

## Montgomery Bell Academy Alumni Interviews, 1980

### Collection Summary

**Title:** Montgomery Bell Academy Alumni Interviews

**Inclusive Dates:** 1980

**Summary/Abstract:** The interviews are responses to a formal list of questions about alumni recollections of experiences at Montgomery Bell Academy (M.B.A.) and their opinions of the school then and now. Each interview is handwritten and includes the names of the interviewer as well as the interviewee. These were part of an assignment in an American history class at M.B.A. during the summer and fall of 1980. Interviewees are alumni who attended M.B.A. ranging from 1913 to 1979.

**Physical Description/Extent:** .4 cu. ft.

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

**Language:** English

**Stack Location:** Closed stacks workroom, range 5, section 6

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

### Biographical/Historical Sketch

Montgomery Bell Academy (MBA) began in 1867 with a two-year college program, a grammar school and a high school. The school traces its origins to Davidson Academy, established by Nashville pioneer and founder, James Robertson. He obtained permission through a legislative act from North Carolina in 1785 to establish educational facilities in the area that would eventually become Nashville, Tenn. The school was located in the vicinity of present-day Spring Hill Cemetery off of Gallatin Road in Madison, Tenn. In 1806, by an act of the Tennessee legislature, Cumberland College became the formal successor to Davidson Academy, and a building was constructed on "College Hill" in South Nashville. Among the trustees were Andrew Jackson and James Robertson. Later, James K. Polk and Andrew Johnson would also serve as trustees. Rev. Thomas Craighead served as the first principal and was succeeded by Dr. James Priestly in 1810. In 1816 the school closed due to financial troubles. The college was resurrected in 1824 by Rev. Phillip Lindsley, when it became the University of Nashville. In 1855, Dr. John Berrien Lindsley, son of Phillip, merged the Western Military Institute with the University of Nashville. Confederate hero Sam Davis was among its students. Also in 1855, Tennessee iron magnate Montgomery Bell died, bequeathing \$20,000 to the University of Nashville for the tuition of 25 boys who would otherwise not receive an education. In 1867, John Berrien Lindsley used the funds to establish and open Montgomery Bell Academy.

Montgomery Bell Academy opened with just 26 students and two rooms, but quickly grew. In 1875, with the establishment of Peabody Normal School, the trustees of the old

University of Nashville maintained control over Montgomery Bell Academy. After several moves and administrative changes around the turn of the century, in 1915 MBA opened at a new, spacious location off of Harding Road in west Nashville on the estate of Garland Tinsley. A fire destroyed the main building in 1925. Major building efforts and expansion took place in the latter half of the twentieth century, when MBA gained nationwide recognition as one of the leading preparatory schools in the country. In the early twenty-first century, it remains recognized for the academic success of its scholars and the leadership of its alumni.

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

The collection includes written notes, transcripts, or reports based upon interviews done in 1980 by students with alumni who attended the school between 1913 and 1979. The questions are divided into seven sections. Questions range from factual (What years did you attend? How did you get to school? Did you have to take an entrance exam?) to opinion (Favorite subjects? Most difficult subjects? Teachers who stand out in your memory?). Specific questions are included about the Honor System and Demerit System. One set of questions deals exclusively with the athletic program. The interviewees are also asked about friendships and school social activities. One final question asks for an opinion about the school today. Some notable interviewees include: James O. Bass; George Blackburn, Jr.; Robert Lynn Bomar, Jr.; Gen. Howard Butler, Frank I. Cherry Jr. and III; Lipscomb Davis Jr.; Dr. Thomas F. Frist, Jr., Herschel Gower; Bronson Ingram; Walter M. Robinson, Jr.; Anderson Spickard; Nelson and William Trabue; Bill Wade; Skip Woolwine; and many others. Nearly 200 alumni were interviewed, some of them more than once by different students.

The collection was originally divided into three volumes alphabetically according to the last names of the alumni. While the alphabetical order has been maintained, the distinction between volumes was not maintained. Each interview is handwritten, including the name of the student interviewer and the alumnus being interviewed. In some cases, the student interviewer is a relative of the interviewee. Interviews are alphabetically grouped in folders in one storage box.

### **Organization/Arrangement of Materials**

Alphabetical, according to the last name of alumnus (interviewee).

### **Restrictions**

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

**Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:** Nashville Public Library does not have intellectual property rights to these materials.

## Index Terms

### Personal Names:

Bass, James O. (James Orin), 1910-  
Blackburn, George M.  
Bomar, Robert Lynn  
Butler, Howard F.  
Cherry, Frank I.  
Cherry, Frank I., 1919?-2002  
Davis, Lipscomb (W. Lipscomb), b. 1931  
Frist, Thomas F., 1938-  
Gower, Herschel  
Ingram, Erskine Bronson, 1931-1995  
Robinson, Walter M., d. 2004  
Spickard, Anderson, 1931-  
Trabue, Nelson Thornton, 1920-1993  
Trabue, William Dunn, 1919-1985  
Wade, Bill, (William J.), (Football player)  
Woolwine, Skip

### Corporate Names/Organizations:

Montgomery Bell Academy (Nashville, Tenn.)--Alumni and alumnae  
Montgomery Bell Academy (Nashville, Tenn.)--History--20<sup>th</sup> century  
Montgomery Bell Academy (Nashville, Tenn.)--Sports

### Subjects:

Boarding schools--Tennessee--Nashville  
Boys--Biography  
Boys--Conduct of life  
Boys--Education--History--20<sup>th</sup> century  
Boys--Recreation--History--20<sup>th</sup> century  
Boys--Social conditions  
Boys--Tennessee--Nashville  
Coaches (Athletics)--Tennessee--Nashville  
Education--Tennessee--Nashville  
History--Study and teaching  
Preparatory schools--Tennessee--Nashville  
Private schools--Tennessee--Nashville  
School children--Tennessee--Nashville  
School sports--Tennessee--Nashville  
Schools--Tennessee--Nashville  
Single-sex schools--Tennessee--Nashville  
Teachers--Tennessee--Nashville

### Places:

Nashville (Tenn.)--History-- 20<sup>th</sup> century  
Nashville (Tenn.)--Intellectual life  
Nashville (Tenn.)--Social conditions  
Nashville (Tenn.)--Social life and customs

**Genre/Document Types:**

Interviews

**Occupations:**

Coaches (Athletics)  
Teachers

**Associated and Related Material**

Montgomery Bell Academy Grammar School examination book, 1883 Mar. 30 is housed in the Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library.

Additional materials relating to Montgomery Bell Academy can be found in their archives, located at the school.

**Administrative Information**

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

**Preferred Citation:** Montgomery Bell Academy Alumni Interviews, Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library

**Immediate Source of Acquisition:** Source of acquisition unknown, although donor may have been Herschel Gower, since box was labeled "Gower Oral History" prior to processing by library staff.

**Ownership and Custodial History:** Unknown.

**Processing Information:** Processed by library volunteer Rose Mary Reed, 2007, under supervision of staff member Linda Barnickel.

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

**Detailed Description of the Collection**

Folder 1 Interview questions; original alphabetical lists dividing the interviews into three volumes.

<b>Alumni</b>	<b>Years Attended</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
<u>Folder 2</u>		
Anderson, Billy	1971-77	no name
Anderson, James E., Dr.	1947-52	Nichols, Ken

Anthony, Michael	1973-76	Hatcher, Harris
<u>Folder 3</u>		
Bainbridge, Bobby	1942-48	Schuler, Paul
Ball, John Alexander	1939-40	Richardson, Scott
Banker, Barry	1962-69	Carlsen, Miles
Barksdale, John	1916-20	Spickard, Anderson
Barrick, Robin	1966-70	Gaw, S.
Bass, James O.	1924-28	Shankle, John
Batson, Miller	1968-74	Batson, Alan
Beasley, John S., III	1973-79	Beasley, Earl
Bennett, Lynch	1953	Felts, David
Blackburn, George	1936-40	Chambers, Marc
Blackman, John, Jr.	1961-66	Conn, Ralt
Blair, James D.	1932-36	Johnson, Mike
Bledsoe, Henry	1919-22	Tune, Scott
Blevins, ?	1954-58	Bryan, Joe
<u>Folder 4</u>		
Bohannon, Shirley	1934-38	Vittorio, Tom
Bomar, Robert, Sr., Dr.	1947-49	Wagster, Johnny
Bonn, Walter	1964-68	Kral, George
Bradford, Ewing L.	1921-25	Maler, Kevin
Bradford, William, Dr.	1946-50	Harrison, Jim
Bradley, Jerry	1953-58	Ables, Rusty
Brothers, Don	1953-57	Brothers, Don
Brothers, Mack P., III	1951-55	Brothers, Don
Brown, Aaron	1965-68	Slaton, Joel
Brown, Mark	1967-74	Slaton, Joel
Brown, William, Jr.	1949-53	Cashion, Gerry
Brush, Clinton E.	1923-27	Nichols, Ken
Bryan, Allen W.	1953-57	Winchel, Ross
Buchanon, Alexander	1966-71	Mott, Randy
Burch, Steve	1970-76	Carden, Allen
[Burch?], Steve	1970-76	Tune, Scot
Burge, James	1926-31	Ford, Tim
Butler, Howard, Gen.	1929-32	Menke, Shawn
Buttrey, Dan	1967-71	Shankle, John
<u>Folder 5</u>		
Campbell, Howell, Jr.	1926-28	Corwin, Michael
Carter, Rick	1957-62 (interview missing)	Harwell, Sam
Chandler, Jim	1970-75	Herron, Carlisle
Cherry, Frank	1956-60	Carden, Allen
Cherry, Frank	1930-36	Gaw, S.
Clements, Runcie	1954-59	Richardson, Scott

Cole, Frank, Jr.	1923-27	Nicholson, B.
Coleman, Warren	1951-55	Hallahan, Pat
Cooney, Robert	1941-44	Harrison, Jim
Crawford, William H., Jr.	1956-59	McKinney, Brad
Crockett, Watkins, III	1949-53	Cashion, Gerry
Cunningham, Hugh	1965-68	Ingram, David
Currey, James, Dr.	1941-45	Todd, Chris
Currey, Richard O.	1913-18	Todd, Chris

Folder 6

Daniel, John Edward	1970-76	Ables, Rusty
Daniels, Johnny	1970-76	Hallahan, Pat
Davis, Joe	1934-37	(no name)
Davis, Lipscomb, Jr.	1945-49	Spickard, Anderson
Davis, Maclin, Jr.	1937-43	Street, Barry
Davis, Maclin, III	1966-72	Street, Barry
Davis, Robert Lee	1943-48	Batson, Alan
Denson, Mike	1963-69	Hines, Steve
Denson, Harry M.	1963-67	Hines, Steve
Dillon, William W.	1940-44	Russell, Jim
Dobson, Matthew	1933-36	Peffen, Mark
Dozier, Bill	? (interview missing)	Harwell, Sam
Duncan, Jack	1946-52	Roberts, Wes

Folder 7

Early, Horton F.	1926-31	Schuler, Paul
Edwards, James	1922-26	Watts, Andrew
Elam, Roy, Jr., Dr.	1933-38	Felts, David
Estes, T. Williams	1946-50	Shankle, John
Eve, Duncan, III	1935-37	Corwin, Michael

Folder 8

Fisher, Fred	1968-72	Hutcherson, Mike
Flautt, Joe	1966-72	Warren, Mitchen
Fletcher, Frank W.	1921	Wagster, Johnny
Fletcher, John S.	1924-27	Brothers, Don
Foley, Jonathan J., Jr.	1933-37	Conn, Ralt
Frank, Richard H.	1913-17	Shackleford, Kelly
Franklin, Ernest B., Jr.	1945-49	Maler, Kevin
Frazier, Lewis	1925-27	(no name)
Frist, Robert B.	1956-60	Khan, Bobby
Frist, Robert, Dr.	1957-60	Carlsen, Mark
Frist, Thomas, Jr., Dr.	1952-56	Ford, Tim
Frost, Howard E., Jr.	1933-38	Corwin, Michael
Fuqua, Casey	1968-71	Ford, Tim

Folder 9

Gamble, Tommy	1960-66	Johnson, Mike
Geny, Oscar, Jr.	1922-25	Russell, Jim
Geny, Oscar	1922-25	Hallahan, Pat
Ginn, Greg	1971-76	Ferguson, Mark
Ginn, Greg	1971-76	Conn, Ralt
Glenn, Ivo B.	1934-38	Beasley, Earl
Goetz, David	1964-70	McKinney, Brad
Gower, Herschel, Dr.	1933-38	Fairbarn, Don
Grant, Edwin	1956-59	Bryan, Joe
Grant, Max	1955-58	Wieck, Adam
Griscom, John, Dr.	1941-47	(no name)

Folder 10

Hamilton, Hayne	1969-75	Wagster, Johnny
Hamilton, Hayne	1969-75	Russell, Jim
Hammer, Fred	1966-68	Fairbarn, Don
Harris, Thomas Edward, III	1965-71	Stephens, Chris
Harrison, Clifford	1938-43	Tune, David
Harrison, Phillip M.	1913-17	Tully, Jim
Hawkins, Charles, III	1946-50	Beasley, Earl
Haymore, German Pittman	1971-76	Davis, Montie
Head, Sterling	1958-64	Fairbarn, Don
Hill, Ashley P., Jr.	1939-40	Carroll, Matthew
Hill, Ashley P., III	1973-79	Carroll, Matthew
Hill, John	1970-76	Vittoria, Tom D.
Horn, Connell E.	1936-37	Sullivan, Rick
Hosee, Frank	1923-26	Roberts, Wes
Hovey, Merrill K.	1927-29	Lentz, Jody
Howell, Morton B.	1931-35	Hines, Steve
Husband, Bill	1962-69	Ferguson, Mark
Husband, Woody	1960-66	Carroll, Matthew
Hutchinson, W. Turner	1936-40	Cardew, Allen
Hutton, Clark, Jr.	1933-37	Daniel, Mark
Hyden, Johnny	1937-38	Caldwell, Pen

Folder 11

Ingram, Bronson	1941-49	Ingram, David
Jackson, Clay	1966-72	Menke, Shawn
Jordon, Jerry	1970-76	Tune, David
Keene, Jess Lynn (coach)	1927	Slaton, Joel
Klavsher, Dick	1970-73	Klavanee, Kris
Knight, James	1954-55	Fulton, Garrett
Knight, James L.	1954-57	Hatcher, Harris
Kuhn, Carl	1925-26	Richardson, Scott
Kuhn, Richard	1918-20	Warren, Mitchum

Langham, John 1929  
 Lasseter, Rollin A., Dr. 1953-57  
 Lenaha, Tom 1972-78  
 LeRoy, Shannon 1970-74  
 Ligon, Robert 1961-65  
 Lineberger, Robert, Dr. 1951-54  
 Lineberger, Robert 1950-54  
 Lineberger, Dr. 1951-54  
 Lipscomb, Brant, Jr. 1965-71

Moler, Kevin  
 Nichols, Ken  
 Todd, Chris  
 Menke, Shawn  
 Watts, Andrew  
 Fulton, Garrett  
 Chambers, Marc  
 Lineberger, Rob  
 McAllister, John

Folder 12

Maddin, Matthew 1950-52  
 Mather, Robert 1956-60  
 McFarlin, Carl 1937-40  
 McGugin, George 1954-59  
 Megruder, Robert 1963-69  
 May, Frank 1925-26  
 Miers, Bill 1925  
 Miers, William F. 1924-25  
 Moody, David W. 1928-32  
 Moore, Alan 1971-77  
 Morrissey, Jimmy 1946-49  
 Morrissey, Jim 1947-49  
 Morrissey, James 1946-49  
 Moss, Joe P. 1929-35  
 Murphree, John 1953-57  
 Murphy, Joe 1937, 1938, 1940

Street, Barry  
 Felt, David  
 Carlsen, Mark  
 McKinney, Brad  
 Harwell, Sam  
 McAllister, John  
 Ferguson, Mark  
 Winchel, Ross  
 Warner, Read  
 Ingram, David  
 Tune, Scott  
 Ballenger, Paul  
 Wiech, Adam  
 Hatcher, Harris  
 Cashion, Gerry  
 Anderson, Mike

Folder 13

Neil, James Benton, Dr. 1918-22  
 Nixon, John B. 1949-50, 1951-52  
 Oliver, William, Dr. c. 1930's  
 Patrick, Richard C., Jr. 1938-39  
 Patterson, Tommy 1968-73  
 Peterson, John L., Jr. 1969-74  
 Phillips, Louis 1921-25  
 Proctor, D. Y. 1928-34  
 Pond, Binford 1924-26

Wallace, Scott  
 Ables, Rusty  
 Batson, A. D.  
 Bryan, Joe  
 Schuler, Paul  
 Peffen, Mark  
 Wieck, Adam  
 Hutcherson, Mike  
 Shackelford, Kelly

Folder 14

Ragland, James B. 1928-31  
 Ramsay, Jay 1964-70  
 Ramsey, Robert 1966-72  
 Rau, James P. 1959-61  
 Rebrovick, Art 1964-69  
 Regen, Damon 1968-72

Khan, Bobby  
 Daniel, Mark  
 Wallace, Scott  
 Tully, Jim  
 Wallace, Scott  
 Daniel, Mark



Rice, Burton	1960-65	Hutcherson, Mike
Rich, Tate	1968-72	Lineberger, Rob
Roady, Tom	1964-68	Kral, George
Roberts, Martin	1949-53	Warren, Mitchum
Roberts, Steve	1967-73	Roberts, Wes
Robinson, Miller	1935-41	Warner, Read
Robinson, Walter M., Jr.	1934-39	Pairs, Montie
Rolfe, Carlin	1950-54	Tully, Jim
Rooney, Edward F. ( <i>a note is included, but no interview</i> )		Stephens, Chris
Rose, Tony	1965-68	Ballenger, Paul
Rounds, Charles	1934-36	Harwell, Sam

#### Folder 15

Sanders, Dan	1966-70	Mott, Randy
Sensing, Wilbur	1918-19	Warner, Read
Sensing, Wilbur	1918-19	Mott, Randy
Shanks, Doug	1970-77	Hall, T. Hartley
Sharp, Alfred D., Jr.	1937-40	Nicholson, R.
Sloan, John E., Jr.	1949-54	Chambers, Marc
Smith, Bill	1971-76	(no name)
Smith, Laird, Jr.	1953, '57, '58	Peffin, Mark
Spickard, Andy, Dr.	1945-49	Klavander, Kris
Spickard, Anderson, Dr.	1949-53	Spickard, Anderson
Stephens, Joel Clairborne	1969-72	Stephens, Chris
Sullivan, Dale, Dr.	1954-60	Herron, Carlisle
Sullivan, C. Dale, Dr.	1954-60	Sullivan, Rick
Sullivan, R.H., Jr., Dr.	1950-56	Sullivan, Rick

#### Folder 16

Templeton, John	1920-22	Tune, David
Thoni, Joe	1971-75	Klavaner, Kris
Thorpe, John	1949-53	Hall, T. Hartley
Trabue, Nelson	1934-37	Ballenger, Paul
Trabue, William	1930-35	Herron, Carlisle
Tucker, N. Burch	1932-36	Fulton, Garrett
Tucker, N. B., Jr.	1932-36	Gaw, S.
Vaughan, W. O.	1955-61	Lentz, Jody

#### Folder 17

Wade, Bill	1943-48	Vittorio, Tom
Waggoner, John C., Jr.	1961-66	Johnson, Mike
Watts, Thomas E., Jr.	1945-49	Watts, Andrew
Webb, William Van Bartlett	1965-70	Davis, Monite
White, Curry K.	1916-17	Shackleford, Kelly
Wieck, Larry	1970-74	Caldwell, Pen
Williams, Carter	1972-76	Harrison, Jim

Williams, Cohn 1923-25  
Woolwine, Skip 1976  
Worden, Mark A., Dr. 1970-72  
Younger, John 1947-51

Lineberger, Rob  
Lentz, Jody  
Winchel, Ross  
Nicholson, B.