



# for the Record

Devoted to Kentucky's State Archives and the Historical Record

Spring/Summer 2023

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## KDLA Welcomes New Commissioner

Denise Rae Lyons brings decades of industry experience as the newly appointed commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA). Governor Andy Beshear recently appointed the North Carolina transplant, who stepped into her new position on May 1, 2023.

Lyons brings 30 years of professional experience in education in addition to working with nonprofit organizations and libraries. Her expertise includes professional development, early and family literacy, project management, and strategic planning. Currently, she is conducting original research on emergency preparedness and the value of libraries to communities during disasters.



“KDLA serves as the state’s memory and record,” Lyons said. “The agency plays such an important role for good governance, historical value, library service, and open access for the residents of the state of Kentucky. Archives are part of our collective memory, and I am excited about the opportunity to work with such a dedicated and professional staff.”

Lyons holds a certificate in executive management from the University of Washington, a master’s degree in library and information science from the University of South Carolina, a master’s degree in public services management from DePaul University, and a bachelor’s degree in journalism from Boston University. Denise was previously with the South Carolina State Library for 14 years serving as their Director of Library Development and then Deputy Director of Statewide Development.

“We are thrilled to find someone with Commissioner Lyons’ extensive experience to lead our wonderful and dedicated team at KDLA,” said Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet Secretary Jamie Link. “We are excited about what the future holds with her at the helm steering KDLA into the future.”

*“The keeping of the public record of a civilized people is a continuing responsibility where properly the task is never completed. The vigilance necessary to preserve the record is synonymous with that of preserving the freedom of an open and democratic society.”* Dr. Thomas D. Clark, former Historian Laureate of Kentucky

## Archives Research Room Hours and Holidays

The Archives Research Room is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Free parking is provided outside the KDLA building.

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming closures.

|             |         |                    |
|-------------|---------|--------------------|
| July 4      | Tuesday | Independence Day   |
| July 14     | Friday  | Archives Institute |
| September 4 | Monday  | Labor Day          |

**Appointments are encouraged.**

# Kentucky State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) and Archives Month

Please welcome the new members of the Kentucky State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB): JP Johnson, Lexington Public Library; Caroline Rubens, Appalshop; Hannah O'Daniel McCallon, The Filson Historical Society; Matt Strandmark, University of Kentucky; Heidi Taylor-Caudill, John James Audubon State Park; Susan Clary, Executive Branch Ethics Commission; and Allison Reed, Department of Financial Institutions.

SHRAB will meet to consider the best ways to assist the archival community and facilitate cooperation among historical records repositories. The board will also determine how to support the development of a statewide disaster recovery program for archives and records repositories. Additionally, the board is planning to offer free registration to two Society of American Archivists (SAA) webcasts. More information on that will be made available soon.

Planning for Kentucky Archives Month is underway! If you have any events planned, please visit <https://archivesmonth.ky.gov/> to submit them, and we will include them in our events list! SHRAB is also reviving the Archives Month Awards! These are certificates of merit for writing or other production, teaching at all grade levels, notable service to and advocacy for archives in Kentucky by a private citizen or organization, notable service to and advocacy for archives in Kentucky by a public official, and significant service as an archivist. Nominations may be accepted at <https://archivesmonth.ky.gov/>. The deadline for nominations is September 15, 2023.

## Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. Board of Directors

|   |   |
|---|---|
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printed twice  
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**Start planning now for your  
celebration of  
Kentucky Archives Month  
October 2023**

# The Thirty-Seventh Annual Kentucky Archives Institute

Sponsored by:  
Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.  
and  
Archives and Records Management Division  
Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

**July 14, 2023**

Second Floor, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

- 8:30 – 9:00 Registration
- 9:00 – 9:15 Welcome  
Dave Schroeder, President, Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.
- 9:15 – 10:15 *"African American & Underground Railroad Research in Antebellum Kentucky Records (and beyond)"*  
Hillary Delany, Boone County Public Library
- 10:15 – 10:30 Break
- 10:30 – 11:45 *"Return Not Executed: Court Documents and the Paper Trail of Freedom-Seekers"*  
Daniele Celano, Kentucky Historical Society
- 11:45 – 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 – 2:00 *"Black History: It's Around Here Somewhere – History of the African American Genealogy Group of KY and Challenges Faced When Researching Black History"*  
Sharyn Mitchell (Co-Founder AAGGKY)
- 2:00 – 2:15 Break
- 2:15 – 3:30 *"DNA: Surprise, Surprise!!!"*  
Jerry Bedford, Jr. (AAGGKY President)
- 3:30 – 3:45 Closing Remarks/Questions/Program Evaluations

Please clip and mail the form below, along with registration fee(s), by July 7.  
Space is limited to 50 attendees.  
If you have any questions, please contact Renita Van at 502.564.1722 or [Renita.Van@ky.gov](mailto:Renita.Van@ky.gov).

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Mail registration form with payment to: Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.  
Kentucky Archives Institute  
P.O. Box 4224  
Frankfort, KY 40604

Registration fee: \$50 fee covers Institute materials and lunch.

Check here to reserve a vegetarian lunch. \_\_\_\_\_

Check here to reserve a gluten-free lunch. \_\_\_\_\_

Other Dietary Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. (Fees are non-refundable.)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## New and Updated Finding Aids in the Archives Research Room

The Archives Research Room of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives acts as the public-facing reference division for the department. Research Room staff work closely with customers daily, assisting with their information needs, teaching how to navigate and discover collections, and enabling access to those records. The primary function of the Research Room is as a provider of access to the collections created, retained, and preserved by KDLA.

Traditionally access has been achieved through in-person interactions and review of records in the security of the space of the Research Room at KDLA. However, COVID and the restrictions experienced during its spread challenged this tradition and accelerated an already increasing expectation of remote access by customers. We experienced a 150% increase in remote reference requests during this time, an increase that has become the norm rather than the exception.

To better meet the expectations and needs of our customers, we have been developing tools that promote the resources preserved as part of KDLA's collections. Handouts and guides detail the many types of records available to the researcher and clarify any questions about what they might hope to find through remote requests of records. Inquiring customers can use these tools to discover the type of material we have and approach their research from a more informed foundation.

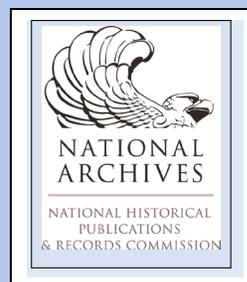
Check them out for yourself on our website [kdla.ky.gov](https://kdla.ky.gov) under Archives and Reference / Resources for Researchers / Research Guides: (<https://kdla.ky.gov/Archives-and-Reference/Pages/Research-Guides.aspx>). There you can review an inventory of some of the most common records requested, including birth, marriage, death, will, deed, and some court records all listed by county and years of availability. Explore topics like Birth and Death in Kentucky, Divorce, Probate, or Naturalization

to gather more context about the creation and documentation of the records of each. Take a deep dive into Kentucky Court or Land Records with Research Guides that provide exhaustive information on what they are, how you can access and navigate them, and what their value may be to you. Share the page with anyone who is dealing with their own genealogical or research challenges and be sure to bookmark it for yourself to circle back and see what other additions we'll be making.

We hope you'll find a deeper understanding of the records preserved at KDLA and with it an appreciation of the value they offer to those in the present and future. Maybe you'll discover something new and be inspired to pay us a visit or submit your own request. In either case, we'll be eager to serve you!

### NHPRC Grant Update

The Archives and Records Management (ARM) Division continues its work on the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) grant-funded project "*Early Court Cases and State-Granted Naturalizations.*" The initial capture of the Kentucky General Court (1799-1850) Chancery and Common-Law cases has been completed, and those scans are being processed prior to ingest into the Kentucky State Digital Archives (KSDA). The project also includes the digitization of state-issued naturalization records (1820-1945), which consist of documents originating in twenty-nine Kentucky counties. These collections will be available in the KSDA at the end of the grant.



## New faces at KDLA!

The State Records Branch welcomes a new Property Officer. Ralph Tallon joined KDLA in October 2022 at the State Records Center. He was born in Buffalo, NY, but has lived in Frankfort, KY for 10 years. Ralph and his wife have eight children, four older boys and four younger girls. Ralph enjoys playing football and basketball and is a diehard Buffalo Bills fan.

The Local Records Branch welcomes a new Quality Assurance Specialist. Brian Wixom has lived in and around Louisville, KY for most of his life. He studied English at the University of Louisville, earning a bachelor's degree and a master's degree.

Brian taught freshman composition at Jefferson Community and Technical College for six years and coordinated their Betty Smither Writing Center for two of those years. He enjoys theater, Vonnegut, and sequential art.

*The Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. is a not-for-profit membership organization of private citizens concerned with helping the Archives and Records Management Division of Kentucky's Department for Libraries and Archives fulfill its role as a vital information link between people and government. The Friends' organization supports the management, preservation, and use of Kentucky's historic public records and serves as an advocate for the Kentucky State Archives, which the division manages. For further information, contact the Friends at P.O. Box 4224, Frankfort, KY 40604.*

## Eight Local Government Agencies Receive Grants to Preserve Records

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives' (KDLA) Local Records Program has awarded eight grants statewide totaling \$154,955 in the second round of fiscal year 2023. These grant funds are made available through fees enacted by the Kentucky General Assembly to preserve and provide access to local public records. Any local government agency may apply for this grant.

This Program has provided many local agencies the means to support preservation so records of historical value may be available for years to come.

The second round of 2023 Local Records Program grant funds have been awarded to the following recipients:

- ❖ City of Bellevue
- ❖ Caldwell County Clerk
- ❖ Crittenden County Fiscal Court
- ❖ City of Dawson Springs
- ❖ Hickman County Clerk
- ❖ Jackson County Clerk
- ❖ Marion County Clerk
- ❖ Webster County Clerk

Yes, I would like to renew my membership in/become a member of the **Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.**

My check for \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. is enclosed. Membership benefits include a biannual newsletter, a membership pin, and invitations to workshops, special events, the Kentucky Archives Institute, the Public Archives Symposium, and the annual meeting. Gifts to the Friends beyond the basic membership are tax deductible.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

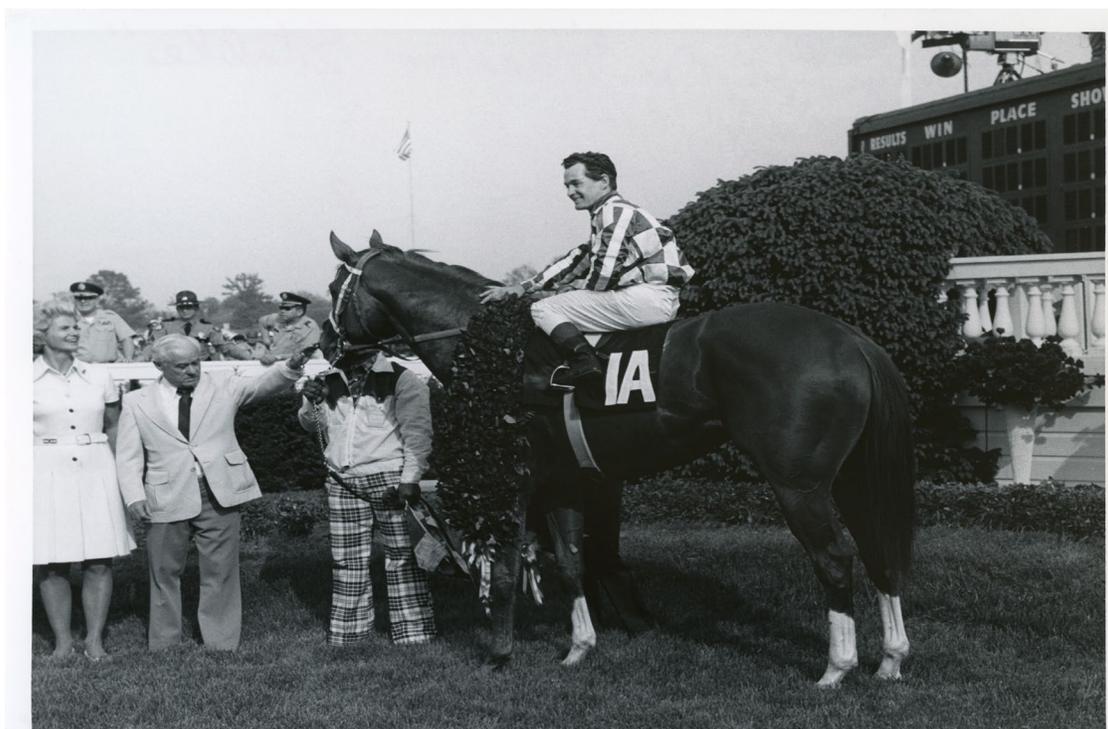
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership levels: \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 Individual/Family \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Libraries, Genealogical and Historical Societies \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 Life

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Sustaining \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 Corporate \_\_\_\_\_ Gift to the Clark Endowment

Please clip and mail to: Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., P.O. Box 4224, Frankfort, Kentucky 40604 \* We appreciate your support.

Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.  
P.O. Box 4224  
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



Secretariat Wins the Kentucky Derby. 1973.  
Source: Tourism Photo Collection, Archives and Records Management Division –  
Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.