



# for the Record

Devoted to Kentucky's State Archives and the Historical Record

Fall 2024

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## Rusty Heckaman Appointed State Archivist

The Executive Leadership Team would like to announce that Rusty Heckaman has been appointed State Archivist for the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. The State Archivist is the Division Director for the Archives and Records Management Division. As the State Archivist, he will oversee the Archives and Records Management Division, which is comprised of the Archival Services Branch, Electronic Records Branch, Local Records Branch, and State Records Branch. The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) look forward to having him in this role.

The interview panel were most impressed with Heckaman's excellent presentation skills, extensive and varied background, and commitment to outreach and promotion of the division and the agency. Prior to coming to KDLA, Rusty was an instructor librarian at Austin Community College, and an Archivist at the Austin History Center, American Academy of Pediatrics, and Abbot Laboratories. He has been the Research Room Supervisor since 2021 where he has worked to make the resources more accessible to researchers, genealogists, and patrons. Rusty has also championed our collaboration with FamilySearch. Rusty has a bachelor's degree in history from Indiana University South Bend and a master's degree in library science from Indiana University Purdue University of Indianapolis. He is actively involved in the Professional Archival Community including the Kentucky Council on Archives and the Society of American Archivists.

"To hold a position entrusted with the continued preservation of Kentucky's history is a privilege I will not take for granted. I am fortunate not only to play a role in this work but to be supported in these efforts by a passionate group of professionals dedicated to the continued collection and access of the documents recording these stories."

**Rusty Heckaman**  
State Archivist, Kentucky  
Department for Libraries and  
Archives



*"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.

November 5, 11	Election, Veterans Day
November 28-29	Thanksgiving
December 24-25, 31-Jan 1	Christmas and New Years

**Appointments are encouraged.**

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## Intern Report

Maegan Mohr joined KDLA as an intern this summer from Eastern Kentucky University's history program. Here is her report on her time with us:

My experience at KDLA this summer exceeded my expectations. As a history student, it was exciting to get a chance to be around primary sources and immerse myself in historic documents every day. One of my favorite parts was getting to work with civil case documents and read snippets from the lives of people who lived over one hundred years ago. I enjoyed trying to decipher their handwriting and looking up old-fashioned legal terminology when I was stumped. On top of this, I am walking away with a better understanding of archival practices. Even learning about some of the limitations facing the industry, such as the vast number of records versus limited amount of space, will make me more understanding when I go to other archives for my own research in the future.

I was not sure what to expect when I started my internship in July, but the staff in the Archives branch was so welcoming and willing to answer any questions I had. I am grateful to Denise and Dena for passing my information on to the Archives department after my interview so that I had a chance to learn about the side of the field that I was most passionate about, and to Jennifer and Rusty for welcoming me to this tightknit group. I value the connections I have made with wonderful people during my time here and I deeply appreciate their collective commitment to ensuring that I walked away from this experience having learned as much as I could.

*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.*

## Local Government Agencies Receive Emergency Grants

These agencies have been awarded emergency grants for preservation and restoration of important records.

Hancock County Clerk  
Calloway County Clerk  
Logan County Clerk  
Pendleton County Clerk  
City of Russellville  
Greenup County Clerk  
Shelby County Clerk  
Breckinridge County Clerk  
Cumberland County Clerk  
Henry County Clerk  
Meade County Clerk  
Christian County Clerk  
Wayne County Clerk  
Owen County Clerk  
Hopkins County Clerk

## Former KDLA Commissioner Passed Away in September

Jim Nelson was the Kentucky state librarian and commissioner of the Department for Libraries and Archives for 26 years. He was a true gentleman who was dedicated to Kentucky libraries. He was always looking for new ways to provide library services to all Kentuckians and was well respected in the field across the country.

Jim was kind and consistently helpful to all. He provided guidance to many young library directors over the years and encouraged library growth and expansion, especially in underserved areas of the Commonwealth.

Jim also had a fondness for KY history and never forgot about the important role the state archives play in the preservation of our past. He remained connected to libraries through KLA and to the State Archives through the Friends of the Kentucky Public Archives.

Jim was chair of the Kentucky Information Systems Commission (later Kentucky Information Resources Management Commission) soon after its creation by the legislature, laying the groundwork for decades of cooperation between the archives and the information technology agency.

Jim had a special interest in advocacy and encouraged libraries of all types to work with their leaders on the local, county and state levels. In many ways, he nurtured the seeds of library advocacy in Kentucky and is responsible for encouraging all libraries to promote their services. It wasn't unusual to get a news clipping in the mail or a note from Jim congratulating you and your library on an accomplishment. Jim was a thoughtful, dedicated human being who took great pride in being a librarian.

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.

Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.  
P.O. Box 4224  
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



Tuba Player with "My Old Kentucky Home" music, undated:  
Public Information Photo Collection, Archives and Records Management Division –  
Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.