



Photograph Research Guide

Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University

The Center holds more than 110,000 iconographic items, both photographic and printed. The collection includes images made by various photographic processes, such as daguerreotypes, albumen prints, black and white prints, 35mm negatives, color slides and prints, as well as visual images in other formats, such as lithographs, postcards, and trade cards. A large portion of the catalogued collection consists of individual images of specific musicians, artists, bands, and groups. The Center also photographically documents its own public lectures and performances.

Of particular note are photographs associated with a larger collection of manuscript materials. Examples are the [D. F. Cusic Collection](#) of Christian music performers, the “Muddy Waters and Son Sims” photograph in the [John Wesley Work III Collection](#), and the [Alan L. Mayor Collection](#). The Center also holds nineteen (19) manuscript scrapbooks that contain many iconographic images.

To limit your search to photographs & prints, use the Center's [Advanced Search](#) and select the check box beside "Photographs" before performing your search.

There are approximately 3,000 additional photographs, consisting primarily of publicity shots of individuals or music-related groups, in the Center's collections. Most of these images are copyrighted and are not catalogued. An alphabetical listing is available in the Center's Reading Room, titled “Iconographic Name File.”

We are working to make photographs more accessible online, please understand the limited staff time and budget hinder this process. We are happy to work with you to find photographs in our collection that fit your needs. Please **contact the archivist** with what you are looking for. We may have suggestions on where to look and work with you to see photographs you are looking for. Only a very few photographs from our collection is available online at this time, those items can be found in the [American Guitar website](#).

Photograph Item ID key:

GEN - means general, or unidentified. These also include places or companies that related to music. These are usually older items where the subject are not identified.

BIO- means biographical. People identified. Can be searched by name such as “Rex Allen Jr” or “Elvis Presley”; be sure to search both “Allen, Rex” and “Rex Allen” These also include images from calendars, postcards, printed photographs and other formats.

CPM - means created by the Center for Popular Music, usually from events attended or hosted.

Copyright:

The Center for Popular Music staff may be able to help in finding who may own the copyright to the photograph you wish to you, but it is your responsibility to contact copyright holder and follow copyright laws.

Suggestions when searching for photographs:

Many manuscript collections contain photographs that may not be a bulk of the collection, but are kept within the manuscript materials. With this we suggest starting with broad topical searches. For example when searching for "Bob Wills" doing a full collection search of "western swing" will bring up the Jesse Austin Morris Collection, which contains a banker box of Wills photographs that are not cataloged individually.

Manuscript collections with numerous photographs:

Alabama Black Sacred Harp collection - late 1980s documenting the shape note

Alabama Black Sacred Harp Singing Convention

Alan L. Mayor Collection - 1970s-2012 Nashville music industry photographer, country music, Fan Fair, CMA Fest, #1 parties.

Bill Harrison Collection - Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Association, music festivals, and events and conventions related to old time fiddling.

Brad McCuen Collection - 1939-1996 RCA Records studio, personnel

Charlie Walker Collection - 1940s-2000s DJ, Korean War, country music, Grand Ole Opry, fan created

D.F. Cusic Papers - 1977-1986 gospel artists, Nashville music industry related

Doug Seroff Country Music Collection - Chet Atkins, western swing

Doug Seroff African American Gospel Quartet collection- 1870s-2000s promotional, performance, formal and informal pictures of gospel quartets.

Herbert Smith Minstrel Collection - black and white photographs, including two of

Jeannie Hollowell in Chorus Line costume from the 1953 and 1954

Murfreesboro Lions Club performances, and a series of 34 color slides from Murfreesboro Lions Club minstrel performances.

Jesse Austin Morris Collection - western swing, country music

John Wesley Work III collection - Muddy Waters

Lance LeRoy Collection - 1950-2013 bluegrass music

Music Row Collection - 2017 Nashville's music row buildings

Robert F. "Bob" Menasco Collection- circa 1944-1954 musicians and radio broadcasters around Shreveport, Louisiana, Louisiana Hayride

Osmond Family Collection - throughout the 1970s relating the Osmond Family