

African and African American photograph collection

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circa 1850s-1945

Title Statement

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WLU.Coll.0552

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

WLU.Coll.0552

Unit ID

/repositories/5/resources/1174

Unit Date

circa 1850s-1945

Language

English

Extent

2.5 Linear Feet one document case, 1 folder in a shared box, 1 oversize folder

Repository

Washington and Lee University, University Library Special Collections and Archives

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research use.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

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[Identification of item], African and African American Photograph Collection (WLU Coll. 0552), Special Collections and Archives, James G. Leyburn Library, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA

Scope and Contents

This collection contains images of both African and African American individuals. The subjects photographed include military personnel, men, women, and children. Some individuals were photographed inside of a photographer's studio. The images vary in size and format and range in date from circa 1850s-1945. Each item has a description at the file level.

Keywords

African American children
African Americans
Carte de visite photographs
Tintype
Ambrotype
African American women
African American men
African American soldiers

Description of Subordinate Components

Cased ambrotype of a young woman

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/24404

Unit Date circa 1850s

Mixed Materials PP 14 (Drawer)

Container 1 (Item)

Scope and Contents

Cased ambrotype photograph of a young woman who is posed standing. Her left arm is resting beside a book on a round table. The image is almost a full portrait.

Cased tintype of a teenaged girl

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/24405

Unit Date circa 1850s

Mixed Materials PP 14 (Drawer)

Container 2 (Item)

Scope and Contents

Cased tintype of a girl who appears to be in her teenage years. She is posed sitting in a high back chair. She is holding a hat in her lap.

Carte de Visite of a woman

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/24407

Unit Date circa 1850s-1860s

Mixed Materials [35101013594317] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Carte de visite full-portrait image of a woman. She is posed standing with her left hand resting on a chair. Her right hand is holding a hat. Photography studio was Christmas and Zay's of Mansfield, Ohio.

Patterson Family of Richmond, Virginia

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/24410

Unit Date circa 1860s-1870s

Mixed Materials [35101013594317] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Twenty-nine images dating from circa 1860s-1870s of the Patterson family in Richmond, Virginia. There are twenty tintypes and nine carte de visites.

Tintype full-portrait of a woman. She is posed standing with her left hand resting on an object on a table top. Her right hand is hold the handle of a parasol. She is wearing a hat and a sash. The sash has been hand colored. Photographer was C. Campbell of Richmond.

Tintype full-portrait of a man. He is posed standing with his right arm resting against a stand. He is wearing a hat. Photographer was C. Campbell of Richmond.

Tintype portrait of a young woman. She is wearing a net bonnet with a ribbon and a necklace (choker).

Tintype portrait of a young woman. She is posed sitting in a chair. Her left hand is resting on the chair's arm, and she is wearing a ring on her left hand pointer finger. Her right hand is resting in her lap. She is wearing a hat, a brooch, and earrings.

Tintype portrait of a young man. His suit jacket is buttoned, and he is wearing a tie.

Tintype portrait of an older man. He is posed sitting down. His right hand is holding his jacket lapel. He is wearing a vest and a tie. His pocket watch fob chain is visible.

Tintype portrait of a young woman. She is posed sitting down. Her left arm is resting on a table top. She is wearing a bonnet with flowers. The flowers have been hand colored. She is wearing a ring on each hand.

Tintype portrait of a young man. He is posed sitting down with his left arm resting against a table top. The middle button on his vest is undone. His cheeks appear to have been hand colored.

Tintype portrait of a young man. He is posted sitting down. His pocket watch fob chain is visit. It appears his cheeks have been hand colored. He is wearing a ring on his left pinky finger. It also looks like he is wearing a stick pin in the lapel of his vest. The back of the tintype frame has been covered by newsprint.

Tintype portrait of a young man. His cheeks appear to have been hand colored. His tie tack is visible. There is writing on the back that may be his name, but it's hard to make out.

Tintype portrait of an older man. He is posed sitting down. His right arm is resting on the chair arm. His left arm is resting on his lap. His pocket watch fob chain is visible.

Tintype full-portrait of a young man. He is posed standing behind a chair with is left hand fingers touching the chair back. He is wearing a hat.

Tintype full-portrait of a girl. She is posed standing beside a prop which looks like a wooden fence. Her right hand is resting on the prop. She has bows in her hair.

Tintype full-portrait of an older woman. She is posed sitting on what looks to be crates draped in fabric. She is wearing a head scarf. It appears she is also wearing earrings and maybe a cuff bracelet on her left wrist.

Tintype portrait of a young woman. She is posed sitting. Her right arm is resting on a pile of two books. She is wearing what looks like a hair band.

Tintype full-portrait of a girl. She is posed standing between a tree stump prop and a chair. Her left arm is resting on the chair. She is wearing a ring on her left hand.

Tintype full-portrait of a young woman. She is posed standing next to a prop. Her left arm is resting on the prop. She has a kerchief around her neck and a hat or head covering.

Tintype portrait of a young man. He is posed seated with his left arm resting on the chair arm. He is wearing a tie tack and a ring on the pinky finger of his left hand.

Tintype portrait of a young man. His cheeks appear to have been hand colored. He is posed seated with his left hand holding onto the chair arm. He is holding something in his right hand. His pocket watch fob chain is visible as is a tie tack.

Tintype portrait of a young woman. She may be wearing a brooch. She is wearing earrings. She is identified as Laura Johnson.

Carte de visite portrait of a young man. His cheeks appear to have been hand colored. He is posed sitting down with his right arm resting on top of the back of the chair. He may be wearing a ring on the pinky finger of his left hand. The photographer was P. E. Gibbs of Richmond.

Carte de visite portrait of a young woman. Her cheeks appear to have been hand colored. She is posed standing with her arms crossed and resting on a prop. She is wearing a wedding band. The photographer was G. W. Davis of Richmond.

Carte de visite portrait of a young woman. There is spotting on the image. She is wearing a necklace and appears to have pin keeping her collar closed. She is identified as Estelle Patterson of Richmond. The photographer was Campbell's Photographic Gallery in Richmond.

There are six additional carte de visites which are believed to be associated with the Pattersons but in an unclear way. One or two of the subjects may be mixed race but the others are caucasian.

Carte de visite portrait of a young woman. There is some hand coloring on her face and hat. She is wearing

a brooch. The photographer was Campbell's Photographic Art Gallery of Richmond.

Carte de visite portrait of a young woman. Likely a copy of an earlier image. She is wearing earrings. The photographer was C. R. Rees and Bro. of Richmond.

Carte de visite portrait of a young woman. Likely a copy of an earlier image. She is wearing a net bonnet. She may be wearing earrings. She is identified as "Cousin Mollie." The photographer was C. R. Rees and Bro. of Richmond.

Carte de visite portrait of a young man/older boy. Likely a copy of an earlier image. Photographer was Lee Gallery of Richmond.

Carte de visite full-portrait of a girl. She is posed sitting down with her legs crossed and feet resting on a stool. Her left hand is pressed against the left side of her jaw and her left elbow is resting on a table top. She is holding a book in her right hand. The photographer was C. R. Rees and Bro. of Richmond.

Carte de visite full-portrait of a baby. Likely a copy of an earlier image. The photographer was Frayser of Richmond.

There is also a ticket for 1/2 pound of coffee from the Canton Tea Company located in Richmond. On the back is stamped the name "L. T. Robertson."

Tintype of a young boy

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/24406

Unit Date circa 1860s

Mixed Materials [35101013594317] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Tintype full-body portrait of a young boy. He is posed standing next to a stand with a round top. His right hand is resting on top of a pile of two books. His feet are bare.

Carte de Visite of an elderly man

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/24408

Unit Date circa 1860s

Mixed Materials [35101013594317] 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Carte de visite full-portrait image of an elderly man. He is posed sitting in a chair. He is holding a cane with this left hand. A top hat is lying upside down on the floor beside him. The photograph was made by Manchester Bros. of Providence, Rhode Island.

Carte de Visite of an elderly woman

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/24409

Unit Date circa 1860s

Mixed Materials [35101013594317] 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Carte de visite of an elderly woman. It is not a full-portrait image and is likely a copy made from an earlier image. She is wearing a bonnet. Writing on the back indicates this photograph was once in an album. Someone has written a name on the back "Mrs. [indecipherable] Gather."

Carte de Visite of Nancy Wilson

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/24395

Unit Date circa 1865

Mixed Materials [35101013594317] 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Full length portrait of Nancy Wilson wearing a dress with one hand resting on a chair. There is a handwritten note on the back of the photograph that reads, "My Mother, Nancy Wilson born 1844. 66 years old when she passed." The note is dated 1910.

Cabinet card of a woman

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/24401

Unit Date circa 1890

Mixed Materials [35101013594317] 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Sepia-toned gelatin silver photograph mounted on cardstock. The image is of a woman posed standing with her right hand resting on a wicker chair.

Stereoview: "Golly! Dis am Paradise"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/26154

Unit Date 1892

Mixed Materials [35101013594317] 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Published by Strohmeyer and Wyman of New York, NY and sold by Underwood & Underwood, this stereoview shows five African American children sitting on a floor and eating watermelon. The reverse includes an ink inscription "Anna E. Ward, July 18, 1894, from 'Papa.'"

Cabinet card of a young woman and a small dog

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/24396

Unit Date circa 1895

Mixed Materials [35101013594317] 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Sepia-toned image is mounted on thick cardstock. The young woman is in a light colored dress and seated on a porch. Her right arm is draped around the dog.

Stereoview: "Darkest Africa," Cotton States International Exposition, Atlanta

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/26153

Unit Date 1895

Mixed Materials [35101013594317] 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Copyrighted in 1896 by B. W. Kilbourn of Littleton, New Hampshire, this stereoview image shows 24 African men, women, and children posed with statues and musical instruments. They are gathered under a decorative umbrella at the 1895 Cotton States International Exposition. This was the third and final Cotton Exposition held in Atlanta. Its purpose was to foster trade between southern states and South American nations as well as to show the products and facilities of the region to the rest of the nation and to Europe.

Postcard photograph of two young cowboys

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/24398

Unit Date circa 1905

Mixed Materials [35101013594317] 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Gelatin silver full-length postcard photograph of two young cowboys. One is wearing chaps, a white shirt, and a bandana tied around his neck. He is also wearing a gun holster. He's holding a revolver in his right hand. The other individual is wearing denim pants and a white shirt. He is holding a rifle in his right hand. Both are wearing cowboy hats but neither is wearing cowboy boots.

Studio portrait of seven uniformed students from the Hampton Normal School

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/24400

Unit Date 1916

Mixed Materials [35101013593723] Large Format Photographs Box 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Gelatin silver print photograph mounted on cardstock. Cheyne's Studio of Hampton, Virginia is stamped on the lower mount. The image features seven Hampton Normal School students posed for a professional portrait in 1916. Hampton Normal School is now Hampton University. The male students are both African American and Indigenous. They are all dressed in the same military uniform, some with ranks on their sleeves. Five of the students are standing in a formal pose with their hands at their sides. Two students are seated in chairs with hands clasped. Placed between the seated students is a large potted plant on a stand. At the base of the stand is a lettered sign that reads: "Success / Agr" with a pictorial vignette of a white plow, a growing plant, and a white cloud and "1916 / Crowns Labor."

These students may have been the first class of ROTC cadets. ROTC started in 1916 at Hampton.

Stereoview of Troops in route to France

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/26155

Unit Date circa 1918

Mixed Materials [35101013594317] 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Published by the Keystone View Company in circa 1918, this stereoview card was issued as 19118. The caption reads "Uncle Sam Provides for Comfort of His Soldiers. Colored Troops En Route to France. Taking Train Rest at Railway Division Front." The reverse provides two paragraphs of text about the photograph.

Postcard photograph of a young woman

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/24397

Unit Date circa 1925

Mixed Materials [35101013594317] 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Sepia-toned gelatin silver photograph of a young woman wearing an overcoat and holding a hat. She is posed standing beside a chair with her right arm leaning against the top. The photographer was Benjamin Blakemore at his studio in Staunton, Virginia.

Postcard photograph of a young woman and two children

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/24399

Unit Date circa 1925

Mixed Materials [35101013594317] 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Sepia-toned gelatin silver photograph of a young woman posed seated with a child on her lap and a child seated on her left. This image might have been taken a studio in Staunton, Virginia.

U. S. Navy sailor and male friend

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/24403

Unit Date circa 1940-1943

Mixed Materials [35101013594317] 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Gelatin silver print that has been hand-tinted. The image is of two men. One man is a sailor with the U. S. Navy. He's wearing a blue sailor's uniform including the beret. He is wearing a white carnation. The other man is wearing a gray pinstriped suit and a fedora. He is also wearing a white carnation. The image

appears to have been taken in a photographer's studio.

U. S. Marine Corp Platoon

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/24402

Unit Date circa 1943-1945

Mixed Materials [35101013594317] 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Gelatin silver print of a USMC platoon likely taken during basic training. The USMC established a segregated basic training camp at Camp Lejeune, NC called Montford Point. The photographer's stamp on the back is for Henry Renfrew of Jacksonville, North Carolina, which means this platoon was likely at Montford Point, circa 1943-1945. The marines are wearing their Summer Service uniform, including sabres. Most have rifles at their side. Many of the marines are unidentified in pencil on the back. A few are identified in ink on the front.

Tintype of a Couple

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/34780

Unit Date circa 1870s

Mixed Materials [35101013594317] 1 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Tintype studio photograph of a couple. The woman has shoulder-length curly hair and wears a tiered long-sleeve dress with a brooch at the collar. The man dresses in a suit and tie with a long sportcoat. He has short hair and a goatee. Their elbows rest on a column with a decoration on top.

Tintype of a Woman and Girl

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/34781

Unit Date circa 1870s

Mixed Materials [35101013594317] 1 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Sixth plate tintype studio image of a woman and a young girl. The woman wears a light-colored patterned gown and a straw hat. She sits on a chair. A young girl stands beside her and rests a hand on her shoulder. The young girl wears a white dress and boots. They are posed before a painted backdrop of a garden. The ground is covered in grass and leaves.

Cabinet Card Portrait of an Officer of the Knights of Pythias

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/34782

Unit Date circa 1880s-1890s

Mixed Materials [35101013594317] 1 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Studio portrait of an unidentified officer in the Uniform Rank of the Knights of Pythias. The photograph is from the C. W. Borah studio in Columbus, Ohio. The man is photographed in full regalia. He wears a double-breasted frock coat which features two vertical rows of polished brass buttons, shoulder epaulets, and a high collar. He wears a chapeau with a folded brim and a side plume. A ceremonial sword rests in his gloved hand. He wears several medals and ribbons.

Barbers

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/34783

Unit Date circa early 1900s

Mixed Materials [35101013593723] Large Format Photographs Box 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Large albumen photograph of African American barbers. Photograph shows five men in white coats and bow ties standing beside velvet upholstered barber's chairs lining a long counter, ornate mirrors above each station. The men rest their hands on the chairs.

Panoramic of African American soldiers

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/24422

Unit Date circa 1940s

Mixed Materials [35101013593848] Folder 1 (Oversize)

Scope and Contents

Panoramic sepia toned gelatin silver photograph of a group of unidentified African American soldiers in the U. S. Army during the circa 1940s. The photograph features 88 soldiers along with 5 white officers.