

Margaret Lindsley Warden Papers, circa 1897-1997

Collection Summary

Creator: Margaret Lindsley Warden
Title: Margaret Lindsley Warden Papers
Inclusive Dates: circa 1897-1997
Summary/Abstract: Contents include autobiography, Nashville history research notes, and early twentieth century programs from Nashville events.
Physical Description/Extent: .4 cu. ft.
Accession Number: RT-162
Language: In English.
Stack Location: Workroom, range 2, section 2
Repository: Nashville Room, Nashville Public Library, 615 Church St., Nashville, TN 37219

Biographical/Historical Sketch

A lifelong Nashvillian, Margaret Lindsley Warden was born Jan. 11, 1904, the daughter of Annie Lindsley and Dr. Carl Warden. She was related to the McGavock and Grundy families, as well as the Percy Warner and Luke Lea families through her extended family. Her aunt Louise Lindsley had a strong influence on the young Margaret, passing along her own enthusiasm and knowledge of Nashville history. Margaret graduated from Ward-Belmont and obtained her bachelor of science degree from Peabody. She became renowned for her enthusiasm, knowledge, and support of equestrianism, and founded the Middle Tennessee Pony Club in 1953, the first and oldest club to be recognized by the U.S. Pony Clubs, Inc. She began writing a horse news column for *The Tennessean* newspaper in the 1920s; in the 1940s and 1950s she wrote frequent historical columns as well. She became increasingly involved in historical organizations, serving on the Belle Meade Board of Governors; serving as secretary for Historic Belmont Association and Historic Nashville, Inc.; was chairman of the Metro Historical Commission, establishing its Architectural Awards program; and worked in many other ways to preserve and record Nashville's history. Mayor Richard Fulton declared May 17, 1979 Margaret Lindsley Warden Day in honor of her historic preservation work. In her 90s, she published her autobiography, *Life Has Been Very Kind to Me*.

Scope and Contents of the Collection

Half of the collection contains Margaret Lindsley Warden's typescript autobiography, later published as *Life Has Been Very Kind to Me*. The rest of the collection primarily consists of detailed research notes about Nashville history, including prominent Nashville families, organizations and general historical minutiae, music and theatre, and streets and the residents and businesses along them. Some notes have been abstracted from sources

such as newspapers and city directories, but in many cases, the notes are from interviews Miss Warden conducted with Nashville residents, mostly in the 1950s. Some of the information was probably also gathered by her Aunt Louise, and shared with Margaret. Many of the research notes are on the back of Pony Club newsletters, announcements, or bulletins. A small but significant collection of programs (c. 1897-1922), mostly from musical performances, are also a part of the collection.

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

The collection is organized into the following series:

- I. Autobiography
- II. Research notes
- III. Miscellaneous

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access: In library use only. Available by appointment.

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction: This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

Index Terms

Personal Names:

Warden, Margaret Lindsley, 1904-
Lindsley, Louise

Subjects:

Performing arts – Tennessee – Nashville – History
Streets – Tennessee - Nashville

Places:

Nashville (Tenn.) – History – Sources
Nashville (Tenn.) – Genealogy
Nashville (Tenn.) – Biography

Genre/Document Types:

Manuscripts
Programs
Notes

Associated and Related Material

Associated Materials:

Margaret Lindsley Warden Collection; Albert Gore Research Center, Middle Tennessee State University. Books, papers, photographs, scrapbooks, journals, serial publications, and miscellaneous items focusing on the development of horse breeding, sports, and horsemanship on local, regional, and national levels. The collection also includes

information about historic homes, farms, and families of greater Middle Tennessee. Non-equine materials include original and transcribed nineteenth- and early twentieth-century diaries and letters.

Administrative Information

Additional Physical Form Available:

Location of Originals/Duplicates:

Copyright: Nashville Public Library does not have intellectual property rights to these materials.

Preferred Citation: Margaret Lindsley Warden Papers, Ephemera Collections, Nashville Room, Nashville Public Library

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Margaret Lindsley Warden, gift, 1997.

Ownership and Custodial History: In possession of Margaret Lindsley Warden until time of donation to the Nashville Room.

Processing Information: Removed from Family History Ephemera Subject Files to form its own collection and reprocessed by staff member Linda Barnickel, 2005 as part of overall Ephemera Subject Files reorganization and reprocessing project.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

References to Works by or about Collection Creator/Topic

Published autobiography:

Life Has Been Very Kind to Me by Margaret Lindsley Warden, (Nashville, Tenn.: M.L. Warden, 2000). Call #: B W265w

Detailed Description of the Collection

I. Autobiography

Arranged by chapter. Many chapters are in two parts. Originally written in 1993, then expanded circa 1998. Published as *Life Has Been Very Kind to Me* in 2000.

Folder 1	Prologue
Folder 2	The Smiling 20s
Folder 3	Travel for Discovery #1 (Chicago)
Folder 4	Travel for Discovery #2 (Washington, DC)
Folder 5	[Travel for Discovery #3 (New York)]
Folder 6	Mother and Aunt Louise
Folder 7	The 1930s in Middle Tennessee: Boom & Bust vs. Slow & Grow
Folder 8	In the 1940s Life Continues to Be Kind to Me
Folder 9	The Winning Fifties
Folder 10	The Sizzling Sixties
Folder 11	The Bicentennial Seventies

- Folder 12 From Minus 1980 to 1980 Plus
- Folder 13 The Nervous 1990s
- Folder 14 Epilogue
- Folder 15 An Amusing Addendum to Life Has Been Good to Me

II. Research Notes

Various notes, both typed and handwritten, containing many details of Nashville history, from early settlement and businesses to social events and balls.

- Folder 16 Families
Some of the families include: Bransford, Brown, Carter, Cheek, Craighead, Demoville, Druillard, Elliston, Fall, Farrell, Fite, Hayes, Horton, Lindsley, Maddin, Overton, Porter, Robinson, See, Thompson, Trousdale, Woods
- Folder 17 Organizations (Old Nashville history)
- Folder 18 Music and Theatre
- Folder 19 Streets

III. Miscellaneous

- Folder 20 Programs (c.1897-1922)
Contains programs from: Bachelor's Dinner at Maxwell House (Feb. 14, c. 1897); Nashville Art Association; Nashville Symphony Orchestra; Children's Symphony; Belmont College; Vaudeville shows; recitals; Centennial Club; Ladies Hermitage Association; and similar events.
- Folder 21 Clippings – Performing Arts