



# for the Record

Devoted to Kentucky's State Archives and the Historical Record

Spring/Summer 2011

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## State Archives Featured on “Who Do You Think You Are?”

Early in 2011, the Kentucky State Archives was contacted by representatives of the NBC television program, “*Who Do You Think You Are?*”, concerning the possibility of filming part of an episode in the Archives Research Room. This program, currently in its second season, features a different celebrity each week who visits archival repositories, libraries and historic sites around the United States and even worldwide in order to find out more about his or her family history.

The celebrity in this episode was Ashley Judd, who has extensive family roots in eastern Kentucky. A professional researcher who often uses the resources available in the State Archives performed some extensive research on Ms. Judd’s Kentucky ancestors, and the Archives staff also helped out as needed. Records pertaining to one of Ms. Judd’s Civil War ancestors were of particular interest.

With this background work completed, the producer and director of the program visited the Archives in January to check out the site and meet with the staff. Walter Bowman, supervisor of the Research Room, agreed to represent the Archives on-camera with Ms. Judd.

After several weeks of communications and preparations between KDLA and the production company, the film crew and Ms. Judd spent the day at the Archives on February 18.



Research Room Supervisor, Walter Bowman, assists Ashley Judd with her family history research.

Although filming the segment took all day, everything proceeded very smoothly. Walter Bowman did an excellent job of helping Ms. Judd with her research while the cameras rolled, the Archives staff handled all of the needs and requests of the film crew in a very professional manner, and the crew repeatedly expressed their deep appreciation for our cooperation and hospitality.

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*“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.

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming closures.

June 24	Friday	Archives Institute
July 4	Monday	Independence Day
September 5	Monday	Labor Day
October 27	Thursday	Archives Symposium

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

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## Research Opportunities at the State Archives:

### The Bank of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

The economic recession of recent years is certainly not the first such financial crisis to affect the citizens of Kentucky during its long history. One of the earliest significant downturns occurred during the "Panic of 1819," when many private banks failed and the currencies they issued became drastically devalued or worthless. Thousands of Kentuckians could not pay their debts and faced bankruptcy.

In response to this crisis, the Kentucky General Assembly chartered the Bank of the Commonwealth of Kentucky in 1820, as a relief measure. All of the stock in the Bank was owned by state government, and the Bank President was directed to report on the Bank's business and financial status to the General Assembly on an annual basis. The main bank was located in Frankfort, but twelve branches were established throughout the state.

The Bank of the Commonwealth could issue notes and make loans, but these powers were highly regulated by the government. The main purpose of the Bank was to help Kentuckians through the economic depression by providing a means to borrow sound currency and to pay off outstanding debts and make necessary purchases. By 1830, the financial crisis had passed and the branch banks were closed. The main bank in Frankfort remained open for a number of years to collect on loan payments and debts, but by 1855 it had ceased to exist.

The records of the Bank were turned over to the State Auditor, and then transferred to the University of Kentucky in 1936, prior to the existence of the State Archives. The records were accessioned into the State Archives in 1966. The collection consists of a number of different series of bound volumes, and includes records from the main bank as well as each of the branch banks.

Some of the more prominent and interesting series include the "General Ledgers," which contain information on the various accounts held by the Bank, and include the date, amount and type of each transaction, and the "Tell Tales Books," which record the accounts of individuals who borrowed money from the Bank, and list the name of the borrower, the names of the endorsers of the note, and the amount and due date.

The records of the Bank of the Commonwealth of Kentucky provide a unique resource for researchers interested in the economic and social history of the state in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

*Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.*  
**The Twenty-Seventh Annual Kentucky Archives Institute**

Sponsored by: Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., and  
Public Records Division, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives  
June 24, 2011

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

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|---------------|--|
| 8:30 – 9:00   | Registration/Pastries  |
| 9:00 – 9:15   | Welcome  |
| 9:15 – 10:00  | Kentucky's Archival Repositories: Unique Collections throughout the Commonwealth<br>-Valerie Edgeworth, KDLA   |
| 10:00 – 10:15 | Break  |
| 10:15 – 11:15 | Hidden Treasures in the County Clerks' Offices<br>-Jerry Carlton, KDLA   |
| 11:15 – 12:30 | Lunch  |
| 12:30 – 1:30  | Archives and Archaeology: Blending Historical Documents with Archaeological Research<br>-Nancy Ross-Stallings, Ph.D., RPA & Richard Stallings, MA, RPA |
| 1:30 – 1:45   | Break  |
| 1:45 – 2:45   | Kentucky's Civil War Sesquicentennial<br>-Stuart Sanders, Community Services Administrator, KHS  |
| 2:45 – 3:00   | Conclusion   |
| 3:00 – 3:30   | Tour of the State Archives (Optional)  |

**Please clip and mail the form below, along with registration fee(s), by June 17.**

**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](mailto:tim.tingle@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 fees: \$45 fee covers the cost of all Institute materials and lunch.  
\$50 fee covers Institute materials, lunch, and Friends membership for July-Dec., 2011.  
*Check here to reserve a vegetarian lunch.* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Check here if you plan to tour the archives.* \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ I would like more information about the Friends. \_\_\_\_\_



# Find us on Facebook

The Public Records Division is now on Facebook! Our page was launched in February 2011 to establish a new method of communication with anyone who has an interest in public records in Kentucky. On our Facebook page, you will find information about research opportunities, collection materials, records management, and services provided by the Public Records Division.

You can find us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/kdla.prd>. Be sure to hit the "Like" button to keep up with what we're doing. The page will be updated weekly with news from the Division.

## New Resource Available in Archives Research Room

A searchable database containing scanned images of the microfilm listings in the State Archives for all 120 counties is now available for use in the Archives Research Room. Previously, researchers had to look through pages of listings in bulky three ring black binders to locate microfilm listings for the various records series for each county. Now, with just a couple of clicks and a few keywords, users can search by county, court, records series, beginning date ranges, or various combinations, and will be able to immediately retrieve the microfilm roll numbers they need. Each search will provide a link to the microfilm listings in PDF format which can be browsed or printed. Easily updated and simple to use, this new research tool has already proven to be a great success with both researchers and staff.

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The episode aired on April 8. The Archives Research Room and the Kentucky Room served as the settings for Ms. Judd's initial research. We were disappointed that almost none of Walter's interaction with Ashley made the final cut, but over six million viewers were still able to note the impressive facilities available to researchers at the State Archives. Within hours of the airing of the episode, the Archives received email from interested researchers who had seen the program and wrote in with reference requests or to ask about our holdings, while many more inquiries arrived in the following days.

Our experiences with the filming process and from the airing of the Ashley Judd episode of "Who Do You Think You Are?" were uniformly positive, and have resulted in some very beneficial national publicity for the Kentucky State Archives. We look forward to the possibility of cooperating on future projects. You can view the episode featuring Ms. Judd online at: <http://www.nbc.com/who-do-you-think-you-are/video/ashley-judd/1318986/>



Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.

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*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.*

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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  
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



KDLA staff pose for a photo with Ashley Judd during her visit to the Archives Research Room. (Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.)