

## MAP COLLECTIONS ADDED TO ARCHIVES HOLDINGS

Maps are wonderful things. Anyone doing research will find information in maps that might not be found anywhere else. Now the Washington County Archives has received donations of some significant map collections that will answer many questions for researchers.

The collections contain primarily topographic maps produced by the United States Geological Survey. Topographic or “topo” maps as they are commonly called answer many questions you might have. Of course, the maps delineate roads, but they are more than highway maps. Have you ever wondered where an old school or cemetery was located? How about churches or houses? Want to know if a piece of property has a spring or pond or is crossed by a stream? Topo maps show you elevations and terrain, houses and other structures, bridges, quarries, athletic fields, race tracks, airports, reservoirs, campgrounds, and picnic areas, and more. Begin looking closely at these maps, and you will discover things for which you didn’t know you were looking.

Over 300 maps (or copies of maps) cover a time frame from the early 1800s to 2013. Among the map collections are the Charles M. Bennett and Loraine Bennet Rae Map Collection and the Betty Jane Hylton Map Collection (both collections donated by Mrs. Hylton) and the Gordon Edwards Digital Map Collection (donated by Mr. Edwards). The latter collection consists of digital scans of some 270 maps!

In addition, the Friends of the Washington County Archives recently donated copies of some maps of great help for historical research. These include maps showing early roads in Tennessee before 1796, the counties of the state of Franklin, the 1861 secession vote by county in Tennessee, and boundaries of the early western settlements.

Guides to all these collections, as well as access to the digital maps, can be found on the archive website at the following URL: <https://wctnarchives.org/map-collection/>. As new maps are added to the archive holdings, these will be included in the website information.