



Guide to the E. W. Smith Glass Plate Negatives

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Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1d50j>

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Smith, E. W. (Emory Willard), 1850-1941
Title:	E. W. Smith Glass Plate Negatives
ID:	PH-00460
Date [inclusive]:	approximately 1900 to 1916
Physical Description:	0.74 Cubic Feet (2 boxes)
Physical Description:	0.83 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The E. W. Smith Glass Plate Negatives (approximately 1900-1916) contain original glass plate negatives created by E. W. Smith during his time in Tonopah, Manhattan, Goldfield, and other central Nevada mining towns in the early 1900s. All photographs are presumed to be taken by E. W. Smith unless noted otherwise in the inventory. The negatives were collected by Warren Virgil "Mac" McGowan, who along with his wife Hilda lived in Tonopah, Nevada from approximately 1930 to the 1960s. He was the town photographer and ran a store and boarding house located at what is now 111 N. Main Street in Tonopah.

Preferred Citation

E. W. Smith Glass Plate Negatives, approximately 1900-1916. PH-00460. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1d50j>

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Biographical Note

Emory Willard "E. W." Smith was born October 1, 1850 in Deerfield, Massachusetts. He was a photographer, primarily known for taking pictures of the town of Tonopah, Nevada. He graduated from photography trade school where he met George Eastman, who later founded Eastman Kodak Company. Smith then moved around, first west and then in 1898, to Dawson City, in northwest Canada. In 1902, he moved to Tonopah, Nevada, where he remained until his death in 1941. Smith

photographed the town and the surrounding mining districts including Goldfield and Manhattan. Smith died September 19, 1941.

Source:

Historical Society, Nevada. "Nevada Historical Society Quarterly," 1979. <http://epubs.nsla.nv.gov/statepubs/epubs/210777-1979-3Fall.pdf>

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Scope and Contents Note

The E. W. Smith Glass Plate Negatives (approximately 1900-1916) contain original glass plate negatives created by E. W. Smith during his time in Tonopah, Manhattan, Goldfield, and other central Nevada mining towns in the early 1900s. All photographs are presumed to be taken by E. W. Smith unless noted otherwise in the inventory. The negatives were collected by Warren Virgil "Mac" McGowan, who along with his wife Hilda lived in Tonopah, Nevada from approximately 1930 to the 1960s. He was the town photographer and ran a store and boarding house located at what is now 111 N. Main Street in Tonopah.

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Arrangement

Material remains as it was received.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research. Materials are extremely fragile and advance notice is requested. Please contact special.collections@unlv.edu for more information.

Publication Rights

This material is made available to facilitate private study, scholarship, or research. The donor, Elizabeth Tucker, transferred all right, title and interest they had in the E. W. Smith Glass Plate Negatives (PH-00460) to UNLV. However, some material may be protected by

copyright, trademark, privacy, publicity rights, or other interests not owned by UNLV. Users are responsible for determining whether permissions are necessary from rights owners for any intended use and for obtaining all required permissions. Acknowledgement of the UNLV University Libraries is requested. For more information, please see the UNLV Special Collections policies on [reproductions and use](#) or contact us at special.collections@unlv.edu.

Acquisition Note

Materials were donated by Elizabeth Tucker in 2025; accession number 2025-002.

Processing Note

In 2025, Sarah Jones accessioned the collection, rehoused the collection, and wrote a brief finding aid in ArchivesSpace. Any information present on the photographs were retained and placed in quotation marks within the description.

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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. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1331f>

Tonopah-Goldfield Mining Photograph Collection, approximately 1901-1920. PH-00023. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1w91n>

Tonopah, Nevada Mining Town Photograph Album, approximately 1908. PH-00411. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1rq2x>

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Names and Subjects

- Goldfield (Nev.)
- Tonopah (Nev.)

- glass plate negatives
- Mining districts -- Nevada

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
"Montana Tonopah Mine" a dog (center) lies in the road and mining buildings visible in background, Tonopah, Nevada: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_001)	box 01
Two dogs lay next to an open box or cabinet, likely Tonopah, Nevada: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_002)	box 01
Two young women pose wearing intricate ornamental necklaces: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_003)	box 01
People stand on either side of Main Street; a hotel, drug store, and auto-livery are visible across the street, Tonopah, Nevada: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_004)	box 01
Man (center) poses with two young boys on either side of him: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_005)	box 01
Carts loaded with bags and lumber are parked in the center of the road with a team of burros hitched to the front, Tonopah, Nevada: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_006)	box 01
"First water in Tonopah" a group of men gathered around an artisanal well-water spout with water flowing out, Tonopah, Nevada: glass plate negative, 1902 October 24 (PH_00460_007)	box 01
"Tonopah extension" mining operation buildings, railroad extension line, and surrounding buildings in Tonopah, Nevada: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_008)	box 01
"Lucky Jim" a group of men, women, and children stand in the foreground, town is visible in the background, Tonopah, Nevada: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_009)	box 01
"Passenger house and freight yard, Tonopah R.R." piles of freight and goods are visible next to the railroad line in Tonopah, Nevada: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_010)	box 01
"Main Street, Ellendale, NV" men stand in foreground, small camp with a few tents and temporary structures visible in background near Ellendale Mine outside Tonopah, Nevada: glass plate negative, 1909 (PH_00460_011)	box 01
Mining building with mountain in the background, Tonopah, Nevada: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_012)	box 01
Team of burros pull carts loaded with bags and lumber; Logan & Saylor Sample Room visible in the background, Tonopah, Nevada: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_013)	box 01
"MacNamara Mine" near Lida, Nevada: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_014)	box 01

View of brush on mountain, possibly near Ellendale Mine outside Tonopah, Nevada: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_015)	box 01
Train with smoke billowing out on tracks in Tonopah, Nevada: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_016)	box 01
View of Tonopah, Nevada from a raised vantage point behind mining operations: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_017)	box 01
"A burrow train on road to Gold Reef" three burrows, five men, and a dog stand on a dirt road: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_018)	box 01
"Main Street, Manhattan" an early automobile drives down Main Street; Holt & Williams Horseshoe Club, C.A. Cassin groceries, jeweler, and drug store are visible in background, Manhattan, Nevada: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_019)	box 01
"The Prospector's Friend" close up portrait of a burro: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_020)	box 01
"Origin of discovery [unclear] Foot Claim" unknown location, Nevada: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_021)	box 01
Men and burros outside shops on the main road, likely Tonopah, Nevada: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_022)	box 01
Team of burros pull wagons loaded with material; The Pullman and White's Hotel visible in the background, : glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_023)	box 01
"Drilling Contest, Sept. 1, 1902" street lined with onlookers and a small group of men compete in contest in the road, Tonopah, Nevada: glass plate negative, 1902 September 01 (PH_00460_024)	box 01
"Residences, Manhattan, Nev. March 1906" View of homes in Manhattan taken from an elevated vantage point, Manhattan, Nevada: glass plate negative, 1906 March (PH_00460_025)	box 02
"Sinclair [?] Stray Dog Claim, Manhattan District" two men stand next to mining equipment and building, another man is sitting in the distance, Manhattan, Nevada: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_026)	box 02
A man is driving a cart with two burros up a road leading into mining operations: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_027)	box 02
"White Mountains" view of mountains through a barbed fence and open field with several tall trees: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_028)	box 02
"Drilling Contest, Sept 1, 1902" street lined with onlookers and a small group of men compete in contest in the road, Tonopah, Nevada: glass plate negative, 1902 September 01 (PH_00460_029)	box 02
"Valcalda Mine and Mill [?] Blair" View of mining operations with a road leading between two sides of a small valley: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_030)	box 02

"Upper Main Street" Teams of burros wait near loaded carts, Tonopah Trading Co. on the left, men and women are walking down the street, Tonopah, Nevada: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_031)	box 02
"Main Street, Tonopah, NV July 4, 1902" Crowds of people line the main street of Tonopah, which is decorated for July 4 celebration: glass plate negative, 1902 July 04 (PH_00460_032)	box 02
Six girls wearing uniforms pose with their feet on a basketball; "THS '16" written on the ball and on arm bands the girls are wearing: glass plate negative, 1916 (PH_00460_033)	box 02
"July 4, 1903" a decorated wagon and groups of young men in uniform march down Main Street in Tonopah, Nevada wearing "TV" uniforms; onlookers are gathered on the sides of the road: glass plate negative, 1903 July 04 (PH_00460_034)	box 02
A woman sits on a bed with a dog, the walls around her covered in woven baskets, head dresses, and other items. A large pair of bighorn sheep horns sit on the table to her right.: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_035)	box 02
"Spectators at Sports, Tonopah, Sept. 1, 1902" a group of women wearing hats and holding parasols sit on top of some large riser while men stand beneath them: glass plate negative, 1902 September 01 (PH_00460_036)	box 02
A team of 6 horses pull a wagon with men and women sitting inside and riding on top: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_037)	box 02
A team of 18 burros pull a wagon loaded with mining machinery across a field: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_038)	box 02
A man and woman sit with two young boys and a dog: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_039)	box 02
A team of horses pull two wagons loaded with lumber and other materials; small homes and mining operation buildings visible in the background, possibly Tonopah, Nevada: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_040)	box 02
"Miner's drug store float - Tonopah Railroad carnival": glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_041)	box 02
"Photo by H. T. Shaw, Tonopah, NV 1906" view of Main Street, Tonopah, Nevada: glass plate negative, 1906 (PH_00460_042)	box 02
"Goldfield ore" many bags of ore stacked up, likely awaiting transport, Goldfield, Nevada: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_043)	box 02
"Mizpah Mine, photo by H. T. Shaw 1906": glass plate negative, 1906 (PH_00460_044)	box 02
Mining equipment inside a building, unknown location: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_045)	box 02
Mining equipment inside a building, unknown location: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_046)	box 02

View of Main Street in Tonopah, Nevada : glass plate negative, 1906 (PH_00460_047)	box 02
"T.M. Co's houses" view of homes in a field near Tonopah, Nevada: glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_048)	box 02
"Midway Mine, Tonopah, NV": glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_049)	box 02
Portrait of a young man in uniform (only top half is present): glass plate negative, approximately 1900 to 1909 (PH_00460_050)	box 02
