

# Life and Casualty Collection

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Life and Casualty Collection

**Summary:** Administrative records, photographs, publications, and artifacts belonging to the Life and Casualty Insurance Company of Tennessee. Materials range between c. 1890s/1900 and 1991.

**Physical Description:** 4 boxes; 1.67 linear feet

**Language:** English

**Stack Location:** S2-10

**Repository:** Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County, 615 Church St. Nashville, TN 37219

## Historical Note:

The Life and Casualty Insurance Company of Tennessee was founded in Nashville in 1903 by Andrew Mizell Burton. Initially, the company offered industrial insurance (health and accident insurance) to working-class clients and small farmers, and later began to offer ordinary life insurance policies to middle-class clients. In 1926, Life and Casualty (L&C) acquired the WDAD radio station, which later changed to WLAC, which the company used to promote economy and savings. L&C, along with its competitor, National Life and Accident Insurance Company, made Nashville a leading insurance center by the 1950s. In 1957, the company moved to the new 31-storey Life & Casualty Tower at 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and Church Street, and for a brief time the building was the tallest in the Southeast. The building, designed by architect Edward Keeble, remains a Nashville landmark. Life and Casualty Insurance Company went through several mergers and acquisitions over the years, finally forming American General Life and Accident, which is now headquartered in Brentwood, Tennessee.

## Scope and Contents of the Collection:

This collection ranges from the late 1890s or early 1900s to 1991, and largely contains publications from Life and Casualty Insurance Company, WLAC, and American General Corporation. Photographs of former company Presidents and other prominent Nashville figures are also included, as well as a small amount of administrative records artifacts.

## Index Terms:

**Subjects:**

American General Life Insurance Company

Insurance companies.  
Insurance companies--United States.  
Life and Casualty Insurance Company of Tennessee  
WLAC (Radio Station : Nashville, Tenn.)

**Related Collections:**

Jerry Parker L&C Collection  
Vertical Files--Buildings--Life and Casualty Tower  
Vertical Files--Businesses--Life and Casualty Insurance Co.

**Arrangement:**

This collection is arranged into four series: *administrative records*, *artifacts*, *photographs*, and *publications*. Series are arranged alphabetically with the exception of the *artifacts* series, which is boxed separately.

The *administrative records* series contains lists of company leaders from 1918-1979, as well as public relations materials. One notable item in this series is a document of the first insurance policy ever issued by Life and Casualty Insurance Company.

The *artifacts* series contains items relating to American General and Life and Casualty Insurance Company, including a lighter, ashtray, paperweight, and pen and pencil set.

The *photographs* series contains photographs of former company Presidents, including founder A.M. Burton and Guilford Dudley, Jr. Also included are photographs of prominent Nashville and Tennessee figures such as Mayor Beverly Briley and Governor Winfield Dunn.

The *publications* series is the largest series in the collection, and contains Life and Casualty's monthly newsletter, *The L'n C'ean*, a two-volume set of the book *Gleanings* by founder A.M. Burton, and the October 1929 issue of *The Thrift Broadcaster* newspaper. Other items include American General manager and personnel bulletins, annual reports, and the 1943 L&C yearbook, *The Thrift Family*.

**Restrictions:**

**Restrictions on Access:** In-library use only. Some materials contain confidential information and are therefore closed to researchers.

**Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:** The Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County owns the intellectual rights to these materials. Materials may be used for research purposes only, and cannot be used in a publication or reproduced.

**Administrative Information:**

**Copyright:** The Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County retains intellectual property rights to this collection. Some restrictions may apply.

**Provenance:** Unknown.

**Processing Information:** Processed by Kelley Sirko, Program Coordinator, April 2017.

**Accruals:** No further accruals expected.