

**Middle Tennessee Pony Club Records,  
ca. 1953-2007 (bulk 1970-1986)**

**Collection Summary**

**Creator:** Middle Tennessee Pony Club.

**Title:** Middle Tennessee Pony Club Records

**Summary/Abstract:** Minutes, correspondence, financial records, rosters, programs, and other materials documenting the activities and members of the Middle Tennessee Pony Club (MTPC).

**Physical Description/Extent:** .75 cu. ft.

**Series:** Two series: I. Middle Tennessee Pony Club; II. Other organizations and related materials.

**Linking Entry Complexity Note:**

**Accession Number:** 2008.045

**Language:** English

**Stack Location:** Closed stacks workroom range 3 section 1

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

**Chronology**

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|---------------|--|
| 1939, March   | Margaret Lindsley Warden, working at <i>The Tennessean</i> , begins writing a weekly horse news column entitled "Horse Sense."   |
| 1952          | Miss Warden convinces her editor at <i>The Tennessean</i> , Coleman Harwell, to sponsor a "Horse Sense Riding Tournament." The "All Horsemanship-Pleasure Mount Show" took place on August 30, 1952, at Edwin Warner Park.   |
| 1953, July    | Warden writes to Mrs. Dean (Louise Lott) Bedford, one of the organizers of the United States Pony Club, asking for information on the USPC and permission to form a Pony Club in Middle Tennessee. The USPC is still organizing, but permission is granted for the formation of the MTPC. Warden will serve as District Commissioner until 1962. |
| 1953, Oct. 10 | Miss Warden and Ruth Kinnard set up a table at the Grassland School Fall Horse Show in Franklin, Tenn., and receive 32 applications of youth wanting to join the MTPC.   |
| 1954, (Feb.?) | U.S. Pony Club chartered. Not long thereafter, the MTPC becomes the first new club chartered by the USPC. MTPC dues set at one dollar; two years later changed to three dollars.   |
| 1954, Aug. 8  | First fund-raising horse show hosted by MTPC at Moreau (M.P.) Estes' home on Granny White Pike.  |

- 1954, Sept. The U.S. Equestrian Team, Inc. holds Olympic trials at Percy and Edwin Warner Parks, in conjunction with the "Horse Sense" Riding Tournament sponsored by the *Tennessean*. This is the first time the Olympic trials have been held away from Ft. Riley, Kan.
- 1955, June First USPC National Rally held in Unionville, Pa. Representatives from MTPC compete.
- 1959 Fifth USPC National Rally held in Brentwood, Tenn. MTPC is the host club.
- 1969 Fifteenth USPC National Rally held at Percy Warner Park in Nashville, Tenn. MTPC is host.
- 1974 The Exchange Club of Nashville and MTPC join forces to sponsor the Nashville Charity Horse Show
- 1979 Katherine "Kitty" (Mrs. Morris) Brogden becomes one of two district commissioners, and continues her service through 1980.

### **Biographical/Historical Sketch**

Margaret Lindsley Warden, author of the weekly horse news column, "Horse Sense" in the *Tennessean*, was instrumental in the founding of the Middle Tennessee Pony Club (MTPC), an organization designed to teach young riders the proper handling and riding of horses. Ruth Kinnard, who was organizing a club for similar purposes at the same time, is credited with being a co-founder. The MTPC became associated with the United States Pony Club in 1953 and 1954, before either group was thoroughly organized. Though two other preexisting clubs affiliated with the USPC (after having originally been established under the aegis of the Pony Club of the British Horse Society), the Middle Tennessee club became the first new U.S. club to be chartered by the USPC. The MTPC covered a fifty mile radius from Nashville, and was divided into five chapters. The communities of Franklin, Brentwood, Donelson, Lebanon were included, among others. The strength of the MTPC prompted the founding and rapid growth of other Pony Clubs in Tennessee and the Southeast. By 1956, the MTPC already had 139 members and was the largest chapter of the USPC. Membership typically hovered between 100 and 150 through the years, though beginning in the 1980s, it began to drop. Throughout its existence, the majority of MTPC members were girls, composing approximately three-fourths of its membership. It is not clear the specific age groups involved in the MTPC, but references have been found to children as young as nine and as old as 18. The MTPC served as host for two National Rallies, one in 1959 in Brentwood; and another in 1969 at Percy Warner Park. Throughout its existence, members of the MTPC frequently hunted with the Hillsboro Hounds. To pay entry fees for Rallies and ship horses, the

MTPC hosted two Rallies each year, as well as an annual Pony Club Horse Show. Starting in 1974, MTPC co-sponsored the Nashville Charity Horse Show with the Exchange Club of Nashville. Many Pony Club events have been held at Percy Warner Park in Nashville.

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

Minutes, financial records, historical sketches, correspondence, rosters, programs, clippings, rule books and other materials documenting the activities and members of the Middle Tennessee Pony Club, from 1953 to 2007, with the majority of the material concentrating on the time from 1970 to 1986. Some items also relate to the U.S. Pony Club. In Series II, a small quantity of material relates to other equestrian organizations in the early 1980s, including the American Grandprix Association; the American Horse Shows Association; the British Horse Society – Pony Club; the Central Tennessee Dressage Association; and the United States Combined Training Association. Two Miller's catalogs from the mid-1980s provide a glimpse into the expense and equipment required for riding.

An early history of the MTPC by Margaret Lindsley Warden gives information about the reason and motivation for establishing the MTPC, and names of the early members and instructors. Additional historical information is included in the form of excerpts from annual reports of the organization, compiled for the club's 40th anniversary in 1993.

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

**Organization:** In two series: I. Middle Tennessee Pony Club; II. Other organizations and related materials.

**Arrangement:** Within each series, arranged alphabetically by subject or format.

### **Restrictions**

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

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### **Index Terms**

#### **Personal Names:**

Brogden, Katherine (Kitty)  
Kinnard, Ruth  
Warden, Margaret Lindsley, 1904-2007

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

Exchange Club of Nashville (Tenn.)  
Middle Tennessee Pony Club  
United States Pony Clubs

#### **Meeting Name:**

Nashville Charity Horse Show

**Subjects:**

Charity sports events – Tennessee - Nashville  
Dressage – Tennessee - Nashville  
Equestrian centers – Tennessee - Nashville  
Eventing (Horsemanship) - Tennessee - Nashville  
Girls - Social life and customs – Southern States  
Girls – Tennessee - Nashville - Societies and clubs  
Girls - Tennessee – Nashville – History - 20th century - Sources  
Horse show judges - Tennessee - Nashville  
Horse shows -Tennessee -Nashville  
Horse sports - Tennessee – Nashville  
Horse sports – Southern States  
Horsemanship – Competitions - Tennessee - Nashville  
Horsemanship – Equipment and supplies – Catalogs  
Horsemanship - Tennessee - Nashville  
Horsemanship – Southern States  
Horses – Competitions – Handbooks, manuals, etc.  
Horses – Showing - Tennessee - Nashville  
Horses – Southern States  
Horses - Tennessee – Nashville  
Horses – Training - Tennessee - Nashville  
Jumping (Horsemanship)  
Junior riders (Horsemanship) - Tennessee - Nashville  
Riding clubs – Southern States  
Riding clubs - Tennessee - Nashville  
Show jumping - Tennessee - Nashville  
Show riders - Tennessee - Nashville  
Show riding - Tennessee – Nashville  
Sports for children – Social aspects  
Sports for girls – Tennessee - Nashville  
Sportsmanship  
Teenagers – Tennessee - Nashville  
Women - Social life and customs - Tennessee - Nashville  
Women - Tennessee – Nashville – History - 20th century - Sources  
Women in horse sports – Tennessee – Nashville  
Youth – Societies and clubs  
Youth - Tennessee - Nashville – Social conditions  
Youth development - Tennessee - Nashville

**Places:**

Brentwood (Tenn.) - History - 20<sup>th</sup> century - Sources  
Franklin (Tenn.) - History - 20<sup>th</sup> century - Sources  
Tennessee, Middle – History - 20<sup>th</sup> century - Sources  
Nashville (Tenn.) - History - 20<sup>th</sup> century - Sources  
Percy Warner Park (Nashville, Tenn.)

**Genre/Document Types:**

- Booklets
- Clippings (information artifacts)
- Financial records
- Manuscripts (document genre)
- Minutes (administrative records)
- Newsletters
- Pamphlets
- Periodicals
- Programs (documents)
- Rosters
- Rules (administrative instructions)
- Sketch maps

**Added Authors – Personal Names:**

Brogden, Katherine (Kitty)

**Added Authors – Corporate Names:**

Exchange Club of Nashville (Tenn.)

**Associated and Related Material**

Associated Material: The Margaret Lindsley Warden Papers in the Margaret Lindsley Warden Library for Equine Studies are housed at the Gore Research Center at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Related Material: The Gilbert M. Orr Scrapbooks; Margaret Lindsley Warden Papers; and Nashville Junior Riding Club Scrapbooks, held by the Special Collections Division of the Nashville Public Library contain related information on horse breeding, shows, and clubs in the Nashville area. The Margaret McGee Higgins Public Health Scrapbooks were compiled by Higgins, who is Kitty Brogden's mother, and are also held by the Special Collections Division of the Nashville Public Library.

**Administrative Information**

**Copyright:** This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code). The Nashville Public Library does not own intellectual property rights to these materials.

**Preferred Citation:** Middle Tennessee Pony Club Records, Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library

**Immediate Source of Acquisition:** Donated to the Special Collections Division by Katherine “Kitty” Brogden in September 2008.

**Ownership and Custodial History:** Materials acquired by Katherine “Kitty” Brogden as member and district commissioner of the Middle Tennessee Pony Club.

**Processing Information:** Processed and arranged by Jennifer Quier, Education and Outreach Librarian, in March 2014. Organized into two series by Linda Barnickel, July 2014.

**Accruals:** No further accruals expected.

## **Detailed Description of the Collection**

### **Series I: Middle Tennessee Pony Club**

#### **Box 1**

##### **Folder 1: Club History**

1. "The Middle Tennessee Pony Club: Its Background and Origins," by Margaret Lindsley Warden, c. 1957.
2. Research material for "A History of Middle Tennessee Pony Club," commemorating the club's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1993. (Incl. excerpts from annual reports)

##### **Folder 2: Club Rosters and Rankings, 1974-1985**

##### **Folder 3: Clippings, 1980, 2007**

1. "For the Love of a Horse," *Nashville!* Magazine, May 1980.
2. "Recognizing Miss Margaret L. Warden, Pioneer, Preservationist, and Friend." *Middle Tennessean Equestrian*, October-November 2007.

##### **Folder 4: Clippings- articles written by Margaret Lindsley Warden**

1. "Pony Club Turns 40," *The Tennessean*, April 20, 1974.
2. "Area Club Studies Proposals for Trials," *The Tennessean*, 1981.
3. "20<sup>th</sup> Pony Club Show Honor Best for Founder," *The Tennessean*, June 16, 1973.
4. "Equestrians Staying Busy," *The Tennessean*, July 8, 1973.
5. "Nashvillian Gets National Pony Office," *The Tennessean*, January 21, 1974.

##### **Folder 5: Conditioning Guide: "Are You Ready?" n.d.**

##### **Folder 6: Correspondence, ca. 1953-1977**

##### **Folder 7: Course Maps and Obstacles**

1. USPC National Rally Course Obstacle drawings, 1980.
2. 4 copies of hand-drawn map of MTPC course, with notation "MHB, 9/81."
3. Two color photos of horse and rider going over two different jumps, with accompanying negatives. Orig. notation: "KHB [Kitty Brogden?] MTPC Dirt Banks."

##### **Folder 8: Financial Records**

1. Membership Dues and Insurance, December 1985.
2. Tennessee Department of Revenue Certificate of Exemption, Issued February 27, 1981.
3. Various financial reports (bound together) incl. numerous notes, calendars, planning documents, and prizes, 1980-1985

##### **Folder 9: "Horse Sense" Riding Tournament and Olympic Trials, 1954**

## **Box 2**

### **Folder 1: Horse Show & Trials Programs**

1. 1981
2. 1983
3. 1986

### **Folder 2: Meeting Minutes, 1954-1983.**

1. MTPC Directors' Meeting, November 30, 1954.
2. MTPC Directors' Meeting, March 17, 1957.
3. MTPC Directors' Meeting, June 3, 1962.
4. Board Meeting/Annual Meeting Agenda, November 24, 1962.
5. Minutes of the Parents' Meeting, November 30, 1964.
6. Midsouth Region, April 21-24, 1967. Minutes of a meeting between Margaret Lindsley Warden and USPC officials.
7. Annual Sponsors Meeting Minutes, November 13, 1978.
8. Annual Sponsors Meeting Agenda, October 1979.
9. Annual Sponsors Meeting Minutes, November 1, 1979.
10. Annual Sponsors Meeting Minutes, November 25, 1981.
11. Annual Sponsors Meeting Minutes, October 26, 1982.
12. Annual Sponsors Meeting Minutes, October 25, 1983.

### **Folder 3: Middle Tennessee Pony Club miscellaneous**

1. Invitation to MTPC dinner honoring Margaret Lindsley Warden, 1994.
2. Middle Tennessee Pony Club newsletter, June 1983.
3. Envelope with MTPC logo.

### **Folder 4: Nashville Charity Horse Show Programs**

1. 1976
2. 1977

### **Folder 5: Nashville Charity Horse Show Programs**

1. 1978
2. 1979

### **Folder 6: Nashville Charity Horse Show Program**

1. 1980

### **Folder 7: Nashville Charity Horse Show Programs**

1. 1981
2. 1986

### **Folder 8: Programs, Competitions outside of Nashville**

1. Harpeth Academy Spring Horse Show, Franklin, Tenn., 1980
2. Oak Mountain Fall Hunter and Jumper Competition, Birmingham, Ala., 1982

**Folder 9:** United States Pony Club (USPC)

1. Instruction Manual: Equitation, Dressage, and Jumping, 1973
2. USPC Twenty-eighth Annual Report, 1983
3. Pony Club News, Summer 1984
4. Pony Club News, Fall 1984

**Series II: Other Organizations and Related Materials**

**Folder 10:** American Grandprix Association

1. Newsletter, Feb. 1981
2. Excerpt (photocopy) from *Horse Play*, Apr. 1981

**Folder 11:** American Horse Shows Association

1. Rule Book, 1980-81

**Folder 12:** British Horse Society - Pony Club

1. Pamphlet, "The Pony Club What It Is and How to Join"

**Folder 13:** Central Tennessee Dressage Association

1. Newsletter, May 1982

**Folder 14:** Miller's Catalogs

1. 1983
2. 1984

**Folder 15:** United States Combined Training Association

1. *USCTA News*, Oct. 1980