



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

William W. Wotherspoon collection of Goyathlay (Geronimo) and Chatto photographs

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	William W. Wotherspoon collection of Goyathlay (Geronimo) and Chatto photographs
Date:	circa 1888-1905
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.120
Creator:	Wotherspoon, William W. (William Wallace), 1850-1921
Extent:	.01 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection contains 5 photographs of that were collected by William W. Wotherspoon that depict Goyathlay (Geronimo) and Chatto. The bulk of the photos were shot while Goyathlay and Chatto were a prisoners of war at the Mount Vernon Barracks in Alabama from 1888-1894.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated by William W. Wotherspoon [grandson of William Wallace Wotherspoon (1850-1921)] in 1972.

Processing Information

Processed by Emily Moazami, Assistant Head Archivist, 2018.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); William W. Wotherspoon collection of Goyathlay (Geronimo) and Chatto photographs, P#####; National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center, Smithsonian Institution.

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Biographical / Historical

William Wallace Wotherspoon was born in Washington, D.C. in 1850. He served as a troop officer and quarter master during the Indian Wars from 1874 to 1881. On May 16, 1889 Lieutenant Wotherspoon became the new post commander at the Mt. Vernon Barracks in Alabama. Goyathlay (Geronimo) and Chatto arrived at the Barracks as prisoners of war in 1888. Their tribe, the Chiricahua Apaches, were forced from their traditional homelands in New Mexico, Arizona, and Mexico beginning in the 1850s. Tribal leaders like Goyathlay and Chatto fought to protect their tribal lands, but the U.S. Government ultimately forced the Chiricahua Apaches to move to the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona in an effort to concentrate all Apache-speaking tribes in one location. From 1886 to 1913, the Chiricahua Apaches were transferred as prisoners of war to internment camps in Florida, Alabama, and Oklahoma. Goyathlay died as a prisoner of war on February 17, 1909 in Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Chatto eventually settled on the Mescalero Apache Reservation in New Mexico and died in 1934. Wotherspoon went on to become a military General and Chief of Staff of the United States Army. He died in on October 21, 1921 in Washington, D.C.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains five photographs collected by William W. Wotherspoon that depict Goyathlay (Geronimo) and Chatto, two Chiricahua Apache leaders. The bulk of the photos were most likely shot while Goyathlay and Chatto were a prisoners of war at Mount Vernon Barracks in Alabama from 1888-1894. One photograph of Goyathlay was shot on May 14, 1905, possibly on his return trip to Fort Sill, Oklahoma from President Theodore Roosevelt's inauguration parade in Washington, DC on March 4, 1905.

The photos on card mounts were shot by different photography studios including Dagle's Studio in Murphysboro, Illinois; Reed and Wallace Co. in Mobile, Alabama; William Reed Studio in Mobile, Alabama; and other unidentified photographers.

William W. Wotherspoon most likely collected the photographs while he served as a post commander at the Mt. Vernon Barracks.

Arrangement

Arranged in 1 folder by image number.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Chiricahua Apache
- Indian encampments -- Alabama
- Mount Vernon (Ala.)
- Photographs

Cultures:

- Chiricahua Apache

Names:

Geronimo, 1829-1909

Container Listing

Photo-folder 1	<p>P23235: Studio portrait of Chatto, 1888-1894 1 Photographic print Notes: Cabinet card studio portrait of Chatto (Chato; also known as Alfred; circa 1854-1934). This photograph was probably shot circa 1888-1894 when Chatto was a prisoner of war at the Mount Vernon Barracks in Alabama. The photograph was shot by the Reed and Wallace Studio of Mobile, Alabama. A handwritten note on the verso of the print incorrectly identifies the sitter as "Geronimo's Son Chiquito." Culture: Chiricahua Apache</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>P23236: Outdoor portrait of Goyathlay (Geronimo), May 14, 1905 1 Photographic print Notes: Outdoor portrait of Goyathlay (Geronimo, ca. 1825-1909; Chiricahua Apache), posing wearing a rawhide cap with attached feathers down the back. This photograph was possibly shot on Goyathlay's return trip to Fort Sill, Oklahoma from President Theodore Roosevelt's inauguration parade in Washington, DC on March 4, 1905. The date May 14, 1905 is handwritten on the back of the card mount and Geronimo's name is etched on the back as well. The photograph was shot by the Dagle's Studio of Murphysboro, Illinois. Culture: Chiricahua Apache</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>P23237: Studio portrait of Goyathlay (Geronimo), 1888-1889 1 Photographic print Notes: Cabinet card vignette photographic portrait of Goyathlay (Geronimo, ca. 1825-1909; Chiricahua Apache), shot by the Reed Studio of Mobile, Alabama. This photograph was most likely shot when Goyathlay was a prisoner of war at the Mount Vernon Barracks in Alabama. Culture: Chiricahua Apache</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>P23238: Outdoor portrait of Goyathlay (Geronimo), 1888-1894 1 Photographic print Notes: Outdoor portrait of Goyathlay (Geronimo, ca. 1825-1909; Chiricahua Apache), posing in front of a building at the Mount Vernon Barracks in Alabama where he was a prisoner of war. This image was photographed by an unidentified photographer. Culture: Chiricahua Apache</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>P23239: Outdoor portrait of Goyathlay (Geronimo), 1888-1894 1 Photographic print Notes: Outdoor portrait of Goyathlay (Geronimo, ca. 1825-1909; Chiricahua Apache), standing in front of a house at the Mount Vernon Barracks in Alabama where he was a prisoner of war. This image was photographed by an unidentified photographer.</p>

Culture: Chiricahua Apache