



Sharlot Hall Museum Library and Archives
415 West Gurley Street
Prescott, AZ 86301
www.sharlot.org

Title: Mike Burns (Hoomothya) Papers

Creator: Mike Burns

Dates: 1881-2010 (bulk dates 1923-2010)

Quantity: 2.5 linear feet (5 boxes)

System of Arrangement

Collection is arranged in the following series:

- Series 1: Carlisle Indian School/Mike Burns Background Research Materials
- Series 2: Mike Burns Personal Correspondence
- Series 3: Mike Burns Manuscript Drafts
- Series 4: Edited Burns Manuscripts
- Series 5: Publication Records and Correspondence
- Series 6: Publications

Abstract: Hoomothya (a.k.a. Mike Burns) was the only surviving Yavapai tribal member from the December 1872 Skeleton Cave massacre, which took place in Arizona between the Yavapai's and US Army. Hoomothya was orphaned as a result of the slaughter of his extended family at Skeleton Cave. Captured by the troops who killed this band of Yavapais, he was taken in as a temporary ward by Captain James Burns, who gave Hoomothya the anglicized name of Mike Burns. This collection contains background information on Mike Burns; the Carlisle Indian School in Carlisle, Pennsylvania; and the Skeleton Cave in Arizona. The collection includes Burns' correspondence with various individuals about his memoir, requests for assistance in its publication and several versions of the Burn's manuscript.

Identification: SHM MS-8

Languages and Scripts of the Materials

All materials are in English

Biographical History

Hoomothya (c. 1865-November 26, 1934) later known by his anglicized name of Mike Burns was born in 1865 into the Kwevkepaya Yavapai Tribe as Hoomothya ("Wet Nose")



or “Moist Nose”). Hoomothya was orphaned as a result of the slaughter of his extended family at Skeleton Cave in Arizona during December of 1872. Captured by the troops who killed this band of Yavapais, he was taken in as a temporary ward by Captain James Burns, who renamed the child Mike Burns. He was also known as “Apache Mickie.”

He remained with the U.S. Army for many years then was sent as one of the first students to Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania. After that he pursued additional education but in spite of his academic efforts he was always hard pressed to survive in the white world. He eventually served several enlistments as an Indian scout, and then returned to his native Arizona where he married a woman from his tribe and took up residence at several places including Fort McDowell.

As early as 1910, Burns sought aid in telling his story, and that year wrote to the Arizona Territorial Historian, Sharlot M. Hall, asking for help to publish his autobiography. Just before World War I, part of his memoir appeared in Thomas Farrish’s multi volume *History of Arizona*, and a longer version prepared by Burns was drafted in the 1920s. Burns did not live to see his memoir published as he died on November 26, 1934 at the Fort Whipple hospital (now the VA Center in Prescott, Arizona).

The latter document served as the basis for a version produced by retired U.S. Army surgeon William Corbusier, who significantly edited Burns’s original as is evident when comparing the Corbusier manuscript with the typescript Burns provided to Sharlot M. Hall in the 1920s. Following Corbusier’s edits, the manuscript was passed through many hands, and underwent several more edits. Those names will appear throughout this collection.

Robert Sullivan, retired chemist, and former volunteer at the Sharlot Hall Museum, traveled and did extensive background research in order to edit and supply contextual information for another version of the manuscript. He passed away before the book was published. Sullivan worked with former Chief Curator Norm Tessman, who corresponded with Nancy Corbusier Knox, granddaughter of William Corbusier. Tessman also produced an edited version of the manuscript that never reached publication.

In 2005, former Sharlot Hall Museum Executive Director Richard Sims commissioned Editor, Gregory McNamee of Tucson, Arizona, to produce yet another edition of the manuscript in hopes of publishing it through the Sharlot Hall Museum Press. McNamee’s edition was not published, and the project was put on hold following the departure of Richard Sims as Director.

The project was adopted by Sims’ successor, Dr. John Langellier, who worked in conjunction with Dr. Sandra Lynch, Sharlot Hall Museum Anthropologist, to edit and produce the final version of the manuscript that was published in 2010 as *All My People*



Were Killed: The Memoir of Mike Burns (Hoomothya) A Captive Indian. 100 years following Burns' letter to Sharlot M. Hall requesting her assistance in getting his memoir published, the manuscript finally became a book under the imprint of the Sharlot Hall Museum Press.

Scope and Content

Collection contains background information about the Carlisle Indian School in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, Skeleton Cave in Arizona and Mike Burns. It contains Mike Burns' correspondence with various individuals about his memoir and requests for assistance in its publication. The collection includes several versions of the Burns manuscript, including the original manuscript created by Burns, as well as later versions edited by William Corbusier, Robert Sullivan, Norm Tessman, Gregory McNamee, Dr. Sandra Lynch, and Dr. John Langellier. Finally, it includes correspondence regarding background information, requests for images and permissions from other archives, and publication information.

Restrictions

None

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Unpublished and published manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder. The Sharlot Hall Museum may not own copyright to all parts of this collection. It is the responsibility of the user to obtain permission to publish from the owner of the copyright (the institution, the creator of the record, the author or his/her transferees, heirs, legates, or literary executors). The user agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the State of Arizona and the Sharlot Hall Museum - this includes its Board of Trustee officers, employees, outside contractors, and agents from and against all claims made by person asserting that he or she is an owner of copyright.

Related Archival Materials & Subjects

Persons

Burns, Captain James

[Burns, Mike](#)

[Burns, Mike, 1865?-1934](#)

[Corbusier, William Henry, 1844-1930](#)

Farrish, Thomas

[Hall, Sharlot Mabridth, 1870-1943](#)

[Hoomothya, 1865?-1934](#)

[Langellier, John](#)

[Lynch, Sandra](#)

[McNamee, Gregory](#)



[Montezuma, Carlos, 1866-1923.](#)

[Sullivan, Robert](#)

Tessman, Norm

Organizations

Kwevkepaya Yavapai Tribe

[Yavapai-Prescott Indian Community](#)

Subjects

Skeleton Cave Massacre

[United States Indian School \(Carlisle, Pa.\)](#)

Related Materials:

Vertical File: Native Americans – Yavapai 1 and 2

All of my people were killed: the memoir of Mike Burns (Hoomothya), a captive Indian, by Mike Burns. (970.3 YAV)

The journey of a Yavapai Indian: a 19th century odyssey, by Mike Burns. (970.3 YAV)

The only one living to tell: the autobiography of a Yavapai Indian, by Mike Burns. (970.3 BUR)

The legend of Superstition Mountain, by Mike Burns. (979.1 BUR)

PB164,f43: Josephine Harrison Photo Collection. Item 1 is a photo of Mike Burns, 1923.

PB169, f12: Skeleton Cave Photographs by Shamhart. These items are restricted and permission must be obtained from the Yavapai Tribe for any access.

PB168, f9: Walter J. Lubken Collection. These items are restricted and permission must be obtained from the Yavapai Tribe for any access.

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Accession Number – 1928.003; 2011.090; 34.001

Accruals

Further accruals are possible.

Description Control

The collection was processed by Goodwin Berquist and Libby Coyner in 2010 using *Describing Archives: a Content Standard (DACs)*.



Container List

Title: MS – 8, Mike Burns (Hoomothya) Collection

Dates: 1881-1890, 1989-1996, undated

Scope and Content: Series consists of research materials and bibliographies of archival and published materials related to the Carlisle Indian School, Skeleton Cave and Mike Burns. It contains articles from school newspapers from the Carlisle Indian School.

Series 1: Carlisle Indian School/Mike Burns Background Research Materials		
Box/Folder	File/Item Description	Date(s)
1/1	Articles from Carlisle Indian School Newspapers (photocopies)	1881-1890
1/2	Assorted Carlisle Indian School Articles and Bibliographies	1996, undated
1/3	<i>Telling Stories Out of School</i> , by Genevieve Bell [1 of 2]	1998
1/4	<i>Telling Stories Out of School</i> , by Genevieve Bell [2 of 2]	1998
1/5	Bibliographies of Mike Burns materials	undated
1/6	<i>Skeleton Cave</i> , by Jim Schreier	1989
1/7	<i>Fray Marcos De Niza, Coronado and the Yavapai</i> by Alfred Schroeder (Norm Tessman stamped)	undated
1/8	Information about Mike Burns Relatives, copyright of Burns letters, The Yavapai – A Bibliography,	1921, 1988, 1992, 1996
1/9	Transfer of Indians Information	undated
1/10	Articles about Mike Burns	undated
1/11	Robert Sullivan's Correspondence with Nancy Knox, Descendant of the Corbusiers	1988, 1996, 1997, undated



Title: MS – 8, Mike Burns (Hoomothya) Collection

Dates: 1886-1929

Scope and Content: Series consists of Mike Burns’ correspondence with Sharlot M. Hall, General N. Miles, Dr. Carlos Montezuma, Laura Hopper, and William Henry Corbusier regarding his story and attempting to get it published. Copies of letters from other institutions are not available for copying.

Series 2: Mike Burns Personal Correspondence		
Box/Folder	File/Item Description	Date(s)
1/12	Mike Burns correspondence with Sharlot Hall, General N. Miles, and Dr. Carlos Montezuma (photocopies)	1901-1929
1/13	Mike Burns correspondence with Sharlot Hall, General N. Miles	1886, 1910-1923
1/14	Mike Burns correspondence with Sharlot Hall and Laura Looper	1910, 1923, 1929
1/15	Mike Burns correspondence with William Henry Corbusier	1922
1/16	Transcripts of Carlos Montezuma Papers by John J. W. Lerner, letters with Mike Burns	1901-1920

Title: MS – 8, Mike Burns (Hoomothya) Collection

Dates: 1929, undated

Scope and Content: Series consists of Mike Burns’ unedited manuscripts of *The Yavapai Indians of Arizona*, prior to the various changes imposed by other editors.

Series 3: Mike Burns Manuscript Drafts		
Box/Folder	File/Item Description	Date(s)
2/1	Mike Burns manuscript [1 of 4] (typewritten)	1929
2/2	Mike Burns manuscript [2 of 4] (typewritten)	1929
2/3	Mike Burns manuscript [3 of 4] (typewritten)	1929
2/4	Mike Burns manuscript [4 of 4] (typewritten)	1929
2/5	<i>The Yavapai Indians of Arizona</i> , by Mike Burns [1 of 2] (mimeographed)	undated
2/6	<i>The Yavapai Indians of Arizona</i> , by Mike Burns [2 of 2] (mimeographed)	undated



Title: MS – 8, Mike Burns (Hoomothya) Collection

Dates: 1923-2010

Scope and Content: Series consists of the various edited versions of Burns' manuscript following revisions made by Dr. William Henry Corbusier, Robert Sullivan, Norm Tessman, Gregory McNamee, Dr. John Langellier, and Dr. Sandra Lynch. Includes Cd's and floppy disks.

Series 4: Edited Burns Manuscripts		
Box/Folder	File/Item Description	Date(s)
2/7	<i>Part I: The Yavapai (Apache-Mojave) Indians of Arizona</i> , edited by William Henry Corbusier	1923
2/8	<i>Part II: The Yavapai Indians of Arizona</i> , edited by William Henry Corbusier [1 of 2]	1923
2/9	<i>Part II: The Yavapai Indians of Arizona</i> , edited by William Henry Corbusier [2 of 2]	1923
3/1	Mike Burns manuscript, edited by Robert Sullivan	undated
3/2	Mike Burns manuscript and notes, edited by Norm Tessman [1 of 2]	1999
3/3	Mike Burns manuscript and notes, edited by Norm Tessman [2 of 2]	1999
3/4	Mike Burns manuscript, <i>The Only One Living to Tell</i> , edited by Gregory McNamee [1 of 2]	2005-2007
3/5	Mike Burns manuscript, <i>The Only One Living to Tell</i> , edited by Gregory McNamee [2 of 2]	2005-2007
3/6	<i>The Memoirs of Hoomothya, Also Known as Mike Burns</i> . 2009 manuscript, edited by John Langellier [1 of 5]	2009
3/7	<i>The Memoirs of Hoomothya, Also Known as Mike Burns</i> . 2009 manuscript, edited by John Langellier [2 of 5]	2009
4/1	<i>The Memoirs of Hoomothya, Also Known as Mike Burns</i> . 2009 manuscript, edited by John Langellier [3 of 5]	2009
4/2	<i>The Memoirs of Hoomothya, Also Known as Mike Burns</i> . 2009 manuscript, edited by John Langellier [4 of 5]	2009
4/3	<i>The Memoirs of Hoomothya, Also Known as Mike Burns</i> . 2009 manuscript, edited by John Langellier [5 of 5]	2009
4/4	Memoirs of Hoomothya, final edition by John Langellier and Sandra Lynch	2010
4/5	Burns Manuscript backup digital copies – CDs and floppy disks	1999, 2008, undated



Title: MS – 8, Mike Burns (Hoomothya) Collection

Dates: 1988, 1990-2010

Scope and Content: Series consists of correspondence between Sharlot Hall Museum employees, various manuscript editors, other archival repositories, etc. It contains letters to and from William Henry Corbusier, Robert Sullivan, and Norm Tessman regarding their involvement in the project. It includes correspondence between Directors Richard Sims (former) and John Langellier, Ph.D., editor Gregory McNamee, and his Tucson-based attorney Leon Thikoll regarding McNamee’s work on the Burns manuscript. Later, it included correspondence with archivists requesting reference assistance and regarding permission to publish photos.

Series 5: Publication Records, Research and Correspondence		
Box/Folder	File/Item Description	Date(s)
4/6	Correspondence re: William Henry Corbusier’s involvement in Burns manuscript	1990
4/7	Correspondence re: Robert Sullivan’s and Norm Tessman’s involvement in Burns manuscript	1990-2010
4/8	Correspondence re: Joint Mike Burns project between Yavapai Tribe and Sharlot Hall Museum	2003-2010
4/9	Memorandum of Agreement between Sharlot Hall Museum and editor Gregory McNamee, proposed Chronology for Burns Manuscript	2006
5/1	Correspondence re: Gregory McNamee’s involvement with Burns manuscript	2007-2010
5/2	Correspondence and images from National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. *Do not reproduce images. See Smithsonian for Reproductions	1994-2009
5/3	Correspondence and images from U.S. Army Heritage & Education Center, Carlisle, PA. *Do not reproduce images. See U.S. Army Heritage & Education Center for Reproductions	2010
5/4	Correspondence and images from Arizona State University Special Collections. *Do not reproduce images. See Arizona State University Special Collections for Reproductions	undated
5/5	Correspondence with Arizona Historical Society re: permissions	2010
5/6	Correspondence with libraries and archives	Undated
5/7		
5/8	Robert Sullivan’s Research letters, notes, etc.	1988, undated



Title: MS – 8, Mike Burns (Hoomothya) Collection

Dates: About 1927

Scope and Content:

Series 6: Publications		
Box/Folder	File/Item Description	Date(s)
5/9	<i>The Legend of Superstition Mountain</i> by Mike Burns	About 1927
5/10	Cover of <i>All My People Were Killed</i>	Undated