



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

Timothy H. O'Sullivan and William Bell
photographs from the U.S. Geographical
Surveys West of the 100th Meridian

Emily Moazami

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National Museum of the American Indian
4220 Silver Hill Rd
Suitland, Maryland 20746-2863
Business Number: Phone: 301.238.1400
Fax Number: Fax: 301.238.3038
nmaiarchives@si.edu
<http://nmai.si.edu/explore/collections/archive/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	Timothy H. O'Sullivan and William Bell photographs from the U.S. Geographical Surveys West of the 100th Meridian
Date:	1871-1874
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.229
Creator:	O'Sullivan, Timothy H., 1840-1882 (Photographer) Bell, William, 1830-1910 (Photographer) Geographical Surveys West of the 100th Meridian (U.S.)
Extent:	54 Albumen prints 7 Copy negatives
Language:	No linguistic content; Not applicable .
Summary:	This collection contains photographs documenting American Indian communities and landscape scenes in the Southwest photographed by Timothy O'Sullivan and William Bell for U.S. geographical surveys circa 1871-1874.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

It is unclear when most of these photographs were obtained by the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation.

Processing Information

This collection is still in need of processing. Collection record written by Emily Moazami, Supervisory Archivist, 2020.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Collection of Timothy H. O'Sullivan photographs, image #, NMAI.AC.229, National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

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Biographical / Historical

The geographical surveys west of the 100th meridian were operated under the United States Army Corps of Engineers and supervised by First Lieutenant (later Captain) George Montague Wheeler from 1869 through 1879. They were intended to document the geography in order to make accurate maps, record locations of American Indian tribes in the region, select possible sites for military installations and rail or common roads, and note resources in the area. In total, the surveys analyzed the region now covered by Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, and Oregon, and the expeditions produced 164 maps, 41 publications, and a series of stereoviews. Timothy H. O'Sullivan began photographing geographical surveys in 1867-1869 when he was the official photographer for Clarence King's United States Geological Exploration of the 40th Parallel. He served as the official photographer for the Wheeler surveys in 1871, 1873, and 1874, with William Bell taking over in 1872. O'Sullivan later became the United States Geological Survey's first photographer in Washington, D.C.

[History note from the National Anthropological Archives collection record NAA.PhotoLot.167 with edits made by NMAI]

Scope and Contents

P01730, P01731, P01733, P01735, P01743-P01792 (copy negatives: N34849-N34851, N34853- N34855, N35051)

This collection contains 54 photographs (plus 7 copy negatives) that were shot by photographer Timothy O'Sullivan 1871, 1873, and 1874 and William Bell in 1872 for the U.S. Geographical Surveys West of the 100th Meridian, under Lieutenant George M. Wheeler, War Department, Corps of Engineers, U.S.A. The survey was commonly referred to as the "Wheeler Surveys."

The photographs depict American Indian Pueblos in the Southwest including Apache; A:shiwí (Zuni); Diné (Navajo); Hopi; Jicarilla Apache; Laguna Pueblo; Mohave; San Felipe Pueblo; Taos Pueblo; and Ute, among other communities. In addition, the collection contains landscape and scenic shot in the same region.

The bulk of the photos in this collection are one half of a stereoscope photograph that was never pasted onto a stereoscope card. The copy negatives in this collection were created by the Museum of the American Indian in the late 1960s.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged by year and subject matter.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

A:shiwí (Zuni)
Cochiti Pueblo

Diné (Navajo)
Hopi Pueblo
Isleta Pueblo
Jicarilla Apache
Laguna Pueblo
Mojave (Mohave)
San Felipe Pueblo
Taos Pueblo
Ute

Cultures:

A:shiwi (Zuni)
Cochiti Pueblo
Diné (Navajo)
Hopi Pueblo
Isleta Pueblo
Jicarilla Apache
Laguna Pueblo
Mojave (Mohave)
San Felipe Pueblo
Taos Pueblo
Ute

Places:

Arizona
Chelly, Canyon de (Ariz.)
Colorado
Idaho
New Mexico

Container Listing

Series 1: Wheeler Survey of 1871, 1871

8 Albumen prints

Photographer: O'Sullivan, Timothy H., 1840-1882
 Creator: Geographical Surveys West of the 100th Meridian (U.S.)
 Scope and Contents: This series contains 8 prints photographed by Timothy O'Sullivan in 1871 for the U.S. Geographical Surveys West of the 100th Meridian, under Lieutenant George M. Wheeler, War Department, Corps of Engineers, U.S.A. The survey was commonly referred to as the "Wheeler Surveys." The photos in this series are one half of a stereoscope photograph.
 This series includes depictions of scenes along the Colorado River and includes photographs of the Grand Canyon and Mojave men, among other scenes.
 Culture: Mojave (Mohave)
 Place: Colorado
 Arizona

Photo-folder 1 [Mojave, 1871](#)
 Notes: P01779

Photo-folder 2 [Colorado River Scenes, 1871](#)
 Notes: P01754, P01763, P01764 P01774, P01775, P01778, P01780

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Series 2: Wheeler Survey of 1872, 1872

7 Albumen prints

Photographer: Bell, William, 1830-1910

Creator: Geographical Surveys West of the 100th Meridian (U.S.)

Scope and Contents: This series contains 7 albumen prints photographed by William Bell (1830-1910) in 1872 for the U.S. Geographical Surveys West of the 100th Meridian, under Lieutenant George M. Wheeler, War Department, Corps of Engineers, U.S.A. The survey was commonly referred to as the "Wheeler Surveys." The photos in this series are one half of a stereoscope photograph.

This series includes depictions of scenes along the Colorado River in Arizona.

Place: Arizona

Photo-folder 3

[Colorado River Scenes, 1872](#)

Notes: P01760, P01766-P01770, P01782

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Series 3: Wheeler Survey of 1873, 1873

22 *Albumen prints*

5 *Copy negatives*

Photographer: O'Sullivan, Timothy H., 1840-1882

Creator: Geographical Surveys West of the 100th Meridian (U.S.)

Scope and Contents: This series contains 22 albumen prints (and 5 copy negatives) photographed by Timothy O'Sullivan in 1873 for the U.S. Geographical Surveys West of the 100th Meridian, under Lieutenant George M. Wheeler, War Department, Corps of Engineers, U.S.A. The survey was commonly referred to as the "Wheeler Surveys." The photos in this series are one half of a stereoscope photograph.

The photographs includes depictions of Diné (Navajo), A:shiwí (Zuni), Western Apache, and White Mountain Apache peoples and pueblos. The images also include scenes shot at Canyon de Chelley in Arizona.

Culture: Diné (Navajo)

A:shiwí (Zuni)

White Mountain Apache

Place: Arizona

Photo-folder 4	A:shiwí (Zuni), 1873 Notes: P01730, P01731, P01748, P01761, P01762, P01773, P01777 (Copy negatives made by Museum of the American Indian: N34849, N34850, N34853) Culture: A:shiwí (Zuni)
Photo-folder 5	Diné (Navajo), 1873 Notes: P01733, P01743, P01752, P01753, P01783 (Copy negative made by the Museum of the American Indian: N34851, N34855) Culture: Diné (Navajo)
Photo-folder 6	Western Apache, 1873 Notes: P01735, P01757, P01791
Photo-folder 7	White Mountain Apache, 1873 Notes: P01747, P01755 Culture: White Mountain Apache
Photo-folder 8	Canyon de Chelly Scenes (Arizona and New Mexico Territories), 1873 Notes: P01744, P01745, P01746, P01751, P01758

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Series 4: Wheeler Survey of 1874, 1874

17 Albumen prints

2 Copy negatives

Photographer: O'Sullivan, Timothy H., 1840-1882

Creator: Geographical Surveys West of the 100th Meridian (U.S.)

Scope and Contents: This series contains 17 albumen prints (and 2 copy negatives) photographed by Timothy O'Sullivan in 1874 for the U.S. Geographical Surveys West of the 100th Meridian, under Lieutenant George M. Wheeler, War Department, Corps of Engineers, U.S.A. The survey was commonly referred to as the "Wheeler Surveys." The photos in this series are one half of a stereoscope photograph.

The photographs include depictions of Jicarilla Apache, Ute, and San Juan Pueblo peoples. The images also include scenes shot in Idaho, Colorado, and New Mexico.

Culture: Jicarilla Apache

Ute

Ohkay Owingeh (San Juan Pueblo)

Place: Colorado

New Mexico

Idaho

Photo-folder 9

[Jicarilla Apache, 1874](#)

Notes: P01765, P01792

Photo-folder 10

[San Juan Pueblo, 1874](#)

Notes: P01756

Photo-folder 11

[Ute, 1874](#)

Notes: P01749, P01776 (Copy negative made by the Museum of the American Indian: N35051)

Photo-folder 12

[Idaho Territory Scenes, 1874](#)

Notes: P01786, P01787, P01790

Photo-folder 13

[Colorado Territory Scenes, 1874](#)

Notes: P01750, P01759, P01771, P01772, P01784, P01785, P01789

Photo-folder 14

[New Mexico Territory Scenes, 1874](#)

Notes: P01781, P01788

(Copy negative made by Museum of the American Indian: N34854)

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