



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

ROBERT B. CRONEBERGER
(ca. 1937-1998)
STATE LIBRARIAN AND ARCHIVIST
RECORDS
1972-[1976-1985]-1985
RECORD GROUP 311

Processed by

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INTRODUCTION

This finding aide focuses on the files of Robert B. Croneberger, Tennessee State Librarian and Archivist from 1985-1986. The record group actually contains many files from Katheryn C. Culbertson and Olivia K. Young, two previous holders of the position. The files span the years 1972-1985, with the largest portion having been generated from 1976-1985. The bulk of the collection is correspondence pertaining to the daily work of the office of the State Librarian and Archivist, or to various boards or committees to which the Librarian and Archivist belonged. Many of the records concern actions that affected the structure and administration of the State Library and Archives, including budget planning, creation of governing boards, legal decisions that affected the Library and Archives, restructuring of the state government, institution of new outreach programs, and the administration of affiliated programs. Files also contain material on Homecoming '86, programs to microfilm county records, the Folklife Project, and The Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. There are some photographs as well, two of a group including Robert Croneberger, while the bulk contain members of the State Library and Archives Commission. Some of the latter include Katheryn Culbertson and Olivia Young.

The files were transferred from Mr. Croneberger's office after he left the post in 1986. They were stored for several years in the State Library and Archives. The record group consists of approximately 2.25 cubic feet of material, arranged in folders by subject, reduced from approximately 4.0 cubic feet after the removal of extraneous material. There are no restrictions on the material. Single photocopies of unpublished material in the Robert B. Croneberger records may be made for scholarly research.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

State Librarian and Archivist

The Tennessee State Librarian and Archivist is responsible for the administration of the State Library and Archives. The Library and Archives “collects and preserves books, materials and records of historical, documentary and reference value and encourages and promotes library development throughout the state.”¹ The Library and Archives underwent some reorganization during the time spanned by these records, being at first under the administration of the Department of Education. In 1982 the Library and Archives was transferred to the office of the Secretary of State, with the Librarian and Archivist appointed by the State Library and Archives Management Board. He or she served as Executive Secretary of that body, as well as serving as an ex officio member of other boards and commissions. During the time spanned by these records, the structure of Library and Archives included several or all of the following: Administrative Services, Fiscal Services, Planning and Development Section, Records Management Section, Restoration and Reproduction Section, and Technical Service Section. The Library and Archives administers the Regional Library System and houses the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the latter administered in cooperation with the Library of Congress.

Robert B. Croneberger (ca. 1937-1998)

Robert Croneberger was born about 1937. He obtained his undergraduate degree *summa cum laude* from Lehigh University, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He acquired graduate degrees in Greek from the University of Pennsylvania and Library Sciences from Drexel Institute of Technology. He worked for the Library of Congress, Memphis-Shelby County (Tennessee) Public Library System, and served as Deputy Director of Detroit Public Libraries. Mr. Croneberger served as State Librarian and Archivist for the state of Tennessee from January 1, 1985 until late February, 1986, when he left to take a position as director of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. He died February 27, 1998.

Katheryn C. Culbertson (1920- 2002)

Katheryn C. Culbertson was born August 20, 1920, in Coeburn, Virginia. She received a B.S. from East Tennessee State University and a B.S. in Library Science from George Peabody College for Teachers. She also acquired a J.D. from the YMCA Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1969. She served as librarian with several organizations during her career, including the U.S. Bureau of Ships, the Kingsport Public School System, Nashville and Davidson County Public Library, and the State Library and Archives. She was the first professional librarian to hold the position of State Librarian and Archivist, appointed in 1972 and serving until 1982 when she resigned and entered full-time legal practice. She died July 1, 2002.

Olivia K. Young

Olivia Young obtained a degree in Library Sciences from Peabody Library School of Vanderbilt University. She served as a librarian in GA and TN. She served as director of the Wautaga Regional Library System and the Development and Extension Services section of the State Library and Archives. She was appointed State Librarian and Archivist on December 1, 1982. She was still alive at the time of this writing.

Notes:

1. *Tennessee Blue Book, 1983-84*, Secretary of State of Tennessee, Nashville, TN, 1984, 79-83.

Additional Sources:

“Archivist Resigns to Practice Law,” *The Nashville Banner*, 2 December 1982, C-7.

“Drastic Changes Are Being Made at the State Library,” *The Tennessean*, 16 December 1984, 1-E, 20-21.

Obituary of Katheryn C. Culbertson, *The Tennessean*, 3 July 2002, B-9.

“Robert Croneberger Dies at 61,” *American Libraries*, 9 March 1998, <<http://archive.ala.org/online/news/1998/980309.html>>, 18 June 2004.

Tennessee Blue Book, 1973-1974, Sec. of State of Tennessee, Nashville, TN, 1974, 99.

The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture, Carroll Van West, ed., Nashville, Rutledge Hill Press, 1998, 951.

Robert B. Croneberger Files, RG 311, Tennessee State Library and Archives.

“State Librarian Resigns- No Reason Given,” *The Tennessean*, 2 December 1982, 15, 18.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Robert B. Croneberger Records, consisting of approximately 2.25 feet of records arranged by subject, span the period 1972-1985. Mr. Croneberger was State Librarian and Archivist for the state of Tennessee from January 1, 1985 until late February, 1986, but his files contain records from the time of two predecessors, perhaps left behind when they vacated the position. The majority of the records are from the time span 1976-1985, a period that encompasses part of Kathryn C. Culbertson's tenure as State Librarian and Archivist, all the time that Olivia K. Young served in the position, and the majority of the term of Robert Croneberger.

The collection is composed of assorted records, including reports, minutes, financial and records management forms, questionnaires, legal opinions, and contracts. The majority of the records consist of correspondence on various issues related to the administration of the State Library and Archives. Material in the files relates to the organization of the Library and Archives, organization of state government, special programs and outreach, records management issues, budgets, development of online catalog systems, and public relations issues. In addition there is correspondence on issues related to various boards and organizations to which the Librarian and Archivist belonged, both personally and as a holder of the office. The files contain correspondence on legal proceedings that either might have affected the administration of the Library and Archives, or in which the Librarian and Archivist participated in some official capacity. In addition, some information on the planning and implementation of the Homecoming '86 program, the Tennessee Folklife Project, and programs to microfilm loose county records, help provide microfilm access to records in the counties, to provide electronic access to finding aides can be found in the collection.

This record group will likely be of most value for research on the history or administration of the Tennessee State Library and Archives. The Library and Archives moved from the administrative control of the Department of Education to that of the Secretary of State's office during this time. The minutes of the State Public Records Commission and the State Library and Archives Commission provide much information about record keeping methodology in the state and the operation of the Library and Archives. Some of the program files already mentioned may be of value in research pertaining to the history of Tennessee government. The files also include records pertaining to the administration of the Campaign Financial Disclosure Act of 1976 and on plans to restructure various aspects of the state government, all of which may have value for a researcher of political history.

Box Number 6 of the collection consists of 29 photographs. The first 2 are of small groups that include Robert B. Croneberger. The next 26 are of various members of the State Library and Archives Commission, some of which include Katheryn Culbertson or Olivia Young. The final photograph is a representation of a map that was part of a donation to the State Archives and which was included in a letter thanking the donor for the gift.

The Robert B. Croneberger records are related to those found in Record Group 172, State Librarian and Archivist Papers, 1971-1982, in that the record groups overlap in time and that the files of State Librarian and Archivist Katheryn Culbertson can be found in each.

CONTAINER LIST

BOX NUMBER 1

1. Affidavits—Affidavit of Olivia Young in Matter of *Jones Bros. Tractor Co., Inc, v. Ford Motor Company*, 1983
2. American Library Association—Legislative Day, 1985
3. Budget Request—Correspondence, 1977-1979
4. Budget Request—Correspondence, 1981-1982
5. Campaign Financial Disclosure Act—Correspondence, 1980-1982
6. Capital Budget Requests, 1981-1982
7. Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA), 1982-1985
8. Complaints, 1980-1985
9. County Public Libraries—Correspondence Received, 1985
10. County Records—Correspondence, 1985
11. Development and Extension Services Section, 1985
12. Disaster Plans—Correspondence Received, 1985
13. Disciplinary Board of the State Supreme Court, 1979
14. Education—Memos—Commissioner—Budget, 1977-1982
15. Equipment—Copying Machines, 1981
16. Equipment—Maintenance, 1979
17. Equipment—Upgrades —Requisitions, 1985
18. Federal Bureau of Investigation—Correspondence, 1981
19. Folklife Project, 1985
20. Genealogical Services, 1985
21. General Assembly Legislation, 1976-1982
22. Gifts—Correspondence, 1979-1980
23. Governor—Correspondence—Forwarded, 1985
24. Governor—Correspondence—Varied, 1976-1980
25. Governor's Papers—Correspondence, 1981
26. Governor's Personnel and Reorganization Committee, 1980
27. Handicapped Access, 1981

BOX NUMBER 2

1. Homecoming '86 —General, 1985
2. Homecoming '86—Microfilm Selection, 1985
3. "Let's Talk About It" Program, 1985
4. Libraries and Archives Audit, 1976-1981
5. Local Libraries—Correspondence Received, 1985
6. Local Libraries—Correspondence Written, 1979, 1980
7. Letters of Recommendation, 1985
8. "M"—Correspondence, 1977-1983
9. Management Board, State Library and Archives, 1982
10. Management Board, State Library and Archives—Verbatims, 1982

11. Micrographics—Agreements, 1982-1983
12. National Commission on Libraries and Information Sciences—Ad Hoc Committee, 1980
13. National Historic Publications and Records Commission, 1979-1982
14. Newspaper Project, 1983
15. Overtime Pay Requests, 1982
16. Papers of Andrew Jackson Advisory Board, 1971-1980
17. Personnel Freeze Exemption Requests, 1980-1981
18. Personnel Policies, 1982
19. President's Committee on the Employment of the Handicapped, 1980, 1982
20. Property Management, 1982
21. Public Records Commission—Correspondence, 1981-1982
22. Public Records Commission—Correspondence and Minutes, 1983-1984
23. Public Records Commission—Personnel—Division of Research, 1981-1982
24. Public Records Commission—Employment Security, 1981-1982
25. Public Records Commission—Meetings, 1980

BOX NUMBER 3

1. Public Records Commission—Meetings, 1983
2. Public Records Commission—Revenue—Inheritance, Gift and Income Tax Division, 1981
3. Public Records Commission—State University and Community College System, 1981
4. Publications—Correspondence, 1978-1980
5. Questionnaires—Responses, 1978-1985
6. Recordings, 1980-1982
7. Record Transfers—To State Archives, 1982
8. Records Disposition Authorizations—General, 1981-1982
9. Records Disposition Authorizations—Released, 1980-1982
10. Records Management Division—Transfers, 1980-1983
11. Reference Services—Correspondence, 1978
12. Regional Libraries—Budget—Letters of Support, 1978-1979
13. Schedule Adjustment Requests, 1983
14. Security, 1973-1982
15. Southeastern Librarians Network (SOLINET)—Correspondence, Varied, 1976-1983
16. Southeastern Librarians Network (SOLINET) and On-line Computer Library Center (OCLC)—Contracts, 1982-1983
17. State Library and Archives Commission—Ad Hoc Committee on Networking, 1981

BOX NUMBER 4

1. State Library and Archives Commission—Annual Reports, 1976-1982
2. State Library and Archives Commission—General, 1981
3. State Library and Archives Commission—General, 1982
4. State Library and Archives Commission—Members, 1971-1983

5. State Library and Archives Commission—Quarterly Reports, 1976-1978
6. State Library and Archives Commission—Quarterly Reports, 1978-1980
7. State Library and Archives Commission—Quarterly Reports, 1980-1982

BOX NUMBER 5

1. State Library and Archives—Correspondence—General, 1977, 1979
2. Study to Streamline Government Operations, 1981
3. Supreme Court Decisions—Elections, 1980
4. Surveys, 1978-1984
5. Technical Services Section, 1985
6. Tennessee Archivists, 1979-1982
7. Tennessee Commission on Aging—Analysis of 1910 Census/Oral History, 1985
8. Tennessee Depository Libraries, 1973-1985
9. Tennessee Historical Society—Transmittal Letters, 1979
10. Tennessee Obscenity Act of 1978
11. Tennessee State University—Public History and Archives, 1985
12. U. S. Congress—Correspondence, 1979-1984
13. Weather-stripping, 1981

BOX NUMBER 6

PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Photo—Gentry, John, Putnam County Executive; Henry, Dwight, Mayor of Cookeville; Crowell, Gentry, Secretary of State; Powell, Jack, Donor of Portrait; Croneberger, Robert, State Librarian. Portrait of Richard Fielding Cooke visible in the background.
2. Photo—Gentry, John, Putnam County Executive; Henry, Dwight, Mayor of Cookeville; Crowell, Gentry, Secretary of State; Powell, Jack, Donor of Portrait; Croneberger, Robert, State Librarian. Portrait of Richard Fielding Cooke visible in the background.
3. Photo—1972—Culbertson, Katheryn C.; Daniel, Mrs. Rad; Eubank, Miss Leota; Landers, Lytle; McQueen, Edmund P., II; Motlow, Mrs. Reagor; Schull, Malcolm; Tanner, Ray; Taylor, Robert C.
4. Photo—1972—Culbertson, Katheryn C.; Daniel, Mrs. Rad; Eubank, Miss Leota; Landers, Lytle; McQueen, Edmund P., II; Motlow, Mrs. Reagor; Schull, Malcolm; Tanner, Ray; Taylor, Robert C.
5. Photo—January 11, 1977—Schull, Malcolm; Schull, Mrs.; Taylor, Robert.
6. Photo—January 11, 1977—Schull, Malcolm; Schull, Mrs.; Taylor, Robert.
7. Photo—January 11, 1977—Culbertson, Katheryn C.; Schull, Mr. And Mrs. Malcom; Taylor, Robert.
8. Photo—January 11, 1977—Motlow, Mrs. Reagor; Schull, Mr. Malcolm
9. Photo—January 11, 1977—Hughes, Mrs. Cleo; Motlow, Mrs. Reagor; Schull, Malcolm; Schull, Mrs.; Waggener, Mrs. Jean; Young, Mrs. Olivia.
10. Photo—January 11, 1977—Landers, Lytle; Tanner, Ray; Taylor, Robert.

11. Photo—January 11, 1977—Culbertson, Katheryn C.; Taylor, Robert C.
12. Photo—January 11, 1977—Culbertson, Katheryn C.; Schull, Mr. And Mrs. Malcolm; Taylor, Robert C.
13. Photo—January 11, 1977—Culbertson, Katheryn C.; Hurley, Mrs. B. T.; Landers, Lytle; Motlow, Mrs. Reagor; Schull, Mr. and Mrs.; Tanner, Ray; Taylor, Robert; Thomason, Mrs. John.
14. Photo—January 11, 1977—Culbertson, Katheryn C.; Schull, Mr. And Mrs. Malcolm; Taylor, Robert.
15. Photo—January 11, 1977—Schull, Malcolm; Taylor, Robert.
16. Photo—January 11, 1977—Hurley, Mrs. B. T.; Motlow, Mrs. Reagor; Tanner, Ray.
17. Photo—State Library and Archives Commission—January 22, 1980—Taylor, Robert C.; Van Cleve, John.
18. Photo—State Library and Archives Commission—January 22, 1980—Cram, Kendall; Landers, Lytle; Smythe, Katherine; Taylor, Robert; Van Cleve, John.
19. Photo—State Library and Archives Commission—January 22, 1980—Culbertson, Katheryn C.; Hurley, Mai Bell; Landers, Lytle; Pollack, Ellen; Smythe, Katherine; Taylor, Robert; Van Cleve, John.
20. Photo—State Library and Archives Commission—January 22, 1980—Culbertson, Katheryn C.; Hurley, Mai Bell; Pollack, Ellen; Taylor, Robert C.
21. Photo—State Library and Archives Commission—January 22, 1980—Culbertson, Katheryn C.; Hurley, Mai Bell; Landers, Lytle; Smythe, Katherine; Taylor, Robert; Van Cleve, John.
22. Photo—State Library and Archives Commission—January 22, 1980—Culbertson, Katheryn C.; Hurley, Mai Bell; Taylor, Robert; Van Cleve, John.
23. Photo—State Library and Archives Commission—January 22, 1980—Hurley, Mai Bell; Taylor, Robert C.
24. Photo—State Library and Archives Commission—January 22, 1980—Hurley, Mai Bell; Taylor, Robert C.
25. Photo—State Library and Archives Commission—January 22, 1980—Hurley, Mai Bell; Taylor, Robert C.
26. Photo—State Library and Archives Commission—January 22, 1980—Culbertson, Katheryn C.; Taylor, Robert C.
27. Photo—State Library and Archives Commission—January 22, 1980—Culbertson, Katheryn C.; Taylor, Robert C.
28. Photo—State Library and Archives Commission—October 30, 1981—Hurley, Mrs. B. T. Jr.; Landers, Mr. Lytle
29. Photo—Map of Country Between Franklin and Columbia, 1865, donated to the Library and Archives, ca. 1979