



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

L.F. Foster Wild West Scrapbooks, Photographs, and Copy Negatives

NMAH.AC.1289

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2019

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	L. F. Foster Wild West Scrapbooks, Photographs, and Copy Negatives
Date:	1888-1921
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1289
Creator:	Foster, L. F. (Photographer) Foster, L. F. (Collector)
Extent:	2 Cubic feet (5 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Collection documents Wild West Shows in Oklahoma and Washington, particularly the career of Lewis Frederick Foster who was known for his showmanship and skills.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated to the Smithsonian Institution in 1933 by Foster's sister, Louise T. Foster, and his brother, John H. Foster.

Provenance

Transferred to the Archives Center from the National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

Related Materials

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Archives Center Wild West Collection, NMAH.AC.1466

Warshaw Collection of Business Americana, NMAH.AC.0060

Sonora Carver Papers, NMAH.AC0.521

Processing Information

The collection was processed by Sarah Gediman, intern, 2019; Julia Gibson, intern, 2019; and Savannah Hildre, intern, 2019; supervised by Vanessa Broussard-Simmons, archivist, 2019.

Preferred Citation

L.F. Foster Wild West Scrapbooks, Photographs, and Copy Negatives, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical / Historical

Lewis Frederick Foster was born in Newton, Middlesex, Massachusetts to James Foster and Elizabeth T. Frederick on September 19, 1861. He married Leona [Rosamond] Stockman on September 30, 1890 in Boston, Massachusetts. The Fosters had one daughter Leona Rosamond born in 1897. Foster performed on horseback in shows across the West including the Wild West Show in Oklahoma, the Frontier Show in Cheyenne, Washington, and the 101 Ranch Wild West Show. He was known as a 'Rough and Fancy Rider' and a 'Revolver Expert'. Foster died on March 4, 1924 at the age of sixty-two in Modesto, Stanislaus County, California and is buried in Acacia Memorial Park.

Scope and Contents

Consists of two scrapbook albums documenting the career of Lewis Frederick Foster. Materials also relate to western shows, rodeos, Buffalo Bill Cody, Pawnee Bill, and the 101 Ranch Wild West Show. Many other individual showmen, including American Indians, are also represented. Information in the collection indicates that Foster was an amateur photographer. It is unclear if the photographs are the work of Foster or if he assembled the album himself.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into one series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Cowboys
- Cowgirls
- Indians of North America -- 1890-1920
- Rodeos
- Western shows

Cultures:

- Indians of North America -- 1890-1920

Types of Materials:

- Albums
- Bills
- Clippings
- Photographs -- 1890-1910 -- Black-and-white photoprints

Names:

101 Ranch Wild West Show
Buffalo Bill, 1846-1917
Pawnee Bill

Container Listing

Box 1	<p>Scrapbook album, number one, pages disassembled, 1888-1913</p> <p>Notes: Composed primarily of photographs and newspaper clippings. Subjects include Lewis Frederick Foster, his daughter Leona Rosamond, notorious outlaws the Dalton brothers, Pawnee Bill of the Wild West Show, various cowboys and performers, and members of the Sioux and Apache tribes. Newspaper clippings contain coverage of the Annual Frontier Celebration in Cheyenne, and smaller competitions across the country including and women participating in male-dominated rodeos.</p>
Box 2	<p>Scrapbook album, number one, pages disassembled, continued , 1913-1921</p> <p>Notes: Consists of the continued pages of scrapbook album number one and also contains newspaper clippings and photographs from the 1910s. The newspaper clippings are from the newspaper The Billboard. The clippings are affiliated with the Miller Brothers; Zack T. Miller, George L. Miller, and J. C. Miller, the 101 Ranch Wild West Show, and The Young Buffalo Show. Photographs are connected to the 101 Ranch Wild West Show, Young Buffalo Show, and the performers. The performers in the show include Buffalo Bill, Jimmie Blue Bird, Florence La Du, Lone Star May, Cheyenne Bill, Annie Oakley, and others. Letters to the editor of Billboard are clippings of reviews from the show when it traveled across country. In addition, there is biographic information about Tom Mix.</p>
Box 3	<p>Detached cover from scrapbook album number one</p> <p>Notes: Contains</p>
Box 4	<p>Scrapbook album, number two, 1909-1921</p> <p>Notes: Contains photographs and newspaper clippings. from the 1910s. The newspaper articles are mostly related to the cowboy competitions in Cheyenne, Wyoming and Pendleton, Oregon. The Cheyenne Frontier Days competition and the Pendleton Roundup are particularly featured. The photographs are largely connected to the 101 Ranch Wild West Show. The ranch owners, the Miller brothers, are in the photographs. Performers in the show are also documented, including Buffalo Bill, Oglala Lakota Chief Iron Tail, Lulu Bell Parr, Buffalo Vernon, the Tantlingers, Ada Somerville, Sam Garrett, L. F. Foster himself, and others.</p>
Box 5	<p>Copy negatives and black and white photographs, undated</p> <p>Notes: Includes images of Native Americans, Lulu Bell Parr, Joe C. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Tantlinger, Pawnee Bill, May Leille and others.</p>