

*The Filson
Historical Society*

**Finding Aid to the
All-Prayer Foundlings' Home Lantern Slide Collection
(1905-1947)**

Collection number: 012PC33

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COLLECTION SUMMARY

Collection Title

All-Prayer Foundlings' Home Slide Collection

Collection Number

012PC33

Creator

George C. and Grace Cromer

Dates

1905-1947

Bulk Dates

Unknown

Physical Description

This collection contains seventy glass lantern slides and one illustration in wooden frame for viewing (.5 lin. ft.).

Repository

Special Collections Department, The Filson Historical Society, Louisville, KY

Language

The collection materials are in English.

Note(s)

INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Access and use restrictions

Collection is open for access. Full credit must be given to The Filson Historical Society. Conditions governing the use of photographic/videographic images do apply. Contact the Photograph Curator for more details on use.

Publication information

All requests for permission to publish should be directed to the Photograph Curator, Special Collections Department, The Filson Historical Society.

Preferred citation

Title (including description, date, Collection number, Photographs Collection, The Filson Historical Society, Special Collections.

Related materials

Pamphlet 362.73 C 945 / Golden Key: a metaphorical presentation of the Bible promise to answer payer; little souvenir of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the All-Prayer Foundlings Home, 2305 Sycamore Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky. (Filson Pamphlet Collection)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Level of description

Photographs are described at the item level.

Processed by

Kathy Jones, 2012

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

The All-Prayer Foundlings Home was established in 1905 by George C. Cromer and his wife Grace to care for orphans under the age of two. They took the name from John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, in which the pilgrim relied on prayer to protect him rather than carrying a weapon. Founded on the principle that they would trust God to meet all their needs and take on no debt, other than carefully considered loans for the houses, the Cromers refused to solicit donations and instead followed the pilgrim's example and asked God to answer their prayers.

The Cromers initially established the institution in their house at 1622 Story Avenue in Louisville, Kentucky. In 1918, they moved the home just over a mile away to 2305 Sycamore Avenue. Mrs. Comer designed a second home they had built next door specifically to meet the needs of the orphans and mothers. According to the *Golden Key*, a pamphlet written by Mr. Cromer to mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of the home, the Cromers cared for 709 children during that time, with a mortality rate of 11%. The Cromers adopted and raised three of the children who came to their home: William and Louise, who were two weeks old when adopted, and Doris, a one-year-old.

Cromer preached in churches of all denominations in fifteen states about how to live a life of prayer. The *Golden Key* pamphlet describes him "packing up [his] lantern and curtain and slides" after just such a talk (p.18). In another passage Cromer writes, "we have beautiful stereopticon views which we show and nearly always have some of the children from the Home along to sing and recite on the program," (p. 34).

This collection was discovered in materials removed from 2305 Sycamore Avenue, the final location of the All-Prayer Foundlings Home, and donated to the Filson Historical Society.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of seventy glass lantern slides of images of foundlings, adult caregivers, biblical scenes, illustrations advocating temperance, passages of scripture, and hymns; and one illustration in wooden frame for viewing. The collection also includes a box of unused slide plates as well as several box tops and bottoms.

CONTAINER LIST

- 012PC33.1: Small child in winter coat
- 012PC33.2: Group of children
- 012PC33.3: Stone wall
- 012PC33.4: A Lincoln history, image of Abraham Lincoln, cabin & capital
- 012PC33.5: Come Thou Font (scripture)
- 012PC33.6: Whosoever Will (hymn)
- 012PC33.7: Where is my wand'ring boy tonight (scripture)
- 012PC33.8: The Wondrous Cross (hymn)
- 012PC33.9-.10: Jesus Savior Pilot Me (hymn)
- 012PC33.11: Out on the Mountain (scripture)
- 012PC33.12: Throw out the Life-line (scripture)
- 012PC33.13: Oh Worship the King (hymn)
- 012PC33.14: Sweet Name of Jesus (hymn)
- 012PC33.15: Jesus Shall Reign (hymn)
- 012PC33.16: Just as I am (scripture)
- 012PC33.17: I rest upon the ground (scripture)
- 012PC33.18: The Crucifixion
- 012PC33.19: Gathering in the street (titled: Mother waiting)
- 012PC33.20: Toplady (Hymn)
- 012PC33.21: Esther implores Ahasuerus (biblical scene)
- 012PC33.22: Cobbled street in Holy Land
- 012PC33.23: Cairo and the Nile: image of men on donkeys in desert
- 012PC33.24: Primitive Shepherd
- 012PC33.25: Evangelist shows the burning light (biblical scene)

012PC33.26: Drunken man arrested, Some “Let It Alone,” Yet Suffer / A Product of “Personal Liberty”

012PC33.27: Titled “Rescue of Lot” image of a lake

012PC33.28: Great Physician (biblical scene)

012PC33.29: Solomon’s reception of Sheba

012PC33.30: Portrait of unidentified woman

012PC33.31: Image of man and woman with children and goats on lawn (possibly the Cromers)

012PC33.32: All-Prayer Foundling’s Home envelope

012PC33.33: Christian climbing the Hill Difficultly (biblical scene)

012PC33.34: The slough of despond (biblical scene)

012PC33.35: The Three Shining Ones, man standing in front of three angels

012PC33.36: Passion and Patience

012PC33.37: Pilgrim knocking at the gate (biblical scene)

012PC33.38: Pilgrim parting from family

012PC33.39: At Bethel, country scene

012PC33.40: Small children (orphans) at table

012PC33.41: Two images on slide “Courier of the desert” which depicts a man on a camel and “Brining out the music” which is an image of a boy with a flute.

012PC33.42: Storefront

012PC33.43: Appears to be a sign stating “Harned Ky. / Texas Ky. Learn Club”

012PC33.44: Woman sitting on porch

012PC33.45: Where is my wand’ring boy tonight, image depicting Churchill Downs with a crowd of men, women, and horses on the track.

012PC33.46: Home Sweet Home, image of family in living room

012PC33.47: Home Sweet Home in the garden

012PC33.48: Where is my wand’ring boy tonight, man being assisted into a home with woman waiting.

012PC33.49: Tell Mother, a woman kneeling

012PC33.50: U.S. Treasury Certificate

012PC33.51: Boy with suitcase illustration

012PC33.52: Young child

012PC33.53: Church or school (Cuafield & Shook, Louisville, KY)

012PC33.54: Boy in suits

012PC33.55: Portrait of a group of adults (Mr. Cromer center front)

012PC33.56: Sycamore Avenue House (house number two, tinted)

012PC33.57: 1622 Story Avenue (Caufield & Shook, Louisville, KY)

012PC33.58: Unidentified boy and girl

012PC33.59: Family on porch

012PC33.60: Negative of child

012PC33.61: Man sitting on chair

012PC33.62: Man in hat negative

012PC33.63: Child on chair in garden negative

012PC33.64: Young boy in garden

012PC33.65: Child on chair in garden negative

012PC33.66: Child standing on patio negative

012PC33.67: Double exposure two women plus group of children and adults

012PC33.68: Man with beard negative

012PC33.69: Woman and child (broken)

012PC33.70: Young boy (fragment)

012PC33.71: Illustration in wooden frame for viewing