
Robert S. Watt Photograph Collection: Finding Aid

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The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens

Photo Archives

1151 Oxford Road

San Marino, California 91108

Phone: (626) 405-2191

Email: reference@huntington.org

URL: <http://www.huntington.org>

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Overview of the Collection

Title: Robert S. Watt Photograph Collection

Dates (inclusive): approximately 1890-1928

Collection Number: photCL 395

Extent: 248 photographs in 4 boxes : prints and glass plate negatives + 2 certificates

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Abstract: A collection of photographs approximately 1890-1928 of miner Robert S. Watt and family living in the mountains of Los Angeles County. Assorted views include the Watt Mines Supply Co., Los Angeles; prospecting; hunting; Los Angeles buildings and oil wells; and miscellaneous scenes of Alaska.

Language: English.

Access

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

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Robert S. Watt Photograph Collection, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Provenance

Gift of Richard Van Vorst from the Watt family estate, July 1969.

Biographical Note

The 1912 Los Angeles City Directory lists Robert S. Watt, president of Watt Mines Supply Co. and Arthur B. Watt, assistant superintendent. In 1914, the company is no longer listed and Robert S. Watt is listed as a mining engineer.

Scope and Content

These photographs document daily activities and places visited by the Watt family and unidentified others in and around Los Angeles. There are various unidentified scenes of people hunting, cabins in the woods, horses, and a few group portraits, with some names. Other views show ships and a harbor, possibly in San Pedro, California; Los Angeles buildings (Plaza Church and County Courthouse) and oil wells; a group portrait (item 113) of Los Angeles County Hospital Nurses in 1905, with names written on back. Mining activities include the Watt Mines Supply Co. building; men at an excavation; stamp mill machinery; a man standing at entrance to mine; mule teams with supplies. There is also a group of photographs of Alaska, showing trappers, roadhouses, scenery, and one miner staking a claim on a river. The collection also includes U.S. citizenship papers for Robert S. Watt (1890), and Alexander Barrie (1901), both emigrants from Scotland. The majority of photographs are unidentified, but some have identifications written on the back, including names of Watt family members and others.

Arrangement

Box 1 contains copy prints made from the glass negatives and other photographic prints of various sizes. Boxes 2-4 contain 91 glass negatives.

Indexing Terms

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

Subjects

Citizenship -- United States.

Frontier and pioneer life -- California -- Los Angeles County -- Photographs.

Miners -- California -- San Gabriel Mountains -- Photographs.

Nurses -- Photographs.

Oil fields -- California -- Photographs.
Alaska -- Photographs.
Angeles National Forest (Calif.) -- Photographs.
Los Angeles (Calif.) -- Photographs.
San Gabriel Mountains (Calif.) -- Photographs.

Forms/Genres

Glass negatives.
Photographs.
Certificates.

Photographs and certificates

Box 1

Photographic prints

Copy prints of ships and harbor

Item(s) 1-19

Views of ships, beach, harbor, and pier in the San Pedro area (?), including U.S.S. West Virginia, approximately 1910s

Item 11 is a view of the pier and Ship Café on the Venice Beach Pier.

Los Angeles views

Item(s) 20-27

Oil derricks. [See also Item 158]

Item(s) 28, 28a,
28b

Los Angeles Plaza Church with Pacific Electric trolley in front.

Item(s) 29, 29a,
29b

Los Angeles County Courthouse.

Item(s) 30

Eastlake Park.

Item(s) 31

Two-story residence with address number 1637.

Miscellaneous buildings

Item(s) 32, 32a

Jeffries' Vernon Arena

Item(s) 33, 33a

Rear of Watt Mines Supply Co. (2418-2430 Santa Fe Avenue, Los Angeles)

Item(s) 34, 34a.

San Pedro Lumber Co.

Item(s) 35-39

Front exterior of Watt Mines Supply Co. building (2418-2430 Santa Fe Avenue, Los Angeles, R. S. Watt, president)

Item(s) 39 variant

Views of front exterior of Watt Mines Supply Co. building with sign "Watt, Mines Supply Co., Mining Machinery Ores Tested, Plants Installed Wet or Dry" (2418-2430 Santa Fe Avenue, Los Angeles)

Los Angeles area views.

Item(s) 40, 40a

Point Fermin Lighthouse, San Pedro, as seen from rocky beach.

Item(s) 41, 41a

Woman on rocky shore (Point Fermin, San Pedro)

Item(s) 42, 42a

Mission San Gabriel (See also 92-94)

Item(s) 43, 43a

Mission San Fernando (See also 95)

Unidentified people.

Item(s) 44

Two men and dog outside cabin with dog and laundry on line.

Item(s) 45, 45a

Two men at excavation

Item(s) 46

Two men with shovels

Item(s) 47

Man reclining outdoors in forest with dog.

Item(s) 48, 48a

Group portrait of five men, two women, child. One man holding puppy, other men holding rifles, women holding shot rabbits.

Item(s) 49, 49a

Five men outside two cabins with mountains in background.

Item(s) 50, 50a

Portrait of young man

Item(s) 51, 51a

Young man in woods with rifle

Item(s) 52, 52a

Young man in woods

Item(s) 53, 53a,

Group portrait of four men, two women, child seated outdoors

54, 54a

Item(s) 55, 55a

Men and women in informal pose among trees

Item(s) 56, 56a and 57, 57a	Men, women, child on horseback posed in front of water tower
Item(s) 58, 58a	Group portrait of older men and women in hats in front of house in foothills.
	Miscellaneous. [Landscape scenes, San Gabriel Mountains?]
Item(s) 59, 59a	Graveyard [San Gabriel Mission Cemetery?]
Item(s) 60, 60a	Beehive apiary in foothill mountains
Item(s) 61, 61a	Cabins in mountainous setting
Item(s) 62-79	Mountain scenes
Item(s) 80	Tree-lined road
Item(s) 81	Trees by water
Item(s) 82	Two palm trees
Item(s) 83	Mining machinery (?)
Item(s) 84-86 and duplicates	Stamp mill parts(?)
Item(s) 87, 87a	Lion in cage
Item(s) 88, 88a	Deer in enclosure
Item(s) 89, 89a	Man in field overlooking ocean.
Item(s) 90, 90a, 91, 91a	Four unidentified [industrial?] objects
	Photos without negatives
Item(s) 92	San Gabriel Mission (mounted photo) [photographer imprint: W. N. Spranger]
Item(s) 93	The bells of San Gabriel Mission (mounted photo) [photographer imprint: W. N. Spranger]
Item(s) 93a	Old choir stairs, San Gabriel Mission (mounted photo) [photographer imprint: W. N. Spranger]
Item(s) 94	Mission San Fernando
Item(s) 95	Taken on Watt Ranch, Gold Creek, Little Tujunga. Group photo. Identified on verso: Robert Barrie White, Mrs. Robert S. Watt (mother), Arthur Barrie White. [Located in Angeles National Forest, Los Angeles County]
Item(s) 96-97	Watt Ranch (with grazing deer)
Item(s) 98	Robert Scott Watt [Robert S.] on ranch with rifle and dog (card photo)
Item(s) 99	Ethel D. Watt
Item(s) 100-103	Snapshots in envelope labeled "Watt Family"
Item(s) 104	Man working at desk (Watt?), cuspidor on floor and sign for "Purcell & Kern Insurance" on desk.
Item(s) 105	Man standing at entrance to mine
Item(s) 106	Group of Indian women in street
Item(s) 107	Woman feeding a sheep
Item(s) 108	Woman standing in front of flock of goats
Item(s) 109	Young couple (man wearing cowboy hat)
Item(s) 110	Man and child under torii gate
Item(s) 111	Nancy Russell and horse with lasso on saddle
Item(s) 112	Charlie Russell in studio at Great Falls, Nevada
Item(s) 113	Los Angeles County Hospital Nurses picnic group portrait, April 15, 1905. 35 people identified on verso. (Mounted photo.)
Item(s) 114	Ostrich farm
Item(s) 115	Mule team in mountains
Item(s) 116	Team of horses, pulling wagon, tractor in desert
Item(s) 117	Woman, child standing by hopper cars
Item(s) 118-119	Cabins in rocky landscape
Item(s) 120	Road lined with trees
Item(s) 121	Hillside landscape
Item(s) 122	Lily (?) ponds, with tall plants, trees in background
Item(s) 123	Chutes Park, Los Angeles
Item(s) 124	Child on beach at Long Beach, California
Item(s) 125	View of ocean
	Alaska
Item(s) 126	Valdez street. Photo by J. Ironside.

Item(s) 127	Valdez street in snow, April 16, 1928.
Item(s) 128	Community tree, Seward, Christmas 1926.
Item(s) 129	Community tree, Christmas 1926. Photo by Lieut. Homer K. Jones.
Item(s) 130	First fox farm in Alaska. Photo by J. Ironside.
Item(s) 131	Owner and roadhouse, Teikhell. Photo by J. Ironside.
Item(s) 132	Roadhouse at Paxson. Photo by J. Ironside.
Item(s) 133	Roadhouse, Upper Tonsina. Photo by J. Ironside.
Item(s) 134	Tanana Store. General merchandise.
Item(s) 135	Hotel Gilder
Item(s) 136	Woman at entrance to Seattle Hotel
Item(s) 137	Restaurant in snowy landscape
Item(s) 138	Group in doorway of Alaska Road Commission, Salcha Station, July 10, 1927. (People identified on verso.)
Item(s) 139	"Author in A.R.C. camp at Poplar Grove. Note wolf pup and headnet." Photo by J. Ironside.
Item(s) 140	"Cabin and barn at Willow Creek. Cabin with sod roof and dirt floor and full of books, aluminum utensils, white enamel kitchen cabinet, cream separator, etc." Photo by J. Ironside.
Item(s) 141, 141a	"Trapper-artist and his cabin and 'chariot' at Rapids, Alaska." Photo by J. Ironside.
Item(s) 142	Trapper's cabin and cache. "Where the host was absent and the coffee was made in the tea-kettle." Photo by J. Ironside.
Item(s) 143-149	Photos of various cabins. No information except remark on #143: "Typical."
Item(s) 150	Horseshoe bend of Gulkana River. Photo by J. Ironside.
Item(s) 151	Tanana River at Richardson Roadhouse. Photo by J. Ironside.
Item(s) 152	The bay at Seldovia. Photo by J. Ironside.
Item(s) 153	Bridge across Tazlina River. Photo by J. Ironside.
Item(s) 154	Resurrection Bay from Lost Lake Trail, Seward, Oct. 1926.
Item(s) 155	Richardson Trail. Photo by J. Ironside.
Item(s) 156	Mountainous landscape
Item(s) 157	Dashley's Thawer. Superior Claim, Inmachuk River, Sep. 23, 1903. Nowell photo. [Man with large piece of equipment at river's edge. Gold claim(?).]
Item(s) 158	Oil derricks Line of oil derricks along the horizon (19 x 33 cm) [previously framed] Certificates of Citizenship, United States of America
MS 1	August 22, 1890. Robert S. Watt, formerly of Scotland.
MS 2	January 5, 1901. Alexander Barrie, formerly of Scotland.
	Glass Plate Negatives
Box 2	Negatives 1-31 Box contains 13 x 18 (5 x 7 inch) glass negatives, except for Items 13, 20-29, 31, which are 10 x 12.5 cm (4 x 5 inch) glass negatives.
Box 3	Negatives 32-61 Box contains 13 x 18 (5 x 7 inch) glass negatives, except for Items 44-47, 50-52, 55-57, which are 10 x 12.5 cm (4 x 5 inch) glass negatives.
Box 4	Negatives 62-91 Box contains 13 x 18 (5 x 7 inch) glass negatives, except for Items 70-80, 83, which are 10 x 12.5 cm (4 x 5 inch) glass negatives.
