

for the Record

Devoted to Kentucky's State Archives and the Historical Record

Spring/Summer 2024

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I N S I D E

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Spreading the word about Kentucky History: Putting records into historical context

The Research Room at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) acts as the primary means of access to the archival records of the Commonwealth. Visitors can make use of over 70,000 rolls of microfilm and nearly 120,000 cubic feet of original records. The information documented on these rolls and original manuscripts can be grouped into three categories: Local, State, and Judicial Records.

Local records include marriages, probates, taxes, and deeds that serve as valuable sources for genealogists. Increasingly these records can be accessed remotely through organizations like Ancestry or FamilySearch. They can also be found preserved in their original format at the County Courthouses across Kentucky or in some cases available in the local history collections of the State's Public Libraries. Even as access to the records becomes simpler, interpretation and navigation of them continues to challenge many users.

The use of historical records can be negatively impacted by thinking primarily, if not solely, about what purposes the record can be used for in the present. This may mean as a genealogist we approach a local record of marriage for its value in demonstrating ancestral heritage. However, by neglecting to think of records in terms of their creation we are missing context that can inform our navigation and discovery and impact our interpretation. As we are further removed from the events of the past, the documents that record those events can become more alien to our modern understanding. A prime example of this are the birth and death records of Kentucky. Many researchers may set out on their exploration of the past with the expectation that vital records, like those of birth or death, have always been kept and will be available for each of their past ancestors. They may be frustrated by the apparent challenge of finding these records or distraught to learn that they do not exist.

Marriages provide more examples; they are filed in the County where the license was issued regardless of where the marriage ceremony took place. Failure to know or understand this can impact the ability of a researcher to find the marriage. Marriages of individuals under the age of 21 required the written permission of the parents. Bonds had to be secured in most Kentucky counties in advance of the License being issued. These written permissions and bonds often include names of parents or guardians and can be found for many counties among the loose papers often kept apart from Licenses and Certificates. *(cont'd on 5)*

"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 Holidays

The Archives Research Room is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Free parking is provided outside the KDLA building.

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming closures.

July 4	Thursday	Independence Day
July 19	Friday	Archives Institute
September 2	Monday	Labor Day

Appointments are encouraged.

Twenty-five Local Government Agencies Receive Grants to Preserve Records

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives' (KDLA) Local Records Program awarded twenty-five grants statewide in fiscal year 2024. These grant funds are made available through fees enacted by the Kentucky General Assembly to preserve and provide access to local public records. Any local government agency may apply for this grant.

This Program has provided many local agencies the means to support preservation so records of historical value may be available for years to come.

The 2024 Local Records Program grant funds have been awarded to the following recipients:

- Cycle 1:
- Adair County Clerk
 - Bell County Clerk
 - Carter County Clerk
 - Clinton County Clerk
 - Grant County Clerk
 - Graves County Clerk
 - Harlan County Clerk
 - Letcher County Clerk
 - Lewis County Clerk
 - Lexington-Fayette Health Department
 - Marshall Health Department
 - Menifee County Clerk
 - Morgan County Clerk
 - Paducah Fire Department
 - Perry County Clerk

(continued on page 5)

Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. Board of Directors

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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 Archives and Records Management 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.

The Thirty-Eighth Annual Kentucky Archives Institute

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

July 19, 2024

Second Floor, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

- 8:30 – 9:00 Registration
- 9:00 – 9:15 Welcome
Dave Schroeder, President, Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.
- 9:15 – 12:00 *“Preparing for Emergency Response and Wet Salvage of Collections”*
(Part of this will include a hands-on exercise, please dress comfortably and be prepared to get a little wet and dirty. We will have a break in between the talk and the exercise.)
Sara Holmes (Conservator for Archival Materials)
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 – 2:30 *“Oh My! What Now! I Need Help: Caring for Family Treasures”*
Photographs will fade and paper ages. What steps can you take to care for family Bibles, diaries, photographs, scrapbooks, etc.? This workshop will highlight how to properly care for, handle, display, and preserve family treasures.
Nancy Richey (Western Kentucky University)
- 2:30 – 2:45 Break
- 3:00 – 3:45 *“Digital Preservation and Digitization for the Home and Small Archives”*
Derek Clark (Electronic Records Branch Manager, KDLA)
- 3:45 – 4:00 Closing Remarks/Questions/Program Evaluations

Please clip and mail the form below, along with registration fee(s), by July 10.
Space is limited to 50 attendees.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Patterson at 502.564.8321 or Jennifer.Patterson@ky.gov.

Mail registration form with payment to: Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.
Kentucky Archives Institute
P.O. Box 4224
Frankfort, KY 40604

Registration fee: \$50 fee covers Institute materials and lunch.

Check here to reserve a vegetarian lunch. _____

Check here to reserve a gluten-free lunch. _____

Other Dietary Restrictions: _____

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

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

New faces at KDLA!

The State Records Branch welcomes a new Administrative Specialist. Diane Podrasky was born and raised in Louisville, KY and moved to Frankfort 18 years ago and has since called it home. Diane has been a server for most of her adult life but since 2020 has made her way up the administrative ladder that has finally brought her to KDLA. She has 4 boys that are all grown up, but they still make time to spend together. She loves to read and she loves nature. She has a dog, Lucy, and 2 cats, Ethel and Nina, who are treated just like her children. Diane's biggest passion are animals, their safety, their well-being and that every animal/pet should always feel loved.

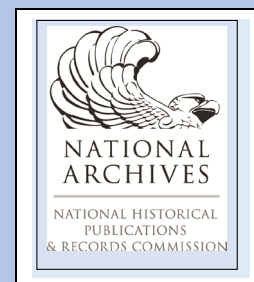
Zachary Jameson joined the Archives Research Room staff as an Archivist on May 1, 2024. He was born and raised in Bardwell, Carlisle County, Ky, and have lived all his life in the Jackson Purchase region. He always spent his time with something related to history, whether it was reading history books or watching shows about history. Zachary graduated from Carlisle County High School in 2016 and Murray State University in 2019 with a BA in History with a minor in Archaeology. In December 2021, he completed his MA in history at MSU. Outside of work, he enjoys playing video games and reading. He is excited to work at what he would consider a dream job and look forward to working with everyone at KDLA!

Elainé Gollihue joined KDLA in March of 2024. As the Electronic Records Archivist, the bulk of her time is spent maintaining KDLA's digital archive, which includes processing, describing, and uploading born-digital media to the archive. She holds a B.A. in History and Anthropology with a minor in Folklore and Mythology, as well as an M.A. in Applied Anthropology and an M.S. in Library Science, all from the University of Kentucky. Elainé grew up in Carter County and has recently moved to Frankfort. In her free time, she enjoys fiber arts, reading, and visiting cultural and historical sites.

Within the Local Records Branch, Brian Wixom has moved over to the North Central Regional Administrator position. His replacement as the Micrographics Quality Assurance Specialist is Julian Adams. She will help to ensure all microfilm that is received meets quality standards before it enters the archive. She grew up in Western Kentucky, surrounded by the vibrant arts community of Paducah and the natural beauty of Land Between the Lakes. She has spent her last few years studying in Lexington, graduating this past winter from the University of Kentucky with a B.A. in Arts Administration and a B.F.A. in Interior Design. Her passions include arts advocacy, sustainability, and historical preservation. In her free time, she enjoys going hiking, swimming, thrifting, and will enjoy a good book or crocheting with a good movie on a rainy day.

NHPRC Grant Update

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) grant for the project "*Early Court Cases and State-Granted Naturalizations*" is complete but the work continues. The Archives and Records Management (ARM) Division has completed scanning of all of the Kentucky General Court (1799-1850) Chancery and Common-Law cases. The Chancery case metadata is complete and those scans are being processed prior to ingest into the Kentucky State Digital Archives (KSDA). The Common Law case metadata is about 2/3rds complete. The project also includes the digitization of state-issued naturalization records (1820-1945), which consist of documents originating in twenty-nine Kentucky counties. These collections will be available in the KSDA at the end of the grant.



Local Government Agencies Receive Grants to Preserve Records cont'd

Cycle 2:

Bourbon County Clerk
City of Covington
Crittenden County Clerk
Crittenden County Fiscal Court
Henry County Clerk
Knott County Clerk
Logan County Clerk
Marshall County Clerk
Meade County Fiscal Court
Pike County Clerk

Four agencies also received new Emergency Grants:

Caldwell County Public Schools
Livingston County Clerk
Spencer County Clerk
Washington County Clerk

Kentucky State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) and Archives Month

Planning for Kentucky Archives Month is underway! If you have any events planned, please visit <https://archivesmonth.ky.gov/> to submit them, and we will include them in our events list! The State Historical Records Advisory Board is also seeking nominations for the Archives Month Awards! These are certificates of merit for writing or other production, teaching at all grade levels, notable service to and advocacy for archives in Kentucky by a private citizen or organization, notable service to and advocacy for archives in Kentucky by a public official, and significant service as an archivist. Nominations may be accepted at <https://archivesmonth.ky.gov/>. The deadline for nominations is September 15, 2024.

(cont'd from page 1) As access to the records continues to be simplified, we are finding that our role is changing. The State Archives will continue to act in its capacity to preserve these records, however, the need of our organization to act as a provider of access to some of the records in our custody has seen less and less demand. Employing our intimate knowledge of these records to educate the potential users of them is a need that demands more of our attention and time even as we support access less. You may take advantage of these efforts through the guides and handouts published on our [website](#).

We also offer to speak to your users, those of the local history collections in the public libraries across the Commonwealth, or the Genealogical groups, the school classes, at the conferences and programs of these groups and more. Topics might include; Vital Records, Naturalization Records, Circuit Court Records, County / Local Records, Tax Records, Land Records, or other information about Kentucky history. If you are interested in having a member of the Research Room at the State Archives speak with your group on one of these topics or another you'd like to propose please reach out to us at: kdla.archives@ky.gov or call us at 502-564-1770.

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: _____ Email: _____

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.

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Frankfort, Kentucky 40604
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Cumberland Falls Employees Show off New Uniforms, 1961:
Tourism Photo Collection, Archives and Records Management Division – Kentucky
Department for Libraries and Archives.