

# for the Record

Devoted to Kentucky's State Archives and the Historical Record

Summer/Fall 2007

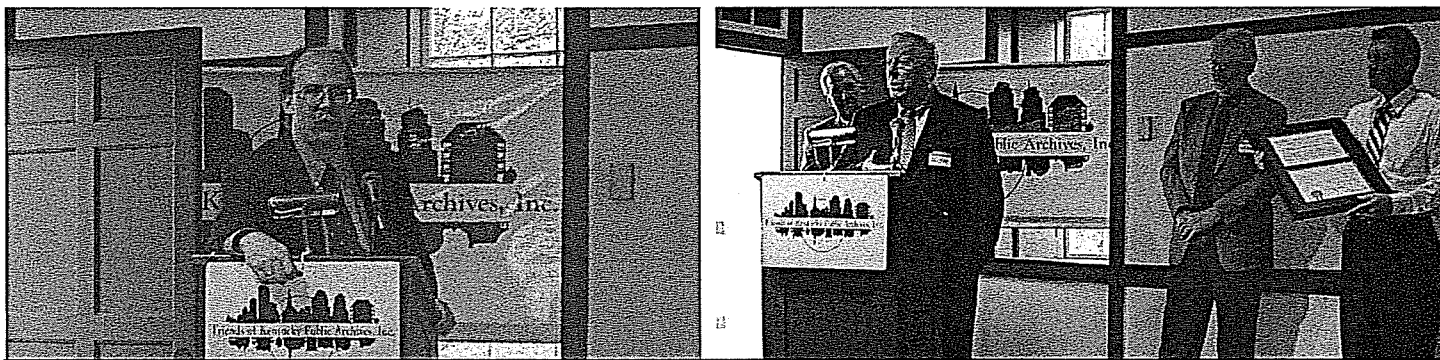
I N S I D E

1, 4  
**Annual Meeting/  
Symposium Highlights**

2, 3  
**State Archivist  
Retires**

3  
**KY Archives  
Week Celebrated**

5  
**Governor Fletcher's  
Papers Accessioned**



Symposium speaker Shannon Wilson, Head of Special Collections and Archives at Berea College, left, recounted the College's history at the Friends' Public Archives Symposium. Don Blevins, Fayette County Clerk, right, spoke on behalf of the Kentucky County Clerks Association, recipient of the Friends' Award of Merit for 2007, for outstanding service.

## *Berea College's History is Symposium Highlight*

Notable Work of County Clerks Recognized with  
Award of Merit at Friends' Annual Meeting

Members of the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. gathered October 18<sup>th</sup> at the West Lot Dwelling of Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill to hold their annual meeting and the Public Archives Symposium. Friends President Jim Powers presided at the annual meeting, which included the president's annual report to members and the report from the State Archives, offered this year by Barbara Teague, manager of KDLA's Archival Services Branch and acting State Archivist.

Officers and board members were also elected at the meeting. Chosen were: President, James C. Powers; Vice-President, Robin Rader; Secretary, Jane-Rives Williams; and Treasurer, William E. Ellis. Elected to the Board, with term expiring on 12/31/2010, were Richard Belding, Dr. Charles D. Carter, Mary Doyle Johnson, William Morison, Robin Rader, Glen Taul, and Michael Watson; with term expiring 12/31/2009, W. Grady Walter, and with term expiring 12/31/2008, Jane Turner Hamm.

Cont. pg. 3

## Archives Construction Urged by CPAB

Construction of an urgently needed archives addition at KDLA was among 19 new construction projects recommended by the Capital Planning Advisory Board's (CPAB) in its recently issued report, **2008-2014 Statewide Capital Improvements Plan**. The Plan, submitted to the Governor, the Chief Justice, and the Legislative Research Commission, selected among dozens of projects totaling several billion dollars and identified those capital initiatives of highest priority. The Plan observed that the addition "would provide critically needed space for preserving Kentucky's permanently valuable records generated by state and local government agencies in the normal course of business (p. 39)." It specifically noted agencies' responsibility to document their organizational functions, policies, decisions, and essential transactions and KDLA's statutory mandate to preserve and make accessible Kentucky's permanently valuable records.

*"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.

Upcoming closures, please mark your calendars!

December 31 – Monday New Years Eve  
January 1 – Tuesday New Years Day  
January 21 – Monday ML King Jr. Birthday

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

<b>Bramblett Elam</b> Frankfort	<b>Donna Stark Thompson</b> Frankfort
<b>Peggy Galloway</b> Danville	<b>Dr. William Talley</b> Vanceburg
<b>Roger Hamperian</b> Lexington	<b>Dr. Glen Taul</b> Georgetown
<b>Mary Doyle Johnson</b> Lexington	<b>Mike Watson</b> Lawrenceburg
<b>Dr. Tom Kiffmeyer</b> Morehead	<b>Jane-Rives Williams</b> (Secretary) Bardstown
<b>Betsy Morelock</b> Lexington	<b><u>Past Presidents</u></b>
<b>Dr. William Morison</b> Louisville	<b>Dr. Lindsey Apple</b> Georgetown
<b>James C. Powers</b> (President) Ashland	<b>Rev. Dr. Dixon Barr</b> Lexington
<b>Robin Rader</b> (Vice-President) Lexington	<b><i>Dr. Thomas D. Clark*</i></b> Lexington
<b>Dr. James Ramage</b> Highland Heights	<b>Paul F. Coates</b> Louisville
<b>Anne L. Rodick</b> Bloomington, IN	<b><i>Capt. George Cunha *</i></b> Lexington
<b>Hon. Wayne Rutherford</b> Pikeville	<b>Dr. William E. Ellis</b> (Treasurer) Richmond
<b>David Schroeder</b>	<b>Cecil E. Goode</b> Glasgow
	<b>Howard T. Goodpaster</b> Frankfort
	<b><i>Frank G. Rankin*</i></b> Louisville

For The Record  
Vol. 8, No. 1 & 2  
A publication of the  
Friends of Kentucky  
Public Archives, Inc.  
P.O. Box 4224  
Frankfort, KY 40604

## State Archivist Retires

Richard N. Belding, Kentucky State Archivist and Records Administrator since 1986, retired August 31st after 28 years with KDLA. "Kentucky owes a great debt to Richard for his outstanding contributions, as do archives and manuscript repositories around the state," said Wayne Onkst, Kentucky State Librarian and Commissioner. "His dedicated service over the past three decades has increased the safety and security of government records, as well as made it easier for citizens to find government information."

He joined KDLA in 1979 as one of the original field archivists with the Kentucky Guide Project, became assistant director of KDLA's Public Records Division in 1981, and was the first head of KDLA's Local Records Program, Kentucky's model assistance program for local government records that was later adapted successfully by several other states.

Named Kentucky State Archivist in 1986, Belding created a number of programs and services for government records, among them (in cooperation with the Friends) the Public Archives Symposium series and one of the first state government records programs to accession and preserve electronic records. He has led a succession of projects and research grants to secure the preservation of digital media and has worked to secure funding for an archival storage addition adjacent to KDLA's Frankfort building.

As state archivist, Belding also served as Coordinator of the Kentucky State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB), providing leadership to archival and manuscript repositories around the state. During his term as Coordinator, Kentucky historical records repositories received almost \$700,000 in grants from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, with the assistance of the SHRAB.

In 1998-99, Belding chaired the steering committee of Council of State Archivists, the national organization of those heading state public records programs. He was the first co-chair of the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrator's Committee on Electronic Records and Information Systems, helping to start **Crossroads**, a newsletter about electronic records management. He has been active in several professional organizations throughout his career and was a U.S. delegate to the International Conference of the Round Table on Archives, of the International Council on Archives, at its meetings in Madrid and Montreal.

He looks forward to continuing his close association with the Friends as a newly elected member of its Board of Directors.



*Participants enjoy 2007 Friends' Archives Symposium at Shaker Village*



Dear Friends:

During the years that I worked at the State Archives, I was repeatedly reminded of how deeply Kentuckians feel about their documentary heritage and of their concern that it be preserved and readily available for current and future generations to use. When I worked weekends in the Archives Research Room, researchers would frequently tell me how glad they were to have found among our records that elusive piece of information which connected family members and described their personal experience. They were very grateful that the records were protected and available, and they appreciated the work of those who made it possible.

High on the list of those who have made it possible are the members of the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. This organization was founded in 1983 to assist the department's Public Records Division in areas where additional resources were needed. I have been regularly impressed by the commitment of Friends members to the department and its programs and the tangible support that individual members and the organization as a whole provided to us. Whether supporting the training of the next generation of archival professionals through the Clark Internship program, securing foundation and grant funding to help acquire needed equipment and research resources, or advancing public understanding of archives and current scholarship through the annual Public Archives Symposium and the Kentucky Archives Institute, the Friends organization has always been ready and willing to lend a hand when the division needs help. As the recently retired director of the division, I can tell you that this help has been deeply appreciated and has made a big difference.

In these days, with the critical need for a records storage facility and the constant challenges of electronic technology, we really need your help. Please take a moment today to complete the form in the newsletter to renew your membership or, if not currently a member, to join us in the Friends good work. Gifts to the Friends beyond the basic membership are tax deductible. Thank you!

*Richard N. Belding*

*Cont. from pg 1*

## Symposium

At the annual meeting, the Friends Award of Merit for notable achievements in managing public records was given for the first time to an organization. Recognized this year was the Kentucky County Clerks Association (KCCA), whose membership is comprised of the county clerks in Kentucky's 120 counties. At the award ceremony, Jerry Carlton, manager of KDLA's Local Records Branch, underscored the valuable work the clerks perform on a daily basis and reminded attendees of the central role that the KCCA played in protecting Kentucky's public records, through their support of the creation of KDLA's program of grants and direct services to local governments in 1984 and of their continuing, substantive assistance to the department and its programs for more than two decades.

Following a delicious lunch at the Trustees Office, attendees enjoyed an interesting presentation by Shannon Wilson, Head of Special Collections and Archives at Berea College, at the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Public Archives Symposium. Wilson, author of **Berea College: An Illustrated History**, noted that Berea College's spiritual motto, "God has made of one blood all peoples of the earth," has shaped the institution's unique culture and programs since its founding in 1855. Wilson observed that College founder John G. Fee, an ardent abolitionist, held fast to the radical vision of a college and a community committed to interracial education, to the Appalachian region, and to the equality of women and men hailing from all "nations and climes." Wilson charted the fascinating history and development of one of Kentucky's most distinguished institutions of higher learning and discussed in depth his use of primary sources, recent scholarship, and a rich selection of photographs in his research.

## *6<sup>th</sup> Annual Kentucky Archives Week Celebrated Statewide*

Kentuckians throughout the Commonwealth celebrated their rich archival heritage during the sixth annual Kentucky Archives Week, October 7-13, 2007. This year's theme was "Leisure." There are almost 300 archival and manuscript repositories in Kentucky that hold archival records that document Kentucky history and leisure activities, such as personal papers, photographs, bibles, diaries, letters, and government records. Many of these institutions hosted open houses, exhibits, special programs and speakers to highlight historical materials available for research in Kentucky archival and manuscript repositories.

A special highlight of the week was the presentation of the Thomas D. Clark Kentucky Archives Week Award to Richard N. Belding, who recently retired as Kentucky State Archivist and Records Administrator at KDLA, after 28 years of service. This award, presented in memory of Dr. Clark's outstanding advocacy efforts, was presented to Belding on October 12, at the fall meeting of the Kentucky Council on Archives at Old Fort Harrod State Park.

Kentucky Archives Week is sponsored annually by the Kentucky State Historical Records Advisory Board, the Kentucky Council on Archives, and KDLA. For more information, see <http://archivesweek.ky.gov/>.



## Fletcher Papers Accessioned

As the official repository for the state's public records, the State Archives holds the official papers of most of Kentucky's governors. As Governor Ernie Fletcher's administration drew to a close, Public Records Division staff worked with the governor's staff to ensure that the records from the Governor's Office were transferred to the Archives in good order and in a timely fashion. The term "Governor's Office" actually includes several units within that agency, including the General Counsel, Boards and Commissions, the Press Office, Central Files, and the Secretary of the Cabinet.

In November 2006, several PRD staff met with Governor and Mrs. Fletcher and members of the governor's staff at the Capitol, to confirm proper records management strategies for both paper and electronic records and to discuss the eventual transfer of the governor's records to the Archives. This meeting was beneficial for all the parties involved and helped lay the groundwork for the transfer process in December 2007.

Electronic records have become increasingly important in the documentation of the activities of the Governor's Office. Public Records staff had already downloaded snapshots of the Governor's Office website a number of times throughout the Fletcher administration. Other records that were transferred in electronic format included the index to the governor's correspondence and the governor's schedules.

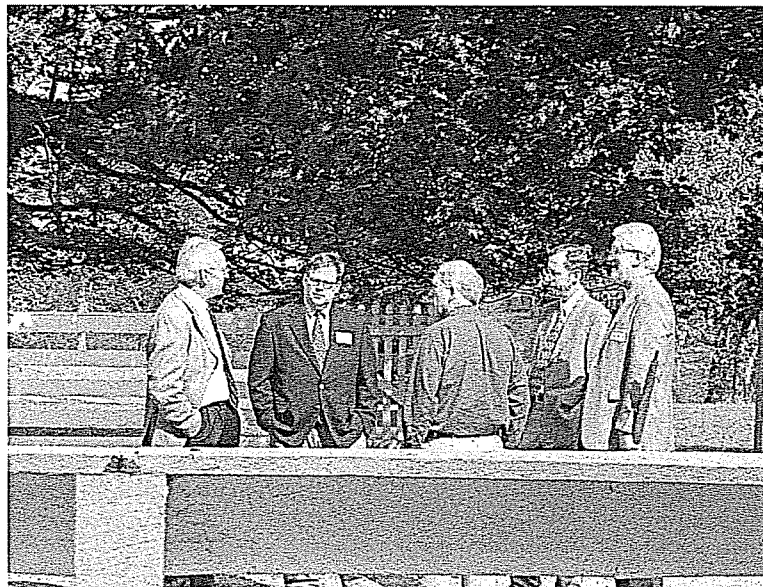
The records of the Governor's Office are among the most historically significant resources available at the State Archives. Governor Ernie Fletcher's records are a vital addition to the Archives' resources, joining governors' records holdings dating from Governor Isaac Shelby's first term in 1792.



Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.

*Many thanks to those of you who have renewed your membership in the Friends for 2008. We deeply appreciate your support of Friends' activities and of the services and mission of our State Archives.*

*If you have not yet renewed or are not yet a Friends' member, we urge you to become a member today by returning the membership strip at the bottom of this page. We need your help. The State Archives is working for all of us, and in this small way, we can help the Archives advance its programs and services.*



*Attendees at the Friends' Annual meeting and symposium enjoyed unseasonably warm weather at Shaker Village.*

*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.



Governor Bert Combs celebrated the holidays with his son at the Governor's Mansion in the early 1960's. *(This photograph is from the Kentucky Department of Public Information Collection, in the State Archives holdings of the Public Records Division, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives).*

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

**Please renew now!**