



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

Sidney S. Wilson and family
photographs from Pima Indian Agency

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2020

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	Sidney S. Wilson and family photographs from Pima Indian Agency
Date:	1884-1885 1915 1933
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.156
Creator:	Wilson, Sidney S.
Source:	Wheeler, Roswell G.
Extent:	10 Negatives (photographic) 11 Photographic prints
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection includes negatives and photographic prints shot or collected at the Pima Indian Agency, now the Gila River Reservation, by Sidney S. Wilson and family members Florence Wilson and Roswell G. Wheeler. Sidney Wilson's sister Florence worked as a teacher at the Agency school during the winter of 1884-1885 while their uncle Roswell Wheeler served as the Indian Agent.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Gift of Sidney S. Wilson, 1942.

Separated Materials

The letters from Florence Wilson to her family, initially part of the same donation, were part of the Huntington Free Library collection that were sent to Cornell University. They can now be found here: Correspondence from Pima Indian Agency, Sacaton, Arizona, #9050. Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University Library.

Processing Information

Processed by Rachel Menyuk, Processing Archivist, 2020.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Sidney S. Wilson and family photographs from Pima Indian Agency, image #, NMAI.AC.156; National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center, Smithsonian Institution.

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Biographical / Historical

During the winter of 1884-1885, Florence L. Wilson (1861-1920), later Mrs. E.E. Flickinger, taught at the Pima Indian Agency School in Sacaton Arizona. Her uncle, Roswell G. Wheeler, had been appointed Indian Agent by President Garfield and he hired Florence, along with an Aunt to teach at the Agency. During her time teaching, one of Florence's tasks was to assign new English names to her Akimel O'odham (Pima) students in addition to teaching them English. Florence wrote letters home to Indiana during this time which were kept by her mother Hepzibah Beulah Wilson.

Florence's younger brother, Sidney S. Wilson (1865-1950) re-discovered the letters, along with other family keepsakes, and in January 1933 traveled to the Pima Agency in Arizona with his wife Anna to see where Florence taught. Wilson sought out several of Florence's students including Ned Wood, Dick Hull and Hugh Patton. Wilson returned to Sacaton, Arizona in 1936 with a picture of his sister Florence that was to hang in the new school building. In 1942, Wilson donated Florence's letters along with photographs to the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation. The letters are now at Cornell University with the Huntington Free Library collection.

Scope and Contents

Series 1: Sidney S. Wilson, 1933, includes 10 negatives made by Sidney S. Wilson on his 1933 trip to the Gila River Reservation in Sacaton, Arizona. Wilson met with several of his sister Florence's former Akimel O'odham (Pima) students, including Hugh Patton and Calvin Emerson, and took photographs with them in front of old agency buildings. The photographs with Sidney in the image were likely shot by his wife Anna. Series 2: Roswell G. Wheeler, 1915, includes three photographic prints shot by Ros Wheeler on Easter in 1915. Wheeler had been Indian Inspector of the Pima Indian Agency in the 1880s and returned for a visit in 1915. These include images of Ned Wood and his family and Harvey White and his son. Wood and White were also former students of Florence Wilson in 1884-1885. Series 3: Unknown Photographer, circa 1884, includes eight photographic prints by unknown photographer(s) made around 1884. These images depict school age children, women carrying burden baskets and men on horseback.

Scope and Contents

Negatives: N22921-N22930, Photographic prints: P15778-P15788.

Arrangement

Arranged into three series. Series 1: Sidney S. Wilson, 1933; Series 2: Roswell G. Wheeler, 1915; Series 3: Unknown Photographer, 1884.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Akimel O'odham (Pima)
Teachers -- 19th century

Cultures:

Akimel O'odham (Pima)

Types of Materials:

Negatives (photographic)
Photographic prints

Names:

United States. Office of Indian Affairs
Wheeler, Roswell G.
Wilson, Florence L.

Places:

Gila River Indian Reservation (Ariz.)

Container Listing

Series 1: Sidney S. Wilson photographs, 1933

10 Negatives (photographic)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Photographer: Wilson, Sidney S.

Scope and Contents: This series includes 10 negatives made by Sidney S. Wilson on his 1933 trip to the Gila River Reservation in Sacaton, Arizona. Wilson met with several of his sister Florence's former Akimel O'odham (Pima) students, including Hugh Patton and Calvin Emerson, and took photographs with them in front of old agency buildings. The photographs with Sidney in the image were likely shot by his wife Anna.

N22921-N22930

Culture: Akimel O'odham (Pima)

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Series 2: Roswell G. Wheeler photographs, 1915

3 Photographic prints

Photographer: Wheeler, Roswell G.

Scope and Contents: This series includes three photographic prints shot by Ros Wheeler on Easter in 1915. Wheeler had been Indian Inspector of the Pima Indian Agency in the 1880s and returned for a visit in 1915. These include images of Ned Wood and his family and Harvey White and his son. Wood and White were also former students of Florence Wilson in 1884-1885.

P15778-P15780

Culture: Akimel O'odham (Pima)

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Series 3: Photographs from Unknown Photographers, 1884-1885

8 Photographic prints

Scope and Contents: This series includes eight photographic prints by unknown photographer(s) made around 1884. These images depict school age children, women carrying burden baskets and men on horseback.
P15781-P15788

Culture: Akimel O'odham (Pima)

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