



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

Nacoochee Mound excavation photographs

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	Nacoochee Mound excavation photographs
Date:	1915
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.001.007
Creator:	Heye, George G. (George Gustav), 1874-1957 Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation
Source:	Pepper, George H. (George Hubbard), 1873-1924
Extent:	13 Photographic prints (silver gelatin) 120 Glass plate negatives 125 Copy negatives (acetate)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The photographs in this collection document the excavation of the Nacoochee Mound, located along the banks of the upper Chattahoochee River in the mountains of northeast Georgia, in the summer of 1915. The excavation was a joint project between the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation and the Bureau of American Ethnology.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The negatives are field photographs created by the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation in 1915. It is still not clear when or how the photographic prints came to the Museum of the American Indian, though they were cataloged sometime around 1935.

Separated Materials

See George Pepper's field notes from the Nacoochee Mound, 1915 in the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation records (NMAI.AC.001) in Box 191, Folder 4-8. All archaeological materials from this excavation can be found in NMAI's archaeology collections.

Processing Information

Collection recorded updated by Rachel Menyuk, Processing Archivist, in 2019.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Nacoochee Mound excavation photographs, Item Number; National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Access to NMAI Archive Center collections is by appointment only, Monday - Friday, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Please contact the archives to make an appointment (phone: 301-238-1400, email: nmaiarchives@si.edu). Some photographs are restricted due to cultural sensitivity.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical Note

Between May and October of 1915, the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation and the Smithsonian Institution Bureau of American Ethnology collaborated to excavate the Nacoochee Mound, located in the Nacooche Valley along the upper Chattahoochee River in northeast Georgia. One of the earliest scientific excavations of its kind in the state of Georgia, the Nacoochee Mound excavation was headed by Frederick Webb Hodge and George Hubbard Pepper and found evidence of at least two mound stages with a total of seventy-five human burials, some of them intrusive from a later time. George Heye, Hodge, and Pepper's co-authored paper, "The Nacoochee Mound in Georgia," appeared in vol. 4, no. 3 of Contributions from the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation.

Although there is also evidence for previous occupation, archaeological evidence at the Nacoochee Mound site and the nearby Eastwood site suggests that these two mound sites probably served as local, primarily administrative, centers during the Middle Lamar Period (approximately late fifteenth to early sixteenth centuries). (particularly Eastwood) The village around Nacoochee Mound has not been excavated but is possibly the site of Nacoochee or Chota, two Cherokee villages documented by Colonel George Chicken's 1715 expedition. These two towns continued to appear on maps until the mid-eighteenth century but were abandoned shortly thereafter.

Scope and Contents

The Nacoochee Mound excavation photographs consists of glass plate negatives, photographic prints and copy negatives related to the joint effort of the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation and the Smithsonian Institution Bureau of American Ethnology to excavate the mound in the summer of 1915. The photographic materials primarily depict the mound photographed from various directions before and during excavation, but also objects and antiquities exhumed from the mound and members of the field team posed singly and as a group on the mound site, including George G. Heye and his wife Thea Heye. Any photographs that include images of burials or human remains have been restricted. Other MAI staff photographed include Frederick Webb Hodge, Charles Turbyfill and Edwin Coffin. George Gustav Heye is listed as the photographer but it is much more likely that George Hubbard Pepper or another one of the MAI staff shot the photographs.

Glass negatives include N00478-N00597. The copy negatives (acetate) have the same N #'s as the glass plate negatives and also include N34266, N36690-N36693, which are copies of the photographic prints. These copy negatives were made by the Museum of the American Indian sometime in the 1960s as part of a large photograph conservation project. Silver gelatin prints include P11593-P11605.

Arrangement

Arranged by catalog number.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Antiquities -- Georgia -- Nacoochee Valley (Ga.)
- Excavations (Archaeology) -- Georgia -- Nacoochee Valley (Ga.)
- Indians of North America -- Georgia
- Indians of North America -- Georgia -- Nacoochee Valley (Ga.) -- Antiquities
- Mississippian Tradition (archaeological culture)
- Mounds -- Georgia -- Nacoochee Valley (Ga.)

Cultures:

- Mississippian Tradition (archaeological culture)

Types of Materials:

- Black-and-white negatives
- Photographic prints
- Photographs
- Slides (photographs)

Names:

- Coffin, Edwin F. (Edwin Francis), b. 1883
- Heye, Thea
- Hodge, Frederick Webb, 1864-1956
- Nacoochee Mound Expedition, 1915
- Pepper, George H. (George Hubbard), 1873-1924
- Turbyfill, Charles Orr, 1888-1966

Places:

- Nacoochee Valley (Ga.)

Container Listing

Series 1: Mound Excavation Negatives, 1915

120 Glass plate negatives

120 Copy negatives

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Series 2: Photographic prints of George Heye and Staff, 1915

13 Photographic prints (silver gelatin)

4 Copy negatives

Photo-folder 1	P11593: Portrait of Thea Heye, 1915 1 Photographic print Notes: Portrait of Thea Heye posed in doorway of an elaborately decorated wooden summer house on top of Nacoochee Mound in Georgia.
Photo-folder 1	P11594: Portrait of George Heye and Frederick Webb Hodge, 1915 1 Photographic print Notes: Portrait of George Gustav Heye and Frederick Webb Hodge relaxing in an elaborately decorated wooden summer house on top of Nacoochee Mound in Georgia.
Photo-folder 1	P11595: RESTRICTED, 1915 1 Photographic print Notes: Frederick W. Hodge and George Gustav Heye in a trench excavating stone grave after removal of covering slabs at the Nacoochee Mound in Georgia. RESTRICTED
Photo-folder 1	P11596: Frederick Webb Hodge and Charles Turbyfill excavating, 1915 1 Photographic print Notes: View of Frederick W. Hodge and Charles O. Turbyfill excavating in a trench at Nacoochee Mound in Georgia.
Photo-folder 1	P11597: RESTRICTED, 1915 1 Photographic print Notes: View of Frederick W. Hodge standing in a trench next to a stone grave, still with covering slabs at Nacoochee Mound in Georgia. RESTRICTED.
Photo-folder 2	P11598: Portrait of George Pepper, 1915 1 Photographic print Notes: Outdoor portrait of George H. Pepper posed in doorway of elaborately decorated wooden summer house on top of Nacoochee Mound in Georgia.
Photo-folder 2	P11599: Portrait of George and Thea Heye, 1915 1 Photographic print 1 Copy negative Notes: Portrait of George and Thea Heye seated at a table in an elaborately decorated wooden summer house on top of Nacoochee Mound in Georgia. Copy negative: N36690
Photo-folder 2	P11600: Portrait of George Pepper and George Heye, 1915 1 Photographic print 1 Copy negative

Notes: Outdoor portrait of George H. Pepper and George Gustav Heye posed next to an elaborately decorated wooden summer house on top of Nacoochee Mound in Georgia.
Copy negative: N36691

Photo-folder 2 P11601: [Portrait of Frederick Hodge, George Heye and George Pepper, 1915](#)
1 Photographic print
Notes: Portrait of Frederick W. Hodge, George Gustav Heye, and George H. Pepper seated relaxing in an elaborately decorated wooden summer house on top of Nacoochee Mound in Georgia.

Photo-folder 3 P11602: [Portrait of George Heye, 1915](#)
1 Photographic print
Notes: Portrait of George Gustav Heye posed in the doorway of an elaborately decorated wooden summer house on top of Nacoochee Mound in Georgia.

Photo-folder 3 P11603: [Portrait of George Heye, 1915](#)
1 Photographic print
1 Copy negative
Notes: Portrait of George Gustav Heye posed next to an elaborately decorated wooden summer house on top of Nacoochee Mound in Georgia.
Copy negative: N36692

Photo-folder 3 P11604: [George Heye at Nacoochee Mound, 1915](#)
1 Photographic print
1 Copy negative
Notes: Outdoor view of George Gustav Heye posed at the excavations at Nacoochee Mound, with an elaborately decorated wooden summer house on top of mound in background in Georgia.
Copy negative: N36693

Photo-folder 3 P11605: [Summer house at Nacoochee Mound, 1915](#)
1 Photographic print
Notes: Outdoor view of an elaborately decorated wooden summer house on top of Nacoochee Mound in Georgia.

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