

MS-159

The Museum of Northern Arizona
Harold S. Colton Memorial Library
3101 N. Fort Valley Road
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
(928)774-5213 ext. 256

Title

John Wesley Powell collection

Dates

circa 1850s – 1880s

Extent

7 photographic images (7 prints, 2 ambrotypes, 1 copy negative)

Biographical History

John Wesley Powell (1834 – 1902) was a U.S. soldier, geologist, explorer of the American West, and director of major scientific and cultural institutions. He is famous for the 1869 Powell Geographic Expedition, a three-month river trip down the Green and Colorado rivers that included the first passage of European Americans through the Grand Canyon.

Powell served as second director of the US Geological Survey (1881–1894) and proposed policies for development of the arid West which were prescient for his accurate evaluation of conditions. He was director of the Bureau of Ethnology at the Smithsonian Institution, where he supported linguistic and sociological research and publications.

Scope and Content

Collection consists of 7 images of Powell and other members of his family, including his wife (Harriet Emma Dean Powell), daughter (Mary Dean Powell), and sister-in-law (Mary Dean Dodsley).

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

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Custodial History

Mary Dean Powell (John's daughter) gave these images to George Collins, a friend she had made while spending time in Washington. Some time later, author Bill Belknap came to possess them.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

George Collins (through Bill Belknap) donated these materials in 1970 (Accession #MS-159/2639).

Related Archival Materials

John Wesley Powell Museum, Page AZ

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Description Control

Finding aid written by Jonathan Pringle using *DACS*, 19 April 2010

John Wesley Powell collection				
Item #	Item Description	Date(s)	Extent	Box/Folder
MS-159-1	John Wesley Powell	circa 1862	2 prints, 1 copy negative	Asst. Box 4.5
MS-159-2	John Wesley Powell	1880s	1 print	Asst. Box 4.5
MS-159-3	Harriet Emma Dean Powell	undated	2 prints	Asst. Box 4.5
MS-159-4	Harriet Emma Dean Powell	undated	1 print	Asst. Box 4.5
MS-159-5	Mary Dean Powell	undated	1 print	Asst. Box 4.5
MS-159-6	Mary Dean Dodsley	1859	1 print, 1 ambrotype	Asst. Box 4.5, sink mat
MS-159-7	Mary Dean Dodsley	circa 1870	1 ambrotype	Asst. Box 4.5

LCSH Access Points

Powell, John Wesley, 1834-1902