

David H. Steinberg Papers, ca. 1917-1978

Collection Summary

Creator: David H. Steinberg

Title: David H. Steinberg Papers

Inclusive Dates: c. 1917-1978

Summary/Abstract: The materials included in this collection provide an abbreviated timeline of Nashville's transportation history from circa 1917 to the middle part of the twentieth century. This collection reveals some of the major companies doing transportation-related business in Nashville such as the Nashville Railway and Light Company, the Tennessee Electric Power Company, the Tennessee Transportation Company, the Nashville Coach Company and Southern Coach Lines, Inc.

Physical Description/Extent: 0.25 cubic ft.

Accession Number: 2002.036

Language: English

Stack Location: Closed Stacks Workroom, Range 2, Section 5, Small Collections Box 7

Repository: Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library, 615 Church Street, Nashville, Tennessee, 37219.

Biographical/Historical Sketch

David H. Steinberg, an author, historian and avid collector of street car, railway and bus transportation history materials, grew up in Chattanooga, TN, and spent much of his life there. During the 1970s, Steinberg served as a street car conductor and later became the historian for Chattanooga's local transit system CARTA (Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority). He resided in Chattanooga up through the early 1980s before moving to New York City. Rabbi Steinberg donated a vast collection of materials (177+ linear feet) to the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial Library in 1994, and made several small donations of Nashville transportation history-related materials to Nashville Public Library in the early 2000s. Among the donations to Nashville Public Library were two books he authored relating to the history of public transportation in Chattanooga: *And to think, it only cost a nickel! The development of public transportation in the Chattanooga area, 1975*; and *The next station stop will be Chattanooga: the development of passenger train facilities in Chattanooga, 1976*.

Sources for Biographical/Historical Sketch:

- Article / press release, "I've Been Working on the Railroad Collection: The David H. Steinberg Transportation Collection at the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial Library," by Suzette Raney, *Tennessee Archivist*, Spring 2006, p. 5.
- Vertical file on David H. Steinberg, Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library.

Scope and Contents of the Collection

The materials included in this collection provide an abbreviated timeline of Nashville's transportation history from circa 1917 to the middle part of the twentieth century. This collection reveals some of the major companies doing transportation-related business in Nashville such as the Nashville Railway and Light Company, the Tennessee Electric Power Company, the Tennessee Transportation Company, the Nashville Coach Company and Southern Coach Lines, Inc. These documents reveal some of the activities of those companies, such as a property lease agreement between the Nashville Railway & Light Company and the Watkins Institute in 1923 and the surrender and dissolution document of the Nashville Railway & Light Company to the State of Tennessee in the early 1930s, when the company was acquired by the Tennessee Electric Power Company. Also included are documents showing property or land rights exchanges and sales contracts, as well as copies of documents such as city council resolutions authorizing companies to provide transportation services for the city at various points in its history. An especially interesting revelation in this collection is the documentation of the city's transition away from the use of streetcars to the use of motorized buses during the 1940s.

This small collection of documents will be of primary interest to researchers of Nashville and Tennessee business history, in general, and more specifically to those interested in the history of public transportation, electric power and/or electric utility providers in the Nashville area or the southern region of the United States. Items in this collection may also be of interest to researchers of topics related to urban history, urban or city planning, environmental issues (as they relate to transportation), the banking industry and labor history.

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

Arrangement: Chronological

Restrictions

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

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

Index Terms

Personal Names:

Steinberg, David H.

Corporate Names/Organizations/Government Bodies:

ACF-Brill Motors Company

Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach

Employees of America

American National Bank (Nashville, Tenn.)
McGavock and Mt. Vernon Horse Railroad Company
Metropolitan Transit Authority (Nashville, Tenn.)
Nashville and Edgefield Street Railway Company
Nashville Coach Company
Nashville Public Utilities Commission
Nashville Railway and Light Company
Southern Coach Lines, Inc.
Tennessee Electric Power Company
Tennessee Transportation Company
Walter Fred Hosiery Mills, Inc.
Watkins Institute

Subjects:

Banks and banking—Tennessee—History
Banks and banking—Tennessee—Chattanooga—History
Banks and banking—Tennessee—Nashville—History
Buses
Buses—History
Buses—Motors
Buses—Tennessee—Nashville—History
Business history—20th century
Electric light and power industry
Electric power—History
Electric utilities—Tennessee—History
Horse railroads—Tennessee—Nashville—History
Labor
Labor agreements
Labor contracts
Labor history—20th century
Labor—Tennessee—Nashville—History
Motor buses—History
Public transportation
Street-cars
Street-cars—Tennessee—Chattanooga
Street-cars—Tennessee—Nashville
Street car lines
Street car lines—Tennessee—Chattanooga
Street car lines—Tennessee—Nashville
Streetcar lines
Streetcar lines—Tennessee—Chattanooga
Streetcar lines—Tennessee—Nashville
Street-railroads—Tennessee—Chattanooga
Street-railroads—Tennessee—Nashville
Transportation—1920-1970

Transportation—Tennessee—Nashville—History
Urban planning
Urban planning and environment

Places

Chattanooga (Tenn.)—Commerce
Chattanooga (Tenn.)—History
Nashville (Tenn.)—Commerce—History
Nashville (Tenn.)—History
Nashville (Tenn.)—Politics and government
Philadelphia (Pa.)—Commerce—History

Genre/Document Types:

Business records
Correspondence

Occupations:

Bankers
Bus drivers
Street-railroads—Employees

Associated and Related Material

Related Material: Ephemera Collection (Transportation) and The Sylvester Chambers / Nashville Electric Service Papers collection (unprocessed collection at the time of this writing), Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library

Administrative Information

Copyright: This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U. S. Code)

Preferred Citation: David H. Steinberg Papers, Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library

Immediate Source of Acquisition: David H. Steinberg

Ownership and Custodial History: The donor acquired these papers through his work as the historian for the Chattanooga local transit system (CARTA). In correspondence to Nashville Public Library written in February 2002, he indicated that this group of papers “belong in Nashville” and stated that he was given the right to send them to Nashville Public Library as part of his work as the CARTA organization’s historian.

Processing Information: Processed by Tracey Howerton, December 2007-January 2008

Accruals: The donor has not indicated whether additional materials will be donated.

References to Works by or about Collection Creator/Topic

- Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial Library – The David H. Steinberg Transportation Collection –
<http://www.lib.chattanooga.gov/localHist/localHist.html>
- Tennessee State Library and Archives – Jo Conn Guild Collection of Tennessee Electric Power Company Records, 1933-39
<http://tennessee.gov/tsla/history/manuscripts/findingaids/87-033.pdf>
- Nashville Public Library, Special Collections Division –
http://www.library.nashville.org/localhistory/his_localhistory.asp -- Ephemera Collection (Transportation) and The Sylvester Chambers / Nashville Electric Service Papers collection (unprocessed collection at the time of this writing)
- *And to Think It Only Cost a Nickel: The Development of Public Transportation in the Chattanooga Area*, by David. H. Steinberg, self-published, Chattanooga, Tennessee, 1975.
- *The Next Stop Will Be Chattanooga: The Development of Passenger Train Facilities in Chattanooga*, by David H. Steinberg, self-published, Chattanooga, Tennessee, 1976.
- *Charters, amendments, county grants, city franchises and private property rights of way of the Nashville Railway and Light Company and the preceding street railway companies heretofore operating in the city of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee, from February 29th, 1860, to May 1st, 1911*, compiled by George A. Frazer, n.d.
- *Industrial Survey of Territory Served by the Tennessee Electric Power Company, Chattanooga, Tenn., Sept. 15, 1927*, Lockwood, Greene & Co., Inc., Atlanta, GA
- *The Tennessee Electric Power Company : a compilation of facts regarding the growth and development of Tennessee with a forecast of the future through the utilization of the state's most valuable natural resource--waterpower*, Tennessee Electric Power Company, Chattanooga, Tenn., 1925

Detailed Description of the Collection

Container List

Folder #	Name / subject	Description of contents	Date/s
Folder 1 of 19	Tennessee Electric Power Company	Correspondence and documents re: mortgage bonds for the Nashville Railway and Light Co., Nashville and Edgefield Street Railway Co., and the McGavock and Mt. Vernon Horse Railroad Co.	c. 1917-1938
Folder 2	Nashville Railway and Light Company, Watkins Institute	Notarized copy of lease agreement between Watkins Institute and Nashville Railway and Light Co. re: Watkins' property at corner of Church Street and Sixth Avenue	May-June 1923
Folder 3	Tennessee Transportation Company	Charter of Incorporation document for Tennessee Transportation Company, issued by Office of Secretary of State, State of Tennessee	August 1926
Folder 4	Tennessee Electric Power Company, Tennessee Transportation Company	Indenture agreement between Tennessee Electric Power Company and Tennessee Transportation Company re: use of busses ("motor propelled vehicles") for public transportation for the City of Nashville	December 15, 1926
Folder 5	Nashville Railway and Light Company	Copies of warranty deed from Nashville Railway and Light Company to Thomas Butler re: land parcel (Lot No. 17) in South Nashville, Davidson County	September-October 1928
Folder 6	Tennessee Transportation	Documents relating to	November

	Company	the acquisition of the Old Hickory and Bordeaux bus lines by Tennessee Transportation Company from Blue Six Bus Line	1928-May 1934
Folder 7	Nashville Railway and Light Company, Walter Fred Hosiery Mills, Inc.	Copies of warranty deed from Nashville Railway and Light Company to Walter Fred Hosiery Mills, Inc. re: land near Charlotte Pike	March-April 1929
Folder 8	Tennessee Electric Power Company, Nashville Railway and Light Company	Certified copy of resolution No. 672 by Nashville City Council turning over legal rights and obligations of Nashville Railway and Light Company to the Tennessee Electric Power Company	October 7-30, 1930
Folder 9	Tennessee Electric Power Company, Nashville Railway and Light Company	Indenture / property and franchise deed agreement by Nashville Railway and Light Company to Tennessee Electric Power Company	November 25, 1930
Folder 10	Nashville Railway and Light Company	Copy of document of surrender and dissolution of Nashville Railway and Light Company, issued by Office of Secretary of State, State of Tennessee	January-February 1931
Folder 11	Nashville Coach Company	Copy of resolution No. 2011 by Mayor and City Council of Nashville authorizing the Nashville Coach Company to substitute busses for street cards; discontinue use of streetcars and the central transfer station. NCC acceptance of resolution also included.	May 1940
Folder 12	Southern Coach Lines, Inc.	Chattel mortgage certificates for motor	April 1943-July 1945

		buses and equipment – various lending institutions	
Folder 13	Southern Coach Lines, Inc.	Acknowledgment by American National Bank of release and discharge of chattel mortgage lien	September 1941-August 1945
Folder 14	Southern Coach Lines, Inc.	Sales contract with ACF-Brill Motors Company and American National Bank re: purchase of fifteen buses	April 1947
Folder 15	Southern Coach Lines, Inc. (presumably – sheets are unlabeled)	Balance sheets	April 1947-February 1952
Folder 16	Southern Coach Lines, Inc.	Documents relating to a petition filed with Nashville Public Utilities Commission re: proposed rate increase by Southern Coach Lines, Inc.	July-December 1947
Folder 17	Southern Coach Lines, Inc.	Booklet – Memorandum of Agreement with Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees of America, Division No. 1235, Nashville, Tennessee	September 1, 1948
Folder 18	David H. Steinberg, Arthur R. Ezell, John P. Hoschek	Correspondence between Steinberg and other researchers / enthusiasts of early bus history in Nashville and Chattanooga, TN	c. December 1975, undated
Folder 19 of 19	Nashville Coach Company, Metropolitan Transit Authority	Artifacts—two (2): 1.) Nashville Coach Company token 2.) Metropolitan Transit Authority Fifth Anniversary paper weight, “A Token of Growth”, 1973-1978. [Note: these items	undated (token), c. 1978 (paper weight)

		removed to Safe Room, Shelf 23.]	
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