



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Anonymous drawings, possibly Lakota, on pages
of book made of printed forms for Property Return

National Anthropological Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Plains Indian drawings in book made from Ration Lists
Identifier:	NAA.MS384177
Date:	1880-1884
Extent:	9 Drawings (8 leaves; graphite and colored pencil; 26 x 24 cm.)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Provenance

The drawings were received in 1946, as part of a collection assembled by David H. Brotherton during his military career. The material passed through several hands before reaching the museum, having gone from Col. Brotherton to his widow, to her sister, and thence to the sister's daughter, Mrs. Thomas T. (Ruth) Brown, the donor. Materials were identified to tribe primarily by museum staff, almost all as Sioux; a few evidently came with further identifying information. The collection consisted primarily of artifacts and was registered by the USNM as Accession 173,740 and cataloged in the general Anthropology collection. In the 1970s materials on paper were transferred to the NAA including two sets of drawings (384,176 and 384,177), a series of photographic prints of American Indians (now part of Photo Lot 24, 00615600-00616100 and 00942600) and watercolors by Herman Stieffel, 5th Infantry, of events and locations in Kansas and Montana (now at Smithsonian American Art Museum).

Citation

Manuscript 384177, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Biographical / Historical

A chronology of D.H. Brotherton's military career, was provided by Major General Edward F. Witsell of the War Department in a letter to John Ewers, SI, dated August 29, 1946: "Brotherton who was on duty at Ft Snelling, Minn from 4 February 1880 to 13 July 1880 assumed command of Ft Buford, Dakota Territory 20 July 1880 and relinquished command of that post 30 August, 1881. He assumed command of Ft Stevenson, D.T. 7 September 1881 and relinquished command of the post 20 October 1881." War Dept Archives states: Ft Snelling 12 June 1882 - 16 Jan 1884. Retired 14 April 1884. Died 17 September 1889. D.H. Brotherton accepted the surrender of Sitting Bull at Ft Buford, N. Dakota on July 17, 1881.

Scope and Contents

Plains Indian drawings on the leaves of a book created by stitching together four folded sheets of printed forms, yielding eight leaves. One leaf with drawings on both sides, for a total of nine drawings executed in graphite and colored pencil. The paper is unused forms for ration issue at Fort Peck, Montana, with the

printed dated 1888_. Some leaves are printed with the names of family heads to receive rations, rendered in both Native language (not identified) and English.

Drawings are of intertribal warfare, capture of horses, and a meeting between Brotherton and an Indian leader, identified in an inscription as Wetcohu or Wetcohee.

The authorship of the drawings is unknown. They appear to be by a single hand, whose work also appears in MS384176 and MS28804 "Anonymous Plains Indian Drawings, n.d." . The original identification as "Sioux," subsequently changed to the more specific Lakota, may be in error as the hair and attire of the Native man in the Brotherton image as well as other drawings is inconsistent with that tribe. Other possible tribal origins include Assiniboine, Arikara, and Crow, the latter two groups a source of Army scouts. The drawings can be dated to 1880-1884, the period of Brotherton's western service, based on the depiction of him in one image (384,177_2), and the printed date of 188_. While the forms are from Fort Peck, Montana, Brotherton never served there. However, bands from several tribes once at Ft. Peck, including Assiniboine, Yanktonai, and Hunkpapa, subsequently passed through Ft. Buford during Brotherton's service there (Miller et al 2008).

References cited: Miller, David Reed, and Fort Peck Community College, eds. 2008 *The History of the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes, 1800 - 2000*. Poplar, Mont.#: Helena, Mont: Fort Peck Community College#; Montana Historical Society Press.

Local Numbers

NAA MS 384177

Place

United States Dakota Territory.

Album Information

MS 384177 000

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Central Plains
Northern Plains

Cultures:

Central Plains
Northern Plains

Types of Materials:

Ledger drawings

Names:

Brotherton, D. H.

Container Listing

Drawing of warfare scene, n.d
1 Drawing (graphite and colored pencil; 26 x 24 cm.)
Language: English.
Notes: NAA MS 384177
NAA INV 384177_01
United States Dakota Territory.
MS 384177 001
Genre/Form: Ledger drawings
Culture: Lakota (Teton/Western Sioux)

Drawing of warfare scene, with warrior attacking man and woman, n.d
1 Drawing (graphite and colored pencil; 26 x 24 cm.)
Depicted: Brotherton, D. H.
Language: English.
Notes: NAA MS 384177
NAA INV 384177_02
Verso has picture of Army officer identified as Brotherton
meeting with Indian man identified as Wetcohu.
United States Dakota Territory.
MS 384177 002
Genre/Form: Ledger drawings
Culture: Lakota (Teton/Western Sioux)

Drawing of warrior with horned, feathered headdress capturing two horses,
n.d
1 Drawing (graphite and colored pencil; 26 x 24 cm.)
Language: English.
Notes: NAA MS 384177
NAA INV 384177_03
United States Dakota Territory.
MS 384177 003
Genre/Form: Ledger drawings
Culture: Lakota (Teton/Western Sioux)

Drawing of warfare scene, one warrior carrying a shield, n.d
1 Drawing (graphite and colored pencil; 26 x 24 cm.)
Language: English.
Notes: NAA MS 384177
NAA INV 384177_04
United States Dakota Territory.
MS 384177 004
Genre/Form: Ledger drawings
Culture: Lakota (Teton/Western Sioux)

Drawing of rider with saber capturing a horse, n.d
1 Drawing (graphite and colored pencil; 26 x 24 cm.)
Language: English.
Notes: NAA MS 384177
NAA INV 384177_05
United States Dakota Territory.
MS 384177 005
Genre/Form: Ledger drawings
Culture: Lakota (Teton/Western Sioux)

Drawing, of rider wearing a capote (long coat with hood) capturing a horse,
n.d
1 Drawing (graphite and colored pencil; 26 x 24 cm.)
Language: English.
Notes: NAA MS 384177
NAA INV 384177_06
United States Dakota Territory.
MS 384177 006
Genre/Form: Ledger drawings
Culture: Lakota (Teton/Western Sioux)

Drawing of warfare scene, one warrior carrying a shield and another warrior
holding a crooked society lance, n.d
1 Drawing (graphite and colored pencil; 26 x 24 cm.)
Language: English.
Notes: NAA MS 384177
NAA INV 384177_07
United States Dakota Territory.
MS 384177 007
Genre/Form: Ledger drawings
Culture: Lakota (Teton/Western Sioux)

Drawing of warfare scene, with one man scalping a fallen enemy, n.d
1 Drawing (graphite and colored pencil; 26 x 24 cm.)
Language: English.
Notes: NAA MS 384177
NAA INV 384177_08
United States Dakota Territory.
MS 384177 008
Genre/Form: Ledger drawings
Culture: Lakota (Teton/Western Sioux)