100 Years of Veterans

The Metro Archives will have a small display honoring the 100th anniversary of Veterans Day. The exhibit will include materials commemorating the veterans of World War I up to the War on Terror, with special emphasis on Nashvillians who served in the military. We will have the display in the West Reading Room of the Nashville Public Library (Main Branch), and the exhibit will run from Thursday, November 8th until Saturday, December 15th.

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.

October 2nd, 2018: Local author and historian Ralcon Wagner will discuss his new book, South Nashville.

November 6th, 2018: No meeting due to Election Day.

December 4th, 2018: Dr. Thomas Flagel will discuss Union fortification of Tennessee during the Civil War.

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

Tying Nashville Together

Metro Archives Intern Caleb McLoud has processed a large collection belonging to Tying Nashville Together, a non-profit organization focused on civic improvement and social justice. Founded in 1993, Tying Nashville Together was a broad-based, citizens’ organization primarily made up of religious institutions, though it remained strictly non-denominational. TNT’s goal was to work with pre-established networks of people who were willing to organize Nashville-Davidson County, and they worked to improve schools, transportation, community policing programs, and youth outreach. This was an organization that believed that a just society means that all people have ample access to food, clothing, housing, physical integrity and safety, education, employment, healthcare, self-determination in the democratic process, and freedom and power to make decisions that affect one’s life.

The collection contains reference and training materials, audits, grant proposals, photographs, and administrative records, and is a valuable resource for those researching the establishment and development of non-profit organizations, civic improvement efforts in Metropolitan Nashville, and social justice in our community.

(Pictured above: TNT’s Project Neighborhood Aftercare program)

William H. Boner Mayoral Papers

As we move along in our ambition to process the mayoral papers of every Metro Nashville mayor, we are pleased to say that we have finished processing the William H. (“Bill”) Boner Mayoral Papers. Perhaps one of Nashville’s more controversial mayors, Bill Boner’s political career began in 1978, when he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. He continued to serve Tennessee’s Fifth Congressional District until 1987, when he was elected Mayor of Nashville. Boner served as Mayor until 1991.

Boner’s mayoral papers contain a great deal of documentation and reports related to his 1989 efficiency study of Metro Government, which was supervised by Warren King and Associates, Inc. and conducted by a group of volunteer executives. These volunteers examined every department of Metropolitan Government (with the exception of the school system), and issued some 357 recommendations to increase productivity and efficiency, as well as save costs. Mayor Boner’s papers document the policies and issues of Metropolitan Nashville during a time of economic development, as well as controversial issues surrounding his term in office.
Nashville’s Own Poet Laureate

In June of 2018, the family of Cavalier Primo L. Bartolini (1889-1959) generously donated a collection of his personal and family papers, photographs, and writings to the Metro Archives. Born in Fanano, Italy, Primo Bartolini immigrated to the United States in 1897 and eventually settled here in Nashville. His home, built in 1931, sat on the site of Captain William Driver’s homestead (511 5th Ave. North). It was unfortunately demolished in 2015.

Bartolini served as a narcotics investigator for the U.S. Department of Justice, and, as the first foreign-born Nashvillian to enter World War I, he also served as an interpreter for the Army at Vancouver, Washington. He was later awarded the Cross of the Knights of the Crown from King Victor Emmanuel, III of Italy for his services during the Great War.

Throughout his life, Primo Bartolini wrote poetry, which was widely praised and won awards for its patriotism and composition. His collection, no completely processed and housed at Metro Archives, includes over 500 of his unpublished poems.

(Pictured above: Primo Bartolini in front of his home)

A “Hole” Lot of Love...

Did you know that the first Krispy Kreme doughnut shop was opened here in Nashville? Did you ever hear the story about buried treasure on the site of the old Bush farm? If you would like some informative, entertaining, and possibly hunger-inducing reading material, we encourage you to read Metro Archives staff member Sarah Arntz’s latest post on the Nashville Public Library’s community history blog.

Notice Regarding Requests for Materials:

Our storage facility is currently undergoing a major reorganization that will take several months to complete. Please be aware that, because of this reorganization, retrieval of materials from our storage facility may take longer than usual. We appreciate your patience!
**New Davidson County Court Minute Books**

**From the Metro Archivist, Ken Fieth**

Being of German descent, I was recently reminded of the old joke, “What do three Germans do if they are stranded on a deserted island? They elect a Bishop, a Mayor, and a Chief of Police.” My affinity for government records comes from somewhere deep in that partially Teutonic blood. Yes, we do like order.

As it happens, we’re not alone. Recently, the Metro Archives received the original Davidson County Court minute books, 1781-1940. These wonderful books were carefully protected and preserved by the Metro Nashville Clerk’s Office, the current Metro Clerk allowing the books to be transferred to the Archives for permanent preservation.

The first entry for the July term, 1796 (Tennessee was granted statehood in June) for our new State is to confirm a Justice of the Peace, a panel of Jurors, a Sheriff, and a Coroner.

Yet not all is well-ordered. The very next day, Sheriff Thomas Hardiman returns to express that the (sic) “Goal is insufficient.” That sentiment will be expressed routinely by every Sheriff for the next 220 years.

While on the subject of jail, the last entry for Davidson County as a Territory sets limits for liquor sales. In early 1796, a Tavern Keeper could charge for (sic) “Good Whiskey per half pint - one shilling and four pence, Taffey Rum or Brandy - two Shillings per half pint.” Tennessee Still used the U.S. colonial system of pounds based on the value of the current British pound. But apparently we didn’t deal with cheap whiskey.

Yes, Germans enjoy structure, but so did the Davidson County Court in June 1796. These books are a true treasure and we are so fortunate to be the caretakers of a small window into a time long passed.
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).

Like us on [Facebook](https)!

615 Church St.
Nashville, TN 37219
Ph: 615-862-5880
[Contact us]