

A rich and varied collection of glass-plate images from northwestern California

Ericson Photograph Collection (ca. 1880–ca. 1925), Humboldt State University Library

Nearly 500 glass plate negatives attributed to the A.W. Ericson Co. and its incarnations under other names constitute the Ericson Photograph Collection. Most of these images were photographed by Augustus William Ericson, and they illuminate daily life in northwestern California, and particularly in northern Humboldt County, over a four-decade span from roughly 1880 to 1925. People, schools, celebrations, street scenes, Native American life and ceremonies, and the lumber and shipbuilding industries are all depicted in the collection.

The 1970s brought renewed interest in Ericson's photographs, many of which have subsequently been published. His images of local life, lumbering, and Native Americans are widely studied and greatly admired; his Native Americans photos are in constant demand for illustrative and documentary materials. Ericson's photographs play an important role in the historical chronicle of northwestern California.

Ericson's daughter, Ella Ericson Bryan, donated his collection of glass plate negatives to the Humboldt State University Library in two parts in the mid-1960s and early 1970s.

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