Guide to the Joseph B. Abbott Collection
Mss.00001
Finding aid prepared by Leigh Jeremias

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit
April 23, 2013
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### Summary Information

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<tr>
<th>Repository</th>
<th>History Colorado. Stephen H. Hart Research Center</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>Abbott, Joseph B., (Joseph Brown), 1835-1892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>Barnhouse &amp; Wheeler.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>Lake City (Colo.).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Joseph B. Abbott Collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>1878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>0.25 Linear feet 2 file folders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection [Box]</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>A native of New Hampshire, Joseph B. Abbott (1835-1892) was named agent of the Los Pinos Agency (Los Pinos, Co.) in 1878. He resigned later the same year to return to New England. This collection contains two letters from Abbott to his brother, Charles, and four photographs (Barnhouse &amp; Wheeler, Lake City, Co.), all pertaining his time with the Los Pinos Agency.</td>
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### Preferred Citation note

Cite collection as: Joseph B. Abbott Collection, Mss.00001(accession E.2038), History Colorado. If applicable site individual photographs with accession numbers.
Biographical Note

Joseph B. Abbott was from New Hampshire. He replaced John D. Wheeler as Commissioner of the Los Pinos Indian Agency on January 16, 1878. At the time there were about 2000 Native Americans on the reservation. His early optimism toward the Agency was soon changed to a desire to return to New Hampshire. Abbott was replaced by Leverett M. Kelly between August 17, 1878 and July 5, 1879. The correspondence of this collection is addressed to Abbott’s brother, Charles, in Keene, Cheshire County, New Hampshire.

Scope and Contents note

The Joseph Abbott Collection consists of two letters (with two envelopes) and four photographs. Background information concerning Abbott’s appointment as Commissioner of the Los Pinos Indian Agency and his reports of the Agencies affairs can be found in the Annual Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to the Secretary of the Interior for the years 1878 and 1879.

The materials of Joseph B. Abbott, though few, offer insight concerning travel conditions to Colorado shortly after statehood. The correspondence also illustrates some aspects of life on the Los Pinos Indian Agency. Rumors concerning the abandonment of the Agency (which was done in 1879) are mentioned. Also brief descriptions of Chief Ouray and other Native Americans are given.

Arrangement note

The Joseph B. Abbott collection is organized into two series.

Series

I  Correspondence, 1 file folder (FF)
II  Photographs, 1 file folder (FF)

Administrative Information

Provenance

Items in this collection were given to the Library of the State Historical Society of Colorado by Miss Marguerite Davis (Abbott's granddaughter) of Tucson, Arizona in August of 1966. Initially items were separated but were reassociated in 2013. Items in this collection include manuscripts, photographs and artifacts.

Processing Information note
Related Materials

Mixed Collection Note

The Joseph B. Abbott manuscript collection is part of a larger donation of material (E.2038) that includes artifacts. Please contact the Research Center staff for more information. Click here for Related Materials Joseph B. Abbott Collection.

Indexing Terms

Subjects - Corporate Bodies

- Los Pinos Agency (U.S.)
- United States. Office of Indian Affairs. Los Pinos Indian Agency

Genres and Forms of Materials

- Correspondence
- Photographs
- Stereographs

Occupation(s)

- Indian agents

Subjects - People

- Abbott, Charles, b. 1827
- Abbott, Joseph B., (Joseph Brown), 1835-1892
- Davis, Marguerite, b.1889
- Ouray, Ute Chief, 1833 (ca.)-1880

Subjects - Topics

- Burros
- Post-office
- Ute Indians

Accession number

Manuscript Collection, E.2038. Photographs E.2038.7-10
**Collection Inventory**

**Series I Correspondence January - April 1878**  
1.0 File folder(s) 2 letters and 2 envelopes

**FF 1, Item 1**  
Abbott, Joseph B., (Joseph Brown), 1835-1892  
Joseph B. Abbott to Charles Abbott (Los Pinos, Co.) 26 January 1878  
2.0 Item(s) One letter and one envelop.

**Description**

Detailed description of trip from Washington to Los Pinos Indian Agency (12-1-77 to 1-8-78). Agency has about 2000 Indians. Chief Ouray is very intelligent but most are ignorant.

**Genres and Forms of Materials**

- Correspondence.

**Subjects - People**

- Abbott, Charles, b. 1827
- Ouray, Ute Chief, 1833 (ca.)-1880.

**Subjects - Topics**

- Ute Indians

**FF 1, Item 2**  
Abbott, Joseph B., (Joseph Brown), 1835-1892  
Joseph B. Abbott to Charles Abbott (Los Pinos, Co.) 2 April 1878  
2.0 Item(s) One letter and one envelop.

**Description**

If health does not improve I shall have to resign. Position is not a pleasant one—responsibility too great for pay. Desire to return to New Hampshire. There is talk of trouble with the Utes—have sent for troops. Agency may not remain in this area much longer. Great influx of people to San Juan mining region 25 miles S. of here. Have received no letter from you.

**Subjects - Corporate Bodies**

- Los Pinos Agency (U.S.).

**Genres and Forms of Materials**

- Correspondence.

**Subjects - People**

- Abbott, Charles, b. 1827
- Ouray, Ute Chief, 1833 (ca.)-1880.

**Subjects - Topics**
- Ute Indians

**Series II Photographs [1878] 1.0 File folder(s) 4 photographs**

FF 2, Item 1  Barnhouse & Wheeler. Lake City (Colo.). Stereograph, Los Pinos Agency, Landscape and buildings [1878] 1.0 Photograph

**Other number**
Accession number E.2038.7; Other number 90.145.1; Negative number F-7357

**Copyprint number**
PH.PROP.852. Copy of original has been made and is available through the Research Center. Scan number 10028968.

**Subjects - Corporate Bodies**
- Los Pinos Agency (U.S.).

**Genres and Forms of Materials**
- Photographs.
- Stereographs.


**Other number**
Accession number E.2038.8; Other number 90.145.2; Negative number F-7358

**Copyprint number**
PH.PROP.851. Copy of original has been made and is available through the Research Center. Scan number 10025729.

**Subjects - Corporate Bodies**
- Los Pinos Agency (U.S.).

**Genres and Forms of Materials**
- Photographs.
- Stereographs.
Subjects - People
• Abbott, Joseph B., (Joseph Brown), 1835-1892

FF 2, Item 3 Barnhouse & Wheeler. Lake City (Colo.). Stereograph, Los Pinos Agency, Post Office, Joseph B. Abbott (seated), Chief Ouray and four unidentified people outside of post office. [1878]  1.0 Photograph

Other number
Accession number E.2038.9; Negative number F-7358;

Copyprint number
Copy of original has been made and is available through the Research Center. No scan number and no prop number was assigned.

Subjects - Corporate Bodies
• Los Pinos Agency (U.S.).
• United States. Office of Indian Affairs. Los Pinos Indian Agency.

Genres and Forms of Materials
• Photographs.
• Stereographs.

Subjects - People
• Abbott, Joseph B., (Joseph Brown), 1835-1892
• Ouray, Ute Chief, 1833 (ca.)-1880.

Subjects - Topics
• Post-office

FF 2, Item 4 Barnhouse & Wheeler. Lake City (Colo.). Stereograph, Los Pinos Agency, [Ball] burro, [1878]  1.0 Photograph

Other number
Accession number E.2038.10; Other number 88.340.6; Negative number F-7360

Subjects - Corporate Bodies
• Los Pinos Agency (U.S.).
• United States. Office of Indian Affairs. Los Pinos Indian Agency.

Genres and Forms of Materials
• Photographs.
• Stereographs.
Photographs

Subjects - Topics

- Burros
Object ID: E.2038.1
Collection Type: MC
Department: MC
Dimensions: L: 68.031 in, W: 51.89 in
Synopsis: Blanket - unknown maker - American Indian | Navajo - Unknown Locale - unknown maker - American Indian | Navajo - Unknown Locale - unknown maker - American Indian | Navajo - Unknown Locale - material ~ wool | technique ~ hand spun ~ 1 Ply ~ Z Spun | color ~ natural ~ white | color ~ indigo ~ blue | color ~ Dye ~ Aniline ~ brown ~ Mustard ~ red ~ black

Object ID: E.2038.2
Collection Type: MC
Department: MC
Dimensions: L: 71.10 cm, W: 78.10 cm
Synopsis: Rug - Navajo | Four Corners ~ uncertain - Navajo | Four Corners ~ uncertain - Navajo | Four Corners ~ uncertain - Germantown Wool ~ uncertain | 3 Ply ~ S Twist ~ Z Spun | Aniline dye | Yellow | Green | Red | Lavender | Red | Natural Black | Pink | Blue-Green | Fringe | Tassel

Object ID: E.2038.3
Collection Type: MC
Department: MC
Dimensions: L: 65.40 cm, W: 55.90 cm
Synopsis: Rug - Navajo - Navajo - Navajo - Germantown ~ uncertain | Saxony ~ uncertain | Yarn ~ 3 Ply ~ 4 Ply | Green | Yellow | Blue ~ Indigo | Cochineal ~ uncertain | Aniline red | Pink ~ handspun

Object ID: E.2038.4
Collection Type: MC
Department: MC
Dimensions: L: 127.00 cm, W: 77.80 cm
Synopsis: Blanket - Navajo - Navajo - Navajo - Light Blue ~ Aniline ~ uncertain | Indigo ~ uncertain | Aniline dye ~ Ganado Red | Natural White | Wool ~ handspun | 1 Ply ~ Z Spun

Object ID: E.2038.5
Collection Type: MC
Department: MC
Dimensions: L: 127.00 cm, W: 69.60 cm
Synopsis: Blanket - Navajo - Navajo - Navajo - Cochineal Red | Indigo | White | Wool ~ handspun | Warp ~ Z Spun | Weft ~ 1 Ply ~ Z Spun
Object ID: E.2038.6
Collection Type: Ethnography
Department: MC
Dimensions: L: 18.00 cm, H: 12.70 cm, W: 11.00 cm
Synopsis: Moccasin ~ pair - American Indian | Ute - American Indian | Ute - American Indian | Ute - buckskin | Sole ~ Rawhide | Lacing ~ Thong | flap ~ Cuff ~ sewn ~ sinew ~ Lazy stitch | beads ~ blue ~ yellow ~ white ~ solid ~ red ~ blue ~ green ~ translucent ~ pink

Object ID: E.2038.7
Collection Type: BMSS
Department: BMSS
Synopsis: photoprint - Barnhouse & Wheeler - Albumen print | Stereograph - Los Pinos Agency | Buildings | Landscape

Object ID: E.2038.8
Collection Type: BMSS
Department: BMSS

Object ID: E.2038.9
Collection Type: BMSS
Department: BMSS
Synopsis: photoprint - Chief Ouray, Joseph B. Abbott and Unidentified Utes and Man - Barnhouse & Wheeler - Lake City, Colorado - Hinsdale County, Colorado - United States of America - Chief Ouray | Joseph B. Abbott | Los Pinos Indian agency | Ute Indians | Post Office | building ~ brick | fence | window | blanket ~ Indian

Object ID: E.2038.10
Collection Type: BMSS
Department: BMSS