

for the Record

Devoted to Kentucky's State Archives and the Historical Record

Fall/Winter 2008

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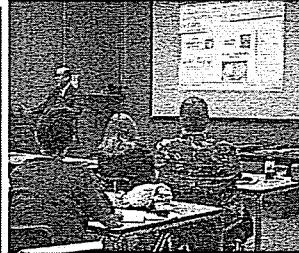
I N S I D E

**Senator Tom
Garrett's Papers**

**Donations Help Expand
Research Room Collection**

**Registration for the
Archives Symposium**

**Archives Institute
Photos**



State Archives Celebrates 50 Years of the Public Records Law

Kentucky Archives Month is special to those of us in the Public Records Division this year, because we commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Kentucky's Public Records Law. This statute assigns broad power and responsibility for managing public records to the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives and to the State Archives and Records Commission. The law provides that public records will be created and retained to guarantee the rights of citizens, document the actions of government, and ensure accountability of public officials. Kentucky's Public Records Law is one of the strongest in the nation.

The Public Records Law had its genesis in 1936, when Dr. Thomas D. Clark and Dr. James Martin of the University of Kentucky learned that several trucks, packed with public records taken from the state Capitol building, were ready to depart for a scrap dealer in Louisville. Dr. Clark and Dr. Martin raced to Frankfort in the pre-dawn hours, awakened Governor A. B. "Happy" Chandler, and secured the Governor's approval for removing those records to the University of Kentucky for safekeeping, rather than selling them for scrap.

That evening solidified Dr. Clark's belief that Kentucky needed a central state archives and records management program, so he and other like-minded individuals worked for twenty years to secure passage of a public records law. In reading his correspondence from those twenty years, Dr. Clark's indefatigable devotion to the importance of the public

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Kentucky Archives Month Observed

Kentuckians throughout the Commonwealth will celebrate their rich archival heritage during the first annual Kentucky Archives Month in October 2008. The theme of Kentucky Archives Month is "Celebrating the Commonwealth Record", which commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of Kentucky's Public Records Law. For the past six years, Kentucky has observed Archives Week through a week-long celebration during October. This year we are pleased to announce a transition to a month-long celebration to be held each year in October. Kentucky's Archives Month also coincides with a national celebration of American Archives Month.

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"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

The Archives Research Room is open to the public from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Free parking is provided outside the KDLA building.

Upcoming closures, please mark your calendars!

November 4	Tuesday	Election Day
November 11	Tuesday	Veteran's Day
November 27-28	Thursday-Friday	Thanksgiving
December 25-26	Thursday-Friday	Christmas
January 1-2	Thursday-Friday	New Year's

Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. Board of Directors

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printed twice annually.

*Deceased

Research Opportunities at the State Archives Senator Tom Garrett Papers

The governors' papers are among the most historically significant collections available at the State Archives. Since we do have the official papers of most Kentucky governors, researchers often ask whether we have the papers of members of the legislature as well. Unfortunately, very little record material from individual legislators has ever been transferred to the State Archives.

One notable exception would be the papers of Tom Garrett, a Democrat from Paducah who served in the State Senate from 1962-1978. Garrett held the office of Senate Majority Floor Leader during the 1974, 1976 and 1978 sessions of the General Assembly. After his death in 1979, a collection of his papers was given to Paducah Community College, which later donated those records to Murray State University. In December 2007, the unprocessed papers were transferred to KDLA as a more appropriate repository, since they document Garrett's official activities as a State Senator. The records have now been arranged and described and are available for research.

Garrett served in the State Senate for nearly twenty years; however, the records in this collection cover the 1976 session almost exclusively. About half of the records consist of constituent correspondence, in which citizens from Garrett's district and around the state wrote letters urging him to support or oppose various proposed legislation. Judging by the volume of correspondence, the most pressing issue for many Kentuckians during the 1976 session seems to have been the Equal Rights Amendment. Garrett's papers include impassioned letters from concerned citizens on both sides of this debate.

The remainder of the Garrett collection consists of administrative records documenting the activities of the Senate and Garrett's role as Majority Floor Leader, including drafts of proposed legislation, resolutions and amendments; Senate roll call sheets; Senate orders of the day; and Senate Rules Committee reports.

While the Garrett collection is not large, it does provide an interesting window into the everyday workings of the Senate, and gives a unique perspective on the concerns and issues important to Kentuckians in the mid-1970s. Researchers interested in political and social history will find these records to be especially valuable.

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record in our lives speaks on every page. He spent time writing each governor, many legislators, and other constitutional officers, urging that a law be passed. Legislation created a Records Control Board in 1950, but the board was given only limited authority. The Kentucky General Assembly finally passed legislation modeled on the federal laws dealing with government records in 1958.

At the time the Public Records Law was enacted, Kentucky had no archival facility for state and local government records. Fifty years later, the central state archives now holds over 100,000 cubic feet of permanent public records from state and local offices, and two records center facilities provide cost effective storage for an additional 195,000 cubic feet of non-permanent records. In 1958, there was no control over government records; now there are strong records management regulations, policies, and procedures in place for both state and local government agencies. From being one of the last states to have a central archival and records management authority, Kentucky is now in the forefront on many issues and projects, including a model local records grant and assistance program and over twenty years of work on electronic records demonstration and research grants.

Kentucky's Public Records Law rests on shared responsibility between the State Archives and Records Commission, the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, and the agency creating the records. In making records management decisions, the originating agency provides expertise on why records are created and how they are used; KDLA provides professional records management assistance; and the Commission supplies checks, balances, and protections through its review by a diverse membership. It has worked well for fifty years, and works well today.

As the seventh state archivist in these fifty years, I take great pride in the responsibility for carrying out Kentucky's efficient and practical public records law. I appreciate Dr. Clark's foresight in recognizing the need for a strong statute, and his perseverance in pursuing this goal for so many years. I've personally watched this law in action for twenty-five years, and have seen the wisdom of this tiered, deliberative process and the shared responsibility for records management, by the Commission, by KDLA, and by the agency that creates the records. The documentation of our

Archival Services Branch Manager Appointed

Many members of the Friends organization will be pleased that a familiar face has been promoted within the Public Records Division. Tim Tingle is the Manager of KDLA's Archival Services Branch, succeeding current State Archivist and Records Administrator, Barbara



Teague. Tim was promoted to the manager's position beginning August 16, 2008, and had been acting manager for six months before that.

Tim has been with KDLA since February 1986, most recently as the supervisor of Arrangement and Description and as KDLA's Appraisal Archivist. He began his career at KDLA in the Archives Research Room. With his years of experience in all areas of the Archival Services Branch, he brings a public service orientation, a thorough familiarity with KDLA's processes and procedures, and extensive knowledge of KDLA's holdings to his new position.

As Branch Manager, Tim will oversee the State Archives Center, including accessioning and appraisal activities; manage KDLA's Archives Research Room and all customer service activities; oversee the Kentucky Guide Program; coordinate public outreach activities for the Public Records Division; and assist with the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.

Tim has both a B.A. and an M.A. in History from Eastern Kentucky University. He is a native of Bardstown, Kentucky, and currently resides in Frankfort.

government is made better through the precedents and processes of the Kentucky Public Records Law.

As always, Dr. Clark, our mentor and friend, said it best. At a dinner given in his honor in 1984 by the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, he said "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."

-Barbara Teague

Making a Difference

The Archives Research Room will be expanding its collection soon due to the generous donations made by Donna Stark Thompson and Col. (ret) Armando Alfaro. Ms. Thompson's donation will be used to purchase delayed or special birth certificates and affidavits on microfilm for individuals born between 1870 and 1910. Colonel Alfaro's gift will be used to purchase Kentucky State Guard records and National Guard enlistments for individuals born between 1875 and 1920. Both of these collections will prove extremely valuable for researchers examining the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

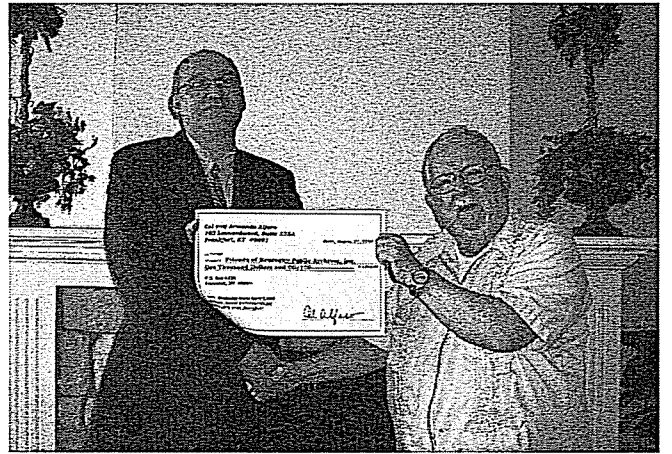
**Thank you so much for your help!
We really appreciate it!**

Please Note

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives walk-in customer service hours have changed. The building is now open from 10 am until 4 pm, Monday through Friday. Staff will be available by telephone from 8 am until 10 am. This change took place September 1, 2008.



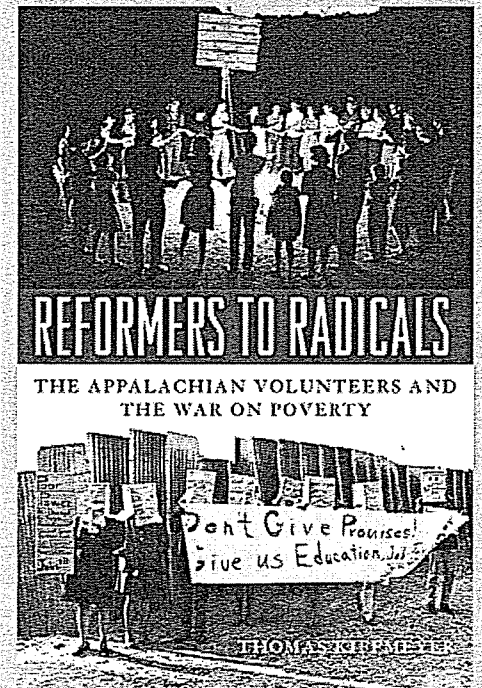
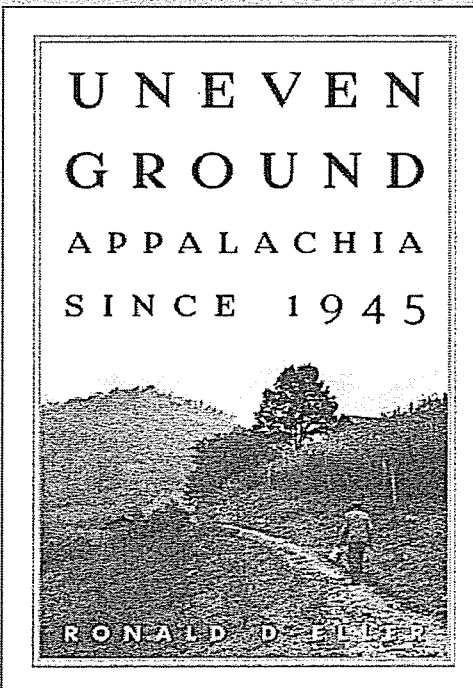
Acting Research Room Supervisor Walter Bowman receives a donation from Donna Stark Thompson.



Acting Research Room Supervisor Walter Bowman receives a donation from Col. (ret) Al Alfaro.

Symposium Speakers to Focus on Appalachia

The Friends are pleased to present Dr. Thomas Kiffmeyer and Dr. Ronald D. Eller as featured speakers at the twentieth annual Public Archives Symposium on October 23, 2008. Both speakers are authors of new studies in Appalachian history, which were published by the University Press of Kentucky in October. Kiffmeyer, an associate professor of history at Morehead State University, will discuss **Reformers to Radicals: The Appalachian Volunteers and the War on Poverty**. Eller, a professor of history at the University of Kentucky, will speak about **Uneven Ground: Appalachia Since 1945**.



The Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.

invites you to its

Twentieth Annual Public Archives Symposium
and Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon

Thursday, October 23, 2008

Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill
3501 Lexington Road
Harrodsburg, Kentucky

Annual Meeting

10:00 Friends' Annual Business Meeting

11:30 Luncheon (Trustees' Office Dining Room)
(Pecan Chicken will be the main entrée. Herb Chicken
may be substituted, if requested when pre-registering.)

2:00 Public Archives Symposium
(West Lot Dwelling - Meeting Room A)

About the Speakers

Dr. Ronald Eller will discuss his recently published book *Uneven Ground: Appalachia Since 1945*. Dr. Eller is former director of the Appalachian Center and professor of history at the University of Kentucky.

Dr. Thomas Kiffmeyer will discuss his book *Reformers to Radicals: The Appalachian Volunteers and the War on Poverty*. Dr. Kiffmeyer is associate professor of history at Morehead State University and has written numerous reviews and articles.

Both books will be available for purchase at the Symposium.

Reply Card - 2008 Friends' Annual Business Luncheon and Symposium

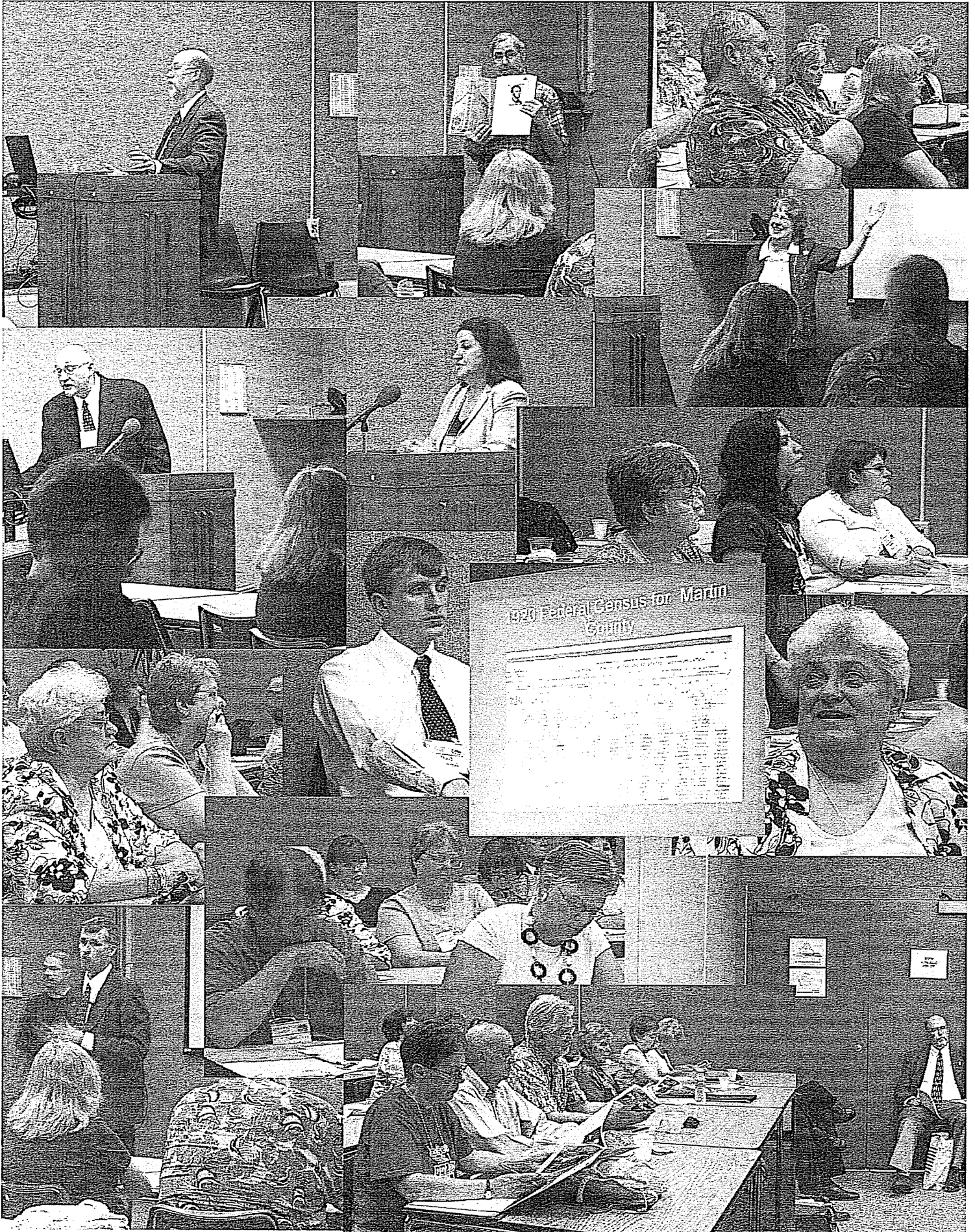
(Please include the names of all those who are pre-registering.) Symposium seating is limited to 80.

Lunch Registration Deadline is Friday, October 17, 2008

I am enclosing a check made payable to the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. for \$27 per person to register the following persons:

For further information: contact Tim Tingle, 502.564.8300 x. 202. or Tim.Tingle@ky.gov.
Please clip and mail to: **Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.**
P. O. Box 4224
Frankfort, KY 40604

ARCHIVES INSTITUTE 2008



Almost 300 archival and manuscript repositories in Kentucky hold archival records that document the history of Kentucky's families.

Their holdings include personal papers, photographs, bibles, diaries, letters, and government records, such as marriage certificates and wills. Many of these institutions are hosting special programs, open houses, exhibits, and speakers to highlight historical materials available for research in Kentucky archival and manuscript repositories, all listed on the Kentucky Archives Month website (<http://archivesmonth.ky.gov>).

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) will host a weekly Lunch and Learn series each Tuesday during the month of October. On October 7, David Kirkpatrick will discuss KDLA's Works Progress Administration (WPA) Collection. Jane Minder will give an overview of Kentucky's State Publications Program on October 14; followed by an introduction to Kentucky's E-Archives given by Mark Myers on October 21. Walter Bowman will conclude our Lunch and Learn series on October 28 with a presentation concerning Eastern European Immigration to Eastern Kentucky. Each talk will begin at noon in the Conference Room at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, 300 Coffee Tree Road in Frankfort. Participants are welcome to bring a brown bag lunch.

Kentucky Archives Month is sponsored by the Kentucky State Historical Records Advisory Board, the Kentucky Council on Archives, and the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.

For further information, contact Valerie Edgeworth at 502.564.8300 x. 246. or via email at: Valerie.Edgeworth@ky.gov

KDLA Employee Retires

Connie Renfroe, longtime employee of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA), and strong supporter of the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., retired July 31, 2008 after twenty-four years of dedicated service.

Connie came to the Public Records Division in 1984, to work for the newly created Local Records Branch. She was an integral part of this branch, which was charged with administering a grant program to provide records management and archival assistance for local government agencies.



Connie later became an administrative specialist and assistant to the State Archivist for nineteen years. She played an important role in the management of the Public Records Division. Her unflinching work ethic, enthusiasm, good humor, and commitment to the State Archives and the Friends are well documented, and she will be greatly missed.



Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.

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 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.

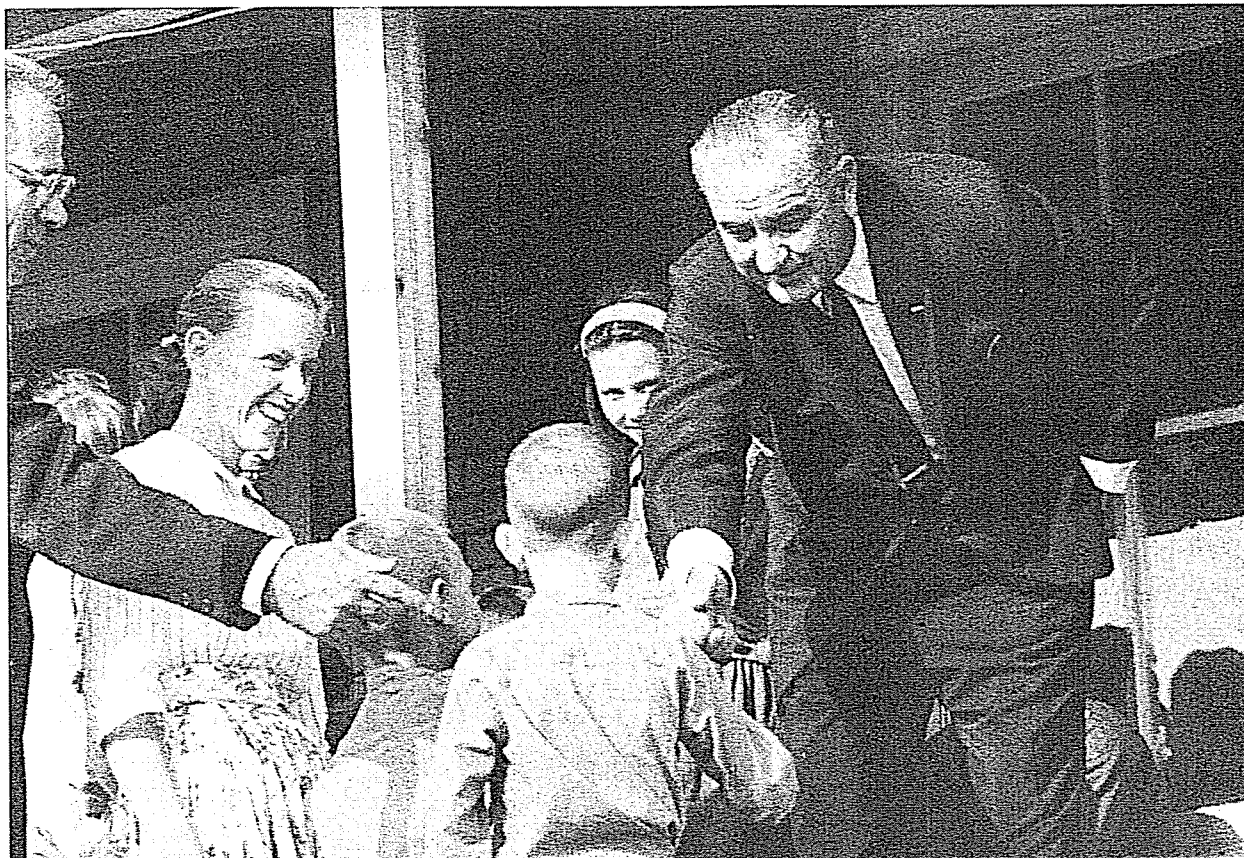
Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Telephone: _____ 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.



In April 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson visited Paintsville and Inez, in Johnson and Martin Counties, as part of his "War on Poverty" program. (This photograph is from the Office of the Governor, Edward T. Breathitt Collection, in the State Archives holdings of the Public Records Division, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.)

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