

New Metro Archives Podcast Series



The Metro Archives, in collaboration with the Nashville Public Library, has launched a new podcast series called *Back in the Day*. These podcasts feature special guests who discuss various aspects of Nashville and Tennessee history. You can listen [here at the Nashville Public Library's website](#), or go to the Metro Archives website, over your mouse over “Events,” and click on “Podcasts.”

In our first episode, Metropolitan Archivist Ken Fieth welcomes living history interpreter Mark Thompson for a discussion in commemoration of

the United States’ entry into WWI. In our second episode, researcher Amy Wannamaker discusses anti-German sentiment during WWI.

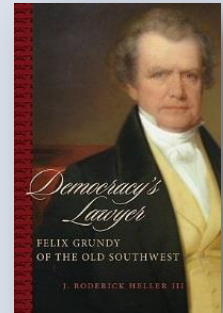


Pictured above: Armistice Day Parade, downtown Nashville.

Upcoming First Tuesdays

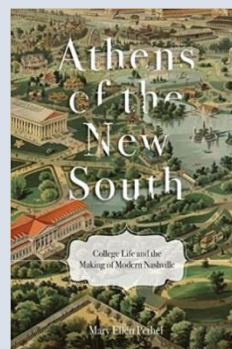
Our “First Tuesdays at the Metro Archives” are free events that are always on the first Tuesday of the month from 12:30-2:00pm in the meeting room of the Green Hills Branch of the Nashville Public Library. Our presentations feature a diverse group of speakers discussing various people, places, events,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

April 3rd, 2018: Author and historian Brian Allison will give a presentation titled, *The Last Act But One: Union Perspectives on the Battle of Nashville*



May 1st, 2018: Author J. Roderick Heller, III will discuss his book, *Democracy's Lawyer: Felix Grundy of the Old*

Southwest.



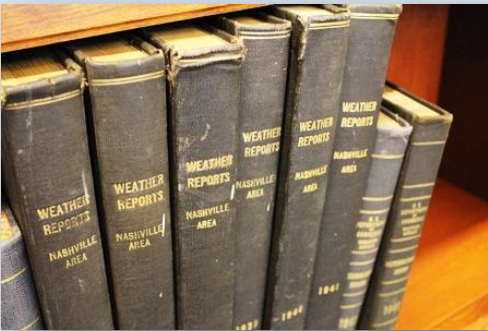
June 5th, 2018: Local author and educator Dr. Mary Ellen Pethel will discuss her book, *Athens of the New South: College Life and the Making of Modern Nashville.*

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.

Nashville Weather Reports

Who doesn't love talking about the weather? Sarah Arntz, staff member here at the Metro Archives, has unearthed a collection of Nashville weather journals from three government agencies and one personal collection. The earliest reports are primarily weather and station journals from the War Department (U.S. Army), known officially as the Signal Service. The Signal Service evolved throughout the years and is better known today as the National Weather Service. On top of the descriptive journals, the Signal Service also kept statistical reports, both weekly and monthly. These reports range from 1870-1899.

We are in the process of transcribing these priceless weather journals, which contain interesting narratives and observations, including the first delivery of airmail in the "Buffalo" hot air balloon here in Nashville. We will be periodically posting these transcriptions on our website [here](#).



The Ernsberger Slide Collection

The Metro Archives will have a small display of the Ernsberger slide collection in May, date to be determined. This is a small collection consisting mostly of slides and equipment from former Tennessean photographer Harmon Dale Ernsberger. The slides in this collection are a



combination of local Nashville events and personal materials, and depict significant events in our city, including school integration protests in 1957, various accidents and weather damage, and images of Hattie Cotton School after its bombing in September of 1957.

Pictured above: Protest of the integration of schools, Glenn School, 1957.

Newly-Processed Collections

Metro Movers and Shakers

We have just finished processing the Robert A. Horton Papers. Born in Kingsport, Tennessee on July 20, 1923, Robert A. Horton was an instrumental figure in the consolidation and transition of the City of Nashville and Davidson County into one metropolitan government. After the consolidation of Metro Government in 1963, he was officially known as the fiscal adviser to Mayor Beverly Briley, though at one time he held five different job titles. He served under both Mayor Beverly Briley and Mayor Richard Fulton, and also led the transition between the two

mayors. Robert Horton became known as a “governmental jack-of-all-trades,” and by the time he retired in 1984, he had greatly influenced Metro Government in terms of city-county consolidation, environmental issues, health issues, and urban development and renewal.

The Robert A. Horton Papers range largely between 1954 and 1982, and include reports, research files, publications, speeches, and correspondence documenting Horton’s career with the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County. This collection sheds light on the process of consolidating city-county



government and the difficult transition thereof, and much of it details Hortons’ work with the Mayor’s Office, his involvement

in the Environmental Planning and Management Project, and his work with the Urban Observatory. This is a great collection for anyone researching government consolidation and Nashville’s urban growth.

Pictured above: Robert A. Horton, c.1965.

Pictured right: Mayor Beverly Briley on the observation deck of the Life & Casualty Tower, n.d.



Metro Archives and NPL’s Audio Visual Conservation Program

From the Metro Archivist, Ken Fieth

Motion picture and sound recordings open a window to the past in ways no other medium can match. With that in mind, we recently accepted the transfer

of the Nashville Public Library’s Audio Visual Conservation program (AVC) to the



Metro Archives. The AVC program was founded to conserve, preserve, and make accessible the moving image and sound collections.

Perhaps the most interesting things for me are the audiotape and film associated with the formation and expansion of Metropolitan Government. Now, before your eyes glaze over, it is possible to enjoy some of these, if only for the

nostalgia of the 1960s and 1970s. A time when, at every meeting, every member smoked, the audience smoked, the camera crew smoked. No need

to email me if you remember ash trays as a souvenir. I have a few purloined ones myself.

Many of these were created to inform and educate a wary public about the services of a

combined government. The first combined government in the United States. One of the most significant is the color film of the first, or perhaps second, Metro inauguration ceremony. Followed by numerous film and sound recordings of Nashville movers and shakers speaking on a wide array of topics. The collection also contains audio and film about early Metro services, such as public health, police protection, building programs, and fire safety.

The manuscript collections are equally as fascinating and significant to the history of Nashville. The early Tom Tichenor puppet shows, the home movie footage of birthdays and celebrations, visits to parks, and an outstanding film done by an amateur filmmaker - complete with sound - of his service in Italy, 1944.

The collections are in the process of being inventoried, prioritized, and transferred to digital format. The long-term goal is to upload these for research and, well, just plain enjoyment. I may even get out those ash trays.



Pictured above: Donated, rather than purloined, souvenir ashtray.

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.

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Metro Archives
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