

# Old Oak Club Collection, 1905-2019

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Old Oak Club Collection

**Summary:** A collection of correspondence, club history, papers, and meeting information belonging to the Old Oak Club. Dates range from 1905-2019. Bulk dates: 1997-2013.

**Physical Description:** 6 boxes; 2.5 linear feet.

**Language:** English

**Stack Location:** S14-22

**Repository:** Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County, 615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219

## Historical Note:

The Old Oak Club, a prominent literary club for men, was first organized in November of 1887 by Herman Justi for the purposes of "discussing subjects of general interest." By January of 1888, the constitution-and by-laws for the club were adopted, and the first officers were elected. At the time, membership was limited to twenty-five. The Old Oak Club has met in a variety of venues throughout its history, from the Watkins Institute, to the old Carnegie Library, to the University Club of Nashville. Today, the Old Oak Club meets once a month during the academic year (September-May), and members present scholarly papers on a variety of subjects at each meeting.

## Scope and Contents of the Collection:

This collection contains 2.5 linear feet of materials relating to the Old Oak Club of Nashville, including club history, correspondence, meeting agendas and presented papers, and member rosters. The dates of the materials range from 1905 to 2019, with the majority of the collection dating between 1997 and 2013. Most of the collection is comprised of the meeting notices and papers given at meetings starting in 1997, though not every paper for every meeting is included.

Earlier records for the Old Oak Club are located at the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

## Index Terms:

**Subjects:**

Old Oak Club (Nashville, Tenn.)

## Related Collections:

Coffee House Club Collection

**Arrangement:**

This collection is arranged into four series: *Club History*, *Correspondence*, *Meetings*, and *Members*.

The *Club History* series contains materials pertaining to the history of the Old Oak Club, including the constitution and by-laws, newspaper clippings, and lists of past papers presented at previous meetings. A biographical sketch of Old Oak Club founder Herman Justi is also included.

*Correspondence* includes general club correspondence with past secretaries and other members, the Tennessee State Library and Archives, and invitations to various club events.

The *Meetings* series contains meeting agendas and papers presented at Old Oak Club meetings largely between 1997 and 2013, though a few papers from 2017-2019 are also included. Note: Some papers are not included with the meeting agendas. This series is arranged chronologically by date of meeting. Old meeting notices from 1936-1998 are also included in this series.

The *Members* series includes information about and papers written by select Old Oak Club members, such as Allen Patton and Joseph Edward Wright, as well as membership rosters and a directory.

**Contents Listing:****Box 1:**

- Fol. 1: Club History--Centennial Meeting (1988)
- Fol. 2: Club History--Clippings (1948-1970)
- Fol. 3: Club History--Constitution & By-Laws (1938)
- Fol. 4: Club History--Ford, Reuben (1889)
- Fol. 5: Club History--Justi, Herman (1909)
- Fol. 6: Club History--Notes (n.d.)
- Fol. 7: Club History--Old Oak Cartoon (c.2000s)
- Fol. 8: Club History--Past Papers (1950-1997)
- Fol. 9: Club History--Photographs (n.d.)
- Fol. 10: Club History--Stationery (n.d.)
- Fol. 11: Correspondence--Cate, George H., Jr. (1999-2000)
- Fol. 12: Correspondence--DeWitt, Ward, Jr. (1977)
- Fol. 13: Correspondence--Hutchison, Albert W., Jr. (1983)
- Fol. 14: Correspondence--Invitations (1970, 1988)
- Fol. 15: Correspondence--Johnson, Mary Hannah (1905)
- Fol. 16: Correspondence--McGaw, Robert A. (1952-1997)
- Fol. 17: Correspondence--TSLA (1975-1997)

Fol. 18: Correspondence--University Club (1989-1997)

**Meetings--Agendas and Papers: Papers Presented at Old Oak Club Meetings (\* = paper not included)**

Fol. 19: Collins, Robert - "Bugs and Stuff" (9/??/1997?)

Fol. 20: Holladay, Wendell G. - "Reflections: Radar in WWII" (10/23/1997)

Fol. 21: Ransom, Harry Howe - "A Military Genius - But Politically Incorrect: A Biographical Sketch of General George S. Patton, Jr." (12/4/1997)

Fol. 22: McGaw, Robert A. - "A Long Look at the Carolinas" (1/22/1998)

Fol. 23: Collins, Robert D. - "The Fibre Man" (2/26/1998)

Fol. 24: Graham, Hugh Davis - "Who Owns History?" (3/26/1998)

Fol. 25: Fields, Emmett - "Oklahoma!" (4/23/1998)

Fol. 26: Allen, Jack - "My Century: The Early Years" (9/24/1998)

Fol. 27: May, Jack - "Old Times Old Tales" (10/22/1998)

Fol. 28: Finch, Bill - "Dinner for Five at Faucon's" (12/3/1998)

Fol. 29: Wright, Joe - "Pleasures and Perplexities: Looking Back" (1/28/1999)

Fol. 30: Cate, George H., Jr. - "Indianapolis--a Tennessee Connection" (2/25/1999)

**Box 2:**

Fol. 1: Bonnyman, Gordon - "American Gypsies" (3/25/1999)

Fol. 2: Bailey, Clay - "Adventures on the Hill" (4/22/1999)\*

Fol. 3: Meador, Clifton - "Fragments of Cahaba" (5/27/1999)

Fol. 4: Bowen, Cawthon - "Ms. Matures" (9/23/1999)

Fol. 5: Patton, Allen - "A Different Place" (10/28/1999)\*

Fol. 6: Hargrove, Erwin C. - "La Fille d'Epicier" (12/2/1999)\*

Fol. 7: Thompson, Joe, Jr. - "Military Service--The Lighter Side" (1/27/2000)\*

Fol. 8: McNeilly, Robert - "100 Years and the Maid" (2/24/2000)\*

Fol. 9: Paine, George C. - "It was a Great War but Not Much of a Plot" (3/23/2000)

Fol. 10: Durham, Walter T. - "Three or More from Tennessee" (4/27/2000)

Fol. 11: Thorne, Charles - "An Early American Railroad" (5/25/2000)

Fol. 12: Sandlin, Jim - "The Way Home Has Changed" (9/28/2000)\*

Fol. 13: Syverud, Kent - "Baby Jessica at Age 10" (10/26/2000)

Fol. 14: DeWitt, Ward - "Duncan: A Good School, A Good Man" (11/30/2000)

Fol. 15: Voegeli, Jacque - "Origins of the Civil War" (1/25/2001)

Fol. 16: Bass, Neil - "Old Navy" (2/22/2001)

Fol. 17: Holladay, Wendell G. - "Life and Atomic Physics: Bohr's Message to Delbruck in 1932" (3/22/2001)

Fol. 18: May, Andy - "Actual Enumeration" (4/26/2001)\*

Fol. 19: Turner, Bill - "The Army that Captured America" (5/24/2001)

Fol. 20: Ewing, David - "Hilary Done Gone" (9/27/2001)\*

Fol. 21: Cate, George H., Jr. - "After September 11<sup>th</sup>--Now the Long Haul" (10/25/2001)

Fol. 22: Brandt, Robert - "Sit Down George, You'll Tip Over the Boat" (11/29/2001)

Fol. 23: Booth, William J. - "Memory Lane" (1/24/2002)\*

Fol. 24: Collins, Robert D. - "Revolution in Evolution" (2/28/2002)

Fol. 25: Frazier, Charles - "Public Schools: Some Observations and Suggestions for Wannabe Reformers" (3/28/2002)\*  
Fol. 26: Ransom, Harry - "Shooting a Clay Pigeon or What Can We Believe?" (4/25/2002)  
Fol. 27: May, Jack - "What a Berg!" (5/23/2002)  
Fol. 28: Bailey, F. Clay - "The Adventures of an Impetuous Ancestor" (9/26/2002)\*  
Fol. 29: Patton, Allen - "Antidote to Sprawl" (10/24/2002)\*  
Fol. 30: Bonnyman, Gordon - "Afghanistan: A Rough Neighborhood" (12/5/2002)  
Fol. 31: Fields, Emmett - "A Renaissance in American Libraries?" (1/24/2003)  
Fol. 32: Hargrove, Erwin C. - "Four and One Half Presidents: Jimmy Carter to George W. Bush" (2/27/2003)  
Fol. 33: Meador, Clifton - "A Patient, A Professor and a Classmate" (3/27/2003)\*  
Fol. 34: Paine, George C. - "War - Civil and Otherwise" (4/24/2003)  
Fol. 35: McNeilly, Robert - "Under the Winged Lion" (5/22/2003)\*

**Box 3:**

Fol. 1: McDonald, Hunter - "Reminiscences about Boyhood Experiences with General Lee After the War" (9/15/2003)\*  
Fol. 2: Sandlin, James - "Cedar Rails to No. 2s Make Pencil City" (10/23/2003)  
Fol. 3: DeWitt, Ward - "Euskal Herria, or 4+3=1" (12/4/2003)  
Fol. 4: Brandt, Robert - "The Californian: An Incident of Titanic Proportion" (1/24/2004)  
Fol. 5: Durham, Walter - "A Military Governor" (2/26/2004)\*  
Fol. 6: Thorne, Charles - "Bad Bugs" (3/25/2004)\*  
Fol. 7: Thompson, Joe - "Sentimental Journey" (5/27/2004)  
Fol. 8: Voegeli, V. Jacque - "Southern Distinctiveness, Southern Identity: The North-South Dialogue" (9/23/2004)  
Fol. 9: Ely, James W., Jr. - "Abraham Lincoln as a Railroad Lawyer" (12/2/2004)  
Fol. 10: Cate, George H., Jr. - "Nashville, the River City" (1/27/2005)  
Fol. 11: Coke, Bill - "Bowling Green, KY 1860 - The Diary of Josie Underwood" (2/24/2005)  
Fol. 12: Ewing, David - "The Red Fox Rides Again" (3/24/2005)\*  
Fol. 13: Collins, Robert - "The Big C" (4/28/2005)  
Fol. 14: Shayne, Jonathan A. - "Parallel Minds" (5/26/2005)\*  
Fol. 15: Bailey, Clay - "The Quoits Club" (9/22/2005)  
Fol. 16: Carey, Bill - "Just An Old Country Lawyer" (10/27/2005)  
Fol. 17: Turner, Bill - "The Hero" (12/1/2005)  
Fol. 18: Swanson, Kenneth - "The Future of Virtue" (1/26/2006)  
Fol. 19: Norris, John - "Get Out of Our Sunshine - The Nashville Streetcar Boycott" (2/23/2006)  
Fol. 20: Eakin, Marshall - "Why I Am a southerner...and My Daughters Probably Are Not" (3/23/2006)  
Fol. 21: Ransom, Harry - "A Half Century of Spy Watching from the Ivory Tower" (4/27/2006)

Fol. 22: Brandt, Robert - "The Little Indian Princess Who Saved the Day" (5/25/2006)  
Fol. 23: Patton, Allen - No title given (9/28/2006)\*  
Fol. 24: Bonnyman, Gordon - "A Tennessee Experiment, A National Tragedy"  
(10/26/2006)  
Fol. 25: May, Andy - "Behold Urilla, Nature's Favored Child" (11/30/2006)\*  
Fol. 26: McNeilly, Robert - "2 ½ for the Road" (1/25/2007)  
Fol. 27: Meador, Clifton - "When Did Modern Medicine Really Begin" (2/22/2007)\*  
Fol. 28: Paine, George C. - "Cincinnatus Redux" (3/22/2007)\*  
Fol. 29: Carey, Bill - "Death of the Watchdog" (4/26/2007)  
Fol. 30: Bell, Vereen - "Reason vs. Culture" (5/24/2007)\*  
Fol. 31: Getz, Malcolm - "Why Does College Cost So Much?" (9/27/2007)  
Fol. 32: Laney, Tom - "We're in a Hurry...and Don't Know Why" (10/25/2007)\*  
Fol. 33: DeWitt, Ward - "From Grundy County to Memphis" (12/6/2007)\*  
Fol. 34: Bass, Neil - "Once Again it is Permissible in the United States to Board a  
Commercial Aircraft with Your Medal of Honor in Your Pocket" (1/24/2008)  
Fol. 35: Hargove, Erwin - "Shakespeare's Politicians" (2/28/2008)  
Fol. 36: Durham, Walter - "The Underground Railroad in Tennessee" (3/27/2008)  
Fol. 37: Thorne, Charles - "The Shaking Quakers" (4/24/2008)\*  
Fol. 38: Ely, James - "The Nation is Stricken: A Civil War Era Diary" (5/22/2008)\*  
Fol. 39: Cate, George C., Jr. - "Our Freshwater Neighbors, Mussels or Clams?"  
(9/25/2008)  
Fol. 40: Coke, Bill - "The Migration of the Ulster Scots" (10/23/2008)

**Box 4:**

Fol. 1: Ewing, David - "Who Shot Ward Belmont?" (12/4/2008)  
Fol. 2: Collins, Robert - "One in Five, or Is It Six?" (1/22/2009)  
Fol. 3: Shayne, John - "Bezzle and Sardines" (2/26/2009)  
Fol. 4: Bailey, Clay - "Hudson Who?" (3/26/2009)\*  
Fol. 5: Sandlin, Jim - "The Shelbyville Plan" (4/23/2009)  
Fol. 6: Turner, Bill - "Nobody's Shipping Over on the Rockbridge" (5/28/2009)  
Fol. 7: Swanson, Kenneth - "God and Baseball" (9/24/2009)\*  
Fol. 8: McNeilly, Robert - "John Bell and the Long Shadow of Andrew Jackson"  
(10/22/2009)  
Fol. 9: Norris, John - "Leaving No Stone Unturned" (12/3/2009)  
Fol. 10: Penegar, Ken - "In the Company of Honest Whigs, One Reluctant  
Revolutionary" (1/28/2010)  
Fol. 11: Brandt, Robert - "A New Deal Model Town and a Not So Model Boy"  
(2/25/2010)  
Fol. 12: Patton, Allen - "A Journey from BGA to Bhutan" (3/25/2010)\*  
Fol. 13: Bonnyman, Gordon - "America's Ace in the Hole?" (4/22/2010)  
Fol. 14: May, Andy - "Pulling the Wagon...To the Penitentiary" (5/27/2010)  
Fol. 15: Eakin, Marshall - "A Newer Wave" (9/23/2010)\*  
Fol. 16: Meador, Clifton - "Great Misconceptions" (10/28/2010)  
Fol. 17: Getz, Malcolm - "Trenton" (12/2/2010)

Fol. 18: Newman, John - "Days of MASH: 1974" (1/27/2011)  
Fol. 19: Bell, Vereen - "Searching for Gerry Sweeney: An Adventure in Ireland" (2/24/2011)  
Fol. 20: Paine, George C. - "The Last Bastion of Civility" (3/24/2011)  
Fol. 21: Laney, Tom - "An Uneventful Term: A Glimpse of Nashville Life 100 Years Ago" (4/28/2011)\*  
Fol. 22: Fischer, Ted - "Cash on the Table: Markets, Moralities, and Wellbeing" (5/26/2011)  
Fol. 23: Syverud, Kent - "BP Escrow Fund Report" (9/22/2011)\*  
Fol. 24: DeWitt, Ward - "The French Navy During World War II" (10/27/2011)  
Fol. 25: McKenzie, Donald - "Another Declaration of Independence" (12/1/2011)\*  
Fol. 26: Hargrove, Herk - "Appeasement" (1/26/2012)\*  
Fol. 27: Welch, Don - "An American Hero. Really?" (2/23/2012)  
Fol. 28: Durham, Walter - "A Bequest of Freedom" (3/22/2012)  
Fol. 29: Simmons, Keith - "A Portrait of Capital Punishment in Tennessee" (4/26/2012)  
Fol. 30: Cate, George H., Jr. - "Nashville's Only Lady Undertaker" (5/24/2012)

**Box 5:**

Fol. 1: Collins, Robert - "The Inner Tubes of Life" (9/27/2012)  
Fol. 2: Coke, Bill - "The Kellytown Archeological Site" (10/25/2012)  
Fol. 3: Attendance list and RSVPs for the October and November 29, 2012 meeting (11/29/2012)  
Fol. 4: Brandt, Robert - "The Liberation of Two Southern Belles" (1/24/2013)  
Fol. 5: Shayne, Jonathan - "Crash, Twang" (2/24/2013)\*  
Fol. 6: Sandlin, Jim - "Let 'Em Walk On" (3/28/2013)  
Fol. 7: Ewing, David - "The Yellow Rose of Tennessee" (4/25/2013)\*  
Fol. 8: May, Andy - "Trefoils, Tagalongs, Dorcas and Copeland" (5/23/2013)\*  
Fol. 9: Norris, John - "A Teacher's Dream" (9/26/2013)  
Fol. 10: Eakin, Marshall - "A Most Unusual Man" (10/24/2013)  
Fol. 11: Penegar, Ken - "Corporations as Citizens?" (12/5/2013)\*  
Fol. 12: Getz, Malcolm - "That Place Is So Crowded, Nobody Goes There Anymore" (9/25/2014)  
Fol. 13: Newman, John H. - "Glimpse of a Young Woman" (10/23/2014)  
Fol. 14: Fischer, Edward F. - "What Is in the Cup" (12/4/2014)  
Fol. 15: Shoaf, Forrest - "The Battle of Nashville: A Personal Tour" (April 2015)  
Fol. 16: McKenzie, Donald L.N. - "An Anniversary" (5/28/2015)  
Fol. 17: Simmons, Keith - "Cuba, Demystifying the Myth or, What I Did on My Spring Break" (9/24/2015)  
Fol. 18: Ivey, Bill - "The Making of a Nashville Masterpiece" (10/29/2015)  
Fol. 19: Brandt, Robert S. - "A Bodyguard for Ike: Allied Deception and the Normandy Invasion, 1944" (December 2015)  
Fol. 20: Pickrell, Mark - "Anatomy of a Filibuster" (1/28/2016)  
Fol. 21: Sandlin, James H. - "The Notorious Neighbor: Nathan Bedford Forrest" (2/25/2016)

- Fol. 22: Coke, William C. - "Major Eugene Castner Lewis" (3/24/2016)  
Fol. 23: Williamson, Edwin - "Three Austrians and Three Acts" (4/28/2016)  
Fol. 24: Sweet, Brett - "Matthew Fontaine Maury: Pathfinder of the Seas" (May 2016)  
Fol. 25: Harrington, Joel F. - "Himmler's Aryan Witch Project: Germanic Folklore Meets Nazi Bureaucracy" (9/22/2016)  
Fol. 26: Patton, Allen - "Living in Two Worlds: An Expression of Interest in my American Indian Family" (12/1/2016)  
Fol. 27: Clair, Walter K. - "A History of Devices in Our Hearts" (3/23/2017)  
Fol. 28: Bonnyman, Gordon - "Litigating the House of God" (9/27/2017)  
Fol. 29: Penegar, Ken - "Hidden History" (4/26/2018)  
Fol. 30: Pickrell, Mark - "Nitinol Surgical Robots: A Case Study in Innovation" (1/24/2019)  
Fol. 31: Meetings--Notices (1936-1939)  
Fol. 32: Meetings--Notices (1974-1990)

**Box 6:**

- Fol. 1: Meetings--Notices (1990-1998)  
Fol. 2: Members--Directory (2007)  
Fol. 3: Members--Hale, George Weeks (2006)  
Fol. 4: Members--Membership Books (1888-1908)  
Fol. 5: Members--Membership Books (1888-1938)  
Fol. 6: Members--Patton, Allen (n.d.)  
Fol. 7: Members--Rosters (1950-1998)  
Fol. 8: Members--Wright, Joseph Edward (n.d.)

**Restrictions:**

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**Provenance:** Donated by the Old Oak Club.

**Processing Information:** Processed by Kelley Sirko, November 2021.

**Accruals:** Further accruals may be expected.