

## MS-287

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

### **Title**

Gene Field Foster collection

### **Dates**

1952-1988

### **Extent**

13.1 in. textual material, 1 book, 11 diaries, 7 appointment books, 1 desk calendar, 2 bound manuscripts, 1 notebook, 1 3-ring binder, 1305 photographic images (1003 color 6x6cm safety film transparencies, 155 black & white prints, 91 safety negatives, 54 color 35mm slides, 2 postcards), 23 maps (13 black & white topographic maps, 9 color topographic maps, 1 hand-drawn map), 87 draft book plates, 18 drawings, 16 CDs

### **Name of Creator(s)**

Bartlett, Katharine  
Foster, Gene Field  
Museum of Northern Arizona  
United States, National Park Service

### **Biographical History**

Gene (sometimes spelled Jean) Field Foster (17 January 1917-24 February 1983) was born in Tomahawk, Wisconsin to Elmer David and Ruth Gray (Field) Foster, just as Elmer was leaving for service in World War I. Gene's mother named her after her own father, poet and journalist Eugene Field, and decided to use the masculine spelling of the name.

When Gene's father returned from the war, he worked at a lumber mill. He then entered into the lumber business with his brother, Herman, creating Foster Brothers Lumber Company. After his brother's death, Elmer changed the name to simply Foster Lumber Company. He passed his carpentry knowledge on to his daughter, who would use those skills all her life.

Early on, Gene's artistic talent became obvious, and she attended the prestigious Chicago Institute of Art in the mid-1930s. After graduation, Gene moved to New York, New York and worked for ad agencies creating drawings and established an ad agency of her own. She also learned the art of photography from a professional photographer while in New York, another artistic skill that would come in handy for Gene in Arizona.

During World War II, Gene worked in a cold munitions plant in Connecticut. The conditions were miserable, and she developed pneumonia. She would never really fully recover, and her illness would affect her health for the rest of her life. She was encouraged to move west by her doctors, and in the 1940s moved to Prescott, Arizona. In Prescott, she supported herself by

utilizing her carpentry skills and by 1946 could afford to buy some land and build a house. At some time in the late 1940s, Gene moved to Sedona and opened her own carpentry shop.

About 1950, Gene was asked by a friend to ferry boats for a river trip through Glen Canyon. She ended up not going on the trip, but when she saw the film upon her friend's return she was astounded by the natural beauty of the canyon and became determined to document it.

Also around this time, Gene was employed by Museum of Northern Arizona founders Harold and Mary-Russell Colton to build some frames. Through the Coltons, Gene met Katharine Bartlett, with whom she developed a deep friendship that would last for 30 years. They moved in together, Katharine moving into Gene's house in Sedona. After a few months of commuting to the Museum, they moved to Flagstaff. Gene sold her carpentry shop in Sedona and her Prescott property, and found work in Flagstaff. In 1954, Gene and Katharine bought a lot of land in the Mount Elden subdivision in the northwest part of Flagstaff, and Gene built the house mostly herself, although that was not the original plan. By the end of construction, she was exhausted and diagnosed with advanced hepatitis, which left her bedridden for several months.

Gene had begun recording archaeological sites in Glen Canyon during river trips in 1952. In 1957, when it became clear that contracts for the Museum to conduct salvage archaeology surveys as part of the Glen Canyon Project would be awarded through the National Park Service, Gene was hired to make additional surveys in lower Glen Canyon. Three river trips were made between April and October 1957 with a volunteer crew that included Katharine Bartlett and Museum research associate David Brugge. When the NPS Glen Canyon Project got underway, however, Gene was not involved in the Museum's fieldwork. As a result of this and the Museum's decision to not publish her Glen Canyon report, her work in the Canyon has largely been forgotten.

In the early 1960s, Gene was contracted by Grand Canyon National Park to create a painting of the Tusayan Ruins for a museum exhibit. The large tempura canvas was displayed in a small museum adjacent to the Ruins.

Another research interest of Gene's was the study of birds in Flagstaff, especially the population of piñon jays. She set up a feeding station in her backyard and instituted a banding program, hiring neighborhood kids to document the behavior of the birds. She worked closely with graduate students at Northern Arizona University, helping them with research for their theses and dissertations pertaining to the piñon jay.

Gene passed away at age 66 due to complications from pneumonia, probably exacerbated by her lifelong habit of smoking, and is buried in Wisconsin.

### **Scope and Content**

The collection consists of correspondence, diaries, printed materials, financial documents, photographic material, research notes, unpublished manuscripts, and maps documenting Gene's life as an artist, archaeologist, and ornithologist. It includes personal business records, photographic images of the Southwest, records of the bird feeding and banding programs she

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started in Flagstaff, and information and images regarding her salvage archaeology work in Glen Canyon prior to the construction of the Glen Canyon Dam.

### **System of Arrangement**

Materials are arranged in the following series:

- Series 1: Personal Records
- Series 2: Artwork
- Series 3: Ornithology
- Series 4: Glen Canyon
  - Subseries 4.1: Correspondence
  - Subseries 4.2: Field Notes and Journals
  - Subseries 4.3: Images and Maps
  - Subseries 4.4: Manuscripts

### **Conditions Governing Access**

The collection is open for research use.

### **Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use**

Unpublished and published manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

### **Languages and Scripts of the Materials**

All materials are in English.

### **Finding Aids**

A previous inventory from 2007 is available upon request.

### **Custodial History**

The materials in an initial accession (#MS 287) were in the possession of Katharine Bartlett, Gene's longtime partner, until their deposit in the Museum of Northern Arizona Archives. Other materials were collected from various sources by Susan Olberding and were in her possession before their accession as an accrual to the Katharine Bartlett collection (MS-257).

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

An accession (#MS 287) was donated by Katharine Bartlett in 1986. Additional materials collected by Susan Olberding were transferred from the Katharine Bartlett collection (MS-257) in 2012 due to their creation by Gene and focus on Gene's research interests and activities. Additional information pertaining to this transfer is available upon request.

### **Accruals**

No further accruals are expected.

### **Related Archival Materials**

The Museum of Northern Arizona Archives hold the following related manuscript collections:

- MS-102 Glen Canyon Project collection
- MS-287 Katharine Bartlett collection

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The painting of the Tusayan Ruins created for Grand Canyon National Park is held by the Grand Canyon Museum Collection, catalog #GRCA 21003.

There are also resources about Glen Canyon available in the Museum of Northern Arizona Harold S. Colton Memorial Library. For information pertaining to the Museum's involvement in salvage archaeology in Glen Canyon in particular, see:

Fowler, Don D. "The Museum of Northern Arizona and the Glen Canyon Project." In *The Glen Canyon Country: A Personal Memoir*. Salt Lake City, Utah: University of Utah Press, 2011.

Other institutions with holdings pertaining to Glen Canyon:

Arizona Historical Society, Flagstaff Archives (stored at NAU)  
Arizona State Archives  
Arizona State University Libraries  
Colorado State University Libraries  
Northern Arizona University Cline Library  
University of Arizona Libraries  
University of Utah J. Willard Marriott Library

### Publication Note

Materials found in this collection were used in the publication of:

Olberding, Susan Deaver. *Sunset on Glen Canyon, The Words and Images of Two Remarkable Women: Katharine Bartlett and Gene Foster*. Flagstaff, AZ: Fort Valley Publishing, 2011.

Gene also published short articles in Museum of Northern Arizona's *Plateau* based on her fieldwork and research in Glen Canyon:

Foster, Gene Field. A Brief Archaeological Survey of Glen Canyon. *Plateau*, vol. 25 no. 2 (October 1952), 21-26.

Foster, Gene Field. Petrographic Art in Glen Canyon. *Plateau*, vol. 27 no. 1 (July 1954), 6-18.

### Description Control

Finding aid written by Melissa VanOtterloo using *DACS*, 26 September 2012.

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### Title

Series 1: Personal Records

### Dates

1953-1957

### Extent

.1 in. textual material, 2 photographic images (2 color 35mm slides)

### Scope and Content

Series consists of personal business records, as well as biographical information about Gene's grandfather, Eugene Field.

<b>Series 1: Personal Records</b>				
<b>File #</b>	<b>File Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Extent</b>	<b>Box/Folder</b>
MS-287-1-1	Personal Records	n.d., 1953, 1957	.1 in. textual material, 2 color slides	1.1

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### Title

Series 2: Artwork

### Dates

1952-1963

### Extent

.6 in. textual material, 289 photographic images (273 color 6x6cm safety film transparencies, 10 black & white prints, 2 safety negatives, 2 postcards, 1 color 35mm slide), 18 drawings

### Scope and Content

Series contains drawings and photography created and collected by Gene, as well as correspondence, sketches, and photographs concerning the painting created for the Tusayan Ruins exhibit at the Grand Canyon.

<b>Series 2: Artwork</b>				
<b>File/Item #</b>	<b>File/Item Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Extent</b>	<b>Box/Folder</b>
MS-287-2-1	Drawings of Katharine	1952	7 prints	1.2
MS-287-2-2	Drawing by Miles Rodda	n.d.	1 drawing	11.1
MS-287-2-3	Tusayan Painting: Correspondence	1961-1963	.5 in. textual material	1.3
MS-287-2-4	Tusayan Painting: Sketches, Study Images, and Prints	1961-1962	.1 in. textual material, 18 drawings, 10 prints, 2 postcards, 2 negatives, 1 color slide	1.4
MS-287-2-5	Southwest Photography	n.d.	273 transparencies	8.3

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### Title

Series 3: Ornithology

### Dates

1964-1988

### Extent

7.1 in. textual material, 11 diaries, 7 appointment books, 1 desk calendar, 1 book

### Scope and Content

Series includes all records pertaining to the feeding station and banding programs, bird observations in the form of diaries and journals, and research conducted by NAU graduate students with the help of Gene's independent research.

<b>Series 3: Ornithology</b>				
<b>File/Item #</b>	<b>File/Item Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Extent</b>	<b>Box/Folder</b>
MS-287-3-1	Bird Records – Desk Calendar	1964	1 desk calendar	9.1
MS-287-3-2	Bird Records – Bird Calendar	1965	1 appointment book	9.2
MS-287-3-3	Bird Records – Bird Watchers Date Book	1966	1 appointment book	9.3
MS-287-3-4	Bird Records – Daily Reminder	1967	1 appointment book	9.4
MS-287-3-5	Bird Records – Scribbles, Appointments	1968	1 appointment book	9.5
MS-287-3-6	Bird Records – Bird Watcher's Date Book	1969	1 appointment book	9.6
MS-287-3-7	Bird Records – Appointments	1970	1 appointment book	9.7
MS-287-3-8	Bird Records – Scribbles, Calendar	1971	1 appointment book	9.8
MS-287-3-9	Bird Records – National Time Line Diary	1972	1 diary	2.1
MS-287-3-10	Bird Records – National Time Line Diary	1973	1 diary	2.2
MS-287-3-11	Bird Records – National Time Line Diary	1974	1 diary	2.3
MS-287-3-12	Bird Records – National Time Line Diary	1975	1 diary	2.4
MS-287-3-13	Bird Records – National Time Line Diary	1976	1 diary	2.5
MS-287-3-14	Bird Records – National Time Line Diary	1977	1 diary	2.6
MS-287-3-15	Bird Records – National Time Line Diary	1978	1 diary	2.7
MS-287-3-16	Bird Records – National Time Line Diary	1979	1 diary	2.8
MS-287-3-17	Bird Records – National Diary	1980	1 diary	2.9
MS-287-3-18	Bird Records – National Diary	1981	1 diary	2.10
MS-287-3-19	Bird Records – National Diary	1982	1 diary	2.11
MS-287-3-20	Explanation of Feeding Station Checklists	1983-1989	.1 in. textual material	1.5
MS-287-3-21	Feeding Station Checklists [1 of 10]	1974	.2 in. textual material	1.6
MS-287-3-22	Feeding Station Checklists [2 of 10]	1975	.5 in. textual material	1.7
MS-287-3-23	Feeding Station Checklists [3 of 10]	1976	.5 in. textual material	1.8
MS-287-3-24	Feeding Station Checklists [4 of 10]	1977	.5 in. textual material	1.9
MS-287-3-25	Feeding Station Checklists [5 of 10]	1978	.5 in. textual material	1.10
MS-287-3-26	Feeding Station Checklists [6 of 10]	1979	.3 in. textual material	1.11
MS-287-3-27	Feeding Station Checklists [7 of 10]	1980	.5 in. textual material	3.1
MS-287-3-28	Feeding Station Checklists [8 of 10]	1981	.5 in. textual material	3.2
MS-287-3-29	Feeding Station Checklists [9 of 10]	1982	.2 in. textual material	3.3

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MS-287-3-30	Feeding Station Checklists [10 of 10]	1983	.5 in. textual material	3.4
MS-287-3-31	Feeding Station Records [1 of 2]	1968-1983	1 in. textual material	3.5
MS-287-3-32	Feeding Station Records [2 of 2]	1965-1982	1 in. textual material	3.6
MS-287-3-33	Photocopied Journal Articles re: Piñon Jays	1987-1988	.2 in. textual material	4.1
MS-287-3-34	“Individual Recognition and the Organization of Pinyon Jay Societies” – Draft	ca. 1970s	.5 in. textual material	4.2
MS-287-3-35	“Parent-Young Recognition in the Pinon Jay: Mechanisms, Ontogeny, and Survival Value”	1979	1 book	4.3
MS-287-3-36	“Scaly-Leg (Knemidokoptiasis) in a Population of Evening Grosbeaks”	ca. 1970s	.1 in. textual material	4.4

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### Title

Series 4: Glen Canyon

### Dates

1953-1986, predominately 1956-1958

### Extent

5.3 in. textual material, 2 bound manuscripts, 1 notebook, 1 3-ring binder, 1016 photographic images (730 color 6x6cm safety film transparencies, 145 black & white prints, 89 safety negatives, 52 color 35mm slides), 23 maps (13 black & white topographic maps, 9 color topographic maps, 1 hand-drawn map), 87 draft book plates, 16 CDs

### Scope and Content

Series consists of correspondence, journals, printed material, financial documents, photographic material, research notes, manuscripts, and maps documenting the salvage archaeology surveys carried out by Gene with the assistance of Katharine Bartlett, David Brugge, and other archaeologists and scientists in Glen Canyon prior to the construction of the Glen Canyon Dam and creation of Lake Powell.

### System of Arrangement

- Subseries 4.1: Correspondence
- Subseries 4.2: Field Notes and Journals
- Subseries 4.3: Images and Maps
- Subseries 4.4: Manuscripts

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### Title

Subseries 4.1: Correspondence

### Dates

1955-1965

### Extent

1 in. textual material

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### Scope and Content

Consists of correspondence with Museum director Ned Danson about the Glen Canyon surveys, about tours that were headed by Gene before the Glen Canyon Dam was constructed, and other correspondence regarding the salvage archaeology done prior to flooding.

<b>Series 4.1: Correspondence</b>				
<b>File #</b>	<b>File Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Extent</b>	<b>Box/Folder</b>
MS-287-4.1-1	Correspondence With Ned Danson	1958	.1 in. textual material	4.5
MS-287-4.1-2	Correspondence re: Canyon Tours	1958	.3 in. textual material	4.6
MS-287-4.1-3	Miscellaneous Correspondence	1955-1965	.6 in. textual material	4.7

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### Title

Subseries 4.2: Journals and Field Notes

### Dates

1956-1961

### Extent

2.3 in. textual material, 1 notebook, 1 3-ring binder

### Scope and Content

Contains field notes and journals of expedition members and written accounts of the trips. Also includes information regarding the supplies purchased for the expeditions and publicity information about the Glen Canyon Project.

<b>Series 4.2: Field Notes and Journals</b>				
<b>File/Item #</b>	<b>File/Item Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Extent</b>	<b>Box/Folder</b>
MS-287-4.2-1	Foster Field Journal, April	1957	.2 in. textual material	4.8
MS-287-4.2-2	Bartlett Field Journal, April-May	1957	.3 in. textual material	4.9
MS-287-4.2-3	Bartlett Field Journal, October	1957	.3 in. textual material, 1 3-ring binder	4.10
MS-287-4.2-4	Brugge Field Journal, 24 May – 20 June	1957	.2 in. textual material	5.1
MS-287-4.2-5	Notes re: Food for Glen Canyon Trips	n.d., 1956- 1958, 1961	.4 in. textual material, 1 notebook	5.2
MS-287-4.2-6	Written Accounts of Glen Canyon Trips	n.d., 1957	.5 in. textual material	5.3
MS-287-4.2-7	Miscellaneous Notes, Publicity	n.d., 1956- 1958	.3 in. textual material	5.4
MS-287-4.2-8	Miscellaneous Notes – Oversize	n.d.	.1 in. textual material	11.2

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### Title

Subseries 4.3: Images and Maps

### Dates

1953-1985, predominately 1957-1958



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### Extent

.4 in. textual material, 969 photographic images (730 color 6x6cm safety film transparencies, 104 black & white prints, 83 safety negatives, 52 color 35mm slides), 22 maps (13 black & white topographic maps, 9 color topographic maps, 1 hand-drawn map), 16 CDs

### Scope and Content

Contains photographs of sites and of the canyon itself taken by Gene during the Glen Canyon surveys. Also includes topographic maps used by the expeditions while on the river to mark the sites as they were identified.

<b>Series 4.3: Images and Maps</b>				
<b>File #</b>	<b>File Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Extent</b>	<b>Box/Folder</b>
MS-287-4.3-1	Index to Images	1985	.2 in. textual material	8.1
MS-287-4.3-2	Original 6x6cm Transparencies	ca. 1957-1958	581 transparencies	8.2
MS-287-4.3-3	Color Corrected Transparencies	ca. 1957-1958	150 transparencies	8.4
MS-287-4.3-4	35mm Slides	ca. 1957-1958	52 slides	8.5
MS-287-4.3-5	High Quality Scans of Images on CD	ca. 1998	16 CDs	10
MS-287-4.3-6	Site Snapshots, A-M	1953-1957	49 prints, 47 negatives	5.5
MS-287-4.3-7	Site Snapshots, N-Z, Misc.	1953-1957	45 prints, 36 negatives	5.6
MS-287-4.3-8	8x10 prints	ca. 1956-1958	10 prints	5.7
MS-287-4.3-9	Color Topographic Maps, with Overlays	ca. 1957-1958	9 maps	5.8
MS-287-4.3-10	Black and White Topographic Maps	ca. 1957-1958	13 maps	11.3
MS-287-4.3-11	"Glen Canyon of the Colorado River" Maps	ca. 1958	.2 in. textual material, 1 hand-drawn map	6.1

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### Title

Subseries 4.4: Manuscripts

### Dates

1956-1986, predominately 1957-1958

### Extent

1.6 in. textual material, 2 bound manuscripts, 87 draft book plates, 47 photographic images (41 black & white prints, 6 safety negatives)

### Scope and Content

Consists of papers prepared about the Glen Canyon surveys conducted by Gene, including drafts of an unpublished manuscript entitled "Glen Canyon Archaeology."

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<b>Series 4.4: Manuscripts</b>				
<b>File/Item #</b>	<b>File/Item Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Extent</b>	<b>Box/Folder</b>
MS-287-4.4-1	“Statement on Glen Canyon Archaeology”	n.d.	.1 in. textual material	6.2
MS-287-4.4-2	Pottery Analysis	n.d., 1956-1958	.5 in. textual material	6.3
MS-287-4.4-3	“Glen Canyon Archaeology” copy 1	1958, 1986	1 bound manuscript	6.4
MS-287-4.4-4	“Glen Canyon Archaeology” copy 2	1958, 1986	1 bound manuscript	6.5
MS-287-4.4-5	“Glen Canyon Archaeology” – Revised Text	ca. 1958, 1985	.1 in. textual material	6.6
MS-287-4.4-6	“Glen Canyon Archaeology” – Final Draft	ca. 1958	.5 in. textual material	6.7
MS-287-4.4-7	“Glen Canyon Archaeology” – Draft	n.d.	.3 in. textual material	6.8
MS-287-4.4-8	Plates [1 of 3]	ca. 1957-1958	17 draft book plates	6.9
MS-287-4.4-9	Plates [2 of 3]	ca. 1957-1958	32 draft book plates	7.1
MS-287-4.4-10	Plates [3 of 3]	ca. 1957-1958	38 draft book plates	7.2
MS-287-4.4-11	Plate Copies on Photo Paper	ca. 1958	34 prints	7.3
MS-287-4.4-12	Plate Copies – Oversize	ca. 1958	1 print	11.4
MS-287-4.4-13	Miscellaneous Materials for Map Creation	ca. 1957-1958	.1 in. textual material, 7 prints, 6 negatives	7.4

**LCSH Access Points**

Bartlett, Katharine  
 Foster, Gene Field  
 Museum of Northern Arizona  
 United States, National Park Service  
 Glen Canyon (Utah and Ariz.)  
 Archaeology—Glen Canyon (Utah and Ariz.)  
 Indians of North America—Glen Canyon (Utah and Ariz.) —Antiquities.  
 Historic sites—Glen Canyon (Utah and Ariz.)  
 Birds—Research  
 Bird banding  
 Birds—Behavior  
 Birds—Habitat  
 Tusayan (Ariz.)—Pictorial works  
 Southwest, New—Pictorial works