



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

Major Dache M. Reeves photographs of Ohio Mounds

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	Major Dache M. Reeves photographs of Ohio Mounds
Date:	1934-1936
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.154
Creator:	Reeves, Dache McClain, 1894-1972
Extent:	8 Photographic prints (11" x 14") 1 Copy negative
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection includes eight photographic prints and one copy negative of Ohio archaeological sites taken by Major Dache M. Reeves in approximately 1935. The depicted archaeological sites were created by the Adena and Hopewell cultures.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Gift of Major Dache Reeves, 1938.

Related Materials

See also NAA.MS4318, "Aerial photos of mound sites in Ohio," in the National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

Processing Information

Processed by Mikaela Hamilton, Archives Center Intern, 2020.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Major Dache M. Reeves photographs of Ohio Mounds, image #, NMAI.AC.154; National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

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Biographical / Historical

Dache M. Reeves was born in 1894 in Bloomingdale, Georgia to David McClain Reeves and Helen Pearl Barnes. During World War I, Reeves served in the Army Air Service in the 9th Aero Squadron, American Expeditionary Forces. He received the Distinguished Service Cross and a Silver Star as a First Lieutenant for "extraordinary heroism in action" while serving north of Avocourt (Meuse), France, on October 9, 1918.

Following his service in World War I, Reeves maintained an interest in aerial photography. In 1923, he invented and patented a device for interpreting aerial photography (patent number US1693527A) and in 1927, his book "Aerial photographs, characteristics and military applications" was published by the Ronald Press Company.

In the 1930s, Reeves began applying his knowledge of aerial photography to the study of archaeology. He began working with the Ohio History Society in 1934 to carry out an aerial survey of the ancient mounds and fortifications of Ohio. In 1936, the Ohio History Journal published his article "A Newly Discovered Extension of the Newark Works," in which Reeves describes his identification of a previously unknown group of earthworks discovered using aerial imaging. The Ohio History Society described him as "one of America's outstanding experts in aerial photography." Reeves also photographed and researched the Serpent Mount of Ohio (pictured within this collection) and authored the article "The Great Serpent Mount in Ohio," which was published with his photographs in an April 1936 issue of Scientific American. In 1938, Reeves donated a collection of photographs detailing the native people, scenery, and habitations of the Philippines to Bureau of American Ethnology. This collection is now housed at the National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution (NAA.MS4299).

Reeves married Edith Opal Preston, and together they had four daughters, named Margaret, Katherine, Anne, and Martha Reeves. He died in 1972 in Clearwater, Florida at age 78.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains 8 oversized (11" x 14") photographic prints and one copy negative depicting aerial views of archaeological mounds in Ohio. These aerial photographs were taken by Major Dache M. Reeves between 1934-1936 as part of a collaboration with the Ohio History Society to conduct an aerial survey of the ancient mounds and fortifications of Ohio. The mounds pictured include the Great Serpent Mound, the Williamson Mound, the Seip Mound, the Newark works, Mound city, and the Miamisburg Mound. P13212 was published in an April 1936 issue of Scientific American to accompany Reeves' article "The Great Serpent Mount in Ohio."

Prints include P13205- P13212. Copy negatives include N21598.

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:

Adena (archaeological culture)
Hopewell (archaeological culture)

Cultures:

Adena (archaeological culture)
Hopewell (archaeological culture)

Places:

Miamisburg mound (Ohio) -- archeology
Newark (Ohio)
Newark site (Ohio) -- archeology
Seip Mound (Ohio) -- archeology
Serpent Mound (Ohio) -- Archeology

Container Listing

Box 1	P13205: Williamson Mound, circa 1934 1 Photographic print Notes: Aerial photograph depicting the Williamson Mound in Cedarville, Ohio. There is some snow on and around the mound. Photograph taken by Dache M. Reeves in approximately 1934. Culture: Hopewell (archaeological culture)
Box 1	P13206: Seip Mound, circa 1934 1 Photographic print Notes: Aerial view of Seip Mound, part of the Seip Earthworks Complex in Ross County, Ohio. Photograph taken by Dache M. Reeves in approximately 1934. Culture: Hopewell (archaeological culture)
Box 1	P13207: Newark works, 1934 January 1 Photographic print Notes: Aerial photograph depicting an oblique view of the circle and octagon of the Newark works in Newark, Licking County, Ohio. Photograph taken by Dache M. Reeves in January 1934. Culture: Hopewell (archaeological culture)
Box 1	P13208: Newark works, 1934 January 1 Photographic print Notes: Aerial photograph depicting a vertical view of the circle and octagon of the Newark works in Newark, Licking County, Ohio. Photograph taken by Dache M. Reeves in January 1934. Culture: Hopewell (archaeological culture)
Box 1	P13209: Mound city, circa 1934 1 Photographic print Notes: Aerial photograph of Mound City in Ross County, Ohio. Image depicts the mound complex, along with nearby modern buildings, roads, and a river. Photograph taken by Dache M. Reeves in approximately 1934. Culture: Hopewell (archaeological culture)
Box 1	P13210: Miamisburg Mound, circa 1934 1 Photographic print Notes: Aerial photograph of the Miamisburg Mound in Miamisburg, Ohio. Image depicts the mound surrounded by farm land, with a modern road in the foreground. Photograph taken by Dache M. Reeves in approximately 1934. Culture: Adena (archaeological culture)
Box 1	P13211: Great Serpent Mound, circa 1935

1 Photographic print

1 Copy negative

Notes: Aerial view of the Great Serpent Mound in Adams County, Ohio. The mound was built by the Adena culture. Photograph taken by Dache M. Reeves in approximately 1935.

N21598

Culture: Adena (archaeological culture)

Box 1

P13212: [Great Serpent Mound, circa 1935](#)

1 Photographic print

1 Copy negative

Notes: Aerial view of the Great Serpent Mound in Adams County, Ohio. The mound was built by the Adena culture. Photograph taken by Dache M. Reeves in approximately 1935.

N21598

Culture: Adena (archaeological culture)