

Nashville Community Band Photographs, 1897-1903

Collection Summary

Title: Nashville Community Band Photographs

Inclusive Dates: 1897-1903

Summary/Abstract: The Nashville Community Band Photographs collection includes nine (9) black and white oversized images pertaining to Nashville, Tennessee during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Five photographs show images of carnival or entertainment-oriented bands; two photographs appear to be military-oriented bands; and another two photographs contain images related to the Tennessee Centennial Exposition of 1897. This collection will be of interest to researchers of Nashville music history, Nashville military history, Glendale Park, Athletic Park (a.k.a. Sulphur Dell), carnivals and festivals, men's lodges, the Tennessee Centennial Exposition, the history of German immigrants in Nashville, and cultural life in Nashville during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Physical Description/Extent: 9 photographs (oversized, mounted on mat board)

Accession Number: 2008.010

Language: English

Stack Location: Closed Stacks Workroom, Range 4, Section 6 (flat storage box)

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

Biographical/Historical Sketch

During the nineteenth century, Nashville saw an influx of German and other European immigrants as a result of large migrations to the United States in the 1830s and 1840s. These German and other European immigrants and their families contributed to the Nashville community by forming local businesses; they also brought with them their music and festival traditions.

Expositions, carnivals, festivals and parades played an important role in the cultural life of the Nashville community throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They served as an important method for promoting area businesses and civic organizations, as a way to recognize the services of military personnel, and as a way to entertain citizens. These large public events relied upon the talents of local community bands for their success. In addition to providing entertainment at major public events, these community bands also could be found playing at men's lodges, beer gardens and local parks.

The largest festival of its kind, the Tennessee Centennial Exposition was held in Nashville in 1897. Beginning on May 1 and lasting for six months, this grand celebration of the state's one hundredth anniversary was developed as an opportunity to showcase Tennessee's industries, education, and culture. The exposition had a lasting impact on Nashville through the creation of Centennial Park and the building of a permanent Parthenon structure. Local women like Kate Kirkman played an important role in

planning and promoting the event. A memorial album containing photographs taken by Thuss Photographers was published in 1898.

The Tennessee Centennial Exposition included military units that conducted dress drills, dress parades and mock battles; the First Tennessee Regiment was among the units that participated in the exposition events. Recruiting began for volunteers for the First Tennessee Regiment to serve in the war in the Philippines when the U.S. declared war on Spain in April 1898. The First Tennessee Regiment, the only Tennessee unit to see combat service in the Spanish American War, served in Manila from December 1898 to October 1899 and returned to Nashville in late November, 1899.

In October 16-21, 1899, the Nashville Retail Merchants' Association held a Street Fair and Oriental Carnival to promote local businesses. The local Rough Riders Band was prominently featured throughout the fair—they helped lead the opening parade and other subsequent parades held throughout the week; they played at the carnival's midway entrance in order to “make things lively”; and, they played a very popular daily concert. The photographs of the Rough Riders and First Tennessee Regiment bands found in this collection are presumably related to the above events.

Glendale Park, originally known as Woodstock Park, was a privately-owned streetcar park established in the southern/southwestern suburbs of Nashville in the late 1880s. During the late 1890s, the park provided visitors with a variety of entertainment options including live musical performances, dancing, a bowling alley and a shooting gallery. The Glendale Park Band was among the regular musical performers at the park; musician Dan Mack served as the park's band master during the 1900 season. Dan Mack is also listed as a local resident and musician in the 1900-1903 Nashville city directories.

The local Elks lodge held an eleven-day “industrial bazaar and carnival” in downtown Nashville from September 10-21, 1901. The purpose of the carnival was multifold – to promote Nashville and its businesses, to provide entertainment, and to raise funds for a new Elks lodge building. Among its many highlights, the carnival included a German Village and a bandstand holding a thirty-piece band directed by Ivo C. Miller. Ivo Miller also was director of the Conservatory of Music and leader of Miller's Concert Orchestra in 1900-1901 and served as musical director of the Vendome Theatre in 1903, according to the 1900-1903 Nashville city directories.

The Schnitzelbank Club's Fall Festival and Carnival was held September 22 to October 3, 1903, at Athletic Park (a.k.a. Sulphur Dell). Newspaper reports suggest that this event was more entertainment-oriented and less geared toward promotion of local businesses than those mentioned above. The term “schnitzelbank” derives from German culture and has multiple meanings.

Scope and Contents of the Collection

The Nashville Community Band Photographs collection includes nine (9) black and white oversized images pertaining to Nashville, Tennessee during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Five photographs show images of carnival or entertainment-

oriented bands; two photographs appear to be military-oriented bands; and another two photographs contain images related to the Tennessee Centennial Exposition of 1897.

Images of the Glendale Park Band, the Elk's Street Carnival Band, and the Schnitzelbank Carnival Band help to identify some of the local festivals and entertainment options provided to Nashvillians at the turn of the twentieth century. The images also identify two local band masters and musicians, Dan Mack and Ivo Miller. Several of the photographs were taken by Thuss Photographers of Nashville.

This small collection of photographs will be of interest to researchers of Nashville music history, Nashville military history, Glendale Park, Athletic Park (a.k.a. Sulphur Dell), carnivals and festivals, men's lodges, the Tennessee Centennial Exposition, the history of German immigrants in Nashville, and cultural life in Nashville during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Researchers should note the ownership and custodial history stated below—the creator of this collection of photographs is unknown; therefore, the provenance is undetermined.

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:

Mack, Dan
Miller, Ivo C.

Corporate Names/Organizations:

Athletic Park—Nashville (Tenn.)
Elk's Street Carnival Band—Photographs
Elks (Fraternal order). Lodge No. 72—Nashville, Tenn.
First Tennessee Infantry Band—Photographs
Glendale Park Band—Photographs
Nashville Retail Merchants' Association
Rough Riders Band—Photographs
Schnitzelbank Club
Schnitzelbank Fall Festival and Carnival (1903—Nashville, Tenn.)—Photographs
Tennessee Infantry. 1st Regiment, 1898-99
Thuss Photographers

Conference Names:

Tennessee Centennial and International Exposition, 1897, Nashville, Tenn.

Subjects:

African Americans—Tennessee—Nashville—Photographs
Bands (Music)—Tennessee—Nashville—Photographs
Business—Tennessee—Nashville—History—Sources
City and town life—Tennessee—Nashville
Carnivals—Tennessee—Nashville
Festivals—Tennessee—Nashville
German Americans—Tennessee—Nashville—Photographs
Men—Societies and Clubs—Tennessee—Nashville
Men—Tennessee—Nashville—Photographs
Military bands—Tennessee—Photographs
Music—Social aspects—Tennessee—Nashville
Musical groups—Tennessee—Nashville—Photographs
Musicians—Tennessee—Nashville—Photographs
Parks—Tennessee—Nashville
Popular culture—Tennessee—Nashville
Spanish-American War, 1898—Tennessee
Women—Tennessee—Nashville—Photographs

Places:

Centennial Park—Nashville (Tenn.)
Germantown—Nashville (Tenn.)
Glendale Park—Nashville (Tenn.)
Nashville (Tenn.)—Social conditions
Nashville (Tenn.)—Commerce
Nashville (Tenn.)—History—Sources
Sulphur Dell Park—Nashville (Tenn.)
Tennessee—History—Sources
Tennessee, Middle—History—Sources

Genre/Document Types:

Black-and-white photographs
Photographs

Occupations:

Musicians

Administrative Information

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

Preferred Citation: Nashville Community Band Photographs, Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library.

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Gift of Lisa Pruitt, Albert Gore, Sr. Center, Middle Tennessee State University, Accession #2008.010.

Ownership and Custodial History: The photographs were donated circa January 2008. The photographs were found in a closet in the Linebaugh Library in Murfreesboro, Tennessee – there was no record of their provenance. There were other items in the closet, but these were the only Nashville-related ones.

Processing Information: Processed by Tracey Howerton, September-October 2011, with research assistance by volunteers Rose Mary Dorris Reed and Marty O'Reilly.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Associated Materials

The Tennessee State Library and Archives holds photographs from the 1897 Tennessee Centennial Exposition.

References to Works by or about Collection Creator/Topic

Books

_____. *Art Album of the Tennessee Centennial and International Exposition, held at Nashville May 1 to October 31, 1897/ photos by W. G. and A. J. Thuss.* Nashville, Tenn.: Tennessee Centennial International Exposition, 1898.

Connelly, Lawrence. *Old North Nashville and Germantown.* Nashville, Tenn.: Tennessee Historical Quarterly, 1980.

Doyle, Don H. "Tennessee Centennial Exposition," *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*, <http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/>, accessed Oct. 5, 2011.

Johnson, Leland R. *The Parks of Nashville: A History of the Board of Parks and Recreation.* Nashville, Tenn.: Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County, Board of Parks and Recreation, 1986.

Nipper, Skip. *Baseball in Nashville.* Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia Press, 2007.

Sharp, Tim. *Nashville Music Before Country.* Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia Press, 2008.

Waller, William, ed. *Nashville in the 1890s.* Nashville, Tenn.: Vanderbilt University Press, 1970.

Waller, William, ed. *Nashville: 1900 to 1910.* Nashville, Tenn.: Vanderbilt University Press, 1972.

News Articles

_____. "Carnival Will Open in a Blaze of Glory," *Nashville Banner*, September 7, 1901, p. 1.

_____. "The Carnival at Athletic Park," *Nashville Banner*, Sept. 19, 1903, p. 5.

_____. "Carnival Ready for Opening," *Nashville Banner*, Sept. 22, 1903, p. 6.

_____. "Crowds on Hand in Spite of Rain," *Nashville Banner*, Oct. 18, 1899.

_____. "Elk's Home, Ultimate Object of the Carnival Which Begins Next Week," *Nashville Banner*, Sept. 6, 1901.

_____. "Grand Opening for Street Fair and Oriental Carnival by Retail Merchants' Association," *Nashville Banner*, Oct. 16, 1899.

_____. "Largest Crowd of the Street Fair," *Nashville Banner*, Oct. 19, 1899.

_____. "Tireless Sight-Seers Crowd Street Fair," *Nashville Banner*, Oct. 21, 1899.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Container List

Folder	Description	Date
1.	<p>Photograph of the Cuban Village at the Tennessee Centennial Exposition. Handwritten in pencil below photo, date reads May 19th, 1897.</p> <p>Photograph and identifying information can be found in the book, <i>Art Album of the Tennessee Centennial and International Exposition, held at Nashville May 1 to October 31, 1897</i>. Measures 10" h x 12" w (image with mat board).</p>	1897, May 19
2.	<p>Photograph of three women riding in horse-drawn cart being driven by two African American drivers at the Tennessee Centennial Exposition, 1897. Floral parade for Kate Kirkman Day. Photographer identified on back as "W. G. & A. J. Thuss, Official Photographers, Nashville, Tenn." Measures 8" h x 10" w.</p> <p>Photograph and identifying information can be found in the book, <i>Art Album of the Tennessee Centennial and International Exposition, held at Nashville May 1 to October 31, 1897</i>. In carriage: Mrs. B. F. Wilson, Mrs. John Garneau of St. Louis, and Mrs. John M. Gray, Jr.</p>	1897, Sept. 30
3.	<p>Rough Riders Band, Nashville, Tenn. Photo taken on steps of State Capitol Building. On front is a date handwritten in pencil, October 1899 (Date is also written on back of photo in ball point pen). Measures 10" h x 12" w (image with</p>	1899, Oct.

	mat board).	
4.	First Tennessee Infantry Band, Nashville, Tenn. Band's formation could possibly be related to the Spanish-American War, 1898. Band could possibly be standing on the steps of the Parthenon. Measures 8.5" h x 16" w. CAUTION - FRAGILE.	Undated, c. 1890s to early 1900s
5.	Glendale Park Band, Season of 1900, Nashville, Tenn., Dan Mack – Band Master. Measures 10" h x 12" w (image with mat board).	1900
6.	The Elk's Street Carnival Band (standing), Nashville Tenn., Ivo Miller, Band Master. Photograph taken by Thuss Photographers, 230 N. Cherry St., Nashville, Tenn. Measures 10" h x 12" w (image with mat board).	1901, Sept. 10 to 21
7.	The Elk's Street Carnival Band (seated), Nashville Tenn., Ivo Miller, Band Master. Photograph taken by Thuss Photographers, 230 N. Cherry St., Nashville, Tenn. Measures 10" h x 12" w (image with mat board).	1901, Sept. 10 to 21
8.	Duplicate of No. 7, but front is unlabeled.	1901, Sept. 10 to 21
9.	Schnitzelbank Carnival [Band], Athletic Park, Nashville, Tenn. Inscribed on back – Barrett, 924 Warren St., Nashville, Tenn. Measures 7.25" h x 8.75" w (image with mat board).	1903, Sept. 21 to Oct. 2