

*Middle Tennessee*  
*State University*  
Albert Gore Research Center  
Learning Resource Center  
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Fall 2003

## From the Director



This fall marks the tenth anniversary of the Gore Center and things are busier than ever! We welcome back as our graduate assistants both Kevin Cason and Heather Bailey. Kevin has taken responsibility for our photographic collections, while Heather is taking the lead on document conservation and is assisting me as we move toward developing a searchable database of our manuscript collections. Van Zbinden has begun his third and final year as graduate assistant at the Rutherford County Archives. Jennifer Allen joined him this past summer. Returning undergraduate student workers include Eli Ramos, Casie Johnson, Emily Ferguson, Stephanie Harrell, Sarah Kumpf, Megan Dotson, Jeff Jones, and David Mabry. New student workers are Kelli Paschal, Samantha Pensyl, Brittany Martin, and Evan Zimmerman.

The summer also witnessed a departure from the Gore Center. Michael Martin, who had been with us for two years as Research Assistant for the Gore Biography Project,

successfully defended his dissertation at the University of Arkansas and has taken a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of History at the University of Louisiana – Lafayette. We wish Dr. Martin all the best!

In this issue of *The Document*, Heather Bailey reports on our cooperation with Dr. Rebecca Conard and the Teaching American History Project, while Kevin Cason provides an update on recent acquisitions and the completion of collection processing projects. Other articles include a report on our efforts to assist the Homer Pittard Campus School as they celebrate their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in their present building, and updates on the Rutherford County Bicentennial Heritage Celebration, the Rutherford County Archives, and the Albert Gore, Sr., Biography Project.

I have taken on a new outreach activity. Beginning with the November/December issue, *Murfreesboro Magazine* will be running a regular feature called "Remembering Murfreesboro." The column will showcase photographs from the Gore Center's collections. The November/December article is entitled "War

Games: World War II Comes to Murfreesboro."

I hope you enjoy reading about the happenings here at the Gore Center. If you have a collection you would like to donate,

or would like to participate in our oral history project, or would just like to visit, please contact me or Betty Rowland at 898-2632. Have a great fall!

Dr. Lisa Pruitt

## Rutherford County Archive News

In October, the Rutherford County Budget & Finance Committee approved \$150,000 for architectural plans and an engineering study of the former Rutherford Health Building. The county will enter into a tri-party agreement with the Public Building Authority and the Rutherford County Archives Implementation Committee. The three organizations will work together to renovate the facility for use as an archive space. If all goes well, the planning period should take approximately three months, after which contracts can be sought for the actual renovation. We are pleased with the continued support of the Rutherford County Government and look forward to the new opportunities that lay ahead.

This fall a microfilm technician from the Genealogical Society of Utah is here to microfilm the Loose Chancery Court Records Collection. We have been on the waiting list for several years while we finished processing the collection. In an effort to get as clear a microfilm image as possible, we have begun a sizeable cleaning project on the Loose Chancery Court Documents and have been working diligently to stay ahead of her. Before filming, we clean, repair, and double-check the organization of the documents. The staff at the Albert Gore Research Center, particularly the work-study students, have been of invaluable assistance in this project.

When the microfilm project is completed, the Genealogical Society of Utah will give one copy to the Rutherford County Archives, one copy to the Tennessee State Library and Archives and keep one copy for themselves. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to further preserve our records and make them available to a much wider audience.

On October 25, Rutherford County celebrated its 200th birthday with an all-day Heritage Festival. The County Archives hosted an open house. Hundreds of visitors touring the Court House visited the Archives to see a display of historic documents. All in all, the day was a huge success!

Van Zbinden



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## **Gore Center Helps with Teaching American History Grant**

This summer the Gore Center hosted a workshop for both of the summer institutes MTSU held as part of the Teaching American History Grant. At the end of the week for both institutes, teachers went to three different workshops sponsored by three different groups on MTSU's campus: the Center for Historic Preservation, the MTSU history department, and the Albert Gore Research Center. While in our archive, teachers were introduced to researching in archives in general; finding and using archival resources online; and some of the resources available at the Gore Center for the era of American history they were studying.

Dr. Lisa Pruitt gave a presentation on using archives to find primary sources to use in the classroom. Then she led the teacher's through an interactive lab using the Gore Center's computers. Teacher's found both primary sources of interest to their students and lesson plans linking archival resources to the teaching of American History. Many of these materials are available through the Library of Congress and National Archives websites.

From here, teachers were turned over to Heather Bailey, one of the Gore Center's graduate research assistants. Using analysis worksheets from the National Archives' Digital Classroom, teachers looked through documents, business receipts, business ledgers, photographs, period newspapers, posters, and cartoons. Not only were

teachers learning about the resources at the Gore Center, but by using the worksheets they were able to develop ideas on how to incorporate these items into a classroom learning experience.

One of the more popular exercises involved photo cards from the Haney-Maxwell-Licker collection. These cards document both the physical migration and cultural adaptation of one Jewish family from the late 19<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Using these cards, teachers were able to see the pictures taken of different family members in Russia and Poland before they immigrated to the United States. Next came a series of cards showing pictures of family members in New York City immediately after they had arrived. Finally, there was a series of pictures of the family labeled, "Murfreesboro, Tennessee." Teachers discussed how their clothing changed from Old World to New World.

We look forward to continuing a working relationship with both the teachers from this summer's institutes and the upcoming summer institutes that the Teaching American History Grant will hold in the coming years. Teachers were excited at the prospect of working with us to find resources in our archive and our willingness to digitize items for them to use in their classrooms. This was a learning experience for all and we enjoyed participating in this excellent program.

Heather Bailey

## **Rutherford County Heritage Festival, October 25, 2003**

October 25, 2003 marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Rutherford County by the General Assembly. A Heritage Festival is set to take place on Courthouse Square in

Murfreesboro. Other venues include Bradley Academy, Oaklands Historic House Museum, and Cannonsburgh Village. Activities begin at 8:00 a.m. with a pancake eating contest at Bradley, followed (fortunately!) by a fitness walk from Oaklands to the Square. Other activities will take place throughout the day, with birthday cake at each venue at 2:00 p.m.

As part of the Heritage Festival, the Rutherford County Archives on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Courthouse will host an open house with founding documents on view. The Gore Center currently has on display an exhibit entitled “Business Builds a Community: The Large and Small of Commerce in Rutherford County.” Portions of that exhibit will be moved to the third floor landing of the Courthouse for the Heritage Festival.

An ongoing contribution of the Gore Center to the bicentennial celebration is our Middle Tennessee Oral History Project. More than two dozen interviews focused on “Remembering Rutherford” have been completed in the past few months. If you would like to participate in this project call Betty Rowland at 898-2632.

## Historic Murfreesboro Photographs Come Home



Sheryl and Don Jones

On Friday, October 24, Don and Sheryl Jones of Arvada, Colorado, visited the Gore Center, bringing with them a small 1860s-era album of nine photographs and one engraved political cartoon. The images are of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and seem to date from between 1865 and 1870. The photographs show vestiges of the Union encampment on the grounds of the Courthouse. Also visible are the well and several storefront signs bearing old Murfreesboro names such as Crichlow and Ransom.

Sheryl Jones stumbled across the album in an antique store in

Colorado in the early 1980s. She bought it for a few dollars because she was fascinated by the political cartoon, which shows an African-American girl blowing bubbles. (It turns out that the cartoon was originally published in *Harper's Weekly* around 1862 and is titled “The Secession Bubble. It Must Burst.”) In spring 2003, Sheryl rediscovered the album among some of her other collectibles. Someone had long ago written “Murfreesburro, Tenn” on the album, so she began searching the Internet, which eventually led her to the History Department at MTSU. Dr. Thaddeus Smith, chair of the History Department, put Sheryl in contact with the Gore Center. The rest, as they say, is history!!

The Joneses donated the original album to the Gore Center. Bradley Academy will display reproductions. The Center for Historic Preservation will also include the images in a traveling exhibit that they are developing for the Tennessee Civil War Heritage Area. Archival negatives will be retained by both the Gore Center and the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

## History Corner



Charles Murphy tagging Emmett Kennon on second base, 1937



In 1937 the MTSU baseball field was located in grassy area that is currently between Peck Hall and the Cope Administration Building. This picture shows Emmett Kennon going to 1st base. The Wisner-Patton Science Building is in the background

## Collections Updates at the Albert Gore, Sr. Research Center

As part of an on-going effort to benefit users, Graduate Assistants at the Albert Gore, Sr. Research Center organize collections and prepare finding aids. Over the past Spring semester and summer months, Graduate Assistants Heather Bailey and Kevin Cason have processed more collections for the repository.

Heather has processed and prepared finding aids for the following collections:

[The Gulliford Collection \(Andrew\)](#)

[The Hooker Collection \(John Jay\)](#)

[The Pittard Collection \(Homer & Mabel\)](#)

Kevin has processed and prepared finding aids for the following collections:

[The Alexander Collection \(Robert E.\)](#)

[The Gillespie Collection \(James\)](#)

In addition to collections being processed, the Albert Gore, Sr. Research Center also recently acquired some new collections. One of the new collections is the MTSU Band of Blue memorabilia. Some of the items in this collection include: photographs of various band ensembles over the years, filmed footage of band performances, and documents that describe various individuals who have been inducted into the “Band of Blue Hall of Fame.”

Another new collection is the Louise Gattis Collection. This collection has materials that relate to Murfreesboro’s and Rutherford County’s history. Some of the notable items in this collection include newspaper clippings from the Daily News Journal of Rutherford County and Central High School memorabilia.

In addition to acquiring new collections, the Gore Center also has acquired some new photographs. The James Coleman Morgan Photographs include images of World War I soldiers and their campsites. The photos belonged to James Coleman Morgan's father, Harvey Logan Morgan, who was a soldier during World War I.

Also, the Gore Center has received photos from Vincent DeGeorge. The items in this collection include a picture of downtown Murfreesboro after the tornado, two pictures of the Sweet Shop, and an image of a produce store on the Murfreesboro square.

Kevin Cason

## Homer Pittard Campus School Celebrates 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



The Gore Center is helping the Campus School celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in its present building. Campus School is a K-8 public school located on MTSU’s campus. When the General Assembly established Middle Tennessee Normal School (now MTSU) in 1911, it was primarily a teacher training school. As a result, the General Assembly mandated that a public school be incorporated into the campus as a training

facility for teachers. It was originally located in Kirksey Old Main. Alternately called the “Model School,” the “Demonstration School,” and the “Training School,” it became the Campus School when the current building was completed in 1929. January of 2004 will thus mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Campus School, which was renamed for longtime MTSU faculty member Homer Pittard in 1985.

In order to assist Campus School with its celebrations, the Gore Center worked with Development Office consultant Susan Gear to prepare a photographic exhibit tracing the school’s history. The exhibit opened in the

lobby of Campus School on Founders' Day, August 28, and will remain in place through January.

In addition, we have been working with Campus School Librarian Joan Mann to preserve the school's scrapbooks and photographs, which date back to the 1930s and total about 15 linear feet of material. Sarah Murphy, a graduate student in the Public History Program, worked with us over the summer to mount the exhibit and to digitize all of the scrapbooks and albums. The digitized images were burned onto CDs and a set was presented to the Campus

School Library. Meanwhile, student workers at the Gore Center are preserving the original scrapbooks by transferring them to archival paper and bindings.



## **Albert Gore, Sr. Biography Project**

Progress continues on the project to produce a scholarly biography of the late Senator Albert Gore, Sr. Dr. Anthony Badger, Paul Mellon Professor of American History and Master of Clare College, Cambridge University, spent a week in residence September 12-20. Dr. Badger and his former research assistant, Michael Martin, prepared a paper on the 1970 political campaign that Dr. Martin presented at the Tennessee Conference of Historians on September 27. Other panelists included Dr. Kyle Longley of Arizona State University, author of another biography of Gore, *Tennessean* political reporter and commentator Larry Daughtrey, and former Senator and Ambassador to China James Sasser.

In August, the Gore Center bade farewell to Michael Martin, who completed his Ph.D. at the University of Arkansas. Dr. Martin is now Assistant Professor of History at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Joining the Gore Biography Project as a part-time research assistant is Dr. Sean Smith, who recently completed the Ph.D. in History at Vanderbilt University.



Dr. Tony Badger at work in the Gore Center

## Veterans' Day on Courthouse Square



On November 11, Lisa Pruitt and Betty Rowland attended the Veterans' Day ceremony on Courthouse Square in Murfreesboro. Organized by Elsie Stem, the event featured representatives of each branch of the services and veterans from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

The Gore Center is a partner in the Library of Congress's Veterans History Project, a nation-wide effort to document veterans' experiences of all of the major conflicts of the twentieth century. Since 2000, the Center has conducted over 200 oral history interviews, 110 of them with veterans. The Center provided a table-top display featuring photographs, oral history excerpts, and memorabilia collected as part of the project. Dr. Pruitt addressed the audience, explaining the scope of the project and inviting participation.

To learn more about the national Veterans History Project, visit their website at [www.loc.gov/folklife/vets](http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets).

For excerpts from the Gore Center's oral history interviews, visit our website at <http://gorecenter.mtsu.edu>.

