

Collection #  
SC 3264

**WILLIAM F. GULDE  
MATERIALS, 1901–1940S**

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Processed by

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder, 1 black and white photo folder

COLLECTION DATES: 1901–1940s

PROVENANCE: William F. Gulde, Indianapolis, IN; June 2005

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Wendell Willkie letter SC 3068; Wendell Willkie and the 1940 Presidential Campaign collection M 0958

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2005.0266

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

**Wendell Lewis Willkie** was born on 18 February 1892 in Elwood, Indiana to Herman and Henrietta Willkie, both of whom were German immigrants and lawyers. He attended Indiana University and earned his law degree in 1916. After serving in the Army during World War I, he moved to Akron, Ohio to practice law. In 1933, he became president of the Commonwealth and Southern Corporation, a large utilities company. He became a critic of some aspects of the New Deal and became the surprise winner of the Republican nomination for president in 1940, even though he had previously been a Democrat. Willkie suffered a drastic loss to Roosevelt, only receiving 82 electoral votes to Roosevelt's 449. He went on to play an important role during World War II as a goodwill ambassador to many of the war-torn countries of the world. His actions after his defeat, such as softening his stance on some New Deal topics and admitting some of his claims about Roosevelt were "campaign oratory," distanced him from many supporters in the Republican Party. However, other people applauded his bipartisan support of the president during the war. His bid for the nomination as the Republican presidential candidate in 1944 failed and he was laying the groundwork to form a third national party when he died on 8 October 1944 of heart failure.

**Beulah Shortridge** was born to Albert Shortridge and Mary Ross on 1 August 1891 in Cedar County, Missouri. By 1900, the family lived in Union Township, Indiana. Beulah attended Rushville Public Schools. She married a lawyer, Ernest E. Owens in Hudson, Michigan on 24 June 1916. The couple divorced on 9 March 1929. Beulah married William S. Slack in Indiana on 3 May 1930. William died on 21 December 1936. Beulah married her third husband, Rollen Glen Leonard, in Indiana on 29 March 1948. Rollen died on 9 November 1967. During her life, Beulah worked as a public school teacher. She died in Indianapolis, Indiana on 22 July 1978.

**Richard V. Snyder** served as a lieutenant (junior grade) on the U.S.S. Shangri-La as a member of the original crew commissioned on 15 September 1944.

Sources:

Collection materials.

Dillon, Mary. *Wendell Willkie*. Philadelphia: J. P. Lippincott, 1952. General Collection: E748.W7.D5 1952.

Indiana, Death Certificates, 1899-2011, via Ancestry.com.

Indiana, Marriages, 1810-2001, via Ancestry.com.

Michigan, Marriage Records, 1867-1952, via Ancestry.com.

Web: Marion County, Indiana, Marriage Index, 1925-2012, via Ancestry.com.

"Wendell Willkie." *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Chicago: Britannica, 2014. Accessed October 16, 2014. <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/644513/Wendell-L-Willkie>.

1900, 1910, 1930, and 1940 U.S. Federal Censuses, via Ancestry.com.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains materials related to Wendell Willkie, Beulah Shortridge, and Richard Snyder. This includes twelve photographs of Wendell Willkie at or near his Harrison Street home in Rushville and at an unidentified airport. Also in the collection are seven report cards from 1901 to 1908 for Beulah Shortridge and a plank owner certificate for the U.S.S. Shangri-La for Richard V. Snyder.

## **CONTENTS**

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Shortridge and Snyder materials, 1901–08; n.d.

Wendell Willkie photos, ca. 1940s

### CONTAINER

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Visual Collections:  
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