

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name: **Carlisle Indian School – John Nicholas Choate** **CIS-PC-005**

Material: Glass Plate Negatives

Volume: 0.5 linear feet (1 Photograph Box)

Donation: Purchase, 2017

Usage: There are no usage restrictions on these materials.

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Carlisle Indian Industrial School was founded by Lieutenant Richard Henry Pratt. In 1875, Pratt was responsible for transporting Native Americans identified as subversive to a prison in St. Augustine, Florida, where he eventually conceived the idea of a school. Approval was ultimately given for a school to be established at the deserted military barracks in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. In October 1879, the first students began arriving at the United States Training and Industrial School at Carlisle Barracks.

John Nicholas Choate was the principal photographer of the Carlisle Indian School from its opening in 1879 until his death in 1902. During this time, he captured thousands of images of Carlisle's students, staff, buildings, and visitors. Some of these photographs were sold commercially through the school's publications and through his studio on West Main Street in town. Others, especially including individual and group portraits, may have been purchased by individual students for their own personal use. His photographs are now iconic to the Carlisle Indian School, and provide an extensive record of visual documentation of the school's early history.

It is not clear exactly how his studio's contents were dispersed after his death. However, a large collection of the materials from his studio can now be found at both the Smithsonian Institution and the Cumberland County Historical Society. The provenance of the glass plate negatives in this collection is unknown, but the large majority are unique and do not exist in contemporaneous print format.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The John Nicholas Choate Glass Plate Negative Collection is housed in one photograph box. These materials were purchased as a group from a private seller in 2017. The glass plate negatives are of three distinct sizes. Some plates are heavily damaged, including cracks in the glass, affixed slips of paper, and disintegrating image coatings. The collection has been organized into four categories: Identified Individuals, Identified Groups, Unidentified Individuals, and Unidentified Groups.

The Identified Individuals section includes fifteen (15) individual portraits of male and female students at the school. Identifications come largely from names etched into the film at the time of creation, although some further identifications were made from existing prints and comparison with other identified images. One individual, Adam McCarty, has two plates, as indicated below.

The Identified Groups section includes six (6) group portraits for groups of two or more individuals. Identifications come largely from names etched into the film at the time of creation, although some further identifications were made from existing prints and comparison with other identified images.

The Unidentified Individuals section includes thirteen (13) individual portraits that are currently unidentified. These plates are organized by the gender of the subject, and then by apparent age. At least one individual, a young male, has two plates, as indicated below.

The Unidentified Groups section includes five (5) group portraits that are currently unidentified. These plates are organized based on the size of the group.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

BOX 1 – CIS-PC-005

IDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS

- Folder 1) Adam McCarty [plate #1], c.1882
- Folder 2) Adam McCarty [plate #2], c.1882
- Folder 3) Alfred, c.1885
- Folder 4) Arnold Woolworth, c.1885
- Folder 5) Etadleuh [Doanmoe], c.1882
- Folder 6) Frank West, c.1885
- Folder 7) [Henry] Ouita, c.1885
- Folder 8) Little Elk, c.1885
- Folder 9) Marie Atkins, c.1885
- Folder 10) Otto Zotom, c.1885
- Folder 11) Paul Black Bear, July 11, 1887
- Folder 12) Peter Cherco, c.1885
- Folder 13) Rosalie Roso, c.1885
- Folder 14) Ross Cheohe [Cheafce], c.1885
- Folder 15) Samuel Townsend, c.1885
- Folder 16) Thomas Wistar, c.1885
- Folder 17) ...perelt, c.1885

BOX 1 – CIS-PC-005

IDENTIFIED GROUPS

- Folder 18) H. [Harvey] Townsend and B. [Benjamin] Thomas, c.1885
- Folder 19) Joseph Cox and Friend, c.1885
- Folder 20) Little Bear Group, c.1885
- Folder 21) Luther [Standing Bear] and Willard [Standing Bear], c.1885
- Folder 22) Rob [?] and [illegible], c.1885
- Folder 23) Solomon and Edgar [Fire Thunder], c.1885

UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS

- Folder 24) Unidentified Female Student #1, c.1885
- Folder 25) Unidentified Female Student #2, c.1885
- Folder 26) Unidentified Female Student #3, c.1885
- Folder 27) Unidentified Female Student #4, c.1885
- Folder 28) Unidentified Female Student #5, c.1885
- Folder 29) Unidentified Female Student #6, c.1885
- Folder 30) Unidentified Female Student #7, c.1885
- Folder 31) Unidentified Male Student #1 [plate #1], c.1885
- Folder 32) Unidentified Male Student #1 [plate #2], c.1885
- Folder 33) Unidentified Male Student #2, c.1885
- Folder 34) Unidentified Male Student #3, c.1885

UNIDENTIFIED GROUPS

- Folder 35) Unidentified Group of Two Students #1, c.1885
- Folder 36) Unidentified Group of Two Students #2, c.1885
- Folder 37) Unidentified Group of Two Students #3, c.1885
- Folder 38) Unidentified Group of Three Students, c.1885
- Folder 39) Unidentified Group of Four Students, c.1885

This collection register was prepared by Frank Vitale IV, August 2017.