

**Collection #  
P 0305**

**WILLIAM F. GINGRICH  
LANTERN SLIDES, CA. 1920S**

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[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 7 4x5 flip top boxes of glass lantern slides  
1 artifact

COLLECTION  
DATES: Ca. 1920s

PROVENANCE: Stephen T. Rose, Indianapolis, 1994

RESTRICTIONS: Patrons may view glass slides with the assistance of Library  
staff

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ALTERNATE  
FORMATS:

RELATED  
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION  
NUMBER: 1994.0899

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL SKETCHES

William F. Gingrich, (1874–1959) was born in Bentonville, Indiana in Fayette County. Census records show his parents were Frederick and Eliza (Schmidt) Gingrich, immigrants from Germany to America in 1848. The family had several children and lived first in Ohio and later Bentonville, Indiana where William was born. Gingrich became a teacher and later a school principal in Chicago. There he met and married Bessie S. Davis on December 27, 1915.

Gingrich was also interested in photography as evidenced in an article written by him in *Photo-Era: The American Journal of Photography* for January 1919, (Vol. XLII, pp. 10–12). The article entitled "Experiences with the Gum-Bichromate Process" included a photograph of himself and his wife.

After more than forty years as an educator Gingrich retired about 1940 and he and his wife moved to Palo Alto, California where he took up painting and was a noted landscape artist there.

Frank Virgil Dudley (1868–1957) was known as the “Painter of the Dunes.” He first visited the Dunes on a hiking trip in 1911 and began to paint the scenery there; by 1916 it became his primary subject. In 1921, Dudley built a studio cabin on Lake Michigan near Chesterton, Indiana that became a gathering place for other artists and conservationists interested in preservation of the area.

Beginning in 1899 there was a struggle between industry and preservationists for control of the Michigan lakeshore in northern Indiana. The area was booming with industry, steel mills and power plants. Companies like the Ball Brothers and Pittsburgh Plate Glass carried away tons of sand from the dunes in railroad boxcars during the early years of the 20th century. People interested in preserving the area formed the Prairie Club of Chicago in 1908 and by 1929 the Indiana Dunes State Park opened. In 1966 the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore was finally established.

Glass lantern slide shows were popular in the United States from the 1850s to the early part of the 20th century. Commercial photographers produced lantern slides from their stock collections of negatives and assembled them into thematic boxed sets. These were sold to universities, schools, companies, clubs, and organizations for education and entertainment purposes. Manufacturers also sold instruction manuals and kits to amateur photographers. Lantern slides peaked in popularity during the first third of the 20th century.

Sources:

[ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com)

<https://books.google.com>

[www.indianamuseum.org/collection/details/id/116206](http://www.indianamuseum.org/collection/details/id/116206)

[www.lib.usf.edu](http://www.lib.usf.edu)

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains 92 glass lantern slides that appear to have been made by William F. Gingrich. The slides were labeled with hand-written titles and Gingrich's name and came in a small wooden carrying case made for lantern slide storage. Most of the slides were numbered and hand colored.

Since Gingrich was a life-long educator it is assumed that he made the slides and used them for class lectures or talks before groups. He may have also been involved in the movement to preserve the Dunes and acquainted with the artist Frank Dudley. Gingrich's slides of the Dunes have an aesthetic quality that is very similar to Dudley's paintings. Dudley and his wife also appear in slide 50 and images of their cabin are in slides 51 and 69.

Series 1 shows different views of the Indiana Dunes along Lake Michigan in Northern Indiana. The images mostly focus on the beauty and unspoiled nature of the area and people enjoying the lake. There is also an educational theme to some slides with images of maps, diagrams of glacial areas, elevations and drift pattern of sand, native plant types of grasses, trees, and wildflowers, and a bibliography of published sources. Gingrich also documented the development of the dunes with images of cabins, commercial fishermen, and industry. In particular there is an image of a steam shovel loading sand onto rail cars.

Series 2 contains assorted views that include the Shiloh National Cemetery, the Capitol at Washington, D.C., Barbara Fritchie's house, an unidentified man, the Tower of St. Jacques in Paris, and a commercial slide of the American Flag.

The slides were found in disorder but most of them were numbered and that order has been restored. Some numbers were skipped and there were two slides numbered 16 and 22. To differentiate between these the sub-number [A] was applied to the second slides. To maintain order with the un-numbered slides they were numbered by the processors, these appear in square brackets [ ].

## **SERIES CONTENTS**

### **Series 1: Indiana Dunes, ca. 1920s**

#### CONTENTS

"Indiana Dunes"

[color map of Lake Michigan shoreline in northern Indiana with towns, roads, and railroad lines]

"Indiana Sand Dunes"

[color view of large sand dune with trees]

"Indiana Sand Dunes"

[color view of sand dunes with trees]

"Indiana Sand Dunes"

[color view of sand dunes with grasses and brush]

"Glaciated Area"

[color view of map of North and Central America with glaciated area]

"Glacial Deposits - Wis."

[color view of rocky glacial deposits in Wisconsin]

[color view of men wading along shore]

[color view of tall thin older man standing at edge of water, same man in slides 48 & 49]

[color view of landscape]

[color view of low dunes topped with grass]

[color view of sand dune topped with grass]

[color view of dunes covered with thick grove of leafless trees]

#### CONTAINER

Lantern Slides:  
Box 1, Envelope 1

Lantern Slides:  
Box 1, Envelope 2

Lantern Slides:  
Box 1, Envelope 3

Lantern Slides:  
Box 1, Envelope 5

Lantern Slides:  
Box 1, Envelope 6

Lantern Slides:  
Box 1, Envelope 7

Lantern Slides:  
Box 1, Envelope 9

Lantern Slides:  
Box 1, Envelope 10

Lantern Slides:  
Box 1, Envelope 11

Lantern Slides:  
Box 1, Envelope 12

Lantern Slides:  
Box 1, Envelope 13

Lantern Slides:  
Box 1, Envelope 14

[color view of grasses and wildflowers in sand]	Lantern Slides: Box 1, Envelope 15
[color view of landscape of trees]	Lantern Slides: Box 2, Envelope 16
[color view of sand drifts covered by grass and shrubs]	Lantern Slides: Box 2, Envelope 16 [A]
[color view demonstrating elevations and drift pattern]	Lantern Slides: Box 2, Envelope 17
[color view of dune with trees and shrubs]	Lantern Slides: Box 2, Envelope 18
[color view of sand dune and brush]	Lantern Slides: Box 2, Envelope 19
[color view of houses built on sand]	Lantern Slides: Box 2, Envelope 20
[color view of landscape with trees, lake and houses in distance]	Lantern Slides: Box 2, Envelope 21
[color view of bare tree roots on dune; trees in background]	Lantern Slides: Box 2, Envelope 22
[color view of bare trees and shrubs on dunes]	Lantern Slides: Box 2, Envelope 22 [A]
[color view of dead tree trunks on dunes]	Lantern Slides: Box 2, Envelope 23
[color view of dead trees among the dunes; lake in distance]	Lantern Slides: Box 2, Envelope 24
[color view of large dune with dead trees]	Lantern Slides: Box 2, Envelope 25
[color view of large tree with roots exposed]	Lantern Slides: Box 2, Envelope 26
[color view of dead tree roots]	Lantern Slides: Box 3, Envelope 27
[color view of cactus with yellow flowers]	Lantern Slides: Box 3, Envelope 28

"Skunk Cabbage" [color view]	Lantern Slides: Box 3, Envelope 29
"Lupine flowers" [color view of blue flowers]	Lantern Slides: Box 3, Envelope 30
"Trillium" [color view of wild flowers]	Lantern Slides: Box 3, Envelope 31
[color view of orange wild flowers]	Lantern Slides: Box 3, Envelope 32
[color view of pink wild flowers]	Lantern Slides: Box 3, Envelope 33
"Joe-Pye Weed" [color view of wild flowers]	Lantern Slides: Box 3, Envelope 34
"Wild Grape" [color view of grapes and foliage]	Lantern Slides: Box 3, Envelope 35
[color view of mother possum and babies]	Lantern Slides: Box 3, Envelope 36
[color view of two men on a fishing boat]	Lantern Slides: Box 3, Envelope 37
[color view of fishing nets on drying racks along shoreline]	Lantern Slides: Box 3, Envelope 38
[color view of waterway through dunes]	Lantern Slides: Box 3, Envelope 39
[color view of houses along the shoreline]	Lantern Slides: Box 4, Envelope 40
[color view of houses built on the dunes]	Lantern Slides: Box 4, Envelope 41
[color view of canoes tied up at water's edge by walkway and grassy hillside; dune on other side of water]	Lantern Slides: Box 4, Envelope 42
[color view of large red brick building, possibly a hotel with towers on each side of entry with white columns; covered portico at end; dirt path and surfaced road leading to building]	Lantern Slides: Box 4, Envelope 43

[color view of train on track with steam shovel loading sand into train cars]	Lantern Slides: Box 4, Envelope 44
"Map of Indiana Dunes State Park, Porter County, 1927" [color view of map]	Lantern Slides: Box 4, Envelope 45
[color view of group of men wading in the lake]	Lantern Slides: Box 4, Envelope 46
"Water babies" [color view of three small girls wading in the water]	Lantern Slides: Box 4, Envelope 47
"An Unwilling Pose" [color view of an older man dunking a young girl in the water as three girls look on, same man is seen in slides 10 & 49]	Lantern Slides: Box 4, Envelope 48
[color view of an artist painting, appears to be same man in slides 10 & 48]	Lantern Slides: Box 4, Envelope 49
"Mr. & Mrs. Frank V. Dudley" [color view of Frank and Maida]	Lantern Slides: Box 4, Envelope 50
[color view of Dudley's cabin with a wall of windows and arbor, appears in one of Dudley's paintings, <i>A Midsummer Bouquet</i> ]	Lantern Slides: Box 4, Envelope 51
[color view of trees on a dune with the lake in the distance]	Lantern Slides: Box 4, Envelope 52
[color view of trees and dunes with the lake in the distance]	Lantern Slides: Box 5, Envelope 54
[color view of hillside covered with trees]	Lantern Slides: Box 5, Envelope 55
[color view of sunrise/sunset showing sand dune and trees]	Lantern Slides: Box 5, Envelope 56
[color view of moon and clouds reflecting across the water]	Lantern Slides: Box 5, Envelope 57
[Boats on the water along shore with trees]	Lantern Slides: Box 5, Envelope 58
[color view of trees clinging to a dune with lake in the distance]	Lantern Slides: Box 5, Envelope 59



[color view of wild flowers and brush]	Lantern Slides: Box 5, Envelope 60
[color view of small tree on edge of dune]	Lantern Slides: Box 5, Envelope 61
[color view of house built on top of dune]	Lantern Slides: Box 5, Envelope 62
[color view of dirt road amid Fall landscape]	Lantern Slides: Box 5, Envelope 63
[color view of clump of small trees on top of dune; lake in distance]	Lantern Slides: Box 5, Envelope 64
[color view of cabins near shoreline with boat on the beach]	Lantern Slides: Box 5, Envelope [65]
[color view with houses built among the dunes]	Lantern Slides: Box 5, Envelope [66]
[color view of house built on top of a dune]	Lantern Slides: Box 6, Envelope [67]
[color view of sunrise/sunset over the lake]	Lantern Slides: Box 6, Envelope [68]
[color view of Dudley's cabin with arbor and windows overlooking the lake]	Lantern Slides: Box 6, Envelope [69]
[color view of shrubs and small trees on sand dune near the lake]	Lantern Slides: Box 6, Envelope [70]
[color view with clump of trees on top of dune, lake in distance]	Lantern Slides: Box 6, Envelope [71]
[color view with small dunes with grass and trees]	Lantern Slides: Box 6, Envelope [72]
[color view with dune protruding into water]	Lantern Slides: Box 6, Envelope [73]
[color view with large sand dune with pink and blue sky in distance]	Lantern Slides: Box 6, Envelope [74]
[color view with trees and lake in distance]	Lantern Slides: Box 6, Envelope [75]

[color view with large sand dunes]

Lantern Slides:  
Box 6, Envelope [76]

[color view with single tree on grassy dune and lake in the distance]

Lantern Slides:  
Box 6, Envelope [77]

[color view with tire tracks in the sand between brush covered dunes]

Lantern Slides:  
Box 6, Envelope [78]

[color view with clump of trees and bushes]

Lantern Slides:  
Box 6, Envelope [79]

[color view of brush covered dune]

Lantern Slides:  
Box 7, Envelope [80]

Bibliography  
[list of publications & authors on the dunes]

Lantern Slides:  
Box 7, Envelope [81]

Bibliography  
[list of publications & authors on the dunes]

Lantern Slides:  
Box 7, Envelope [82]

## **Series 2: Assorted Views and Slide Box**

### CONTENTS

"On Shiloh Battlefield"  
[view of woods and stream]

### CONTAINER

Lantern Slides:  
Box 7, Envelope [83]

"National Cemetery, Shiloh"  
[rows of tombstones]

Lantern Slides:  
Box 7, Envelope [84]

"Shiloh Church"

Lantern Slides:  
Box 7, Envelope [85]

"Minnesota Monument, Shiloh"

Lantern Slides:  
Box 7, Envelope [86]

"Where Gen. A. S. Johnson fell Shiloh"  
[monument for General Albert Sidney Johnston]

Lantern Slides:  
Box 7, Envelope [87]

"Barbara Fritchie's House"  
[sign in front of house]

Lantern Slides:  
Box 7, Envelope [88]

"Capitol at Washington"  
[night view of dome]

Lantern Slides:  
Box 7, Envelope [89]

"The Capitol-Washington"  
[daytime view]

Lantern Slides:  
Box 7, Envelope [90]

[Color view of American flag]  
"Moore, Hubble & Co. Chicago"

Lantern Slides:  
Box 7, Envelope [91]

[tall, thin, older man standing beside a car next to  
brick building, it may be a church, ca. 1920]

Lantern Slides:  
Box 7, Envelope [92]

"Tower of St. Jacques, Paris"  
[color view of church tower]

Lantern Slides:  
Box 7, Envelope [93]

[wooden lantern slide storage box]

Artifacts: 1994.0899