

# for the Record

Devoted to Kentucky's State Archives and the Historical Record

Fall 2006

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I N S I D E

**State Archives  
Research Opportunities**

**2006 Public  
Archives Symposium**

**Archives week  
Highlights**

**Making a Difference:  
A Holiday Reminder**

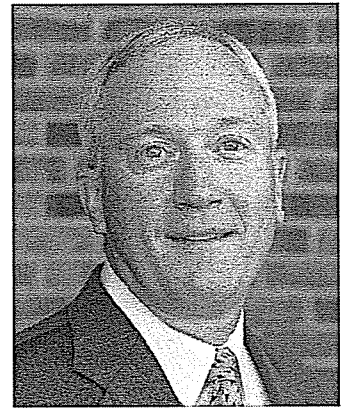
## Family Heritage Focus of 2006 Kentucky Archives Week

*Fifth annual event featured exhibits, lectures, proclamations, and awards*

This year's **Kentucky Archives Week** celebrated the theme of "Family Heritage", and during the week of October 8-14, archives and manuscript repositories of all kinds, as well as communities across the state, paused to recognize the importance of the state's legacy of historical records and of the work of those who preserve and make these valuable resources available for research. Proclamations recognizing the occasion were issued by a variety of local governments, including Louisville Metro, the Lexington/Fayette Urban County Government, and Boyd, Bullitt, Clinton, Franklin, Henry, Laurel, Lincoln, Madison, Marion, Mercer, Metcalfe, Rockcastle, Trimble, and Washington Counties.

Archivists at institutions across the state encouraged the public to become more familiar with their holdings through open houses, special exhibits, links to their web sites, tours and lectures. In Lexington, a two day event titled *The Idea of the Athens of the West: Central Kentucky in American Culture, 1792-1852*, featured a rich variety of sessions dealing with music, design, education, the lives of women, race, the working world, religion, political life, and other topics. University of Kentucky librarians Kazuko Hioki and Deirdre Scaggs discussed the proper ways to store and display family treasures at an October 10<sup>th</sup> event at the Tates Creek Branch of the Lexington Public Library. At the University of Kentucky, Pulitzer-prize winning editorial cartoonist Joel Pett spoke on his work and the significance of editorial cartoons. The University of Louisville's Archives and Records Center (A&RC) held Open House events on October 9-12 to encourage the public to learn more about university records and U of L's historical manuscript collections. U of L's A&RC also opened an exhibit of materials documenting Kentucky-Hollywood connections, donated by famed collector Ward Harrison. The Center of Excellence for the Study of Kentucky African Americans (CESKAA) at Kentucky State University opened an exhibit focusing on the life and career of Winona Lee Fletcher, a nationally recognized theatre educator and pioneer researcher of the Negro wing of the Federal Theatre Project. Fletcher's teaching career began at Kentucky State in 1951. At the State Archives, "brown bag" lunches were held and featured presentations by Archives' public service staff members. Archives Research Room supervisor Jim Prichard spoke on *Clergymen and Congregations: Church Records as Genealogical Sources*; Walter Bowman covered *The Great War: World War I (Military Resources at KDLA)*; and Lisa Thompson discussed *The Path to Citizenship: Immigration and Naturalization Records*. On October 12<sup>th</sup>, Prichard was also the featured monthly speaker at the October meeting of the Frankfort/Bluegrass chapter of ARMA.

*Cont. pg. 5*



### *KDLA Welcomes New Director*

Wayne Onkst has been named the new state librarian and commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) by Governor Ernie Fletcher. He has served as director of the Kenton County Public Library since 1999. Onkst is succeeding retiring State Librarian James Nelson, who has served for 26 years. Nelson said that Onkst's "expertise as both a librarian and historian make him an excellent choice to lead the agency." He will begin his new duties November 16.

**Plan to join us!  
Public Archives  
Symposium  
& Friends' Annual Meeting  
Shaker Village  
Friday, November 17  
Please See Insert**

*"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!

November 10 – Friday	Veteran's Day
November 17 – Friday*	Archives Symposium & Friends' Annual Meeting
December 25 & 26	Christmas
Dec. 29 & Jan 1, 2007	New Years Holiday
Jan. 15 - Monday	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

\* Closed after 12 p.m.

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

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\* Deceased

## Research Opportunities at the State Archives

Naturalization is the process by which an immigrant becomes a citizen of the United States. It is a privilege and a voluntary act – not mandatory. Naturalization laws differed over the years, and application of those laws varied greatly.

The U.S. Congress passed the first law regulating naturalization in 1790, declaring that an alien could become naturalized in any court having "...common-law jurisdiction, and a seal and clerk." Thus, naturalization records can be found in federal, state, county or city level court records. This continued until 1940 when the naturalization process became the sole responsibility of the federal government. Post-1940 federal records are located in the Southeast Regional Branch of the National Archives near Atlanta, Georgia.

As a general rule, naturalization required two steps and took a minimum of five years. After residing in the United States for two years, a **declaration of intent** (also called "first papers") could be filed. After three additional years, the alien could file a **petition for naturalization** (also called "last papers"), resulting in the issuing of a certificate of citizenship. These two steps did not have to occur in the same court.

There were several exceptions to the general "two-step, five-year" rule. First, derivative citizenship was granted to wives and minor children of naturalized men from 1790 to 1922. Second, from 1824-1906, minor aliens who had lived in the United States five years before their 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday could file both their declaration and petition at the same time. Finally, special consideration was given veterans when an 1862 law allowed honorably discharged Army veterans of any war to petition for naturalization after only one year of residence, without having previously filed a declaration of intent. From 1918-1919 aliens serving in the U.S. armed forces could also bypass the first step of the naturalization process and were not required to prove five years residency in the U.S. prior to filing.

Early naturalization records (1792-1905) vary greatly in content and form, as do the locations of these records. Indexing also varies greatly. Fortunately, several Kentucky counties and cities kept separate naturalization records, especially during the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

For example, within Campbell County, one may find a naturalization record as rich in information as that of John McGraves, who filed a copy of his Declaration of Intent in the 1850's. Originally filed in Northampton County, Pennsylvania in 1831, the declaration reveals he was born about 1806 in Dollyneuss, County Armagh, Ireland, and in June 1827 he sailed to the U.S. from Belfast, arriving at Moore Island in August 1827. He then lived in Easton, Pennsylvania for four years, working as a laborer.

Early naturalization records can be found in Court Records, especially within Circuit Court Order Books and case files, County Court Order Books, and Police Court Order Books. For example, several naturalizations were recorded January 17, 1854 in a Lexington Police Court Order Book. The following notation reveals that sometimes naturalization was a rather informal process: "Make an entry in record of the declaration of intention of [those]...who have taken the oath before me. They do not wish to take out their papers now but will do so when they have more money."

Sometimes other courts handled naturalizations, such as Chancery Courts or Courts of Common Pleas. It is also important to remember that naturalization records may be indexed in many

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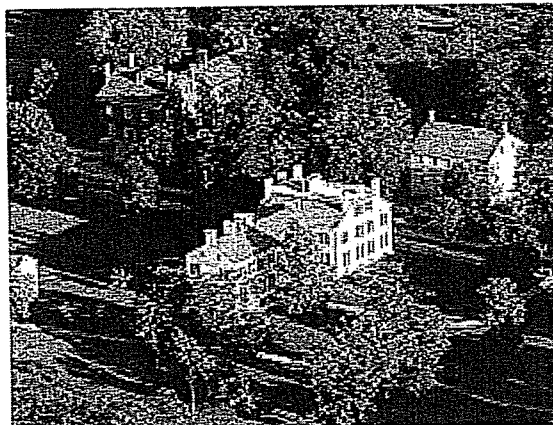
# The Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.

invites you to its

Eighteenth Annual Public Archives Symposium  
and Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon

Friday, November 17, 2006

Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, Kentucky  
3501 Lexington Road  
Harrodsburg, Kentucky



## Annual Meeting

10:00 Friends Annual Business Meeting  
*West Lot Dwelling*

11:30 Luncheon  
*Trustees' Office*

## Public Archives Symposium

1:00 Symposium Address  
*West Lot Dwelling*



The Friends are pleased to present Kent Masterson Brown as the featured speaker at the eighteenth annual Public Archives Symposium on Friday, November 17, 2006. Brown, an attorney in Lexington, will discuss his recently published study, *Retreat from Gettysburg: Lee, Logistics and the Pennsylvania Campaign*.



*The Symposium is free and open to the public.  
There is a \$24.00 charge for the luncheon.*

The registration fee for the luncheon is \$24.00 per person. (Fees are not refundable.) I am enclosing a check made payable to the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to register the following persons: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail checks in the enclosed envelope.  
**Deadline is Monday, November 13, 2006.**

Please renew my membership in / enroll me as a member in the **Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.** for 2007. My check for \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., is enclosed. Membership benefits include a quarterly newsletter, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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### Membership levels:

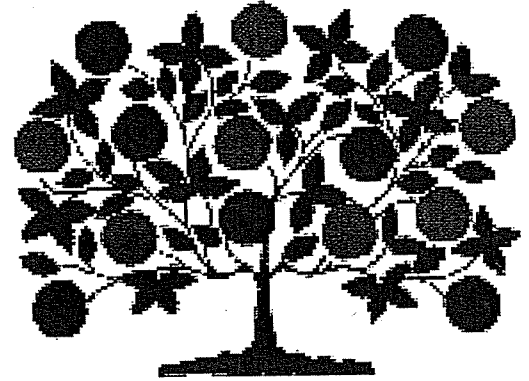
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 Individual or Family
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Libraries, Genealogical and Historical Societies
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Sustaining
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 Life
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 Corporate

## ***About the Speaker***

Kent Masterson Brown is an attorney in Lexington, Kentucky. He is author of *Cushing of Gettysburg: The Story of a Union Artillery Commander* and editor of *The Civil War in Kentucky*. He was the first chairman of the Gettysburg National Military Park Advisory Commission and the first chairman of the Perryville Battlefield Commission. He writes, hosts and produces video documentaries with Talking History, LLC, which is currently producing ten documentaries on the great campaigns of the Western theater of the Civil War for public broadcasting.

## ***About the Book***

*Retreat From Gettysburg* was a selection of the History Book Club and the Military Book Club. It has received the 2005 Bachelder-Coddington Literary Award and 2005 James I. Robertson Jr. Literary Prize for Confederate History, Robert E. Lee Civil War Roundtable of Central New Jersey, and the 2005 Distinguished Writing Award, Army Historical Foundation.



## ***Critical Response to Retreat from Gettysburg***

Brown's *Retreat from Gettysburg* has received wide praise in specialized journals and the general press:

"Brown has broken new ground here in spectacular fashion."--James I. Robertson Jr., *Roanoke Times*

"...a compelling story that heretofore has received only limited attention..." *Washington Times*

"Beyond being a great read, *Retreat from Gettysburg* is exceptionally well researched..." "that the author spent twenty years gathering source material is readily apparent after viewing the impressive array of archival sources listed in the bibliography. Such skillful use of these primary sources provides the reader with probably the best account to date of a Civil War army's retreat after a major battle. . . . This remarkable book deserves the highest of recommendations."--*North & South*

"a must read for students of battle and a testimony to the hellishness of war."--Harry W. Pfanz, author of *Gettysburg--The Second Day*

"...Brown's *Retreat from Gettysburg* is a tour de force in Civil War writing. . . . With Brown you get the real deal. He does history the old-fashioned way-years of research with careful and thoughtful writing."--*America's Civil War*

"Using an impressive array of untapped source material, Kent Brown has written the first detailed narrative on the Confederate retreat from Gettysburg." D. Scott Hartwig, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

*Research Opportunities cont. from pg. 2*

different ways, including: Naturalizations, Declaration of Intention, Petitions, Citizenship papers, Alien records, Oaths, or Certificates. Locations for these records can be found by consulting the Research Room finding aids (County Guides and City Guides).

Uniformity in naturalization records began in 1906, when the Bureau of Immigration and naturalization was created. The forms created by the newly-formed bureau provide many details about the immigrants, including date and place of emigration and date of arrival in the United States, names and date/place of birth of each person in petitioner's family, and occupations. If the petitioner wished to change his/her name, the record includes both names, and what could be the first signature made by the petitioner using the new name. For example, Constantine B. Petrakos, born in Greece, changed his name to Charles Petros when he filed a Declaration of Intention in Campbell County in 1910. Other information listed was the "last foreign residence" and dates petitioner lived there; a physical description of the immigrant, as well as his/her current address.

Because Naturalization papers could be filed in any court of common law with a clerk and a seal until 1940, there are many of these which remained in the County Clerk's office and then were transferred to the State Archives. At least 50 volumes representing over 20 counties exist in the State Archives' holdings and are available through the Archives Research Room.

Although most federal naturalization records filed in Kentucky remain in the Atlanta Regional Branch of the National Archives, parts of those have been microfilmed. KDLA recently purchased copies of microfilmed naturalization records originally filed between 1887 and 1939 in the Western District of Kentucky, U.S. District Court office, located in Louisville. These 14 rolls of microfilm include Declarations of Intention and Naturalization Petitions, as well as an index to the petitions.

Whether researching Italian laborers in coal mines or an individual ancestor, naturalization records can provide many rich details about immigrants who lived in Kentucky from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards.



Friends of Kentucky Public Archives Inc.



## A Holiday Reminder:



Gifts to the Friends are tax deductible, and a Friends membership makes a wonderful holiday gift. Services at the State Archives are feeling the impact of the state's acute revenue shortfall, and your support of Friends programs can help bridge that gap in funding. Whether you choose to support the Thomas D. Clark internship through a Friends' life membership, honor a friend or family member with a gift to the Friends in their name, or give an unrestricted gift to the Friends, your help can really make a difference. Please consider a directed gift to the Friends today. Thank you very much.

*Cont. from pg. 1*

Prichard spoke on *The Past in Public Records: Discovering Your Kentucky Records at the State Archives*. Genealogist Sheri Pettit presented *Preserving Your Past for your Future* at the Boyd County Public Library main branch, on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Please visit the 2006 Kentucky Archives Week web site, <http://www.kdla.ky.gov/events/archivesweek/default.htm> for a list of events, proclamations, and Archives Week awards. Many exhibits are running beyond the dates of Archives Week.

Thanks and congratulations to all those institutions and individuals who took part this year and to the Archives Week Coordinating Committee for its fine work in making it happen. Please plan to participate next year, either as a visitor or as a host institution. It's not too soon to begin thinking about the 2007 event, so watch this newsletter for updates on partnering, planning and opportunities for next year.

*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.





*Ginning the sorghum cane to make syrup. On the road between Jackson (Breathitt County) and Campton (Wolfe County). (This photograph is from records of the Farm Security Administration, in the State Archives holdings, Public Records Division, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives).*

Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.  
P.O. Box 4224  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40604