

Ridley Wills Postcard Collection

Collection Summary

Title: Ridley Wills Postcard Collection

Summary: A collection of postcards relating to Nashville and Davidson County, ranging between 1890 and 2013. Bulk dates: 1901-2001.

Physical Description: 10 boxes; 11 linear feet

Language: English

Stack Location: Section 15, shelves 5 and 6

Repository: Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County, 615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219

Scope and Contents of the Collection:

The Ridley Wills Postcard Collection is a large collection of approximately 3300 Nashville and Davidson County-related postcards. These postcards date from approximately 1890 at the earliest, and 2013 at the latest; however, the majority of the postcards range between 1901 and 2001.

These postcards feature images and photographs of a broad range of buildings, businesses, street scenes, and various other aspects of Nashville and Davidson County, many of which are no longer in existence today. Spanning the course of over 120 years, this collection effectively demonstrates Nashville's growth and progress from the late 19th to the early 21st century, with postcards showing the comings and goings of local businesses, as well as the changing Nashville skyline.

Arrangement:

The Ridley Wills Postcard Collection is arranged alphabetically into nineteen different series, depending on the subject matter depicted on each postcard: *Aerials*, *Airport*, *Buildings*, *Businesses*, *Cemeteries*, *Churches*, *Homes*, *Hospitals*, *Hotels*, *Military*, *Miscellaneous*, *Monuments*, *Museums & Attractions*, *Parks*, *People*, *Schools*, *Skyline*, *Street Scenes*, and *Transportation*. Each postcard is given a unique number with the prefix 150, which refers to the donor number.

Aerials includes postcards featuring aerial/bird's-eye views of Nashville, particularly the downtown area. Dates range from the early 1900s to the early 2000s.

The *Airports* series contains postcards with images of Berry Field Airport and later the Nashville Municipal Airport. Dates range from approximately the 1930s to 2001.

Buildings includes postcards featuring images of notable buildings in Nashville and Davidson County, and is further divided into fourteen subseries based on subject: *Arts & Entertainment*, *Banks, Clubs & Societies*, *Government (Federal)*, *Government (Local)*, *Government (State)*, *Insurance Companies*, *Miscellaneous*, *Office Buildings*, *Organizations (Charitable)*, *Organizations (Religious)*, *Printing & Publishing*, *Theaters*, and *Transportation*.

Businesses contains postcards featuring images and advertisements of various local businesses in Nashville and Davidson County, including restaurants, department stores, and manufacturing companies. Dates range from the early 1900s to the early 2000s.

The *Cemeteries* series includes images of various Nashville cemeteries, including the Jewish Cemetery, Greenwood, Mount Olivet, and Woodlawn.

Churches includes postcards for churches throughout Davidson County, particularly those located downtown and in East Nashville.

The *Homes* series contains postcards featuring images of various homes in Nashville and Davidson County, including Belmont Mansion, The Hermitage, Cheekwood, and Travellers Rest.

Hospitals includes images of various hospitals, sanitariums, and asylums, among them the Asylum for the Insane, City Hospital, Thayer, and the ABT Sanitarium.

Hotels contains postcards featuring photographs and illustrative images of various hotels and motels throughout Davidson County. Most date back to the 1950s or 1960s, while others date back to the early 1900s.

The *Military* series is a small series containing images of the U.S.S. Nashville, the Army Air Force Classification Center, and Camp Andrew Jackson.

The *Miscellaneous* series contains postcards that predominantly feature text rather than images of any specific subject. Most include greetings with cartoon illustrations or thank-you notes.

Monuments includes postcards featuring photographs and images of tombs, statues, and other monuments throughout Nashville. Most of the included monuments are located in the Capitol grounds, as well as many images of Andrew Jackson's tomb.

Museums & Attractions includes photographs and images from Opryland, Fort Nashboro, Fort Negley, the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum (old and new), and the Tennessee State Museum.

The *Parks* series contains postcards featuring images of various parks around Nashville and Davidson County. May are of Centennial Park, though postcards for Glendale Park, Greenwood Park, and Radnor Lake are also included.

People contains reproductions of portraits or photographs of prominent Nashvillians, past Presidents of the United States, and country music celebrities.

The *Schools* series includes images and photographs of various colleges, universities, and schools located in Nashville and Davidson County throughout history.

The *Skyline* series contains photographs and images of the downtown Nashville skyline. Dates range from the early 1900s to 2006.

Street Scenes contain photographs and images of various streets, primarily in downtown Nashville or on Music Row. Dates range from approximately 1909 to 2008.

The *Transportation* series is a small series containing postcards featuring photographs of trains, airplanes/ airlines, and railroad companies, including the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railroad and the Louisville & Nashville Railroad.

Contents Listing:

Box 1: Aerials – Buildings

No. 150-0001 – 150-0428

Box 2: Buildings – Businesses

No. 150-0429 – 150-0840

Box 3: Businesses – Homes

No. 150-0841 – 150-1199

Box 4: Homes – Hotels

No. 150-1200 – 150-1600

Box 5: Hotels

No. 150-1601 – 150-1898

Box 6: Hotels – Misc., Other

No. 150-1899 – 150-2160

Box 7: Misc., Other – Museums & Attractions

No. 150-2161 – 150-2484

Box 8: Museums & Attractions – Schools

No. 150-2485 – 150-2805

Box 9: Schools – Skyline

No. 150-2806 – 150-3122

Box 10: Skyline – Transportation

No. 150-3123 – 150-3302

Restrictions:

Restrictions on Access: In-library use only.

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction: The Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County owns the intellectual rights to these materials. Materials may be used for research purposes only, and cannot be used in a publication or reproduced.

Administrative Information:

Copyright: The Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County retains intellectual property rights to this collection. Some restrictions may apply.

Provenance: Donated to Metro Archives by Ridley Wills, II, 2011.

Processing Information: Processed by Kelley Sirko, December 2019.

Accruals: No further accruals expected.