



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Photographs of William Henry Holmes at Piney Branch Quarry, circa 1889-1894

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National Anthropological Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Photographs of William Henry Holmes at Piney Branch Quarry
Date:	circa 1889-1894
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.86-12
Extent:	3 Copy prints
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Location of Originals

Originals in Smithsonian American Art Portrait Gallery Library in William Henry Holmes's "Random records of a lifetime, 1846-1931 [i.e. 1932] Cullings, largely personal, from the scrap heap of three score years and ten, devoted to science, literature and art".

Location of Other Archival Materials

Reports and photographs relating to the Piney Branch Quarry site can be found in the National Anthropological Archives in MS 4695 and Photo Lot 4.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Correspondence by Holmes can be found throughout the National Anthropological Archives in MS 7206, the records of the Bureau of American Ethnology, and the records of the Department of Anthropology.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Manuscripts and notes by Holmes can be found throughout the National Anthropological Archives in MS 4698, MS 2125, MS 7112, and MS 7570.

Location of Other Archival Materials

The William Henry Holmes Papers, 1870-1931 (SIA RU007084), are held by the Smithsonian Institution Archives.

Preferred Citation

Photo lot 86-12, Photographs of William Henry Holmes at Piney Branch Quarry, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.
Access to the collection requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

William Henry Holmes (1846-1933) was an artist, geologist, and archeologist who spent most of his career with the United States Geological Survey of the Territories, United States Geological Survey, Bureau of American Ethnology, and Department of Anthropology of the Smithsonian. From 1894-1897, he was the head of anthropology at the Field Columbian Museum (Field Museum of Natural History) and on the staff of the University of Chicago. Holmes later served as head curator for the US National Museum Department of Anthropology from 1897-1902 and head of the BAE from 1902-1909.

From 1889 to 1894, shortly after his appointment to the Bureau of American Ethnology, William Henry Holmes conducted excavations of the quartzite and steatite quarries in the Rock Creek Valley. Based on these investigations, Holmes found a series of rejected blade forms, proving that they represented early stages of a manufacturing process and not an earlier native presence in North America.

Scope and Contents

Images of William Henry Holmes and others, probably archeologists, at the paleoindian Piney Branch Quarry site in Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC.

Bibliography

Photographs published in David J. Meltzer, *First Peoples in a New World: Colonizing Ice Age America*, Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2009 .

Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 86-12

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Excavations (Archaeology)

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Holmes, William Henry, 1846-1933

Places:

Washington (D.C.) -- Antiquities