Stiles Collection of Photographs of South Pasadena and Los Angeles County: Finding Aid

Finding aid prepared by Sue Tyson.
The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens
Photo Archives
The Huntington Library
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2191
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Overview of the Collection

Title: Stiles Collection of Photographs of South Pasadena and Los Angeles County

Dates (inclusive): approximately 1887-1913

Collection Number: photCL 280

Creator: Stiles, Mildred Keith, 1892-1961

Extent: 189 negatives in 9 boxes; chiefly glass-plate negatives; plates chiefly 13 x 21 cm. (5 x 8 in.) and 10 x 13 cm. (4 x 5 in.) + 209 prints (chiefly later prints corresponding to the negatives), one cabinet card photograph, and 1 notebook in 1 box

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Abstract: This collection contains 209 photographs of families, residences, commercial and municipal buildings, and the natural environment of South Pasadena, the city and county of Los Angeles, and other locations chiefly in California, taken approximately 1887-1913, mostly by photographer T. D. Keith ([1848]-1896). The photographs are chiefly later prints from glass-plate negatives and, to a lesser extent, from copy film negatives; also included are 20 prints without corresponding negatives, one cabinet card photograph, and a notebook containing three pages of handwritten titles for some of the photographs.

Language: English.

Access

Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Stiles Collection of Photographs of South Pasadena and Los Angeles County, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Provenance

This collection was a gift of Mrs. Conrad A. Stiles (Mildred Keith Stiles), May 6, 1949.

Biographical Note

T. D. Keith ([1848]-1896), also known as Truman D. Keith, was an American photographer known for his photographs of South Pasadena and environs. Born in New York, he moved to California in 1887, living in San Bernardino before moving to South Pasadena later that year. Keith served as postmaster of South Pasadena from approximately 1889-1892, and his wife, Nellie E. Keith (1851-1935), served as City Librarian from 1895-1930. Their children include Merton E. Keith ([1874]-1908), who worked as a court reporter, councilman, city clerk, and member of the library board; Mabel Keith (1884-1906); and Mildred Keith Stiles (1892-1961), wife of Conrad A. Stiles and mother of Keith L. Stiles.

Scope and Content

This collection contains 209 photographs of families, residences, commercial and municipal buildings, and the natural environment of South Pasadena, the city and county of Los Angeles, and other locations chiefly in California, taken approximately 1887-1913, mostly by photographer T. D. Keith ([1848]-1896); one undated photograph is by Los Angeles photographer Elkanah P. Tresslar, and other images taken after Keith's death are by an unidentified photographer. Photographs chiefly show South Pasadena residents and residences, including Keith's home and family and other families; many of the photographs provide a glimpse of clothing and dress styles of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Photographs also depict South Pasadena buildings and scenes, including the first and second Raymond Hotel and South Pasadena High School; panoramic views of South Pasadena; railroads; various views of the San Gabriel Valley and Los Angeles; Santa Catalina Island; and the Tournament of Roses Parade in 1901 in Pasadena. The collection also includes a few photographs showing scenes from San Diego County and the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906, and individual images of the San Juan Capistrano Mission and of a street scene in Tijuana, Mexico. A few images, such as Item 37, are originals.

Stiles Collection of Photographs of South Pasadena and Los Angeles County: Finding Aid
with the stamp "Keith" on versos.  
The photographs are chiefly later prints from glass-plate negatives and, to a lesser extent, from copy film negatives; these prints were made by the Huntington photo lab in the 1980s. Also included are 20 prints without corresponding negatives, one cabinet card photograph, and a chiefly blank notebook containing three pages of handwritten titles for some of the photographs. The collection contains many duplicates.  

**Note**

Huntington Library volunteer Jane Apostol numbered the photographs, and identified many of them in captions written on the prints.

- [Kenny Collection of Photographs of South Pasadena (photCL 281)]

**Arrangement**

Photographs appear to be generally arranged by photograph number, and were grouped according to general topic by a previous archivist. The collection is arranged in the following two series:

- **Series I. Prints**
  - Subseries A. South Pasadena and Los Angeles County (Items 1-153, 168-199, 208-209)
  - Subseries B. San Diego County (Items 154-165)
  - Subseries C. San Juan Capistrano (Item 166)
  - Subseries D. Mexico (Item 167)
  - Subseries E. San Francisco (Items 200-207)
  - Notebook

- **Series II. Glass-plate Negatives and Copy Film Negatives**

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

**Subjects**

- Pasadena and Pacific Railway Company -- Photographs.
- Raymond Hotel (Pasadena, Calif.) -- Photographs.
- Southern Pacific Railroad Company -- Photographs.
- Airships -- California -- Pasadena -- Photographs.
- Architecture, Domestic -- California -- South Pasadena -- Photographs.
- Clothing and dress -- California, Southern -- Photographs.
- Dwellings -- California -- South Pasadena -- Photographs.
- Families -- Photographs.
- Gardens -- California -- South Pasadena -- Photographs.
- Hotels -- California -- Photographs.
- Photography of families -- Photographs.
- Plants -- California -- Photographs.
- Portrait photography -- United States -- Photographs.
- Railroads -- California, Southern -- Photographs.
- Avalon (Calif.) -- Photographs.
- Long Beach (Calif.) -- Photographs.
- Los Angeles (Calif.) -- Photographs.
- Los Angeles County (Calif.) -- Photographs.
- Pasadena (Calif.) -- Photographs.
- San Diego County (Calif.) -- Photographs.
- San Gabriel Valley (Calif.) -- Photographs.
- Santa Catalina Island (Calif.) -- Photographs.
- South Pasadena (Calif.) -- Photographs.

**Forms/Genres**

- Cabinet photographs.
Panoramas.  
Photographs.  
Stereographs.  

**Contributors**  
Keith, T. D., photographer.  
Stiles, Mildred Keith, 1892-1961, donor.  
Tresslar, E. P. (Elkanah P.), photographer.  

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**Container List**

**Box 1**  
Prints  

**South Pasadena and Los Angeles County**  
Physical Description: 187 photographs

**South Pasadena**  
Residents and homes. 1899-1907, undated  
Includes chiefly images of various members of the T. D. Keith family and exterior views of their home in South Pasadena; also contains photographs of other South Pasadena residents and residences. People depicted include Roy Stephens, postmaster of South Pasadena from 1897-1907, dressed in a bullfighter’s costume; the George W. Wilson family; the Edward H. Rust family; the William Brainerd family; the Stephenson family; and the Baker family. The photographs depict outdoor scenes, including children lighting fireworks or posing with flags during Fourth of July celebrations (Item 10, 1905 and Item 18, 1899?); Mabel Keith with her bicycle (Item 11); the Keith family during Thanksgiving (Items 13-14, 1903?); and people posing in front of residences. One photograph, a cabinet card portrait of Merton E. Keith, son of T. D. Keith, is by Los Angeles photographer Elkanah P. Tresslar (Item 24).

**South Pasadena, general. 1887-1896, undated**  
Contains photographs depicting residences, including those of the Reverend A. Moss Merwin, Carolyn W. Dobbins, and Margaret Collier Graham’s Wynyate; gardens and landscaping; El Centro School and students (Items 54-61, approximately 1888-1890); Hotel Marengo (Item 64, 1887) and Hermosa Vista Hotel (Item 65); a church; Adobe Flores; and Diaspora Villa. Also contains views of hiking parties and picnickers, including one photograph of the Keith family with the family of Aaron F. McReynolds (Item 52).

**South Pasadena, panoramic views. Approximately 1890-1899**  
Includes map and legend created by previous archivist showing sites referenced in Item 70, among them the Mohr and Graham block, South Pasadena Hotel, first Raymond Hotel, El Centro School, Graham House, and the Santa Fe tracks.

**Raymond Hotel (first). 1895**  
Views include photographs featuring the hotel against a backdrop of snow-covered San Gabriel Mountains, with railroad tracks in the foreground (Items 80-81); a stereograph of people posing in front of a garden with the hotel in the background (Item 83); and images of the hotel as it burned down on April 14, 1895, and subsequently in ruins (Items 85-87).
Folder 10 (Items 88-95)

Raymond Hotel (second) and Painter Hotel. Approximately 1900-1913
Includes images of the Roy Knabenshue dirigible on site (Items 93-94) and a stereograph of the Painter Hotel (Item 95).

Folder 17 (Items 148-153)

South Pasadena buildings. Approximately 1887-1896
Includes one panorama and one stereograph of South Pasadena and depictions of the Jersey Dairy and dairy cart; the South Pasadena Hotel; the interior of a general store, with Aaron F. McReynolds at the counter; the post office; and the Santa Fe Depot.

Folder 20 (Items 184-199)

South Pasadena High School. Approximately 1910
Includes depictions of a group of students posing on front steps; sports teams and events; orchestra practice; and students at a "hobo day" event and at graduation.

Folder 11 (Items 96-103)

Railroads. Approximately 1894-1895
Includes photographs of the Pasadena and Pacific viaduct through South Pasadena; Pasadena and Pacific railway cars; people gathered outside of a train on a field; and engines and trains at a Southern Pacific Railroad depot at San Fernando Boulevard in Los Angeles, possibly the River Station during a labor strike in 1894.

Folder 12 (Items 104-114)

San Gabriel Valley Views. 1890, 1901, undated
Includes views of the San Gabriel Mountains, from Altadena (Items 104-107); the Church of the Angels in Pasadena (Items 108-109, 1890); stereographic views of the Eagle Rock outcropping in Highland Park (Items 110-111); the Old Mill in San Marino; and the Queen Anne Cottage at Baldwin Ranch in Arcadia. Photographs are undated.

Folder 13 (Items 115-122)

San Gabriel Mission
Includes undated photographs of the Mission and of the San Gabriel Cemetery.

Folder 14 (Items 123-132)

Los Angeles Views
Contains undated photographs depicting various scenes in the City of Los Angeles including Echo Park, Eastlake Park, Westlake Park, oil wells, workers picking oranges, and the residence of General William S. Rosecrans in Gardena.

Folders 15, 22 (Items 133-139, 208-209)

Miscellaneous Los Angeles County Views. 1902, undated
Includes photographs depicting passengers at the Inglewood train station; beach scenes in Long Beach, including one from the Fourth of July (Item 135, 1902); boats in San Pedro Harbor; a schoolhouse; images of a Chinese laundry, Lee Hing Laundry, possibly located in Alhambra; and an Independent Ice Company wagon.

Folder 16 (Items 140-147)

Santa Catalina Island Views. Approximately 1904
Includes images of Avalon Bay; Sugar Loaf; and residences, tent cabins, and Grand View hotel near the shoreline in the town of Avalon. Items 141 and 147 are stereographic depictions of Avalon Bay.

Pasadena
Folder 19 (Items 168-183)  
**Tournament of Roses. 1901**  
Includes depictions of Maccabees, Americus Club, a Chinese dragon float, and crowd scenes.

**San Diego County**  
Physical Description: 12 photographs

Folder 18 (Items 154-165)  
**Views. Approximately 1903, undated**  
Includes depictions of the city of San Diego from the Coronado Ferry; San Diego Bay from Point Loma; Coronado Island; the four-mast German bark *Altair*, with the Coronado Ferry and anchored off the Spreckels coal wharves (Items 157-159, approximately 1903); an Indian sexton in Old Town; Estudillo House; Mission San Diego; and a residence in La Jolla.

**San Juan Capistrano**  
Physical Description: 1 photograph

Folder 18 (Item 166)  
**San Juan Capistrano Mission**  
Contains one undated image depicting the Mission in ruins.

**Mexico**  
Physical Description: 1 photograph

Folder 18 (Item 167)  
**Tijuana**  
Contains one undated image of a man on a street with hotel in background.

**San Francisco**  
Physical Description: 8 photographs

Folder 21 (Items 200-207)  
**Views of the San Francisco Earthquake. 1906**  
Contains photographs of buildings in ruins, some with signs visible, including for the Mission Theater, R. N. Mason & Co., the First National Bank, and Pete Dailey.

Folder 23  
**Notebook**  
Physical Description: 1 item  
Chiefly blank undated notebook with three pages containing handwritten titles for some of the photographs, devised by an unidentified person.

**Glass-plate negatives and copy film negatives**  
**Access Information**  
[RESTRICTED] Please use later prints. Access to the original negatives is restricted. Arrangements for viewing negatives must be made in advance with the Curator of Photographs.  
Includes nine boxes containing 189 negatives, chiefly glass-plate negatives and some copy film negatives; some of the glass-plate negatives are broken or cracked. Twenty prints do not have corresponding negatives.

**Neg. box 1**  
**Items 1-24**

**Neg. box 2**  
**Items 25-37, 39-41, 43-44, 47**  
Items 38, 42, and 45 have no corresponding negatives. The glass-plate negative corresponding to Item 46 is in Neg. box 9.
## Container List

**Glass-plate negatives and copy film negatives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neg. box 3</th>
<th>Items 48-52, 54-61, 63-64, 66-73</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Items 52 and 66 have copy film negatives; Items 53, 62, 65, and 74 have no corresponding negatives.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neg. box 4</th>
<th>Items 75-83, 85-91, 93-95</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The print of Item 85 is larger than the image depicted in the glass-plate negative; Item 87 has both a glass plate negative and a copy film negative. Items 84 and 92 have no corresponding negatives.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neg. box 5</th>
<th>Items 96, 98-101, 103-114</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Items 97 and 102 have no negatives.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neg. box 6</th>
<th>Items 115-121, 124-125, 127-132, 135-139</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Items 122, 123, 126, 133, and 134 have no corresponding negatives.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neg. box 7</th>
<th>Items 140-143, 148-153</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Item 150 has two corresponding negatives, one 5 x 8 in. and one 4 x 5 in. Items 144, 145, 146, and 147 have no corresponding negatives.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neg. box 8</th>
<th>Items 154-209</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Items 184-207 have copy film negatives. Item 209 has two variant corresponding glass plate negatives.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Neg. box 9 | Item 46 [broken negative] |