



State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives
403 Seventh Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

TILLER, L. C., PIANO COMPANY
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
RECORDS
1919-1967

(THS COLLECTION)

Processed by:

Gregory G. Poole
Archival Technical Services

Date completed: May 5, 2004
Accession Number: THS 844
Microfilm Accession Number: 1735
Location: THS III-H-2-7

MICROFILMED

INTRODUCTION

This finding aid focuses on the records of the L.C. Tiller Piano Company of Nashville, Tennessee. The collection is composed of agreements, certificates, correspondence, financial statements, photographs, account and payment books and several miscellaneous items. Although the company was founded in 1917, the bulk of the collection is concentrated from the 1930s through the 1960s.

The L.C. Tiller Piano Company was founded in 1917 by Lee Carter Tiller (1894-1967). Tiller, a native of Louisville, Kentucky, had been trained in the music business by his father, F.M. Tiller, before arriving in Nashville in 1917. In the early years the office and showroom was located at 206 Capitol Boulevard in the old Joseph Frank building (now the office of Work and Greer, Public Accountants). In the mid-1930s, Tiller moved his business to 123 8th Avenue, North where it remained until its closure. In 1946, Tiller's son-in-law, Edward D. Null (1921-2000) joined the firm. Null continued to operate the business after Tiller's death in 1967. When Null retired in 1992, the firm was closed.

The collection was presented to the Tennessee Historical Society in 1996 by Roy Barbee, Nashville, Tennessee. There are no restrictions on the material. Single photocopies of unpublished materials in the L.C. Tiller Piano Company Papers may be made for individual or scholarly research. Usage of any photographic materials and documents in this collection should include reference to the Tennessee Historical Society, Nashville, Tennessee.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The L.C. Tiller Piano Company Papers, containing .5 cubic feet of material, 1 oversized box and 41 volumes, span the period 1919 through 1967, although the bulk of the material is concentrated between 1929 through 1967. The collection is composed of agreements, certificates, correspondence, financial statements, income tax returns, photographs, printed materials and account and payment books. There is very little correspondence or other loose papers in the collection.

The account books are the records of the day-to-day operations of the company. Beginning in 1927 and continuing through 1969, the account books list monies received, account debits, payrolls, insurance payments and other company expenditures. The payment books are the payment records of those who bought or leased pianos or other appliances from the company and date from 1929 through 1968. Apart from the schedule of payments made by the customer, each entry may include an address, employment history, and names of relatives. In future years, the payment books may prove to be genealogical significant for the amount of information provided. There are several interesting photographs in the collection including the noted operatic singer, Marie Morrisey and the famed "torch singer" Ruth Etting.

The L.C. Tiller Piano Company was one of Nashville's oldest piano and music dealerships. Although a small collection, the L.C. Tiller Piano Company Papers will prove to be a significant addition to the economic history of Nashville.

CONTAINER LIST

Microfilm Roll #1

Box 1

1. Agreements-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1925-1938
2. Agreements-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1925-1938
3. Agreements-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1938-1939
4. Correspondence-- Allen-Hayes
5. Financial Statements-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1952-1954
6. Income Tax Returns, Tiller, Lee Carter, 1936-1948
7. Printed Materials-- "Alphabetical Index to Nashville Streets," 1943
8. Record of Sales, (Consignments), 1937-1949 (loose pages)
9. Record of Sales, (Consignments), 1950-1957

Oversize Box

1. Certificates-- Certificate of Membership, Nashville Better Business Bureau, 1967

Photographs

1. Photographs-- Francis Craig, 1934
2. Photographs-- Helmut Cremish, 1949
3. Photographs-- Ruth Etting, 1929
4. Photographs-- James Melton, 1929
5. Photographs-- "Middle Tennessee Pony Club, Founded ca. 1951 by Edward Null and Colonel Campbell Brown"
6. Photographs-- Marie Morrissey, 1919
7. Photographs-- "Nashvillians Win a Kimball Piano from L.C. Tiller Company, Nashville"
8. Unidentified man and woman.

Volumes

1. Account books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1927-1940
2. Account books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1941
3. Account books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1946

Microfilm Roll #2

4. Account books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1947
5. Account books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1953
6. Account books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1954
7. Account books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1955
8. Account books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1956
9. Account books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1957

10. Account books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1958
11. Account books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1959
12. Account books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1960
13. Account books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1961

Microfilm Roll #3

14. Account books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1962
15. Account books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1963
16. Account books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1964
17. Account books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1965
18. Account books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1966
19. Account books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1966-July, 1967
20. Account books-- L.C. Tiller Company, July 1967
21. Account books-- L.C. Tiller Company, September 1967-April 1968
22. Account books-- L.C. Tiller Company, June 1968-July 1969

Microfilm Roll #4

23. Payment books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1929-1944

Microfilm Roll #5

24. Payment books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1932-1942

Microfilm Roll #6

25. Payment books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1936-1945

Microfilm Roll #7

26. Payment books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1938-1944
27. Payment books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1945-1946
28. Payment books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1946-1948

Microfilm Roll #8

29. Payment books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1947-1951

Microfilm Roll #9

30. Payment books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1951-1955

Microfilm Roll #10

31. Payment books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1953-1958

Microfilm Roll #11

32. Payment books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1954-1961
33. Payment books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1956-1960

Microfilm Roll #12

34. Payment books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1958-1962

Microfilm Roll #13

35. Payment books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1960-1963

Microfilm Roll #14

36. Payment books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1961-1965

37. Payment books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1962-1969

Microfilm Roll #15

38. Payment books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1963-1966

Microfilm Roll #16

39. Payment books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1964-1969

Microfilm Roll #17

40. Payment books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1966-1969

41. Payment books-- L.C. Tiller Company, 1967-1968