

# for the Record

Devoted to Kentucky's State Archives and the Historical Record

Summer 2006

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I N S I D E

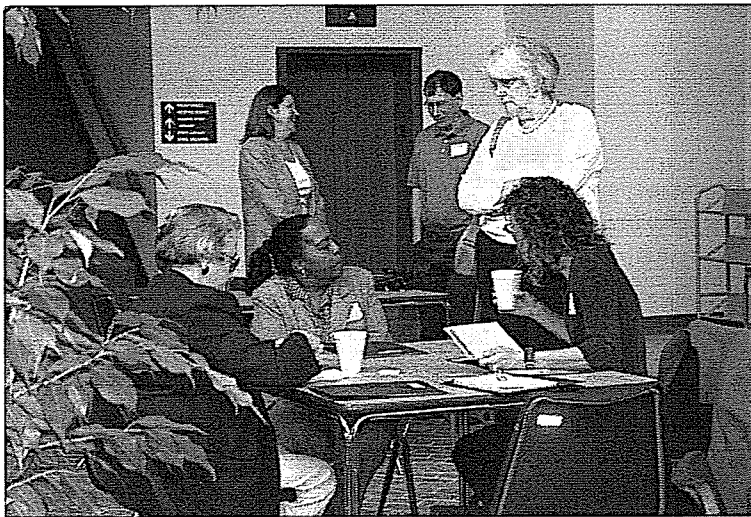
**State Archives  
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## Archives Week Planning Just Became Easier

*New Planning Guide for October Event  
Now Available at <http://archivesweek.ky.gov>*

If you work with historical records or support an organization or institution that does, you need to take advantage of a special week each October to spotlight a portion of your collections, help others better understand what you do, and build needed support for your programs. And just in time, there is a new tool available to help you do just that.

The Archives Week Coordinating Committee, in cooperation with the State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB), has just released the **Kentucky Archives Week Planning Guide**. The **Planning Guide** provides helpful information for archives and manuscript repositories, public libraries, historical societies, local government agencies, and citizens generally on ways to plan for and celebrate the annual *Kentucky Archives Week*.

*Cont. pg. 4*

## *Archives Institute Explores New Ground*

New research opportunities were the order of the day at the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual **Kentucky Archives Institute** on July 7<sup>th</sup>. The yearly event, sponsored by the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., and the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA), featured several interesting sessions and explored the research potential of a number of little known or infrequently used public records.

*Cont. pgs. 3 & 4*

## Archives' Space Limits Puts Big Brake on Records Transfers

The lack of legislative authorization in the 2006 session of the General Assembly for construction of an expanded archival storage facility on KDLA's Coffee Tree Road site in Frankfort has put pressure on state and local government agencies which need to transfer records to the State Archives.

*Cont. pg. 4*

## *KDLA Commissioner Announces Retirement*

James A. Nelson, KDLA's State Librarian and Commissioner for the past 26 years, has announced his retirement, effective September 30, 2006. Nelson is currently the second longest serving state librarian in the United States. He is also chair of the Kentucky's State Archives and Records Commission.



*Cont. pg. 4*

*"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

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., Monday through Friday. It is closed on Saturday and Sunday, all official state holidays, and special events.

Free parking is provided outside the KDLA building.

Please mark your calendars!

September 4 – Monday	Labor Day
October 26 – Thursday	Staff Development Day
November 10 – Friday	Veteran's Day
November 17 – Friday*	Archives Symposium & Friends' Annual Meeting

\* Closed after 12 p.m.

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

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For The Record  
Vol. 7, No. 1  
A publication of the  
Friends of Kentucky  
Public Archives, Inc.  
P.O. Box 4224  
Frankfort, KY 40604

\* Deceased

# Research Opportunities at the State Archives

In 1878, the Kentucky General Assembly created the **State Board of Health**. The Board was authorized to oversee the "general supervision of the interests of the health and life of the citizens of this State," including investigating the causes of diseases and studying the "effects of localities, employment, conditions, food, water supply, habits, and circumstances on the health of the people." The Board was also empowered to issue recommendations for the prevention and treatment of disease.

**An extensive collection of the annual reports, bulletins and minutes** of the Board of Health is available at the State Archives. These materials contain a wide range of information on public health issues. The first annual report of the Board in 1878 includes a study of "The Contamination of the Water Supply as a Cause of Disease." The author recognized that pure water was necessary for public health, but that filtration systems available at the time were rudimentary and unreliable. He recommended that the water supply be protected from pollution, and that water should be boiled whenever contamination was a possibility. Although this may seem obvious to us now, these measures were relatively new ideas at the time. Studies of a host of other public health problems were published over the years. The biennial report for 1910-1911 contains articles on "How to Prevent Smallpox" and the "Prevention of Hookworm." In the early 1930's several reports addressed the widespread prevalence of tuberculosis in Kentucky.

Public health issues which arose as a result of **specific epidemics or disasters were also studied**. The 1878 report includes an extensive and detailed review of the yellow fever epidemic at Hickman, Kentucky in that year. Hickman is located in western Kentucky on the Mississippi River. The causes of yellow fever were unknown at the time, and the author of the report suggested that a "miasma" may have been produced when the riverbanks caved in and exposed decaying vegetation. However, the report also thoroughly investigated the problem of sanitation in Hickman, and made some surprisingly modern recommendations for improvements in that area. Finally, the report contains a list of all 261 persons in Hickman who contracted the disease, giving the name, street address, age, date of death if pertinent, and remarks for each individual. In a similar manner, the Bulletin for August 1933 describes the strong tornado that tore through Tompkinsville in Monroe County, and the response of the public health authorities in the aftermath of that disaster in which 181 people were injured and 20 killed.

Finally, the Board of Health compiled and published **statistics on many aspects of public health**. The 1878 report lists numbers and causes of death in each month for each county. These causes include a number of diseases that are now much less common but were still very serious issues in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, including cholera, typhoid fever, and dysentery. A few of the listings demonstrate some creativity on the part of the reporting physicians who may have been unable to assign an exact scientific cause, including "overtaxation of the brain," "nervous irritability," "pain in the knee," and "eating walnuts." Many counties also have entries for both "killed accidentally" and "killed intentionally."

The publications of the Board of Health provide a broad range of narrative and statistical information on a variety of health-related subjects. Researchers interested in the history of public health in Kentucky will find this collection to be an extremely valuable resource.



# Archives Institute Draws Enthusiastic Crowd to Frankfort



## KDLA Commissioner to Retire



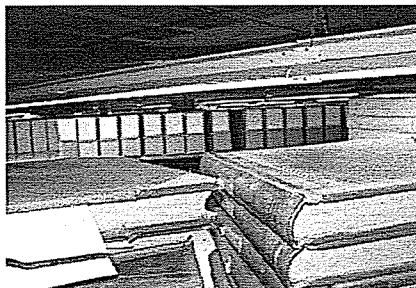
Jim Nelson became Kentucky's State Librarian in September 1980. Prior to assuming his present position, he held positions in the library schools of the Universities of Wisconsin and Kentucky; was a speechwriter for Governor Wendell Ford; served as director of the Hardin County Public Library, and was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Philippines. In his professional career, he has served in advisory roles with the Gates Library Foundation; the W.K. Kellogg Foundation; the U.S. Congress; the U.S. Office of Technology Assessment; and the U.S. Department of Education. He has held national offices in the American Library Association and the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies and has written widely for national publications in library science and information policy. He was appointed to the Southeastern Library Network Board of Directors in October 2002 and currently serves as the Board's chairperson.

In announcing his retirement, Nelson noted that "...since September is my anniversary date and also will be the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Kentucky Library Association, I've decided that September 30<sup>th</sup> will be my last day in a KDLA uniform." We take this occasion to extend our thanks to Jim Nelson for his strong support of archives and records programs over the last 26 years and to send him our best wishes for a satisfying and enjoyable retirement.

## Archives' Space Limits

At the moment, there is simply no additional room at KDLA to accept these transfers, and agencies are finding themselves responsible for ensuring the security and preservation of permanently valuable records, on their own sites, which would normally be slated for transfer to the State Archives. KDLA's building request, approved by the state's Capital Planning Advisory Board in its 2005 review of capital construction proposals, would have expanded storage capacity by approximately 70%. The State Archives serves as a controlled environment storage facility for the permanent records of Kentucky state and local government. It currently stores over 98,000 cubic feet of records from state government agencies, city and county governments, and the state's courts and judicial offices. In light of this space crunch, KDLA staff continues to work with agencies on interim measures to meet their needs, including expanded reformatting options.

Ledger volumes and archival storage boxes compete for space directly under lighting fixtures, as State Archives struggles to find room for incoming collections.



## Archives Institute

Leading off the day was Archives Research Room supervisor Jim Prichard, with a session entitled *Reflections of Faith: Congregations, Clergymen, and Other Spiritual Subjects in Archival Sources*. Following Prichard were KDLA archivist Lisa Thompson, speaking on *The Path to Citizenship: Immigration and Naturalization Records*; and KDLA's military records specialist Walter Bowman, who spoke on *Researching Kentucky's Spanish-American War Era: Active Service*. Additional highlights of the day and complementing these sessions were presentations by Beth Shields (Kentucky Historical Society) on *Church Records and Family Bibles* and Aloma Dew on *Women's Roles and Rights in Early Kentucky*, which was the luncheon address. Attendees enjoyed a delicious box lunch and had ample opportunity to visit with friends and pose questions to presenters. A good time was had by all, and we hope you will put this event on your schedule for next July!



Dr. Thomas D. Clark received the first Kentucky Archives Week Award in 2002. The award was subsequently named "The Thomas D. Clark Kentucky Archives Week Award."

## Archives Week Planning

*Kentucky Archives Week* is held during the second week of October each year. It's scheduled for October 8-14 this year, with a theme of **Family Heritage**. The event was begun in 2002, following a national trend of states and localities in all parts of the country, and is jointly sponsored by the Kentucky SHRAB, the Kentucky Council on Archives, and the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. It's an occasion when all kinds of organizations which hold original records or which support their research use and preservation join together to call attention to Kentucky's rich documentary legacy and to the need of those organizations for continuing support. The **Planning Guide** discusses why participation in Archives Week is important, underscores the importance of having a good relationship with the media, suggests event ideas for that week, points to possible fundraising ideas, and contains a variety of sample documents for use during Archives Week. The **Planning Guide** is now available at <http://archivesweek.ky.gov>.

Whether you plan to open a special exhibit, hold an open house, secure a special proclamation from local authorities, or sponsor a lecture or other presentation at your facility, the **Planning Guide** can give you a variety of helpful suggestions. Check it out now, and let's get started with that planning!

# Making a Difference

The State Archives is deeply grateful to Friends' board member **Donna Stark Thompson** for her generous support of Archives Research Room needs, including her contribution of numerous genealogical research publications to supplement the Archives Research Room's published reference collection in the Kentucky Room. Her assistance has also made possible the microfilming of records or the acquisition of a number of special microfilm collections to complement the holdings of the Research Room. This includes the microfilming of the WPA Kentucky Veterans Graves Registration, a survey of veterans graves in the state, including veterans buried in the state with service in conflicts ranging from the French and Indian War to World War I, on 28 rolls of microfilm covering all Kentucky counties, with the exception of Jefferson County. She also provided assistance for the acquisition of microfilm of Fincastle County (Virginia) Clerk records, containing deeds, wills, and order books (1772-1776), a total of eight rolls; and for seven rolls of Botetourt County (Virginia) LDS microfilm, containing wills, deeds, marriages and County Clerk order books (1770-1773).

Thanks so much for your help! We really appreciate it!

## You Can Help!

The Archives Research Room at the State Archives always has equipment or supplemental resource needs for which state funds are not available. Private donations have long played an important role in permitting the State Archives to fill these gaps.

Please consider making a donation, large or small, to the Friends. Any amount - five, ten, or twenty dollars - will help make a difference. Your donations to the Friends are always tax deductible.

Please make your checks payable to: **Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.**, and mail it to the address on the Friends' membership form below.



Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.

## Honoring Dr. Thomas D. Clark:

### How you can participate

Dr. Clark was strongly committed to the preparation of future generations of archival professionals. The Friends' *Thomas D. Clark Endowment Fund for Internships in Archival Administration* honors Dr. Clark's work and helps prepare the next generation of archivists and manuscript curators. Contributions to the *Clark Endowment Fund*, which is administered by the Friends, help sustain the internship program and honor his memory. All Friend's life memberships go to the fund.

Won't you join us in supporting this effort to "ensure a future for our past?" Please make your checks payable to: **Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.**, and note *Clark Endowment* on the "For" line of your check. Please use the form at the bottom of this page to make your contribution and mail it to the address on the form.

Donations of any size are most welcome, and all donations to the Friends are tax deductible. Thank you for your support!

## Mark your Calendar!

Public Archives Symposium  
and Friends' Annual Meeting

Friday, November 17  
Shaker Village

*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 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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.





*Old swimming hole up South Fork in Breathitt County, 1940. (This photograph is from records of the Farm Security Administration, in the State Archives holdings, Public Records Division, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives).*

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