

The Filson Historical Society

H. C. Ganter

Lantern Slides of Mammoth Cave and Vicinity, 1889 and ca. 1890s

For information regarding literary and copyright interest for these photographs,
contact the Curator of Photographs and Prints.

Size of Collection:

25 black and white glass lantern slides

Location Number:

012PC27B

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Scope and Content Note

There are twenty-five (25) black and white glass lantern slides, ca. 1889-1890s. Twenty (20) out of the twenty-five (25) are labeled with a title, slide number and state "Copyright and for sale by H. C. Ganter, Mam. Cave." Slides appear to be from a larger set of slides, this collection only representing a handful. Each slide measures 3 ½" x 4". The slides were removed from a wooden container, were placed in an acid-free box, and each slide is in an acid-free photographic sleeve.

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Biographical Note

H. C. or Henry C. Ganter, 1844-1917, was the manager of Mammoth Cave and Hotel in Bowling Green, Kentucky (hotel circa 1887-1902, cave circa 1878-1902). During some of his time as cave manager, he also was the cave's agent. While at the cave Ganter worked with and claimed copyright of many early Mammoth Cave images created by Ben Hains, a professional photographer from New Albany, Indiana. Most of the images within this collection are believed to be taken by Hains in 1889, later copyrighted and reproduced as stereo cards, postcards, and Lantern Slides by Ganter probably for selling. In May 1902, the Kentucky Courts removed Ganter as cave manager and W. Scott Miller, Jr., of Louisville became his successor. While the news of Ganter's dismissal made the New York Times, little is known about why he was dismissed.

Sources cited:

Howes, Chris. "Ben Hains: Stereo Views" *The Journal of Spelean History* Vol. 37 No. 2 Issue 124 (2013): 43-46.

"Mammoth Cave Decision." *The New York Times* 5 May 1902. *New York Times* Online. 20 November 2013.

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Container List

ID	Title	Original Slide #	Description	Date
012PC27B.1	Passage back of Giant's Coffin	15	Passage way	1889
012PC27B.2	Bottomless Pit	17	A large hole carved out by a whirlpool. The bridge of sighs crossing it was made of wood and has since been replaced by a metal one for safety measures.	1889
012PC27B.3	Fat Man's Misery	18	Rock formation	1889
012PC27B.4	The Pineapple Bush	20	Rock formation	1889
012PC27B.5	The Post Oak Pillar	22	Rock formation	1889
012PC27B.6	The Pillars of Hercules	24	A column given its title for its mass.	1889
012PC27B.7	The Arm Chair	29	The image shows the formation known as Jenny Lind's Armchair. It was named for the famous Swedish singer who visited Mammoth Cave and supposedly rested on it.	1889
012PC27B.7a	[The Arm Chair]	N/A	The image shows the formation known as Jenny Lind's Armchair. It was named for the famous Swedish singer who visited Mammoth Cave and supposedly rested on it.	undated
012PC27B.8	The Elephant's Head	30	Rock formation	1889
012PC27B.9	The Lover's Leap	31	A rock formation that got	1889

			its name for resembling a cliff from which people that were in love might throw themselves off, if those feelings were not returned. There are no recorded incidences of anyone jumping from Lovers' Leap.	
012PC27B.10	Exit of Corkscrew into Main Cave	33	Tour group descending from the Corkscrew entrance along Broadway Avenue. The Corkscrew is a winding path with natural spots to step augmented by steps built by the park. It allows for easy access between the lower levels of the cave and the main chambers near the Historic Entrance.	1889
012PC27B.11	Martha's Vineyard	42	Rock formation	1889
012PC27B.12	Lower Passage opening into Cleveland's Cabinet	44	Two men standing in opening	1889
012PC27B.13	The Rocky Mountain	54	Two men standing on rocks in cave	1889
012PC27B.14	Stalactites in Croghan's Hall	55	Rock formation	1889
012PC27B.15	End of Cave	56	Rock formation	1889
012PC27B.16	Star Chamber	57	The ceiling of this room is studded with gypsum crystals which, when viewed with only a little light provided by the tour guide, lights up like the night sky.	1889 OR 1892
012PC27B.17	Head of Echo River	65	Group shot at head of Echo River	1892
012PC27B.18	The Climbing Bear	78	Rock formation	undated
012PC27B.19	Gorin's Dome	80	Cave pit	1889, '90, '93, or '96

012PC27B.20	"Ceasar" "Pompey" and Bridal Altar	112	The Bridal Altar-- In the 19th century, jokes and rumors started about people getting married in the cave which inspired actual weddings to take place there into the early 20th century.	Undated
012PC27B.21	Looking up Green River	131	Image of Green River	1889 or '92
012PC27B.22	The Chimes	N/A	The chimes is a series of stalactites and columns resembling wind chimes	copyright 1908
012PC27B.23	Unidentified formation	N/A	Unidentified rock formation	undated
012PC27B.24	Unidentified formation	N/A	Unidentified rock formation	undated