# John Willis, Photographs of Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and the Mexican-American Border Region 

## WA Photos Folio 213


by Matthew Daniel Mason
April 2021
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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview ..... 3
Requesting Instructions ..... 3
Administrative Information ..... 3
Immediate Source of Acquisition ..... 3
Conditions Governing Access ..... 4
Preferred Citation ..... 4
Processing Information ..... 4
John Willis (born 1957) ..... 4
Description of Photographs ..... 4
Arrangement ..... 5
Collection Contents ..... 6
Inkjet Prints, $13 \times 19$ inches ( $32.8 \times 48.2$ centimeters), 2018 ..... 6
South Dakota ..... 6
Black Hills ..... 6
Interior ..... 6
Manderson ..... 6
Pine Ridge Indian Reservation ..... 6
Pine Ridge ..... 6
Fourth of July ..... 6
Red Cloud Indian School ..... 7
Sites ..... 7
Portraits ..... 7
Sharps Corner ..... 8
Rapid City ..... 8
Mexican-American Border Region ..... 8
Ambos Nogales ..... 8
Big Bend National Park, Texas ..... 8
Boquillas del Carmen, Mexico ..... 8
Terlingua, Texas ..... 9
Inkjet Prints, $24 \times 31$ inches ( $61 \times 78.7$ centimeters), 2019 ..... 10
Nebraska and North Dakota ..... 10
Dakota Access Pipeline Protest Camp Sites, North Dakota ..... 10
Lake Oahe, North Dakota ..... 10
Whiteclay, Nebraska ..... 10
South Dakota ..... 10
Pine Ridge Indian Reservation ..... 10
Batesland ..... 11
Kyle ..... 11
Potato Creek ..... 11
South Dakota State Capitol at Pierre ..... 11
Mexican-American Border Region ..... 12
Boquillas del Carmen, Mexico ..... 12
El Paso, Texas ..... 12
Nogales, Mexico ..... 13
Terlingua, Texas ..... 13
Selected Search Terms ..... 14

## Collection Overview

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    REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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    New Haven, CT 06520-8330
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    CALL NUMBER: WA Photos Folio 213
    CREATOR: Willis, John, 1957-, photographer
        TITLE: Photographs of Nebraska, North Dakota,South Dakota and the Mexican-
            American Border Region
            DATES: 2018-2019
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 6 linear feet (3 boxes)
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 58 broadsides
    LANGUAGE: English
    SUMMARY: Photographs created by John Willis and printed as 98 inkjet color prints
        that document sites chiefly at South Dakota and the Mexican-American
        Border Region as well as Nebraska and North Dakota in 2018-2019, although
        predominantly in 2019.
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            hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.willissdborder
    
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To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/ beinecke.willissdborder.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:
b. box
f. folder

## Administrative Information

## Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from John Willis on the Walter McClintock Memorial Fund, 2020.

## Conditions Governing Access

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## Preferred Citation

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## Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit. These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Beinecke Manuscript Unit Processing Manual.

Many discrete images share the same title throughout the collection.
Titled, signed, and dated by the photographer on versos of prints.
Titles in this guide are from the inscriptions by the photographer on versos of prints.
Each folder in the collection contains a single inkjet print.

## John Willis (born 1957)

John Willis is a documentary photographer and emeriti professor of photography at Marlboro College in Marlboro, Vermont. His monographs include Recycled Realities, co-authored with Tom Young (Center for American Places, 2002), Views from the Reservation (Center for American Places, 2010), and Mni Wiconi Water Is Life Honoring the Water Protectors at Standing Rock and Everywhere in the Ongoing Struggle for Indigenous Sovereignty (Staunton, Virginia: George F. Thompson Publishing, 2019). Willis has photographs in the permanent collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, among others. He is also a co-founder with Bill Ledger of the InSight Photography Project, a photography outreach project to youth in Brattleboro, Vermont.

## Description of Photographs

Photographs created by John Willis and printed as 98 inkjet color prints that document sites chiefly at South Dakota and the Mexican-American Border Region as well as Nebraska and North Dakota in 2018-2019, although predominantly in 2019.

Images at South Dakota principally relate to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation including the communities of Batesland, Kyle, Pine Ridge, Potato Creek, and Sharps Corner as well as other sites at South Dakota including the Black Hills, Interior, Manderson, Pierre, and Rapid City.

Events documented at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation include a fireworks celebration for the Fourth of July and a prairie fire at Pine Ridge, an automobile show at Kyle, and a powwow at Batesland. Portraits of Pine Ridge Indian Reservation residents include Duane Reddest, Emma Waters, Kathy Waters, and Thomas C. Casey, also known as Crash. Images at Pierre consist of interior views of the South Dakota State Capitol.

Images at the Mexican-American Border Region includes views of immigrants and settlements at Ambos Nogales (Spanish for "both Nogales"), which encompasses the two adjoining border cities of Nogales, Arizona, and Nogales, Sonora, as well as Boquillas del Carmen in Mexico and Big Bend National Park and Terlingua in Texas. A group of images document floral tributes to victims of a mass shooting on August 3, 2019, which were left at the site of the tragedy at the Cielo Vista Walmart in El Paso, Texas.

Images at North Dakota include a view of Lake Oahe as well as views of former camp sites near Cannon Ball, North Dakota, and at the eastern edge of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation for activists protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL).

Images at Nebraska document the site of the Whiteclay Makerspace, a planned community workspace in a repurposed liquor store at Whiteclay as well as a view of a Family Dollar store.

## Arrangement

Organized into two series: I. Inkjet Prints, $13 \times 19$ inches ( $32.8 \times 48.2$ centimeters), 2018-2019. Inkjet Prints, $24 \times 31$ inches ( $61 \times 78.7$ centimeters), 2019.

## Collection Contents

## Inkjet Prints, $13 \times 19$ inches ( $32.8 \times 48.2$ centimeters), 2018

6 linear feet (3 boxes)

Series I is organized under two headings: South Dakota and Mexican-American Border Region.

## South Dakota

Organized under five headings: Black Hills, Interior, Manderson, Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, and Rapid City.

Black Hills
Arranged alphabetically.
b. 1, f. 1
b. 1, f. 2
b. 1, f. 3
b. 1, f. 4
b. 1, f. 5
b. 1, f. 6
b. 1, f. 7
b. 1, f. 8
b. 1, f. 9
b. 1, f. 10
b. 1, f. 11

Cascade Falls Swimming Area, Black Hills, South Dakota
Fort Welikit Campground, Black Hills, Custer, South Dakota
Identified by photographer as the Fort ULikIt Campground
Interior
Cowboy Corner Gas Station, Interior, South Dakota, Small Border Town of Pine Ridge Reservation

Manderson
Morning After Cyclone Bomb Storm, Manderson, South Dakota
Morning After Cyclone Bomb Storm, Manderson, South Dakota
2019 March
2019 March

Pine Ridge Indian Reservation
Organized under four headings: Pine Ridge and Sharps Corner
Pine Ridge
Organized under four headings: Fourth of July, Red Cloud Indian School, Sites, and Portraits

Fourth of July
Arranged alphabetically.
Dean's Fireworks Staff, Light the Midnight Show, Pine Ridge, 2019 July 4 South Dakota, Number 1

Dean's Fireworks Staff, Light the Midnight Show, Pine Ridge, 2019 July 4 South Dakota, Number 2

Dean's Fireworks Staff, Light the Midnight Show, Pine Ridge, 2019 July 4 South Dakota, Number 3

Midnight Fireworks in the Street, Pine Ridge, South Dakota 2019 July 4
Outside Yellow Bird's Store Watching the Midnight 2019 July 4 Fireworks Display in the Road, July Fourth

Outside Yellow Bird's Store, Midnight Fireworks Show in the 2019 July 4 Street, Pine Ridge, South Dakota
South Dakota > Pine Ridge Indian Reservation > Pine Ridge > Fourth of July (continued)

| b. 1, f. 12 | Watching Fireworks Outside Yellow Bird's Store, Fourth of July, Pine Ridge, South Dakota | 2019 July 4 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| b. 1, f. 13 | Watching the Midnight Fireworks Out Front of Yellow Bird's Store, Pine Ridge, South Dakota | 2019 July 4 |
| b. 1, f. 14 | Watching the Midnight Fireworks Show Out Front of Yellow Bird's Store, Pine Ridge, South Dakota | 2019 July 4 |
| b. 1, f. 15 | Yellow Bird's Store Parking Lot, Midnight, Fourth of July, Pine Ridge, South Dakota | 2019 July 4 |
|  | Red Cloud Indian School |  |
|  | The Red Cloud Indian School is a private, Roman Catholic school at Pine Ridge, South Dakota, that serves Oglala Lakota Native American children on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The school was founded in 1888 as Holy Rosary Mission by the Jesuits and Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity at the request of Red Cloud (Lakota: Ma\#píya Lúta) (1822-1909). In 1969, Holy Rosary Mission was officially renamed Red Cloud Indian School. |  |
|  | Arranged alphabetically. |  |
| b. 2, f. 16 | Holy Rosary Mission Boarding School, Now the Red Cloud Indian School, Pine Ridge, South Dakota | 2019 |
| b. 2, f. 17 | Holy Rosary Mission, Red Cloud Indian School, Pine Ridge, South Dakota | 2019 |
| b. 2, f. 18 | Red Cloud Indian School, Heritage Center, Selfie Room | 2018 |
|  | Sites |  |
|  | Arranged alphabetically. |  |
| b. 2, f. 19 | Pine Ridge Prairie Fire, Number 1 of 3 | 2019 |
| b. 2, f. 20 | Pine Ridge Prairie Fire, Number 2 of 3 | 2019 |
| b. 2, f. 21 | Pine Ridge Prairie Fire, Number 3 of 3 | 2019 |
| b. 2, f. 22 | United States Post Office Door, Pine Ridge, South Dakota | 2018 |
|  | Portraits |  |
|  | Arranged alphabetically. |  |
| b. 2, f. 23 | Duane Reddest Talking to Tim Kelley, Lost Dog Creek, South Dakota | 2019 |
| b. 2, f. 24 | Duane Reddest Telling Stories of his Boarding School Experiences | 2019 |
| b. 2, f. 25 | Duane Reddest Telling Tales from his Boarding School Days | 2019 |
| b. 2, f. 26 | Emma and Kathy Waters, Pine Ridge, South Dakota | 2019 |
| b. 2, f. 27 | Emma Waters, Pine Ridge, South Dakota | 2019 |

> South Dakota > Pine Ridge Indian Reservation > Pine Ridge > Portraits (continued)
b. 2, f. 28
b. 2, f. 29
b. 2, f. 30
b. 3 , f. 31
b. 3, f. 32
b. 3, f. 33
b. 3 , f. 34
b. 3, f. 35
b. 3, f. 36
b. 3, f. 37

## Tom (Crash) Casey, Station Manager and Founding Member 2019 of KILI Radio (Still Working Out of his Home, even with Multiple Sclerosis) <br> Verso of print includes a description of KILI Radio, a nonprofit radio station broadcasting to the Lakota on the Pine Ridge, Cheyenne River, and Rosebud Indian Reservations, part of the Great Sioux Nation

## Sharps Corner

Selling Sage to Tourists, Sharps Corner, Pine Ridge Reservation,
South Dakota

NDN Land, Art Alley, Rapid City, South Dakota
2018

## Mexican-American Border Region

Organized under four headings: Ambos Nogales, Big Bend National Park, Texas, Boquillas del Carmen, Mexico, and Terlingua, Texas.

## Ambos Nogales

Ambos Nogales (Spanish for "both Nogales") refers to the two adjoining border cities of Nogales, Arizona, United States, and Nogales, Sonora, Mexico.

Arranged alphabetically.
Border Entry, Nogales, Mexico 2019

Portrait of Young Mexican Boy who had been Killed by United States of 2019 America Border Patrol while in Mexico for Throwing a Stone, Nogales, Mexico
Portrait in image depicts José Antonio Elena Rodríguez, 1996-2012
United States Mexican Border, Nogales, Arizona
Inscription on verso erroneously identifies the site as Nogales, Texas
Big Bend National Park, Texas
Arranged alphabetically.
United States Mexican Border, Boquillas, Mexico, and Big Bend National 2019 Park, Texas, Number 1 of 3

United States Mexican Border, Boquillas, Mexico, and Big Bend National 2019
Park, Texas, Number 2 of 3
United States Mexican Border, Boquillas, Mexico, and Big Bend National 2019
Park, Texas, Number 3 of 3
Verso of print includes a description of Boquillas by the photographer
Boquillas del Carmen, Mexico
In a Café, Boquillas, Mexico, a Small Border Town with Little Access to
2019
Supplies in Mexico

Mexican-American Border Region (continued)

| b. 3, f. 38 | Ghost Town's Graveyard, Terlingua, Texas | 2019 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| b. 3, f. 39 | Ghost Town's Graveyard, Terlingua, Texas | 2019 |
| b. 3, f. 40 | Graveyard, Ghost Town, Terlingua, Texas | 2019 |

## Inkjet Prints, $24 \times 31$ inches ( $61 \times 78.7$ centimeters), 2019

## 58 broadsides

Organized under four headings: Nebraska and North Dakota, South Dakota, and Mexican-American Border Region.


## South Dakota

Organized under two headings: Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and South Dakota State Capitol at Pierre.

Pine Ridge Indian Reservation
Organized under three headings: Batesland, Kyle, and Potato Creek

> South Dakota > Pine Ridge Indian Reservation (continued)

| b. 14 (Broadside) | Batesland Powwow Grounds Before the Storm | 2019 July 5-7 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| b. 15 (Broadside) | Entering the Arbor, Grand Entry, Batesland Powwow | 2019 July 5-7 |
| b. 16 (Broadside) | Honor Guard Preparing for Grand Entry, Batesland Powwow | 2019 July 5-7 |
| b. 17 (Broadside) | Lining Up for the Grand Entry, Batesland Powwow | 2019 July 5-7 |
| b. 18 (Broadside) | Kyle |  |
|  | Arranged alphabetically. |  |
|  | Fourth of July Car Show, Pine Ridge Reservation, Kyle, South Dakota | 2019 July 4 |
| b. 19 (Broadside) | Fourth of July Car Show, Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota | 2019 July 4 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { b. } 20 \\ & \text { (Broadside) } \end{aligned}$ | One Example of the Increasingly Extreme Weather Patterns, the Beginning of the Hailstorm, Which Caused Thousands of Dollars Damage to My Rental Car, Kyle, South Dakota, Pine Ridge Reservation | 2019 |
| b. 21 (Broadside) | Potato Creek |  |
|  | Passing Storm, Potato Creek | 2019 |
| b. 22 (Broadside) | South Dakota State Capitol at Pierre |  |
|  | Interior views of the South Dakota State Capitol on the day of a water use permit hearing for the Keystone XL (Export Limited) Pipeline in July 2019. |  |
|  | Arranged alphabetically. |  |
|  | South Dakota State Capitol Building, Pierre, South Dakota, Day of Keystone XL (Export Limited) Pipeline Water Use Hearing | 2019 July |
|  | Documents a view of a statue of W. H. H. (William Henry Harrison) Beadle, 1838-1915, created in 1911 by H. Daniel (Harry Daniel) Webster, 1880-1912 |  |
| b. 23 (Broadside) | South Dakota State Capitol Building, Pierre, South Dakota, Day of Keystone XL (Export Limited) Pipeline Water Use Permit Hearing | 2019 July |
| b. 24 (Broadside) | South Dakota State Capitol Building, Pierre, South Dakota, Day of Keystone XL (Export Limited) Pipeline Water Use Permit Hearing | 2019 July |
| b. 25 (Broadside) | South Dakota State Capitol Building, Pierre, South Dakota, Day of Keystone XL (Export Limited) Pipeline Water Use Permit Hearing | 2019 July |
| b. 26 (Broadside) | South Dakota State Capitol Building, Pierre, South Dakota, Day of Keystone XL (Export Limited) Pipeline Water Use Permit Hearing | 2019 July |
|  | Documents a view of a statue of W. H. H. (William Henry Harrison) Beadle, 1838-1915, created in 1911 by H. Daniel (Harry Daniel) Webster, 1880-1912 |  |

South Dakota > South Dakota State Capitol at Pierre (continued)


Mexican-American Border Region > El Paso, Texas (continued)

| b. 46 (Broadside) | Flowers, El Paso, Texas | 2019 August |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| b. 47 (Broadside) | Flowers, El Paso, Texas | 2019 August |
| b. 48 <br> (Broadside) | Flowers, El Paso, Texas | 2019 August |
| b. 49 (Broadside) | Flowers, El Paso, Texas | 2019 August |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { b. } 50 \\ & \text { (Broadside) } \end{aligned}$ | Flowers, El Paso, Texas | 2019 August |
| b. 51 (Broadside) | Flowers, El Paso, Texas | 2019 August |
| b. 52 (Broadside) | Flowers, El Paso, Texas | 2019 August |
| b. 53 (Broadside) | Flowers, El Paso, Texas | 2019 August |
|  | ales, Mexico nged alphabetically. |  |
| b. 54 (Broadside) | Basketball Hoop Mounted on United States Border Wall, Nogales, Mexico <br> Basketball hoop installed by the Golden Nets Project founded by Jeremy John Kaplan to replace deteriorating and missing nets with gold-spray-painted nets | 2019 |
| b. 55 (Broadside) | United States Mexico Border Wall | 2019 |
| b. 56 (Broadside) | Border Wall, Nogales, Mexico, with Portrait of Martyred Teenager who was Shot by United States Border Patrol while in Mexico Portrait in image depicts José Antonio Elena Rodríguez, 1996-2012 | 2019 |
| b. 57 (Broadside) | United States Mexico Border Wall, and Portrait of Martyred Mexican Boy Killed by United States Border Patrol while in Mexico, Nogales, Mexico <br> Portrait in image depicts José Antonio Elena Rodríguez, 1996-2012 | 2019 |
| b. 58 (Broadside) | United States Mexico Border Wall, Nogales, Mexico | 2019 |
| b. 59 (Broadside) | Arizona, Mexico Border Wall, Nogales Arizona, Nogales, Mexico | 2019 |
|  | ngua, Texas nged alphabetically. |  |
| b. 60 <br> (Broadside) | Terlingua, Texas, on Edge of Big Bend National Park | 2019 |
| b. 61 (Broadside) | Trailer Park, Terlingua, Texas, on Edge of Big Bend National Park | 2019 |

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

## Subjects

Fourth of July -- South Dakota -- Pine Ridge --
Pictorial works
Immigrants -- Mexican-American Border
Region -- Pictorial works
Indians of North America -- Pictorial works
Indians of North America -- Portraits
Protest camps -- North Dakota -- Pictorial
works

## Geographic Names

Arizona -- Pictorial works
Batesland (S.D.) -- Pictorial works
Big Bend National Park (Tex.) -- Pictorial works
Black Hills (S.D. and Wyo.) -- Pictorial works
Dakota Access Pipeline -- Pictorial works
El Paso (Tex.) -- Pictorial works
Interior (S.D.) -- Pictorial works
Kyle (S.D.) -- Pictorial works
Manderson (S.D.) -- Pictorial works
Mexican-American Border Region -- Pictorial works
Mexico -- Pictorial works
Nebraska -- Pictorial works
North Dakota -- Pictorial works
Oahe, Lake (S.D. and N.D.) -- Pictorial works
Pierre (S.D.) -- Pictorial works
Pine Ridge (S.D.) -- Pictorial works
Pine Ridge Indian Reservation (S.D.) -- Pictorial
works
Potato Creek (S.D.) -- Pictorial works
South Dakota -- Pictorial works
Standing Rock Indian Reservation (N.D. and
S.D.) -- Pictorial works

Texas -- Pictorial works

## Genres / Formats

Inkjet prints
Photographic prints
Photographs

## Acquired From

John Willis , photographer

