



TITLE: Elsie Prugh Herndon photograph collection

DATE RANGE: ca. 1895-1934

CALL NUMBER: PC 063

LOCATION: Arizona History Museum, 949 E Second St, Tucson, AZ 85719

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2 linear ft (7 boxes)

PROVENANCE: Donated by Margaret Hale Magness, a step-granddaughter of Frazier and Elsie Herndon, in 1989.

RESTRICTIONS ON USE: Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to Arizona Historical Society, Library & Archives.

PREFERRED CITATION: Arizona Historical Society, Elsie Prugh Herndon photograph collection, PC 063.

PROCESSED BY: Kim Frontz, September 2000. Updated by Perri Pyle in 2023.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Elsie Prugh Herndon was born on January 31, 1869 in New Alexandria, Pennsylvania. She studied missionary work at Park College in Parkville, Missouri. In 1895, after graduating, she took a position at the Tucson Indian Training School. One year later she married Frazier Smith Herndon, the school's superintendent. The couple worked as missionaries to their students until 1903. Then they began traveling throughout southern Arizona to preach the gospel to the entire Tohono O'odham nation. During the next twenty years, Frazier Herndon built the John Elliot Memorial Church for the Tohono O'odham in South Tucson and, in 1916, helped to establish the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation in Sells, Arizona.

In 1924, the Herndons moved to Tuba City, Arizona to work with the Navajo Indians on the newly formed reservation. Their work continued until 1934 when they retired and moved back to Tucson. They had two sons, James Prugh born 1897 and Thomas Ralph born 1898. James served in the military from 1918 to 1945 and was assistant comptroller for the University of Arizona. Thomas was a mining engineer for forty years in San Francisco del Oro, Mexico.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: Photographs of the Herndon's life in Tucson and Tuba City, Arizona. The Indian schools' buildings, students, and teachers are well represented. There are many photographs of Tohono O'odham as well as some of Pima and Navajo Indians. Many of the student portraits are by photographer Henry Buehman including a Tohono O'odham girl with a doll. There are photographs of Harry Azul and other families of Pima Indian leaders. There is an image of adobe making (f.11), a Chinese cook (f.8), and a football team (f.8), and Tohono O'odham watching a Punch and Judy show (f. 12). A photograph of Tohono O'odham elders at Sells, Arizona includes Governor Hunt. Images at Tuba City include John Collier and others. There are also photographs of Hopi actors working in the movie "The Vanishing American."

The collection is divided into **four** series:

Series I: Family and Friends

Series II: Missionary Work

Series III: Landscapes, Etc.

Series IV: Photograph and Postcard Albums

SUBJECT TERMS: Herndon, Frazier Smith, 1864-1936 -- Photographs; Herndon, Elsie Prugh, 1869-1955 -- Photographs; Herndon family -- Photographs; Cook, Charles Henry, 1838-1917 -- Photographs; Hunt, George W.P. (George Wylie Paul), 1859-1934; Sells, Cato, 1859-1948 -- Photographs; Collier, John, 1884-1968 -- Photographs; Azul, Harry -- Photographs; Tucson Indian Training School -- Photographs; Missionaries -- Arizona -- Photographs; Schools -- Arizona -- Tucson -- Photographs; Tohono O'odham Indians -- Education -- Photographs; Tohono O'odham Indians -- Photographs; Navajo Indians -- Photographs; Hopi Indians -- Photographs; Chinese Americans -- Arizona -- Tucson -- Photographs; Puppet theater -- Arizona -- Tucson -- Photographs; Women missionaries -- Arizona -- Photographs; Sells (Ariz.) -- Photographs; Tuba City (Ariz.) -- Photographs; Actors and actresses -- Photographs

RELATED MATERIALS: Elsie Prugh Herndon and Frazier Smith Herndon papers, MS 1038; James Prugh Herndon papers, MS 1172; Tucson Indian School Training records, MS 0809

CONTAINER LIST:

Series I: Family and Friends		
Box	Folder	Description
1	1	Herndon, Elsie Prugh
	2	Herndon, Frazier Smith
	3	Herndon, James Prugh
	4	Prugh family
	5	Cook, Charles H., Pima Indian missionary
	6	Neal family
Series II: Missionary Work		
	7	Tucson Indian Training School

Box	Folder	Description
	8	Tucson Indian Training School - Teachers and students
	9	Tucson Indian Training School - Student portraits
	10	Tucson Indian Training School - Portraits
	11	Indian dwellings
	12	Indian ceremonies
	13	Sells, Ariz. – Tohono O’odham Indian Reservation
	14	Tuba City, Ariz. – Navajo Indian Reservation
Series III: Landscapes, etc.		
2	15	Flagstaff, Ariz. – Northern Arizona Normal School
	16	Fort Tuthill, Ariz.
	17	University of Arizona
	18	Arizona monuments
	19	Arizona landscapes
	20	Cactus
	21	Portraits – unidentified
Series IV: Photograph and Postcard Albums		
3	Album #92180	Tucson, Ariz. Souvenir album. Printed with additional photos glued in (cyanotypes, Indian homes, and cowboys)
4	Album #92190	Tohono O’odham Indians incl. San Miguel, Sells (includes Tohono O’odham women at well with water carriers)
	Album #92191	Tohono O’odham Indians incl. San Miguel, Sells (includes Tohono O’odham women at well with water carriers)
5	Album #92192	Tuba City and Navajo Indians, ca. 1930. Album with notes signed by friends.
	Album #92193	Herndon family and children
6	Album #92194	Indian school buildings
	Album #92195	Herndon family, children and friends, 1900 to 1920, Ajo and Continental, Ariz. (incl. son Ralph in gas mask)
7	Album #92196	Tucson postcards (San Agustin, Presbyterian Church, YMCA, St. Joseph’s Orphans home, Congregational Church, N. Main St. Home, Country club.)
	Album #92197	Postcards (including San Xavier, University of Arizona)