

Fifth Archives Institute Showcases Array of Records

Genealogists doing family research should not overlook federal records available at the National Archives, said Gayle Peters, Director of the National Archives Regional Archives in Atlanta and a featured speaker at the Friends' fifth annual Kentucky Archives Institute held at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) on July 14th. In addition to census records, the National Archives also holds such treasures as tax records, military records, passenger lists, naturalization records, and court records, many of which are not found elsewhere and all of which can provide genealogists with important information. Furthermore, Peters noted, bankruptcy records housed in the archives are excellent sources of data for social and economic historians interested in knowing more about economic activity of businesses and individuals in the 19th and 20th centuries.



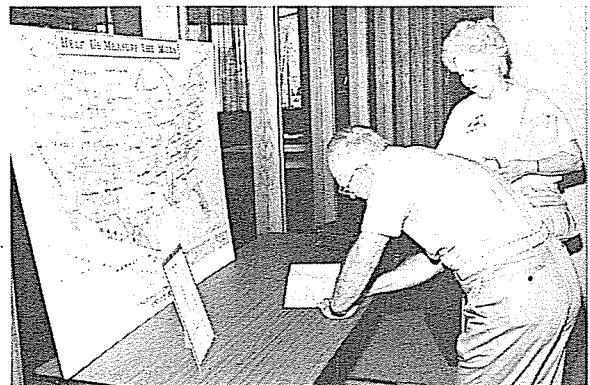
Enthusiasm ran high among the capacity crowd at the Friends' fifth annual Kentucky Archives Institute.

More than 50 participants, comprised of historians, genealogists, librarians, and others interested in archival research and management, heard Peters and other speakers. Kandie Adkinson, from the Secretary of State's Land Office, underscored the value of land records as research tools for genealogists. At lunch, Frankfort photo historian Bill Rodgers provided participants with a vivid look at early photographic resources. His talk, "150 Years of Photography: A Kentucky Odyssey," drew from his personal collection of 75,000 photographs, and discussed the links

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Summer at the Archives: Visitors by the Hundreds

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) continues to serve as a major research facility for those seeking information from Kentucky's public records. Since May, over 1,653 patrons have visited the Archives Research Room with hundreds more expected in the remaining weeks of the summer.



The "Measure the Miles" program documents just how far KDLA's summer visitors have traveled to conduct research.

In an effort to learn more about the patrons, the staff revived the "Measure the Miles" project initiated last summer. Patrons are requested to sign a guest book in the lobby which staff then reviews on a weekly basis and groups according to state and city of the researchers. The area of residence is then marked on the large map of the United States adjacent to the Research Room entrance.

At the end of the season, the patron traveling the greatest distance to the Archives will receive special recognition. Last year's recipient, Allie Truscott of London, England, wrote recently to Jim Prichard, Research Room Supervisor. "I was so impressed the day a friend took me to the Archives building," she noted, adding that her only regret was that she had too little time for research. Ms. Truscott also thanked the staff for the cookbook she received as a gift and wrote that she planned to treat her English friends to some Southern cuisine.

Though no international guests have visited this summer, the Archives has had visitors from both coasts,

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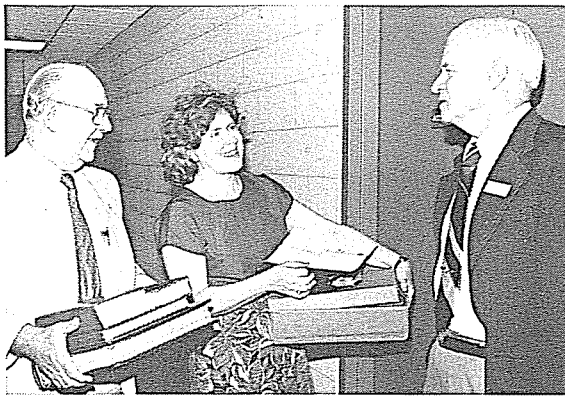
Fifth Archives Institute Showcases Records

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between photography and genealogy.

Mary Samples, Supervisor of KDLA's Document Preservation Lab, spoke on the importance of document preservation to continued records access and suggested techniques researchers could safely use. She urged listeners to take care in handling documents and to inform others of the vital need to preserve these resources. KDLA Local Records Regional Administrators Jeffrey M. Duff and Jerry Carlton, stressed the

research value of local courthouse records and discussed types of information that can be found in those records. Jim Prichard, Supervisor of KDLA's Archives Research Room, concluded the program with a presentation on the importance of state agency records as research sources, emphasizing the valuable information contained in Confederate pension applications, Governors' papers, House and Senate Journals, and prison records, as well as other sources. He also noted that KDLA has local microfilm copies of many useful federal records.



Art Vogedes and Kandi Adkinson of the Secretary of State's Land Office share information with General Ronald Van Stockum of Shelbyville.

At the conclusion of the Institute, participants received certificates of participation and took a tour of KDLA's Public Records Division. Satisfaction with the event was high, as all registrants completing evaluation forms rated the Institute program as good, very good, or excellent.

Plans are already underway for next year's Institute, with possible sessions on Civil War research and genealogy and computers being considered. Make plans now to attend this important mid-summer event!

A word to our Friends...

This quarterly newsletter is published as a service of the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., in order to increase public awareness of the State Archives, its mission and collections. The Friends, a not-for-profit corporation, is an independent group of private citizens concerned with proper management, preservation and use of the Commonwealth's historic public records.

On behalf of the Friends, I urge you to use the form on Page 4 of the newsletter to become a member and join us today in this important work.

*Cecil E. Goode,
President*



National Archives' Regional Archives (Atlanta) director Gayle Peters describes the use of federal records for historical and genealogical research.

Records Profiles

State's Tax Records Offer Unique Look Into the Past

Tax Assessment Books have frequently been viewed by researchers as worthless or of limited value. As a result, many tax records have been discarded or, when preserved, receive little use. On the local records level, they comprise one of the single largest masses of permanent records kept by county and city clerks in Kentucky.

Beginning with Kentucky's statehood, the office of County Clerk has often been the physical custodian of this record series. For the early decades of statehood, before the initiation of censuses or the extensive accumulations of census data, tax records provide virtually the only comprehensive recording of names of adult males. A typical Tax Assessment Book will include the name and address of the taxpayer, the taxing district, a valuation and description of the property, the date due, and the amount of the assessment. In the late 18th and early 19th century the tax assessment would also include the numbers of white males over 21 and slaves, numbers of horse, mules, cattle and carriages. From 1821 to 1934, a column was added to the tax book which listed the number of school-age children in each school district. Later, from 1851 to 1934, a list of the names and ages of deaf and dumb children between seven and 21 were placed in the back of the tax book. A similar list for blind children was initiated in 1852. For a few years in the 1870s and 1880s, a special column in the tax book provided the names of all citizens entitled to vote.

Tax Assessment Books comprise a significant portion of the county court records available for research at the State Archives. While some lists have not survived the ravages of time, most of these records, generally dating from the formation of the county through 1892, are available on microfilm for the majority of Kentucky counties. The lone exception is

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"Nearby History," Importance of Local Records Focus of Friends' Paducah Workshop

The eleventh in a continuing statewide series of Friends' local records workshops is scheduled for September 21 at Paducah Community College. The all-day event, co-sponsored with the Historical Confederation of Kentucky, in cooperation with the Public Records Division of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA), brings together local officials who manage records on a daily basis and researchers who draw on those records for their work or special interest.

Panelists will include several KDLA staff members as well as local government officials. Special guest speaker will be Dr. Carol Crowe Car-raco, Professor of History at Western

Kentucky University, who will speak on "Nearby History: A New Look at Local Government Resources."

Registration for the workshop is \$15, includes lunch and can be secured by contacting the Friends, attention: Paducah Workshop, P.O. Box 4224, Frankfort 40602. The last Friends' workshop, held in Ashland in April, drew almost 60 participants. Make plans now to attend the Paducah workshop and bring a Friend!

Mark your 1989 calendar

September 21 Paducah Workshop
November 9 Annual Meeting
Frankfort

Briefly Noted

- Candidates for circuit court clerk in Kentucky are now required to pass a standardized written examination in order to be certified to have their names placed on the ballot at election time. This is another in a long line of reforms which began with the modernization of Kentucky's court system in 1975 and has emphasized professional certification for court officials.

- Senator Claiborne Pell (D-RI) has introduced legislation to have important books and other publications printed on acid-free paper. This would insure a longer life for valuable books and would alleviate the potential loss of an enormous quantity of America's historical records. Enactment of this legislation would not only save books for future use, it would also save libraries millions of dollars currently spent on deacidification programs. The American Library Association strongly supports such legislation.

- Video cassette tapes have a life-span of only ten to twenty years and thus

do not meet archival standards for permanence. The simplest solution for libraries is to recopy the tapes every ten years. However, because of swift technological changes in this field, tape formats become obsolete quickly and, if no equipment exists on which to play these tapes, it may prove impossible to transfer material from some tapes. This underscores the importance of an ongoing program to manage information recorded on fragile media and of the need to plan ahead to systematically transfer this information to new formats as necessary.

- Scholars continue to find Kentucky's public records a rich source for historical study. In her recently published work on the Hatfield-McCoy feud, Altina L. Waller cited the Pike County Circuit Court records deposited at the State Archives as one of her primary sources. Those interested in a fresh look at this chapter in Kentucky history may want to read her *Feud: Hatfields, McCoys and Social Change in Appalachia, 1860-1900*.

Recent Acquisitions

New Microfilm Adds Unusual Resources

Over 2,000 rolls of film have been accessioned in the past year, many through KDLA's Local Records Grant program. These records represent a rich and diverse collection of county, city, and judicial records, with considerable research potential.

In addition to such basic resources as deeds, wills, and tax lists, this year's accessions include several unusual sources, such as a *Veterans Discharge Book* from Hickman County (1945-1987) and Owsley County (1931-1967, indexed), a *Freedman's Marriage Register* from Bracken County (1866-1889), *Index Cards to School Census Records* from Carter County (1897-1917), a *History of Lewis County in the World War* (1917-1919), *Mineral Lease Books* from Hart County (1930-1937), a *General Index to Recorded Instruments* from Menifee County (1871-1980) and *Minute Books* from the City of Versailles (1880-1985). Also present are ten rolls of Powell County marriage records (1864-1986). Recent arrivals also include various judicial records from the Circuit and Appeals Courts.

Kentucky's Tax Records

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McCreary County, which was not formed until 1912. The records for McCreary, as well as the more recent records for the balance of the state's counties, can still be found in the County Clerk's office for each county. As the Local Records Grant program continues to increase KDLA's microfilm holdings, tax records will become available for more recent years. Many such records, dating from the turn of the century to the World War II era, are already available for several counties. For information on the availability of these records, consult the Research Room staff.

Summer Interns Learn on the Job

Graduate students from the University of Kentucky and Western Kentucky University have been this summer's KDLA Interns in Archival Administration at the Public Records Division. Todd Estes, pursuing the Ph.D. in History at Kentucky, and Trace Kirkwood, working on the M.A. in History at Western Kentucky, were selected in mid-May after interviews with a selection committee of KDLA staff.

Each intern has been involved in a wide array of assignments. Estes has worked with State Archivist Richard Belding on long-term planning and budgeting, preparation of the Friends' Newsletter, a six-year reevaluation of the Historical Records Needs Assessment Final Report, and preparation of background materials for a forthcoming archival conference. Kirkwood has worked with State Publications Coordinator Karen McDaniel on organizing, indexing, and rearranging more than 3,500 state government publications dating from the 1870s to 1984.

Additionally, both are completing a series of readings on issues and developments in modern archives management. These internships are modeled after the Clark Internships in Archival Administration, begun in 1985 by the

Thomas D. Clark Endowment Fund, Inc. They are open to graduate students interested in a career in archival administration.



Archival Administration Interns Trace Kirkwood and Todd Estes examine an exhibit on the history of Kentucky's correctional institutions in KDLA's lobby. The traveling photographic exhibit, titled "Changing Faces, Common Walls," is sponsored by the Kentucky Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities and Eastern Kentucky University. Display kiosks in the background are supplemented by State Archives' holdings in the exhibit cases (foreground).

Summer Visitors

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including Maine, California, and Washington. Many more have journeyed from Texas, Florida, and Missouri, three states with large numbers of former Kentuckians. By far, the most Research Room patrons hail from Indiana, Ohio, and the Bluegrass State itself.

While the vast majority of visitors come to do genealogy, a number of academic researchers have visited the Research Room this year also. Dr. George Wright of the University of Texas at Austin searched numerous circuit court and other judicial records for a forthcoming study of racial violence in Kentucky. Eastern Kentucky University's Dr. Richard Freed recently reviewed the official papers of Governor Combs for a proposed biographical study. Dr. Thomas D. Clark continues his research in Laurel County Circuit Court records. The Research Room staff also assisted Dr. John Kleber in gathering data for the *Kentucky Encyclopedia* bicentennial project. In short, the materials available in the Research Room provide important information for all researchers, whether they are academic historians, genealogists, local historians, or those with a personal interest in exploring Kentucky's rich past.

Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., Membership Form

Box 4224, Frankfort, Kentucky 40604

Date _____

My check for _____ made payable to the *Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.*, is enclosed. Benefits include a quarterly newsletter and invitations to workshops, special events, the Kentucky Archives Institute, and the annual meeting. Gifts to the Friends are tax deductible.

Individual	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustaining	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corporate	\$1000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gift \$	_____	

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I would like to receive a membership pin. _____

Please clip and mail to a friend along with a note about our work.