

Spring 2006

From the Director

This spring marks the completion of our first year in our new facility. We have almost filled it up completely! Many thanks to several donors who are long-term friends of the Gore Center. Steve Cates has donated so much material that we have barely begun to scratch the surface! Of particular interest recently have been some photographs and business records of Goldstein's, long a fixture on Courthouse Square in Murfreesboro. Look for future notices about interesting tidbits that Steve sends our way.



Goldstein's window display, ca. 1950

Bill Jakes and Jim Laughlin together have added some important and interesting historical images to our collections. Bill gave us four beautifully framed engravings of Civil War-era Murfreesboro, originally published in *Harper's Weekly*. He has also shared with us copies of several images from his personal collection. Bill and Jim together introduced the Lively family of Murfreesboro, including Buddy Lively, to the work of the Gore Center. In the early 20th century, "Daddy" Lively was a busy photographer in town. His surviving photographs are a virtual time capsule of the city. Buddy Lively and his parents have given us several photographs of the Lively family.



The Rutherford County

Historical Society has made the

Murfreesboro welcomes General Douglas MacArthur, 1951 (Lively)

Gore Center the repository for its research files on the history of the county. This includes an extensive collection of newspaper clippings as well as some very interesting photographs. The organizational records of the Society itself are also a part of that collection. The Rutherford County Historical Society Collection is still in the early stages of inventory and processing. We hope to have it open for researchers sometime this summer.

Examples of other recently donated items of interest include a large framed Albert Gore, Sr., campaign poster from 1958 (donated by John Vile), a photograph of the Middle Tennessee Normal School Class of 1915 and a 1930s-era Middle Tennessee State Teachers College flour barrel (both donated by Dr. E. C. Tolbert), and three notebooks of 1950s-era outdoor sports articles written by nationally-renowned sports writer and LaVergne native Emmett Gowen (donated by Toby Francis).



Oral History Project “Chugging” Along

The Gore Research Center and the Discovery Center at Murfree Spring have partnered to collect, preserve and exhibit oral histories of train memories. Gore Center staff are recording the oral histories to be part of the Discovery Center’s newest exhibit, *Trains, Tracks and Tales*, which opened in January 2006. Visitors to the Discovery Center can view pictures and hear excerpts from the interviews. The interviews will also become part of the Gore Center's Middle Tennessee Oral History Collection. As of March 2006 this collection contains 282 interviews.

Other areas of interest for the oral history collection are:

- Middle Tennessee State University
- African-American community leadership in Murfreesboro
- State and local politics
- Business and economic development in Rutherford County
- Farm life and agriculture in Rutherford and surrounding counties
- Town of Smyrna
- Veterans (men and women) who came from this region or settled here following their military service (WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and Gulf War)
- Veterans of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Tennessee
- History of medicine, public health, and hospitals in Rutherford County

If you are interested in participating in the Middle Tennessee Oral History Project or if you can suggest others who might be interested, please contact the Gore Research Center at (615) 898-2632.



Angie Lynch of Fosterville has lived by the railroad all of her life and shares some train memories from her childhood:

When business was slow the huge, empty boxcars sat on the sidetracks in Fosterville. Sometimes the big sliding doors were left open, and the kids got inside to play. My dad and I walked our chubby lambs down a gravel road and put them in pens by the railroad. Later they would be loaded into one of those boxcars and sent to their destiny.

Across the tracks stood a wooden water tank. It was way high and got it's water from a spring about a mile away. The choo-choo's stopped there to take on water. Down the tracks stood the long depot. You could sit on the porch that went around the building and let your feet dangle or sit on one of those pretty benches in the nice waiting room.

There was a ticket window where you could buy a ticket that would take you to Bell Buckle or New York. When Number 6 stopped, the conductor with his spiffy cap and suspenders placed his little black stool for you to step up. And swinging on the train steps, he shouted, "All Aboard!"

Meet Scott Anderson

This is my first semester of the Master of Arts program and I will be concentrating on either the museum or archive track within Public History. I am originally from Miami, FL, and received my Bachelor of Arts in History from Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, GA, in May of 2000. After working five and a half years in the insurance industry for UnumProvident Corporation in Chattanooga, TN, I realized that I still had a passion for history and wanted to enroll in graduate school. Feeling that I have a strong inclination towards the public side of history, I was very attracted to MTSU's Public History program and now I am enjoying the hands on experience of working at the Gore Center.



Where are they now?



John Lodl (Rutherford County Archives Graduate Assistant, 2000-2002) is currently Executive Director of the Sam Davis Home in Smyrna. John previously worked with the Georgia State Archives and the Bradley Academy Museum and Cultural Center in Murfreesboro. Visit the Sam Davis Home web site at www.samdavishome.org.

Nancy Adgent (Gore Center Graduate Assistant, 2000-2001) is now one of two Project Archivists working on a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution Archives and the Rockefeller Archive Center to develop archival standards and methodologies for the long-term preservation of digital information. To read more about Nancy and her work with the "Collaborative Electronic Records Project," visit <http://siarchives.si.edu/ceerp/ceerpindex.htm>.



Oaklands Association Collection

The Oaklands Association was formed in 1959 to preserve the Oaklands historic house in Murfreesboro, TN. The majority of the Oaklands Association Collection contains the board meeting minutes from 1959 to 2002 and scrapbooks compiled by the Oaklands Association for the years 1959 – 2000. Research files in the collection contain copies of documents and records relating to the Maney family and other families who have lived at Oaklands. The files also include copies of Civil War articles related to Oaklands and the Murfreesboro area, Oaklands' mortgage history, records associated with the Oaklands medical museum, and general Murfreesboro history from the late 1700s to the late 20th century. The Gore Center welcomes researchers interested in Oaklands and its important place in Murfreesboro history.



What's New at the Rutherford County Archives?

Construction of the new archive building has begun, and is expected to be completed by early autumn. The control of temperature and humidity in this new facility will greatly improve efforts to preserve historic public documents in Rutherford County. The new archive will be located on the corner of Burton and Rice Streets.

New Acquisitions: The archive accepted the County Court Daily Minute Books and their indices dating from 1804-1901 as an enhancement to the County Clerk Record Book collection. The Daily Minute Books provide original data entries concerning the operational activities of the County, such as payments to citizens who provided County services, as well as expanded or supplementary material to the County Clerk Record Book collection. Volunteer Don Detwiler has created an all-name index for 1804-1814, and will continue to do the same with the rest of the collection.

Conservation of Records: After several months of processing, the original will collection, dating from 1804-1899 has been re-hydrated, flattened, and filed in acid-free folders, an essential process for document preservation. The next step includes cleaning and repairing the documents, after which a new index will be created. The completion of the Will Collection will provide researchers and genealogists with an invaluable tool.

Don Detwiler continues work on the Rutherford County Marriage Certificate collection. The conservation of the marriage certificates dating from 1804-1847 has been completed. Particularly fragile certificates have been encapsulated to stabilize their condition. Don is creating a new comprehensive index to these significant documents which will be more user-friendly than the current indices for marriages in Rutherford County .

Narrating Katrina Through Oral History

Because of more media attention, the Hurricane Katrina Project has had a boost this semester. We extended our interviews to include first responders and volunteers. Now our collection houses 42 interviews, along with pictures and videos supplied by displaced families and volunteer responders. We continue to do interviews every day and we welcome referrals of new participants.

Here is a sample from one of the project interviews:

Initially it was very, very tough. Every day I watched the news. Every day I looked in the newspaper. I recognized -- it was very hard to recognize places, but I did recognize places that I knew that I frequented, and it was very tough.

I cried quite a bit every day, for probably the first month, month and a half, until I was actually able to get back home and that helped a lot, to be able to see things for myself and get some closure. I would have been emotional when I went home, but I was in too much shock, you know, at the state of things, to be emotional. Just, I could not believe the shape the coast was in, mainly Waveland and Bay St. Louis. I just couldn't imagine it being that bad.

.....William Denius

William Denius is from Poplarville, Mississippi. William is currently a graduate student in the Public History program at MTSU. He was in Murfreesboro when Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast and his home town.

Interstate Highway System Celebrates 50 Years



Senator Albert Gore
Interstate Highway Bill co-sponsor

The United States Army's first transcontinental convoy traversed the country in 1919. As an observer, Lieutenant Colonel Dwight D. Eisenhower accompanied the troops on their 62-day trip from Washington, D.C., to San Francisco. The travelers encountered all kinds of adverse conditions: the roads were slippery with ice, sodden with mud, and drifted over by dust and sand, and inadequate wooden bridges collapsed beneath the weight of their trucks. In contrast to the United States' undeveloped string of roads, Eisenhower was later impressed by the efficiency of the Germany's autobahn, which he experienced while commanding Allied forces during World War II.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower was elected President of the United States in 1952. As a result of those earlier experiences, President Eisenhower committed himself to the development of a transcontinental system of highways. It was not until the end of the Korean conflict in 1953 that he could focus his attention on that goal, however. After much debate and negotiation and several preliminary pieces of legislation, the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 was passed and signed into law on June 29, 1956. Since Senator Albert Gore, Sr., (TN) and Representative George H. Fallon (MD) co-authored that legislation, it is sometimes called the Gore-Fallon Act.

Because of his central role in the creation of the interstate highway system, the papers of Senator Gore, housed here in the Gore Center, include much primary source material on that subject, including background material, constituent mail, and documents related to the creation of the legislation itself.

Dr. Anthony Badger, Paul Mellon Professor of History, Cambridge University, and Master of Clare College, is currently writing a biography of Albert Gore, Sr. Dr. Badger will be giving a public lecture at MTSU in November 2006 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Interstate Highway system by examining the important contributions of the late Senator Gore. Watch for more information regarding this lecture!

For more information on the history of the interstate highway system, visit the national commemorative web site sponsored by the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials at <http://interstate50th.org/index.shtml>.

The Tennessee Department of Transportation has also created a commemorative web site, <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/interstateinfo/Tnfacts.htm>

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