

# For the Record

Devoted to Kentucky's State Archives and the Historical Record

Fall 2000

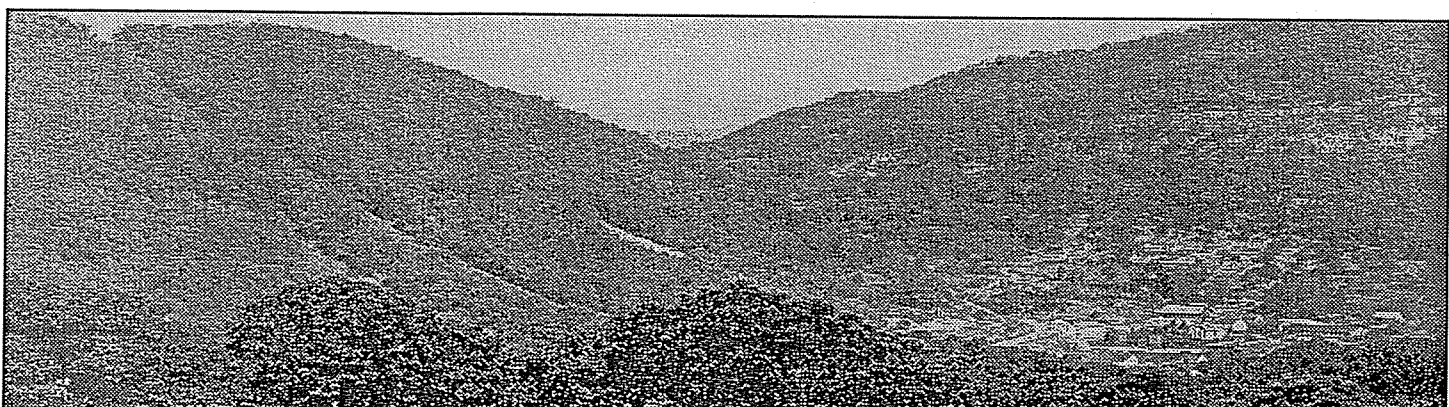
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Cumberland Gap, on the Kentucky Tennessee border, was one of the most accessible routes to lands west of the Appalachian Mountains, and the Wilderness Road, which passed through the Gap, was used by thousands of pioneers in the late 18th century on their way into Kentucky.

## Public History is theme of 2000 Symposium

### Friends' Annual Meeting to be held at EKU

The 2000 Public Archives Symposium, sponsored by the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., and the Center for Kentucky History and Politics at Eastern Kentucky University, will focus on the work of the public historian. Featured speaker Dr. Thomas H. Appleton, Jr., Professor of History and Associate Director, Center for

Kentucky History and Politics, Eastern Kentucky University, has entitled his talk "Now It Can Be Told: My Life as a Public Historian."

The annual Symposium, held in conjunction with the Friends' annual meeting, highlights the work of scholars using original archival

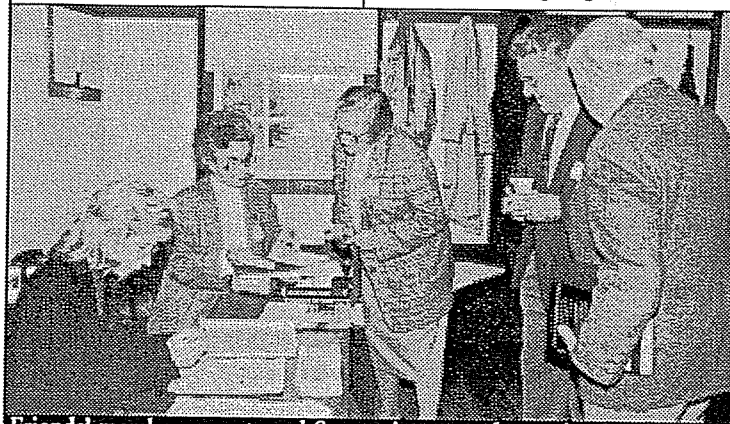
sources from Kentucky and other repositories. This year, the Symposium will be held Friday, November 17, at the Carl D. Perkins Building, on Kit Carson Drive, on the south side of the EKU campus. Please see the map and accompanying registration form, on p.3, of this issue of *For the Record* for details. Plan to join us!

### Documenting a Distant Era: Pre-statehood Records at the State Archives

When many people think of 18th century Kentucky, they might entertain images of Daniel Boone and log cabins and rough settlements in the wilderness. They may imagine that nothing remains from those early years, other than the occasional plow or musket housed

behind glass in a museum. Surely the pioneers were an illiterate and unlawful bunch, so there can't have been much of a written record at all.

Actually, even the most isolated and unlettered pioneer interacted with state or local government or the legal system sooner or later. Whether it be a land claim or a boundary dispute, a marriage or the payment of taxes, a record would have been created to document the process. A significant amount of this public record has survived, and it can serve as an open window onto that distant era. Although Kentucky was a part of Virginia until June 1792, many of these pre-statehood records are available at the Kentucky State Archives. (Cont'd on p.4)



Friends' members, guests and Symposium attendees enjoy lunch and an interesting program each year in conjunction with the organization's Annual Meeting.

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*Archives Research  
Room Hours and  
Closings*

## Archives Research Room Hours and Closings

KDLA's Archives Research Room is located at 300 Coffee Tree Road, off State Highway 676 in Frankfort. The Archives Research Room is open to the public from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. It is closed on Sundays and Mondays, on Saturdays preceding Monday holidays or following Friday holidays, and on official state holidays.

Ample free parking is provided outside the KDLA building.

Closings, November 2000 through February 2001 - Please mark your calendars!

November 7 (Tuesday), Presidential Election Day  
November 10 & 11 (Friday and Saturday), Veteran's Day  
November 17 (Friday - close at noon), Annual Archives Symposium  
November 18 (Saturday), Annual Kentucky Book Fair  
November 23, 24, 25 (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday), Thanksgiving  
December 4 & 5 (Monday and Tuesday), Collection Maintenance  
December 23, 25, 26 (Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday), Christmas  
December 30, January 1 & 2 (Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday), New Year's Holiday  
January 13 (Saturday), Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday

## Internet Pilot Project Promises Speedier Information Access

Do you have difficulty finding Kentucky government information on the Internet? Is it impossible to find a search engine that provides you, as a citizen of the Commonwealth, with accurate access to Kentucky government on the Internet? If so, a recently launched pilot project at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives may be your answer.

Find-It! Kentucky, a standards-based "one-stop shopping" Internet service for the citizens of Kentucky to locate and access state and local government information found on agency websites and in agency publications, documents, and databases.

The Find-It! Kentucky kickoff on September 15 featured a presentation by Gayle Palmer, of Find-It! Washington and the Washington State Li-



KDLA announced the creation of a Government Information Locator Service (GILS) in mid-September. The main component of Kentucky's GILS is

brary. Ms. Palmer discussed how Find-It! Washington had been successful in making government information easier to find in Washington State. Over forty stakeholders attended the kickoff, including the Commonwealth's Chief Information Officer (CIO) and many of her staff from the Governor's Office for Technology; the head of the Kentucky Virtual Library, her staff, and members of KYVL's Government Information Access Committee;

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Legislative Research Commission staff; and representatives from several executive agencies such as Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Parks, and EMPOWER Kentucky.

GILS have been constructed for the federal government, and at least ten other states, following a generally accepted GILS model. Find-It! Kentucky will be created through two different mechanisms. KDLA will have software to search, or spider, other state agency websites in order to cre-

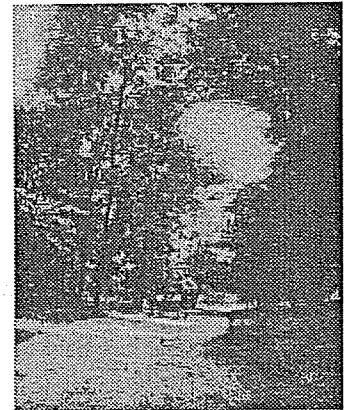
ate a broad index of state government web resources and publications. KDLA will also provide in-depth description, or metatagging, of web pages from several agencies that are participating in the initial pilot.

Metatags are imbedded in the web document, and their use provides a more precise and relevant search result. KDLA staff will assess this project at the end of a six-month trial period, and provide recommendations for implementing it throughout state government.

## Newly Available at the State Archives

The Auditor of Public Accounts held a central role in the fiscal activities of state government in the 19th century. The responsibilities of the office included receiving and maintaining correspondence, financial statements and assessments from corporations doing business in Kentucky. Two collections of corporation records have recently been processed and accessioned by Public Records Division staff.

The first collection covers the period 1851-1906. Comprised of corporation reports, these records often contain detailed information on receipts and expenditures. In November 1855, for example, the Maysville and Mount Sterling Turnpike Road Company reported \$7299.85 in receipts from tolls for the previous six months, as well as \$2405.80 expended for repairs to the road, and \$737.50 in salaries for ten gatekeepers. Other correspondence, sent to the Auditor either in response to direct inquiries or to satisfy state laws and regulations, can also furnish some insight into the business world of the time. In 1860, the Aetna Life Insurance Company of Hartford, Connecticut submitted a list of its agents in Kentucky, and the towns in which they were based. The 1870 records include a list of all corporations doing business in Jefferson County.



The second collection encompasses 1892-1925. These records are primarily assessments of value submitted by corporations, upon which state tax levies would be based. The state and the corporations sometimes disagreed upon these assessments, and the resulting correspondence is also included in the records. In 1901, after several months of discussion, the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company stated "most emphatically that the Company does not admit that the fair cash value of all its properties is \$140,000,000, but on the contrary any such valuation is in our opinion very far in excess of any valuation which could in reason and justice be placed upon our properties."

Most of the companies represented in these records are no longer in existence, but a few are recognizable even today. Researchers interested in the role of corporations in the history of Kentucky will be able to find information in these two collections that may not be available from any other source.

The Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., and the  
Center for Kentucky History and Politics, Eastern Kentucky University, invite you to the Friends'

# Public Archives Symposium and Annual Business Meeting/Luncheon

Friday, November 17, 2000

Carl D. Perkins Building, Kit Carson Drive, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Kentucky

## Business Meeting/Luncheon

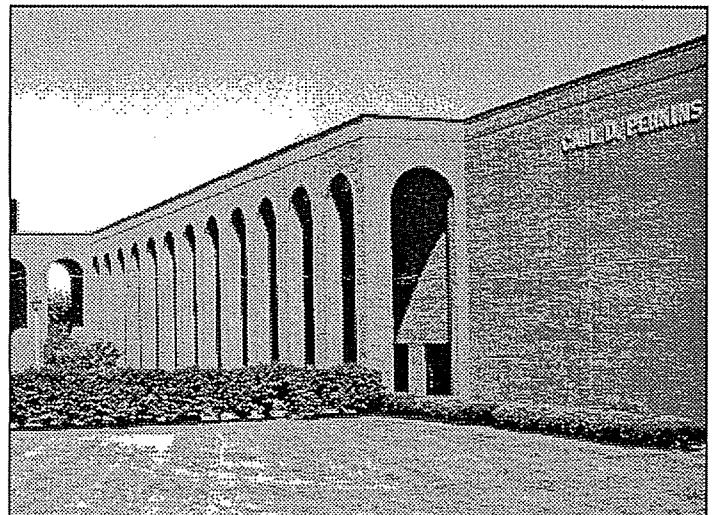
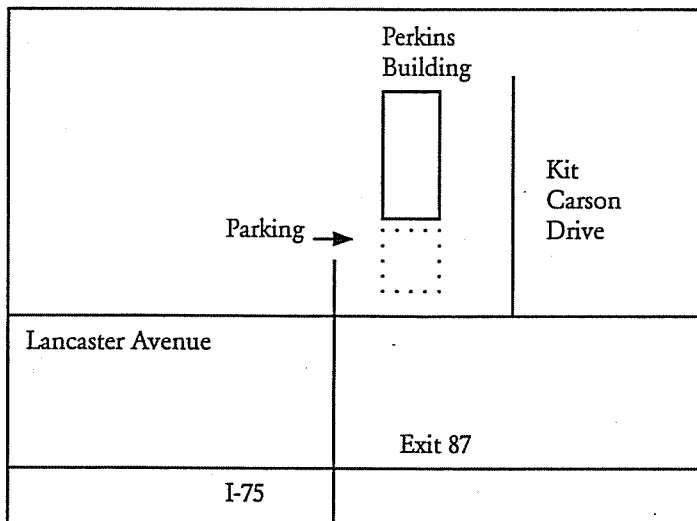
11:00 a.m.: Business Meeting  
12:00 noon: Luncheon

## Friends' Public Archives Symposium

1:30 p.m.: Symposium address – Dr. Thomas H. Appleton, Jr.

The Friends are pleased to present Dr. Thomas H. Appleton, Jr. as the featured speaker at its twelfth annual *Public Archives Symposium* on Friday, November 17, 2000. The title of Dr. Appleton's address is *Now It Can Be Told: My Life as a Public Historian*. He is the co-editor of and essayist in *A Mythic Land Apart: Reassessing Southerners and Their History* (Greenwood Press, 1997), co-editor of *Kentucky: Land of Tomorrow* (Kentucky Historical Society, 1998), and co-editor of *Negotiating Boundaries of Southern Womanhood: Dealing with the Powers That Be* (University of Missouri Press, 2000). He received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Kentucky in 1981.

Please plan to join the Friends for this enjoyable, behind the scenes look at the craft of public history and a stimulating discussion of some of the major research challenges which still await Kentucky historians. The Symposium is free and open to the public. There is a \$15.00 charge for the luncheon. Ample parking for this event is available in parking lots to the west of the Perkins Building.



**Directions to Eastern Kentucky University**  
Take I-75 to Richmond exit #87. Head east on the Eastern bypass for one mile and you will see the main EKU campus on the left. Turn right on Lancaster Avenue (5<sup>th</sup> traffic light) then left on Kit Carson Drive. The Perkins building will be on the left.

The Friends' 2000 Annual Meeting and Public Archives Symposium will be held at the Carl D. Perkins Building, on Kit Carson Drive on the south side of the campus of Eastern Kentucky University. Ample free parking is available to the west of the Perkins Building.

## Reply Card – 2000 Friends' Annual Business Meeting/Luncheon and Symposium

(Please include the names of all those who plan to attend.)

The fee for the luncheon is \$15.00 per person. (Fees not refundable.)

I am enclosing a check made payable to the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
to register the following persons:

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

I wish to join or renew my Friends' membership for calendar year 2001. Individual membership is \$15/year. I am enclosing a separate check for Friends membership, for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

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

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

Please mail checks to: Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., P. O. Box 4224, Frankfort, KY 40604

Deadline for reservations is Monday, November 13, 2000

# Documenting...

(Cont'd from p.1)

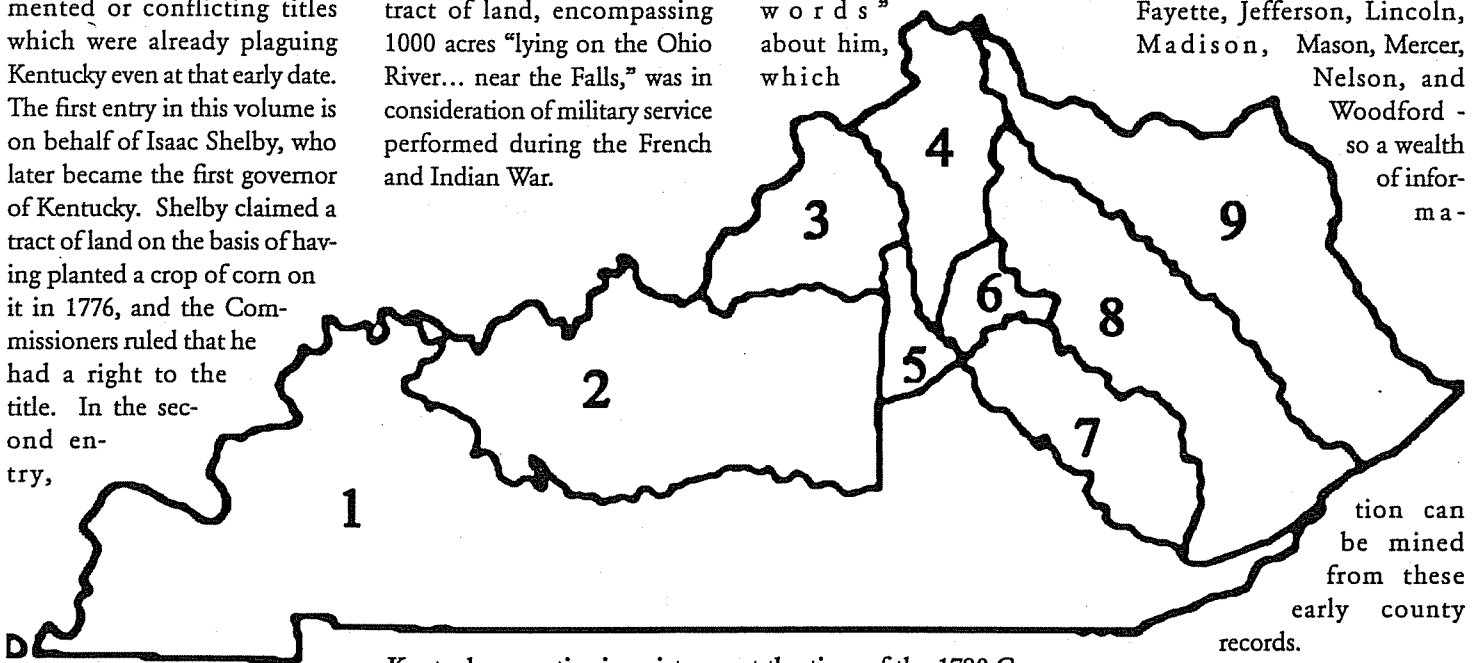
It would be difficult to pinpoint the one earliest original record maintained by the Archives, but a good possibility might be the *Land Commissioners Book, District of Kentucky*, dated 1779-1780. This volume was created by three commissioners appointed by the Virginia legislature, who met at St. Asaph's (Logan's Fort), to determine the validity of the many undocumented or conflicting titles which were already plaguing Kentucky even at that early date. The first entry in this volume is on behalf of Isaac Shelby, who later became the first governor of Kentucky. Shelby claimed a tract of land on the basis of having planted a crop of corn on it in 1776, and the Commissioners ruled that he had a right to the title. In the second entry,

much of the public record from that time concerns land ownership. Although the State Archives does not maintain the complete set of original land grants, individual grants are occasionally included with other records. For example, a General Court case file from the 1840's concerning a land dispute contains an original land grant dated 1780 and signed by Thomas Jefferson, who was Governor of Virginia at that time. The grant was no doubt entered into the court record as an exhibit. The tract of land, encompassing 1000 acres "lying on the Ohio River... near the Falls," was in consideration of military service performed during the French and Indian War.

storehouse on the Ohio River. One partner left for several months to expand the business, and when he returned he found the storehouse full of goods but the other partner now unwilling to share the profits. A Mason County action filed in 1790 describes a suit brought over ownership of a still (which would have been legal at that time). And in another 1790 case, this one in Madison County, the plaintiff alleges that the defendants had spread "false, scandalous and malicious words" about him, which

various courts in existence prior to statehood are also available at the State Archives, either in the original or on microfilm.

Other pre-statehood records are available at the State Archives on microfilm only. These include deed books, marriage records, wills, and tax lists. All of these records were filed in the County Clerk's Office, and are usually available back to the formation of each county. There were a number of counties in existence prior to 1792 - Bourbon, Fayette, Jefferson, Lincoln, Madison, Mason, Mercer, Nelson, and Woodford - so a wealth of information can



Kentucky counties in existence at the time of the 1790 Census:

- |              |             |            |
|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1. Lincoln   | 4. Woodford | 7. Madison |
| 2. Nelson    | 5. Mercer   | 8. Bourbon |
| 3. Jefferson | 6. Fayette  | 9. Mason   |

John Wilson withdrew his claim for a tract on Harrod's Run, when "Colonel Boone" made a claim on the same land, having made a crop on it in 1774. Interestingly, Daniel Boone also appeared before the Commissioners on behalf of other claimants, including his son Israel. This *Land Commissioners Book* brings to life some of the most prominent personages in early Kentucky history, as well as many pioneers whose names and struggles might otherwise have been forgotten.

The desire for land was obviously one of the most important reasons that the early settlers came to Kentucky, and therefore

Judicial records are another important source of information for the pre-statehood era. By the mid-1780's, civil and criminal actions were under the jurisdiction of a Kentucky court system, although appeals still had to be taken to the High Court in Virginia. Case files can be found in the court records of many of the early Kentucky counties. These *case files* may consist of only one or two documents, but can still give us brief vignettes of life on the frontier. A Bourbon County case from 1787 involves two partners who built a

besmirched his reputation as "a good, true, honest, pious and chaste" citizen of the Commonwealth. (As might be expected, these early original records are occasionally in poor physical condition, and in order to preserve these records, access may be restricted in some instances.) Sometimes the case files will not include the judgment or final outcome, but that information can usually be found in an *Order Book*. The *Order Books* contain entries briefly describing the steps taken during a case. Some of the *Order Books* for the

Although Kentucky was indeed a wilderness when the first rough settlements were established in the 1770's, local government and a court system were soon in place. A surprising amount of information on the people of the pre-statehood era can be found in the records created for and by these public institutions. By the time Kentucky became a state in 1792, a rich documentary heritage had already been established. Twenty-first century Kentuckians can learn much about their 18th century forebears by researching these valuable collections.

# How You Can *Still* Help!

The Archives Research Room at the State Archives always has equipment or supplemental resource needs for which state funds are not available, and private donations have long played an important role in permitting the State Archives to fill these important gaps. Many donors like to know exactly how their contribution will help, and in response to such requests, we're glad to make the list below available. Won't you be a Friend and contribute funds toward the purchase of one or more items? Gifts to the Friends are tax deductible. Please direct your support to the address on the Friends' membership form, below. Thanks for your help!

## Census Indexes

Indexes in book form to the 19<sup>th</sup> century Kentucky schedules of the decennial U. S. Censuses are among the most heavily used finding aids in the Archives Research Room. Volumes on hand are literally being worn out by excessive handling, and the bindings of several volumes are badly deteriorated. In an effort to expand access to this information, we would like to acquire a second set of these indexes, which would also allow us to send out the other set of indexes for badly needed rebinding. Won't you sponsor a volume? Many thanks for your help!

KY	1810	\$140.00
KY	1820	\$70.00
KY	1830	\$75.00
KY	1840	\$85.00
KY	1850	\$140.00
KY	1860 East	\$380.00
KY	1860 West	\$350.00
KY	1870 East	\$400.00
KY	1870 West	\$400.00

## Microfilm

Freedmen's Bureau Records for Kentucky. Records of the Office of the Comptroller of Currency: Registers of Signatures of Depositions in Branches (Lexington & Louisville) of the Freedmen's Savings & Trust Banks. 1 roll, \$34.00.

Freedmen's Bureau Records for Kentucky American Freedmen's Inquiry Commission. 3 rolls, \$102.

## Books

*1890 Kentucky Veterans Census Index.* \$33.00

*Compendium of the Confederate Armies: Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri,* by Stewart Sifakis. \$27.50

*Early Louisville, Kentucky Newspaper Abstracts 1806-1828* Crowder. \$28.00

## CD ROM

1850 Kentucky Census Index. \$49.95

## A Holiday Reminder

Please remember at this holiday season that gifts to the Friends are tax deductible. Your help can really make a difference. Please consider a directed gift to the Friends today. Thank you very much!



Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.

*The Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., is a not for profit membership organization of private citizens concerned with helping the Public Records 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.*

## Become a Friends' Life Member!

Won't you consider a Life Membership? Proceeds from Friends' Life Membership dues provide special support to the archival internship program funded through the Thomas D. Clark Endowment Fund. The fee, \$250 for a life membership, can be paid as a single payment or through five payments of \$50 each, over a two-year period. This program welcomes your support. For further information, please use the membership renewal form in the newsletter and contact the Friends through the listed address. Thanks for your help!

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 quarterly 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: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership levels: \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 Individual / Family \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Libraries, Genealogical and Historical Societies \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 Life  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Sustaining \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 Corporate

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



#### **Sorghum Tasting in Jackson, 1940**

In the early fall many of the children remain away from school on "syrupping off" days. Sorghum syrup is boiled down from the cane sap by one of the men from the neighborhood who does this work for different members of the communities taking a share of the syrup for his labor. On the highway between Campton and Jackson. *(Farm Security Administration photograph by Marion Post Wolcott, in the Works Projects Administration Collection, in the State Archives holdings of the Public Records Division, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.)*

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