COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator:
Quarles, Robert T. (Robert Thomas) Jr., 1891-1968

Inclusive Dates:
1937-1962

Scope & Content:
The Robert T. Quarles Jr. Papers span the period 1937-1962. The collection consists of correspondence, receipts, photographs, an account book, a daily planner, an address book, invitations, greeting cards, event tickets, and various notes. The correspondence concerns Quarles and his retirement, friends visiting from out of town, and family matters. The receipts regard furniture, clothing, and flower arrangements. Some of the photographs depict General Clifton B. Cates of the U. S. Marine Corps at the Armed Forces Day parade in Nashville, Tennessee; the remaining photographs are unidentified. The personal account book and daily planner are dated 1944 and 1945, respectively. The invitations are to events such as the Nashville Children’s Museum Association, the Sam Davis Memorial, and the Confederate Historical Society of Nashville. The greeting cards are for Quarles’s birthday and Christmas. The membership cards are for the Boy Scouts of America, the Old Hickory Masonic Lodge, and the Education Association. The event tickets are to Tennessee Industrial School, American Legion, and a play at the Maxwell House Hotel. Lastly, Quarles’s research notes concern muster rolls, Civil War maps, James K. Polk, and agriculture and trade in Tennessee.

Physical Description/Extent:
.5 cubic feet

Accession/Record Group Number:
Ac. No. THS 427
Administrative/Biographical History

Robert T. Quarles Jr., was born ca. 1891 to Robert Thomas Quarles and Flora Hoodenyl Quarles of Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee. Around 1909, Quarles became a member of the Tennessee Historical Society (THS). In 1942, he was elected Recording Secretary of THS and served in that position until 1957. That year he was elected President and held the office until 1959. After his term ended, Quarles returned as Recording Secretary and served from 1959 to 1966. In 1966, he was elected the first life member of the Tennessee Historical Society and made Secretary Emeritus.

Quarles’s dedicated work at the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) is of special importance; he began working there in 1914 under his father. At that time the library and archives were separate entities. Like his father, Quarles Jr. served as Director of the Archives Division, his tenure lasting from 1949 to 1961. Because of the advocacy of State Librarian Dr. Dan Robison, former Gov. Gordon Browning, and Robert T. Quarles Jr., the legislature funded a new State Library and Archives building that opened in 1953. The state records that Quarles oversaw were then moved from the basement of the War Memorial Building to the modern structure still located 403 Seventh Avenue South. There they were united with the holdings of the old State Library.

Robert T. Quarles Jr. died September 8, 1968, in Davidson County, Tennessee.

Sources: Tennessee Historical Quarterly, Vol. 27 (Winter 1968), p. 409
The Nashville Tennessean, September 10, 1968
The Nashville Banner, June 30, 1961

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

The arrangement of the collection is alphabetical.
Conditions of Access and Use

Restrictions on Access:
No restrictions

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:
While the Tennessee State Library and Archives houses an item, it does not necessarily hold the copyright on the item, nor may it be able to determine if the item is still protected under current copyright law. Users are solely responsible for determining the existence of such instances and for obtaining any other permissions and paying associated fees that may be necessary for the intended use.

Index Terms

Personal Names:
- Cates, Clifton B. (Clifton Bledsoe), 1893-1970
- Coffey family
- Davis, Sam, 1842-1863
- Polk, James K. (James Knox), 1796-1849
- Quarles, Robert T. (Robert Thomas), Jr., 1891-1968

Corporate Names/Organizations/Government Bodies:
- Confederate Historical Society (Nashville, Tenn.)
- Boy Scouts of America
- Education Association (Nashville, Tenn.)
- Nashville Children’s Museum Association
- Sam Davis Memorial (Nashville, Tenn.)
- Tennessee Historical Society
- Tennessee State Library and Archives
- Tennessee. General Assembly

Subjects:
- Agriculture -- Tennessee
- Freemasonry
- Genealogy
- Maps
- Museums
- Nonprofit organizations
- Tennessee -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
- Trade -- Tennessee
Geographic Names:
Nashville (Tenn.)

Document Types:
Account books
Address books
Appointment books
Clippings (information artifacts)
Correspondence
Invitations
Maps
Membership cards
Photographs
Programs
Receipts (financial records)
Research notes
Ticket stubs

Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition:
This collection was donated by Robert T. Quarles Jr. of Nashville, Tennessee.

Processing and Administrative Information

Preferred Citation:

Processing Information:
This collection was processed by Kimberly Mills and was completed on June 2, 2010. Items that related personally to Quarles were pulled from the THS Office Files and added to this collection.
## CONTAINER LIST

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<th>Contents/Item Title</th>
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<th>Box</th>
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<td>Daily planner</td>
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<td>Membership cards</td>
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