



FINDING AID

MARGARET MCCARTNEY FAMILY PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM

Circa 1907-Circa 1930(bulk dates: Circa 1907-Circa 1915)

Prepared by
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07/08/2010

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Collection Number: MSC 030

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HISTORY

Margaret J. McCartney, known as "Lady Mac," worked in Yellowstone National Park for more than 30 years. She began her work in 1902 as manager of the Wylie Camping Company's Old Faithful Camp and, following a brief hiatus, returned in about 1907 as General Matron. She continued to work seasonally until 1934, holding a variety of positions including manager of Canyon Lodge and personnel officer for the Yellowstone Park Lodge & Camps Company, hiring most of the Park's "savages" or housekeeping and wait staff. Born September 13, 1864, she grew up in College Hill, Pennsylvania and, possibly, Cambridge, Ohio. McCartney retired to California and died at the age of 93 at the Presbyterian Rest Home in Glendale, California, on December 24, 1957.

Nieces Roberta and Shirley McCartney and nephew Leonard McCartney followed Margaret to Yellowstone for brief periods of employment. Shirley McCartney married a Park wrangler, Frank M. Gray, in the late 1910s and raised three sons. Frank later injured his back when a team of horses, spooked by lightning, dragged him down a trail. Despite the permanent injury, he became a lawyer and worked in Bozeman, Montana. In 1920, Roberta may have been working as an attendant in the State Mental Hospital of Pennsylvania. Leonard, who worked for the Wylie Camping Company as a camp helper in 1911, was a farm hand in Bozeman, Montana by 1920.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

MARGARET MCCARTNEY FAMILY PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM Circa 1907-Circa 1930 (bulk dates: Circa 1907-Circa 1915)

CATALOG NUMBER YELL 192402

VOLUME 0.25 LF

DESCRIPTION The collection consists of a photograph album documenting the McCartney family and their work as concessioner employees in Yellowstone National Park in the early 1900s.

The collection consists of black and white photographs mounted on black construction paper and bound into a black linen covered album. The album covers the years circa 1907 through the early 1930s, although the images are not in chronological order.

The album documents both the McCartney family and their work as concessioner employees in Yellowstone National Park. While the bulk of the Yellowstone images are in the front of the album, a few images are scattered on latter pages. Non-Yellowstone images may also be found on predominantly Yellowstone pages; these may sometimes be distinguished by their smaller size, sepia-tone, and more lush vegetation. Images of Leonard McCartney, Roberta McCartney, and Shirley (McCartney) and Frank M. Gray are labeled. Several images of an older woman in an apron in front of a canvas tent may be those of Margaret J. McCartney or "Lady Mac". There are numerous unlabeled images of the "savages", employees of the Wylie and, later, the Yellowstone Park Lodge companies. The images show the savages camping, picnicking, hiking, boating, on horseback, visiting the natural and geothermal features of the park, playing in a summer snow fall, at leisure, and doing laundry in the camp. There are also images of the Old Faithful Camp, Lake Camp, Uncle Tom's Cabin, a Wylie Co. surrey in front of the old Mammoth Hotel with Bunson Peak in the background, and E. C. Water's house and boat ramp. Natural and geothermal features include Liberty Cap,

Fishing Cone, Old Faithful Geyser, Giant Geyser, Grand Geyser, Upper Falls, Lower Falls, and Natural Bridge. A view of Norris Geyser Basin with planks across it is particularly notable. Other views include the Roosevelt Arch and the train depot in Gardiner (MT), feeding a black bear cub, the Haynes Photo Shop and Upper Geyser Basin, and a 4th of July celebration in 1911. In addition to images, there are three pieces of ephemera: a Lake Camp place card, a small watercolor of Lower Falls, and an employment contract with the Wylie Co. for Leonard McCartney.

The later images are largely unidentified family photographs and portraits. There are, however, several images of the wreckage of the USS Shenandoah, a zeppelin that crashed in Noble County, Ohio, in 1924.

ORGANIZATION

The album remains in its original order.

PROVENANCE

Gift of Jean (McCartney) Hinton Puddington in 2009.

RESTRICTIONS

NO

CONTAINER LIST**Box 1**

File Unit Nbr	Title
01	Photograph album