

A publication from the Metro Nashville Archives

**Happy Holidays from the Metro Archives!**



Loveman's department store, at the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Union Streets, c. 1950s.

**New Location for Our First Tuesdays**

Beginning in January 2018, the Metro Archives will be moving its First Tuesday events to the meeting room in the Green Hills Branch Library. We are hoping that this change in venue will be more accommodating to our Friends, and allow more people to attend without having to worry about driving in downtown traffic.



The Green Hills Branch Library is

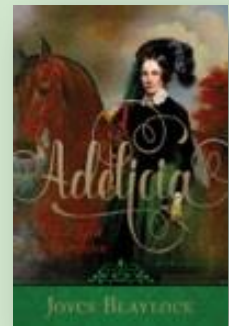
located at 3701 Benham Ave., Nashville, TN 37215. We hope to see you there in January!

**Upcoming First Tuesdays**

Our "First Tuesdays at the Metro Archives" are free events that are always on the first Tuesday of the month from 12:30-2:00pm in the meeting room of the Green Hills Branch of the Nashville Public Library. Our presentations feature a diverse group of speakers discussing various people, places, events, and traditions that highlight Nashville's rich history.

**December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017:** Author Joyce Blaylock will speak about her historical novel, *Adelicia*, based on the life of Adelicia Hayes Franklin Acklen Cheatham, published in 2016.

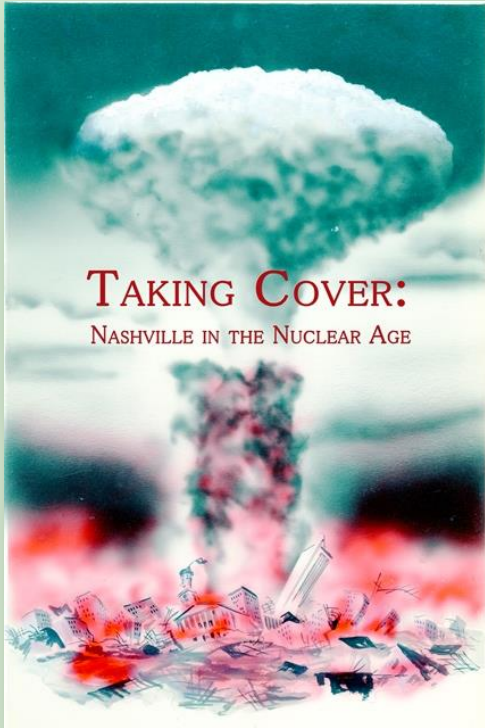
**January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018:** Belle Blackburn, author of *The Doctor's Daughter* series, will give a presentation on historic buildings in Nashville.



**February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018:** NPL Audiovisual Archives intern Olivia Jensen will speak about her grandfather, country music singer Johnny Seay, and the history and evolution of country music.

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](mailto:Kelley.Sirko@nashville.gov).

## ***New Exhibit Coming to the West Reading Room***



We have a new exhibit opening on Wednesday, December 13 in the West Reading Room of the Metro Archives: *Taking Cover: Nashville in the Nuclear Age*. The exhibit will illustrate Nashville's response to the constant threat of nuclear attack caused by the Cold War. Most of the items on display come from our collection of records from what was the Nashville-Davidson County Office of Civil Defense, and what is now the Metropolitan Nashville Office of Emergency Management.

The opening will begin at 10:00am in the West Reading Room. Light refreshments will be served. The exhibit will run until March 1.

## ***Newly-processed Collections***

### **110 Years of Nashville's Legislative History**

We have finally finished processing the records of the Metropolitan Clerk's Office, which range from 1893 to 2003. This large collection consists of 34 boxes of materials relating to both the office of the City Clerk, which was in operation until the city-county consolidation in 1963, and the office of the Metropolitan Clerk, which has been in operation since. The Clerk's office is the official record-keeping agency of Nashville, with the responsibility of managing and preserving the city's legislative history and official documents. Our collection contains materials that document the growth of Nashville's government, particularly before the establishment of metropolitan government, with records of annexations of individual properties to the City of Nashville, election information, and correspondence from Mayors Thomas Cummings and Ben West.



John's Tavern, located on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, 1956. Found in the Metropolitan Clerk's Office Records.

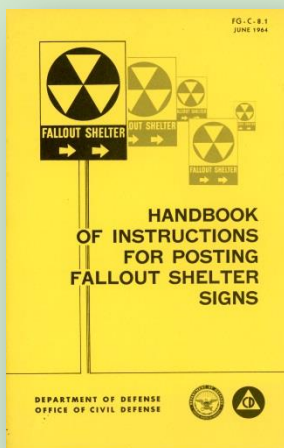
## In Case of an Emergency...

The *Office of Emergency Management Collection* became the inspiration for our latest exhibit on Nashville in the nuclear age. Originally established as the Nashville-Davidson County Office of Civil Defense in the early 1950s, this agency was organized for the protection of its citizens to the threats imposed by the beginnings of the Cold War. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, much of the responsibilities of the office involved training and emergency preparedness planning for the possibility of a nuclear attack. It

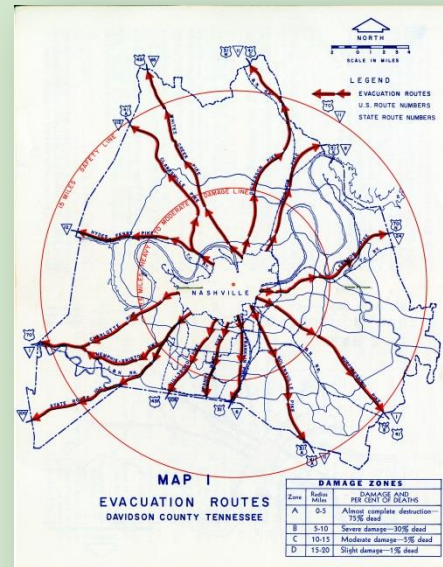
also had a focus on preparedness and training for natural disasters and civil emergencies, as well as disaster recovery. The name of the office changed to the Office of Emergency Management sometime in the

early 1990s, and it currently acts as the primary City/County emergency management agency for disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.

This collection contains approximately 300 items, and has a fascinating array of handbooks, guides, planning documents, and printed materials that illustrate Nashville's activities in emergency preparedness. Many of the materials in this collection shed light on Nashville's response to the Cold War, with handbooks about survival skills in the face of a nuclear attack, radiation concerns, evacuation plans, and fallout shelters. The later materials also give insight to



emergency responses to notable disasters in Nashville such as the F-14 plane crash in 1996, the ice storm in 1994, and the tornado of 1974.



Evacuation routes out of Nashville in the event of a nuclear attack,

## “New” Materials

### From our Director, Ken Fieth

In April of this year, we received the sad news that Mrs. Margaret Ann Robinson, patron of the Nashville Public Library for decades, had passed from time. Several weeks later, the Archives was asked to come to her home and to retrieve several boxes of information that Mrs. Robinson had collected over the years.

I went over to her home and picked up several boxes of scrapbooks and other memorabilia related to the National Life and Accident Insurance Company. Most of the scrapbooks chronicled the Robinson and Craig families and their leadership of the company. The bulk of the



collection was centered in the 1960-2004 period. However, the “fragile glass negatives” label on a small cardboard box caught my eye.

The box held what appeared to be a set of early glass negatives. In taking them out of the box to rehouse them in archival sleeves, it became clear that these were a set of glass lantern slides produced to highlight the National Life and Accident Insurance Company and its motto of “Thrift.” The black and white images, from the 1920s, were enclosed on all edges with black paper, and were designed to be shown for company events such as sales meetings or other recognition dinners.



Text slides lauding sales and the financial strength of the company were mixed in with images of salesmen and clerks, busily at work. Nearly a hundred years have gone by. These images, reflecting a way of life beyond living

memory, have grown dim over time but still reveal manual typewriters, desks filled with paper files, boater hats and high collars, long

dresses and laced shoes bear silent witness to the past.



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](http://www.nashvillearchives.org).

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