

# **Guide to the John Willis Photographs of Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and South Dakota**

**WA Photos Folio 219**



Sarah Lerner

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** WA Photos Folio 219

**CREATOR:** Willis, John, 1957- , photographer

**TITLE:** Photographs of Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and South Dakota

**DATES:** 2015-2016

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 14 linear feet (7 boxes) + 9 broadsides

**LANGUAGE:** Inscriptions in English.

**SUMMARY:** Inkjet prints of photographs by John Willis that document sites and persons at Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and in South Dakota, 2015-2016. Identified locations include Batesland, Black Hills, Kyle, Lost Dog Creek, Manderson, Mount Rushmore, Oglala, Porcupine, Potato Creek, Red Shirt Table, Slim Buttes, Wanblee, and Wounded Knee.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.willispineridgesd>

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## Requesting Instructions

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.willispineridgesd>.

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](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.        box  
f.        folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from John Willis on the Walter McClintock Memorial Fund, 2016.

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### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

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## Preferred Citation

John Willis, Photographs of Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and South Dakota. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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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.

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## John Willis (born 1957)

John Willis is a documentary photographer and emeritus 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 In-Sight Photography Project, a photography outreach project to youth in Brattleboro, Vermont.

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## Scope and Contents

Inkjet prints of photographs by John Willis that document sites and persons at Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and in South Dakota, 2015-2016. Identified locations include Batesland, Black Hills, Kyle, Lost Dog Creek, Manderson, Mount Rushmore, Oglala, Porcupine, Potato Creek, Red Shirt Table, Slim Buttes, Wanblee, and Wounded Knee.

Individual prints are 13 x 19 inches (32.8 x 48.2 centimeters) and 24 x 31 inches (61 x 78.7 centimeters). Titled, signed, and dated by the photographer on versos of prints.

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## Arrangement

Organized into two series: I. Photographs from Unidentified Locations within Pine Ridge Reservation and South Dakota, 2015-2016. II. Photographs from Identified Locations within Pine Ridge Reservation and South Dakota, 2015-2016.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Photographs from Unidentified Locations within Pine Ridge Reservation and South Dakota, 2015-2016

Series I contains photographs taken by John Willis of unidentified locations within Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and South Dakota.

Series I is arranged chronologically and then alphabetically by caption title.

|   |      |
|---|------|
| b. 1 (Oversize), f. <i>Cooling off in the Horse Bucket</i><br>1   | 2015 |
| b. 1 (Oversize), f. <i>Craftsman Red Shirt Table</i><br>2   | 2015 |
| b. 1 (Oversize), f. <i>Davis Yellow Bull</i><br>3   | 2015 |
| b. 1 (Oversize), f. <i>Davis Yellow Bull Cooling off in the Horses Watering Trough</i><br>4               | 2015 |
| b. 1 (Oversize), f. <i>Delores Yellow Bull</i><br>5   | 2015 |
| b. 1 (Oversize), f. <i>Delores Yellow Bull a Few Months before She Passed Over</i><br>6                   | 2015 |
| b. 1 (Oversize), f. <i>Kevin Poor Bear Lakota Artist</i><br>7   | 2015 |
| b. 1 (Oversize), f. <i>Kevin Poor Bear's Wife Making a Dancing Shawl</i><br>8                             | 2015 |
| b. 1 (Oversize), f. <i>Midnite 4th of July Celebration</i><br>9   | 2015 |
| b. 1 (Oversize), f. <i>Yellow Bull Family Kitchen, a Passed on Katrina Trailer from New Orleans</i><br>10 | 2015 |
| b. 1 (Oversize), f. <i>Abandoned Lakota Motel</i><br>11   | 2016 |
| b. 1 (Oversize), f. <i>Abandoned Lakota Motel</i><br>12   | 2016 |
| b. 1 (Oversize), f. <i>Abandoned Lakota Motel</i><br>13   | 2016 |
| b. 1 (Oversize), f. <i>Abandoned Lakota Motel</i><br>14   | 2016 |
| b. 2 (Oversize), f. <i>Santana Little Spotted Horse Miss Lakota Nation</i><br>15                          | 2016 |
| b. 2 (Oversize), f. <i>Santana Little Spotted Horse Miss Lakota Nation</i><br>16                          | 2016 |

b. 2 (Oversize), f. *Yvonne (Tiny) DeCory*  
17

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2016

## Series II: Photographs from Identified Locations within Pine Ridge Reservation and South Dakota, 2015-2016

Series II contains photographs taken by John Willis of Batesland, Black Hills, Kyle, Lost Dog Creek, Manderson, Mount Rushmore, Oglala, Porcupine, Potato Creek, Red Shirt Table, Slim Buttes, Wanblee, and Wounded Knee.

Series II is arranged alphabetically by identified locations within Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and South Dakota.

|                        |  |      |
|------------------------|--|------|
| Batesland              |  |      |
| b. 2 (Oversize), f. 18 | <i>Mercedes Little Spirited Horse 4th of July Pow Wow</i>                              | 2015 |
| Black Hills            |  |      |
| b. 2 (Oversize), f. 19 | <i>Harney Peak</i>   | 2015 |
| b. 2 (Oversize), f. 20 | <i>Harney Peak</i>   | 2015 |
| b. 8 (Broadside)       | <i>Mountain Pine Beetle Damage, Harney Peak, Hinhan Kaga as Named by Lakota People</i> | 2015 |
| b. 2 (Oversize), f. 21 | <i>Mountain Pine Beetle Destruction</i>  | 2015 |
| b. 2 (Oversize), f. 22 | <i>Mountain Pine Beetle Destruction</i>  | 2015 |
| b. 2 (Oversize), f. 23 | <i>Mountain Pine Beetle Destruction</i>  | 2015 |
| Kyle                   |  |      |
| b. 2 (Oversize), f. 24 | <i>Genevieve Holding Pow Wow Photo of Herself</i>                                      | 2016 |
| b. 2 (Oversize), f. 25 | <i>Genevieve on Her Bed in Trailer Home Telling of Financial Difficulties</i>          | 2016 |
| b. 2 (Oversize), f. 26 | <i>Genevieve Three Mile Creek Rd</i>   | 2016 |
| b. 2 (Oversize), f. 27 | <i>Little Wound High School</i>  | 2016 |
| b. 2 (Oversize), f. 28 | <i>Little Wound High School</i>  | 2016 |
| b. 2 (Oversize), f. 29 | <i>Little Wound High School Science Class</i>  | 2016 |
| b. 3 (Oversize), f. 30 | <i>Little Wound School</i>   | 2016 |

Kyle (continued)

|                           |   |      |
|---------------------------|---|------|
| b. 3 (Oversize), f.<br>31 | <i>Little Wound School Elementary Hall Way</i>    | 2016 |
| b. 3 (Oversize), f.<br>32 | <i>Little Wound School High School</i>            | 2016 |
| Lost Dog Creek            |   |      |
| b. 3 (Oversize), f.<br>33 | <i>Cleveland Reddest's Scrapbook</i>              | 2015 |
| b. 3 (Oversize), f.<br>34 | <i>Cleveland Reddest's Scrapbook</i>              | 2015 |
| b. 3 (Oversize), f.<br>35 | <i>Cleveland Reddest's Scrapbook</i>              | 2015 |
| b. 3 (Oversize), f.<br>36 | <i>Cleveland Reddest's Scrapbook</i>              | 2015 |
| b. 3 (Oversize), f.<br>37 | <i>Cleveland Reddest's Scrapbook</i>              | 2015 |
| b. 3 (Oversize), f.<br>38 | [Cleveland Reddest's Scrapbook]                   | 2015 |
| Manderson                 |   |      |
| b. 3 (Oversize), f.<br>39 | <i>Abandoned Church</i>                           | 2016 |
| b. 3 (Oversize), f.<br>40 | [Clothesline]                                     | 2016 |
| b. 9 (Broadside)          | <i>Farmer's Silo</i>                              | 2016 |
| b. 10 (Broadside)         | <i>Farmer's Silo Remains</i>                      | 2016 |
| b. 11 (Broadside)         | <i>Farmer's Silo Remains</i>                      | 2016 |
| b. 12 (Broadside)         | <i>Farmer's Silo Remains</i>                      | 2016 |
| b. 3 (Oversize), f.<br>41 | <i>Heading Out to Feed the Horses, March Snow</i> | 2016 |
| b. 3 (Oversize), f.<br>42 | <i>March Morning, Singing Horse Trading Post</i>  | 2016 |
| b. 3 (Oversize), f.<br>43 | <i>HC49 March Storm</i>                           | 2016 |
| b. 3 (Oversize), f.<br>44 | <i>Morning Feed March Snow</i>                    | 2016 |
| b. 4 (Oversize), f.<br>45 | <i>Singing Horse Trading Post, Number 1 of 2</i>  | 2016 |
| b. 4 (Oversize), f.<br>46 | <i>Singing Horse Trading Post, Number 2 of 2</i>  | 2016 |



Manderson (continued)

|                           |  |        |
|---------------------------|--|--------|
| b. 13 (Broadside)         | <i>Singing Horse Trading Post, Rosie's Dog "Buffalo," Number 1 of 2<br/>Left panel</i>         | 2016   |
| b. 14 (Broadside)         | <i>Singing Horse Trading Post, March Storm, Number 2 of 2<br/>Right panel</i>                  | 2016   |
| b. 4 (Oversize), f.<br>47 | <i>Spring Snow</i>   | 2016   |
| b. 4 (Oversize), f.<br>48 | [Spring snow with horses]  | 2016   |
| Mount Rushmore            |  |        |
| b. 4 (Oversize), f.<br>49 | <i>Mennonites Visiting National Monument</i>   | 2015   |
| Oglala                    |  |        |
| b. 15 (Broadside)         | <i>Baptist Church "Bible Thumper" Impromptu Prayer Service and Concert,<br/>Oglala Housing</i> | 2015   |
| b. 4 (Oversize), f.<br>50 | <i>Christian Ministries Playground</i>   | 2015   |
| b. 4 (Oversize), f.<br>51 | <i>Christian Ministries Playground</i>   | [2015] |
| b. 4 (Oversize), f.<br>52 | <i>Christian Missionaries</i>  | 2015   |
| b. 16 (Broadside)         | <i>Helping Hands Ministries</i>  | 2015   |
| b. 4 (Oversize), f.<br>53 | <i>Master's Hands Christian Missionaries</i>   | 2015   |
| b. 4 (Oversize), f.<br>54 | [Portrait of two people]   | 2015   |
| b. 4 (Oversize), f.<br>55 | <i>Watching Christian Missionaries Concert</i>   | 2015   |
| b. 4 (Oversize), f.<br>56 | <i>Yard Sale</i>   | 2015   |
| b. 4 (Oversize), f.<br>57 | <i>Yellow Bull Family Reunion</i>  | 2015   |
| b. 4 (Oversize), f.<br>58 | <i>Yellow Bull Family Reunion</i>  | 2015   |
| b. 4 (Oversize), f.<br>59 | <i>Yellow Bull Family Reunion</i>  | 2015   |
| b. 5 (Oversize), f.<br>60 | <i>Yellow Bull Family Reunion</i>  | 2015   |
| b. 5 (Oversize), f.<br>61 | <i>Yellow Bull Family Reunion</i>  | 2015   |

Porcupine

|                           |  |      |
|---------------------------|--|------|
| b. 5 (Oversize), f.<br>62 | <i>Lakota Menonite Church</i>              | 2015 |
| b. 5 (Oversize), f.<br>63 | <i>Porcupine Presbyterian Church</i>       | 2015 |
| b. 5 (Oversize), f.<br>64 | <i>Sundance Grounds After the Ceremony</i> | 2015 |
| b. 5 (Oversize), f.<br>65 | <i>Tom (Crash) Casey</i>                   | 2015 |
| b. 5 (Oversize), f.<br>66 | <i>Verola Spider, Number 1 of 4</i>        | 2016 |
| b. 5 (Oversize), f.<br>67 | <i>Verola Spider, Number 2 of 4</i>        | 2016 |
| b. 5 (Oversize), f.<br>68 | <i>Verola Spider, Number 3 of 4</i>        | 2016 |
| b. 5 (Oversize), f.<br>69 | <i>Verola Spider, Number 4 of 4</i>        | 2016 |
| b. 5 (Oversize), f.<br>70 | <i>Verola Spider</i>                       | 2016 |

Potato Creek

|                           |   |      |
|---------------------------|---|------|
| b. 5 (Oversize), f.<br>71 | <i>Andrea Marshall with Great Grandson Kayden, Number 1 of 3</i>    | 2016 |
| b. 5 (Oversize), f.<br>72 | <i>Andrea Marshall with Great Grandson Kayden, Number 2 of 3</i>    | 2016 |
| b. 5 (Oversize), f.<br>73 | <i>Andrea Marshall with Great Grandson Kayden, Number 3 of 3</i>    | 2016 |
| b. 6 (Oversize), f.<br>74 | <i>Charlyn and Adelita with Their Newly Adopted Son Kayeden</i>     | 2016 |
| b. 5 (Oversize), f.<br>75 | <i>Charlyn Bull Bear and Adelita with Newly Adopted Son Kayeden</i> | 2016 |
| b. 6 (Oversize), f.<br>76 | <i>Flora Bull Bear with Kayeden</i>                                 | 2016 |
| b. 6 (Oversize), f.<br>77 | <i>Kayeden</i>  | 2016 |
| b. 6 (Oversize), f.<br>78 | [Telephone lines and sports net]                                    | 2016 |

Red Shirt Table

|                           |                          |      |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------|
| b. 6 (Oversize), f.<br>79 | <i>Angel and Michael</i> | 2016 |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------|

Red Shirt Table (continued)

|                           |  |      |
|---------------------------|--|------|
| b. 6 (Oversize), f.<br>80 | <i>Angel Spider</i>                                      | 2016 |
| b. 6 (Oversize), f.<br>81 | <i>Angel Spider and Michael Two Bulls</i>                | 2016 |
| b. 6 (Oversize), f.<br>82 | <i>Angel Spider and Michael Two Bulls</i>                | 2016 |
| b. 6 (Oversize), f.<br>83 | <i>Angel Spider and Michael Two Bulls</i>                | 2016 |
| b. 6 (Oversize), f.<br>84 | <i>Angel Spider and Michael Two Bulls</i>                | 2016 |
| b. 6 (Oversize), f.<br>85 | <i>Family Portrait with Fry Bread</i>                    | 2016 |
| b. 6 (Oversize), f.<br>86 | <i>Family Portrait with Fry Bread</i>                    | 2016 |
| b. 6 (Oversize), f.<br>87 | <i>Lakota Wedding Traditional/Christian Mix</i>          | 2016 |
| b. 6 (Oversize), f.<br>88 | <i>Spider/Two Bulls Wedding</i>                          | 2016 |
| b. 6 (Oversize), f.<br>89 | <i>Spider/Two Bulls Wedding</i>                          | 2016 |
| b. 7 (Oversize), f.<br>90 | <i>Spider/Two Bulls Wedding Day</i>                      | 2016 |
| b. 7 (Oversize), f.<br>91 | <i>Traditional Side of the Wedding</i>                   | 2016 |
| b. 7 (Oversize), f.<br>92 | <i>Verola Spider with Daughter Angel</i>                 | 2016 |
| Slim Buttes               |  |      |
| b. 7 (Oversize), f.<br>93 | <i>Eagle Medicine Sundance Grounds Welcome Sign</i>      | 2015 |
| b. 7 (Oversize), f.<br>94 | <i>Restoration Church</i>                                | 2015 |
| b. 7 (Oversize), f.<br>95 | [Sundance sign]  | 2015 |
| b. 7 (Oversize), f.<br>96 | <i>Sundance Welcome Sign</i>                             | 2015 |
| Wanblee                   |  |      |
| b. 7 (Oversize), f.<br>97 | <i>Monument for Those Who Served, Crazy Horse School</i> | 2015 |
| Wounded Knee              |  |      |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Series II: Photographs from Identified<br>Locations within Pine Ridge Reservation and<br>South Dakota | Photographs of Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and South Dakota<br>WA Photos Folio 219 |
| Wounded Knee (continued)  |  |
| b. 7 (Oversize), f.<br>98   | [Tree in a field at Wounded Knee] 2015   |

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## **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.

### **Genres / Formats**

Inkjet prints  
Photographic prints  
Photographs

### **Geographic Names**

Batesland (S.D.) -- Pictorial works  
Black Hills (S.D. and Wyo.) -- Pictorial works  
Kyle (S.D.) -- Pictorial works  
Manderson (S.D.) -- Pictorial works  
Mount Rushmore National Memorial (S.D.) --  
Pictorial works  
Oglala (S.D.) -- Pictorial works  
Oglala Sioux Tribe -- Pictorial works  
Pine Ridge Indian Reservation (S.D.) -- Pictorial  
works  
Porcupine (S.D.) -- Pictorial works  
Potato Creek (S.D.) -- Pictorial works  
Slim Buttes (S.D.) -- Pictorial works  
South Dakota -- Pictorial works  
Wanblee (S.D.) -- Pictorial works  
Wounded Knee (S.D.) -- Pictorial works

### **Subjects**

Indians of North America -- South Dakota --  
Pictorial works  
Indians of North America -- South Dakota --  
Pine Ridge Indian Reservation -- Pictorial works  
Indians of North America -- South Dakota --  
Pine Ridge Indian Reservation -- Portraits  
Indians of North America -- South Dakota --  
Portraits  
Oglala Indians -- Portraits

### **Acquired From**

John Willis , photographer