



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

Guide to Anonymous Plains  
Indian drawings, circa 1880-1882

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Anthropological Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Anonymous Plains Indian drawings
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1880-1882
<b>Identifier:</b>	NAA.MS28804
<b>Creator:</b>	Bell, James M. (James Montgomery), 1837-1919 (Collector)
<b>Extent:</b>	9 Drawings (visual works) (pencil and colored pencil, laminated)
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The drawings were received from James M. Bell as part of a larger collection of objects in 1894 (USNM Accession 28804). The drawings were transferred from the object collections of the Department of Anthropology to the National Anthropological Archives in 1969.

### Related Materials

The National Anthropological Archives holds other drawings which may be by the same artist in MS 384176 and MS 384177.

The Department of Anthropology object collections holds artifacts collected by James M. Bell in Accession 28804.

### Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Access to the collection requires an appointment.

### Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

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## Biographical Note

James Montgomery Bell (1837-1919) was an officer in the U.S. Army and was posted at Poplar River with the Seventh Cavalry from 1880-1882.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of nine (9) drawings on 8 sheets of paper by an unidentified artist. The drawings were collected by James M. Bell. Bell described them as: "Drawings on Paper, Poplar River, Mont, Captive Sioux, 8." He

described other materials from Poplar River which came from Gall's band of Sioux, who surrendered there in 1881. The drawings seem consistent with that origin.

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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.

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## Local Numbers

USNM Accession 028804

NAA MS 28804

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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:

Sioux

Cultures:

Sioux

Types of Materials:

Drawings  
Ledger drawings  
Works of art

Places:

North America

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## Container Listing

Box 28804, Folder 1	Four buffalo, with one defecating 1 Drawings (visual works) (graphite and colored pencil; 12.5 x 7.75 inches) <a href="#">Image(s): Anonymous Plains Indian drawing of four buffalo, with one defecating</a> Notes: NAA INV 08531400 NAA MS 28804 001
Box 28804, Folder 1	Elk 1 Drawings (visual works) (graphite and colored pencil; 12.5 x 7.75 inches) <a href="#">Image(s): Anonymous Plains Indian drawing of elk</a> Notes: NAA INV 08531500 NAA MS 28804 002
Box 28804, Folder 1	Tipi camp set up adjacent to two buildings and a line of wall tents 1 Drawings (visual works) (graphite and colored pencil; 12.5 x 8 inches) <a href="#">Image(s): Anonymous Plains Indian drawing of tipi camp set up adjacent to two buildings and a line of wall tents</a> Notes: NAA INV 08531600 NAA MS 28804 003 One tipi labeled "Fool," and illegible names inscribed next to buildings.
Box 28804, Folder 1	A human figure and two bears, one smoking a pipe 1 Drawings (visual works) (graphite and colored pencil; 12.5 x 7.75 inches) <a href="#">Image(s): Anonymous Plains Indian drawing of a human figure and two bears, one smoking a pipe</a> Notes: NAA INV 08531700 NAA MS 28804 004 Each animal inscribed with the word "Bear" and "Bear 2" written above them.
Box 28804, Folder 2	A man on horseback with a shield and lance 1 Drawings (visual works) (graphite and colored pencil; 12.5 x 7.75 inches) <a href="#">Image(s): Anonymous Plains Indian drawing of a man on horseback with shield and lance</a> Notes: NAA INV 08531800 NAA MS 28804 005
Box 28804, Folder 2	Two men dancing, with one holding a scalp 1 Drawings (visual works) (graphite and colored pencil; 12.5 x 7.75 inches) <a href="#">Image(s): Anonymous Plains Indian drawing of two men dancing, with one holding a scalp</a> Notes: NAA INV 08531900 NAA MS 28804 006

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| Box 28804, Folder 2 | Two men on horseback<br>1 Drawings (visual works) (graphite and colored pencil; 12.5 x 7.75 inches)<br><a href="#">Image(s): Anonymous Plains Indian drawing of two men on horseback</a><br>Notes: NAA INV 08532000<br>NAA MS 28804 007   |
| Box 28804, Folder 3 | Five men on horseback, and a sixth holding his horse<br>1 Drawings (visual works) (graphite and colored pencil; 14 x 8.5 inches)<br><a href="#">Image(s): Anonymous Plains Indian drawing of five men on horseback, and a sixth holding his horse</a><br>Notes: NAA INV 08532101<br>NAA MS 28804 008  |
| Box 28804, Folder 3 | Row of five trees with animals at their bases and birds perched on top<br>1 Drawings (visual works) (graphite and colored pencil; 14 x 8 inches)<br><a href="#">Image(s): Anonymous Plains Indian drawing of row of five trees with animals at their bases and birds perched on top</a><br>Notes: NAA INV 08532102<br>NAA MS 28804 009<br>Verso of "Five men on horseback, and a sixth holding a horse" |