

**TITLE:** Elsie Newton Collection

**DATE RANGE:** 1818-1996

**CALL NUMBER:** PP MS 267

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 5.0 linear ft (8 boxes)

**PROVENANCE:** Donated by Cristina Freeman, 2017.

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**CREDIT LINE:** Elsie Newton Collection, MS 267, Arizona Historical Society-Papago Park

**PROCESSED BY:** Tammie Morago, August 2018.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:** Elsie Eaton Newton was a widowed mother of two young daughters. Her husband, Dr. Charles W. Newton, was a physician for the Indian Service, but died in or about 1906. Mrs. Newton joined the Indian Service in 1907 and worked as a field matron and Supervisor of Indian Schools for the U.S. Department of Interior during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century until 1922. In her official capacity, she traveled to schools in Arizona, California, Colorado, the Dakotas, Idaho, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Utah, and Washington. Mrs. Newton was tasked to assess school performance and to report on the conditions and was also instrumental in creating and implementing the domestic science field in Indian schools.

After she resigned from the Indian Service in 1922, Mrs. Newton returned to school as a student and enrolled at Marietta College in southeastern Ohio and graduated with an A.B. degree at the age of 53. She graduated with the class of 1924. Mrs. Newton then became the Dean of Women. At Marietta College, Elsie Newton Hall was named in her honor, a building that still stands to this day.

Documents in this collection establish that Elsie Newton was the daughter of John Eaton, who served as the U.S. Commissioner of Education from 1870-1885, an appointment he received from President U.S. Grant. From 1885-1891, he served as the fourth President of Marietta College.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** The documents in this collection provide a firsthand look at the conditions at Indian schools established on Indian reservations. During this time, the U.S. policy towards American Indians was that of assimilation. A few suggested research topics that are related to this collection are as follows:

**General Allotment Act** (also known as the Dawes Act or Dawes Severalty Act) This Act projected to speed the assimilation of Native Americans into U.S. society by redistributing communal lands to individual Indians. Each adult head of household was issued 160 acres of land, 80 acres to each single adult, and 40 acres to each minor child. Surplus land could be purchased by the U.S government and sold to homesteaders. The Act was approved by the U.S. President Grover Cleveland on February 8, 1887 as 24 Stat. 388-391.

**The Burke Act** of May 8, 1906 is considered a significant amendment to the General Allotment Act because it addressed the citizenship of the individuals who took allotments.

**Indian Rights Association** was a late 19<sup>th</sup> century group of non-Indians who worked as a fairly influential lobbying group.

**The Meriam Report** (official title: The Problem of Indian Administration) authored by Dr. Lewis Meriam and submitted to the Secretary of the Interior, Hubert Work, on February 21, 1928. This report utilized statistics to demonstrate the conditions existing in Indian Country.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:** This collection is arranged in four series. Series I: Personal; Series II: School Admin & Finance; Series III: Schools; Series IV: Photos.

This collection contains materials mostly related to Mrs. Newton's personal (family history/genealogy) and her work with the Indian Service. The personal materials, in Series I, will provide documents related to family history and history of the Eaton Grange itself. Eaton Grange is the summer home of the Eaton family, in Sutton, New Hampshire. The Indian Service documents in Series II and III largely provide a context of Mrs. Eaton's movement and work within the Indian Service. The correspondence in Series II includes letters from notable individuals (Cato Sells, Francis E. Leupp, Oscar H. Lipps, Dr. Lewis Meriam, the Indian Rights Association, to name a few). Series III contains documents related to the schools she visited. Series IV includes photos, photo postcards, and nitrate negatives.

**Series I** includes letters, postcards, personnel documents related to Elsie Newton's employment within the Indian Service, writings/diary entries, the history of Eaton Grange, ephemera, family history (including obituaries), and extensive data related to the genealogical research of her family tree. This series also contained printed excerpts of published work of other family members.

**Series II** includes documents related to the establishment of the domestic science field, the plans for establishing a trachoma treatment site in Arizona, appropriations and policy discussions, concerns with use of peyote among Indians, concerns regarding marriage customs, audit documents, ledgers, settlement of account, and correspondence. This

series also contained publications from government, schools, journals, associations, and other sources. Publications A-D includes the following works: *Arizona (1923 Message of the Governor)*, *Book Reviews (ND)*, *Chemawa American (select volumes 1929-1931)*, *Cheyenne Indians (ND)*, *Department of Interior (various publications from 1906-1928)*, and *Domestic Department (1913)*. Publications E-I include the following works: *Eastern Association of Indian Affairs, Inc. (1929)*, *Finishing a Pueblo Indian Boy's Education (ND)*, *Health Center for Women and Girls (1919)*, *Home Mission Monthly (1924)*, *Home Missions Council (1915)*, *Indian Craftsman (ND)*, *Indian's Friend (1910)*, *Indian Leader (ND)*, *Indian Legends and Superstitions (ND)*, *Indian Rights Association (1927)*, *Indian School Journal (ND)*, and *Indian Truth (1926-1929)*. Publications N-W includes the following works: *Native American (select volumes 1910, 1911, 1926-1929)*, *Pearson's Magazine (ND)*, *Redman (Bateman, Leupp, and Mitchell articles (ND))*, *Southern Workman (select volumes 1908, 1914, and 1918)*, *Survey (1929)*, *Virginia Health Bulletin (1914)*, and *War Work Bulletin (1919)*.

**Series III** is a compilation of the schools that Mrs. Newton either visited and/or reported on. The documents included in this series are correspondence, field matron reports, telegrams, testimony and/or deposition of various individuals, discussion of sale of natural resources belonging to tribes, and statistics on Indian households which portrayed data on family size, education, and allotted land/land ownership status. The table below indicates the states and schools represented in this collection.

State	Schools in this subseries include the following:
Arizona	Colorado River, Ft. Defiance, Leupp, Moqui, Phoenix Indian, Sacaton, Salt River, San Carlos, San Xavier, Tuba City, Tucson, Yuma, and Zuni.
California	Sherman Institute.
Colorado	Southern Ute.
Idaho	Ft. Hall.
Montana, Michigan	Mt. Pleasant.
Nebraska, Nevada	Winnebago, Western Shoshone.
New Mexico	Albuquerque, Jicarilla, Navajo, and Santa Fe.
North & South Dakota	Cheyenne River, Crow Creek, Flandreau, Ft. Berthold, Ft. Totten, Lac du Flambeau, Pierre, Pine Ridge, Rose Bud, and Standing Rock.
Oklahoma	Cherokee Orphan, Chilocco, Euchee, Five Civilized Tribes, Kiowa, Ponca, Tuskahoma, and Wheelock.
Oregon, Pennsylvania	Carlisle, Chemawa, and Umatilla.
Utah	Uintah and Ouray.
Washington, Wisconsin	Colville.

**Series IV** consists mostly of photos related to subjects of Mrs. Newton's work in the Indian Service. Many photos depict the Native American individuals and families she

may have encountered, while a small fraction of the photos appears to be of family and friends.

Of note, the photo series has a large number of negatives. The negatives were addressed to an individual named “Minnie M. Orr” and a cursory search performed on this name yielded a 1914 publication of the *Executive Documents, Annual Reports for 1913, Made to the Eightieth General Assembly, Extraordinary Session of the State of Ohio, Part II*. In this report, the Commissioners of the Ohio State Library identify their libraries, by city or town, library type, and list the name of the librarian. In this report, “Minnie M. Orr” is identified as the librarian for the College Library in Marietta, Ohio (page 557)<sup>1</sup>. Additional searches of the name “Minnie M. Orr” yielded similar matches of a college librarian in Ohio. Because Mrs. Newton had ties to Ohio, Marietta College, and the timeframe of Mrs. Newton’s employment in the Indian Service coincide with the timeframe of Ms. Orr’s employment as librarian, there is a suggested corollary link between these women; however, additional research may be needed to confirm this.

Nitrate negatives were removed from this collection for scanning and proper storage. If interested in viewing the negatives, please contact the archivist in advance to allow for adequate lead time needed to prepare the negatives for viewing. There are approximately 350 nitrate negatives in this collection.

#### **CONTAINER LIST:**

##### **Series I: Personal**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1	1	Correspondence	1818-1875
1	2	Correspondence	1883-1889
1	3	Correspondence	1890-1899
1	4	Correspondence	1900-1917
1	5	Correspondence	1921-1937, ND
1	6	Postcards	1888-1917
1	7	Employment	1902-1922
1	8	Employment	ND
1	9	Ephemera	1863-1925
1	10	Family History (Writings)	ND
1	11	Family History (Writings)	ND
1	12	Family History (Writings)	ND
2	1	Family History (Writings)	ND
2	2	Family History (Writings)	ND
2	3	Family History (Genealogy)	1843-1996, ND

<sup>1</sup> Ohio, State of. (1914) *Annual Reports for 1913, Made to the Eightieth General Assembly Extraordinary Session of the State of Ohio, Part II*. Ohio: The Ohio State University. Source: [https://books.google.com/books?id=-UNAAOQAAMAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs\\_ge\\_summary\\_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=-UNAAOQAAMAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false)

2	4	Family History (Genealogy)	ND
2	5	Family History (Genealogy)	ND
2	6	Family History (Publications)	1877-1908, ND

## Series II: School Admin & Finance

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
2	7	Domestic Science	1905-1919, ND
2	8	Trachoma	1909-1916, ND
2	9	Audit	1911-1918
2	10	Audit	1919-1921
3	1	Audit	1922-1925, ND
3	2	Tuskahoma Audit	1922-1926, ND
3	3	Correspondence (Francis E. Leupp)	1905-1909
3	4	Correspondence (Francis E. Leupp)	1910-1913
3	5	Correspondence (Francis E. Leupp)	1914-1917, ND
3	6	Correspondence (General)	1909-1913
3	7	Correspondence (General)	1914-1918
3	8	Correspondence (General)	1919-1922
3	9	Correspondence (General)	1923-1931, ND
4	1	Correspondence (Personnel)	1909-1922, ND
4	2	Appropriations & Policies	1908-1923, ND
4	3	Appropriations & Policies	ND
4	4	Miscellaneous	1931-1934, ND
4	5	Publications (Titles A-D)	1906-1931, ND
4	6	Publications (Titles E-I)	1896-1929, ND
4	7	Publications (Titles N-W)	1908-1929

## Series III: Schools

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
5	1	Arizona	1908-1912
5	2	Arizona	1913-1918, ND
5	3	California	1909-1932, ND
5	4	Colorado	1915-1918, ND
5	5	Idaho	1910-1922, ND
5	6	Montana, Michigan	1911-1923, ND
5	7	Nebraska, Nevada	1915-1920, ND
5	8	New Mexico	1912-1918
5	9	New Mexico	1919-1923, ND
5	10	North & South Dakota	1911-1919, ND
6	1	Oklahoma (Chilocco)	1908-1918, ND
6	2	Oklahoma (Euchee, Five Civilized Tribes, Haskell)	1908-1923, ND
6	3	Oklahoma (Osage, Ponca, Shawnee, Wheelock)	1907-1922, ND

6	4	Oregon, Pennsylvania	1911-1918
6	5	Utah	1915-1920, ND
6	6	Washington, Wisconsin	1911-1928, ND

**Series IV: Photos**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>
6	7	Family and Friends	1905-1915, ND
6	8	Postcards	1906-1909, ND
7	1	Buildings, Landscapes, Livestock	1912-1918, ND
7	2	Buildings, Landscapes, Livestock	ND
7	3	Groups, Unidentified	1912-1913, ND
7	4	Groups, Unidentified	ND
7	5	Groups, Unidentified	ND
7	6	Groups, Unidentified	ND
7	7	Individuals, Unidentified	1913-1916, ND
8	1	Nitrate Negatives	1916-1921, ND
8	2	Nitrate Negatives	ND
8	3	Nitrate Negatives	ND
8	4	Nitrate Negatives	ND