
Friends of Kentucky Public Archives

Volume VI Number 1

Summer 1990

Friends Host Sixth Annual Kentucky Archives Institute

The Friends' 1990 Archives Institute featured Kellee Green of the National Archives, Great Lakes Region, who discussed records housed at her facility that will assist Kentucky genealogists.

Speaking at the sixth annual event at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA), Green urged genealogists to use census records, court records, naturalization records, military records, and passenger lists to trace family history. She emphasized that the National Archives' regional centers hold many of these records on microfilm as well as in original form.

She also encouraged the use of U.S. District Court records for river boundary disputes. Cases involving the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers are housed in the Great Lakes Center, and in these records researchers will discover vessel sales, river crimes, and river accidents. Green believes these records are valuable sources to genealogists who have uncovered ancestors involved in the steamboat business.



Kellee Green

Green also announced to the more than 60 Institute participants that the 1920 U.S. Census is on schedule to be released in 1992. Indexes, in the Soundex format, will be available in 1991.

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1990 Institute participants took in information on a variety of topics presented by professional archivists.

U.S. Archivist To Address Bowling Green Workshop

The campus of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green will be the site of the Friends' next Local Records workshop on September 21. For the first time, the Friends will be joining forces with the Kentucky Council on Archives (KCA) to conduct a combined meeting. Each organization will have its own program, but will come together for lunch to hear an address by Dr. Don W. Wilson, Archivist of the United States.

Workshop participants will be joined by members of the Kentucky Council on Archives to hear keynote speaker Wilson share his perspective on the status of the nation's efforts to preserve and maintain its rich store of records.

The Friends' program, "Managing and Using Local Government Records," will start off with a video presentation on records management. Panel discussions featuring area local officials will address the topics of accessing, managing and using public records. The day's program also will include presentations on preservation and microformats.

The program will get underway at 8:30 a.m. at WKU's Kentucky Building. Cost of registration for the workshop is \$15 and includes lunch. For additional information, call the Public Records Division at 502-875-7000.



Clark Internship Endowment Gains Generous Support

The Thomas D. Clark Endowment Fund, established by the Friends in 1985 to support an innovative internship program in archival administration at the Kentucky State Archives, has experienced growth in recent months.

H. Charles Grawemeyer of Louisville and Larry Forgy of Lexington currently are playing key roles in a campaign to increase the size of the endowment's capital base. Major gifts have already been received from the James Graham Brown Foundation, the Mary and Barry Bingham, Sr. Fund, and the Thornton Oil Corporation.

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Symposium highlights research in public records George Wright Featured Speaker

George C. Wright, professor of history at the University of Texas, Austin, was the featured speaker at the First Annual Friends' Public Archives Symposium which was held at Kentucky State University in Frankfort last November.

Wright detailed aspects of his research on Kentucky blacks, particularly the forced removal of African-Americans from rural areas of the state. He noted that despite limitations in enumerating Kentucky blacks, it is clear that their numbers were in steady decline from 1860 to 1930. Wright related numerous incidents of violence which forced blacks to leave an area or to move out of the Commonwealth entirely.

Wright also discussed his own background, his motivations for studying racial violence, and his research at KDLA's Archives Research Room. He noted that "KDLA has proved to be an invaluable source" in his effort to uncover the story of black Kentuckians." Calling for further research in public records, Wright stated that

"there are countless projects (related to Kentucky) in legal, social, and labor histories awaiting scholars."

The Friends have published Dr. Wright's address in "Reflections," the first of a planned series of occasional papers devoted to research in Kentucky public records. It is a goal of the Friends organization to promote greater awareness of the rich resources in the State Archives through programs such as the Public Archives Symposium.

The Friends are grateful for the support of the Kentucky Humanities Council which awarded a grant to help underwrite the costs of conducting the Symposium and publishing Wright's work. Because of the high level of interest expressed in the "Reflections" paper since it was issued, additional copies may be printed.

Annual Archives Institute Held in July

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Following Green's presentation, Jim Prichard, Supervisor of KDLA's Archives Research Room, stressed the importance of state agency records as research sources. He emphasized the use of Confederate pension applications, Governors' papers, House and Senate Journals, and prison records as additional sources of information for researchers. Among some of the others he mentioned were the rolls of the Old Confederates Home in Pewee Valley, Kentucky, which Prichard believes will aid genealogists researching Civil War veterans.

Mary Samples, Supervisor of KDLA's Document Preservation Lab, discussed the importance of records preservation and suggested ways researchers can preserve their family documents.

During a luncheon session, participants were treated to William Kephart's presentation on "Research-

Endowment Fund Gains Support

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Recognizing the acute need to attract able personnel to deal with today's archival challenges, the Clark Internships are designed to bring new talent into this important field. The fund provides stipends for aspiring professionals and graduate students to work alongside State Archives personnel. Interns quickly become aware of the many intellectual and technical demands with which a state archival program must deal. Drawn from graduate programs in history and library science at Kentucky universities, the Clark Interns consistently have brought energy and enthusiasm to their various assignments.

Contributions, made payable to the Thomas D. Clark Endowment Fund, Inc., are tax deductible and should be sent to the Fund at P.O. Box 4224, Frankfort, Kentucky 40604. Please take time today to join in this important effort.

ing Shaker Records at Pleasant Hill." He provided an overview of his experiences, as well as some of the decisions facing Shakertown concerning the future use of its research materials and facilities.

Kandi Adkinson from the Secretary of State's Land Office concisely presented the history of land grants in Kentucky, and explained the important details researchers should remember when they need land records.

In wrapping up the day-long program, KDLA's System Control and Access Branch Manager, Jerry Carlton, emphasized the use of local and court records in genealogical research.

Plans for the 1991 Institute are already underway. Watch for an announcement in the new year!

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 for use the form on Page 4 of this newsletter to become a member and join us today in this important work,

Howard T. Goodpaster,
President

Thomas D. Clark Honored by State

Eminent Kentucky historian Thomas D. Clark was honored by the Kentucky General Assembly and the Friends and other colleagues at two special events during March at the State Capitol.

Dr. Clark was recognized by the legislature which appointed him "Historian Laureate of Kentucky" for life in a joint resolution during the 1990 session. The resolution, signed by Gov. Wallace G. Wilkinson on March 19, designated the former University of Kentucky history professor as the "exclusive holder of (the office of Historian Laureate) in grateful appreciation for all he has done for the citizens and the Commonwealth of Kentucky."



Thomas D. Clark
Historian Laureate of Kentucky

Following his introduction in the legislative chambers, Dr. Clark was greeted by colleagues at a special reception sponsored by the Friends organization in cooperation with the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.

Dr. Clark, regarded as the father of the Kentucky State Archives for his tireless efforts to ensure the systematic protection and preservation of the Commonwealth's documentary heritage, is a founding member of the Friends group.

Paducah, Danville Sites Friends Conduct Local Records Workshops

The Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., has added two more Local Records Workshops to its roster of successful outreach programs in communities across the state.

The campus of Paducah Community College was the site of a local records session last September which attracted more than 40 area genealogists and historians. Featured speaker, Dr. Carol Crowe-Carraco, professor of history at Western Kentucky University, discussed "Nearby History: A New Look at Local Government Resources" during the one-day meeting.

The program included a video introduction to records management issues, a presentation on document preservation, and a talk on the nature and importance of local government records by Dr. Frank Levstik, KDLA Local Records Regional Administrator.

Other KDLA staff members were joined by several local officials in panel discussions on various records management concerns. Area participants included Alice Dick, McCracken County Deputy Sheriff; James Jones, Livingston County Clerk; Lynn W. Lane, Ballard County Clerk; Angela Murphy, Clerk/Secretary of Paducah's city engineering department; Bonnie Owen, Carlisle County Clerk; Clara A. Creason of the Marshall County Genealogical and Historical Society; Larry G. Kelley, Ballard County Attorney, Elvira B. Lewis of the Jackson Purchase Historical Society, and Don Simmons of Simmons Historical Publications in Melber, Kentucky.

The scene moved from far western Kentucky to the Bluegrass this spring when another Local Records Workshop was presented in Danville. The

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Recent Accessions

The Local Records Film Grant program continues to make valuable historic records available for research purposes.

During the 1989-90 fiscal year, more than 2,200 rolls were added to KDLA's collection, thanks to grants that supported the filming of records in communities across Kentucky.

Much of the new film represents such important and familiar records as deeds, marriages, and wills from various Kentucky counties. However, many of the records made available by this program represent equally valuable, but little known, research sources.

An example of the latter is a newly accessioned Lyon County film, *Record of Slaves Recently Imported Into the State 1856-1859*. As early as 1798, Kentucky law prohibited the importation of slave property into the state for the purpose of sale. Another law, passed in 1815, required all slave-owning immigrants to file a certificate with the county clerk which stated that they had not brought their "property" into Kentucky for sales purposes. The Lyon County slave record illustrates how local officials attempted to insure compliance with such laws.

In Lyon County's *Record*, residents were required to list the names, ages, and sex of slaves brought into the county. They also were required to certify that the slaves they purchased were not "imported for sale or speculation, or to be treated as merchandise." Although this rare source contains only 17 pages, it yields valuable information on sources waiting to be discovered in other courthouse records throughout the Commonwealth.

Kentucky Colonels Award Grant to Friends

The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels has awarded a grant to the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., for the purchase of equipment to aid patrons of the Archives Research Room.

The Colonels presented the organization with a check for \$3,170 in May to purchase two new microfilm readers with zoom lens attachments. The gift enabled Research Room staff to replace two outdated readers which, due to heavy use, were almost beyond repair. The gift was a timely gesture, coming as it did at the beginning of the Research Room's busiest season.

The Friends greatly appreciate the Colonels' continued interest in and support of its programs.

Coming Attractions...

September 21, 1990

Local Records Workshop
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green

November 16, 1990

Friends Annual Meeting
Friends Public Archives Symposium
Lexington Public Library

Local Records Workshops Continue

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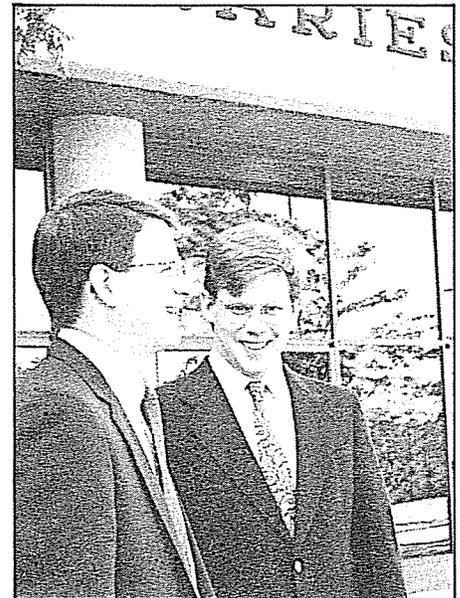
April 5 session attracted nearly 35 participants, including city officials, genealogists and historians. They heard Dr. Henry Everman of Eastern Kentucky University discuss "Use of Local Records in Historical Research" and William Kephart of Shakerstown at Pleasant Hill who talked about current Shaker research.

Again, panel discussions by KDLA staff members and local officials were conducted to cover basic issues, such as records management, access, and use. Officials who participated as panelists at the Danville event included John Nichols, Boyle County Clerk; Tom Raines, Whitley County Clerk; Gladys Thomas, president of Casey County's Bicentennial Heritage Commission, and Dr. Richard Brown of the Danville-Boyle County Historical Society.

The workshops were designed to give participants a greater understanding of the nature of local government records and of the need to manage them soundly in order to ensure their continued preservation.

Kirkwood Serves Summer Internship

Louisville native, Trace Kirkwood, recently completed a summer of work at the State Archives as the 1990 Clark Intern. Kirkwood, who received the M.A. degree in History last spring from Western Kentucky University, reviewed recent legislation affecting public records and compiled a number of articles and reports during his tenure.



Clark Intern Trace Kirkwood, right, talks with George Ellenberg, a Ph.D. candidate doing research at the Archives.

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 \$ _____

New Member	<input type="checkbox"/>
Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

I would like to receive a membership pin. _____

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