

Albert Gore

ALBERT GORE RESEARCH CENTER

Research Guide: Oak Ridge, Tennessee and Nuclear Power

This research guide was developed by Sarah Calise, Archivist, at the Albert Gore Research Center in the summer of 2018 to honor the 75th anniversary of the founding of Tennessee's "Secret City." The guide provides helpful links and brief descriptions to primary and secondary sources available at MTSU on the history of Oak Ridge, Tennessee as a site for the development of nuclear weapons and power. This guide is not meant to be a comprehensive listing of all available material. Rather, this is a listing of suggested archival collections, databases, and books to begin the research process. All listed sources are available at the Albert Gore Research Center or [James E. Walker Library](#), unless otherwise noted.



Postcard from the Regina Forsythe Postcard Collection, Albert Gore Research Center at MTSU

Primary Sources

- **Albert Gore, Sr. Congressional Papers**
 - House Papers, 1939-1952. Material related to Oak Ridge, the Atomic Energy Commission, and the atomic bomb appears in the following series: broadcasts, personal correspondence, speeches, and general files.
 - Senate Papers, 1953-1970. Material related to Oak Ridge, atomic reactors, nuclear power, and the Atomic Energy Commission appears in the following series: research, departmental, legislative, issue mail, federal jobs, special, and Gore bills.
- **Bart Gordon Papers, 1985-2011.** These papers are currently unprocessed, but we are actively developing a folder-level inventory. In the boxes inventoried thus far, there are numerous folders on Oak Ridge and concerns about nuclear waste storage, specifically monitored retrievable storage.

- **Oral Histories**
 - Anne Keisling, Middle Tennessee Oral History Project, Interview #217. Keisling worked in the Y-12 complex in Oak Ridge during World War II. (Gore Center)
 - Center for Oak Ridge Oral History. The mission of COROH is to ensure that the memories of those involved in the history of the city of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, from its inception to the present, and its profound significance to the region, the United States, and the world will not be lost. [Access these oral histories through the Oak Ridge Public Library's digital collections.](#)

Secondary Sources

- **Selected Books**
 - Freeman, Lindsey A. *Longing for the Bomb: Oak Ridge and Atomic Nostalgia*. Chapel Hill, NC: the University of North Carolina Press, 2015. (Walker Library)
 - Johnson, Leland. *Oak Ridge National Laboratory: the First Fifty Years*. Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 1994. (Walker Library)
 - Kiernan, Denise. *The Girls of Atomic City: the Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 2013. (Walker Library)
 - Westcott, Ed. *Images of America: Oak Ridge*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2005. (Gore Center – Reference)
- **Documentaries**
 - HP Video, Inc. *Secret City: The Oak Ridge Story, the War Years*. 2005. DVD. Available at Walker Library or [online here at PBS](#).
 - HP Video, Inc. *Secret City: The Oak Ridge Story, 1945-2006*. 2006. DVD Available at Walker Library.