

**American Legion Collection**  
**1924 – 1990**

*Processed by:*  
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Department of Preservation of Records

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## INTRODUCTION

The American Legion Collection was donated by Wilma Drye. The collection contains approximately 350 items arranged into 2 boxes. Access to this collection may be permitted for the purposes of personal and scholarly research. The Montgomery County Archives requires that the following credit line be used in all publications to identify that the image or document used is from its holdings: *Courtesy of the Montgomery County Archives*. Specific citation of where the image or document is located (collection, box, folder, etc.) should be made in an acknowledgements section, footnote, or bibliography.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Wilma Drye donated this collection to the Montgomery County Archives. This collection includes the award certificates, newspaper clippings, notes, scrapbook, and photographs of the American Legion Archie Wood – Frank Adkins Post No. 7.

Thirty-six members officially formed the American Legion Archie Wood Post No. 7 on July 31, 1919 in Clarksville, Tennessee. The namesake for the club was Archie Wood, the first Montgomery County soldier to die in World War I. Wood, a member of the Co. 112<sup>th</sup> Infantry, died on November 7, 1918 in the Belleau Woods of the Meuse-Argonne.

A clubroom opened at 128 Franklin Street for members. On September 14-15, 1922, the local American Legion chapter hosted the fourth annual Tennessee Convention. During the following year, members organized the Buddy Paper Sale, in coordination with the *Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle*, to raise money for the welfare fund. This annual event happened on the Sunday before Christmas.

The Archie Wood Post No. 7 moved first to 101 Franklin Street in 1924 and then to 108 North Third Street in 1928. Members repurposed the club room as a kitchen to assist the American Red Cross with relief work for the victims of the 1937 flood. They also aided in rescue work and delivered water from Nashville to Clarksville residents.

At the outbreak of World War II, legionnaires operated a county salvage drive to collect scrap metal and paper for the wartime plants. The organization also added a draft board to its clubroom. The Archie Wood Post No. 7 officially incorporated the name of Frank Adkins in 1946. Lt. Col. Adkins, son of Montgomery County Court Register Grover Cleveland Adkins, served as a pilot during World War II. He perished in a plane crash in February 1945.

The Archie Wood – Frank Adkins Post No. 7 purchased the former USO building on Main Street and moved their clubrooms to that space in 1946. The new building featured a lounge, coffee bar, and dining hall. The latter area also functioned as a dance hall and banquet hall for special occasions.

Legionnaires participated in a number of service projects, including Memorial Day grave decorating, the Buddy Paper Sales, and toy drive. On Memorial Day each year, Post No. 7 decorated veterans' graves in Montgomery County. The program started with just 12 graves in 1920 and gradually grew to 300 by 1952. Members of the American Legion Auxiliary, a women's patriotic service organization, crafted wreaths with poppies and evergreens. Legionnaires supplied small American flags to place on each grave with the wreaths.

In 1949, the American Legion Post No. 7 organized an annual Christmas toy drive. Local residents were encouraged to donate old toys to the Post building. Legionnaires worked with male students in the Manual Arts Department at Clarksville High School to repair the used toys. Then, at Christmas time, they distributed the toys to needy children in Montgomery County.

The Archie Wood – Frank Adkins Post No. 7 was an organization for white ex-servicemen. A separate chapter, known as the Lonnell Williams Post No. 143, was organized on February 19, 1923 for African American ex-servicemen. Although Post No. 7 excluded African American legionnaires, the organization employed black staff members. Jerry "Sonny" Roach worked as the chief cook for Post No. 7 and was in charge of the kitchen in the ca. 1950s. Other African American kitchen staff included Norman Crotzer, dishwasher, and William Milan, short order cook.

An assortment of photographs document the history of the Archie Wood – Frank Adkins Post No. 7. The majority of the photographs date from the 1950s to 1960s. These images show service projects, social events, and parades. W.J. Souza of the *Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle* is credited for many of the photographs as the images were used in the annual Buddy Paper edition. Post No. 7 hosted a yearly minstrel show featuring blackface performers. Photographs from these minstrel shows, ca. 1950s, depict racist caricatures of African Americans. Legion minstrel shows were commonplace starting in the 1930s. It is unknown how long Post No. 7 legionnaires participated in these shows.

Certificates awarded to the American Legion Post No. 7 were framed and housed in boxes at the time of donation. These certificates were removed from frame enclosures, cleaned, and placed in acid-free folders. All items in the American Legion Collection were cleaned, placed in folders or photograph enclosures, and housed in the Archives.

## CONTAINER LIST

### Box 1

1. American Legion Post 7 certificates of merit, 1924-1943 (7 items)
2. American Legion Post No. 7 certificate for patriotic service, 1940
3. Crippled Children's Home of the Junior League of Nashville, Inc., certificate to American Legion Post No. 7, 1940
4. American Legion Post No. 7, National Citation for Meritorious Service, 1942-1947 (3 items)
5. American Legion Post No. 7 award of merit, 1945
6. American Legion pamphlets & assorted materials, 1942-1964 (6 items)
7. American Legion newspaper clippings, ca. 1951-1955
8. American Legion correspondence & paperwork regarding 30, 35, & 50 year members, 1952-1969
9. American Legion Post 7 News, Vol. 1, Nos. 1-3, June – August 1954 (7 items)
10. American Legion Post 7 News, Vol. 1, Nos. 5, 9, & 11, October 1954 – May 1955 (7 items)
11. American Legion Post 7 News, Vol. 2, Nos. 1-2, July – August 1955 (4 items)
12. American Legion Post 7 News, Vol. 2, Nos. 5 & 8, December 1955 & May 1956 (4 items)
13. Post No. 7 American Legion membership drive materials, 1962-1968
14. Certificates awarded to American Legion Post No. 7, 1967-1976 (10 items)
15. The American Legion Golden Certificates, deceased members, February 1973 (6 items)
16. American Legion list of certificates, 1974-1976
17. American Legion Post No. 7 correspondence & paperwork, 1977-1989
18. List, AIQ cards mailed, 1983-1984
19. List of Civic Clubs & Organizations, Clarksville, Tennessee, July 1985
20. American Legion Diamond Jubilee certificates &/or 70 years of continuous membership, 1989-1990
21. American Legion blank certificates (9 items)
22. Newspaper clippings about Buddy Paper Sale & Greyhound bus ticket
23. American Legion notebook, 1955-1956

### Shelf

Scrapbook, 1961-1965 of newspaper clippings

### Oversized Folder

1. American Legion, Achievement in Americanism and Post Activities Program, July 14, 1963
2. American Legion, Special Certificates of Most Distinguished Service, 1933-1942 (4 items)

## Photographs

### Box 1 (0000.001.001 – 0000.001.089)

1. American Legion minstrel show, ca. 1950s – 1960s (22 photographs)
  - “Legionnaires plan minstrel,” group of men at table, ca. 1950s-1960s
  - The String Trio performing, American Legion minstrel show, ca. 1950s (2 photographs, 1 negative)
  - Dancing performers on stage, American Legion minstrel show, ca. 1950s (5 photographs)
  - Chorus performers on stage, including blackface performers, American Legion minstrel show, ca. 1950s
  - Man and woman dancing on stage with blackface performer in background, American Legion minstrel show, ca. 1950s
  - Man dancing on stage with blackface performer in background, American Legion minstrel show, ca. 1950s (2 photographs)
  - Singing quartet on stage, American Legion minstrel show, ca. 1950s
  - Blackface performers, American Legion minstrel show, ca. 1950s (6 photographs)
  - Man and woman dancing on stage, American Legion minstrel show, ca. 1950s
  - Magic show at the American Legion minstrel show, ca. 1950s
2. Veterans Day parade and events, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1960s (48 photographs)
  - Wide load military vehicle, Veterans Day parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1960s
  - USCC Navy Army Air Force Retired Officers car, Veterans Day parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1960s
  - Gold Star station wagon, Veterans Day parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1960s
  - New Providence cheerleaders on car & Spirit of ‘76 Boy Scouts, Veterans Day parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1960s
  - Flag girl, dancers, and band marching, Veterans Day parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1960s (3 photographs)
  - Band marching, Veterans Day parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1960s (2 photographs)
  - Military servicemen marching, Veterans Day parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1960s (4 photographs)
  - Girl Scout troop, Veterans Day parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1960s
  - Girl Scout troop, Veterans Day parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1960s
  - Boy Scout troop, Veterans Day parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1960s

- Troop 540 BSA Honors Vets float, Veterans Day parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1960s
  - American Legion servicemen, black and white members, Veterans Day reception, ca. 1960s
  - Junior Troop 586 Barksdale, Girl Scouts, Veterans Day parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1960s
  - American Legion stage and tables, Veterans Day event, ca. 1960s
  - Veterans Day reception at American Legion Post No. 7 , ca. 1960s (5 photographs)
  - Veterans Day reception at American Legion Post No. 7, ca. 1960s (5 photographs)
  - Barksdale School Troop 514, Veterans Day parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1960s
  - Firetruck and cars, Veterans Day parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1960s
  - Table settings in hall, Veterans Day celebration, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1960s (3 photographs)
  - American War Mothers car, Veterans Day parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1960s
  - Girl Scout Troop 406 Norman Smith School, Veterans Day parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1960s
  - American Legion Lonnell Williams Post 143 car, Veterans Day parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1960s
  - Clarksville Civitan Club, Junior Civitan Club car, Veterans Day parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1960s
  - Ladies Auxiliary V.F.W. Post 4895 car, Veterans Day parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1960s (2 photographs)
  - Norman Smith School, Girl Scout troop, Veterans Day parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1960s
  - Greenwood Junior High School Band, Veterans Day parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1960s
  - Citizenship through 4-H float, Veterans Day parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1960s (2 photographs)
  - Fort Campbell High School Band, Veterans Day parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1960s
  - New Providence Junior High School Band, Veterans Day parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1960s (2 photographs)
3. American Legion & V.F.W. parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s (6 photographs)

- The Clarksville Legionnaire 667, locomotive car in parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s
  - Military Order of the Cootie, Honor Degree of the VFW, Pup Tent 14 Post 4895, Clarksville, Tennessee, Grand Commander car in parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s
  - Disabled veterans car in parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s
  - Tom Lusk, State Cootie Commander, "Honor Degree V.F.W." car in parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s
  - American Legion Post 7 car in parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s
  - Howard "Smiley" Johnson Post 4895 V.F.W., "Voice of Democracy," car in parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s
4. Montgomery County Drive Safely Campaign, ca. 1950s (3 photographs)
    - Crosses for car accident victims, Montgomery County, Drive Safely campaign, ca. 1950s
    - 24 Deathless Days in Montgomery County, Drive Safely, American Legion sign, ca. 1950s
    - "Crosses to be erected," Montgomery County Drive Safely Campaign, American Legion, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s
  5. Toy Drive, Clarksville, Tennessee, 1954 & ca. 1950s (4 photographs)
    - American Legion Christmas toy drive event with children & Santa Claus, 1954
    - American Legion, Montgomery County toy drive, ca. 1950s
    - Toy repair for annual Christmas toy drive, American Legion, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s (2 photographs)
  6. American Legion servicemen standing guard, American Legion building, ca. 1950s (2 photographs)
  7. Desk of Roy C. Burton, Jr., service officer, American Legion Post No. 7, ca. 1950s
  8. American Legion Post No. 7 service officer, Roy C. Burton, Jr., holding trophy, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s – 1960s
  9. American Legion Post No. 7 male chorus rehearsal, ca. 1950s
  10. Group portrait of American War Mothers standing with flowers, ca. 1950s

**Box 2 (0000.001.090 – 0000.001.189)**

1. Assembly at Boys' State, Macfadden Foundation Auditorium, ca. 1950s (2 photographs)
2. Boys arriving at Boys' State, ca. 1950s
3. Man swinging golf club with baby in background, ca. 1940s – 1950s

4. "Combined efforts for a better job," American legion Post No. 7 & Auxiliary women, ca. 1960s (2 photographs)
5. Flag presented American Legion members & Roy C. Burton, Jr., service officer, ca. 1950s
6. Ready TN Delivery, Annual Buddy edition, American Legion, ca. 1950s
7. Men and women gathered for meal at American Legion building, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1940s
8. Blood donation, American Legion, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s
9. American Legion members wearing straw hats & costumes to wash fire engine at Esso gas station, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s
10. F.W. Auxiliary officers, ca. 1950s
11. Group portrait of American Legion members, ca. 1950s – 1960s (2 photographs)
12. National commander and American Legion members with pair of cowboy boots, 1955
13. Birthday celebration for American legion Post No. 7, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s (2 photographs)
14. ROTC students & American Legion members, ca. 1970s (2 photographs)
15. Event at American Legion building, Clarksville, Tennessee, October 1971 (3 photographs)
16. Ex-servicemen saluting, American Legion, ca. 1950s
17. Woman and man exchanging paper, perhaps check, with two men, American Legion building, ca. 1950s
18. Unidentified elderly woman, perhaps war mother, standing with flag and foliage in hands, American Legion building, ca. 1950s
19. New officers, War Mothers group, ca. 1950s
20. Group of women at holiday banquet table, ca. 1950s (U.S. Army Photograph)
21. "Voiture 667," group of American Legion members & women at table, ca. 1950s – 1960s
22. "Collier ad," unidentified man in suit at desk, ca. 1950s – 1960s
23. Chief Lawson, ca. 1950s – 1960s
24. Soldiers saluting American Legion members, ca. 1950s – 1960s
25. Veterans Day, American Legion group shaking hands and receiving plaque, ca. 1950s – 1960s (2 photographs)
26. Veterans shaking hands, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s – 1960s
27. Bob Fairey, studio portrait, ca. 1950s – 1960s
28. "Malone portrait" presentation, ca. 1950s – 1960s
29. American Legion members and Airborne member shaking hands, ca. 1950s – 1960s



30. Bob Wollom, ca. 1950s
31. Studio portrait, unidentified man, ca. 1940s – 1950s
32. Studio portrait, Lewis D. Ferrell, Ridgedale Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee, ca. 1950s – 1960s
33. Unidentified American Legion member, ca. 1940s-1950s (polaroid)
34. “My Congratulations, Sir,” two men shaking hands, ca. 1950s-1960s
35. Unidentified American Legion Post No. 7 member, ca. 1950s-1960s
36. American Legion Post No. 7 officers, ca. 1950s-1960s
37. Group of American Legion members shaking hands, ca. 1950s-1960s
38. Studio portrait, unidentified member of V.F.W. 4895, ca. 1950s-1960s
39. Unidentified member of American Legion Post No. 7, ca. 1950s-1960s
40. Group of young women in party dresses, ca. 1950s
41. Group of men and women on stage, possibly American Legion & Auxiliary chorus, ca. 1950s
42. “Montgomery County Toy Drive,” group of men and women with doughnuts at American Legion, ca. 1950s
43. “For Pettus Park Kitchen,” American Legion service officer Roy C. Burton, Jr., & Auxiliary woman hold Edison pot, ca. 1950s
44. “Old man river,” man at microphone, ca. 1950s
45. “Veterans Day in Clarksville parade,” band marching, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s
46. “Dolls and toys,” Auxiliary members with toy drive dolls, ca. 1950s
47. Auxiliary state president and other women at table, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s
48. Table of women eating at banquet, Auxiliary, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s
49. New officers, Auxiliary, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s
50. Auxiliary tea, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s-1960s
51. Two new nurses, American Legion, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s-1960s
52. “33 years of volunteer service,” two Red Cross nurses, ca. 1950s
53. Studio portrait, Jas. R. Wilson, ca. 1930s-1940s
54. Unidentified American Legion Post No. 7 member, ca. 1960s (2 photographs)
55. Unidentified American Legion Post No. 7 members, ca. 1960s (2 photographs)
56. American Legion Post No. 7 dunking machine, proceeds to 40 & 8 Nurses Scholarship Fund, ca. 1950s (2 photographs)
57. American Legion Post No. 7 tables and stage area, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s
58. American Legion Post No. 7 interior bar area, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1953

59. American Legion Post No. 7, Main Street, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s (2 photographs)
60. First Trust & Savings Bank, New Providence Blvd., Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s
61. Cooks: Norman Crotzer, dishwasher; Jerry Roach, head coach; William Milan, short order, American Legion Post No. 7, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s
62. Robert Nourse, janitor, American Legion Post No. 7, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s
63. American Legion member presenting pins to new nurses, ca. 1950s
64. American Legion, 35 year members, ca. 1954 (25 photographs)
  - Ceremony, 35 year members, American Legion building, ca. 1954 (2 photographs)
  - 35 year members drinking coffee, American Legion building, ca. 1954 (2 photographs)
  - 35 year members eating cake and drinking coffee, American Legion building, ca. 1954 (7 photographs)
  - Cutting American flag decorated cake, American Legion 35 year member event, ca. 1954 (4 photographs)
  - Group portrait, American Legion ,35 year members, ca. 1954 (8 photographs)
  - Group portrait, American Legion Post No. 7, 35 year members, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1954 (2 photographs)

**Box 3 (0000.001.190 – 0000.001.232)**

1. American Legion Post No. 7 Junior Baseball League, ca. 1950s-1960s (7 photographs)
  - American Legion Post No. 7 Junior Baseball players running; other players wearing Ideal Distributing Co. & American Gold Line Life Ins. Co. advertisement, ca. 1950s-1960s
  - APS uniformed baseball coach?, American Legion Junior Baseball League, ca. 1950s-1960s
  - “Homer,” American Legion Post No. 7 Junior Baseball player running bases, ca. 1950s-1960s
  - American Legion Post No. 7 Junior Baseball team group portrait, ca. 1950s-1960s
  - American Legion Post No. 7 Junior Baseball player sliding into base, ca. 1950s-1960s
  - American Legion Junior Baseball, Brothers Memphis team group portrait, ca. 1950s-1960s
  - American legion Post No. 7 Junior Baseball players posing with trophies, ca. 1960s

2. Group portraits, American Legion members in blackface and face paint, 1951 & ca. 1950s (3 photographs)
  - Group portrait, American Legion members in blackface and chimney sweep costumes, ca. 1950s
  - Group portrait, 40 and 8 wreck members in face paint and costumes, American Legion, ca. 1950s
  - Group portrait, 40 and 8 wreck, Clarksville, Tennessee, January 28, 1951
3. Color Guard marching in parade, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s
4. Studio portrait, Walton Driffer, ca. 1950s-1960s
5. American Legion members and others, Veterans Day, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s-1960s
6. "Presentation to Library," American Legion, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s-1960s
7. "Clement Veterans Day speaker," American Legion, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s-1960s
8. "Installation," American Legion swearing-in ceremony, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s-1960s
9. "New Commander," James English & Bill Rogers, American Legion, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s-1960s
10. Auxiliary officers, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s-1960s
11. "Honor Guard," American Legion, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s-1960s
12. Mrs. Smith Keel pinning President's pin on Mrs. Coulton, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s-1960s
13. American Legion members decorating Hudson grave; Lane Marable, James H. Jackson, Jesse Perry, Jackson Hudson, Halbert Howell, Bill Hudson, & Smith Keel, ca. 1950s-1960s
14. Television presentation, Auxiliary women and two men, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s
15. Betsey Ross sewing flag, American Legion Auxiliary parade float, Armed Forces Day, Clarksville, Tennessee, May 1955
16. Band group portrait, American Legion Post No. 7, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1940s-1950s
17. Class of June 27, 1944, Al Menah Temple, Nashville, Tennessee
18. Small girl standing next to bulletin board, "Is your name in Santa's book?," ca. 1950s-1960s
19. American Legion flag presentation with police officers & Roy C. Burton, Jr., ca. 1960s
20. Group portrait of Tennessee State Guard officers at Provost Marshall General's School, Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, October 17, 1942

21. Group portrait of American Legion servicemen, ca. 1930s-1940s
22. Group of American Legion members sitting & standing on a building stoop, canes with Welcome Legionnaires pennant flags, ca. 1950s
23. Donald G. Honning, studio portrait, ca. 1950s
24. Flag presentation, Dale Underwood, rep epp post 514, ca. 1950s-1960s
25. Group portrait of men and two women, American Legion, ca. 1940s-1950s
26. American Legion Annual Buddy edition of the *Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle* newspaper, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s
27. Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, American Legion parade float, in front of Ben Franklin 5-10, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s
28. Desk of Roy C. Burton, Jr., ca. 1950s
29. The Color Guard, ca. 1950s-1960s
30. American Legion event, October 1971 (4 photographs)
31. Raffle, American Legion No. 7, Clarksville, Tennessee, ca. 1950s-1960s
32. "29. Clarksville, Tennessee, A Century of Progress, Chicago, '33," American Legion members and band marching, 1933

**Oversized Photographs Folder (0000.001.233 – 0000.001.237)**

1. Jake Frech, Adjutant, 1937-1940 (photograph mounted on cardboard)
2. American Legion dinner event, ca. 1950s (2 photographs mounted on cardboard)
3. American Legion members placing flag on graves, ca. 1950s-1960s (2 photographs mounted on cardboard)