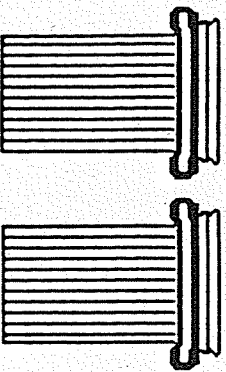


FRANKFORD, KY  
1986



## A NEWSLETTER

VOLUME II, SPRING 1986  
Mary Doyle Johnson, Editor  
Box 537  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40602

## Who Are The Friends?

The Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., is an independent group of private citizens concerned with the proper management, preservation and use of the Commonwealth's historic public records. Articles of incorporation are filed in Frankfort for this non-profit organization and bylaws are adopted. Membership is open.

The Friends group provides support and assistance to the state's Public Records Division which houses state and local records of permanent value and makes them available for research. The group is raising funds to help preserve Kentucky's documentary heritage and to provide additional research services to the public.

Among our goals are the increased microfilming of state and local records; purchase of additional research material; preparation and publication of finding aids and other research tools for public use; conservation of the records; and a statewide program of interest to all citizens interested in establishing local archives programs.

The Friends group needs you to join in this important work to assist in the support for the preservation and management of our Kentucky archives. Please join and ask your friends who love Kentucky's history to join, too.

## Board of Directors

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## Second Kentucky Archives Institute

The Friends of Kentucky Public Archives will sponsor the second annual Kentucky Archives Institute at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives on June 16 - 18. The Institute will be taught in six daytime sessions and two evening sessions. The program is geared to the beginning researcher or for those in need of a refresher course, and would be beneficial for those interested in local history or genealogical research. The subjects to be covered are: federal records (census, military, passenger lists, etc.); local and state records (wills, deeds, order books, case files, marriages, land grants, etc.); church and cemetery records; newspapers; maps; photos; vital records; bibliography; books; conservation of paper records. There will be two sessions of directed research. Instructors are Dr. Stuart Sprague, Morehead State University; James Walker, retired, National Archives; Mary Wintler, Kentucky Historical Society; Mary Samples, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives; Kandi Atkinson, Kentucky Land Office; Dr. Robert Ireland, University of Kentucky; Dr. Frank Levstik, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives; Lynn Lady, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives; Dr. James Bentley, Filson Club; Linda Anderson, Kentucky Historical Society; Dr. Dixon A. Barr, Eastern Kentucky University; Sheila Heflin, Owensboro/Davies County Public Library. The enrollment fee of \$85 includes three box lunches. Send applications to Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., Box 537, Frankfort, KY 40602 before June 1.

## Dr. Bellardo Resigns

For 14 years, Dr. Lewis J. Bellardo has been associated with the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. The last five years he has served as Director, Public Records Division and as State Archivist and Record Administrator. Dr. Bellardo has resigned from these responsibilities and in early May will become Director of the Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, GA.

Dr. Bellardo's untiring work and dedication have brought to him national recognition and leadership in the archival discipline. Such recognition has also brought Kentucky's public archives system to the fore and it has become a model. We Friends appreciate his support in establishing our organization and we wish him only the best in his new undertaking.

# Remarks On The Occasion Of The Dedication Of The Julian M. Carroll Papers

**Dr. Stuart Sprague**  
Professor of History,  
UPO 846 Morehead State University,  
Morehead, KY 40351

The Papers of the Governors Project is important. The availability of the public records of recent governors — by 1988 eight administrations from 1939 to that of Julian M. Carroll will have been published — enables historians of Kentucky to bring the story of the state up-to-date. For too long the history to many states has been treated as if it ended with the surrender of Lee to Grant in 1865.

I know of no governor who has opposed economic development, education, and roads. That is to say that though each volume of the series relates to a single chief executive, the totality of the volumes enables researchers to follow an issue over time. Indeed the Papers of the Governors and the microfilm index 1917-1977 of the Louisville *Courier-Journal* represent the two most important accessible resources today for the study of twentieth-century Kentucky.

The Papers of Julian M. Carroll, which we dedicate today are particularly noteworthy. They represent the first direct transfer of papers from the Governor's Office to Archives and Libraries. They are extensive. Not only do they include speeches, but also correspondence, itineraries, public information releases, and subject file of newspaper clippings in xerox form. I suspect that when microfilmed, the latter will become the most heavily used portion of the collection.

As I have gone through the Carroll papers, many aspects of his administration have struck me. I think of them as the "E's," Energy, Education, Economy, Elderly, Environment, Emergencies. Energy not only in terms of the aftermath of the Arab Oil Embargo, but also of the man himself. He might start out with a breakfast meeting in Frankfort and hop across the state until after dark. He was a people's governor and no place was safe from a visit. His willingness to keynote national conventions held in Kentucky may have been the clincher that landed a number of such gatherings. His attention to and interest in topical Governors' Conferences made them important, providing the administration with grass roots ideas.

Energy concerns brought him to Washington, D.C., to testify before Congress and in terms of substantive remarks, his were easily the most valuable compared with other governors. That he came out in favor of Jimmy Carter when the Georgian was the darkest of dark horses, was a factor that gave him ready access to the President.

Education was supported by Carroll to such an extent that salaries of public teachers ranked in the high twenties nationally instead of in the forties as per usual. Free textbooks were instituted.

The economy boomed, fueled not only the rise of coal but also by development dollars to cities and Appalachian Kentucky. I have asked the question, "What difference did Julian M. Carroll make?" This is a different question from "What did he accomplish?" At a time when helping cities was out of fashion - the "Urban Crisis" rhetoric had passed - the administration helped revitalize downtowns.

On the cultural side, challenge grants were first initiated. Julian Carroll became a co-chairperson of the Appalachian

## Regional Commission.

The elderly were not yet a group that grabbed political attention in 1974-79, but Carroll was attentive to their needs. To me a symbol of this interest was his presence at Accent on the Elderly Gospel programs a half dozen time across the Commonwealth.

As for environment, Carroll's concern about Red River dates from his Lieutenant Governor days, and after much thought, he came out against the dam.

Emergencies is a category in which the Governor was forced to react instead of act. There were many during the Carroll Years - floods, hard winters, the Scotia Mine Disaster, the Beverly Hills Supper Club fire. In some cases groups such as the Deep Mine Safety Commission were formed to see if the risks of a repeat could be lessened.

The Carroll years were energetic and full of activity. The written record and the anecdotal remarks spoken on this occasion parallel each other.

## Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.

### Financial Report for 1985

#### Receipts

Bank Balance as of 1-1-1985	6,158.89
Grant from KY Public Archives	5,000.00
Membership dues	3,819.00
Kentucky Colonels special gifts	3,755.40
Reservation to Gov. Julian Carroll's Dinner	3,248.00
Contributions to Clark Endowment fund	3,061.00
Special gifts for Gov. Carroll's	

reception & dinner	3,000.00
Dues to Research Seminar	1,455.00
Grant from Kentucky Humanities Council	800.00
Interest earned	767.34

Scholarship reimbursement from	
Clark Endowment	500.00
Reservation for dinner meetings	263.85
Total receipts, plus beginning bank balance	<u>31,828.48</u>

#### Disbursements

Security System for KY Public archives	7,952.00
Governor Julian Carroll's reception & dinner	5,398.94
Opening of Governor Julian Carroll's Papers	4,920.77
Printing & supplies	3,341.02
Transferred to Clark Fund	3,051.00
Honoraria	1,891.99
Archives scholarship	1,000.00
Secretarial	690.00
Bank charges	64.00
Refund on reservation	6.00
Total disbursements	<u>28,315.72</u>

Total receipts, plus beginning bank balance	31,828.48
Less total disbursements	28,315.72
Balance 12/31/85	<u><u>3,512.76</u></u>

All life memberships contributions to the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. are dedicated to the Dr. Thomas D. Clark Endowment Fund.  
(The Clark Endowment Fund Balance 12/31/85 \$9723.18)

# Kentucky's Memory

By Dr. H. G. Jones

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Before the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives  
Frankfort, Kentucky, 17 October 1985

The views that I express tonight might be uttered more appropriately in Kentucky's bordering states, only one of which, in my opinion, conducts a program potentially adequate for the prevention and cure of one of America's hushed-up diseases. I know, however, that the archival grapevine grows vigorously in this transmontane country, and perhaps my words will rattle across your borders, for I like nothing more than to provoke a little self-righteous outrage.

My message was suggested to me only a week ago as I filled out my United Fund pledge for 1986. Because so many politically oriented groups have elbowed their way onto the United Fund's otherwise meritorious roster of causes, I studied each organization so that I could specify to which of the charities my contributions would go. In reviewing this list, I sensed the omission of a disease that is widespread in the United States.

It is not a new disease, not even quintessentially American, but it is now reaching epidemic proportions. It is not "catching" in the medical sense, but it is highly contagious intellectually. Ironically, its virulence is spread by an educational system that in the past two decades has tended to indoctrinate students in *what* to believe rather than furnish them the information required for the formation of individual opinions. With the virtual exile of the objective study of history from the public schools and conversion of some college history departments into political action committees, we now hand diplomas to hundreds of thousands of young men and women who spread the affliction to a new generation.

In an age when other diseases are slipping out of the closet, it is time for the exposure to the public forum a societal cancer — a disease that attacks even people with good minds and hearts. I refer to a sort of collective Alzheimer's disease. As a farm boy from Kill Quick, I feel more comfortable with the term *mass amnesia* — obliviousness to the past.

Each of us has experienced at one time or another a momentary lapse of memory that threw us into a temporary panic. "Where did I leave the car?" "What was I planning to do?" Infinitely worse is a blanket loss of memory — amnesia — in which the past is nonexistent and every object, sensation, perception, and experience is devoid of conscious precedent and therefore without orientation or mental preparation.

An entire society becomes the victim of amnesia when it is deprived of a collective memory. The condition results from the absence of learning about the past, or when the record of the past is rewritten to serve the purposes of its current caretakers. We need look no farther than Nazi Germany or Communist China for illustrations of the distortion of history. It is frightening, however, for us to remember that when George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-four* was published thirty-six years ago, it was read as fiction. Yet before the year 1984 appeared on the calendar, we recognized many Winston Smiths in our own society.

What is worse: A society in which history is considered irrelevant, as was the message in the late 1960's, or one in which history is distorted to support preconceived notions and activist causes? As one who views with great sadness the realization of the strict tenants of historical methodology, as

who still believes that it is the task of the historian to teach rather than indoctrinate, I almost despair over the status of history in the United States. But this is neither the time or platform for me to lecture my fellow historians for acquiescence — and oftentimes complicity — in trends that deprive the citizenry of our collective memory. Nor is it the time or place for me to refute the specious argument that our people are learning more about the past than ever through mass media, instant communication, and the "popularization" of history. We once had high hopes for public radio and public television, but even they have succumbed to the politicization and fictionalization of history.

History may yet rediscover its soul, and if it does, it will again draw its substance from the recorded memory of mankind. Until recently, that memory was preserved almost exclusively in documents, and written records will remain the basis of history for the era antedating electronic record-making. There are of course many categories of records, private and public, but a government's primary responsibility is to its own records. Public records have two very special characteristics: They belong to the citizens, and in principle they are unbiased. Their unsullied character must be defended against many dangers, not the least of which is tampering. This principle makes Sir Hilary Jenkinson's archival theories as sound today as when they were enunciated in England a generation ago. Public records do not intentionally deceive. They are like inukshuks, the word that my Eskimo friends call the stone landmarks erected to mark their hunting trails across the barren lands of the north. Public records are the inukshuks of our lives — marks that we leave behind so that we may, at least intellectually, retrace our route. Perhaps the most thrilling power of public records is their immortalization of every human being born in this nation.

For the sake of convenience, we can divide public records into three categories corresponding with the pattern of government in the United States: federal, state, and local. Logically, the records of the federal government are governed by federal laws, and their oversight is placed in the National Archives and Records Administration, created just fifty years ago under the administration of my fellow Tar Heel, R. D. W. Connor, the first Archivist of the United States. The vicissitudes of the National Archives are beyond our interest tonight, but on request I can recommend a good book on the subject.

Let us instead consider Kentucky's memory.

It has been over two centuries since my fellow North Carolinian, Richard Henderson and his hired scout, Rowan County's Daniel Boone, opened up to whites and blacks the land that is now encompassed by the boundaries of Kentucky. Since then, the interactions of the people with the resources has evolved an economy, a culture, and tradition — indeed, a people — unlike those of any other state. More than the Big Sandy separates Louisiana, Kentucky from Fort Gay, West Virginia; and more than an invisible state line separate Fonde, Kentucky from Pruden, Tennessee, for on *this* side live Kentuckians — a breed apart.

The records of the state of Kentucky provide the inukshuk that mark that long trek through history. They help reveal the experience, the character, indeed the shared personality of a special people called Kentuckians.

Unlike the Eskimos who have for centuries taught their children respect for land and the meaning of their inukshuks, Americans have been callous with their documentary landmarks, Kentuckians no less than citizens of other states. A review of Irene T. Myer's "Report on the Archives of the State of Kentucky" in 1910, Frank Levstik's Historical

Records Needs Assessment Report of 1983, and the archival literature generally accords your state's poor marks for early attention to its recorded memory. To be sure, voices are raised from time to time — like those of Governor James Clark in 1838 ("the general apathy that exists upon a subject of vital importance") and the Secretary of State Emma Guy Cromwell in 1924 (documents "piled in all sorts of grotesque heaps"); and to be sure, the Historical society and the University have provided a home for many threatened public records. Still, little had been done as late as a quarter of a century ago to develop a program to the needs of a paper society.

I had been a practicing archivist only three years when in 1959 I was asked by the Society of American Archivists to prepare and publish a *Directory of State Archival Agencies*. I could not find a single public archivist in Frankfort, but George Chinn of the Historical Society provided information for cur entry; "Kentucky has no archival agency as such. However, efforts are being made, notably by Dr. Thomas D. Clark of the University of Kentucky, to set up as archival program . . ." The entry did not mention that in 1958 a portion of a legislative research commission's recommendations had been enacted to establish a State Archives and Records Commission to oversee the proposed development of a program.

In my *Guide to State and Provincial Archival Agencies*, 1961, I was able to report a small but significant step toward erasing Kentucky from the list of states representing documentary wastelands. The legislature had provided a staff of four with a total budget of \$29,910 to inaugurate a records management program, though there was still no archival component to begin the consolidation of public records of permanent value. Still there was hope, for a state archives and records center was then in the planning stage. I recall visiting Frankfort in the early '60s and accompanying Charles Hinds to the building that was formally opened in 1964. By that time the staff had grown to five with a budget of \$43,515, only \$6,672 of which was designated for archival components.

Many of you know better than I the struggle necessary to reach even the modest point of development. Many Kentuckians figured in those pioneer efforts, but the name of one appears repeatedly. Perhaps his standing as a historian on the national scene gave Thomas D. Clark added influence among his fellow Kentuckians, but I prefer to think that his understanding of the significance of his own state's documentation, and his determination to see it saved, help account for his national image. Whichever is the case, and no matter how much help he received from others, this man symbolizes a point that I wish to make tonight: "To provide for the safe and perfect keeping of the Public Archives, is so obviously one of the first and most imperative duties of a legislature that no argument could make it plainer to a reflecting mind." (Those are not my words; they were uttered a century and a half ago by a New Englander, Richard Barlett.)

In retrospect, those accomplishments of the early '60s may appear exceedingly modest, even minor, but let us not forget that they involved an entirely new concept — the expenditure of tax funds for the care of nothing more than a bunch of "old records." Furthermore, those precious dollars must be multiplied several times for comparison with current appropriations. My friends, seldom does all progress begin when a new crowd takes office. The cries of Kentuckians like Governor Clark, Professor Myers, Secretary of State Cromwell, and Professor Tom Clark did not bring instant solutions, but they gradually introduced into your legislative considerations that

radical notion whose acceptance paved the way for substantial progress in the 1970's under Howard Goodpaster and his associates. I recall the visit of Howard and a delegation from your state just before I transferred from the Division of Archives and History to the University of North Carolina. I am glad to have been shown today that the delegation's optimism was not misplaced, and that even more dramatic improvements have been made in the 1980s. Kentucky has come a long way archivally since I wrote back in 1959, "Kentucky has no archival agency . . ." Note that I have not mentioned the names of a single archivist or records manager who has been a part of this latest progress. That is deliberate for two reasons: You already know who they are, and I want to keep them humble.

So I come tonight not to charterize your program, nor to compare it in detail with those of other states. That sort of counterproductive game is altogether too common in the archives community. In thirty years I have seen states come and go on the archival scene. Often they rise or fall with changes in administrators, or with the receipt or expiration of federal or foundation grants, or with the generosity or penuity of the state legislature. A combination of factors is necessary for the long-term vigor of a state archival program: a tradition of commitment to service, a succession of sixty-hour-per-week administrators who spend most of their time in missionary work, and a succession of responsive legislators who understand that efficient archival and records management programs are cost-effective as well as culturally beneficial.

As Lew Bellardo, Richard Belding, Frank Levstik, and others here know, I advocate strong programs of state cooperation with local governments. I do so for three reasons. First, it is at the local level that are created the records that have greatest meaning to us as individuals: our record of birth, marriage, voting registration, property ownership, home construction, tax payment, public education, automobile accidents, judicial proceedings, jury service, death, settlement of estates, and on and on. Second, local officials, burdened with administrative and ministerial duties, are generally unable to provide the time, attention, or expense for a life-cycle records program; therefore these records which have value far beyond the county or municipal boundaries, deserve the oversight and security that only a uniform state system is likely to give them. And third, local officials who consider themselves partners with archivists in a program benefiting them in their daily work constitute an incomparable network of support for the state archival and records management agency.

Last year, North Carolina observed the silver anniversary of the only comprehensive local government records program among the fifty states, and its story will be told in an article in the winter issue of the *American Archivist*. For a quarter of a century I have been puzzled by the failure of any other state to undertake a similar state-financed program. It was so easy to enlist local officials throughout the state in a partnership that promotes economy and efficiency in the management of current records and simultaneously provides security for records of continuing value.

As a commissioner of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, I have repeatedly supported federal grants to states that promised, "Just help us get started, and we will convince our legislature to make the program permanent." Time and again, I have read press releases boasting of new, innovative, even "model" programs. But when the grant ran out, there was little but the press releases to show for it. The money had been spent on a one-shot project with no long-term implications. The recipients were simply

too attached to their capital city offices to go forth and work directly with county and municipal officials in helping them solve their records problems.

Despite these repetitious disappointments, I strongly supported a grant application submitted a couple of years ago from Kentucky. It proposed a series of regrants to selected local governments for improved records systems, and it promised to use the federal funds as leverage in convincing the state legislature to fund a permanent program. Frankly, I thought the plan was unrealistic, but I argued that it should be funded on even the small chance that it might succeed. And succeed it did, for it led directly to Kentucky's becoming the second state in the union to launch a major effort to improve the condition of local records management and assure the preservation of documents of continuing value.

I must be candid with you, however, and admit that I have not supported all of your Kentucky proposals. For instance, I voted against the application for funds for the governors' records project, but went along with the machine-readable records project. My stands on these three proposals illustrate my view of the responsibilities of the states and local governments for their own records. I found no justification for the use of somebody else's money to pay for the arrangement and description of one state's gubernatorial records, and I have no patience with those who argue that documentary matters at all governmental levels should be nationalized. On the other hand, I am willing to use modest amounts of common national resources to emphasize the need for legislative appropriations, as in the case of the local records and machine-readable records projects. The NHPRC may legitimately assist in the demonstration of practical and effective programs at the state and local levels, but it must never relieve the obligation of the funding bodies of those levels to finance their own archival and records management systems. Archival salvation will be found at home, not in Washington, D.C.

That is why Frankfort offers reasons for hope that the dismal archival panorama of America may yet change. Shorn of its public relations hype, the public records community has exhibited pathetically little permanent improvement among the fifty states in the three decades that have passed before my archival eye. It is heartening, therefore, for me to return to Frankfort and witness for myself your new archival facilities and your immensely expanded programs that were no more than dreams during my last previous visit. I hope that the enthusiasm that I have seen and the professional commitment that I have felt here today will spread across your borders and infect your neighboring states.

And I promise you that if I ever write "Kentucky has no archival agency . . ." it will be in quotations with an accompanying footnote citing its source and date, the *Directory of State Archival Agencies, 1959*. For a state whose archival development began in earnest only a quarter of a century ago, Kentucky has made remarkable progress, and its Public Records Division needs only the continued support of its legislature and public officials to confirm a standard of service that can place it among the most comprehensive and effective archival programs in the fifty states.

I leave you with an expression common among my Eskimo friends: "I began remembering (at a particular age)." Kentucky began remembering when it made a commitment to preserve for posterity its public records. May its recovery from amnesia be permanent.

## FRIENDS of KENTUCKY PUBLIC ARCHIVES



*If you would like to contribute to the*

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*Box 537, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602.*

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## News 'n Notes

More than 40 persons registered for the Friends regional meeting at Jenny Wiley on March 21; this is the same program format as previous meetings on "Local Records: An Unexpected Resource."

A copy of Keepsake No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3 — facsimile copies of documents from the governors' papers — which have been given to attendees at the last three annual meetings, may be obtained by writing Edna Milliken, P.O. Box 537, Frankfort, KY 40602.

## Friends' Calendar Of Notable Events

May 15 Executive Committee Meeting, KDLA  
June 19 Executive Committee Meeting, KDLA  
July 17 Board of Directors Meeting, KDLA  
August 21 Executive Committee Meeting, KDLA  
September 18 Executive Committee Meeting, KDLA  
October 16 Annual Meeting, KDLA

Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.  
Box 537

## FRIENDS of KENTUCKY PUBLIC ARCHIVES



I wish to become a member of the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., and to support the preservation and management of Kentucky's documentary history.

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