



FINDING AID

SMITH FAMILY PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM **ca. 1907**

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HISTORY

The album was discovered in a box of family photos and, although the donors did not recognize those pictured, it seems likely that it was created by extended members of the Smith family. The donor's maternal grandmother was Beatrice Smith, daughter of Harry Smith. Beatrice was born in Neligh, Nebraska, and later the family moved to South Dakota. Beatrice married Oliver Nelson, whose family was Norwegian. The Nelsons had at least one daughter.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

SMITH FAMILY PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM ca. 1907

CATALOG NUMBER YELL 205916

VOLUME 0.25 LF

DESCRIPTION Photograph album of a camping trip through Yellowstone National Park by the Smith Family, circa 1907. The collection consists of a photograph album of albumen photographic prints mounted on loose linen-style paper pages. The cover has been lost. The album is fragile; care must be taken in handling.

The images consist of family views, landscapes, and views of wildlife and thermal features. The family appears to have traveled from Bozeman by wagon and there are views of camping in the Trail Creek and Paradise Valley areas, including the Devil's Slide north of Gardiner, Montana. Closer to Yellowstone National Park, the family joins the Yellowstone Park Transportation Company tours, riding into the park on a "Tally Ho" or eight horse drawn stagecoach and then transferring to more sedate surreys and wagons. There are several views of the modes of transport, the camps, and picnicking. Landscapes include views of Yellowstone Lake, the Hoodoos, the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, and the Gallatin and Yellowstone Rivers. There are also numerous images of snow still on the ground in July. Geothermal features depicted include the Mammoth Terraces and Grotto and Old Faithful Geysers. Wildlife shown are bison at the Mammoth Hot Springs buffalo pens, a few deer, and many images of bears. There are also photos of the party, but few are identified. Those named include Cousin Minnie and Spitz, the dog. Several

snapshots show members of the party drinking (or appearing to drink) from beer bottles. These are labeled in a joking manner, perhaps indicating that the family hailed from a community where prohibition had already been made law. In general, the album depicts the typical "sagebrusher" experience during the stagecoach era.

ORGANIZATION

The album remains in its original order, although the donor noted that some of the loose pages may have become disordered prior to donation.

PROVENANCE

Gift of Janet Walker, 2002.

RESTRICTIONS

NO

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

File Unit Nbr	Title
01	Photograph album, ca. 1907