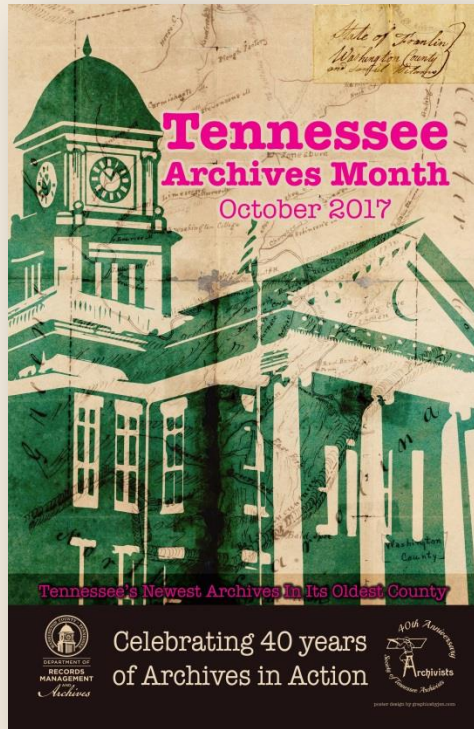


October is Tennessee Archives Month!



Governor Bill Haslam has proclaimed October of 2017 to be Tennessee Archives Month. The theme this year will be “Archives in Action: Activism and Advocacy.” This month gives those of us who work in and/or advocate archives the opportunity to inform our communities that the important items that document their histories are being preserved, cared for, and made accessible to the public by the archivists who serve them.

It’s a service that the Metro Archives staff takes pride in every day, so in the midst of the Halloween decorations and the wonderful fall weather, we’d like to wish you all a happy Tennessee Archives Month!

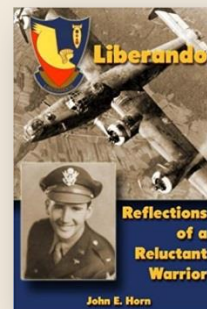
Upcoming First Tuesdays

Our “First Tuesdays at the Metro Archives” are free events that are always on the first Tuesday of the month from 12:30-1:30pm in the Commons Room on the third floor, West Wing of the downtown 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 3rd: Debbie Watts will give a first-person portrayal as First Lady Sarah Polk. This is a preview of Debbie Watts’s historical theatre piece, *From Tennessee to the White House, With Love: Tennessee’s First Ladies*, which will be performed in the Nashville Public Library’s auditorium on February 14, 2018.

November 7th: Colonel John Horn will share the story of writing *Liberando: Reflections of a Reluctant Warrior*, recently published by

Merriam Press. Col. Horn will share the inspiration for the book, the writing and publishing process, and some interesting things discovered during his research.



December 5th: Author Joyce Blaylock will speak about her historical novel,

Adelicia, based on the life of Adelicia Hayes Franklin Acklen Cheatham, published in 2016.

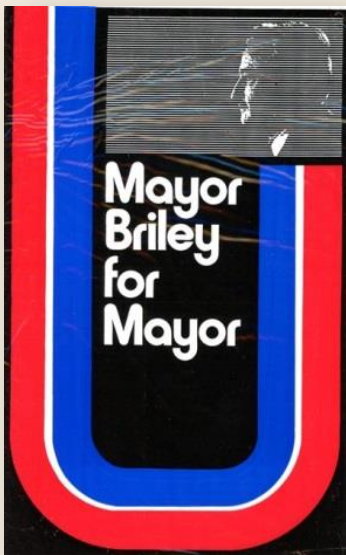
If you are interested in presenting for a First Tuesday, please contact Kelley Sirko at 615-862-5880 or by email at Kelley.Sirko@nashville.gov.

Newly-processed Collections

The Story of Metropolitan Nashville, Continued

The *C. Beverly Briley Mayoral Papers* have been fully processed, and they are incredible. As the first Mayor of newly-consolidated Metropolitan Government, Mayor Briley successfully saw Nashville through a difficult transition, and

continued to serve the city until 1975.



Beverly Briley had a remarkable political career. In addition to serving as County Judge and the first Mayor of Metropolitan Nashville, he also served on

the board of directors of the U.S. Conference of Mayors as well as special advisor on municipal affairs to Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon. As a result of the key role he played in the consolidation of city and county governments, Briley became nationally recognized as an authority on urban problems and local government management and administration.

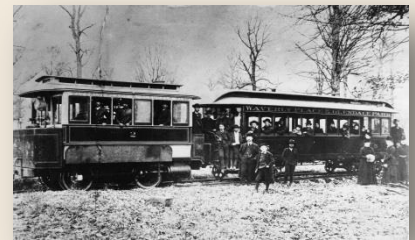
Briley's collection is a valuable assortment of materials that cover key points during his term as Mayor, including the controversy over busing in public schools, the work done in North Nashville for the Model Cities Program, and issues with housing and urban development.

The finding aid for the collection will soon be available to view online.

From Mules to Buses: The History of MTA



Ever wondered about the history of Nashville's public transportation? Look no further than the recently-processed and now available Metropolitan Transit Authority Collection. This collection contains artifacts, newspaper clippings, photos, publications, reports, and ephemera relating to the history, operation, and services of the MTA. From the McGavock and Mt. Vernon Horse Railroad Company and the South Nashville Street Railroad Company, to the operation of one of the first electric streetcars in the country in 1889, to MTA's charter in 1973, public transportation in Nashville has a rich history.



The Metropolitan Transit Authority Collection documents Nashville's continuous growth through documentation of the city's public transportation system and its impact on community development over the years.

Interesting Finds

Weather Journals

Once upon a time, weather in Nashville was recorded in daily journals for the Signal Service of the U.S. Army - Division of Telegrams and Reports for the Benefit of Commerce and Agriculture. As you can imagine, most of these entries documented what the weather had in store for the day. One of our personal favorites is the entry in which the officer recording the information reports that it was so hot out that his keys rusted in his pocket "due to excessive perspiration."

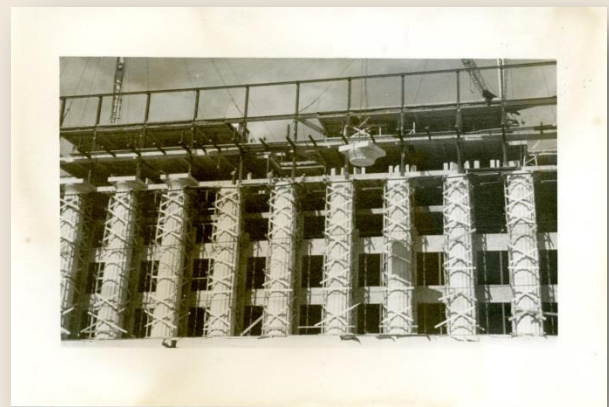
However, we also discovered that these journals record the launch of aeronaut and professor Samuel Archer King's "Buffalo Balloon" in Nashville on June 18, 1877. This flight transported what is considered to be the first airmail stamp, which was also printed in Nashville.

Civilian employed during absence of Serft.
1877
 W.T. McMorrow, cir. employed to take station 18 work during absence of obs.
 Clear to 10 a.m. after which cumulus clouds appeared, and increased changing to cum. str. at 11:35 a very heavy shower began, lasting until 1:40 P.M. at 5:03 P.M. Serft Ford ascended from this city in Balloon "Buffalo" Prof. S.A. King Aeronaut. 5:30 P.M. a light thunder shower lasting to 6:10 P.M. Fair weather sunset verified no aurora.

"W.T. McMorrow, cir. employed to take station 18 work during absence of obs. Clear to 10am after which cumulus clouds appeared, and increased changing to cum. str. At 11:35 a very heavy shower began, lasting until 1:40pm. at 5:03pm Serft. Ford ascended from this city in Balloon "Buffalo" Prof. S.A. King Aeronaut [sic]. 5:30pm a light thunder shower lasting to 6:10pm. Fair weather sunset verified. No aurora."

Our Courthouse under Construction

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the Davidson County Public Building and Courthouse. It is the fifth courthouse to be built in Public Square, with a mixture of Greek Classical and Art Deco architectural styles. We discovered photographs of the courthouse under construction in 1937 in our County Judge Papers:



The building was designed by Nashville architect Emmons H. Woolwine and Hiron and Dennison of New York. Fun fact: The courthouse was the first building to have central air conditioning in Davidson County.

"New" Materials

From our
Director, Ken
Fieth

As a collector of World War 2 memorabilia, whenever a rare, previously unknown item appears, the oft-heart slogan, "it hasn't been found yet" greets all with a knowing nod. Fortunately, this is remarkably true with Local Archives. Recently, a nearby County Librarian was processing a collection and ran across quite a find - a set of documents from the earliest period of Davidson County history. They contacted the Tennessee State Library and Archives and turned the records over to them. After a review of the materials, TSLA offered them to the Metro Archives for permanent retention

Among the materials given to the Archives were three sets of early land records, several indices of Will and Minute books and a few loose documents recording early land surveys.

These records were missing since the 1930s and it is amazing that they survived, were recognized for what they are and then eventually returned to Davidson County. Our thanks to everyone involved in the transfer and these will have a great new home in the Archives!



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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