

Guide to the James B. Wilson Jr. Photographs

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Title:	James B. Wilson Jr. Photographs
ID:	PH-00011
Date [inclusive]:	approximately approximately 1868-1972
Physical Description:	0.1 Linear Feet (1 hanging folder, 1 shared negative box)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The James B. Wilson Jr. Photographs depict the lives of James B. Wilson Sr., James B. Wilson Jr., and George Twison "Tweed" Wilson and their business, the Sandstone Ranch in Southern Nevada. The collection consists of twenty-four images dated from 1868 to 1972. The images consist of ranching activities, land where the ranch was located, and members of the Wilson family. Many of the photographic prints have corresponding negatives. Negatives have been housed separately and can be found in box 02.

Preferred Citation

James B. Wilson Jr. Photographs, approximately 1868-1972. PH-00011. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

James B. Wilson Sr. settled in Nevada after his release from military service at Fort Mojave in 1864. He opened a delivery business to transport goods to isolated mining camps outside of Las Vegas, Nevada with his friend George Anderson. Anderson married a Paiute woman from a nearby reservation who had a child from a previous relationship. Wilson fell in love with the same woman and convinced her to name her child James Jr. after him. She and Anderson had one child together, George Twison "Tweed" Anderson. Anderson's wife died giving birth to their son and Anderson died a few years later. James Wilson Sr. adopted the boys and they took his last name. In 1867, Wilson Sr. settled the Sandstone Ranch and began raising cattle. He died in 1906 and passed the ranch onto his adopted sons. James Jr. and Tweed kept the Sandstone Ranch until dire financial straits forced them to sell in 1929. Willard George Kiel bought the land from them,

but allowed the Wilsons to live on the property in their old house. James Jr. died in 1943. Kiel sold the property in 1949 to Charles Lauck of the Lum and Abner comedy duo, who later sold it to Baroness Vera Krupp in 1955. Tweed Wilson lived at Sandstone Ranch until his death in 1960. The property changed hands several more times until the Nevada Division of State Parks purchased it. The Wilson's Sandstone Ranch is now part of the Spring Mountain Ranch State Park and the Red Rock Conservation Area.

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Scope and Contents Note

The James B. Wilson Jr. Photographs are comprised of black-and-white images of James B. Wilson Sr., James B. Wilson Jr., and George Twinson "Tweed" Wilson and their ranch from 1868 until 1972. In addition to materials focusing on day-to-day activities at the ranch, the photographs provide insight into the surrounding land, building structures at the ranch, and Wilson family members. The materials provide historical documentation of the usage of land now known as Spring Mountain Ranch State Park. The items described include photographic prints and negatives; some of the prints have corresponding negatives which are not listed separately. Items listed are photographic prints unless otherwise specified. Images listed specifically as negatives exist only in that format.

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Arrangement

This collection is organized into two series:

Series I. Wilson Ranch, 1868-1930;

Series II. People, 1898-1972

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Administrative Information

Access

The collection is open for research. Portions of this collection have been digitized and are [available online](#).

Publication Rights

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Processing Note

Materials were processed by Special Collections staff. In 2016, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Maryse Lundering-Timpano wrote the collection description in compliance with current professional standards.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

The Wilson Family Papers, 1880-1972. MS-00125. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Nevada State Park System Records, 1863-1981. MS-00136. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Southern Nevada
- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Nevada -- History
- Spring Mountain Ranch State Park (Nev.)

Collection Inventory

Wilson Ranch, 1868-1930	
Title/Description	Containers
Vista near a ranch, Southern Nevada, approximately 1900-1920 (0011_0001) (view online)	folder 01
The Old Spanish Trail, Southern Nevada, approximately 1900-1930 (0011_0002) (view online)	folder 01
Wilson Ranch from Red Rock Canyon, Southern Nevada, approximately 1900-1930 (0011_0003) (view online)	folder 01
Sandstone Ranch with a view of Wilson Ranch, Southern Nevada, approximately 1900-1910 (0011_0004) (view online)	folder 01
Blacksmith Shop, Southern Nevada, approximately 1900-1910 (0011_0005) (view online)	folder 01
Stone cabin, Southern Nevada, approximately 1868-1872 (0011_0006) (view online)	folder 01
Old Ranch House at Wilson Ranch, Southern Nevada, approximately 1900-1910 (0011_0007) (view online)	folder 01

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People, 1898-1972	
Title/Description	Containers
James and Tweed Wilson, Southern Nevada, approximately 1898-1902 (0011_0008) (view online)	folder 01
Jim Wilson, Hick Tower, and their dog Keno, Southern Nevada, approximately 1900-1910 (0011_0009) (view online)	folder 01
Tweed Wilson with J. B. Wilson, Southern Nevada, approximately 1900-1910 (0011_0010) (view online)	folder 01
Jim Wilson with an unidentified child, Southern Nevada, approximately 1900-1910 (0011_0011) (view online)	folder 01
Jim Wilson branding calves, Las Vegas, Nevada, approximately 1928-1932 (0011_0012) (view online)	folder 01
Jim Wilson and an unidentified woman, Las Vegas, Nevada, approximately 1933-1937 (0011_0013) (view online)	folder 01
Jim Wilson, taken about 1935, approximately 1900-1940 (0014)	

folder
01

Jim Wilson and an unidentified male friend, Las Vegas, Nevada, approximately 1933-1937 (0011_0015) (view online)	folder 01
Tweed Wilson on horseback, Las Vegas, Nevada, approximately 1905-1910 (0011_0016) (view online)	folder 01
Tweed Wilson on horseback, Las Vegas, Nevada, approximately 1905-1910 (0011_0017) (view online)	folder 01
Jim Wilson with a child and a dog, Las Vegas, approximately 1940-1969 (0011_0018) (view online)	folder 01
Tweed Wilson in front of a stone house in Las Vegas, Nevada, approximately 1952-1953 (0011_0019) (view online)	folder 01
Vic Matteucci and Tweed Wilson, Las Vegas, approximately 1935-1959 (0011_0020) (view online)	folder 01
Tweed Wilson in front of a stone house in Las Vegas, Nevada, approximately 1951-1955 (0011_0021) (view online)	folder 01
Willard George standing near a pool of water, Las Vegas, Nevada, approximately 1905-1910 (0011_0022) (view online)	folder 01
Buster Wilson, Las Vegas, approximately 1960-1972 (0011_0023) (view online)	folder 01
"Indian Johnny" Smith on his horse, Las Vegas, Nevada, approximately 1905-1910 (0011_0024) (view online)	folder 01

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