



Smithsonian
National Museum of the American Indian

James Schoolcraft Sherman's
photograph of Chief Red Cloud

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2018

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	James Schoolcraft Sherman's photograph of Chief Red Cloud
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.280
Date:	1880
Extent:	1 Photograph (Opalotype; 24 1/4 x 35 in.)
Creator:	Bell, Charles Milton, 1848-1893 Gill, De Lancey, 1859-1940
Language:	No linguistic content; Not applicable .
Summary:	This collection contains an Opalotype photograph of Red Cloud photographed by Charles Milton Bell in 1880. The photograph was in the collection of the 27th Vice President of the United States, James Schoolcraft Sherman.
Digital Content:	Image(s): James Schoolcraft Sherman's photograph of Chief Red Cloud
Container:	Box 1

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated in 2013 to NMAI in memory of the 27th Vice President, James Schoolcraft Sherman. A gift of the Sherrill Sherman, Jr. family.

Provenance

The photograph is stored in NMAI object collections.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Emily Moazami, Assistant Head Archivist, 2018.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); James Schoolcraft Sherman's photograph of Chief Red Cloud, P38087; National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

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

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Biographical / Historical

James Schoolcraft Sherman (1855-1912) was the Vice President under William Howard Taft (1908-1912). Prior to being Vice President, he was a Congressman from New York and for twelve years preceding the Vice Presidency, was Chairman of the Commission on Indian Affairs. He was also a collector of Indian artifacts.

Charles Milton Bell (circa 1849-1893) operated one of Washington, DC's leading photography studios. In 1880 he invited Oglala Chief Red Cloud, also known as Makhpiya-luta, (1822-1909) and the delegation he was traveling with to his photography studio located on Pennsylvania Avenue. Bell photographed both group and individual portraits. De Lancey Gill, a photographer from the Bureau of American Ethnology, presumably printed one of these Red Cloud portraits on a milk glass plate resulting in an Opalotype.

Scope and Contents

P38087

This portrait of Oglala Lakota Chief Red Cloud was photographed by Charles Milton Bell in 1880. The photo is an opalotype (a direct positive photograph on milk glass) that was owned by James Schoolcraft Sherman, the 27th Vice President of the United States. The opalotype was kept in the family and passed down to Sherman's eldest son Sherrill Sherman, who installed it as a window in his home in Clinton, NY. Sherrill's son, Sherill Sherman, Jr. then installed the window in his wife's music studio in New Hartford, CT.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in one box.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Oglala Lakota (Oglala Sioux)

Cultures:

Oglala Lakota (Oglala Sioux)

Names:

Red Cloud, 1822-1909