mount 18 x 22 cm.)

Annotator: Denig, Edwin Thompson, 1812-1858

Language: English.

Notes: NAA INV 08689300

OPPS NEG 99-10376

NAA MS 2600-B-1

Inscriptions read "1 Hoop Drum Head", "2 Hoop Drum Other Side", "3 Log Drum Head", "4 Gourd Rattle", "5 Doctors Rattle Chi-chi-quoin", "6 Doctors Rattle", "7 Brave's Rattle", "8 Deer Hoof Rattle", "9 Flute", "10 Whistle", "11 Gourd Rattle".

United States North Dakota Fort Union.

United States Dakota Territory Fort Union.

MS 2600B1 001

Topic: Assiniboin

Genre/Form: Ledger drawings

Culture: Assiniboine (Stoney)

Indians of North America -- Great Plains

Anonymous Assiniboine drawings of pictographs depicting a trail and camp and a diagram of a council lodge, ca. 1853

2 Items (drawings on 1 mount; ink, mounted on paper; left drawing 18 x 18 cm., diam. right drawing 9 cm., mount 15 x 29 cm.)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Annotator: Denig, Edwin Thompson, 1812-1858

Language: English.

Notes: NAA INV 08689401

NAA INV 08689402

NAA MS 2600-B-1

Figures in the left drawing have been numbered 1-8. The diagram depicts the lodge where E. T. Denig met with Assiniboin leaders, with a calumet indicating the location of the leading chief.

United States North Dakota Fort Union.

United States Dakota Territory Fort Union.

MS 2600B1 002

Topic: Assiniboin

Genre/Form: Ledger drawings

Pictographs -- Assiniboin

Culture: Assiniboine (Stoney)

Indians of North America -- Great Plains

[Anonymous Assiniboine drawings of hunting scene and camp equipment, 1853](#)  
[November 10](#)

2 Items (drawings on 1 mount; ink, mounted on paper; left drawing 14 x 14 cm., right drawing 14 x 13 cm., mount 21 x 31 cm.)

Annotator: Denig, Edwin Thompson, 1812-1858

Language: English.

Notes: NAA INV 08689500

NAA MS 2600-B-1

Inscriptions read "Drawings by an Assiniboine Indian. Fort Union Nov. 10. 1853.", "Lodge", "Dog Travoille", "Bear", "Man Shooting a Bear.", "Dog", "Elk", "Medicine Pole and Sack".

United States North Dakota Fort Union.

United States Dakota Territory Fort Union.

MS 2600B1 003

Topic: Assiniboin

Genre/Form: Ledger drawings

Culture: Assiniboine (Stoney)

Indians of North America -- Great Plains

Anonymous Assiniboine drawings of Arikara ear ornament and cooking vessels from several tribes, ca. 1853

5 Items (drawings on 1 mount; graphite and ink, mounted on paper; mount 18 x 28 cm.)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Annotator: Denig, Edwin Thompson, 1812-1858

Language: English.

Notes: NAA INV 08689601

NAA INV 08689602

NAA INV 08689603

NAA INV 08689604

NAA INV 08689605

OPPS NEG 99-10372

NAA MS 2600-B-1

Inscriptions read: "Arickara Ear Ornament", "Arickara Clay Pot", "Clay Corn Mortar", "Grossventre Stone Mortar", "Assiniboine Buffalo Horn Spoon", "Assiniboine Big Horn Spoon, 3 pints".

United States North Dakota Fort Union.

United States Dakota Territory Fort Union.

MS 2600B1 004

Topic: Assiniboin

Genre/Form: Ledger drawings

Culture: Assiniboine (Stoney)  
Sahnish (Arikara)  
Indians of North America -- Great Plains

[Anonymous Assiniboine drawings of characteristic Assiniboine implements, ca. 1853](#)

1 Drawings (visual works) (graphite and ink, mounted on paper; 20 x 17 cm., mount 26 x 20 cm.)

Annotator: Denig, Edwin Thompson, 1812-1858

Language: English.

Notes: NAA INV 08689700

NAA MS 2600-B-1

Inscriptions read: "Stone Hatchet", "Stone War Club", "Stone Arrow Point", "Shoulder Blade Axe", "Hump Rib Knife", "Assiniboine Snow Show", "Assiniboine War Lance", "Elk Horn Bow".

United States North Dakota Fort Union.

United States Dakota Territory Fort Union.

MS 2600B1 005

Topic: Assiniboin

Genre/Form: Ledger drawings

Culture: Assiniboine (Stoney)

Indians of North America -- Great Plains

[Anonymous Assiniboine drawings of medicinal roots, ca. 1853](#)

2 Items (drawings on 1 mount; ink, mounted on paper; top drawing 10 x 12 cm., bottom drawing 13 x 12 cm., mount 28 x 18 cm.)

Annotator: Denig, Edwin Thompson, 1812-1858

Language: English.

Notes: NAA INV 08689800

NAA MS 2600-B-1

OPPS NEG 99-10374

Inscriptions read: "Comb Root. Racine Noir. E-pach-cha-hoo" and "Cat's Tail. Hint-kah-koo. Racine de Quenouille".

United States North Dakota Fort Union.

United States Dakota Territory Fort Union.

MS 2600B1 006

Topic: Assiniboin

Genre/Form: Ledger drawings

Culture: Assiniboine (Stoney)

Indians of North America -- Great Plains

[Anonymous Assiniboine drawings of calumets and related implements, ca. 1853](#)

1 Drawings (visual works) (ink, mounted on paper; top drawing 19 x 18 cm., mount 29 x 22 cm.)

Annotator: Denig, Edwin Thompson, 1812-1858

Language: English.

Notes: NAA INV 08689900



NAA MS 2600-B-1

OPPS NEG 99-10375

Inscriptions read: "Probe", "Tobacco Sack", "Ghost or Charm Sack", "Calumet Pipe uncovered", "Calumet Pipe enveloped". Portions of the uncovered pipe are labelled A-D.

United States North Dakota Fort Union.

United States Dakota Territory Fort Union.

MS 2600B1 007

Topic: Assiniboin  
Genre/Form: Ledger drawings  
Culture: Assiniboine (Stoney)  
Indians of North America -- Great Plains

#### [Anonymous Assiniboine map of buffalo park, ca. 1853](#)

1 Drawings (visual works) (ink, mounted on paper; top drawing 29 x 20 cm., mount 35 x 24 cm.)

Annotator: Denig, Edwin Thompson, 1812-1858

Language: English.

Notes: NAA INV 08690000

NAA MS 2600-B-1

OPPS NEG 42514-F

Inscriptions read: "A The park below the bluffs", "BB A high range of hills", "C Gaps or opening thru the hills & descend to the park", "D A person on horseback leading in the buffaloe", "E Buffaloe on the level prairie behind the bluffs, and enclosed within the lines", "F Dirt and stones thrown up about 3 ft high and men lying down concealed behind them", "G The buffalo having passed the stations of these, they close in behind them", " Indian camp in the valley below the bluffs".

United States North Dakota Fort Union.

United States Dakota Territory Fort Union.

MS 2600B1 008

Topic: Assiniboin  
Genre/Form: Ledger drawings  
Maps  
Culture: Assiniboine (Stoney)  
Indians of North America -- Great Plains

#### [Anonymous Assiniboine drawings of Assiniboine implements, ca. 1853](#)

7 Items (drawings on 1 mount; ink on blue chain layed paper, tracing cloth, and Manila paper, mounted on paper; mount 26 x 19 cm.)

Annotator: Denig, Edwin Thompson, 1812-1858

Language: English.

Notes: NAA INV 08690100

NAA MS 2600-B-1

Inscriptions read: "Fig 1 Elk Shin Bone", "Fig 2 Elk horn iron tool", "Lancet", "Horn for cupping", "Wah heent Kah tool for scraping hides

as shaving the skin Fig 2", "Wah heem pack pah Tool for fleshing the  
hide". Two drawings are on blue chain layed paper, 1 is on architech's  
linen, and 4 on manilla paper.

United States North Dakota Fort Union.

United States Dakota Territory Fort Union.

MS 2600B1 009

Topic: Assiniboin  
Genre/Form: Ledger drawings  
Culture: Assiniboine (Stoney)  
Indians of North America -- Great Plains

#### [Anonymous Assiniboine drawing of an Assiniboine running a buffalo, 1854](#)

1 Drawings (visual works) (ink, mounted on paper; drawing 14 x 23 cm, mount 18 x  
28 cm.)

Annotator: Denig, Edwin Thompson, 1812-1858

Language: English.

Notes: NAA INV 08690200

NAA MS 2600-B-1

OPPS NEG 42514

Inscription reads "An Assiniboine running a Buffalo. Drawn by an  
Assiniboine warrior and hunter. Fort Union Jan. 16. 1854."

United States North Dakota Fort Union.

United States Dakota Territory Fort Union.

MS 2600B1 010

Topic: Assiniboin  
Genre/Form: Ledger drawings  
Culture: Assiniboine (Stoney)  
Indians of North America -- Great Plains

#### [Anonymous Assiniboine drawing of scalp dance, 1853](#)

1 Drawings (visual works) (ink, mounted on paper; drawing 14 x 23 cm, mount 18 x  
28 cm.)

Annotator: Denig, Edwin Thompson, 1812-1858

Language: English.

Notes: NAA INV 08690300

NAA MS 2600-B-1

OPPS NEG 42514-E

Inscription reads "Scalp dance. Drawn by an Assiniboine warrior. Fort  
Union Nov. 10. 1853."

United States North Dakota Fort Union.

United States Dakota Territory Fort Union.

MS 2600B1 011

Topic: Assiniboin  
Genre/Form: Ledger drawings  
Culture: Assiniboine (Stoney)  
Indians of North America -- Great Plains

[Anonymous Assiniboine drawings of Assiniboine bowl game, ca. 1853](#)

3 Items (drawings on 1 mount; ink, mounted on paper; mount 28 x 18 cm.)

Annotator: Denig, Edwin Thompson, 1812-1858

Language: English.

Notes: NAA INV 08690400

NAA MS 2600-B-1

Diagram of plays of the game of the bowl (cos-soo) with representations of crow's claws, stones, china, vest buttons, and brass tack heads.

United States North Dakota Fort Union.

United States Dakota Territory Fort Union.

MS 2600B1 012

Topic: Assiniboin

Genre/Form: Ledger drawings

Culture: Assiniboine (Stoney)

Indians of North America -- Great Plains

[Anonymous Assiniboine drawings of Assiniboine game, ca. 1853](#)

4 Items (drawings on 1 mount; graphite and ink, mounted on paper; mount 28 x 21 cm.)

Annotator: Denig, Edwin Thompson, 1812-1858

Language: English.

Notes: NAA INV 08690500

NAA MS 2600-B-1

Diagram of plays of the "chun-kan-dee" game with representations of blank and marked sticks.

United States North Dakota Fort Union.

United States Dakota Territory Fort Union.

MS 2600B1 013

Topic: Assiniboin

Genre/Form: Ledger drawings

Culture: Assiniboine (Stoney)

Indians of North America -- Great Plains

[Anonymous Assiniboine drawings of tipi frame and completed tipi decorated with animal designs, ca. 1853](#)

2 Items (drawings on 1 mount; graphite and ink, mounted on paper; top drawing 14 x 10 cm., bottom drawing 26 x 17 cm., mount 29 x 21 cm.)

Annotator: Denig, Edwin Thompson, 1812-1858

Language: English.

Notes: NAA INV 08690600

NAA MS 2600-B-1

Inscriptions read "Lodge Poles set up", "Lodge Erected", and "Entrance."

United States North Dakota Fort Union.

United States Dakota Territory Fort Union.

MS 2600B1 014

Topic: Assiniboin  
Genre/Form: Ledger drawings  
Culture: Assiniboine (Stoney)  
Indians of North America -- Great Plains

[Anonymous Assiniboine drawings of interior of tipi and its surroundings, ca. 1853](#)

1 Drawings (visual works) (ink, mounted on paper; drawing 21 x 19 cm., mount 29 x 23 cm.)

Annotator: Denig, Edwin Thompson, 1812-1858

Language: English.

Notes: NAA INV 08690700

NAA MS 2600-B-1

OPPS NEG 42514-B

Inscriptions read: "Door", "Kettles", "Pans", "Meat", "Grandmother", "Man of the Lodge", "His Eldest wife", "Their children", "Visitors and Strangers", "Brothers-in-law and other relatives", "Female relatives and visitors", "The other wives of the master", "Gun", "Baggage", "Grandfather or uncle", "Dressed skins, etc", "Meat and other baggage", "water", "Medicine Sack and Shield outside", "Dogs outside though each side the door against the lodge.", "Large quantities of fresh meat on scaffold outside covered with raw hides", "wood outside near the door".

United States North Dakota Fort Union.

United States Dakota Territory Fort Union.

MS 2600B1 015

Topic: Assiniboin  
Genre/Form: Ledger drawings  
Culture: Assiniboine (Stoney)  
Indians of North America -- Great Plains

[Anonymous Assiniboine drawings of mounted Assiniboine warrior in costume stabbing Blackfoot, 1854](#)

1 Drawings (visual works) (ink, mounted on paper; drawing 23 x 14 cm., mount 29 x 18 cm.)

Annotator: Denig, Edwin Thompson, 1812-1858

Language: English.

Notes: NAA INV 08690800

NAA MS 2600-B-1

OPPS NEG 42514-A

Inscriptions read "Drawn by an Assiniboine Warrior. Fort Union Jan.16. 1854."

United States North Dakota Fort Union.

United States Dakota Territory Fort Union.

MS 2600B1 016

Topic: Assiniboin  
Blackfeet

Genre/Form: Ledger drawings  
Culture: Assiniboine (Stoney)  
Niitsitapii (Blackfoot/Blackfeet)  
Indians of North America -- Great Plains

[Anonymous Assiniboine drawings of pictographs describing a battle scene, ca. 1853](#)

1 Drawings (visual works) (ink, mounted on paper; drawing 17 x 26 cm., mount 20 x 30 cm.)

Annotator: Denig, Edwin Thompson, 1812-1858  
Language: English.  
Notes: NAA INV 08690900  
NAA MS 2600-B-1  
United States North Dakota Fort Union.  
United States Dakota Territory Fort Union.  
MS 2600B1 017

Topic: Assiniboin  
Genre/Form: Ledger drawings  
Pictographs -- Assiniboin  
Culture: Assiniboine (Stoney)  
Indians of North America -- Great Plains

[Anonymous Assiniboine drawings of pictographs describing a battle scene, ca. 1853](#)

1 Drawings (visual works) (ink, mounted on paper; drawing 28 x 18 cm., mount 31 x 20 cm.)

Annotator: Denig, Edwin Thompson, 1812-1858  
Language: English.  
Notes: NAA INV 08691000  
NAA MS 2600-B-1  
Various aspects of the drawing have been numbered 1-11.  
United States North Dakota Fort Union.  
United States Dakota Territory Fort Union.  
MS 2600B1 018

Topic: Assiniboin  
Genre/Form: Ledger drawings  
Culture: Assiniboine (Stoney)  
Indians of North America -- Great Plains

[Anonymous Assiniboine map of north side of Missouri River from Fort Union to Fort Benton, 1853 December 27](#)

1 Drawings (visual works) (ink, mounted on paper; drawing 31 x 20 cm., mount 36 x 24 cm.)

Annotator: Denig, Edwin Thompson, 1812-1858  
Language: English.  
Notes: NAA INV 08691100  
NAA MS 2600-B-1

Inscriptions read: "Map of the north side of the Missouri river from Fort Union, mouth of the Yellow Stone, to Fort Benton, mouth of the Maria, drawn by an Assiniboine warrior at Fort Union Dec. 27.1853. The artist was not acquainted with the country on the south side of the Mo. The dotted line is their usual war path to the Blackfeet. Names of rivers & c. written under his direction and explanation." Features on the map are inscribed "Fort Union", "Creek", "Trade Houses", "Bourbeuse R.", "Road to War", "Quaking Asp R.", "Milk River", "North Fork", "Pine Mts.", "War Path", "Bear Paw M.", "Sweet smeling Grass Mounts", "Maria River", "Rocky Mountains", "Fort Benton", "Maria R.", "Teton River", "Missouri River", and "Perpetual Snow Mountains."

United States North Dakota Fort Union.

United States Dakota Territory Fort Union.

MS 2600B1 019

Topic:	Assiniboin
Genre/Form:	Ledger drawings Maps
Culture:	Assiniboine (Stoney) Indians of North America -- Great Plains