



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

Blind Joe Amos family photographs

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	Blind Joe Amos family photographs
Date:	circa 1856-1911
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.408
Extent:	10 Photographs
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection contains eight photographs (plus 2 copy negatives) depicting four generations of the Blind Joe Amos (1805-1869; Mashpee Wampanoag) family.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Gift of Edith Payne, 1955.

Processing Information

Processed by Emily Moazami, Supervisory Archivist, 2022

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Blind Joe Amos family photographs, image #, NMAI.AC.408; National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center, Smithsonian Institution.

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Biographical / Historical

This collection documents four generations of a Mashpee Wampanoag family. Below are the biographies of the family, with individuals represented in the photographs in **BOLD**. The family were leaders in the community.

Reverend Joseph Babcock Amos, also known as "Blind Joe" or "Blind Joseph" Amos (1805-1869), son of Jeremiah Amos (1784-1812) and Ophelia Amos, was born in 1805 in the Mashpee Wampanoag community on Mashpee Lake in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Blind from an early age, Joseph memorized the bible and went on to become the first ordained Mashpee Wampanoag Indian minister. He served as the founder and pastor of the Wampanoag Baptist congregation at Gay Head on Martha's Vineyard. Around 1833, Amos married Abigail Wickums (1804-1853) and they had several children including **Rebecca Cecorson Amos (1834-1922)**; Anna F. Amos Webquish (1834-1910); Isaac C. Amos (1840-1860); Sarah B. Amos (born 1843); Cordelia Amos (1845-1880). Reverend Amos died in 1869 in Edgartown, Mass.

Rebecca Cecorson Amos Hammond (1834-1922), daughter of Rev. Blind Joe Amos, was born on April 7, 1834 in Mashpee, Massachusetts. She married **Watson F. Hammond (1837-1916)** around 1860. In 1885, Hammond became the first Indian to serve in the Massachusetts State Legislature. Rebecca and Watson had several children including: Mary Elizabeth Hammond (1858-1925); **Charles H. Hammond (1860-1949)**; Jeremiah Hammond (1863-1864); Laura Hammond (1866-1869); **Ellen Hammond (1868-1948)**; Alice Hammond (1869-1893); Rebecca Hammond (born 1870); Lorenzo Tandy Hammond (1871-1959), also known as Chief Little Bear; **Edith L Hammond (born 1873)**; and Caroline Frances Hammond (1875-1958). Rebecca Amos Hammond passed away in 1922 and Watson F. Hammond in 1916.

Charles H. Hammond (1860-1949), son of Rebecca Cecorson Amos Hammond and Watson F. Hammond (1837-1916), was born in 1873 in Mashpee, Massachusetts. He served as a Mashpee teacher and town clerk. He married Mary Elizabeth Pompey (1862-1930) on December 21, 1882. They had several children: Evelyn May Hammond (1883-1930); Charles Henry Hammond (1884-1955); Harold W. Hammond (1886-1888); Geraldine F. Hammond (1887-1967); Cynthia A. Hammond (1889-1945); Harry Clifton Hammond (1893-1893); and Mary Louisa Hammond (1894-1925).

Edith Hammond Payne (born 1873), daughter of Rebecca Cecorson Amos Hammond and Watson F. Hammond (1837-1916), was born in 1873 in Mashpee, Massachusetts. Edith married James M. Payne (born 1869) and they had two children, Mabel Rebecca Payne (born 1894) and Raymond D. Payne (1895-1896). Edith donated this collection of photographs to the Museum of the American Indian in 1955.

Ellen Hammond DeGrasse (1868-1948), daughter of Rebecca Cecorson Amos Hammond and Watson F. Hammond (1837-1916) was born in 1868 in Mashpee, Massachusetts. She married **Charles DeGrasse (1869-1930)** in 1889 and they had three children **Alfred Leslie DeGrasse (1890-1878)**; Clinton F. DeGrasse (1891-1891); and Stowell Winthrop DeGrasse (1893-1906).

Alfred Leslie DeGrasse (1890-1878), son of Ellen Hammond DeGrasse and Watson F. Hammond was born in 1890 in Mashpee, Massachusetts. He enrolled in Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania in 1904, left for a period, reentered, and then graduated in 1911. In 1916 he married Mary Louisa Stanley (1887-1985) of Prince Edward Island, Canada. By 1917, they were living in Detroit, Michigan and had one child, Winifred Degrass (born 1917). Alfred died in 1878 in Detroit.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains eight photographs (and 2 copy negatives) depicting four generations of the Blind Joe Amos (Mashpee Wampanoag) family. The photographs include: "Blind Joe" Amos (1805-1869); Abigail Wickums Amos (1804-1853), the wife of Blind Joe Amos; Amos' daughter Rebecca C. Amos Hammond (1834-1922) and her eldest son Charles H. Hammond (1860-1849); Representative Watson F. Hammond (1837-1916), his daughter Ellen W.

Hammond DeGrasse (1868-1948) and her husband Charles Henry DeGrasse (1869-1930) and their son Alfred DeGrasse (1890-1878).

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:

Mashpee Wampanoag

Cultures:

Mashpee Wampanoag

Container Listing

P25299 (N20351): [Reverend Joseph Babcock Amos \("Blind Joe" Amos\)](#)

2 Photographs

Notes: A cased ambrotype of Reverend Joseph Babcock Amos, also known as "Blind Joe" or "Blind Joseph" Amos (1805-1869), photographed circa 1856-1865. This photograph is the left half of the case shared with a portrait of his wife Abigail Wickums Amos (image # P25300). The case was split in two at some unknown point in time.

Culture: Mashpee Wampanoag

P25300: [Abigail Wickums Amos](#)

1 Photograph

Notes: A cased ambrotype circa 1952-1953 most likely depicting Abigail Wickums Amos (1804-1853), the wife of Blind Joe Amos. This photograph is the right half of the case shared with a portrait of her husband "Blind Joseph" Amos (image # P25299). The case was split in two at some unknown point in time.

P25301: [Rebecca C. Amos Hammond](#)

1 Photograph

Notes: Matted ambrotype of "Blind Joe" Amos' daughter Rebecca C. Amos Hammond (1834-1922) circa 1852.

P25298: [Rebecca C. Amos Hammond and Charles H. Hammond](#)

1 Photograph

Notes: Tintype of Rebecca C. Amos Hammond (1834-1922) and her eldest son Charles H. Hammond (1860-1849) photographed circa 1885-1890. The tintype is housed in a leather case with purple velvet lining.

Culture: Mashpee Wampanoag

P23501 (N20348): [Rebecca C. Amos Hammond](#)

2 Photographs

Notes: A cabinet card with an albumen print depicting Rebecca C. Amos Hammond (1834-1922) photographed by Putnam of Middleboro, Mass. circa 1880-1885.

Culture: Mashpee Wampanoag

P23502: [Representative Watson F. Hammond](#)

1 Photograph

Notes: A cabinet card with an albumen print depicting Representative Watson F. Hammond (1837-1916) photographed by Notman Photographic Co. of Boston, circa 1885-1890.

Culture: Mashpee Wampanoag

P23503: [Alfred DeGrasse](#)

1 Photograph

Notes: A gelatin silver photograph depicting Alfred DeGrasse (1890-1878) in his Carlisle Indian School uniform, circa 1904. Alfred is the son of Ellen W. Hammond DeGrasse (1868-1948) and Charles Henry DeGrasse (1869-1930). He is the grandson of Representative Watson F. Hammond (1837-1916) and Rebecca C. Amos Hammond (1834-1922) and the great-grandson of Blind Joe Amos (1805-1869) and Abigail Wickums Amos (1804-1853).

Culture: Mashpee Wampanoag

P23504: [Alfred DeGrasse, Ellen W. Hammond DeGrasse, and Charles Henry DeGrasse](#)

1 Photograph

Notes: Gelatin silver photograph circa 1907-1911 depicting from left to right: Alfred DeGrasse (1890-1878), his mother Ellen W. Hammond DeGrasse (1868-1948) and his father Charles Henry DeGrasse (1869-1930).

Culture: Mashpee Wampanoag