



## Guide to the Tonopah, Nevada Mining Town Photograph Album

---

This finding aid was created by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff. This copy was published on March 29, 2022. Please contact [special.collections@unlv.edu](mailto:special.collections@unlv.edu) for questions regarding this collection.

Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1rq2x>

© 2022 The Regents of the University of Nevada. All rights reserved.

**University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special  
Collections and Archives.**

Box 457010

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010

[special.collections@unlv.edu](mailto:special.collections@unlv.edu)

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Historical Background .....	3
Scope and Contents Note .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Administrative Information .....	5
Related Materials .....	5
Names and Subjects .....	5
Collection Inventory .....	6

---

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Libraries. Special Collections and Archives
<b>Contributor:</b>	Smith, E. W. (Emory Willard), 1850-1941
<b>Title:</b>	Tonopah, Nevada Mining Town Photograph Album
<b>ID:</b>	PH-00411
<b>Date:</b>	approximately 1908
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.04 Cubic Feet (1 box)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.48 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Tonopah, Nevada Mining Town Photograph Album (approximately 1908) consists of twenty-two photographs in a leather-bound album. The photographs depict businesses, townspeople, street scenes, and mining operations in Tonopah, Nevada and the surrounding areas of Goldfield, Nevada and Mina, Nevada. Also included are photographs of a fire on May 12, 1908 that destroyed a block of commercial buildings in Tonopah, which were taken by local photographer E. W. Smith., and views of the downtown area both before and after the fire.

### Preferred Citation

Tonopah, Nevada Mining Town Photograph Album, approximately 1908. PH-00411. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Historical Background

---

The mining town of Tonopah, Nevada was first settled in 1900 following the discovery of silver by Jim Butler. The town was fairly primitive until the construction of a railroad began in 1903. After the railroad's completion in 1904, Tonopah's population grew immensely and large mining

companies formed. Tonopah became the seat of Nye County in 1905. In 1908 and 1909, a series of fires destroyed prominent commercial blocks and railroad buildings. Despite these setbacks, the town continued to grow, and between 1910 and 1914 Tonopah's mines reached their highest levels of production. Two of Tonopah's largest mines were destroyed by fire between 1939 and 1942, leaving only two operating silver mines in the area. When the Tonopah and Goldfield Railroad shut down in 1947, the two remaining mines closed as well, effectively ending Tonopah's main industry.

Sources:

Michel, Peter. "Exhibit Highlight - Images in Silver: Photography of Goldfield, America's Last Great Gold Rush." Accessed December 31, 2019. [https://www.library.unlv.edu/whats\\_new\\_in\\_special\\_collections/2014/06/exhibit-highlight-images-silver-photography-goldfield](https://www.library.unlv.edu/whats_new_in_special_collections/2014/06/exhibit-highlight-images-silver-photography-goldfield)  
UNLV Digital Collections. "Tonopah." Accessed December 31, 2019. <http://digital.library.unlv.edu/boomtown/counties/nye.php#tonopah>

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Scope and Contents Note

---

The Tonopah, Nevada Mining Town Photograph Album (approximately 1908) consists of twenty-two photographs in a leather-bound album. The photographs depict businesses, townspeople, street scenes, and mining operations in Tonopah, Nevada and the surrounding areas of Goldfield, Nevada and Mina, Nevada. Also included are photographs of a fire on May 12, 1908 that destroyed a block of commercial buildings in Tonopah, and views of the downtown area both before and after the fire. The photographs of the Tonopah fire were taken by local photographer E. W. Smith. Smith documented Tonopah and its surrounding areas during the early part of the twentieth century.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Arrangement

---

Materials remain in original order.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Administrative Information

---

### 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

The item was purchased in 2019; accession number 2019-022.

### Processing Note

In 2019, Lauren Paljusaj processed the collection, wrote the finding aid, and entered the data into ArchivesSpace. A protective clamshell box was made by the Preservation Lab to house the photograph album.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Related Materials

---

### Related Collections

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

Nevada Mining Photograph Collection, 1868-1933. PH-00361. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Tonopah-Goldfield Mining Photograph Collection, 1901-1905. PH-00023. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Names and Subjects

---

- photographs

- Mining -- Nevada
- Goldfield (Nev.)
- Tonopah (Nev.)
- Mina (Nev.)

---

## Collection Inventory

---

Title/Description	Containers
Tonopah, Nevada mining town photograph album, approximately 1908	box 01