



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

William and Corinne Nydegger
collection of Potawatomi photographs

Emily Moazami

2025

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	2
Scope and Contents	2
Arrangement	2
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	William and Corinne Nydegger collection of Potawatomi photographs
Date:	circa 1870-1940
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.456
Creator:	Nydegger, Corinne (Collector) Nydegger, William F. (Collector)
Extent:	14 Photographs 1 Notebook
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection contains photographs and a notebook documenting the Potawatomi community in Wisconsin. The materials were collected by anthropologists Dr. William and Corinne Nydegger while they studied at the University of Wisconsin.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Gift of Charles and Debra Nydegger, 2025.

Processing Information

Processed by Emily Moazami, Head Archivist, 2025.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); William and Corinne Nydegger collection of Potawatomi photographs, image #, NMAI.AC.456; National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

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

Conditions Governing Use

Permission to publish materials from the collection must be requested from the National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center. Please submit a written request to nmaiphotos@si.edu. For personal or classroom use, users are invited to download, print, photocopy, and distribute the images that are available online without prior written permission, provided that the files are not modified in any way, the Smithsonian Institution copyright notice (where applicable) is included, and the source of the image is identified as the National Museum of the American Indian. For more information please see the Smithsonian's [Terms of Use](#) and NMAI Archive Center's [Digital Image request](#) website.

Biographical / Historical

Drs. William Frank Nydegger (1915–1991) and Corinne Louise Nydegger Rosow (née Nemetz, 1930–2013) were cultural anthropologists known for their collaborative and individual contributions to the field. Together, they were one of six research teams in the influential *Six Cultures Project* and coauthored *Tarong: An Ilocos Barrio in the Philippines*, based on their fieldwork in the Philippines.

William F. Nydegger was active in mid-20th century anthropological research, while Corinne L. Nydegger Rosow had a distinguished academic career in medical anthropology, particularly at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), where she served nearly two decades in the Department of Epidemiology and International Health. Corinne held degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Cornell University, and Pennsylvania State University, and completed postdoctoral fellowships at UC Berkeley and UCSF. Her pioneering work in human development and aging, especially in parent-child relationships in later life, significantly influenced the field of gerontology.

The Nydeggers studied Potawatami culture while at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Scope and Contents

This collection comprises seven photographic prints, five tintypes, and one handwritten notebook documenting the Potawatomi community in Wisconsin, circa 1870–1940. The materials include portraits and scenes of daily life. Many of the photographs and the notebook feature handwritten annotations, including names, contextual information, and text in an Indigenous language, presumed to be Potawatomi.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged in folders by subject.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Potawatomi
Potawatomi [Forest County, Wisconsin]

Cultures:

Potawatomi
Potawatomi [Forest County, Wisconsin]

Container Listing

Photo-folder 1	Picnic Point, Madison, Wisconsin, 1912 1 Photographic postcard Notes: Photographic postcard depicting "Picnic Point" on University Drive in Madison, Wisconsin, photographed by J.M. Colby of Wausau, Wisconsin, 1912. The photograph depicts a waterscape with a canoe. The back of the postcard features handwriting in an Indigenous language, presumably Potawatomi. It also features the names Bill Joe and wife Hazel.
Photo-folder 1	Portrait of Potawatomi community of Stone Lake 1 Photographic postcard Notes: Photographic postcard depicting a group of men, women, and children (Potawatomi) standing outside a building at Stone Lake, Wisconsin. The name "Ladna" is printed on the lower right hand corner, possibly indicating the photographer's name. The back of the postcard does not have any handwritten notes. Culture: Potawatomi Potawatomi [Forest County, Wisconsin]
Photo-folder 1	Portrait of Man and Woman 1 Photograph Notes: Photograph depicting a man and woman (Potawatomi) standing on a road. The woman is on horseback. Culture: Potawatomi Potawatomi [Forest County, Wisconsin]
Photo-folder 1	Studio portrait of Lowis W 1 Photographic postcard Notes: Photographic postcard depicting two men standing with a table and floral arrangement between them. The image was taken by Madison's Studio in Antigo, Wisconsin. The reverse side of the postcard contains several handwritten notes. The following names appear: "Lowis W" (written twice), Lowis Wabenom (possibly Walenom), Frank Kabas (possibly Kakas) [illegible], and Louis Winsok (noted as Harry Nebraska's brother). Further research is needed to confirm the correct spellings and identifications of the individuals named. Culture: Potawatomi Potawatomi [Forest County, Wisconsin]
Photo-folder 1	Studio Portrait of Jim Mexir 1 Photographic postcard Notes: Photographic postcard depicting a man identified as Jim Mexir (possibly Potawatomi), standing beside a table with a staged book. A handwritten note on the reverse side appears to read "Jim Mixir," though the spelling is uncertain.

	Culture:	Potawatomi Potawatomi [Forest County, Wisconsin]
Photo-folder 2	Outdoor Portrait of Boy, Girl, and Dog 1 Photographic postcard Notes:	Photographic postcard with an outdoor portrait of a boy, girl, and a dog. Handwritten notes on the reverse read, "Ben Williams daughter / Joe Jim / [illegible]." Culture: Potawatomi Potawatomi [Forest County, Wisconsin]
Photo-folder 2	Studio Group Portrait 1 Photographic postcard Notes:	Photographic postcard depicting a studio group portrait, possibly of a family. Two men stand in the background and two women sit in chairs in front of them. The man of the left appears to be wearing an award ribbon on his lapel. A medical bag possibly sits in front of the women. On the reverse is handwritten notes that read, "Migwas (feather) / sister / 'ajobuk (Cliff woman) / Billy Joe husband." The individuals are possibly from the Potawatomi community in Wisconsin. Culture: Potawatomi Potawatomi [Forest County, Wisconsin]
Photo-folder 2	Portrait of Mrs. Ritchie and Mrs. Shepard 1 Photographic postcard Notes:	Photographic postcard of a studio portrait of Mrs. Ritchie and Mrs. Shepard. The reverse contains handwritten notes that read, "Canadian Ottawa / Mrs. Ritchie / Vak + Harry mother / Mich. Ottawa / Mrs. Shephard / Lane [Shephard] mother" Culture: Odawa (Ottawa)
Photo-folder 3	Tintype of George Pemma 1 Tintype Notes:	Tintype portrait of George Pemma standing next to a studio chair. The tintype was stored inside the notebook in this collection. The page reads, "George Pemma / Mac's brother/ Pete's uncle." Culture: Potawatomi Potawatomi [Forest County, Wisconsin]
Photo-folder 3	Tintype of Wallace Pemma 1 Tintype Notes:	Tintype portrait depicting Wallace Pemma. The tintype was stored in the notebook in this collection on a page that reads, "Wallace Pemma / Pete's father." Culture: Potawatomi Potawatomi [Forest County, Wisconsin]
Photo-folder 3	Tintype of Bill Barney	

	1 Tintype	
	Notes:	Tintype studio portrait depicting Bill Barney. The tintype was stored in the notebook in this collection on a page that reads, "Julia Whitefish (?) father (?)."
	Culture:	Potawatomi Potawatomi [Forest County, Wisconsin]
Photo-folder 3	Tintype of John Michigan	
	1 Tintype	
	Notes:	Tintype portrait depicting John Michigan. The tintype was stored in the notebook in this collection on a page that reads, "John Michigan / father of Frank Michigan [arrow pointing to Frank Michigan] Charles Thunder grandfather."
	Culture:	Potawatomi Potawatomi [Forest County, Wisconsin]
Photo-folder 3	Tintype of Bill Barney	
	1 Tintype	
	Notes:	Tintype portrait of Bill Barney. The tintype was stored in the notebook in this collection on a page that reads, "Bill Barney."
	Culture:	Potawatomi Potawatomi [Forest County, Wisconsin]
Photo-folder 3	Notebook	
	1 Notebook	
	Notes:	<p>This small notebook is believed to have belonged to either William Nydegger or Corinne Nydegger. It contains handwritten entries listing names of individuals, relationships, and other miscellaneous details. The notebook also served as a storage place for the tintypes included in this collection, with the entries identifying the sitters depicted in the photographs.</p> <p>Due to the challenging legibility of the handwriting, not all names are clearly decipherable. Some of the names may be transcribed inaccurately. Additional research is needed.</p> <p>This is a partial list of the names listed in the notebook:</p> <p>John Shavar, Joe Pemma, John Thunder, Bill Iowa, John Iowa, John Wallace, and John Mann</p>
	Culture:	Potawatomi Potawatomi [Forest County, Wisconsin]