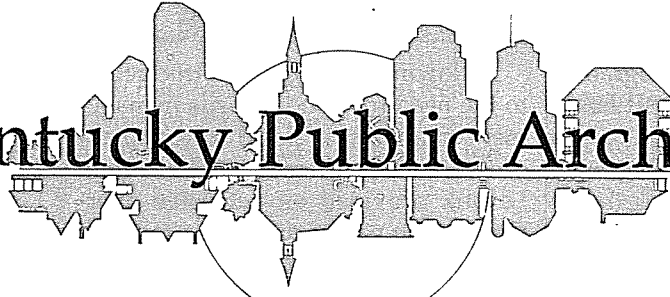


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# Friends of Kentucky Public Archives



Volume V, Number 2

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## Governor Recognizes Local Records Grant Recipients at KDLA Ceremony



*Gov. Wilkinson presents grant award to Warren County officials Yvonne Guy, right, and Sue Greathouse, left.*

Gov. Wallace G. Wilkinson, in presenting local records grants to officials from 37 local governments, called Kentucky's successful Local Records Program a prime example of the kind of cooperative effort needed between state and local government and identified local government grant recipients as a vital part of that success. "By taking the extra time and effort to plan and carry out your grant project, you are performing a genuine service for all our citizens for generations to come," he said.

Wilkinson made his comments at a March 24th grant presentation ceremony at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. The Fiscal Year 1989-90 grants, which totalled \$460,666, were recommended at the March meeting of the State Archives and Records Commission.

Kentucky's innovative Local Records Program, a core service of the Department for Libraries and Archives' Public Records Division and recognized as one of the finest such programs in the country, was established in 1984. Members of the Friends worked extensively for the enabling legislation and were instrumental in securing its passage.

The program provides for a cooperative effort between state and local government to insure the preservation and better management of local public records. Four Local Records Regional Administrators work directly with local government officials to assess their records' needs and to assist in preparing grant applications.

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## Workshop Draws Crowd; Researcher Voices Concern About Archives Budget, Staff Levels

Almost sixty Ashland workshop participants heard speakers describe the great research potential of Kentucky's local government records, as well as the challenges faced by local officials who create and administer these valuable resources. They also heard a panelist express concern over public reference activities at the Kentucky State Archives.

The tenth in the Friends continuing state-wide series, the April 14th local records workshop focused on managing and using local government records. The event, co-sponsored with the Historical Confederation of Kentucky, in cooperation with the Public Records Division (PRD), Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA), brought together local officials responsible for the daily management of public records and researchers for whom these records are a valuable source of information. The large turnout drew people from Boyd, Carter, Floyd, Greenup, Lawrence, Lewis, and Rowan counties in Kentucky, and from communities in Ohio and West Virginia.

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*Jeffrey Duff, Local Records Regional Administrator, talks with Greenup County Clerk Sonny Davidson and Lewis County Clerk Shirley Hinton at Ashland workshop.*

## Grants Ceremony

*Continued Page 1*

In the four years since the program began, every county government has received one or more grants. In addition, many municipal governments, local school districts, and other local agencies have participated as recipients. To date a total of 386 grants have been awarded.



*Dr. Thomas D. Clark confers with Governor Wilkinson at awards ceremony.*

A key goal of the Local Records Program is to insure the preservation of Kentucky's vital local records through security microfilming. Original film is stored in the controlled environment of the State Archives. Use copies are made available in the office where the records originated and also in the Archives Research Room at the State Archives in Frankfort.

In addition, several grants have been awarded for the physical preservation of original documents in the Public Records Division's Document Preservation Laboratory. After being treated, the records are returned to the custody of local officials for continued use.

Kentucky's unique approach to solving the problem of protecting and preserving vital records is being studied and emulated by a growing number of other states, including New York, Virginia, Missouri, and South Carolina.

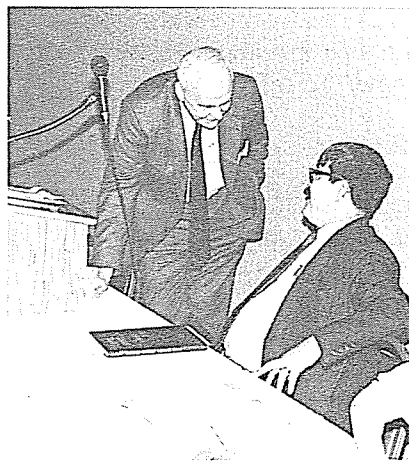
Friends can be proud of the key role they played in getting Kentucky's local records program established.

## Ashland Workshop

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Following a videotape introduction to the need for good records management practices in local government offices, PRD staff member Dr. Frank Levstik provided an extensive overview of the nature and importance of local government records. Picking up on Levstik's theme, a panel of several county clerks, as well as city government and school district representatives, discussed managing public records. Panelists placed their records keeping responsibilities in the context of their day-to-day office operations and described at length the special demands and opportunities they face in their positions.

An afternoon panel, dealing with using local government records for research, drew on the broad experience of Ashland Daily Independent columnist George Wolford, Boyd County Library Assistant Director Jim Powers, and genealogists Joan Jensen and Martynne Mason. Mason registered her concern that PRD's Archives Research Room could not keep pace with the demands of a steadily increasing number of researchers, either in staff allocated to this function, or in budget resources. Mason urged participants



*Dr. Frank Levstik, left, and columnist George Wolford at Ashland workshop.*

who shared her perspective to contact appropriate state officials and work for improvements.

The next Friends workshop is scheduled for Sept. 21, 1989, at Paducah Community College, Paducah, Ky.

## Records Profiles

### Kentucky's Vital Statistics Records

Births, deaths, and marriages comprise some of the oldest records in the Commonwealth, but strangely enough were among the most poorly kept until this century. Vital statistics relating to birth and death records were not required by state law in Kentucky until 1852, and since it was the responsibility of local government, performance was poor and often depended upon the personal interest of the county clerk. A majority of those that survived are in the State Archives. However, scattered volumes of Records of Births or Records of Death can still be found with the county clerk.

In 1911, Kentucky established a statewide system of registration. Normally, a birth or death record is filed with the local health agency and a copy forwarded to the State Registrar of Vital Statistics at the Cabinet for Human Resources (CHR), where it is microfilmed and preserved permanently.

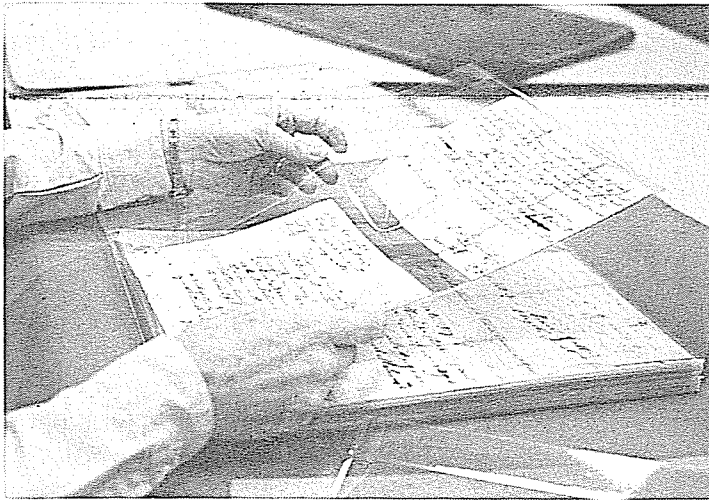
Marriages were recorded more completely than births and deaths and were maintained by the county clerk. Early marriage records often consisted only of a bond, signed by the groom, bondsman, and witness. The bond signified that there was no impediment to a marriage, but it did not prove that the marriage took place. Furthermore, early bonds usually gave the name of the couple, but not of their parents. Not until the mid-nineteenth century did marriage licenses or registers provide fuller information.

Researchers should be aware of the various types of marriage information found with the county clerk, i.e., marriage bond books, marriage licenses, marriage registers, marriage returns, marriage consents, marriage certificates, and ministers' returns, to name the most common. Beginning in 1958, marriage certificates were forwarded to the Office of Vital Statistics at CHR, in addition to being maintained by the county clerk.

## County Records Get New Life in PRD Lab

Thousands of unique courthouse records from four counties have been treated in the past six months at the Public Records Division's Document Preservation Laboratory in Frankfort, many with grants from the Department for Libraries and Archives' Local Records Program.

Since the Fall of 1988, Laboratory staff have been cleaning, deacidifying and repairing Circuit Court Minute Books from Adair County, marriage records from Estill and Shelby counties, and Survey Books from Monroe County. In addition, the records from Shelby and Monroe counties were encapsulated in mylar sleeves to protect them further from damage caused by frequent handling. All of these original records were returned to their local courthouses, where they are once again available for research.



*Shelby County marriage records treated in Documents Preservation Lab are encapsulated in mylar sleeves so they can be handled by researchers.*

### Briefly Noted

- Recent articles in the New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and Newsweek Magazine report that several major U. S. publishers have agreed to publish first printings of hard-cover books on acid-free paper. Industry estimates that next year 50% of all paper used in book publishing will be acid free, and within 3 years virtually all trade books will be printed on such paper. These efforts greatly enhance book preservation efforts nationally.

- Gov. Wallace G. Wilkinson recently appointed five new members to the State Historical Records Advisory Board. They are: Robert Abell, Independence; James Blue, Bowling Green; William Marcus Combs, Hazard; Elizabeth Long, Elizabethtown; and Donna Stark Thompson, Frankfort. Mrs. Thompson is a professional genealogist and an active member of the Friends. Congratulations!

- Some useful objects on your desk may destroy information stored on your paper records, photographs, and diskettes. The adhesive on pressure sensitive tapes, such as Scotch tape and Magic Mend, contain a great deal of acid and will literally eat paper. This damage is irreversible and, at the very least, will leave acid stains on the paper.

Self-stick notes, such as Post-It notes, are a handy and efficient way of leaving messages and marking documents. The sticky top edge of the notes, however, leaves behind an adhesive when the note is removed. Also, the colors of the notes tend to run when wet, so self-stick or Post-It notes should not be used on papers with permanent value.

Magnetic paper clip holders magnetize the paper clips that are stored in them. If these clips are then used to attach a note to a diskette, for example, the magnetized clip can damage or erase the information on the diskette.

## Recent Accessions

### Newly Acquired Film of Census, Military Records Available at Archives

The Archives Research Room has recently acquired the following census film: 1820 Indiana Census and the 1830 and 1850 Missouri Census.

Newly added military film includes the compiled service records of Kentucky Volunteers who served in the Indian Wars between 1783 and 1811. These were the men who served in the Indian War of 1790-1795 and the Tippicanoe Campaign of 1811. The collection includes the members of various units, as well as scouts, spies and staff officers.

In addition, the Archives Research Room now has completed its set of Louisville Military Prison records (Civil War) and has acquired the records for McLeans Barracks (Cincinnati), another Civil War prison. Both of these records are valuable sources for information on civilian prisoners from Kentucky charged with disloyalty and spying.



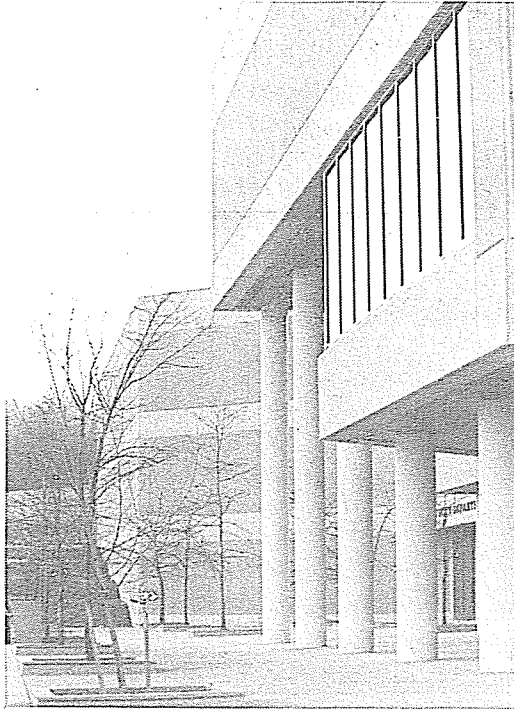
*Mrs. Donna Stark Thompson, newly appointed member of the State Historical Records Advisory Board, examines recently acquired census film with Jim Prichard, Supervisor of the Archives Research Room.*

## Archives Institute set for July 14

Sessions on Kentucky land records, state, local, and judicial records in Kentucky, and relevant federal government records will be offered at the Friends' fifth annual Kentucky Archives Institute, scheduled for Friday, July 14th, at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives in Frankfort. The day-long event will feature discussions on the variety of Kentucky public records available for research, and descriptions of and comments on their nature and potential uses.

The program will also cover the importance of document preservation in insuring the continuing availability of the records for research. Special guest speakers will include Mr. Gayle Peters, Director, National Archives, Atlanta Branch, and James Anderson, Director of U of L's Photographic Archives.

Registration is limited to 50 persons. Cost for the one-day event is \$20.00 per person and includes a catered lunch. Checks should be made payable to *Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.*, and marked *Archives Institute*. Mail with name and address of all registrants to P.O. Box 4224, Frankfort, KY 40604. Plan now to put this popular event on your calendar and mention it to a friend.



*The Department for Libraries and Archives in Frankfort will be the site of the Archives Institute.*

## Public Records Interns to be Selected

Graduate students planning a career in archival administration recently applied for internships at the Kentucky State Archives for the summer of 1989 and the academic year, 1989-90. Each intern will serve as an administrative assistant in the Public Records Division. Within the Division's framework for managing public records throughout their active life, each intern will work in several functional areas, study archival and public records management literature, and prepare a variety of oral and written reports.

These publicly-funded internships are patterned after the highly successful Clark Internships in Archival Administration, initiated by the Thomas D. Clark Endowment Fund, Inc., in 1985.

## Upcoming Events

July 14, 1989 - Kentucky Archives Institute, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, 300 Coffee Tree Road, Frankfort, KY.

September 21, 1989 - Local Records Workshop, Paducah Community College, Paducah, KY.

For more information about the Friends and their activities, call (502) 875-7000, ext. 132.

## Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., Membership Form

Box 4224, Frankfort, Kentucky 40604

Date \_\_\_\_\_

My check for \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to the *Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.*, is enclosed. Benefits include a quarterly newsletter and invitations to workshops, special events, the Kentucky Archives Institute, and the annual meeting. Gifts to the Friends are tax deductible.

Individual	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustaining	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corporate	\$1000	<input type="checkbox"/>

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