Early County Court Books are Here!

The earliest Davidson County Court minute books (books A-F) have been recovered and delivered to the Metro Archives. These books span the years 1783-1809, and contain some of the earliest records of the establishment and development of Nashville’s legal and governmental activities.

Upcoming First Tuesdays

Our “First Tuesdays at the Metro Archives” are free events that are always on the first Tuesday of the month from 12:30-1:30pm in the Commons Room on the third floor, West Wing of the downtown Nashville Public Library. Our presentations feature a diverse group of speakers discussing various people, places, events, and traditions that highlight Nashville’s rich history.


September 5th: Chuck Sherrill, Tennessee State Librarian and Archivist, will present on new and recent initiatives relating to history and genealogy.

October 3rd: Debbie Watts will give a first-person portrayal as First Lady Eliza McCardle Johnson, with Tom Dolan as President Andrew Johnson. This is a preview of Debbie Watts’s historical theatre piece, From Tennessee to the White House, With Love: Tennessee’s First Ladies, which will be performed in the Nashville Public Library’s auditorium on February 14, 2018.

If you are interested in presenting for a First Tuesday, please contact Kelley Sirko at 615-862-5880 or by email at Kelley.Sirko@nashville.gov.
Newly-processed Collections

Was that Patty Hearst?

We have finished processing the Chief H.O. Kemp Papers, a fascinating collection that tells the story of the Metropolitan Police Department’s beginnings. From security detail for President Lyndon B. Johnson’s visit in 1968 to an investigation into a man’s claim that he caught a glimpse Patty Hearst in Nashville, this collection gives a picture of Hubert O. Kemp’s term as Chief of Police from 1963 until his retirement in 1972. As Chief during the controversial transition to a metropolitan government, the Civil Rights movement, and Vietnam War protests, Kemp saw Nashville through a particularly turbulent time in the city’s history.

Trials at Nuremberg

John Henry Lechleiter (1892-1950) was a prominent Nashville attorney who had the opportunity to assist Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson in the prosecution of German industrialists and financiers at the Nuremberg Trials. His son, Richard Lechleiter, graciously donated his father’s papers from this time period to the Metro Archives back in 2012, and they are now fully processed. This gem of a collection includes Lechleiter’s letters to his wife, written during his six months in Nuremberg from 1946-1947, and a number of court documents and transcripts from the trials themselves.

The Story of Metropolitan Nashville

April 1st of this year marked the 54th anniversary of the consolidation of the City of Nashville and Davidson County into one metropolitan government. The Metro Archives houses the Formation of Metro Government Files, which have recently been completely processed. In this collection, you can look through newspaper clippings that document the major players in Nashville’s city-county consolidation, the actions of the Metropolitan Charter Commission, and the national attention Nashville received. A number of publications and reports document and discuss the social, political, and economic effects of the consolidation, and provide important and valuable insight into the growth of our city.

The Metro Archives and the Nashville Public Library will be hosting a blood drive in the Commons Room on the third floor on Wednesday, July 26, 2017 from 8:00am to 12:00pm. If you would like to donate blood, please make an appointment by contacting Sarah Arntz at 615-862-5880 or by email sarah.arntz@nashville.gov.

As a division of the Nashville Public Library, the Metro Archives collects and preserves the historically valuable records of Nashville and Davidson County.

The Metro Archives is open Monday-Friday from 9:00-6:00, Saturday from 9:00-5:00, and Sunday from 2:00-5:00. Visit us or visit our website at www.nashvillearchives.org.

Like us on Facebook!

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