

Guide to the Kiel Family Photographs

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	George, Willard Hampton, 1889-1956
Title:	Kiel Family Photographs
ID:	MS-00838
Date [inclusive]:	approximately 1854 to 1989
Date [bulk]:	1893 to 1904
Physical Description:	0.45 Cubic Feet (1 box, 1 flat file (shared box))
Physical Description:	1.51 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Kiel Family Photographs (approximately 1854-1989) contains glass plate negatives of members of the Kiel and George families, as well as neighbors from the Stewart and Wilson ranches and ranch workers. The majority of the photographs were taken at the Kiel Ranch site in North Las Vegas, Nevada. The collection consists of the original glass plate negatives, as well as photographic print and negative duplicates made using the originals.

Preferred Citation

Kiel Family Photographs, approximately 1854-1989. MS-00838. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Historical Background

Conrad Kiel, Jr. was born in 1807 in Union City, Pennsylvania. He married Ann Elizabeth Edenbom in 1833 and moved his growing family to Ohio in 1838. In 1871, Kiel was contacted by an old friend, Octavius Decatur Gass, who had moved from Ohio and settled in Las Vegas, Nevada at the site of the old Mormon fort. Calling it the "Las Vegas Rancho" Gass invited Kiel for a visit and encouraged him to establish his own ranch. Kiel agreed, settling on the former "Indian Farm" established by the earlier Mormon settlers. He grew fruits, vegetables, and hay at the ranch and

opened a sawmill in the area now known as Kyle Canyon. In 1894, Conrad Kiel died, leaving his Nevada ranch to two sons, Edwin and William. The brothers continued working both the ranch and the sawmill. The Kiel ranch saw frequent visits from family members, including Sadie Bell Kiel George, her husband Hampton, and their son Willard.

The ranch gained notoriety from two violent incidents: the death of pioneer Archibald Stewart in a gunfight in 1884 and the double murder of Edwin and William Kiel in early October 1900. Initially ruled a murder-suicide, the verdict changed to double murder in the mid-1970s after forensic examination by Dr. Sheilagh Brooks of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) anthropology department.

In 1903, William A. Clark purchased a portion of the ranch to build the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad, and in 1911 Las Vegas banker John S. Park purchased the remainder, building a substantial dwelling known as the White House. Later owners included Edwin Taylor, who purchased the property in 1924, and Edwin and Bette Losee, who operated the Boulderado Guest Ranch from 1939 to 1958.

Sources:

Smith, John L., "State's History Flows through Kiel Ranch," *Boulder City Review*, accessed May 30, 2019, <https://bouldercityreview.com/opinion/other-columns/john-l-smith/states-history-flows-through-kiel-ranch/>

Crandell, John J., et al, "Interpreting Gunshot Trauma as Context Clue: a Case Study from Historic North Las Vegas, Nevada," *Bioarchaeological and Forensic Perspectives on Violence: How Violent Death is Interpreted from Skeletal Remains* by Debra L. Martin and Cheryl P. Anderson, vol. 67, Cambridge Studies in Biological and Evolutionary Anthropology (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014).

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Scope and Contents Note

The Kiel Family Photographs (approximately 1854-1989) contains glass plate negatives of members of the Kiel and George families, as well as neighbors from the Stewart and Wilson ranches and ranch workers. The majority of the photographs were taken at the Kiel Ranch site in North Las Vegas, Nevada. The collection consists of the original glass plate negatives, as well as photographic print and negative duplicates made using the originals.

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Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research. Researchers must use preservation copies of fragile items.

Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections and Archives website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1982 by Hampton George; accession number 1982-070. Additional materials were donated in 2022 by Hampton George; accession number 2022-071.

Processing Note

Materials were processed and inventoried by Special Collections staff in 2016. In 2019, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Melise Leech and Sarah Jones rehoused the materials, wrote the finding aid, and entered the data into ArchivesSpace. Some of the duplicate photographs were previously located in the UNLV Photograph Collection on Southern Nevada (PH-00105) but were removed and placed into this collection. In 2022, Sarah Jones added the 2022 accession into the inventory.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

The following resources may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection. They may also contain duplicates of photographs and documents:

Maurine and Fred Wilson and Dr. William S. Park Photograph Albums, 1900-1930s. PH-00222. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Historic American Buildings Survey of Kiel Ranch Photograph Collection, 1988. PH-00223. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Kiel Ranch Preservation Committee Records, 1884-2005. MS-00650. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Sadie and Hampton George Papers, 1897-1944. MS-00434. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Kiel Ranch (North Las Vegas, Nev.)
- Nevada -- History
- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- History
- Ranch life -- Nevada -- Clark County -- History
- photographs
- glass plate negatives

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Southern Paiute baskets made by Las Vegas Paiute women who worked at Kiel Ranch: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0082)	box 01
Hampton George, court appointed executor of the Kiel's will, on a chair reading a newspaper at the Kiel Ranch: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0107)	box 01
Tiza Stewart riding Willard George's burro on the Stewart Ranch: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0108)	box 01
An unidentified man sits near the water tower at Kiel Ranch: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0118)	

box 01

Buster or Boone (Tweed's son), James B. Wilson Sr., Tweed Wilson, and James B. Wilson, Jr. standing in front of the Wilson's Sandstone Ranch: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0097)	box 01
Willard George and two unidentified individuals, Nebraska: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0103)	box 01
Conrad Kiel with a horse and a dog by the reservoir at Kiel Ranch: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0098)	box 01
Creek or irrigation ditch on Wilson's Sandstone Ranch: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0093)	box 01
Irrigation ditch on Wilson's Sandstone Ranch: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0091)	box 01
Willard George (right) and his cousin standing on a California beach wearing rented swimsuits: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0110)	box 01
Willard George standing next to a yucca plant near Indian Springs, Nevada: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (0105_0119) (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative	box 01
An unidentified Southern Paiute man at Kiel Ranch: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0087)	box 01
An unidentified man on Kiel Ranch carrying a dead coyote: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0114)	box 01
A Southern Paiute man sleeping next to a windbreak made of brush and mesquite: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0084)	box 01
Willard and Hampton George setting up camp on the road somewhere in southern Nevada (identified left to right): glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0115)	box 01

Sadie's mother, Mrs. Franklin Kiel; Sadie's brother Frank; Sadie Kiel George, and Willard (identified left to right) at Kiel Ranch: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0100)	box 01
Edwin Kiel next to a horse and a dog at Kiel Ranch: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0122)	box 01
Willard George (left) is showing a relative how to shoot a Paiute bow and arrow, Nebraska: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0102)	box 01
Willard George and Tiza Stewart on a burro at the Stewart Ranch: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0112)	box 01
Edwin Kiel sitting in a horse-drawn mail carrier at Kiel Ranch and Willard George is kneeling on the right: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0109)	box 01
Unidentified man and child (possibly Hampton and Willard George) by a lake at Kiel Ranch: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding negative (0105_0109)	box 01
Willard George sitting in a cart drawn by a burro on the Kiel Ranch: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0111)	box 01
Willard George riding his burro at the Kiel Ranch: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0117)	box 01
Hampton George, unidentified Native American man, Sadie Kiel George's father, mother, brother, and an unidentified Native American man (identified left to right) showing off apples from the fall crop at Kiel Ranch: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0105)	box 01
Sadie Kiel George duck hunting along Las Vegas Creek on the Stewart Ranch: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0089)	box 01
Sadie Kiel George washing clothes in the irrigation flume at the Kiel Ranch: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0088)	box 01

Willard George, an unidentified Native American man, Hampton George, and Edwin Kiel (identified left to right) at Kiel Ranch: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0101)	box 01
Helen J. Stewart with a camera at Sandstone Ranch with Mount Charleston visible in the background: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0094)	box 01
An irrigation ditch on Wilson's Sandstone Ranch, Nevada: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0092)	box 01
A group, including Willard George his father Hampton E. George, with a horse-drawn wagon somewhere in southern Nevada: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0095)	box 01
Franklin Kiel cooking in the fields at Kiel Ranch: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0113)	box 01
Baskets made by Southern Paiute women who worked at Kiel Ranch: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0086)	box 01
Edwin Kiel sitting in a horse-drawn mail carriage at Kiel Ranch and a young Willard George is sitting in front of the house down to the right: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Willard George seated on a horse at Kiel Ranch: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0120)	box 01
Willard George (right) standing in the irrigated fields on Kiel Ranch with an unidentified person: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0106)	box 01
Edwin Kiel (left) and his father Conrad Kiel in front of the sawmill in Kiel Canyon, Nevada: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0096)	box 01
A Southern Paiute family standing near a windbreak at the left and shelter on the right, Indian Springs, Nevada: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0081)	box 01

A Southern Paiute woman, "Annie" at Kiel Ranch: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01	
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0083)	box 01	
The favorite horse at Kiel Ranch, with Sunrise Mountain visible in the background: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01	
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0099)	box 01	
A Southern Paiute woman facing away from the camera, Southern Nevada: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01	
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0085)	box 01	
Hampton E. George, the other man might be Conrad Kiel, and Sadie Kiel George (identified left to right) in front of a stable at Kiel Ranch: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01	
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0090)	box 01	
Group of men, including Willard George and Hampton George, in an encampment on the way to Death Valley, toward Amargosa: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01	
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0121)	box 01	
Franklin Kiel, Jr. riding a burro, and his mother seated behind him, Kiel Ranch, Nevada: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01	
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0104)	box 01	
An unidentified prospector with a pack mules at Kiel Ranch: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01	
Corresponding photographic print and negative (0105_0116)	box 01	
Unidentified people (possibly the Kiel and George family) swimming in a lake at Kiel Ranch: glass plate negative, approximately 1893 to 1904 (view online)	box 01	
Letter envelope addressed to Hampton George, postmarked from Pioche, Nevada, 1900	box 01	
Reproductions of Kiel family photographs from 1883-1904, approximately 1970 to 1979	oversized box SH-082	flat file 02
Skeletal remains of Edwin and William Kiel after their remains were exhumed in the 1970s by Sheilagh Brooks: photographic prints, approximately 1980 to 1989	oversized box SH-082	flat file 02
Ambrotype of unidentified woman, approximately 1850 to 1865	box 01	