



## Guide to the Beckley Family Photograph Collection

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Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1pq1x>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	Beckley Richardson, Virginia, 1917-2017
<b>Title:</b>	Beckley Family Photograph Collection
<b>ID:</b>	PH-00148
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	approximately 1891 to 1982
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.59 Cubic Feet (3 hanging folders, 1 flat file, 1 shared binder of slides, 1 shared box of negatives, and 1 oversized box)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4.65 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Beckley Family Photograph Collection (approximately 1891-1982) consists of black-and-white photographic prints and negatives and color photographic slides. The images depict the Beckley family, their businesses in southern Nevada, and Las Vegas, Nevada as the city developed during the first half of the twentieth century. Also included are images of airplanes at the first Las Vegas airport Anderson Field, later renamed Rockwell Field in 1925, Fremont Street in Las Vegas, and postcards of mining towns across southern Nevada.

### Preferred Citation

Beckley Family Photograph Collection, approximately 1891-1982. PH-00148. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Biographical Note

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William Beckley was born in 1878 to Heinrich Beckley and Magdalene Ruttiman in Switzerland. Beckley arrived in Southern Nevada in approximately 1905, and opened a men's clothing store in Las Vegas, Nevada in 1908 that operated out of tent. Beckley's Men's Wear moved into Hotel Nevada shortly after on the corner of Fremont and Main Street. He married Leva A. Grimes, whose sister would later marry Beckley's brother Jake, in 1910. Beckley and Leva A. Grimes had two children, Virigna and Bruce. Beckley left an iron on overnight, causing the store to burn down in

1912, and Beckley moved to a stand-alone shop in 1913. Beckley continued operating businesses in Las Vegas until his death in 1965.

Virginia Beckley Richardson was born on January 29, 1917 in Las Vegas, Nevada to Leva A. Grimes and William Beckley in Las Vegas. She graduated from Las Vegas High School at the age of sixteen and worked for her father for a year before attending Scripps College in Claremont, California. She finished her education at the University of Nevada, Reno, where she met her husband Jack A. Richardson, and the two married in 1939. Richardson served in World War II, and while he was deployed, Beckley Richardson operated the family business and became a member of the Grey Ladies at Nellis Air Force Base, an organization that wrote letters for and assisted injured soldiers. Upon Richardson's completion of military service, the two opened various businesses in Las Vegas, including the Las Vegas War Surplus Store, Rich's Hardware and Men's Clothing Store, and the Gold Strike Inn and Casino in Boulder City, Nevada. Beckley Richardson remained an active member in the Las Vegas community until her death on August 15, 2017.

Source:

Genealogy files about "William Beckley." Accessed on February 4, 2020 on Familysearch.org.

Garza, Xazmin. "Keeping It in the Family." *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, March 31, 2011. *NewsBank: Access World News – Historical and Current*. <https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/136568085D643B20>.

"Virginia Beckley Richardson: 1917-2017." *Las Vegas Review-Journal, Obituaries*," 2017. Accessed on January 31, 2020. <https://obits.reviewjournal.com/obituaries/lvrj/obituary.aspx?n=virginia-beckley-richardson&pid=186410075&fhid=12178>

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## Scope and Contents Note

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The Beckley Family Photograph Collection (approximately 1891-1982) consists of black-and-white photographic prints and negatives and color photographic slides. The images depict the Beckley family, their businesses in southern Nevada, and Las Vegas, Nevada as the city developed during the first half of the twentieth century. Also included are images of airplanes at the first Las Vegas airport Anderson Field, later renamed Rockwell Field in 1925, Fremont Street in Las Vegas, and postcards of mining towns across southern Nevada.

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## Arrangement

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Materials remain in original order.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access Note

Collection is open for research.

### 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 Virginia Beckley Richardson; accession number 1982-007.

### Processing Note

In 2020, as part of a backlog elimination project, Ryan DiPaolo described the materials, entered the data into ArchivesSpace, and wrote the finding aid.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Collections

The following resources may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:

Beckley Family Papers, 1920-1961. MS-00232. Special Collections and Archives. University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Virginia Beckley Richardson oral history interview, 2009 November 05. OH-01043. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Names and Subjects

- photographs
- Men's clothing industry
- Fremont Street (Las Vegas, Nev.)
- Air travel
- Beckley family
- Beckley, William Bruce, 1915-1986

## Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Beckley businesses	
Interior of Beckley's Men's Wear, Las Vegas, Nevada, William Beckley pictured: photographic print, 1908 (0148_0001) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	flat file 05
Interior of Beckley's Men's Wear, Las Vegas, Nevada, William Beckley pictured: photographic print, 1908 (0148_0002) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01
Exterior of Beckley's Men's, Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print, approximately 1913 to 1918 (0148_0003) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01
Interior of Beckley's Men's Wear, Las Vegas, Nevada, William Beckley pictured: photographic print and negative, 1915 May (0148_0004) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01  box SH-023
Interior of Beckley's Men's Wear, Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print, approximately 1915 to 1920 (0148_0005) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01
Interior of Beckley's Men's Wear, Las Vegas, Nevada, Jack Price, William Beckley, Bruce Beckley, and an unidentified man (identified left to right on verso): photographic print and negative, 1916 (0148_0006) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01  box SH-023
Exterior of Beckley's Men's Wear, Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print and negative, approximately 1913 to 1918 (0148_0007) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01  box SH-023
Architect Richard D. King's rendition of renovations to Beckley's Men's Wear, Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print and negative, approximately 1927 to 1931 (0148_0008) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01  box SH-023
Construction on exterior of Beckley's Men's Wear during renovation: photographic print, 1929 June (0148_0009) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01

Exterior of Beckley's Men's Wear, Las Vegas, Nevada after the completion of renovations: photographic print and negative, 1930 September 15 (0148_0010) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01  box SH-023
Interior of Beckley's Men's Wear, Las Vegas, Nevada after the completion of renovations: photographic print and negative, 1930 September 17 (0148_0011) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01  box SH-023
Crowd of people for the grand opening of Beckley's Men's Wear, Las Vegas, Nevada after renovations: photographic print, 1930 (0148_0012) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01
Interior of Beckley's Men's Wear, Las Vegas, Nevada after the completion of renovations, Jake Beckley, Bryan Bunker, and William Beckley (identified left to right on verso): photographic print and negative, approximately 1930 to 1931 (0148_0013) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01  box SH-023
Interior of Beckley's Men's Wear, Las Vegas, Nevada after the completion of renovations, Jake Beckley, Bryan Bunker, and William Beckley (identified left to right on verso), reproduction: photographic print and negative, approximately 1980 to 1982 (0148_0014) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01  box SH-023
Exterior of Beckley's Men's Wear, Las Vegas, Nevada after the completion of renovations: photographic print and negative, approximately 1930 to 1935 (0148_0015) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01  box SH-023
Exterior of Beckley's Men's Wear, Las Vegas, Nevada after the completion of renovations: photographic print and negative, approximately 1930 to 1931 (0148_0016) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01  box SH-023
Interior Beckley's Men's Wear, Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print, approximately 1930 to 1935 (0148_0017) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01
Interior Beckley's Men's Wear, Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print and negative, approximately 1930 to 1939 (0148_0018) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01  box SH-023
Interior Beckley's Men's Wear, Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print and negative, approximately 1930 to 1939 (0148_0019) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01  box SH-023
Display window of Beckley's Men's Wear, Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print and negative, approximately 1930 to 1939 (0148_0020) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01

box  
SH-023

Advertisement for Beckley's Men's Wear, Las Vegas, Nevada in the *Boulder Echo*: photographic negative, 1932 (0148\_0021) ([view online](#))

box  
SH-023

Hat display inside Beckley's Men's Wear, Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print, approximately 1930 to 1939 (0148\_0022) ([view online](#))

folder  
01

Exterior of the Pioneer Club, Las Vegas, Nevada, signage for "Beckley's Air Cooled" pictured: photographic print and negative, approximately 1940 to 1945 (0148\_0023)

folder  
01

box  
SH-023

Exterior of "Will Beckley: Men's Furnishings, Walk Over & Florsheim Shoes," Goodsprings, Nevada: photographic print, approximately 1915 to 1920 (0148\_0024) ([view online](#))

folder  
01

Exterior of "Beckley & Beckley Men's Clothing and Shoes, Cigars, Tobacco", Goodsprings, Nevada, Jake and Alta Beckley, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Fayle, Bruce Beckley, Fred Grimes, and Leva Beckley (identified left to right on verso): photographic print, approximately 1915 to 1920 (0148\_0025) ([view online](#))

folder  
01

Jake Beckley, Mrs. Fayle, William Beckley, Mrs. Pembroke, Alta Beckley, Fred Grimes, Bruce Beckley, and Leva Beckley (identified from left to right on verso) standing around a vehicle outside "Beckley & Beckley Men's Clothing and Shoes, Cigars, Tobacco," Goodsprings, Nevada: photographic print, approximately 1915 to 1920 (0148\_0026) ([view online](#))

folder  
01

Unidentified man standing in front of "Will Beckley: Men's Furnishings, Walk Over & Florsheim Shoes," Goodsprings, Nevada, reproduction: photographic print, approximately 1970 to 1982 (0148\_0027) ([view online](#))

folder  
01

Exterior of "Beckley & Beckley" in the St. Charles Hotel, Blythe, California: photographic print, approximately 1925 to 1935 (0148\_0028) ([view online](#))

folder  
01

Locations around Nevada, California, Colorado, and Utah

Creek, Paradise Valley, Nevada, unidentified man, Jake Beckley, and William Beckley (identified left to right on verso): photographic print, 1921 August (0148\_0029) ([view online](#))

folder  
02

Hotel Nevada on Fremont Street, Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print and negative, approximately 1909 to 1910 (0148\_0030)

folder  
02

box  
SH-023

Desert landscape, Nevada, William Beckley pictured on a rock advertising "Will Beckley: Men's Furnishings, Walk Over & Florsheim Shoes," Goodsprings, Nevada: photographic print, 1912 (0148\_0031) ([view online](#))

folder  
02

Beckley family on a ranch, Maybelle Park, Colorado, Jake Beckley, Alta Beckley and Leva Beckley pictured: photographic print, 1912 (0148\_0032) ([view online](#))

folder  
02

Beckley family, Grapevine Springs, California: photographic print and negative, 1912 (0148\_0033) ([view online](#))

folder  
02



box  
SH-023

Jake Beckley's ranch home, Paradise Valley, Nevada: photographic print, approximately 1910 to 1919 (0148_0034) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 02
Gold mine east of Las Vegas, Nevada, unidentified man and woman, William Beckley, Leva Beckley, unidentified man, and Jake Beckley (identified left to right on verso): photographic print, approximately 1915 to 1925 (0148_0035) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 02
Alta Beckley, Jake Beckley, William Beckley (identified left to right on verso) on Jake Beckley's ranch in Paradise Valley, Nevada: photographic print and negative, approximately 1913 to 1917 (0148_0036) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 02  box SH-023
William Beckley, Bruce Beckley and Leva Beckley (identified left to right on verso) on Jake Beckley's ranch in Paradise Valley, Nevada: photographic print, 1915 June 27 (0148_0037) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 02
Jake Beckley's ranch home in Paradise Valley, Nevada: photographic print, 1915 June 27 (0148_0038) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 02
Virginia Beckley Richardson, Barbara (Ferron) Doyle, and Shirley (Ferron) Swanson at the Ferron home on the corner of 4th Street and Fremont Street, Las Vegas, Nevada (identified left to right on verso): photographic print and negative, approximately 1921 to 1925 (0148_0039) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 02  box SH-023
Birthday party for Eugenia Lawson at Sam Lawson's home on 3rd Street and Lewis Street, Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print, approximately 1921 to 1925 (0148_0040) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 02
Artesian well, Paradise Valley, Nevada: photographic print, approximately 1915 to 1925 (0148_0041)	folder 02
First plane to fly into Las Vegas, Nevada from Blythe, California, Jake Beckley and Nevada Senator Charles B. Henderson pictured: photographic print, 1920 May 07 (0148_0042) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 02
Crowd of people for the first plane to fly into Las Vegas, Nevada from Blythe, California: photographic print, 1920 May 07 (0148_0043) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 02
First plane to fly into Las Vegas, Nevada from Blythe, California, Jake Beckley pictured: photographic print, 1920 May 07 (0148_0044) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 02
Crowd of people for the first plane to fly into Las Vegas, Nevada from Blythe, California: photographic print and negative, 1920 May 07 (0148_0045) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 02  box SH-023
Crowd of people for the first plane to fly into Las Vegas, Nevada from Blythe, California: photographic print, 1920 May 07 (0148_0046) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 02
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Bruce Beckley and Virginia Beckley Richardson in front of the Beckley home on 120 South 4th Street (identified left to right on verso): photographic print, approximately 1928 to 1929 (0148_0048) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	flat file 05
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Andy Crowell and Bruce Beckley in front of the Beckley home at 140 South 4th Street, Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print, approximately 1931 to 1936 (0148_0050) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 02
American Legion building on S. 3rd Street, Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print, approximately 1925 to 1935 (0148_0051) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
Helldorado Parade, horse carriage carrying William Beckley, Roger Foley, Jack Price, Pop Squires, Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print and negative, 1948 May 13 (0148_0052) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03  box SH-023
Beckley float at the Helldorado Parade, Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print, 1948 May (0148_0053) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
Leva Beckley's home at 120 S. 4th Street, Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print, 1978 April (0148_0054) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
"Boulder Canon Dam Site": postcard, approximately 1930 to 1939 (0148_0055) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
"Boulder Canon Dam Site": postcard, approximately 1930 to 1939 (0148_0056) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
"Boulder Canon Dam Site": postcard, approximately 1930 to 1939 (0148_0057) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
View of Goodsprings, Nevada: photographic print, approximately 1915 to 1920 (0148_0058) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
Leva and William Beckley, Indian Springs, Nevada: photographic print, approximately 1910 to 1920 (0148_0059) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
"At (Mount) Charleston (Nevada). Hazel Copper, Jack Price, Leva Beckley, Walter Bracken, Bess Lightfoot, Virginia Beckley Richardson, Ruth Ferron, Alta Ham" (identified left to right on verso): photographic print, approximately 1919 to 1922 (0148_0060) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
"First picture taken in Goldfield, Nevada, December, 1903": postcard, approximately 1910 to 1919 (0148_0061) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
Virginia Beckley Richardson on Main Street, Goldfield, Nevada: photographic print, approximately 1919 to 1923 (0148_0062) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
Aerial view of Rhyolite, Nevada: postcard, approximately 1930 to 1939 (0148_0063) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
Mizpah Hotel, Tonopah, Nevada: postcard, approximately 1930 to 1939 (0148_0064) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03

View of Tonopah, Nevada: postcard, approximately 1930 to 1939 (0148_0065) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
Group of unidentified men at Bryce Canyon, Utah: photographic print, approximately 1939 to 1945 (0148_0066) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
Beckley family, friends, and associates	
Group of unidentified children, Lizzie, Jake, and William Beckley pictured: photographic print, 1891 (0148_0067) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
Mandolin club, Fairburg, Illinois, William Beckley pictured: photographic print, 1898 (0148_0068) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
Portrait of William Beckley: photographic print, approximately 1895 to 1905 (0148_0069) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
Leva Beckley and William Beckley: postcard, approximately 1930 to 1939 (0148_0070) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
Beckley family in the desert in Nevada: photographic print, 1912 (0148_0071) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
Group of unidentified women in a vehicle, Leva Beckley pictured, Goodsprings, Nevada: photographic print, 1916 (0148_0072) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	flat file 05
Group of unidentified women, Delphine Squires, Leva Beckley, and Bruce Beckley pictured: photographic print and negative, approximately 1919 to 1923 (0148_0073) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03  box SH-023
Beckley family: photographic print, approximately 1918 to 1922 (0148_0074) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
William Chuyler, Leva Beckley, Will Beckley, Bruce Beckley, Virginia Beckley Richardson (sitting), Peggy Schuyler (identified left to right on verso): photographic print, approximately 1917 to 1921 (0148_0075) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
Las Vegas, Nevada elementary school class picture: photographic print, 1921 (0148_0076) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
Beckley family, Leva Beckley, Virginia Beckley, Bruce Beckley, and William Beckley (identified left to right): photographic negative, approximately 1895 to 1905 (0148_0077) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	box SH-023
Las Vegas, Nevada elementary school class picture: photographic print, 1922 (0148_0078) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
Wedding party for Ruth and Albert Cahlan: photographic print, approximately 1915 to 1925 (0148_0079) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
"During Boulder Dam construction," William Beckley, unidentified man, and Walker Young (identified left to right on verso): photographic print, approximately 1932 to 1937 (0148_0080) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
Group of unidentified men at the opening of the Pioneer Club, Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print, 1941 (0148_0081) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03

Las Vegas, Nevada elementary school class picture: photographic print, 1928 (0148_0082) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
Bruce Beckley's eighth grade graduation class picture: photographic print, 1928 May 25 (0148_0083) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
Portrait of William Beckley: photographic print, approximately 1950 to 1959 (0148_0084) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
Reserve Officers Group in front of the Sahara Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada : photographic print, approximately 1950 to 1959 (0148_0085) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
Unidentified ferry on an unidentified river: photographic print, approximately 1930 to 1939 (0148_0086) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 03
Beckley family home move to Clark County, Nevada Museum: photographic slides, 1979 (0148_0087) ( <a href="#">view online</a> ) Physical Description: 31 Photographic Slides	binder PB-003
Photograph albums	
Loose album pages: photograph album, approximately 1898 to 1930 ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	oversized box 04
<i>Snapshots Boulder Dam</i> : photograph album, 1931 to 1936 ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	oversized box 04