

**Historic Nashville, Inc.  
1910-1935 Oral History Project,  
recorded 1980-1982**

**Collection Summary**

**Creator:** Historic Nashville, Inc.

**Title:** Historic Nashville, Inc. 1910-1935 Oral History Project

**Inclusive Dates:** 1980-1982 (recorded)

**Summary/Abstract:** Twenty-nine audio-recorded interviews of Nashville residents recalling their life and major events in the early twentieth century, primarily focusing on the years 1910 to 1935.

**Physical Description/Extent:** 29 audio recordings; 33 indexes; 1 transcript; 5 manuscript items

**Series:**

**Linking Entry Complexity Note:**

**Accession Number:** Acc. RT-100; Acc. 2009.017

**Language:** English

**Stack Location:** Closed stacks oral histories; Closed stacks workroom range 3 section 8 : documents and indexes

**Repository:** Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library, 615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219

**Chronology**

1888	Glendale Park established
Late 1880s – Early 1900s	Temperance is a key issue in Nashville and Tennessee.
1890s – 1941	Streetcars are a common means of transportation within the city
1903	The Arcade opens as a shopping destination in downtown Nashville.
1904, Dec. 23	Capt. Tom Ryman dies. Rev. Sam Jones, at Ryman's funeral on Christmas Day, takes a vote to rename the Union Gospel Tabernacle the Ryman Auditorium, to overwhelming response.
1908, Nov. 9	Politician and journalist Edward Ward Carmack killed in a shootout with Robin Cooper, son of Duncan Brown Cooper
1909	Various statewide prohibition bills passed in Tennessee General Assembly

1909	Five moving-picture theaters are in operation, all located along Fifth Avenue North
1911	Tony Sudekum forms the Crescent Amusement Company, which would later grow into a large regional chain of movie theaters
1913	Ward-Belmont College provides education for young women, established through merger of Ward Seminary (est. 1865) and Belmont College (est. 1890)
1914, Nov.	National Woman's Suffrage Association meets in Nashville
1917	America enters World War I
1916	Belle Meade Country Club is formed
1916, Mar. 22	East Nashville fire
1918, July 9	Train wreck at Dutchman's Curve in West Nashville kills over 100 people, worst train disaster in American history
1918 – 1919	Nationwide influenza pandemic
1918, Nov. 11	Armistice concludes World War I
1918	Old Hickory Powder Plant constructed and operated by E. I. DuPont deNeMours, Co.
1919, Jan. 16	18 <sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified, prohibiting the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors
1919	Protestant Hospital opens; renamed Baptist Hospital in 1948
1920, Aug. 18	Tennessee General Assembly ratifies 19 <sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, granting women the right to vote. Tennessee was the 36 <sup>th</sup> state to ratify the amendment, thus ensuring its passage.
1922	WDAA, first Nashville radio station, broadcasts
1925, Nov. 28	New radio show, "WSM Barn Dance" begins broadcasting; George Hay is host
1926 Dec. & Jan. 1927	Cumberland River floods
1927, May	WSM Barn Dance becomes known as the Grand Ole Opry

1927	Formation of Edwin Warner and Percy Warner Parks through generous donations of land from Luke Lea, Edwin Warner and Percy Warner
1929 – 1930s	The Great Depression
1930s	Failure of Caldwell and Company, owned by financier Rogers Caldwell
ca. 1932	Glendale Park closes
1932	Reconstruction Finance Corporation assists failing banks in Nashville
1933, Mar. 14	East Nashville tornado
1933, Dec. 5	Passage of the 21 <sup>st</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution repeals the 18 <sup>th</sup> Amendment, ending Prohibition

### **Biographical/Historical Sketch**

In 1968 the Historic Sites Federation of Tennessee was formed. The name was changed to Historic Nashville, Inc. in 1974. Historic Nashville, Inc. (HNI) was organized as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a stated purpose to document and preserve the cultural, historical, and architectural heritage of Nashville. This group was instrumental in saving Union Station, the Ryman Auditorium, and many other historic buildings. They conducted a number of oral history projects in the late 1970s and early 1980s. For many years, they held an annual Market Street Festival to raise awareness of the historic nature of downtown's Second Avenue. In 2003, their records were donated to the Special Collections Division of the Nashville Public Library.

The origin and purpose of the 1910-1935 Oral History Project is not known, as of 2019. HNI staff members Ophelia Paine and Lee Ann Thornton conducted the interviews between 1980 and 1982.

### **Scope and Contents of the Collection**

The 1910-1935 Oral History Project is comprised of 34 oral histories (29 of which are extant) conducted from 1980 to 1982 by two staff members of Historic Nashville, Inc. Focus of the interviews is upon lived experiences during the early decades of the twentieth century, particularly from the perspective of upper class and upper middle class, white, well-educated individuals.

General topics include: childhood, courtship and marriage, social life, schools and education, transportation, recreation and leisure activities, parks, hotels, family life,

domestic tasks, including the use of servants, medicine, shopping, businesses, theaters, floods, horses, horse racing and gambling, early automobiles, streetcars, neighborhoods, downtown, and other aspects of life in Nashville in the early twentieth century,

Specific topics of interest include: women's suffrage, prohibition, the Dutchman's Curve train wreck of 1918, World War I, the East Nashville fire of 1916 and the tornado of 1933, the shooting of Edward Ward Carmack by Robin Cooper, and the Great Depression, particularly the collapse of Caldwell & Co. Also included are a few recollections of family stories about the Civil War, or family history in general.

Prominent individuals mentioned include: Rogers Caldwell; Percy Warner; Luke Lea; and Franklin Roosevelt. Specific places frequently mentioned include: Belle Meade Country Club; West End Avenue; East Nashville; Warner Parks; Glendale Park and zoo; Hume-Fogg High School; and the Ryman Auditorium.

Nearly all interviews have topical indexes to the recording; almost none have transcripts. Five interviews do not have extant audio recordings, but they do have indexes which at least provides a brief overview of the contents of the missing interview. One interview, with Martha Lindsey, exists only as a written transcript. A few interviews are accompanied by related documents donated by the interviewee, such as a Manier family history and memoir; and employee lists of Caldwell and Company from 1929 and 1930.

## **Organization/Arrangement of Materials**

### **Organization:**

**Arrangement:** Digital files and CDs are identified by the project abbreviation: "HNIOHP" which serves as a prefix. Arranged thereunder alphabetically by the last name of the interviewee. Note that this same prefix identifier is also used in several other distinct projects created by Historic Nashville, Inc.

## **Restrictions**

**Restrictions on Access:** In library use only. Available by appointment. Recordings which exist on audiocassette only, and have not yet been converted to digital format, require at least one week's advance notice for staff to convert into digital format. No access will be granted to recordings which exist only on audiocassette.

**Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:** A few (but not all) interviews conducted by Ophelia Paine have signed release forms in which the interviewee grants to Historic Nashville, Inc. the right to use the interview for "scholarly and educational purposes;" and that "portions of the taped interview may be used in publication." However, the release forms have no explicit statement concerning intellectual property rights. The majority of the collection has no release forms on file at all.

## **Index Terms**

### **Personal Names:**

Adams, Alfred Thompson, 1898-1982  
Allison, Annie Claybrooke, 1872-1950  
Caldwell, Rogers Clark, 1890-1968  
Carmack, Edward Ward, 1858-1908  
Cooper, Robin, -1919  
Lea, Luke, 1879-1945  
Manier family  
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945 – Public opinion  
Ryman, Thomas Green, 1841-1904  
Sloan family  
Sloan, John E., 1904-1988  
Warner family  
Warner, Percy, 1861-1927  
Zibart family  
Zibart, Alan W., d. 1995  
Zibart, Carl F.

### **Corporate Names/Organizations:**

Belle Meade Country Club (Nashville, Tenn.)  
Bransford Realty Company (Nashville, Tenn.)  
Cain-Sloan Department Store (Nashville, Tenn.)  
Caldwell & Company (Nashville, Tenn.)  
Centennial Club of Nashville  
Duncan College Preparatory School (Nashville, Tenn.)  
E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company (Old Hickory, Tenn.)  
Edgewood (Nashville, Tenn.)  
Hermitage (Hermitage, Tenn.)  
Hermitage Club (Nashville, Tenn.)  
Hermitage Hotel (Nashville, Tenn.)  
Hume-Fogg High School (Nashville, Tenn.)  
Junior League of Nashville.  
Loveman, Berger & Teitlebaum (Nashville, Tenn.)  
Nashville Banner - OK  
Noel Hotel (Nashville, Tenn.)  
Peabody Demonstration School  
Pontotoc (Nashville, Tenn.)  
Reconstruction Finance Corporation  
Renraw (Nashville, Tenn.)  
Royal Oaks (Nashville, Tenn.)  
Ryman Auditorium (Nashville, Tenn.)  
Skalowski's (Ice cream parlor : Nashville, Tenn.)  
Tarbox School (Nashville, Tenn.)  
United States. Army. Field Artillery, 114th

Vanderbilt University  
Vanderbilt University. Law School.  
Vanderbilt University. School of Medicine.  
Vendome Theatre (Nashville, Tenn.)  
Wallace University School (Nashville, Tenn.)  
Ward Seminary (Nashville, Tenn.)  
Ward-Belmont College (Nashville, Tenn.)  
Zibart's Books (Nashville, Tenn.)

**Conference Names:**

Iroquois Steeplechase (Nashville, Tenn.)  
Tennessee Centennial and International Exposition (1897 : Nashville, Tenn.)

**Subjects:**

Agriculture -- Tennessee  
Autobiographies -- Tennessee  
Automobiles -- United States -- Anecdotes  
Balls (Parties) -- Tennessee -- Nashville  
Bank failures -- Tennessee -- Nashville  
Banks and banking -- Tennessee -- Nashville  
Business enterprises -- Tennessee -- Nashville  
Businesspeople -- Tennessee -- Nashville  
Capitalists and financiers -- Tennessee -- Nashville  
Central business districts -- Tennessee -- Nashville  
Charities -- Tennessee -- Nashville  
Children -- Tennessee -- Social conditions  
Churches -- Tennessee -- Nashville  
City and town life -- Tennessee  
Clubs -- Tennessee -- Nashville  
Collective memory -- Southern States  
Courtship -- Southern States  
Dating (Social customs) -- Anecdotes  
Debutante balls -- Tennessee -- Nashville  
Debutantes -- Tennessee -- Nashville  
Department stores -- Tennessee -- Nashville  
Depressions -- 1929 -- Southern States -- Personal narratives  
Depressions -- 1929 -- Tennessee  
Dorris automobile  
Education -- Tennessee -- Nashville  
Entertainment events -- Tennessee -- Nashville  
Farms -- Tennessee, Middle  
Fires -- Tennessee -- Nashville  
Floods -- Cumberland River (Ky. and Tenn.)  
Floods -- Tennessee -- Nashville  
Girls' schools -- Tennessee -- Nashville  
Homemakers -- Tennessee

Horse racing – Tennessee  
 Horses – Tennessee  
 Hospitals – Tennessee – Nashville  
 Hotels – Tennessee – Nashville  
 Household employees – Tennessee – Nashville  
 Housing – Tennessee – Nashville  
 Influenza Epidemic, 1918-1919 – Tennessee  
 Insurance companies – Tennessee  
 Leisure – Tennessee – Nashville  
 Marriage – United States – Anecdotes  
 Memory – Personal narratives  
 Memory – Social aspects – Tennessee  
 Neighborhoods – Tennessee – Nashville  
 Nightclubs – Tennessee – Nashville  
 Parties – Tennessee – Nashville  
 Physicians – Biography  
 Prohibition -- Tennessee  
 Radio – United States – Anecdotes  
 Radio broadcasting – Social aspects – Tennessee  
 Railroad accidents – Tennessee – Nashville  
 Recreation – Tennessee – Nashville  
 Reminiscing  
 Schools – Tennessee – Nashville  
 Sex role – Southern States  
 Shopping – Tennessee – Nashville  
 Single-sex schools – Tennessee – Nashville  
 Social history – 20<sup>th</sup> century  
 Sports – Tennessee – Nashville  
 Stores, Retail – Tennessee – Nashville  
 Street-railroads – Tennessee – Nashville  
 Suffragists – Tennessee  
 Temperance – Tennessee  
 Theaters – Tennessee – Nashville  
 Tornadoes – Tennessee – Nashville  
 Transportation – Tennessee – Nashville  
 Upper class – Tennessee – Nashville – Social life and customs  
 Voting – Tennessee – Nashville  
 Wealth  
 Weddings – Tennessee – Nashville  
 Women – Education – Tennessee – Nashville  
 Women – Suffrage – Tennessee  
 Women – Suffrage – United States  
 Women – Tennessee – Nashville -- Social life and customs  
 Women -- United States – History -- 20th century -- Sources  
 Women –Tennessee – Nashville -- Societies and clubs  
 World War, 1914-1918 – United States – Personal narratives

## World War, 1914-1918 – Veterans – Tennessee

### **Places:**

Belle Meade (Tenn.)  
Broadway Avenue (Nashville, Tenn.)  
Cumberland River (Ky. and Tenn.) -- Flood, 1926-1927  
Davidson County (Tenn.)  
Dutchman's Curve (Nashville, Tenn.)  
East Nashville (Nashville, Tenn.)  
Edwin Warner Park (Nashville, Tenn.)  
Glendale Park (Nashville, Tenn.)  
Hillsboro Pike (Davidson County, Tenn.)  
Nashville (Tenn.) – Biography  
Nashville (Tenn.) – Commerce  
Nashville (Tenn.) -- Fire, 1916  
Nashville (Tenn.) -- Flood, 1926-1927  
Nashville (Tenn.) – History – 20<sup>th</sup> century -- Sources  
Nashville (Tenn.) – Officials and employees  
Nashville (Tenn.) – Politics and government – 20<sup>th</sup> century  
Nashville (Tenn.) -- Social conditions -- 20<sup>th</sup> century  
Nashville (Tenn.) -- Tornado, 1933  
Percy Warner Park (Nashville, Tenn.)  
Public Square (Nashville, Tenn.)  
Rutledge Hill (Nashville, Tenn.)  
South Nashville (Nashville, Tenn.)  
Tennessee -- Biography  
Tennessee – Economic conditions  
Tennessee – History – 20<sup>th</sup> century – Sources  
Tennessee – Officials and employees  
Tennessee – Politics and government – 20<sup>th</sup> century  
Tennessee – Social conditions – 20<sup>th</sup> century  
Tennessee--History--Civil War, 1861-1865  
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Influence  
West End Avenue (Nashville, Tenn.)

### **Genre/Document Types:**

Interviews  
Manuscripts (documents)  
Oral histories (document genre)

### **Occupations:**

Bankers  
Businesspeople  
Lawyers  
Physicians  
Politicians

Soldiers  
Students  
Teachers

**Added Author (Personal Name):**

Adams, Alfred Thompson, 1898-1982  
Paine, Ophelia Thompson, interviewer  
Thornton, Lee Ann, interviewer  
Zibart, Alan W., d. 1995  
Zibart, Carl F.

**Added Author (Corporate Heading):**

**Added Title:**

**Associated and Related Material**

Other materials created by Historic Nashville, Inc. are also in the holdings of the Special Collections Division of the Nashville Public Library.

**Separated Material**

**Administrative Information**

**Additional Physical Form Available:**

Original audiocassette recordings are restricted to staff use only. Approximately half of the interviews have master .wav files or a master .mp3 file located on a dedicated server, accessible to staff only. Public use copies are in the form of .mp3 files on compact discs. Not all audiocassettes have been converted to a digital format. See detailed information about public availability within each interview summary in this finding aid.

**Location of Originals/Duplicates:** An announcement about this oral history project in "Historic Ink," the newsletter of HNI, (dated Jan./Feb. 1982) indicated that copies of the interviews were also provided to the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

**Copyright:** No provision or statement concerning copyright status of these interviews is available, and extant release forms do not address this matter. Therefore, copyright status is undetermined. These materials may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

**Preferred Citation:** [individual interview], Historic Nashville, Inc. 1910-1935 Oral History Project, Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition:** Source of acquisition for the bulk of the collection is unknown, although the materials were likely donated by Historic Nashville, Inc. sometime in the early 1980s. Seven audiocassettes of interviews with Bradford, Douglass, Evers, Fletcher, Manier, Noel, and Russell were donated to the Nashville Public Library by Ophelia Paine in 2009.

**Ownership and Custodial History:** The bulk of the collection is of unknown provenance, as of 2016. It is believed that the recordings were donated to the Nashville Public Library by Historic Nashville, Inc. shortly after they were created in the early 1980s. Seven audiocassettes were in the custody of one of the HNI interviewers, Ophelia Paine, until they were donated to the Nashville Public Library in 2009.

**Processing Information:** Original analog audiocassette recordings were sent to an outside vendor, Safe Sound Archive, in 2006 to be converted to digital format, and was overseen by NPL staff member Jim Havron. Funding was provided by the Nashville Public Library Foundation. Detailed administrative inventory completed by volunteer Kathy Bennett, May 2018. Finding aid created by staff member Linda Barnickel, February 2019.

**Accruals:** No further accruals are expected.

### **Other Finding Aids**

### **Electronic Location and Access**

Excerpts from selected interviews may be accessed via the Nashville Public Library's Digital Collections Portal .

### **References to Works by or about Collection Creator/Topic**

### **Detailed Description of the Collection**

**ALFRED T. ADAMS** was born in 1898 and grew up in the Belmont and Vanderbilt areas of Nashville. He attended Tarbox School, Wallace School, and graduated from Vanderbilt. He speaks about playing football in the 1910s at Wallace School and Vanderbilt, coaching in the 1920s at Hume-Fogg and Montgomery Bell Academy and visiting the family property at Beersheba along with naming his many childhood friends. Adams discusses serving in the army, attending law school, practicing law, teaching at the YMCA Law School and being elected to the state legislature. Adams was appointed Chancellor of the Davidson County Chancery Court in 1957. (Recorded September 16, 1980; interviewer Lee Ann Thornton; index available. No release form on file. Digital identifier: **HNIOHAdamsA1** (.mp3 format). Also included is a brief memoir, "In the Good Old Days" and an article from "The Nashville Bar" titled, "Adams Star Vandy Athlete."

**CATHERINE PILCHER AVERY** was born in 1894, the niece of Milton and Preston Dorris who built the Dorris Car, the first automobile manufactured in Nashville. She talks extensively about the many cross-country road trips she took as a child and young woman in the Dorris car both as a driver and a passenger and early road conditions. She also mentions pony, train and horse-drawn travel. She notes that she won a prize in the 1912 tour to Huntsville, Alabama where she drove by herself, and a trip to Hermitage with Mrs. Symmes (little Rachel's granddaughter). She discusses mourning practices, her work as a long-time board member at the Hermitage and shopping practices from purchasing gasoline to ice, meat and clothing. She discusses ice cream parlors and

candy makers. (Recorded February 9, 1981; interviewer Lee Ann Thornton; index available. No release form on file. Digital identifier: **HNIOHAvaryC** (.mp3 format)

**CORINNE CALHOUN BAILEY** states that her earliest memories of Nashville are of living on Hillsboro Road where St. Bernard's is today, followed by a move to a home on Franklin Road in 1911. Her father, Tyler Calhoun, owned a jewelry store that went out of business after World War I. She talks about his work history prior to 1910. Her many anecdotes include a house fire on Hillsboro Road where the St. Bernard nuns organized to save the china and silver; horseback rides to Franklin and back; streetcar travel downtown; Skilowski's and the Tennessee Centennial. She discusses the schools she attended (Tarbox, Murphy School, Waverly School and Hume-Fogg) and her teachers. After marrying in 1918, she states that her husband enlisted but "never went to fight" and after the war the couple moved to Clarksville to start a dairy. The interview ends with discussion of servants, farming and chores. (Recorded February 14, 1982; interviewer Ophelia Paine; index available. Release form on file. Digital identifier: **HNIOHBaileyC** (.mp3 format)

**NEL BARNES** states she was abandoned at three days old after her birth on August 21, 1909, and left in the care of Mrs. Blanche Gardner, with whom she lived on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and later on Chestnut Street. She discusses attending school at Fall School and later Hume-Fogg, until her foster mother made her quit because the girls wore bloomers while playing basketball. She talks about her early marriage to Mr. Barnes, jobs at Sears and Life and Casualty, inability to attend college because Mrs. Gardner lost funds left for her education, and modeling at Loveman's. The Barnes' home, she states, was on the corner of Ashwood and 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue. (Recorded August 7, 1982; interviewer Ophelia Paine; index available. Release form on file. Digital identifier: **HNIOHBarnesN** (.mp3 format)

**J. C. BRADFORD** discusses Nashville society, private clubs, residential development and a selection of Nashville scandals from the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He mentions the Hermitage Club, the Belle Meade Country Club, bootlegging from 1920 to 1933, and the Watauga Club. He talks about Luke Lea's trial, bank failures and the Cooper-Carmack shooting, military service during World War I, the development of Percy Warner Park and Edwin Warner Park, and the growth of Nashville's insurance industry. (Recorded June 25, 1980; interviewer Lee Ann Thornton; index available. No release form on file. *Available on cassette tape only. Requires advance notice to access. Not digitized.*)

**JOHN S. BRANSFORD** tells about Johnson's Ferry, operated by his grandfather, Anthony Wayne Johnson, and "Edgewood", the family home in East Nashville. He discusses Bransford Realty Company, started by his father; the role of the company along with Luke Lea in determining the location of the Belle Meade Country Club; early development of Belle Meade; Warner Park, Luke Lea, prohibition, streetcars, and World War I. He states that Luke Lea's property on West Tyne was used as an Army base during World War I. He describes cars (Gulf & Western electric car, General Motor's electric car), Brewster carriages, and family letters now at the state library. Bransford

discusses his grandfather's role in the Civil War as chief of transportation for the Confederate Army for Tennessee and his imprisonment. (Recorded July 9, 1980; interviewer Lee Ann Thornton; index available. No release form on file. Digital identifier: HNIOHBransford (.mp3 format) Also accompanied by a letter from Bransford to Mac Dickinson III concerning Bransford's mother encountering Bransford's future wife as a baby, at Belle Meade.

**R. LEE DAVIS** shares his story in two interviews conducted on two separate dates. In the first interview, he discusses his employment in the accounting department and corporate buying department at Caldwell Company, where he was hired in 1926. He recounts banking difficulties in Nashville in the 1930s, including receiverships, mergers, the 1932 "bankers' depression" and the introduction of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, or RFC. He names Jesse Jones as the mastermind behind the bank mergers that occurred in Nashville. He recalls the radio ads, where WSM personalities declared Caldwell claims, "We bank on the South." He recounts President Roosevelt's decision to close the banks resulting in suicides and the revealing of bankers' wrongdoings with consistent criticism of FDR. The second interview describes Rogers Caldwell as a likeable man who served a need in Nashville, financing various projects and owning local insurance companies. He calls Luke Lea a "power hungry politician." He reviews a list of Caldwell employees and makes comments on those who made an impression on him. (Recorded February 25, 1981 and March 11, 1981; interviewer Lee Ann Thornton; index available. No release form on file. Digital identifier: HNIOHDavisR1&2. (.mp3 format). Accompanied by employee lists of Caldwell & Company (1929 & 1930); Reconstruction Finance Corporation (1952, with salaries).

**DR. HENRY L. DOUGLASS** shares his story in two interviews conducted on two separate dates. In the first interview, he discusses his early family life in Madison after a move from Texas where his father lived after the civil war, family history, his education and graduation from Vanderbilt University Medical School, following a first year at University of Nashville, and giving anesthesia as a doctor's assistant. He mentions work at St. Thomas, Protestant Hospital (later to be called Baptist Hospital), cultural events, including lectures and performances by William Jennings Bryant, evangelist Sam Jones, and Fritz Kreisler at the Ryman and Vendome and his service as an Army medic during World War I. He talks about cars and the need to wear goggles and a duster to go driving. In the second interview, he discusses the process of admission to Vanderbilt University, other local medical schools, course of study and professors. He mentions local entertainment at the Bijou Theater, the Vendome and the Tabernacle (Ryman). He frequently mentions Dr. Haggard, who served as his mother's doctor, his landlord, and his employer after medical school. He tells the story of Werner Von Braun bringing his father to be treated by Dr. Douglass. (Recorded November 11, 1981 and January 6, 1982; interviewer Ophelia Paine; index available. *Only the first interview has been digitized. Second interview is available on cassette tape only and requires advance notice to access.* Release form on file. Digital identifier (first interview): HNIOHDouglassH. (.mp3 format)

**MARTHA F. ESKRIDGE** gives family background, including growing up in Sumner County on the old "Still Place" attending Ward Seminary while living on Gallatin Pike in 1910 near Mrs. Isaac Litton, and states, "we lived the (Civil) War" through all the men nearby still wearing uniforms." She says her father was a telegraph operator, farmer and owner of a race horse. She tells of going to Glendale Park that had band concerts and a restaurant, attending lawn parties on Gallatin Pike and amusements that included fish fries, bridge, and theater entertainment at the Ryman. She credits Mr. Sudekum with bringing entertainment to Nashville. She describes moving to Oklahoma in 1917 with her husband and their return to Nashville where he was employed by the Banner, with coworkers she calls "like a family." She describes Banner reporters, including book reviewer Miss Dromgoole and Miss Libby Morrow, society editor. She discusses her moves in the 1920s to Franklin Pike, neighbors, the Interurban, gardening and the stock market crash and its local effect. (Recorded June 17, 1982; interviewer Ophelia Paine; index available. Release form on file. Digital identifier: HNIOHEskridge. (.mp3 format)

**BERNARD EVERS** describes his experience in World War I as a volunteer with the Luke Lea regiment [114<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery], including the unsuccessful attempt to capture the Kaiser after the armistice, uniforms and equipment, military training with wooden guns, officers, practice, landing in Brest in France, the camp and Alvin York, "the hero." He tells of his first flight which was a biplane, the excitement of parades and luncheons upon his return and a letter from Lea at dismissal that was his final message to his men. He recalls Chateau Thiery and other engagements, captains and battery commanders, traveling by night during the war, the ten year Lea Regiment reunion and the flu after the war. (Recorded September 5, 1980; interviewer Lee Ann Thornton; index available. No release form on file. *Available on cassette tape only. Requires advance notice to access. Not digitized.*)

**MARY DUDLEY DAKE FLETCHER**, born in 1910, describes Nashville social life and parties within the context of World War I, area bank failures, and social life up to World War II. She talks about local theater performances at the Orpheum, Lowes and the Auditorium (Ryman), stating "We had real culture then." Social events and locations included the Children's Mardi Gras, the Hermitage Club, dinner clubs, Sunday open houses, tea dances, script dances, house parties at country homes and annual Christmas parties. She discusses the train wreck at Dutchman's curve, ghost stories, the failure of Caldwell & Company and local leaders Luke Lea and Rogers Caldwell. (Recorded September 5, 1980; interviewer Lee Ann Thornton; index available. No release form on file. *Available on cassette tape only. Requires advance notice to access. Not digitized.*)

**ERNEST K. HARDISON**, born in 1909, went into business with his father and M. E. Derryberry to open Spot Cash Company and wholesale grocery, to become Hardison Seed until the building burned in 1935. Hardison discusses the challenges of conducting business on lower Broad, from traffic and lack of parking to floods, monitoring the water rising, pumping out flood water and whiskey storage by Durham at the Acme Seed building. Hardison talks about horse racing, horses, competitions, the early years of the Steeplechase, fox hunting and the Hillsboro Hounds Hunt Club. He mentions area businessmen with financial interest in horses, including John Sloan and Mr. Houghland,

and his work as an outrider for Mr. Houghland. He mentions movies filmed on location on lower Broad, including "Davy Crockett." (Recorded February 17, 1981; interviewer Lee Ann Thornton; index available. No release form on file. **Digital identifier: HNIOHHardisonE.** (.mp3 format)

**MAY WINSTON BUNTIN HILL** was born in 1914 in Nashville and grew up in what became the SAE house on 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue South on the Vanderbilt campus. She recalls early buildings on West End, Mrs. Brown's tea room, and the many hours spent playing at "Longview," the home of her grandparents. She describes attending Miss Annie Allison's School, lists fellow students, and describes the neighborhood and the eventual move of the school to Ward-Belmont. She talks about dress shopping, the Nashville suffrage movement, Mrs. Ann Dudley, and the Revue Club which included all of Nashville's outstanding women as its members. She lists important social events and locations, including the Hermitage Club, the Hermitage Hotel, the Junior Assembly, the Centennial Club, the Hunt Club, the Steeplechase and the Tennessee State Fair. She mentions her uncle, Rogers Caldwell, and his weekly routine. (Recorded February 10, 1982; interviewer Ophelia Paine; index available. No release form on file. **Cassette not found.** **NO AUDIO EXTANT.** No digital identifier.)

**ELIZABETH L. JACOBS AND MARY JANE LOWENHEIM WERTHEN** describe life in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in Nashville, including the West End neighborhoods, servants, stables, streetcar routes and downtown businesses such as shoe and jewelry stores. They discuss the Tarbox School, which had wonderful teachers but outdoor privies, their home on Craighead, and memories of the homemaking skills of neighbor Mrs. Zibart. They talk about the motorman on the streetcar and their habit of giving him soup on cold days because the cars had no heat. They discuss home making, which included chicken yards, the ice man, and shopping at Skilowski's, Rich-Schwartz Lowenstein's and Woolwine's. They mention attending Vanderbilt, commuting by streetcar. Both agree that sewing was a big part of life. Both state that deaths during World War I were all very personal; that the cousins' letters from the front line were important to all. (Recorded December 7, 1981; interviewer Ophelia Paine; index available. Release forms on file. **Cassette not found.** **NO AUDIO EXTANT.** No digital identifier.)

**MARTHA LINDSEY** discusses social life, boarding school, gentlemen callers, dating habits and the strong supervision of young women during the early 1900s. During her trips north, she mentions meeting members of the Vanderbilt and Gould families. She states that she lived away during the years of World War I at boarding school and at Bryn Mawr College. She discusses Luke Lea, Rogers Caldwell and the disappearance of Tom Buntin. (Recorded August 12, 1980; interviewer Lee Ann Thornton; transcript available. No release form on file. **Cassette not found.** **NO AUDIO EXTANT.** No digital identifier.) Accompanied by brief memoir written for the Query Club about shopping at a downtown general store known as Thompson's.

**DOROTHY LOOMIS** recalls growing up in Nashville in the early 1900s and attending Clemons School while the family lived at Waverly Place. She states that early memories

include listening to a great aunt tell stories of the Civil War, collecting watercress from Brown's Creek, reading and riding bikes, attending Hume-Fogg and entering Vanderbilt in 1915. She states that "no attention was paid to the women," for there were no dormitories and clubs were restricted to men. She names her professors and shares that she tutored poet Alan Tate in math. She describes sitting in the house chamber of the Tennessee Legislature during the deciding vote for women's suffrage, and the end of the connection between Vanderbilt and the Methodist Church. She describes her academic career, including teaching and earning a doctorate in English from Yale. (Recorded September 30, 1982; interviewer Ophelia Paine; index available. No release form on file. **Digital identifier:** HNIOHLoomisD. (.mp3 format)

**MARY TOM WARNER MALLISON (Mrs. W. T.)** discusses her early life in Nashville in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, including the family home, "Renraw" where she says that at one time, members of four generations lived together along with servants. She states that she was a student at Ward Seminary, attended the First Presbyterian Church downtown with her family, and after her marriage, returned home to live at the new family home, "Royal Oaks" during World War I while her husband served in the military. She discusses the founding of the Centennial Club, started jointly by her mother, Mrs. Percy Warner, Mrs. Eakin and Mrs. Weakley. She mentions that her father, Percy Warner, donated his personal zoo to Glendale Park. "Everything was the best in those days," concludes Mrs. Mallison. (Recorded October 6, 1980; interviewer Lee Ann Thornton; index available. No release form on file. **Digital identifier:** HNIOHMallisonW. (.mp3 format)

**THOMAS MILLER MANIER** discusses his interest in collecting family papers and writing about his family, including brothers Owsley and Will and sister, Mrs. W. P. Cooper. He talks about attending the Tarbox School, Wallace School, Vanderbilt and Vanderbilt Law School, interrupted by service in World War I. Mr. Manier describes the local suffrage movement, the Women's War Conference, Luke Lea and the 114<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery and the differences between World War I and World War II. He describes the Depression, Caldwell and Company, and "the day the banks were closed," stating that "Roosevelt saved the country." He talks about summers in White Bluff and the various locations of his offices. (Recorded August 25, 1980; interviewer Lee Ann Thornton; index available. No release form on file. *Available on cassette tape only. Requires advance notice to access. Not digitized.* Also included is a 30-page family history, titled "The Manier Family.")

**DAN MAY** discusses his civic involvement, as a member of the Nashville Board of Education and his concerns about basic inequities experienced by Nashville African Americans, including voting rights, deplorable schools, health conditions, segregation at the Vendome Theater, lynchings, and Jim Crow laws. He moved to the Tulane Hotel after graduating from Vanderbilt in 1919 and mentions many politicians and issues, including Joe Byrnes, Mayor Hilary Howse, , Percy Priest, W. A. Bass, Dick Atkisson, city-county government and corrupt elections. (Recorded September 16, 1980; interviewer Lee Ann Thornton; index available. No release form on file. **Cassette not found.** **NO AUDIO EXTANT.** No digital identifier.)

**HUNTER MCDONALD AND CLARA MCDONALD** describe life in Nashville before and after their marriage in 1922, including education at the Tarbox School, Duncan Prep, and Vanderbilt University, along with football games at Dudley Field, fraternity dances, the Belle Meade Country Club and the downtown Centennial Club. They mention notable individuals of the time, including J. C. Bradford, Alf Adams, Dan May and Fred Russell. The McDonalds recall memories of West End Avenue, including board sidewalks, streetcars and the Captain Dix Shop. Both discuss Mr. McDonald's World War I air corps squadron experience overseas, Mrs. McDonald's work at the powder factory during the war years, and prohibition. (Recorded September 12, 1980; interviewer Lee Ann Thornton; index available. No release form on file. **Digital Identifier:** HNI OHMcDonaldHC. (.mp3format))

**JEANETTE A. NOEL**, granddaughter of Adelia Acklen and daughter of attorney Joseph Acklen, describes her early childhood home at 33<sup>rd</sup> and West End Avenue and the open gravel road and sparse houses on West End Avenue. She notes her 1910 debut at age 18, attending the Knox School and Hume-Fogg. An early golfer, she discusses playing at the Nashville Golf Club and riding horses to Belle Meade Mansion. She also mentions that her father was attorney for General Jackson. Mrs. Noel discusses life in Nashville during World War I, the great Nashville flood, the 1918 train wreck at Dutchman's Curve, and the grave impact of the Spanish flu epidemic on Nashville. Mrs. Noel discusses her husband's family home at Granny White and Woodmont, which served as a hospital during the Civil War and the building of the Noel Hotel in downtown Nashville. She describes the house servants at the Noel home, many whom were former slaves. She mentions several notable Nashvillians and events, including Jimmy Stahlman, Margaret Warden, the Pony Club, and the Williamson County Horse Association. (Recorded May 7, 1982; interviewer Ophelia Paine; index available. Release form on file. *Available on cassette tape only. Requires advance notice to access. Not digitized.*)

**MARGUERITE PHILLIPS (MRS. W. THOMAS)** describes childhood in South Nashville and residing on College Street, Fillmore Street (later named Hermitage), then Rutledge Hill. She states that one home, a duplex, had no running water and an outhouse, with a water pump in the front yard. She describes witnessing the hospital fire, the horse-drawn fire engines, and patients carried out on stretchers. She discusses education at Howard School, located on Highland Street between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, a stone building used as a hospital during the Civil War. She describes a friendship with the family of Paul Ryman, son of Captain Ryman, and tells the story of Captain Ryman's conversion at a tent meeting, followed by the emptying of whisky barrels into the Cumberland River. She also describes a friendship with the Overton family of Neelys Bend. She states that after the first Depression, "Daddy lost everything" and then worked at the Market House on the public square. She remembers Jere Baxter, "who built the railroad right along the river." She states that after she married, she did not work with her husband in the grocery store but assisted by driving the delivery truck.

(Recorded September 12, 1982; interviewer Ophelia Paine; index available. Release form on file. **Digital identifier: HNIOHPhillips** (.mp3format)

**KAY EARLY RUSSELL** describes with great affection her family home, "Pontotoc," located at the corner of Greenwood and Scott Avenue in East Nashville, calling it "a little paradise" where there were servants and a "Mammy." She notes that horses were significant in her early years, from riding and raising them with her father to going to Hobson Church in a horse and buggy. Her education and social development included Peabody Demonstration School, camp at Riverlake Camp, business school at Falls Business College and the Girls Cotillion Club. She names places where she purchased fabric for dresses (Thompson's), hats (Mr. McHenry) and chocolates. Social life included going to the Hermitage Hotel to hear Francis Craig, the Maxwell House, and the Belle Meade Country Club. She also mentions the East Nashville fire and the historic flooding of Broadway. (Recorded May 13, 1982; interviewer Ophelia Paine; index available. Release form on file. *Available on cassette tape only. Requires advance notice to access. Not digitized.*)

**ROBERT SNEED** describes his childhood years of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century growing up in East Nashville at 1721 Holly Street followed by a move to Scott Avenue. He details family chores, including caring for two cows and horses, building fires and raising and selling corn at the City Market and to the black community located off Porter Road called "Rock City." He highlights landmarks near his home, including Lockeland Springs and Tillman Springs and names notable neighbors at the Scott Avenue home, including Major Pryor and John Early. He names the schools he attended, including Spout Spring School, Eastland School, Murphy School, Hume-Fogg and Vanderbilt University, followed by service in the Army in 1918. (Recorded November 25, 1980; interviewer Lee Ann Thornton; index available. No release form on file. **Digital Identifier: HNIOHSneedR** (.mp3format). Hand-drawn map by Lee Ann Thornton of Lockeland Springs in vicinity of 17<sup>th</sup> Street and Rabbit Lane/Chadwell Avenue (now Holly Street).

**WILLIAM T. STEELE** discusses his move from Pulaski, Tennessee to Nashville's Cedar Lane near Belmont Boulevard in 1906 following his father's death. He observes that his mother struggled during widowhood and worked for the Methodist Church. He recounts his years at Duncan School on 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue, participating at the YMCA located at 7<sup>th</sup> and Union, attending West End United Methodist Church and compares Duncan and Wallace schools. He discusses further education at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, graduating in 1918, followed by military service in World War I, a return to Nashville, graduate school at Vanderbilt, marriage, a move to Scotland, and a call to the ministry. He describes his work as a minister, including five years as a missionary in China, working for the Methodist Layman's Club and serving small country churches. He discusses political and social issues, such as the church and prohibition and the Carmack/Patterson campaign. (Recorded August 25, 1980; interviewed by Ophelia Paine; index available. No release form on file. **Digital identifier: HNIOHSteeleW** (.mp3format)

**CORNELIA FOLK STEVENS**, who was born at the family home on Russell Street in East Nashville, recounts early childhood activities and school days, including membership at Edgefield Baptist Church, playing games like “kick the stick” with her father, a Baptist Minister, and attending Warner School, where Miss Hattie Cotton was one of her teachers. She states that home life on Russell Street included servants and household work. She remembers the East Nashville fire, riding a streetcar for a nickel, and eventually moving to the country to a farm off Nolensville Road. She discusses activities related to World War I, including rolling bandages, and the joy when war was over. She identifies downtown stores and businesses, including Thompson Store, the Ocean, Deckers Drug Store on 76<sup>th</sup>, Skilowski’s, Loveman’s, Faucon’s restaurant and Satsuma. (Recorded January 25, 1982; interviewer Ophelia Paine; index available. Release form on file. **Digital identifier:** HNIOHStevensC (.mp3format)

**JEANETTE SLOAN WARNER**, born in 1895, recounts attending school at Miss Brown’s School which preceded Miss Allison’s School and living at home at 1912 Belmont Terrace which was part of the Montgomery Estate. She describes her interests, including tennis, skating at the Hippodrome and school dances, and her great interest in theater. She states that the father of her friend Louse Sheets managed the Vendome Theater where she attended performances of Maude Adams, John Barrymore, John Drew and Julia Marlowe. She shares memories and history of the local department store, Cain-Sloan, started in part by her father, Paul Lowe Sloan, Mr. John Cain and Mr. Pat Cain. She recalls working on first aid kits during World War I because, “it was the thing to do.” She acknowledges her work in the formation of the Junior League, supporting Children’s Theater, joining the DAR and membership in the Anti-Suffrage Movement (signed up by her father). She identifies Miss Queenie Woods Washington of Washington Hall in Robertson County as the leader of the anti-suffragists. She describes the affluence of the 1920s and the story of Rogers Caldwell. (Recorded July 1, 1982; interviewer Ophelia Paine; index available. Release form on file. **Digital identifier:** HNIOHWarnerJ (.mp3 format)

**ELLEN STOKES WEMYSS**, daughter of Nellie Trainer and Walter Stokes, describes their home on Hillsboro Road, the development of Belmont Terrace in 1912, her debut in 1913, a 1912 trip to Europe, travels, graduations and parties. She recounts starting to first grade on their ponies, the girls to Mrs. Hightower’s school and the boys to Mr. Wallace’s school, as their father rode horseback to his office. She discusses World War I, Red Cross Canteen volunteer work, the Liberty Bond booths downtown and boys killed during the war. She recounts the welcoming parade for Colonel Luke Lea and “Homecoming Day,” along with many weddings at the end of the war. She mentions the founding of the Junior League in 1923 by Cornelia Keeble and herself. (Recorded August 14, 1980; interviewed by Lee Ann Thornton; index available. No release form on file. **Digital identifier:** HNIOHWemyssE (.mp3format)

**MARY JANE LOWENHEIM WERTHEN** – *see entry for Elizabeth L. Jacobs.* **NO AUDIO EXTANT.**

**WALKER WHITESIDE**, who resided at 1917 Patterson Street in 1910, describes several notable events: the day the reservoir broke, the East Nashville fire, Haley's Comet, and a tornado. He describes the rampant fear of sabotage during World War I, working for mail service on the railroad, enlisting in the army and military training at Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He mentions locations where he courted his wife, including The Ocean, Skilowski's, the Orpheum and the Vendome. (Recorded September 3, 1980; interviewed by Lee Ann Thornton; index available. No release form on file. **Digital identifier:** **HNIOHWhitesideW** (.mp3format)

**MRS. DOUGLAS WRIGHT**, married in 1906, describes the early years of her marriage, various homes, the convenience of cooks and a washwoman who would take wash home, and the Whitland area which was a peach orchard at the time. She states that her home on Craighead Avenue, built in 1908, was located near the streetcar. She discusses shopping in Nashville, and states that when Rich Schwartz opened, women began to buy ready-made clothes. She identifies two dressmakers or "modistes" in particular, and states that she would sometimes have a woman come to the house to sew. She recognizes specific businesses, including Thompson and Company and Hermitage Board Work. During World War I, she recounts, she moved to Curtiswood where she lived for thirty years. Women's suffrage, she recounts, was considered "terrible" by her mother. She states that pregnant women were not supposed to be seen in public, and that she took a chance and walked to a friend's house and to a cousin's wedding. She states, "I understood later that I was greatly talked about." (Recorded December 1, 1981; interviewer Ophelia Paine; index available. Release form on file. **Digital identifier:** **HNIOHWrightD** (.mp3format)

**KATE SAVAGE ZERFOSS** describes the evolution of the Savage house, her family home, from an office and infirmary to a garage training center. The top floors, she states, were rented to students at Ward's Seminary. The first floor was used for receptions, concerts and medical meetings, all managed with the help of servants. She states, "nearly everybody had a house man." She describes walking to the public square and to 17<sup>th</sup> and Hayes as a child, frequenting deMatteo's fruit stand at 8<sup>th</sup> and Church and making sure to avoid Luigari's Saloon, because "ladies never walked in front of saloons." She mentions her education: Ward Seminary, which closed the year she graduated in 1913, followed by Vanderbilt and medical school at Tulane. She mentions that the Confederate Reunion viewing stand was maintained at Ward's Seminary. (Recorded September 4, 1980; interviewer unidentified; index available. No release form on file. **Cassette not found.** **NO AUDIO EXTANT.** No digital identifier.)

**ALAN ZIBART** describes his deep family roots in Nashville, beginning with the arrival in the city of both sets of grandparents shortly before and after the Civil War. He traces the evolution of Zibart's Book Store, from the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue small news and tobacco shop opened by his father and uncle in 1897 to the book store located on Church Street with several branches throughout the city which he and his brother Carl managed for many years. He recounts working at his father's shop at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Deaderick, near the public square, the center of business activity in the early 1900s. He describes a very pleasant home life, growing up with his brother at 3700 block of West End Avenue across from

the old Dickinson plantation, enjoying a rich neighborhood social life, attending Peabody Demonstration School (to later become University School) and graduating from Vanderbilt University in 1931 at the end of the Depression. He stresses that Nashville is a good place to live, and recommends reading Peter Taylor's books to get a sense of the Nashville where he grew up. (Recorded September 13,1980; interviewer Lee Ann Thornton; index available. No release form on file. **Digital identifier: HNIOHZibartA** (.mp3 format)

**CARL ZIBART** describes his home life at 3716 West End Avenue, adjoining open fields, cows, horses, and some slave quarters, still lived in. He recounts the history of Zibart's Book Store, names clubs, like the Standard Club and the Torch Club, and emphasizes the importance of living on West End Avenue when he says, "I'd grown up on West End and we wouldn't spit on anybody that lived on Central Avenue." He describes a paradoxical Nashville, religious yet gambling, and identifies popular gambling locations. He describes Nashville summers, the effects of air conditioning, and the evolution of transportation on West End, from mule-drawn cars to streetcars to automobiles. (Recorded July 11,1980; interviewer Lee Ann Thornton; index available. No release form on file. **Digital identifier: HNIOHZibartC** (.mp3format)