

**Happy Holidays from the Metro Archives!**

The staff at Metro Archives wishes you a safe and happy holiday season!



If you are interested in presenting for a First Friday, please contact Kelley Sirko at 615-862-5880 or by email at [Kelley.Sirko@nashville.gov](mailto:Kelley.Sirko@nashville.gov).

**Important Changes Coming to Our First Tuesdays in 2019**

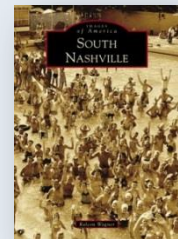
Due to low attendance at our First Tuesday events, normally held at the Green Hills Library from 12:30-2:00pm, we are making some changes to the program in order to encourage a larger turnout for our speakers.

Beginning in February 2019, our “First Tuesdays” will become “First Fridays,” and will be held the first Friday of every month at the Bellevue YMCA/FiftyForward Turner Center. Here we hope to reach more of the Nashville community, and we will be an addition to the Bellevue History & Genealogy Group’s regular Friday morning programs. The program will still be from 12:30-2:00pm.

**Upcoming First Fridays**

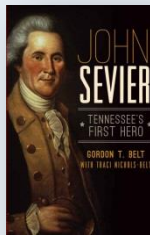
**January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019:** No meeting.

**February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019:** Tori Mason (Grassmere) and Jennifer Randles (TSLA) will discuss recent research conducted on the Croft



family that took them to Miami and Havana.

**March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019:** Local author and historian Ralcon Wagner will discuss his newest book, *South Nashville*.



**April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019:** Author and public historian Gordon Belt will offer insights on leadership adapted from his most recent book, *John Sevier: Tennessee's First Hero*.



### ***The Metro Archives Remembers Richard Fulton (1927-2018)***

Richard Fulton grew up on Fatherland Street in East Nashville, and went on to graduate from East Nashville High School in 1945. The sudden death of his brother (Lyle Fulton) in 1955 thrust him into politics, when he was elected to the Tennessee State Senate in his brother's place. At the time, however, Fulton did not meet the state constitution's 30-year minimum age requirement, and he relinquished his seat. Fulton ran for Senate and was elected again in 1958, and later successfully ran for Congress in 1962. He served as Congressman for the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District until 1975.

In 1975, Fulton was elected the second Mayor of Metro Nashville with a decisive 70% of the vote. He went on to serve Nashville in this capacity until 1987.

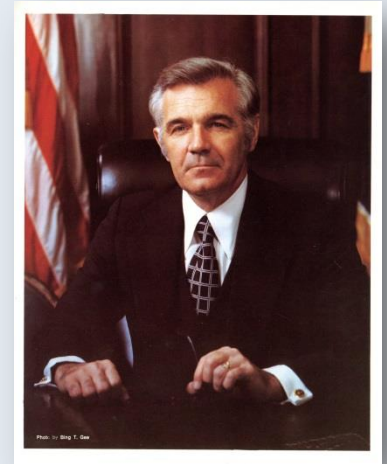
Mayor Fulton was an advocate for all citizens in Nashville. Upon his mayoral victory in 1975, he said he wanted to have "500,000 advisers" during his tenure (referring to Nashville's entire population).

*(Pictured above: Mayor Fulton during Cerebral Palsy Week, n.d.)*

He was a champion of revitalization efforts downtown, helping to lead the way on the construction of a new convention center along Broadway and the creation of Riverfront Park. Fulton saw 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Church Street as valuable assets, helping to reestablish them as the important commercial corridors they are today.

If not for Richard Fulton, you would not be reading this newsletter. In the mid-1980s, Archivist Virginia Lyle informed the Mayor that Nashville's historical records needed to be held in a central location where the public could access them. Mayor Fulton pushed for the funding and creation of the first permanent home for Metro Archives, in the former Mount Zeno school on Elm Hill Pike. If not for the Mayor, many of these records would have been destroyed.

Rest in peace, Mayor Fulton. The people of Nashville and the Metro Archives thank you for everything.



## ***Collections in Progress***

We are currently in the middle of an ongoing project to process the Philip N. Bredesen Mayoral Papers. This collection comprises over 200 boxes of materials documenting Phil Bredesen's term as Mayor of Metro Nashville, which lasted from 1991 to 1999.

Bredesen's administration oversaw the construction of the Nashville Arena (now Bridgestone Arena), the arrival of the Tennessee Titans and the Nashville Predators, and the renewal of Nashville's downtown entertainment district. As Mayor, Phil Bredesen made major improvements to Metro Nashville's library system, including the construction of the new downtown library that Metro Archives currently calls home.

The Bredesen papers are an important collection for Metro Archives, and we are processing these records with care and great attention to detail. As a result, this project will take several months to complete, and we hope to have it fully processed and accessible for the public by the middle of 2019. Stay tuned for updates!



*(Pictured above: early construction of the football stadium, Sep. 1997, Philip N. Bredesen Mayoral Papers)*

## ***Armistice Day, Spanish Flu, and a Hijacked Flight***

Ever wondered about the first flight out of Nashville to be hijacked? Curious about the impact of the Spanish Flu epidemic on the city? Honoring the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armistice? Be sure to check out Sarah Arntz's fun, informative, and downright interesting blog posts for Metro Archives this quarter on NPL's [Nashville/Community History Blog](#).

## ***Newspapers from a Forgotten Past***

### **From the Metro Archivist, Ken Fieth**

There is something different, something indefinable, about holding a newspaper long past the century mark. The cloth-like paper with pressed ink letters evokes thoughts of past experiences, of a culture long out of living memory, of people and places no longer remembered, and of the relentless passage of time.

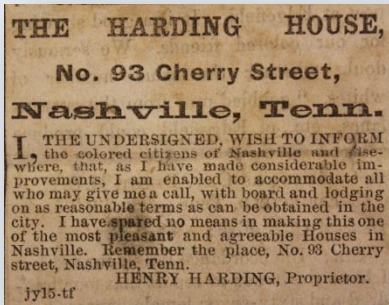
We're moving the entire Archives collection from our old building to its hopefully permanent location in the new. These buildings are merely yards apart. Even in such a short distance, monumental challenges occur.

Every record, every book, every box, everything, has to be handled. Significant fluctuations in



temperature and humidity while moving documents exposed to weather have to be carefully considered.

We have moved the Archives three times. In each of those, items carefully preserved are brought to light that are intriguing, poignant, funny, or, well, as some government records are, just boring.



There are always records that crop up, interesting items from the collection that beg pause. While moving our set of original newspapers, we

found an interesting issue, *The Colored Tennessean*, dated Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 1865. Volume I, No. 14, W.B. Scott and Son, Editors.

On the first page “top of the fold” is printed a speech by Horace Maynard. His speech gives a view of the Union Army that arrived and accepted the surrender of Nashville in March, 1862: “But a host came, which no man could number, and the rebel governor, Judges, Legislature, Army and all, fled anywhere they could to get out of reach of Federal bayonets, and when our troops reached Nashville they found no government, nor archives, nothing but dismantled fortifications.”

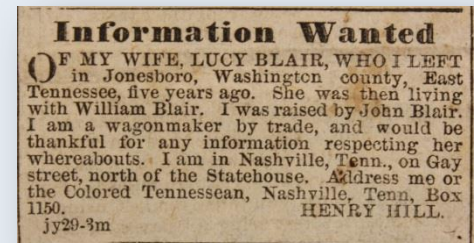
A great story of surrender and...wait...archives? Why would he specifically mention archives? Although Nashville has a long history of throwing away anything related to its history, the idea that there was a City Archives is still fascinating. Hopefully, they weren’t burned down during the surrender and have survived in

someone’s attic or basement. Yes, it’s a long shot, but everyone loves the lottery, too.

The paper contains presumably African-American business advertisements for all sorts of activities, including “Family Groceries”, “Dentists”, “Shaving and Hair-Cutting”, private schools, blacksmiths, carriage makers, and of course the ever-present and plentiful saloons. Perhaps the friendliest ads are the saloons, which offer their customers “comfort, elegance and convenience [that] is unequalled in this city” and a really intriguing “well supplied with a grand variety of Liquors, Wines, Ale, Ice Cream, Cigars, Tobacco and all kinds of Fruit.” The Harding and Smith Saloon offers to “invite the public as they are determined to spare no pains in rendering general satisfaction.”

Perhaps the most poignant are the missing person ads.

The war had torn apart an entire society. An information ad requests, “Information Wanted, of Kissy Done, who lived at Corinth Miss, in 1862 but I learned she left there in the fall of the same year for Memphis, I have a brother named Joseph Done and an uncle somewhere in that country. Any information respecting their whereabouts will be thankfully received.”



Newspapers like this one bring to life the small details of a history we no longer remember. Whether it be speeches from future Postmaster Generals, local businesses, lively saloons, or the effects of enslavement and war on the displacement of families and family members, these details are what speak to the culture of 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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