

C. Hart Merriam Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2024

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm82032698>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms015020>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Manuscript Division staff, 2015
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Collection Summary

Title: C. Hart Merriam Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1864-1938

ID No.: MSS32698

Creator: Merriam, C. Hart, 1855-1942

Extent: 5,000 items

Extent: 71 containers plus 6 oversize

Extent: 28.5 linear feet

Extent: 10 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English and Native American languages

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82032698>

Summary: Naturalist, zoologist, and ethnologist. Correspondence, writings, journals, bibliographies, maps, and other papers. Includes journals of scientific expeditions and compilations of North American Indigenous vocabularies, with accompanying large-scale maps showing the distribution of Native American tribes in California and Nevada, as well as notes relating to the Adirondack Mountains and files pertaining to other sites and regions in the United States and abroad. Contains subject material relating to the Bering Sea Tribunal of Arbitration and the Harriman Alaska Expedition.

Online Content: Part of the papers of C. Hart Merriam is available on the Library of Congress Web site at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000129>. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the online edition.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Merriam, C. Hart (Clinton Hart), 1855-1942.

Organizations

American Ornithologists' Union.

Bering Sea Tribunal of Arbitration.

Harriman Alaska Expedition (1899)

United States. Division of Biological Survey.

United States. Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy.

Washington Academy of Sciences (Washington, D.C.)

Subjects

Biology--California.

Biology--Nevada.

Biology.

Ethnology--California.

Ethnology--Nevada.

Ethnology.

Indians of North America--California.

Indians of North America--Languages--Glossaries, vocabularies, etc.

Indians of North America--Languages.

Indians of North America--Nevada.

Natural history--California.

Natural history--Nevada.

Natural history.

Ornithology.

Scientific expeditions--United States.

Scientific expeditions.

Sealing--Alaska--Pribilof Islands.
Zoology.

Places

Adirondack Mountains (N.Y.)--Discovery and exploration.
Alaska--Discovery and exploration.
California--Maps.
Nevada--Maps.
United States--Discovery and exploration.
West (U.S.)--Discovery and exploration.

Form/Genre

Ethnographic maps.

Occupations

Ethnologists.
Naturalists.
Zoologists.

Acquisition Information

The papers of C. Hart Merriam were given to the Library of Congress as a bequest of Merriam in 1947. Additional material was given by the National Geographic Society in 1976.

Processing History

The papers of C. Hart Merriam were processed in 1947. Additions and revisions were made between 1976 and 1987 and again in 2002. The finding aid was revised in 2014.

In 2024, the "Indian Vocabularies" in boxes 24-47 were reprocessed and the finding aid revised by Katherine S. Madison. Folders were retitled using Merriam's phonetic spellings as written on the vocabulary lists, and his original hierarchical arrangement, grouping individual dialects according to wider language families, was reinstated. Research was also conducted to determine the related modern spelling or equivalent term of a language or Indigenous band, predominantly by using the California Language Archive, maintained by the University of California, Berkeley (see <https://cla.berkeley.edu/>), and *California Indian Languages* by Victor Golla (University of California Press, 2011), as well as other verified sources. These modern terms, including variant spellings, are included in parentheses next to Merriam's original phonetic spellings. Every effort was made to ensure accuracy in representing both Merriam's original classification and its modern equivalents.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of C. Hart Merriam is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

Restrictions apply governing the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for information concerning these restrictions. In addition, many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on ten reels. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. *To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition.*

Online Content

Part of the papers of C. Hart Merriam is available on the Library of Congress Web site at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/collmss.ms000129>. *To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the online edition.*

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, C. Hart Merriam Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1855, Dec. 5	Born, New York, N.Y.
1872	Naturalist, Hayden Survey (formally the United States Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories)
1877	Published <i>A Review of the Birds of Connecticut</i> . New Haven: Tuttle, Morehouse, & Taylor
1879	M.D., Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1883	Surgeon, <i>Proteus</i> (bark)
1884	Published <i>Mammals of the Adirondacks</i> . New York: L. S. Foster
1885-1910	Head, United States Department of Agriculture's Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammology (later the United States Division of Biological Survey and then the United States Bureau of Biological Survey)
1886	Married Virginia Elizabeth Gosnell (died 1937)
1889	Participated in United States Biological Survey of the San Francisco Mountains, Ariz.
1891	Participated in United States Biological Survey of Death Valley, Calif. Appointed to commission to investigate the problems of pelagic sealing in the Bering Sea
1891-1892	President, Biological Society of Washington
1898	Participated in United States Biological Survey of Mount Shasta, Calif.
1899	Participated in Harriman Alaska Expedition
1900-1902	President, American Ornithologists' Union
1905	Published "Indian Population of California." San Jose, Calif.: Northern California Indian Association
1907	Published "Distribution and Classification of the Mewan Indians of California." <i>American Anthropologist</i> , vol. 9, no. 2
1910-1936	Conducted biological and ethnological investigations with California Native American tribes
1910	Published <i>Dawn of the World</i> . Cleveland: A. H. Clark
1917-1925	Chair, United States Board on Geographic Names
1919-1921	President, American Society of Mammalogists
1920-1921	President, Anthropological Society of Washington
1924-1925	President, American Society of Naturalists
1928	Published <i>An-nik-a-del, the History of the Universe, as told by the Modes-se Indians of California</i> . Boston: Stratford Co.
1942, Mar. 19	Died, Berkeley, Calif.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Clinton Hart Merriam (1855-1942) span the years 1872-1938 and consist of correspondence, writings, journals, bibliographies, maps, and other papers. Especially prominent are more than a hundred journals of scientific expeditions and an extensive set of North American Indigenous vocabularies, with accompanying large-scale maps showing the distribution of Native American tribes in California and Nevada, as well as notes relating to the Adirondack Mountains and files relating to the Bering Sea Tribunal of Arbitration and the Harriman Alaska Expedition. Other topics include subject material relating to expeditions and regions and sites in the American West as well as others parts of the country and abroad.

Merriam's indexed journals form a continuous record of his accomplishments in science as well as of his personal relations and cooperation with scholars in the United States and internationally. In addition to twenty-five years of service as organizer and head of the United States Department of Agriculture's Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammology (later the United States Division of Biological Survey and then the United States Bureau of Biological Survey), and a somewhat longer period of ethnological and biological research in California and Nevada begun in 1910 under the Harriman Fund of the Smithsonian Institution, Merriam's many activities included a twenty-year membership on the Board on Geographic Names, which he chaired 1917-1925. Also documented are his activities with the American Ornithologists' Union and the Washington Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C. In 1891 he was appointed fur seal commissioner to represent the United States on a joint American and British commission to study the problems of pelagic sealing on the Pribilof Islands. In 1899 he visited Alaska as part of the Harriman Alaska Expedition and later served as editor of the publications of its scientific staff.

Merriam's research and fieldwork into Native American languages are documented in boxes 24-47, under his original heading "Indian Vocabularies." This material consists primarily of comparative vocabulary lists phonetically documenting Indigenous Californian languages, with occasional examples from Nevada, Arizona, Oregon, and other regions. Merriam's hierarchical arrangement of this material, as retained, consolidates folders documenting individual regions or dialects under headings representing larger language families. Merriam's original phonetic spellings of languages, dialects, and tribal names has been retained; applicable modern language and tribal names (if known) are included in parentheses, including variant spellings and terms. Researchers should note that Merriam's groupings and classifications of various languages do not always correspond to modern understandings of linguistic or tribal relationships, or to modern nomenclature.

Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged by type of material or topic largely as received.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Adirondack vertebrates, notes, vols. 1-3
BOX 1	Fauna and flora of Lewis County, N.Y., notes
BOX 1	Vol. 1, 1878
BOX 1	Vol. 2, 1878-1879
BOX 1	Vol. 3, 1879-1880
BOX 1	Vol. 4, 1881-1883
BOX 2	Vol. 5, 1883-1884
BOX 2	Vol. 6, 1884-1885
BOX 2	Journals
BOX 2	1873
BOX 2	1873-1874
BOX 2	1874-1875
BOX 2	1875-1876
BOX 2	1876-1878
BOX 3	1878-1879
BOX 3	1881-1882
BOX 3	1882
BOX 3	1883
BOX 3	1881, trip of <i>Proteus</i> (bark)
BOX 3	1881, Bermuda notes
BOX 3	1882, trip to Big Moose Lake and Lake Terror
BOX 3	1885, trip to Europe
BOX 3	1885, Lake Champlain notes
BOX 3	1886, rice fields of Georgia and South Carolina
BOX 3	1887, Great Smoky Mountains
BOX 4	1887, Tennessee and North Carolina
BOX 4	1888, Puget Sound to Southern California
BOX 4	1889, Arizona
	(2 folders)
BOX 4	1890, Idaho
BOX 4	1891, Death Valley expedition
	(2 folders)
BOX 4	1891, Bering Sea
BOX 5	1892, Big Marble Cave, Mo., short trip in Indian Territory
BOX 5	1892, Roan Mountain
BOX 5	Journals
	<i>Some journals available on microfilm. Shelf no. 19,605</i>
BOX 5	1893, Winter Park, Fla.
BOX 5	1893, Utah and Wyoming
BOX 5	1894, 1896, Arizona
BOX 5	1895, Dismal Swamp
BOX 5	1896, Oregon

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 5	Vol.1
BOX 6 REEL 1	Vol. 2
BOX 6 REEL 1	1897, Washington, vol. 1 <i>Also available on microfilm shelf no. 18,001</i>
BOX 6 REEL 1	1897, Washington and Oregon, vol. 2
BOX 6 REEL 1	1897, Washington, vol. 3 <i>Also available on microfilm shelf no. 18,001</i>
BOX 6 REEL 1	1898, California, vols. 1-2
BOX 7 REEL 1	1898, California, vols. 3-4
BOX 7 REEL 1	1899, Alaska expedition vol. 1
BOX 7 REEL 2	1899, Alaska expedition vols. 2-3
BOX 8 REEL 2	1899, California, vols. 1-2
BOX 8 REEL 2	1900, California, vols. 1-2
BOX 8 REEL 3	1901, California, vols. 1-2
BOX 9 REEL 3	1902, California, vols. 1-4
BOX 9 REEL 3	1903, California, vols. 1-2
BOX 10 REEL 3	1903, California, vol. 3
BOX 10 REEL 4	1903, California, vols. 4-5
BOX 10 REEL 4	1904, California, vols. 1-2
BOX 10 REEL 4	1905, California, vol. 1
BOX 11 REEL 4	1905, California, vols. 2-4
BOX 11 REEL 5	1906, California, vols. 1-3
BOX 12 REEL 5	1907, California, vols. 1-5
BOX 12 REEL 5	1908-1909, Montana buffalo range
BOX 12 REEL 5	1909, California
BOX 13 REEL 5	1910, California, vol. 1
BOX 13 REEL 6	1910, California, vol. 2
BOX 13 REEL 6	1911, California, vols. 1-2
BOX 13 REEL 6	1912, California
BOX 13 REEL 6	1913, California
BOX 14 REEL 6	1914, California
BOX 14 REEL 6	1915, California
BOX 14 REEL 6	1916, California
BOX 14 REEL 6	1917, California
BOX 14 REEL 7	1919, California, vol. 1
BOX 15 REEL 7	1919, California, vol. 2
BOX 15 REEL 7	1920, California, vols. 1-2
BOX 15 REEL 7	1921, California, vol. 1, and 1922, California, vol. 1
BOX 15 REEL 7	1922, California, vol. 2
BOX 16 REEL 7	1923, California, vols. 1-2
BOX 16 REEL 7	1924, California
BOX 16 REEL 7	1925, California, vol. 1
BOX 16 REEL 8	1925, California, vol. 2, and 1926, vol. 1
BOX 16 REEL 8	1926, California, vol. 2
BOX 16 REEL 8	1927, California
BOX 17 REEL 8	1928, California
BOX 17 REEL 8	1929, California
BOX 17 REEL 8	1930, California

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 17 REEL 8	1931-1932, California
BOX 17 REEL 8	1932-1933, California
BOX 17 REEL 8	1934, California
BOX 18	1935-1936, California
BOX 18	1937-1938, California
BOX 18	Home journals
BOX 18	1896-1899
BOX 18	1900-1901
BOX 18	1901-1903
BOX 18	1903-1904
BOX 19	1904-1905
BOX 19	1906-1907
BOX 19	1907-1908
BOX 19	1908
BOX 19	1908-1909
BOX 19	1909-1910
BOX 19	1910-1911
BOX 20	1911-1913
BOX 20	1913-1914
BOX 20	1914-1916
BOX 20	1916-1917
BOX 20	1918-1919
BOX 21	1919-1922
BOX 21	1922-1926
BOX 21	1926-1929
BOX 21	1929-1935
BOX 22	1935-1937
BOX 22	Miscellaneous notes
BOX 22	Annotated list of birds of East Hampton, Hampshire County, Mass., 1874
BOX 22	Birds (2 folders)
BOX 22	Birds seen at Big Moose Lake, Herkimer and Hamilton Counties, N.Y., 1882
BOX 22	Catalogue of birds eggs, vol. 1
BOX 22	Catalogue of birds eggs, vol. 2
BOX 22	Godbout River, Quebec, Canada, lists, 1881
BOX 22	Mammal skins
BOX 22	Maminalia, Big Moose Lake
BOX 22	Notes on a brief trip to the marches and outer beach near Freeport, Long Island, N.Y., 1883
BOX 22	Notes on the birds observed near Godbout, PQ, Canada
BOX 22	Ornithological
BOX 22	Ornithological directory of state of New York
BOX 22	Private catalogue of specimens of natural history
BOX 22	Seal Island investigations
BOX 22	Seals
BOX 22	1875
BOX 22	1883

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 22	Skins, Big Moose Lake
BOX 23	Account books, 1864-1884 (4 folders)
BOX 23	Anatomio del canino
BOX 23	Appointment books, 1894, 1916 (2 folders)
BOX 23	Brown's tract journal, 1884
BOX 23	Bay of Fundy, East Port, Maine, 1876
BOX 23	Echinodorata
BOX 23	Invertebrates
BOX 23	Diary, 1896
BOX 23	Journal, 1897
BOX 23	Materia medica, tables used by Edward Curtis, 1878-1879
BOX 23	Muskrat as a fish eater
BOX 23	Myalogical variations
BOX 23	Plants found at Big Island
BOX 23	Plants found at Brantingham Lake, N.Y.
BOX 23	Sasufen Isac River, lists of birds and plants
BOX 23	Zoology
BOX 24	Locus Grove, Lewis County, N.Y., nature study, 1875 Digital content available
BOX 24	Zoological lecture notes from class of A. E. Verrill Digital content available
BOX 24	Indian vocabularies
BOX 24	Absaroka/Ab-sah'-ro-kah (Apsáalooke, Crow) Digital content available
BOX 24	Achomawan (Palaihnihan)
BOX 24	Ah-choo-mah'-we (Achomawi/Achumawi) Digital content available
BOX 24	Ahts-oo-kā'-e (Atsugewi, Hat Creek) Digital content available
BOX 24	Ahts-oo-kā'-e (Atsugewi, Hat Creek) and Ap-poo'-ro-ke' (Atsugewi, Dixie Valley) Digital content available
BOX 24	Ap-poo'-ro-kā'-e/Ap'-woo-ro-kā'-e (Atsugewi, Dixie Valley) Digital content available
BOX 24	As'-tah-ke-wi'-se (Astakiwi Achumawi) Digital content available
BOX 25	At'-wum-we' (Achomawi/Achumawi) Digital content available
BOX 25	Hah-mah'-we/Ham-mah'-we (Hammawi Achumawi) Digital content available
BOX 25	Modesse/Mo-des'-se (Madesi Achumawi) Digital content available
BOX 25	Pit River Digital content available
BOX 25	Algonkian (Algonquian)

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 25	Algonkwin (Algonquin) Digital content available
BOX 25	Blackfoot, Pā'-gan, Pe-kun'-ne (Piegan, Pikuni, Niitsitapi, Blackfeet) Digital content available
BOX 25	Blackfoot, Pa'-gan, Sik-ske'-kuanak (Piegan, Siksika/Siksikaitstapi, Niitsitapi, Blackfeet) Digital content available
BOX 25	Cheyenn' (Cheyenne) Digital content available
BOX 25	Chippewa (Ojibwa, Anishinaabe) Digital content available
BOX 25	Cree, Knisteno Digital content available
BOX 25	Sak-e-Fox/Thalh'-kee (Sac and Fox/Sauk and Fox) Digital content available
BOX 25	Athabaskan (Dene)
BOX 25	Apache Digital content available
BOX 25	Athapaskan (Athabaskan) Digital content available
BOX 25	Hoil'-kut/Hwhil'-kut (Whilkut, Hupa) Digital content available
BOX 25	Hoo'-pah/Tin'-nung-'hen-nā-o (Hupa) Digital content available
BOX 25	Kahto/To-chil'-pe-ke'-ah-hahng (Kato/Cahto) Digital content available
BOX 26	Ken'-nes-te 'Wi'-lak-ke' (Wailaki, Eel River Dene) Digital content available
BOX 26	Kit-tel'/Yah'-ken-nes' (Nongatl Wailaki) Digital content available
BOX 26	Lo'-lahn'-kōk (Sinkyone Wailaki) Digital content available
BOX 26	Mat-tōl'/Bet-tōl' (Mattole) Digital content available
BOX 26	Nek'-an-ni' (Wailaki, Eel River Dene) Digital content available
BOX 26	Set'-ten-bi'-den kā'-ah (Lassik Wailaki) Digital content available
BOX 26	To-cho'-be ke'-ah (Sinkyone Wailaki) Digital content available
BOX 26	To-kub'-be ke'ah (Lassik Wailaki) Digital content available
BOX 26	Tol'-lo-wah/Hah'-wun-kwut/Huss (Tolowa) Digital content available
BOX 26	Tsen-nah'-ken-nes' (Wailaki, Eel River Dene) Digital content available
BOX 27	Chimariko/Che-mar'-re-ko Digital content available
BOX 27	Chinookan See Container 47, same heading

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 27	Chinook <i>See Container 47, same heading</i>
BOX 27	Wasko <i>See Container 47, same heading</i>
BOX 27	Chumashan
BOX 27	Cho-mahs', Ventura (Ventureño Chumash) Digital content available
BOX 27	Chumash, San Emigdio (Emigdiano, Barbareño Chumash) Digital content available
BOX 27	Santa Ynez Chumash/Kah'-sah-kōm-pe'-ah (Samala, Ineseño Chumash) Digital content available
BOX 27	Ennesen/Til-lahk'-tin (Salinan) Digital content available
BOX 27	Eskimoan <i>See Container 47, same heading</i>
BOX 27	Aleut <i>See Container 47, same heading</i>
BOX 27	Eskimo (Inuit, Inupiaq, and/or Yupik) <i>See Container 47, same heading</i>
BOX 27	Kutchin (Gwich'in) <i>See Container 47, same heading</i>
BOX 27	Karokan (Karuk)
BOX 27	Kah-rah-ko'-hah (Karuk/Karok) Digital content available
BOX 27	Karok ar-rar' (Karuk) Digital content available
BOX 27	Karok/Ka'-rok (Karuk) Digital content available
BOX 27	Lutuamian (Klamath-Modoc)
BOX 27	Klamath/Yah-nahk'-ne Digital content available
BOX 28	Modok (Modoc) Digital content available
BOX 28	Mewan (Mewuk/Miwok-Ohlone)
BOX 28	Chowchilla Me-wa (Southern Sierra Miwok) Digital content available
BOX 28	Hoo'-koo-e'-ko (Coast Miwok) Digital content available
BOX 28	Middle Mewuk/Tuolumne Mew'-wah (Central Sierra Miwok) Digital content available
BOX 28	Mo-kal'-um-ne (Northern Sierra Miwok) 1 of 2 Digital content available 2 of 2 Digital content available
BOX 28	Northern Me'-wuk, Calaveras County (Northern Sierra Miwok) Digital content available
BOX 28	Northern Me'-wuk, Oleta (Northern Sierra Miwok) 1 of 2 Digital content available 2 of 2 Digital content available
BOX 29	Northern Me'-wum, Pleasant Valley (Northern Sierra Miwok) Digital content available

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 29	Olamentko/Olamentke/Hoo'-koo-e-ko (Coast Miwok) Digital content available
BOX 29	O-lā'-yo-me/Tu'-le-yo'-me (Lake Miwok) 1 of 2 Digital content available 2 of 2 Digital content available
BOX 29	Southern Mu'-wah (Southern Sierra Miwok) Digital content available
BOX 29	Wi'-pā/Mo-koz'-zum-ne (Plains Miwok) Digital content available
BOX 29	Miduan (Maidu/Maiduan)
BOX 29	Cushna Midoo (Nisenan) Digital content available
BOX 29	Es-tom Nis-se-nan (Nisenan) Digital content available
BOX 29	Kow'-wahk (Nisenan) Digital content available
BOX 30	Kum-mo'-win, Enterprise and Bald Rock (Konkow/Conkaw) Digital content available
BOX 30	Kum-mo'-win, Mooretown (Konkow/Conkaw) Digital content available
BOX 30	Mitcho'pdo/Mě-chō'p-dah (Mechoopda, Chico Maidu) Digital content available
BOX 30	Ne-ce-non/Ti'-nan (Nisenan) Digital content available
BOX 30	Nis'-se-nan' Southern (Nisenan) Digital content available
BOX 30	Nis'-sim pa'-we-nan (Nisenan) 1 of 2 Digital content available 2 of 2 Digital content available
BOX 30	No-to'-koi-o, Big Meadows (Mountain Maidu, Northeastern Maidu) Digital content available
BOX 31	No-to'-koi-yo, American Valley (Mountain Maidu, Northeastern Maidu) Digital content available
BOX 31	No-to'-mus-se (Notomusse, Nisenan) Digital content available
BOX 31	No-to'-mus-se (Notomusse, Nisenan) and Es'-tom Nis'-se-non (Nisenan) Digital content available
BOX 31	Oleepa (Konkow/Conkaw) Digital content available
BOX 31	Pā'-we-nan/Poo-soo'-ne (Nisenan) Digital content available
BOX 31	Tahn'-kum (Nisenan or Konkow/Conkaw) Digital content available
BOX 31	Muskogean

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 31	Choctaw Digital content available
BOX 31	Seminole Digital content available
BOX 31	Olhonean (Ohlone, Costanoan)
BOX 31	Maps, Monterey, Calif., area Digital content available
BOX 31	Hoo-mon-twash/Moot'-soon' (Mutsun) Digital content available
BOX 31	Kah'-koon/Room'-se-en (Rumsen) Digital content available
BOX 31	Ko'-re-ak'-kah (Costanoan) Digital content available
BOX 32	Piman (O'odham, Pima-Papago)
BOX 32	Papago (Tohono O'odham) Digital content available
BOX 32	Pima/Pe'-mah (Akimel O'odham) Digital content available
BOX 32	Poliklan (Yurok)
BOX 32	Ner'-er'-ner (Nererner, Coast Yurok) Digital content available
BOX 32	Po-lik'-lahs/Helth-kik'-lah Yurok (River Yurok) Digital content available
BOX 32	Pomoan
BOX 32	Excerpt, "Pomo Family" from Stephen Powers's <i>Tribes of California</i> Digital content available
BOX 32	Bo'-yah (Boya, Central Pomo) Digital content available
BOX 32	'Hram-fo/Koi-im-fo (Southeastern Pomo, Lower Lake Pomo) Digital content available
BOX 32	Kah-chi'-ah (Kashaya/Kashia, Southwestern Pomo) Digital content available
BOX 32	Kah'-tah-we chum'-mi/We-shum' tat-tah (Southern Pomo) Digital content available
BOX 32	Ki-yow'-bahch (Northern Pomo) Digital content available
BOX 33	Kulanapo/Ko-lan- nap'-po (Eastern Pomo, Clear Lake Pomo) Digital content available
BOX 33	Mah'-kah-mo chum'-mi (Makahmo, Southern Pomo) Digital content available
BOX 33	Mah'-to po'-mah (Mato, Northern Pomo) Digital content available
BOX 33	Me'-dah-kah' tum'-mi (Southern Pomo) Digital content available
BOX 33	Me-tum'-ki (Mitom, Northern Pomo) Digital content available
BOX 33	Po'-mo'-ke-chah, Potter Valley (Northern Pomo) Digital content available

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 33	Sho-ko'-ah/Shā-nel (Shokowa, Central Pomo) Digital content available
BOX 33	Sho-te'-ah/Shā-men (Northeastern Pomo) Digital content available
BOX 34	Tah'-bah-tā' (Central Pomo) Digital content available
BOX 34	Upper Lake Pomo/Hah'-nah-bahch (Eastern Pomo, Clear Lake Pomo) Digital content available
BOX 34	We'-shah' chum'-mi (Southern Pomo) Digital content available
BOX 34	Yo-ki'-ah (Yokaya, Central Pomo) Digital content available
BOX 34	Sahaptian (Ichishkin, Sahaptin/Shahaptin) <i>See Container 47, same heading</i>
BOX 34	Nez Perce (Nimi'ipuu/Niimiipuu) <i>See Container 47, same heading</i>
BOX 34	Wallawalla (Walla Walla) <i>See Container 47, same heading</i>
BOX 34	Yakima (Yakama) and Klickitat (Klikitat) <i>See Container 47, same heading</i>
BOX 34	Salish (Interior Salish) <i>See Container 47, same heading</i>
BOX 34	Shastan
BOX 34	Hah-to-ke'-he-wuk (New River Shasta) Digital content available
BOX 34	Konomeho/Ko'-no-me'-hoo (Konomihu) Digital content available
BOX 34	Okwah'noochu/O-kwahn'-noo-choo (Okwanuchu Shasta) Digital content available
BOX 34	Shaste (Shasta) and Konomeho (Konomihu) Digital content available
BOX 35	Shas'-te/Ke'-kahts (Shasta) Digital content available
BOX 35	Shoshonean (Uto-Aztecan)
BOX 35	Map, Shoshonean divisions in Southern California Digital content available
BOX 35	Akatchman (Luiseño)
BOX 35	Akatchma/Chum-pā'-wum (Luiseño) Digital content available
BOX 35	Pi-yum'-kōs/Ke'-che (Luiseño) Digital content available
BOX 35	Sobobo/Soboba (Luiseño) Digital content available
BOX 35	Cahuilla
BOX 35	Cahuilla Digital content available
BOX 35	Kah'-we-sik (Desert Cahuilla) Digital content available
BOX 35	Mahl'-ke/Wah'-ne-kik'-tem (Pass Cahuilla) Digital content available
BOX 35	Pow'-we-yam (Mountain Cahuilla) Digital content available

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 35	Comanche Digital content available
BOX 35	Hope/Ho'-pe (Hopi) Digital content available
BOX 36	Ketanamwits (Serrano)
BOX 36	Ke'-tah-nā-mwah-kum/Ke'-tan-am-moo-kum (Serrano) Digital content available
BOX 36	Ketahnawits (Serrano) and Ventura Chumash (Ventureño Chumash) Digital content available
BOX 36	Ketanamoo'kum (Serrano) Digital content available
BOX 36	Maringam/Mah'-re-am (Serrano) Digital content available
BOX 36	Yo-hah'-ve-tum (Serrano) Digital content available
BOX 36	Koopa/Koo'-pah (Kupa/Cupeño) Digital content available
BOX 36	Monache (Monachi, Western Mono)
BOX 36	Em'-tim'-bitch (Entimbich, Western Mono) Digital content available
BOX 36	Em-tim'-bitch (Entimbich) and Wuk-sā'-che (Waksachi/Wuksachi) Digital content available
BOX 36	Hoo'-doo-ge'-dah (Western Mono) Digital content available
BOX 36	Hoo'-doo-ge'-dah and To-win-che'-bah (Western Mono) Digital content available
BOX 36	Ko'-ko-he'-bah (Western Mono) Digital content available
BOX 37	Nim/Neum (Western Mono) 1 of 2 Digital content available 2 of 2 Digital content available
BOX 37	Owens Valley Monache (Eastern Mono) and Sierra Monache (Western Mono) Digital content available
BOX 37	Wo'-pon-nutch (Wobonuch, Western Mono) Digital content available
BOX 37	Wuk-sā'-che (Waksachi/Wuksachi, Western Mono) Digital content available
BOX 37	Northern Piute (Northern Paiute)
BOX 37	Excerpt, "Northern Paiute Verbs" by Gilbert Natches Digital content available
BOX 37	Bridgeport Piute (Northern Paiute) Digital content available
BOX 37	Malheur Lake Piute (Northern Paiute) Digital content available
BOX 37	Mono Lake Piute/Tu'-ne-gab'-bah (Northern Paiute) Digital content available

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 37	Owens Valley Piute (Owens Valley Paiute, Eastern Mono)
BOX 37	Piute of Big Pine (Owens Valley Paiute, Eastern Mono) Digital content available
BOX 37	Piute of Bishop (Owens Valley Paiute, Eastern Mono) Digital content available
BOX 37	Piute of Independence (Owens Valley Paiute, Eastern Mono) Digital content available
BOX 38	Piute of Lone Pine (Owens Valley Paiute, Eastern Mono) Digital content available
BOX 38	Pyramid Lake Piute (Paviotso, Northern Paiute) 1 of 4 Digital content available 2 of 4 Digital content available 3 of 4 Digital content available 4 of 4 Digital content available
BOX 38	Walker Lake Piute (Paviotso, Northern Paiute) Digital content available
BOX 38	Panamint Shoshone Digital content available
BOX 38	Shoshone (Shoshoni)
BOX 38	Bannok (Bannock) Digital content available
BOX 38	Goseute/Go'-se-ute (Goshute/Gosiute) Digital content available
BOX 39	Northern Shoshone of Fort Hall, Idaho Digital content available
BOX 39	Northern Shoshone of Nevada (Western Shoshone) Digital content available
BOX 39	Round Mountain Shoshone (Western Shoshone) Digital content available
BOX 39	Shoshone Digital content available
BOX 39	So'-so-ne (Western Shoshone) Digital content available
BOX 39	Uinta Ute/Pah'-vo-wats (Uintah Ute) Digital content available
BOX 39	Southern Piute (Southern Paiute)
BOX 39	Chemeweve, Colorado River (Chemehuevi) Digital content available
BOX 39	Chemeweve, Mara (Chemehuevi) Digital content available
BOX 39	Chemeweve, Rio Grande (Chemehuevi) Digital content available
BOX 39	Ki-vav'-vit (Kaibab Paiute, Southern Paiute) Digital content available

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 40	Mo-ă'-pă'-ri'-ats/Par-ran'-ne-gets-seu (Moapa Paiute, Southern Paiute) Digital content available
BOX 40	New-oo'-ah (Kawaiisu) Digital content available
BOX 40	Nū-vah'-ahn-dits (Las Vegas Paiute, Southern Paiute) 1 of 2 Digital content available 2 of 2 Digital content available
BOX 40	Ow'-wah-tum new-oo'-ah (Kawaiisu) Digital content available
BOX 40	Piede/Piute (Southern Paiute) Digital content available
BOX 40	Pi'-yūts Neu-wants (Southern Paiute) Digital content available
BOX 40	Siv'-vits (Shivwits Paiute, Southern Paiute) Digital content available
BOX 40	Tol'-chin'-ne (Southern Paiute) Digital content available
BOX 41	Soolahtelukan/Soo-lah'-te-luk (Wiyot) Digital content available
BOX 41	Tlohomtoi/Tlo-hōm-tah'-hoi (New River Shasta) Digital content available
BOX 41	Tongva (Gabrielino) 1 of 2 Digital content available 2 of 2 Digital content available
BOX 41	Tubotelobelan (Tubatulabal/Tūbatulabal)
BOX 41	Pahn'-kā-lă'-che (Bankalachi Tubatulabal) Digital content available
BOX 41	Pahn'-kā-lă'-che (Bankalachi Tubatulabal) and Ko-yet'-te Yo'-kut (Koyeti Yokuts) Digital content available
BOX 41	"Tūbatulabal Grammar" by C. F. Voegelin Digital content available
BOX 41	Tū-bot'-ē-lob'-e-lā (Pahkanapul/Pahkanapil, Tubatulabal) Digital content available
BOX 42	Washoo/Wah-shoo (Washo/Washoe) 1 of 3 Digital content available 2 of 3 Digital content available 3 of 3 Digital content available
BOX 42	Wintoonan (Wintuan/Wintun)
BOX 42	Chen'-po-sel (Patwin, Southern Wintuan) Digital content available

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 42	Choo-hel'-mem-sel (Patwin, Southern Wintuan) Digital content available
BOX 42	'Klet-win (Patwin, Southern Wintuan) Digital content available
BOX 42	Ko-pēh' (Patwin, Southern Wintuan) Digital content available
BOX 42	Ko'-roo (Patwin, Southern Wintuan) Digital content available
BOX 43	Ko'-ru/Ko'-roo (Patwin, Southern Wintuan) Digital content available
BOX 43	Nōm'-lik-kah/Nōm'-lak-ke (Nomlaki, Central Wintuan) Digital content available
BOX 43	Nor'-rel-muk (Wintu, Northern Wintuan) Digital content available
BOX 43	Ono Wintu (Wintu, Northern Wintuan) Digital content available
BOX 43	Poo'-e-win (Patwin, Southern Wintuan) Digital content available
BOX 43	Win (Patwin, Southern Wintuan) Digital content available
BOX 43	Wintoon, McCloud River (Wintu, Northern Wintuan) Digital content available
BOX 43	Wintoon, Trinity River (Wintu, Northern Wintuan) Digital content available
BOX 44	Yah'nah or Nōs'-se (Yana) Digital content available
BOX 44	Yokutan (Yokuts)
BOX 44	Choenimne/Cho'-e-nim'-ne (Choynimni Yokuts) Digital content available
BOX 44	Cho'-e-nim'-ne (Choynimni Yokuts) and Choki'minna (Chukaymina Yokuts) Digital content available
BOX 44	Choenimne (Choynimni Yokuts), Chokiminna (Chukaymina Yokuts), and Wiktchumne (Wikchamni/Wukchumni Yokuts) Digital content available
BOX 44	Choi-yo'-choi-ye'/Chow-chil'-lah (Chausila/Chawchila Yokuts) Digital content available
BOX 44	Choo'-nut (Chunut Yokuts) Digital content available
BOX 44	Chukchansy (Chukchansi Yokuts) Digital content available
BOX 44	Ketch'-ā'-ye (Kechayi Yokuts) Digital content available
BOX 44	Kosh-sho'-o (Gashowu Yokuts) and Chuk-chancy (Chukchansi Yokuts) Digital content available
BOX 44	Ko-yet'-te (Koyeti Yokuts) Digital content available
BOX 44	No-tu'-no-to (Nutunutu Yokuts) Digital content available

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 45	Pal-low'-yam'-me (Palewyami/Paleuyami Yokuts) Digital content available
BOX 45	Tā'-dum-ne (Telamni Yokuts) Digital content available
BOX 45	Tā'-dum'-ne (Telamni Yokuts) and Tah'-che (Tachi Yokuts) Digital content available
BOX 45	Tah'-che (Tachi Yokuts) Digital content available
BOX 45	Tallin'che (Dalinchi Yokuts) Digital content available
BOX 45	Tin'-lin-ne (Yawelmani Yokuts) Digital content available
BOX 45	Too-lol'-min (Tulamni Yokuts) Digital content available
BOX 45	Wiktchum'ne (Wikchamni/Wukchumni Yokuts) Digital content available
BOX 45	Yokut (Yokuts) Digital content available
BOX 46	Yowelmanne/Yow'-wel-man'-ne (Yawelmani Yokuts) Digital content available
BOX 46	Yow'-lan-che (Yawdanchi/Yawlanchi Yokuts) Digital content available
BOX 46	Yukean (Yukian)
BOX 46	Mi-yah'-kah-mah/Mish'-shā-wal (Wappo) Digital content available
BOX 46	Oo'-ko-ton-til'-lik-kah (Coast Yuki, Northern Yukian) Digital content available
BOX 46	Yu'ke (Yuki, Northern Yukian) Digital content available
BOX 46	Yuman
BOX 46	Coco-Maricopa (Piipaash) Digital content available
BOX 46	Havasupai Digital content available
BOX 46	Kammei/Kam'-me-i' (Kumeyaay, Diegueño) Digital content available
BOX 46	Kammei/Kam'-me-i', Colorado Desert (Kumeyaay, Diegueño) Digital content available
BOX 46	Kammei/Kam'-me-i', San Diego County (Kumeyaay, Diegueño) 1 of 2 Digital content available 2 of 2 Digital content available
BOX 47	Ko'-ko-pah (Cocopa) Digital content available
BOX 47	Kwe-tsahn' (Quechan, Yuma) Digital content available

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 47	Mohave (Mojave) Digital content available
BOX 47	Walapi/Hualpi (Walapai/Hualapai) Digital content available
BOX 47	Yuma (Quechan) Digital content available
BOX 47	Chinookan
BOX 47	Chinook Digital content available
BOX 47	Wasko Digital content available
BOX 47	Eskimoan
BOX 47	Aleut Digital content available
BOX 47	Eskimo (Inuit, Inupiaq, and/or Yupik) Digital content available
BOX 47	Kutchin (Gwich'in) Digital content available
BOX 47	Sahaptian (Ichishkin, Sahaptin/Shahaptin)
BOX 47	Nez Perce (Nimi'ipuu/Niimiipuu) Digital content available
BOX 47	Walla Walla (Walla Walla) Digital content available
BOX 47	Yakima (Yakama) and Klickitat (Klikitat) Digital content available
BOX 47	Salish (Interior Salish) Digital content available
BOX 47	Maps, Indian language groups <i>See Oversize, same heading</i>
BOX 48	Published writings
BOX 48	Nos. 1-94, 1872-1884 (7 folders)
BOX 49	Nos. 95-202, 1884-1888 (7 folders)
BOX 50	Nos. 203-269, 1888-1892 (7 folders)
BOX 51	Nos. 270-395, 1892-1897 (7 folders)
BOX 52	Nos. 396-486, 1897-1903 (6 folders)
BOX 53	Nos. 487-573, 1904-1916 (5 folders)
BOX 54	Nos. 548, 1910
BOX 54	Nos. 549, 1910
BOX 54	Nos. 574-583, 1917-1924
BOX 54	Nos. 584-627, 1917-1924
BOX 54	Nos. 608-615a, 1925-1934
BOX 55	Nos. 616-639, 1925-1934
BOX 55	Bibliography

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 55	Comments by Merriam and others regarding his biography
BOX 55	Early drafts to 1912
BOX 55	Second manifesto, 1872-1925
BOX 55	Third manifesto, 1873-1926
BOX 55	Ribbon copy, 1872-1930
BOX 56	Duplicate material, 1925-1927, of that prepared for binding by Library of Congress
BOX 56	Scientific matters, 1884-1913
BOX 56	Scientific observations and comment on a paper by Merriam
BOX 56	Mount Rainier proposed name change
BOX 56	Merriam's role and statement, 1924
BOX 56	Concerned citizens' letters to Merriam and others, 1917-1929
BOX 56	Reprints of articles, 1889-1933
BOX 57	Subject file A
BOX 57	Arizona and Grand Canyon
BOX 57	Grand Canyon
BOX 57	Colorado and District of Columbia
BOX 58	Florida and the Everglades
BOX 58	Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan
BOX 58	Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska
BOX 59	Nevada and New England
BOX 59	New Mexico and New Jersey
BOX 59	New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio
BOX 60	Oregon
	(2 folders)
BOX 61	Oregon
BOX 61	Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia
BOX 62	Washington-Mount Ranier
BOX 62	Name change proposal, 1924
BOX 62	Other
BOX 62	Washington State
BOX 63	Washington State
BOX 63	Wisconsin
BOX 63	Wyoming and Yellowstone National Park
BOX 64	Subject file B
BOX 64	Alaska
	(2 folders)
BOX 64	Canal Zone
BOX 64	Hawaii
BOX 64	Canada
BOX 64	Miscellaneous
	(3 folders)
BOX 65	Miscellaneous
BOX 65	British Columbia
	(2 folders)
BOX 65	Northwest Territories
BOX 65	Labrador

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 66	Labrador (2 folders)
BOX 66	Manitoba
BOX 66	Newfoundland (2 folders)
BOX 67	New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec
BOX 67	Ontario
BOX 67	Saskatchewan and Alberta
BOX 67	Africa and Asia
BOX 67	Albania
BOX 67	Australia
BOX 67	Bermuda
BOX 67	China
BOX 68	Cuba
BOX 68	Europe: Germany, Austria, Hungary, South Orknies
BOX 68	Greenland
BOX 68	Greece
BOX 68	Iceland
BOX 68	Japan
BOX 68	Mediterranean, physical and historical
BOX 68	Mexico
BOX 68	Miscellaneous
BOX 68	Edward W. Nelson, field notes
BOX 68	Edward L. Palmer, notes and personal letter
BOX 68	Monaco
BOX 68	Montenegro
BOX 68	New Zealand
BOX 69	Pacific islands
BOX 69	Panama
BOX 69	Russia, mainly Siberia
BOX 69	Serbia
BOX 69	South America
BOX 69	Antarctic
BOX 70	Arctic (3 folders)
BOX 70	Arctic, duplicated material in A. W. Greely Papers, boxes 96-97
BOX 71	Miscellaneous (2 folders)
BOX 71	Duplicate material
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1 REEL 9	Maps, Indian language groups Digital content available
BOX OV 2 REEL 9	Maps, Indian language groups Digital content available
BOX OV 3 REEL 9	Maps, Indian language groups Digital content available

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX OV 4 REEL 9	Maps, Indian language groups Digital content available
BOX OV 5 REEL 9	Maps, Indian language groups Digital content available
BOX OV 6 REEL 9	Maps, Indian language groups Digital content available