

Nick Mersfelder:

A Preliminary Inventory of His Photography Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Mersfelder, Nick, 1858-1939
Title:	Nick Mersfelder Photography Collection
Dates:	1910s-1920s
Extent:	728 glass plate negatives
Abstract:	The collection is comprised of 728 glass negatives made by the west Texas photographer Nick Mersfelder primarily of Fort Davis, Texas. Also included are the original sleeves for each negative which contain captions and other descriptive information.
Call Number:	PH-00414
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research. Please note: Negatives cannot be accessed without curatorial approval. To make an appointment or to reserve photography materials, please contact the Center's staff at photography@hrc.utexas.edu .

Administrative Information

Acquisition:	Gift of Mildred Bloys Nored, 2015 (15-05-031-G)
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Scope and Contents

The collection is comprised of 728 glass negatives made by photographer Nick Mersfelder (American, 1858-1939) of Fort Davis, Texas, during the 1910s and 1920s. Subjects include: Mersfelder, his house, and his friends; Fort Davis, primarily the military fort, but also residents, houses, the school, and the ground breaking for the new court house; ranches and ranch workers; church and school groups; funerals, agricultural scenes; family and church outings; children; Finley's Cowboys outfit; camping, fishing, and hunting trips; the Big Bend region of Texas; and portraits of individuals and families. A small group of negatives are of unidentified scenes. Numbers listed are based on Mersfelder's original negative numbers. Contact prints made by the Ransom Center from the original glass negatives are available for viewing. Also available are the original negative sleeves for each negative which contain captions and other descriptive information.

Negatives Numbers 1-37 -- Nick Mersfelder, his house, and his friends

Glass plate negatives

Location Cabinet storage

Access prints

Location Box 1.1

Negative sleeves

Location Box 3.1

Negatives Numbers 101-130 -- Fort Davis, primarily the actual military fort

Glass plate negatives

Location Cabinet storage

Access prints

Location Box 1.2

Negative sleeves

Location Box 3.2

Negatives Numbers 201-343 -- Fort Davis residents, houses, school, and ground-breaking for the new court house

Glass plate negatives

Location Cabinet storage

Access prints

Location Box 1.3-4

Negative sleeves

Location Box 3.3-6

Negatives Numbers 401-500 -- People at ranches and doing ranchwork; church and school groups; funerals; agricultural scenes; family and church outings; children; and Finley's Cowboys outfit

Glass plate negatives

Location Cabinet storage

Access prints

Location Box 1.5-6

Negative sleeves

Location Box 4.1-2

Negatives Numbers 501-556 -- Camping, fishing, and hunting trips

Glass plate negatives

Location Cabinet storage

Access prints

Location Box 1.7

Negative sleeves

Location Box 4.3

Negatives Numbers 601-727 -- Scenes and scenery in the Big Bend region of Texas, such as ranches; Valentine Train Station; mining; camping trips and outings; and flooded town

Glass plate negatives

Location Cabinet storage

Access prints

Location Box 2.1-2

Negative sleeves

Location Box 4.4, 5.1-2

Negatives Numbers 801-938, 940-1026 -- Formal portraits of individuals and families

Glass plate negatives

Location Cabinet storage

Access prints

Location Box 2.3-7

Negative sleeves

Location Box 5.3

Negatives Numbers 1101-1117 -- Unidentified scenes

Glass plate negatives

Location Cabinet storage

Access prints

Location Box 2.8

Negative sleeves

Location Box 5.4