

# Guide to the William Wildschut Papers

WA MSS S-2386



by Diana Smith

December 2000

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** WA MSS S-2386

**CREATOR:** Wildschut, William, 1883-1955

**TITLE:** William Wildschut papers

**DATES:** 1878-1927

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.93 linear feet (3 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Photographs, writings, clippings, and other material related to Wildschut's study of North American Indians. Includes 64 photographs, most of them portraits of Native Americans, primarily Crow Indians, including Plenty Coups and Two Leggings. Other photographs are of encampments, ceremonies, medicine bundles and other objects, the grave of Two Leggings, cavalymen at the monument at Little Bighorn, and Wildschut handing Marshal Ferdinand Foch a portrait of Plenty Coups. There are eleven short typescript essays and a set of manuscript notes on Native American customs, and four letters vouching for Two Belly (Crow Indian chief) while hunting, signed by four different Indian agents, one of them Nelson Appleton Miles.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.wildschu>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.wildschu>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from William P. Wreden on the William Robertson Coe Fund, 1976.

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### Conditions Governing Access

Box 3: Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

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### Conditions Governing Use

The William Wildschut Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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### Preferred Citation

William Wildschut Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## WILLIAM WILDSCHUT

William Wildschut, an ethnologist and field researcher for the Museum of the American Indian, was born in the Netherlands. He was the author of *Crow Indian Beadwork* (New York: Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation: 1959), and *Crow Indian Medicine Bundles* (New York: Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation: 1960). His biography of Two Leggings, a Crow Indian chief, was published in 1967, twelve years after Wildschut's death.

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## Scope and Contents

The Papers consist of photographs writings, clippings, and other material related to Wildschut's study of North American Indians. [Series I, Photographs](#), includes 64 photographs, most of them portraits of Native Americans, primarily Crow Indians, including Plenty Coups and Two Leggings. Other photographs are of encampments, ceremonies, medicine bundles and other objects, the grave of Two Leggings, cavalymen at the monument at Little Bighorn, and Wildschut handing Marshal Ferdinand Foch a portrait of Plenty Coups. [Series II, Writings](#), includes eleven short typescript essays and a set of manuscript notes on Native American customs. [Series III, Other Papers](#), contains four letters vouching for Two Belly (Crow Indian chief) while hunting, signed by four different Indian agents (one of them Nelson Appleton Miles), and clippings. [Oversize](#), box 2, contains material from Series I, and is organized in box order.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Photographs, n.d.

0.15 linear feet (.33 box)

Series I, *Photographs*, is arranged into three subseries: Portraits (Native Americans, Others), Native American Scenes and Objects, and Other Photographs. The photographs are arranged alphabetically by caption title.

#### PORTRAITS

##### Native Americans

	"Curly." Three portraits Stored in: Oversize, box 2, folder 33 "Copyright 31 Wildschut" and "Copyright 133 Wildschut" at bottom right of two of the photographs	n.d.
b. 1, f. 1	"John Wallace, Crow Indian"	n.d.
b. 1, f. 2	Miller, F. E., Hardin. "Hoop in the Forehead"	n.d.
	"Plenty Coups" Stored in: Oversize, box 2, folder 34 "Copyright 119 Wildschut" at bottom right corner of photograph	n.d.
	"Plenty Coups & Daughter" [and a second photograph of the daughter]. Two handcolored photographs Stored in: Oversize, box 2, folder 35 "Copyright 116 Wildschut" and "Copyright 118 Wildschut" at bottom right corner of photographs	n.d.
	"Sees the Living Bull. Crow Indian Chief, Medicine Father of Two Leggings." Two photographs of same image Stored in: Oversize, box 2, folder 36	n.d.
	[Empty mat for "Shot in the Hand Crow Indian"] Stored in: Oversize, box 2, folder 37 Mat signed by Wildschut	n.d.
	"Two Leggings. Crow Indian Chief" Stored in: Oversize, box 2, folder 38	n.d.
	[Unidentified man, bare-chested] Stored in: Oversize, box 2, folder 39 Mat signed by Wildschut	n.d.
b. 1, f. 3	[Unidentified men]	n.d.
b. 1, f. 4	[Unidentified old man wearing large feather headdress]	n.d.
	[Unidentified woman with two children.] Handcolored Stored in: Oversize, box 2, folder 40 "Copyright 115 Wildschut"	n.d.

##### Others

## PORTRAITS &gt; Others (continued)

b. 1, f. 5	"Buffalo Bill Reproduced after a painting 1904"	n.d.
b. 1, f. 6	[Buffalo Bill on a white horse]	n.d.
	Howard, Photo. "Group of Officers, Fort McKinney, Wyoming." Stored in: Oversize, box 2, folder 41	n.d.
b. 1, f. 7	"Marshall Foch receives my picture of Plenty Coos W. Wildschut"	n.d.
b. 1, f. 8	O'Neill Photo Co. "Pres Coolidge After Becoming Chief Leading Eagle. Days of 76. Deadwood, S.D.	n.d.
b. 1, f. 9	"Tom LaFarge & self on the Crow Indian reservation"	n.d.
NATIVE AMERICAN SCENES AND OBJECTS		
b. 1, f. 10	[Crow medicine pipe bundle and sundance bundle]	n.d.
	"Fort Fetterman - Wyoming By Lacom, 1873." Photograph of a painting [on a tent?] Two photographs of the same image Stored in: Oversize, box 2, folder 42	n.d.
b. 1, f. 11	<a href="#">[Native American camps, portraits of Native Americans in front of tipis, with portrait of Two Leggings when younger, women raising tipi.] 12 photographs</a> Numbered 101-130, with gaps	n.d.
	[Native American ceremony, witnesses, and camp.] 10 photographs Stored in: Oversize, box 2, folders 43-45	n.d.
b. 1, f. 12	[Native American ethnographic objects.] 7 photographs Numbered D14-D29, with gaps	n.d.
b. 1, f. 13	[Photoreproduction of a two page, partial description of the life of Native Americans, with drawings of camp and Native Americans on the trail]	n.d.
b. 1, f. 14	[Tipi in a camp painted with a large eagle]	n.d.
b. 1, f. 15	"Two Leggings Grave Nr Hardin Montana"	n.d.
	[Two tipis, one painted with warriors on horses.] Stored in: Oversize, box 2, folder 46 "Copyright 151 W. Wildschut, Billings, Montana." Mat signed by Wildschut	n.d.
OTHER PHOTOGRAPHS		
b. 1, f. 16	[Little Big Horn monument, with cavalry in front of it.] 5 photographs	n.d.
b. 1, f. 17	Photoreproduction of "Sweetwater Station Idh. Ter." by C. W. Collins	n.d.

**Series II: Writings, n.d.***0.15 linear feet (.33 box)*Series II, *Writings*, is arranged alphabetically by title.

b. 1, f. 18	"Arapaho Specimen No A-312...Arapaho Medicine Mirror." Carbon typescript	n.d.
b. 1, f. 19	"Blackfeet Pipe Bundles." Carbon typescript, corrected	n.d.
b. 1, f. 20	"Crow Sweattipi Ceremony," "Crow Miniature Sweattipi Ceremony," and "Crow Tanning Process." Carbon typescripts with pen-and-ink diagram on "Crow Sweattipi Ceremony"	n.d.
b. 1, f. 21	"The Kicksetti Totem and The Kahl-Teen Totem." Typescript	n.d.
b. 1, f. 22	"Secret Rites of the North-American Indians." Typescript, corrected With first page of later draft	n.d.
b. 1, f. 23	"Shoshone Indian Sundance." Carbon typescript	n.d.
b. 1, f. 24	"Some Points on the American Indian and His Religion." Typescript, corrected	n.d.
b. 1, f. 25	"The Trading Post." Typescript, corrected	n.d.
b. 1, f. 26	"Use of skull bundle on the war-path." Carbon typescript, corrected "Informant: Coyote-Runs"	n.d.
b. 1, f. 27	Holograph manuscript notes on Native American customs, with drawings of objects by Wildschut	n.d.

**Series III: Other Papers, 1878-1927***0.1 linear feet (.33 box)*

b. 1, f. 28	4 ALS vouching for Two Belly, Crow Indian chief, while hunting - one letter signed by Nelson Appleton Miles	1878-83
b. 1, f. 29	Clippings mentioning William Wildschut	1923, 1927
b. 1, f. 30	Clippings on Crow Indians	1923, n.d.
b. 1, f. 31	Clippings on Native American culture	1923, n.d.
b. 1, f. 32	Empty envelope from Chapple Drug Co., Billings, Montana labeled "Duplicate Scenic pictures"	n.d.



**Oversize***1.33 linear feet (1 box)*

Oversize contains materials from series I, and is arranged in box order.

b. 2, f. 33	"Curly." Three portraits (in Series I)	n.d.
b. 2, f. 34	"Plenty Coups" (in Series I)	n.d.
b. 2, f. 35	"Plenty Coups & Daughter" [and a second photograph of the daughter]. Two handcolored photographs (in Series I)	n.d.
b. 2, f. 36	"Sees the Living Bull. Crow Indian Chief, Medicine Father of Two Leggings." Two photographs of same image (in Series I)	n.d.
b. 2, f. 37	[Empty mat for "Shot in the Hand Crow Indian] (in Series I)	n.d.
b. 2, f. 38	"Two Leggings. Crow Indian Chief" (in Series I)	n.d.
b. 2, f. 39	[Unidentified man, bare-chested] (in Series I)	n.d.
b. 2, f. 40	[Unidentified woman with two children.] Handcolored (in Series I)	n.d.
b. 2, f. 41	Howard, Photo. "Group of Officers, Fort McKinney, Wyoming" (in Series I)	n.d.
b. 2, f. 42	"Fort Fetterman - Wyoming By Lacom, 1873." Photograph of a painting [on a tent?] Two photographs of the same image (in Series I)	n.d.
b. 2, f. 43-45	[Native American ceremony, witnesses, and camp.] 10 photographs (in Series I)	n.d.
b. 2, f. 46	[Two tipis, one painted with warriors on horses] (in Series I)	n.d.

**Restricted Fragile Papers**

Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

b. 3, f. 47	Box 1, folder 18
b. 3, f. 48	Box 1, folder 19
b. 3, f. 49	Box 1, folder 20
b. 3, f. 50	Box 1, folder 23
b. 3, f. 51	Box 1, folder 26
b. 3, f. 52	Box 1, folder 29
b. 3, f. 53	Box 1, folder 30
b. 3, f. 54	Box 1, folder 31

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Crow Indians -- Pictorial works  
Crow Indians -- Social life and customs  
Indians of North America -- Pictorial works  
Indians of North America -- Social life and customs  
Little Bighorn, Battle of the, Mont., 1876 --  
Monuments -- Pictorial works

### **Genres / Formats**

Photographic prints

### **Names**

Foch, Ferdinand, 1851-1929  
Miles, Nelson Appleton, 1839-1925  
Plenty Coups, Chief of the Crows, 1848-1932  
Two Leggings, approximately 1847-1923  
Wildschut, William, 1883-1955