

William Henry Jackson photographs collection

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Summary Information

Repository	History Colorado, Stephen H. Hart Library & Research Center
Creator	Detroit Publishing Co..
Creator - Photographer	Jackson, William Henry, 1843-1942
Title	William Henry Jackson photographs collection
Date	circa 1873-1924
Extent	185.0 Linear feet (PARTIALLY PROCESSED COLLECTION)
Language	English

Preferred Citation note

William Henry Jackson photographs collection, Ph.00648, History Colorado, Denver, Colo.

Biographical note

William Henry Jackson (1843-1942) is one of the best known photographers of the American West. First as a photographer in Nebraska in the 1860s, and later as a government photographer during the F.V. Hayden expeditions of the 1870s, Jackson built a reputation for western views. Jackson came to Colorado at the apex of his career in 1873 with the Hayden expedition. From that time until the close of his active commercial photographic career in 1902, Jackson was closely associated with Colorado.

In 1879, Jackson left the Hayden Survey and chose Denver as his new home. Jackson and his family remained in Denver for the next twenty years. From his studio located successively at 413 Larimer St., 1609 Arapahoe St., and 433 West Colfax Ave., Jackson traveled during the summer to every corner of Colorado and to every western state.

In 1897, Jackson became a director of the Detroit Publishing Company in a venture to publish color prints from negatives by Jackson and other photographers. Jackson and his family settled in Detroit in 1898. The company used a photolithographic process to reproduce Jackson's black and white negatives in something approximating natural color. History Colorado holds many of these 'chromolithographs.'

After retiring from Detroit Publishing Company in 1924, Jackson moved to Washington, D.C., where he wrote and painted. In 1929, Jackson moved to New York City to become the research director of the Oregon Trail Memorial Association. The National Park Service contracted with him in 1935 to paint four murals for the Interior Department Building. Jackson died in New York in June 1942 of complications following a hip fracture. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Scope and Contents note

THIS COLLECTION IS ONLY PARTIALLY PROCESSED. Please contact the Hart Research Library staff at cosearch@state.co.us for more information about accessing this collection.

The William Henry Jackson photographs collection contains the following formats: 7,855 glass negatives made by the Detroit Publishing Company; 860 albumen prints; 230 stereographs; 40 chromolithographs; 72 photograph albums containing approximately 4,000 photographic prints; 200 photographs made by Jackson during geological surveys with Ferdinand V. Hayden between 1870-1871; 35 panoramic photographs; more than 375 postcards published by the Detroit Photographic Company; and 50 photographs of Jackson and his family.

Indexes to the William Henry Jackson/Detroit Publishing Company glass plate negative collection are available in the Hart Research Library. The indexes are arranged by subject. One index lists Colorado images and general subjects; the other index lists images taken outside Colorado.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

History Colorado, Stephen H. Hart Library & Research Center

Copyright status

History Colorado owns copyright to this collection. Many images are in the public domain.

Conditions Governing Access note

Glass negatives in this collection are stored offsite and require at least 2 weeks advance notice for research use and viewing. Availability of the negatives is dependent on condition, size, and staff schedules. Please contact Hart Research Library staff at cosearch@state.co.us for more information.

Processing Information note

THIS COLLECTION IS ONLY PARTIALLY PROCESSED. Collection-level record completed by Megan K. Friedel, 2018.

Digitized images

4,333 photographs from the William Henry Jackson photographs collection have been digitized and are available online on the History Colorado Online Collections website: h-co.org/collections (search for "William Henry Jackson").

Related Materials

Other related collections

History Colorado also holds the William Henry Jackson manuscript collection (Mss.00341) and the related Elwood P. Bonney manuscript collections (Mss.01643 and Mss.02580) and the Elwood P. Bonney photographs collection (Ph.00038). Elwood P. Bonney was Jackson's biographer and wrote the book, *William Henry Jackson, An Intimate Portrait*.

The Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Division holds the other half of the Detroit Publishing Company collection, which contains photographs made and published by the company that mostly document the eastern United States. That collection also contains approximately 900 mammoth plate (18

x 22 inch) glass negatives made by William Henry Jackson along railroad lines in the United States and Mexico in the 1880s and 1890s, as well as views of California, Wyoming, and the Canadian Rockies.

William Henry Jackson's negatives made during Hayden surveys are held by the USGS Library in Denver, Colo.

Controlled Access Headings

Subject(s)

- Geological surveys--United States--Photographs.
- Landscape photography--Colorado