



ALBERT GORE RESEARCH CENTER

Research Guide: Confederate Memorialization at MTSU and in Surrounding Communities

This Research Guide was developed by Sarah Calise, Archivist, at the Albert Gore Research Center in the summer of 2017. The guide provides helpful links and brief descriptions to primary and secondary sources on the history of Confederate memorialization and the use of Confederate symbols at Middle Tennessee State University and in the surrounding communities, mostly Rutherford and Davidson Counties. This is not meant to be a complete listing of all available material, but a guide for suggested physical and online repositories, databases, and books to begin the research process. Most resources will be available at the Albert Gore Research Center or [James E. Walker Library](#).

Contact Sarah.Calise@mtsu.edu or 615-898-2632 for questions or concerns regarding this research guide.

Primary Sources

- [Forrest Hall Protest Collection](#). This digital collection exists in order to collect, preserve, and provide access to the documents, accounts, and history of the individuals and organizations involved in the debate over the name of Forrest Hall and other Confederate symbols on MTSU's campus. The contents in this collection range in date from 1930-2017, but a bulk of the material covers the 1960s-70s and 2015-2017.
- [MTSU History Collections](#). This series of digital collections contains items related to MTSU history, such as yearbooks, newspapers, photographs, memorabilia, and more. Two of the collections are of particular interest:
 - [Midlanders](#). Midlander was the student yearbook of the University from 1926 to 2004. This collection offers a complete digital copy of almost every issue. Each volume is fully searchable. Physical copies are available at the Albert Gore Research Center.
 - [Sidelines](#). Sidelines is the editorially independent newspaper of the students of Middle Tennessee State University. Digital images have been created from microfilm reels covering the years from 1938, when our campus was known as Middle Tennessee State Teachers College, to 2011. Each issue is provided as a

fully searchable PDF file. Some physical copies are available at the Albert Gore Research Center.

- Oral Histories at the Albert Gore Research Center. Audio/visual files and transcripts are available for most oral histories.
 - Sylvester Brooks, Middle Tennessee Oral History Project.
 - Clara Rubens Griffin, Q.M. Smith Oral History Project.
 - Edwin Voorhies, Q. M. Smith Oral History Project.
 - Dr. M.G. Scarlett, Recollections: the Middle Tennessee Voices of Their Times Series (television program).
 - Dr. Joe Nunley and Bob Womack, Recollections: the Middle Tennessee Voices of Their Times Series (television program).
 - Carole S. Bucy, Recollections: the Middle Tennessee Voices of Their Times Series (television program).

- Manuscript Collections at the Albert Gore Research Center
 - Walter King Hoover Papers. The Walter King Hoover Papers are the culmination of a lifetime of collecting documents, ephemera, memorabilia and newspaper clippings by a Smyrna businessman.

 - Andrew Gulliford Papers. These papers pertain to the controversy surrounding the interpretation and control of the Sam Davis Home in Smyrna, Tennessee, in the mid-1990s.

- Murfreesboro Newspapers at James E. Walker Library

[See this guide for a full listing of newspapers by state](#) or visit the library's [microtext information page](#).

 - *Daily News Journal*. Microtext holdings from 1931-1993.
 - *The Sidelines*. Microtext holdings from 1938-1993.

Secondary Sources

Books or Chapters of Books

- Frisby, Derek. "The Blue Raiders and the Gray Wizard: A Struggle with Memory and Identity." In *Middle Tennessee State University: A Centennial Legacy*, edited by Janice M. Leone, 87-106. Murfreesboro, TN: Twin Oaks Press, 2011.

- Pittard, Homer. *The First Fifty Years*. Murfreesboro, TN: Middle Tennessee State College, 1961.

Scholarly Blog Posts (these are also available to view in the [Forrest Hall Protest Collection](#) in James E. Walker Library's digital collections)

- Catte, Elizabeth. "A Confederate on Campus: the Case of MTSU's Forrest Hall." NCPH History@Work (blog). October 27, 2015. <http://ncph.org/history-at-work/a-confederate-on-campus/>
- --. "Understanding MTSU's Forrest Hall Controversy: Think Civil Rights, Not Civil War." Solidarity-US.org (blog). March 7, 2016. <https://www.solidarity-us.org/site/MTSUforresthall>
- Howard, Josh. "A Confederate on Campus: Nathan Bedford Forrest as MTSU's Mascot." Sport in American History (blog). August 24, 2015. <https://ussporthistory.com/2015/08/24/nathan-bedford-forrest-and-mtsu/>
- --."Forrest Hall Info Dump: Getting Inside the President's Head." J. Howard History (blog). <https://jhowardhistory.com/2015/11/23/forrest-hall-info-dump-getting-inside-the-presidents-head/>

Research Materials

- Bob Womack Papers. These are the personal papers of MTSU Education Department Emeritus faculty member Bob Womack related to his research interests. Womack fostered an encyclopedic knowledge of The Civil War, Tennessee Walking Horses, and the Evolution – Creationism debate. These personal research interests are documented in this collection of lectures, correspondence, research materials, and other papers.
- Homer and Mabel Pittard Papers. The Homer and Mabel Pittard Papers comprise research materials collected by a husband and wife interested in Murfreesboro history, Rutherford County History, and Civil War History.
- Rutherford County Historical Society Papers. The Rutherford County Historical Society Papers consists of research materials collected by the RCHS. The RCHS Papers includes publications, subject files with topics pertaining to Rutherford County and the surrounding area, scrapbooks, newspapers, memorabilia, maps, business ledgers, and Rutherford County municipal records.
- Subject Files. The Albert Gore Research Center maintains research files on subjects relating to its areas of concentration. There are three overarching subject file areas: Albert Gore Sr., Middle Tennessee State University, and General Topics. Below is a list of a few files worth a look.
 - Buildings–Forrest Hall (ROTC)

- Davis, Sam–Biography and Home
- Dixie Controversy (see also Forrest Hall Controversy)
- Forrest Hall Controversy (see also Dixie Controversy)
- Ku Klux Klan in Tennessee
- Mascot Changes
- Race Relations on Campus