

for the Record

Devoted to Kentucky's State Archives and the Historical Record

Summer 2000

I N S I D E

1,3,4
*Archives
Institute
Draws Crowd*

2
*Newly
Available
at the
State Archives*

4
*Research
Room
Hours
& Closings*

5
*How
You
Can Help!*



Participants enjoyed the opportunity to interact with Institute speakers Brandon Slone, of the Military Records and Research Library, Department of Military Affairs, in Frankfort, and David Petree, National Personnel Records Center, National Archives and Records Administration, in St. Louis. The Institute always allows ample time for questions and personal conversation.

Grant Improves Metcalfe Records Storage, Accessibility

Records in the office of Metcalfe County Clerk Carol England are more conveniently stored, more easily accessible, and better preserved, all thanks to a Local Records grant from the Department for Libraries and Archives.

England's office was the recipient of a \$34,946 Local Records Program grant during Fiscal Year 1999-2000. Ms. England used the grant funds to purchase shelving and desks for the county's records room. The roller shelving with a mobile carriage and two roller desks will provide the county's records room with more storage as well as easier accessibility. Storage capacity has been doubled allowing for approximately five years growth.

updated records room which will make it easier to access public records," England said. Installation of the new equipment was completed in February 2000.



Metcalfe County Clerk Carol England proudly shows off the grant funded records roller shelving to State Librarian and Commissioner Jim Nelson.

"I am very happy that the citizens of Metcalfe County will have an

The grant to Metcalfe is just one of dozens from KDLA's Local Records Program which have helped local officials bring tremendous improvements to managing and preserving records in their care. The Program awards more than fifty grants to local government agencies each year. Totaling approximately \$630,000 annually, these grants are designed to protect vital local records and to improve records management conditions in local government offices. They have done so in every county in the state.

Annual Archives Institute Presents New Options to Attendees

A familiar July event introduced old and new faces to opportunities for historical and genealogical research in Kentucky's public records. A capacity

crowd at KDLA's Activity Room enjoyed a full day of speakers at the 16th annual Kentucky Archives Institute, jointly sponsored by the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., and the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA). The program included sessions on Kentucky state, local, and judicial records; research with military records; and records of the Land Office, Office of the Secretary of State. A special session by Ron Bryant, Kentucky Historical Society, featured an inside look at his research in Kentucky bibliography, subject of his recent book. An additional highlight of the day was the lunch time presentation by David Petree, of the National Personnel Records Center, National Archives and Records Administration, in St. Louis, who spoke on the research opportunities and resources at his facility.

Cont'd. on p.4

Newly Available at the State Archives

- Bourbon County Judicial Records (1785-1880)
- Lincoln County List of Slaves Imported (1856-1859)
- Record of Electoral Votes (1792-1864)

Bourbon County was formed in 1785, the fifth county to be created in the part of Virginia that would later become the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Judicial records dating to the formation of Bourbon County are now available at the State Archives. These judicial records consist of case files, including civil suits brought by one person against another, as well as criminal actions taken against accused lawbreakers. Researchers can find records of land disputes, bad debts, breach of contract, and contested probate, and of horse stealing, robbery and even murder. Historical researchers and genealogists alike can find a wealth of information in these case files.

Thanks to the diligence and dedication of volunteers from the Genealogical Society of Utah, this collection has been reprocessed, both to aid in access and to insure the long-term preservation of the records. The volunteers unfolded and flattened the documents, placed them in acid-free folders, and assigned case numbers while creating a new, accurate index. Researchers will now be able to more easily search this part of the collection, which runs through 1880.

Two volumes of particular interest have also been recently accessioned. The first is a "List of Slaves Imported," from Lincoln

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County, dated 1856-1859. Although it contains only a dozen or so entries, this record is important both for its rarity and for the insight it gives into the institution of slavery. The volume includes the name of the "importer" (the person bringing the slaves into the state), and the name, age, and gender of the slaves. The importer also signs a statement swearing that the slaves were brought in for "private use," not for "sale or speculation."

The second volume is a "Record of Electoral Votes," dated 1792-1864. According to an introductory passage in this book, dated 1840, no record of prior electoral votes cast in Kentucky could be found. The Kentucky Secretary of State was therefore required to compile a "list of proceedings of the several (electoral) colleges, so far as authentic information can be obtained." The Secretary of the United States Senate provided a chronicle of the records from Kentucky for the years 1792-1832, which were then transcribed into

Mark your calendar!

Friday, November 17, 2000

Friends' Annual Meeting
and Public Archives
Symposium
at
Eastern Kentucky
University
Richmond, Kentucky

Watch your next
newsletter for details!

this volume. The Kentucky Secretary of State's Office continued to use the volume to record the state's electoral votes up through 1864. The entries contain the names of the electors, and the names and numbers of votes cast for each candidate for the offices of President and Vice President, including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Henry Clay, and Abraham Lincoln.

Dr. Frank Richard Levstik (1943-2000)

The recent death of Dr. Frank Levstik was a tremendous loss, not only to his friends and family but to the State Archives as well. A native of Chicago, Frank earned a BA in history at Pikeville College (1966) and an MA in history at Virginia Polytechnical Institute (1968). He subsequently earned a Ph.D. in history at Ohio State University in 1981.

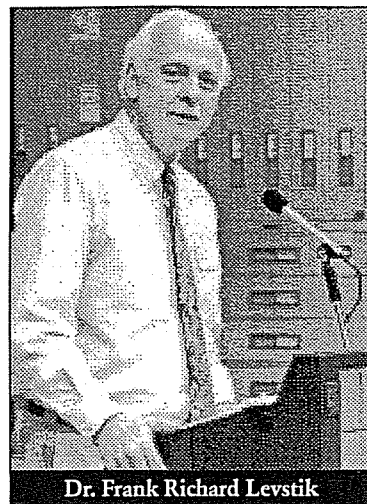
An accomplished scholar, he authored numerous articles and book reviews on social history, African-American and Civil War related topics. Frank wrote encyclopedia entries on a variety of topics, as well as scores of book reviews to a range of scholarly journals.

A skilled historian, Frank devoted his professional life to an archival career. He joined the staff of the Ohio Historical Society in 1969 and three years later was promoted to Assistant State Archivist. Frank served as Ohio State Archivist from 1976 to 1982. He subsequently moved to Kentucky where he first joined the staff of KDLA in 1982. As a Principal Archivist, he wrote the *Kentucky Historical Records Needs Assessment Report* (1983), based on a statewide investigation and analysis which he himself conducted. When that work concluded in 1983, he joined the staff of the University of Kentucky Library and actively participated in the NEH funded Kentucky Newspaper Project.

In 1985, Frank returned to the Public Records Division and resumed duties as an Archivist. Two years later, he accepted a position as Archives and Records Regional Administrator for the North-Central region of Kentucky and served in this capacity until his death from a series of strokes on June 4th.

In addition to his work with the State Archives, he was involved in numerous civic and career related activities. Frank was a member of the Kentucky Council on Archives for many years and served either on the board of directors or as a member-at-large with the Historical Confederation of Kentucky since 1985. An active member and elder of the Second Presbyterian Church of Lexington, he was also a strong supporter of the Bluegrass Association of Retarded Citizens.

Frank's irrepressible sense of humor was well known among his colleagues at KDLA. He was without question a thorough professional. In a modest, unassuming manner, he contributed to our program in ways that went far beyond the scope of his job duties. He frequently participated in public programs activities that stressed the historical value of Kentucky's public records. Outside his normal schedule, he willingly assisted the Research Room staff who benefited tremendously from his extensive knowledge. His colleagues will remember Frank Levstik as a good friend and valuable co-worker. He should also be remembered as one who contributed significantly to the State Archives during the period of its greatest growth.



Dr. Frank Richard Levstik

*A Good Time Was Had By All At The
2000 Summer Archives Institute!*





Planning for an expanded State Archives continues under recently approved capital appropriations from the General Assembly. Shown here are Dr. Thomas D. Clark and Governor Paul Patton during the Governor's earlier assessment tour of the State Archives space needs.

Archives Research Room Hours and Closings for 2000

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., Tuesday through Saturday. It is closed on Sundays and Mondays, on Saturdays preceding Monday holidays or following Friday holidays, and on official state holidays.

Ample free parking is provided outside the KDLA building.

Special closings September through November 2000 – Please mark your calendars!

- September 2nd (Saturday), Labor Day weekend
- November 7th (Tuesday), Presidential Election
- November 10th & 11th (Friday & Saturday) Veterans Day
- November 17 (Friday - close at noon) Archives Symposium
- November 18 (Saturday) Kentucky Book Fair
- November 23-25 (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday) Thanksgiving

Please Keep in Mind:

Gifts to the Friends are tax-deductible.
Your help can really make a difference.
Please consider a directed gift to the
Friends today. Thank you very much!

Using the Archives Research Room

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives' (KDLA) staff welcome visitors to the Archives Research Room, and are glad to assist them in their research. Visitors, in turn, may assist us by following KDLA procedures. This will ensure that the unique resources held by the State Archives will be protected, preserved, and available to other researchers for years to come.

By law, KDLA is designated to be the Commonwealth of Kentucky's central government records repository, and it is charged with protecting and preserving valuable historic and legal documents. If you visit KDLA to use public (also called government) records, you will work in the Archives Research Room.

Unlike a public library, the Archives Research Room is a controlled-use facility. This means that there are specific guidelines and rules which visitors must follow if they plan to do research. These guidelines and rules are listed on the Archives Research Room Registration Form. All who wish to use the Archives Research Room are asked to read this form and sign it to acknowledge understanding its terms. Completion of this form is a mandatory requirement to use the resources available in the Archives Research Room. Thanks for your cooperation, and we look forward to your visit.



Annual Archives Institute Presents...

(Cont'd. from p.1)

Participants had an enjoyable time exchanging information with each other and pursuing particular interests with speakers. Special thanks to all our speakers for a great day!



How You Can Help!

The Archives Research Room at the State Archives always has equipment or supplemental resource needs for which state funds are not available, and private donations have long played an important role in permitting the State Archives to fill these important gaps. Many donors like to know exactly how their contribution will help, and in response to such requests, we're glad to make the list below available. Donations have already been received, and we're deeply grateful for these. Won't you be a Friend and contribute funds toward the purchase of one or more items? Gifts to the Friends are tax deductible. Please direct your support to the address on the Friends' membership form, below. Thanks for your help!

Census Indexes

Indexes in book form to the 19th century Kentucky schedules of the decennial U. S. censuses are among the most heavily used finding aids in the Archives Research Room. Volumes on hand are literally being worn out by excessive handling, and the bindings of several volumes are badly deteriorated. In an effort to expand access to this information, we would like to acquire a second set of these indexes, which would also allow us to send out the other set of indexes for badly needed rebinding. Won't you sponsor a volume? Many thanks for your help!

KY	1810	\$140.00
KY	1820	\$70.00
KY	1830	\$75.00
KY	1840	\$85.00
KY	1850	\$140.00
KY	1860 East	\$380.00
KY	1860 West	\$350.00
KY	1870 East	\$400.00
KY	1870 West	\$400.00

Microfilm

Freedmen's Bureau Records for Kentucky. Records of the Office of the Comptroller of Currency: Registers of Signatures of Depositions in Branches (Lexington & Louisville) of the Freedmen's Savings & Trust Banks. 1 roll, \$34.00.

Books

1890 Kentucky Veterans Census Index. \$33.00

Compendium of the Confederate Armies: Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, by Stewart Sifakis. \$27.50

Early Louisville, Kentucky Newspaper Abstracts 1806-1828, Crowder. \$28.00

CD ROM

1850 Kentucky Census Index. \$49.95

Colonels Award Grant to Friends

The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, Inc., announced a grant of \$8,000 to the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., at their Derby eve gala dinner. The grant will be used to purchase a Canon 400/500 microfilm reader printer for use by patrons in KDLA's Archives Research Room. The unit features the latest technology and will fill an important need at the State Archives. Many thanks to the Colonels for their generous and much appreciated support!



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.

Become a Friends' Life Member!

Won't you consider a Life Membership? Proceeds from Friends' Life Membership dues provide special support to the archival internship program funded through the Thomas D. Clark Endowment Fund. The fee, \$250 for a life membership, can be paid as a single payment or through five payments of \$50 each, over a two-year period. This program welcomes your support. For further information, please use the membership renewal form in the newsletter and contact the Friends through the listed address. Thanks for your help!

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

Please clip and mail to: Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., P.O. Box 4224, Frankfort, Kentucky 40604
 We appreciate your support.



Junior Baseball Clinic (1939)

Pick up baseball games were a familiar sight in Kentucky in the 1930's. In 1939, there were thirty-two Junior Baseball Leagues consisting of one hundred fifty-eight teams. The Junior Baseball program was sponsored by the American Legion in Kentucky. (This photograph is from the Works Projects Administration Collection, in the State Archives holdings of the Public Records Division, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.)

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