



Yellowstone National Park Archives
P O Box 168
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190-0168
National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior

CHARLES O. WILLIAMSON COLLECTION
c. 1918

CATALOG NUMBER: MSC 081

VOLUME: 0.25 LINEAR FEET

HISTORY

Charles O. Williamson was a renowned horse trainer, riding instructor, and author of the book "Breaking and Training the Stock Horse." During the summers of his college years in the late 1910s, he worked in Yellowstone National Park for the concessioner companies the Wylie Camping Company and then the Yellowstone Park Camps Company. Starting as "pack rat" or porter, he was promoted to stagecoach driver, and finally became a guide for pack trips. In 1919, he received his own concessions license to guide visitors within Yellowstone National Park. In 1922, a railroad strike stranded the "dudes" in the East and closed his guide business.

Sally M. Grey was a writer. She met Williamson through her children, who stayed with him at his home in Hamilton, Montana. She passed away in 2010.

DESCRIPTION

The collection consists of biographical articles and photographs of Charles O. Williamson documenting his time as a concessions employee and guide (or outfitter) in Yellowstone National Park. The biographical articles, written by Sally M. Gray, were published in two issues of the Quarter Horse Journal in February and March of 1873. The photographs are copy prints of images, probably loaned for copy by Williamson in preparation for the journal article. The images include Williamson and his horse "Smoke", views of pack horse trips, and several group images of concessions employees. There is also one portrait of Williamson later in life, likely circa 1970.

PROVENANCE

Found in collection, 2012.

AVAILABILITY

This is an unprocessed collection. Material is available for access. Please contact us well advance of any planned research visit so we may prepare the material for access. Please contact the Heritage & Research Center (yell_heritage_center@nps.gov) for more information.