



# for the Record

Devoted to Kentucky's State Archives and the Historical Record

Winter 2006

2

3

4

4

5

I N S I D E

**State Archives  
Research Opportunities**

**Archives Symposium/  
Annual Meeting!**

**KDLA Launches  
E-Archives**

**NHPRC Funds  
in Jeopardy**

**How you  
can help!**



A capacity crowd filled the main meeting room of the West Lot Dwelling at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill November 16<sup>th</sup> to hear Dr. Yvonne Honeycutt Baldwin, Professor of History and Chair, Department of Geography, Government and History, Morehead State University, discuss research for her new book, **Cora Wilson Stewart and Kentucky's Moonlight Schools: Fighting for Literacy in America**. Baldwin was the featured speaker at the 17<sup>th</sup> annual **Public Archives Symposium**, a yearly event sponsored by the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. to broaden public understanding of the state's original historical records and underscore how they are being used for scholarly research and publications.

## General Assembly Considers State Archives' Expansion

Prospects for additional records storage at the State Archives took a favorable turn March 7<sup>th</sup> with the inclusion of construction funds for an expanded archives facility in the House budget bill. The House Appropriations and Revenue Committee recommended including \$8.055 million in the House Committee Substitute to HB 380 and voted 97-0-1 to send its version of the Executive Branch budget to the Senate for its consideration.

The State Archives, at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives' (KDLA) main building on Coffee Tree Road in Frankfort, has been at maximum storage capacity since June 2005 and has been struggling to meet state and local government's continuing need for storage of permanently valuable records for some time. KDLA's request for an archival facility expansion was among a small number of capital construction requests approved by the Capital Planning Advisory Board (CPAB) in its 2005 review cycle. The Board, the official review body for capital requests from state government agencies and public universities, evaluates capital requests in the year prior to even year sessions of the General Assembly, when state agency budgets are considered and approved.

*"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!

April 14 – Friday at noon	Good Friday
May 29 – Monday	Memorial Day

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# Research Opportunities at the State Archives

The office of **Auditor of Public Accounts** was created by one of the first acts passed by the state legislature in its initial session in June 1792. The Auditor was appointed by the General Assembly until the third constitution in 1850 made it an elective office. The specific functions of the office changed repeatedly over the years, but in general the Auditor was responsible for the oversight of the fiscal activities of state government. In consequence, this office created and maintained a number of different types of financial records. These records can be quite detailed and are invaluable to any study of the day-to-day financial workings of state government.

The activities of the Auditor's Office are documented in a number of different series of records, which can contain overlapping information. These include **Day Books, Warrant Registers, Ledgers, and Journals**. A **Day Book** is basically a daily log of financial activities as they occur, and includes the amount of the transaction and the name of the person receiving funds or paying into the system. The **Warrant Register** is a sequential listing of warrants issued by the state for disbursements made for any reason, and includes the warrant number, date, amount, and to whom paid.

In general, a **Ledger** is arranged by subject and a **Journal** by date, but they are usually cross-referenced and may contain more detailed information than the Day Books and Registers. For example, the Ledger for 1816-1818 contains several entries under the heading "Negroes Executed." On May 8, 1818, warrant #580 was issued for the sum of \$650. The entry lists a reference to page 320, which leads to the corresponding Journal for that date. The Journal entry states that warrant #580 was issued for payment of \$650 "to William Stith for the value of a Negro man named Reubin hung by order of the Hardin County Court on March 14, 1818." The state was therefore reimbursing a slave owner for the value of his "property" lost as a result of a verdict of the court.

Most of the entries are more mundane, but can still hold interesting information. An entry for March 31, 1817, documents the payment of \$899.90 to Governor Gabriel Slaughter to cover "a fractional part of his 4<sup>th</sup> quarter salary for 1816 and his 1<sup>st</sup> quarter salary for 1817." Among the hundreds of other entries from 1817 are records of military expenditures, payments to individuals for the upkeep of "lunatics," and bounties paid for the return of escaped criminals.

The records series described above are available in one form or another for the years 1792-1939, although there are significant gaps in each series. Similar records are also available for the Office of Second Auditor, which was created in 1839 to help relieve the Auditor of the burden of some of his extensive duties. The position of Second Auditor was discontinued after the passage of the third constitution in 1850, although a few records were still created for several years thereafter as the office gradually turned its functions back over to the Auditor.

Researchers may find the records of the Auditor of Public Accounts and of the Second Auditor to be an important and largely untapped source for unique information concerning the workings of Kentucky state government and the varied activities of its citizens.

*Participants enjoy 2005 Friend's Symposium at Shaker Village*



## *NHPRC in Jeopardy — Again!*

President Bush's proposed FY 2007 budget once again zeroes out the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). The President's 2006 budget also recommended no funding for the NHPRC. Thanks to constituent contacts from all over the country, including many calls and letters from Kentucky, Congress ultimately appropriated \$7.5 million for NHPRC this year. The joint advocacy effort of the Council of State Archivists, the Society of American Archivists, and the National Association for Government Archives and Records Administrators is again asking concerned citizens from around the country to contact their representatives in Congress about this issue.

In addition to asking for continued funding for NHPRC, the advocacy coalition is asking for support for the Partnership for the American Historical Record (PAHR). The PAHR would offer more federal money for records in state and local archives, libraries, historical societies, and other repositories around the country. A \$20 million appropriation for the NHPRC would allow the NHPRC national grants program to be fully-funded, while allocating more resources for archival repositories on a state and local level through the PAHR.

For guidelines on contacting your representative, please see <http://savearchives.pbwiki.com/>. This site has guidelines on writing to Congress (remember, a faxed letter is the best), suggestions for writing a resolution from an organization, a detailed explanation of the PAHR, and lists of relevant members of Congress. Kentucky members of the Appropriations Committees are Rep. Anne Northup and Rep. Hal Rogers in the House, and Sen. Mitch McConnell in the Senate. Faxes to these three members are the most urgent, but faxes to the representative from your particular district are important, too. Members should be contacted **prior to April 1**, so please do this as soon as possible. For more information and background material, please see the Society of American Archivists website: <http://www.archivists.org/news/nhprc-FY2007-action.asp>.

## *KDLA Launches E-Archives* *Capturing, Preserving Digital Records is Aim* *of New Initiative*

Since 1958, KDLA has been the state's central repository (the State Archives) for records of continuing value and has been responsible for housing, preserving and making them available for research. During this time, recordkeeping practices have continued to evolve. New record formats are emerging and have been adopted by public agencies. Increasingly, records are available to the public in electronic form. KDLA has created an Electronic Records Archives (E-Archives) as a way of managing digital public records and making them available to our citizens. The E-Archives is a way of expanding KDLA's capacity to manage digital records of archival value. Initially, the E-Archives will contain a limited selection of electronic records, including meeting minutes of state-level boards, commissions and legislative committees, and electronic state agency publications. We hope you will find that this new resource will speed your access to a wide range of information. Please visit the E-Archives at <http://www.e-archives.ky.gov/>.

## *Guide Program Head Named*



Valerie Edgeworth joined the staff of the Public Records Division in July of 2005 as the Librarian for the Kentucky Guide Program. Established in 1979, the Kentucky Guide Program is designed to promote the use of primary source materials housed in archival and manuscript repositories throughout Kentucky. Valerie received her Master's Degree in Library Science from the University of Kentucky in May of 2004. Before joining the Public Records Division staff, Valerie was a librarian at the Kentucky Historical Society.

## Mark your Calendars!

The Kentucky State Historical Records Advisory Board received \$10,000 yearly grants from the NHPRC in 2004 and 2005, to assist in the work of the SHRAB and to bring continuing education workshops for practicing archivists to Kentucky venues. The SHRAB received another \$10,000 grant from the NHPRC for 2006, and will again bring two workshops to Kentucky during this calendar year.

1) The first workshop will be held at the University of Kentucky on **Thursday, May 11, 2006**, the day prior to the Kentucky Council on Archives spring meeting. The workshop is offered by the Society of American Archivists, in cooperation with the Kentucky SHRAB and the University of Kentucky. It will provide an introduction to the new archival description standard, DACS. To read more about the workshop **Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS)** see the Society of American Archivists' webpage at: <http://www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop-detail.asp?id=1673>

2) The SHRAB and SAA will offer a two day workshop, **Copyright: The Archivist and the Law**, in November 2006, also at the University of Kentucky. Planning for this workshop is being finalized.

The SHRAB will pay a portion of the registration fee for archivists working in Kentucky to attend either, or both, of these workshops. The SAA website has all the details on the SHRAB discount.

*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: \_\_\_\_\_

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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.

## 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 train 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!

## Don't miss this event!

The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Archives Institute:

*The Past in Public Records*

Will be held July 7<sup>th</sup> at KDLA



Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.



*Construction on the "new" Kentucky State Capitol in Frankfort began in 1905, and the building was dedicated on June 1, 1910. A set of original architectural drawings for part of the interior of the Capitol is in the State Archives. These drawings were studied by the engineers in charge of a recent major renovation of the building. (Photograph courtesy of Aero-Graphic Corporation, Bowman Field, Louisville, KY, from the State Archives holdings, Public Records Division, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.*

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