



for the Record

Devoted to Kentucky's State Archives and the Historical Record

Spring/Summer 2010

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Opportunities*

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State Archives Gains Additional Storage Space

Many people who are familiar with the State Archives are aware of the critical lack of archival storage space in the Clark-Cooper Building. The State Archives reached its peak capacity of just over 100,000 cubic feet of records several years ago, and only a few small collections have been accessioned since that time. Repeated requests for funding for a building addition have been unsuccessful. As a result, thousands of cubic feet of permanent archival records have been stored at the State Records Center and the Supplemental Records Center, KDLA's two off-site facilities, which are primarily used for non-permanent records, and lack the environmental controls and security of the Archives Center.

Until recently, the Archives Center encompassed approximately 80 percent of the third floor of the Clark-Cooper Building. The Kentucky Talking Book Library (TBL), an administrative unit of the State Library, maintained a large storage area for its collection of "books on tape" in the remaining 20 percent of the third floor. Due to some changes in the collection policies of the State Library, a large area of the first floor became available. The Library staff, in a much-appreciated gesture of cooperation, moved the Talking Book Library collection to the first floor, allowing the State Archives to expand into the vacated third floor space. This new space will provide the Archives with room to house over 20,000 cubic feet of permanent public records.



Although this storage space is now available, budget constraints currently permit only a limited purchase of the steel shelving necessary for storing the records. Shelving for approximately 4,000 cubic feet of records has been erected, and transfer of permanent records from the two Records Centers is already well underway. Circuit Court case files from fifteen counties have been moved, and the remaining new shelving will be assigned to a large collection of Secretary of State records.

The expansion of the Archives Center helps to address a critical and ongoing problem, and staff of the Public Records Division expresses its deep appreciation to the State Library and the Talking Book Library for their assistance in providing the additional storage space.

"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 Closings

The Archives Research Room is open to the public from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Free parking is provided outside the KDLA building.

Upcoming closures, please mark your calendars!

July 5	Monday	Independence Day
July 9	Friday	Archives Institute
September 6	Monday	Labor Day

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Research Opportunities at the State Archives: Accessing the Inaccessible

For the past ten years in this column, we have described many of the significant collections available for research at the State Archives. In this issue, it might be helpful to discuss some of the work that goes on behind the scenes to make these collections more accessible.

The Public Records Division offers excellent records management services to state and local government agencies, including guidelines for records transfers, so that most archival collections are in good condition and immediately ready for use when they arrive at the State Archives. Collections that were accessioned many years ago, however, may not conform to the current standards, and even recent accessions may occasionally need further arrangement and description to facilitate access.

Case files from the county Circuit Clerks' offices are perhaps the most common examples of records that may require archival processing. Records from the eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth centuries were often tri-folded and stored in less than ideal conditions at the county courthouses. Since the 1980s, Archives staff has flattened and sleeved in acid-free folders thousands of case files from many of the early counties. A similar process was used for all of the Governors' papers, from 1792 through 1927. As might be imagined, this can be a very laborious job, and these efforts have been curtailed for the most part for the past few years due to a shortage of staff available to perform these duties.

Lack of accurate finding aids or indexes presents an even more prevalent problem, and one on which Archives staff still expends a great deal of time and effort. The Circuit Court case files are again a good example. Many indexes to these collections are incomplete, or do not reflect the current arrangement, which makes access extremely difficult. It's impractical to search through hundreds of cases in an attempt to find one particular record.

*Deceased

Archives staff has created indexes to literally tens of thousands of case files from over thirty counties by looking at all of the cases individually and compiling a database with the name of plaintiff, name of defendant, and date for each case. These searchable indexes are available in an electronic format for public use in the Archives Research Room, and have vastly improved access to these vital collections. This is an ongoing effort, as time permits.

Several other long-term indexing and finding aid projects are also currently available or are in the works. The Kentucky Confederate Home was established in 1902 and operated until 1934. Information taken from records relating to resident veterans and employees of the Home are made available through the Confederate Home database. These records range in date from 1905-1933 and offer a look at the lives of nearly 550 Civil War veterans. The database includes a wide variety of information, and also contains citations to the pertinent original record, which can then be accessed.

A comprehensive index to naturalization records covering twenty nine counties currently contains nearly 10,000 entries, with the largest numbers from Fayette, Harlan, Campbell, Martin, and Pendleton Counties. Genealogists will soon be able to search this index for family names, which could lead to invaluable information concerning the immigration and naturalization of ancestors.

The Veterans Bonus Claims collection (1898-ca. 1954) contains service information on over 500,000 Kentucky veterans, but is extremely difficult to access due to the lack of an adequate index. Archives staff is currently compiling a database which includes the name of each claim applicant, branch of service, and conflict, as well as the application number, which will serve as an index and lead to the original record. This collection is so large that the project will undoubtedly take several more years to complete, but the section of the database containing information on Spanish-American War veterans should be completed and available for research by mid-summer.

The State Archives currently maintains over 100,000 cubic feet of original records, almost all of which are open and available for public use.

The staff at the State Archives recognizes the importance of the information held in these records and dedicates a great deal of time and effort toward creating, managing, and offering to the public indexes and finding aids that facilitate access to these collections.

New Aerial Photos at KDLA

The Archival Services Branch of KDLA has acquired over 100 cubic feet of aerial photographs of Kentucky from the Nature Preserves Commission. This could be the most comprehensive collection of aerial photos available to the public in a Kentucky repository.

While the bulk of the collection was created in the early 1950s, the date range for the entire set is 1947–1978.

Resolution and flight ratio of the photos varies, sometimes making it difficult to distinguish geographic features. However, a detailed map of the area helps when it comes to interpreting an aerial photo.

Because the search is complex and requires assistance from staff, research should be conducted in person. Please contact Lisa Thompson Lisa.Thompson@ky.gov at least one day in advance before making a visit to the Archives Research Room for research.

Archives Institute Scheduled for July

The 26th Annual Kentucky Archives Institute will be held at KDLA on Friday, July 9. Mel Arnold will offer his presentation on DNA and its uses in genealogical research, a topic that has become increasingly relevant in recent years. Kandie Adkinson from the Secretary of State Land Office will speak about Kentucky's "Doomsday Book" and will provide instructions on researching historic land records. Lisa Thompson of KDLA will describe the aerial photo collection available in the State Archives, and Walter Bowman, also of KDLA, will discuss Stray Books, a little known and under-utilized series of public records. The agenda and registration form are included in this newsletter.

Appalachian History Highlights the 21st Public Archives Symposium

The annual Public Archives Symposium, sponsored by the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., was held on October 29, 2009 at Shaker Village. The Friends met in the morning for their annual business meeting and received a year in review report from President Jim Powers. State Archivist Barbara Teague provided an overview of the activities and accomplishments of the Public Records Division for the year. A new slate of officers was nominated and unanimously approved, with Robin Rader to serve as President, David Schroeder as Vice-President, and Betsy Morelock as Treasurer. An enjoyable lunch at the Trustees' Office followed the Friends' annual meeting. The Symposium was held in the afternoon, with Dr. Robert Weise of Eastern Kentucky University as the featured speaker. Dr. Weise discussed his book, *Grasping at Independence: Debt, Male Authority, and Mineral Rights in Appalachian Kentucky, 1850-1915*. His informative and insightful presentation ended with a wide-ranging question and answer session, which concluded yet another successful Public Archives Symposium.

Many thanks to those of you who have renewed your membership in the Friends for 2010. We deeply appreciate your support of Friends' activities and of the services and mission of our State Archives. If you are not yet a Friends' member, we urge you to become a member today. The State Archives is working for all of us, and in this small way, we can help the Archives advance its programs and services.

If you are currently a Friends member, please consider becoming a Life Member. All Life Memberships become part of the Friends' Clark Endowment.

KDLA's Beth Shields Selected to Attend Archives Leadership Institute

Beth Shields, an electronic records analyst in the Public Records Division of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA), has been selected to attend the Archives Leadership Institute in Wisconsin. Shields is one of only 26 archivists in the United States selected to attend the event scheduled for July 18-24, 2010. She also received one of the Institute's full travel and tuition scholarships awarded to attend this program.

The Frankfort resident is a 2004 graduate of the University of Kentucky School of Library and Information Science. Before joining the KDLA staff last year, Shields previously held professional positions at the Library of Virginia and the Kentucky Historical Society.

The Institute is held at the University of Wisconsin's School of Library and Information Studies and funded by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The goal of the Archives Leadership Institute is to examine the leadership needs of the archival profession and to prepare participants to serve as leaders. A mix of panels, workshops, and small group discussions explore topics such as policy issues for archivists; communication and media relations; legislative advocacy; strategies and sources for funding; collaboration; and coalition building.

This is the second consecutive year that KDLA has had a staff member selected to attend the Institute. Valerie Edgeworth, librarian for the Kentucky Guide Program, Public Records Division, attended in 2009. Both Shields and Edgeworth were interns at KDLA from 2002-2004 as part of the graduate internship program in partnership with the University of Kentucky School of Library and Information Science.

Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.

The Twenty-Sixth Annual Kentucky Archives Institute

Sponsored by: Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., and
Public Records Division, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives
July 9, 2010

Activity Room, Second Floor, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

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| 8:15 – 9:00 | Registration/Pastries |
| 9:00 – 10:00 | Tour of the State Archives (Option 1)
Genealogical Research in the Archives Research Room (Option 2) |
| 10:00 – 10:15 | Welcome |
| 10:15 – 11:00 | Aerial Photographs at the State Archives - A Bird's-eye View of Kentucky
-Lisa Thompson (KDLA) |
| 11:00 – 11:15 | Break |
| 11:15 – 12:00 | Rogue Barnyard Fowl and Boats Adrift - Stray Books in the 18 th and 19 th Centuries
-Walter Bowman (KDLA) |
| 12:00 – 1:00 | Lunch |
| 1:00 – 2:15 | DNA and Genealogical Research
-Mel Arnold |
| 2:15 – 2:30 | Break |
| 2:30 – 3:45 | Kentucky Land Records and the "Doomsday Book"
-Kandie Adkinson (Secretary of State Land Office) |
| 3:45 – 4:00 | Conclusion |

Please clip and mail the form below, along with registration fee(s), by July 2.

Space is limited to 50 attendees.

If you have any questions, please contact Tim Tingle at 502.564.8300 ext. 251 or tim.tingle@ky.gov

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

Registration fees: \$45 fee covers the cost of all Institute materials and lunch.
\$50 fee covers Institute materials, lunch, and Friends membership for July-Dec., 2010.
Check here to reserve a vegetarian lunch. _____

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

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Archives Symposium 2009



Archives Month Itinerary Taking Shape

The planning phase for Kentucky's annual celebration of Archives Month is well underway. The Archives Month Coordinating Committee, under the direction of the Kentucky State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB), met in March to begin preparations for this year's celebration which will be held October 2010. The theme for this year is *Horses* in honor of Kentucky's rich equestrian heritage. Kentucky Archives Month also coincides with the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, an international competition for horse and rider, which will be held in Kentucky later this year.

The Archives Month Coordinating Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. for its continued support of Kentucky Archives Month and hope that this year's celebration will be our best yet!

The Kentucky Archives Month web address is <http://archivesmonth.ky.gov>. Please check the web site for events that will be held throughout the state in celebration of Kentucky Archives, or use the site to submit your own event. The site also has a Planning Guide to assist you in planning your Archives Month activities. We encourage all Kentucky archival and manuscript repositories to commemorate Archives Month in some way, whether it be with an open house, a workshop, a featured speaker, an exhibit, a tour, or any other type of event that will highlight the connection between the Commonwealth and one of it's most valuable commodities.



Horses graze at Walnut Hall Farm near Lexington, July 1940.

Photo by Marion Post Wolcott. Source: Work Projects Administration (WPA) Photo Collection, Public Records Division, KDLA.



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.

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: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

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
Frankfort, Kentucky 40604
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



This photo, created in 1965, provides a birds eye view of Louisville and the Ohio River.
Nature Preserves Photo Collection - Public Records Division, Kentucky Department for
Libraries and Archives.