

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Learning Lagniappe: Educator Extras

Stewart Photograph Collection

PI/1992.0006

http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/series/stewart

The collection consists of 258 black-and-white images from prints of glass plate negatives created by amateur photographers (and brothers) Robert Livingston Stewart and William Percy Stewart of Natchez, Mississippi, around 1890-1905. The photographs are primarily of the Natchez area and focus on the Stewart family and activities such as dedication ceremonies, winter storms, floods, steamboats and river scenes.

Subjects that can be addressed within this Digital Archive:

Nineteenth-century life in Natchez and Mississippi, architecture, the legacy of the Civil War, the use of the Mississippi River for trade and transportation, and African American life in the late 19th century.

For more lessons and activities based on the Stewart Photograph Collection Digital Archive and other collections visit the Classroom Materials page on our website at

<http://www.mdah.ms.gov/new/learn/classroom-materials/lesson-plans-and-teaching-units/>

Teacher Discussion Guide on Reverse

Teacher Discussion Guide

Use images from the MDAH Digital Archive entitled “Stewart Photograph Collection” (found at http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/series/stewart) to lead your class in a discussion analyzing and interpreting the following images:

1. Type in “furniture store” (item 6) in the “search for keyword” box and discuss the following:
 - a. What can you learn about transportation during this period?
Horses and wagons were used to travel into and around town. The streets are dirt which could make travel difficult (or at least messy) when it rained.
 - b. What does the clothing tell you about the people in the photograph?
This group of people seems to be dressed respectably but they are not fancy. The women are wearing aprons and this (in addition to the open wagon) indicate that they are part of the working class.
2. Type in “Confederate Memorial Park” (items 100-104 and 144) in the “search for keyword” box and discuss the following:
 - a. What monuments or structures are visible in the photos?
Fountain, park, memorial, church.
 - b. What memorial do you think is featured in these photographs? Why would it have been constructed during this time?
The memorial was for Confederate soldiers. Almost immediately after the Civil War, military units and states began to hold reunions. These increased in frequency throughout the 19th century and included several “Blue and Grey” reunions that saw the meeting of both Union and Confederate soldiers, including one at Vicksburg in 1917.
3. Type in “Two African American women washing clothes” (item 138) in the “search for keyword” box and discuss the following:
 - a. What is happening in this image?
Women are washing clothes. Note that there are no men present. This was because in the 19th century there was a distinct difference between men’s work and women’s work; women’s work consisted predominantly of household work that included washing, cooking, cleaning, etc.
 - b. How did they wash clothes?
Using several large tubs women used one to wash with soap, one to rinse and scrub, and a third for a final rinse. They hung the clothes on lines to dry. Washing and ironing clothes and household linens was an all-day affair.
 - c. Compare the 19th century process of washing clothes with that of today. Think about the time factor, equipment and supplies, who is doing the washing, and types of materials being washed. How have the changes in how we wash clothes impacted society?