

Nampeyo's Life Timeline

c. 1860

Nampeyo born, Hano, First Mesa. Mother is White Corn, Tewa. Corn Clan, Hano (d. 1901-1909). Father is Quootsva, Hopi, Snake Clan, Walpi (d. 1897-1899). Oldest of four children.



Nampeyo with her mother, White Corn. Photo by James Mooney (1893). Smithsonian Institution #1875-B-1.

1875

Thomas Keam opens trading post at First Mesa, location called Peach Orchard Spring and later Keams Canyon.



First photograph of Nampeyo, as a young girl. Photo by William Henry Jackson (1875).

c. 1878

Nampeyo marries Lesso, of Cedarwood clan, Walpi.



Nampeyo's husband, Lesso. Photo by Adam Clark Vroman (1901). Courtesy of the Southwest Museum of the American Indian, now part of The Autry National Center.

c. 1880

Anthropologist Alexander Stephen arrives at Keams Canyon. He is official Post Master when post office is established in 1883.

1880s

Beginning of manufacture of Sikyatki Revival Pottery. Thomas Keam encourages potters to make pottery with designs inspired by pottery recovered from nearby protohistoric (c. 1400-1600) sites. Nampeyo among the potters to participate in this revival.

1882

Railroad completed through Winslow.

c. 1884

First daughter Annie (Healing) born (d. 1968).

1886

First Hemenway Expedition to Southwest, headed by Frank Hamilton Cushing.

1887

School established at Keams Canyon for Hopi children.

1891-1892

Second Hemenway Expedition to Hopi, headed by Jesse Walter Fewkes.

1892

Fewkes purchases collection of over 3000 Hopi ceramic pieces from trader Keams for \$10,000.

c. 1893

Son William Lesso born (d. 1935).

The story is oft repeated that Nampeyo became aware of the designs when husband Lesso worked for Fewkes' 1895 excavation at Sikyatki. Yet, there is no record of Lesso ever having worked for Fewkes, and "revival" pottery production predates Fewkes' work by at least 10-15 years.



Annie Healing with selection of pottery. Photo by Adam Clark Vroman (1901).

1893

Mennonite missionary H.R. Voth arrives at Hopi.

1896

Second daughter Nellie (Douma) born (d. 1978).

1899

Son Wesley Lesso born (d. 1985).

1900

Daughter Fannie born (d. 1987).

1900-1925

Photographer E.S. Curtis visits Hopi numerous times. Photographs Nampeyo, her mother and her daughter Nellie.

1901

Adam Clark Vroman, photographer for National Museum Gates exposition, comes to Hopi. Photographs Nampeyo, Lesso, Annie and Annie's daughter Rachel.

1902

Thomas Keam sells trading post to Lorenzo Hubbell, Sr., his son, Lorenzo Jr. manages it.



Hopi gathered in front of the Voth home at Christmas time. Photo by H.R. Voth (c. 1895). Courtesy of Bethel College, Kansas, [Mennonite Library and Archives](#).

1905-1906

Nampeyo demonstrates at "Hopi House" Grand Canyon.



Nampeyo & family members with pottery in front of "Hopi House" at the Grand Canyon. Photographer unknown (1905).

1910

Nampeyo, Lesso, Nellie and Nellie's friend Ida Avayo go to Chicago United States Land and Irrigation Exposition so that Nampeyo can demonstrate her pottery-making techniques.

1942

Nampeyo dies at home of son, Wesley and his wife Cecilia Polocca.



Nampeyo in her mid 70's, holding a pot she has just made. Photo by Tad Nichols (1935).