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Friends of

# Kentucky Public Archives

Volume VIII Number 1

Summer-Fall 1992

## Program Will Explore Kentucky's Road To Statehood

### Fourth Annual Public Archives Symposium Set for November 20

Noted Kentucky historian and author Lowell H. Harrison will be the featured speaker at the Friends' fourth annual Public Archives Symposium Friday, November 20, at the Lexington Public Library.

The Friends are making this year's Symposium their special Bicentennial observance, with Harrison focusing on his 1992 release, *Kentucky's Road to Statehood*.

The program, which will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the Library's theater, also will include commentary by H.E. Everman of Eastern Kentucky University.

Born in Russell Springs, Kentucky, Harrison received his A.B. from Western Kentucky State College and his M.A. and Ph.D. in history from New York University. Following a year at the London School of Economics on a Fulbright grant, Harrison joined the faculty of West Texas State College, where he rose to the position of professor and chair of the department of history. In 1967, he joined the history department of what is now Western Kentucky University, where he taught for the next 21 years and is now professor emeritus.

Among his publications are *John Breckinridge: Jeffersonian Republican*; *George Rogers Clark and the War in the West*; *The Anti-Slavery Movement in Kentucky*; *Kentucky's Governors, 1792-1985*; and most recently, *Kentucky's Road to Statehood*.

### Friends' Annual Business Meeting To Precede Symposium

Members of the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., will conduct their annual business meeting Friday, November 20, at 11:30 a.m. at the Lexington Public Library.

Friends President George Cunha will present a detailed report on the organization's activities during 1992. State Archivist Richard Belding will give his annual state of the archives address, in which he will share a variety of statistical measures of service levels at the State Archives.

The meeting will include an annual financial report and the election of officers. In addition, select public officials from throughout the state will be recognized for their outstanding performance in managing and preserving public records.

A Lexington native, H. E. (Hank) Everman grew up in Paris and received his B.A. degree from the University of Kentucky. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. at Louisiana State University and joined the faculty of Eastern Kentucky University in 1970, where he currently teaches.

Professor Everman is the author of *The History of Bourbon County, 1785-1865* and *Governor James Garrard and co-author of Madison County: 200 years in Retrospect*.

Last year's Symposium, which attracted a capacity audience at the Lexington facility, featured Robert V. Remini,



Robert V. Remini

author of *Henry Clay: Statesman for the Union*. In his entertaining address, Dr. Remini recounted the many challenges he has encountered over the years working with archival materials in order to interpret and write about the American past.

Plan to help celebrate Kentucky's Bicentennial as 1992 nears its end. Join your fellow Friends and the public for this important program.

### Thank You, Kentucky Colonels!

The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels has once again made a generous gift to the Friends in support of ongoing efforts to enhance research activities at the State Archives.

The recent grant of \$9,250 is being used to purchase microfilm reader/printers in the Archives Research Room at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.

"Heavy patron use has led to equipment breakdowns, and in the state's current fiscal situation, no funds are available to meet these needs," said State Archivist Richard Belding. Steadily increasing use of equipment in the Research Room, Belding explained, will make the need for replacing and upgrading readers and printers even more critical in the future.

## Second Volume of *Kentucky Guide* Is Released

In this, Kentucky's bicentennial year, the Department for Libraries and Archives is pleased to announce the publication of the *Guide to Kentucky Archival and Manuscript Collections, Volume Two*, edited by Jane A. Minder.

This volume contains descriptions of over 150 collections of historical records from 30 institutions throughout Kentucky, including public libraries, historical societies, museums and religious and college archives.

The collections described in this volume document the rich heritage of Kentucky, its communities, its people, and its institutions. Collections range from a single Henry Clay letter to a college's administrative records. Subjects encompass everything from local history and family genealogy, to the coal industry and the Civil War. Collections which document the lives of

prominent Kentucky authors, politicians and educators stand side by side with the diary of an ordinary Civil War soldier and the recollections of an African-American teacher.

The materials themselves may consist of personal and family papers, records of organizations and institutions, oral history interviews, photographs and maps.

The *Guide to Kentucky Archival and Manuscript Collections* is a multi-volume reference work, published as part of the Kentucky Guide Program. The program had its beginnings in the late 1970s when the first federal grant funds were awarded to survey archival and manuscript repositories statewide. The survey resulted in the discovery of thousands of collections in 285 institutions, and it is the descriptions of these collections which form

the basis of the *Guide*.

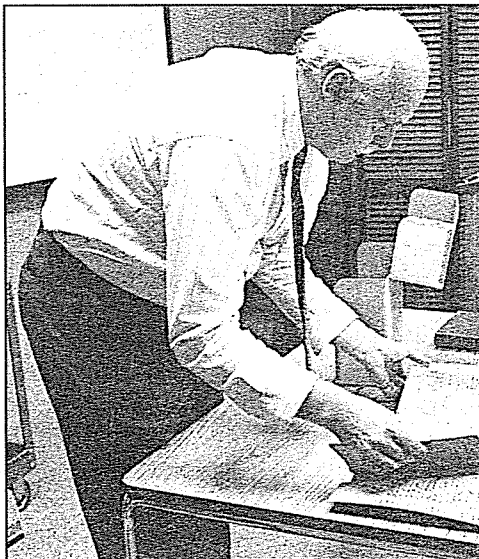
The *Guide* is distributed, free of charge, to the 285 participating repositories, all public libraries in Kentucky, the state universities and other selected institutions. Additional copies are available for purchase by other interested institutions and individuals now. As was the case with *Volume One* (1988), *Volume Two* is being produced in a loose-leaf format, and is designed to be inserted in the same binder with *Volume One*. Dividers and labels for use in the combined *Volume One* and *Volume Two* binder will be provided with each copy of the *Guide*.

Work is beginning on the next volume of the *Guide*. Publication is scheduled for late 1993. For more information about the Kentucky Guide Program and its publications contact Jane Minder at (502) 875-7000.

## Friends Present Eighth Annual Kentucky Archives Institute

A capacity crowd was on hand again in 1992, when the Friends conducted their eighth annual Kentucky Archives Institute in July.

More than 50 genealogists and other researchers participated in the seminar, "Using Public Records for Family and Community History Research."



Local Records Regional Administrator Frank Levstik prepares to speak.

A special feature of this year's program was a lunchtime presentation featuring Legislative Research Commission Director Vic Hellard portraying the role of Governor Edwin Porch Morrow. The "Governor" gave a rousing political speech which had the audience applauding and cheering.

The day-long program opened with an overview of resources and agency records at the State Archives by Jim Prichard, Supervisor of KDLA's Archives Research Room. Information about the 1920 U.S. Census was provided by staff Archivist Jane Julian.

Don Armstrong, Manager, Military Records and Research Branch of the Department of Military Affairs, discussed Kentucky Military Records. Frank Levstik, Local Records Regional Administrator with KDLA's Public Records Division, gave a presentation on county clerk and local judicial records.

"Protecting, Preserving and Repairing Archival Materials," presented by KDLA Document Preservation Laboratory Supervisor Mary Samples, included many helpful tips

on how to handle and care for the documents you treasure. Kandie Adkinson of the Secretary of State's Land Office, returned to the 1992 Institute to discuss Kentucky's land records.

The program concluded with the presentation of certificates to all who participated.



Vic Hellard puts on quite a show as Governor Edwin P. Morrow.

## 1992 General Assembly Increases Penalty For Tampering with Public Records

In the 1992 session of the Kentucky General Assembly, legislators voted to increase the penalty for tampering with public records from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class D felony, punishable by imprisonment in state prison of from one to five years.

Persons are guilty under Kentucky's tampering statute when they make false entries in or falsely alter any public record; when, knowing they lack the authority to do so, intentionally destroy, mutilate, conceal, remove, or otherwise impair the availability of any public record; and when knowing they lack the authority to retain a record, intentionally refuse to deliver up a record in their possession,

upon proper request of a public servant lawfully entitled to receive such record, for examination or other purpose.

In other action, the legislature expanded the State Archives and Records Commission by two members, the commissioner of the Department of Information Systems, and a representative of local government, chosen by the governor from a list of three candidates representing county governments, city governments, and school administrators, submitted by associations representing those officials. The legislature also amended several aspects of the state's open records law.



The State Archives and Records Commission, represented by Dr. Thomas D. Clark, left, and Commission Chairman Jim Nelson, left, commended Rep. Ernesto Scorsone for his successful efforts to stiffen the penalty for tampering with public records in Kentucky.

## Friends' Volunteers Play Crucial Role

With research activity in the Archives Research Room at an all time high, the contributions of participants in the Friends' Volunteer Program are more important than ever. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1992, more than 7,400 on-site visitors did archival research at KDLA, while another 9,200 phoned or wrote in with their inquiries. To help respond to this growing demand, Friends' volunteers contributed over 325 hours of labor assisting regular staff in meeting researcher needs. Volunteers work on weekdays

and Saturdays, helping visitors find and use the records they need, directing them to available guides, indexes, and other resources and explaining their use, and familiarizing patrons with the use of microfilm readers or other equipment.

Volunteers have made a real impact and their work is greatly appreciated! If you would like to help a few hours each month, please write to the Friends' Volunteer Program, P.O. Box 4224, Frankfort, KY 40604. You can make a difference!

## Recent Accessions

Approximately 4,000 rolls of city, county, and judicial film were added to the Archives Research Room during the 1991-1992 fiscal year.

This fiscal year, over 1,750 rolls of film have been accrued. These additions represent local records from 36 of Kentucky's 120 counties including Allen, Breckinridge, Boyle, Campbell, Carlisle, Casey, Clark, Daviess, Edmonson, Fleming, Floyd, Graves, Greenup, Harlan and, Hopkins.

Other counties for which records have been added are Jefferson, Kenton, Knox, Larue, Lewis, Livingston, Lyon, Magoffin, Marion, McCreary, Meade, Mercer, Metcalfe, Oldham, Pendleton, Perry, Pike, Powell, Scott and Wolfe.

Several state agency records from the Corrections Cabinet, Court of Appeals, and Vital Statistics were added.

Among these accessions are *Life Estate Books for Slaves* (1840-1849) from Green and Trigg Counties. These records may include such items as: name of owners, and name, gender and age of slaves. These records could prove to be a valuable resource for anyone researching African-American family history in these counties.

Other good sources for genealogists are the *School Census* records. The newest *School Census* accessions are Livingston County (1898-1913) and Metcalfe County (1894-1905). There are also *Livingston County School Census* records (1898-1913) for African-American children, which are listed separately.

*School Census* records from various other Kentucky counties are also available for research. A typical school census record may include names of parents or guardians, name of child, date of birth for child, age, gender of child, residence of parents, as well as signature of parents. These records are usually arranged chronologically.

## Local Records Grants Awarded for 1992

Local Records grants, totaling over \$635,000, were awarded to 41 local public agencies by KDLA in July. The grants are being used for security microfilming, restoring damaged or deteriorating records, installing automated indexing systems and purchasing equipment and supplies agencies need to preserve and manage records.

With the awarding of the most recent round of grants, more than \$6 million have been distributed throughout every Kentucky county during the program's nine-year existence.

Recipients this year included the following county clerks' offices: Adair,

Anderson, Bath, Bourbon, Boyle, Bracken, Breathitt, Butler, Calloway, Campbell, Carter, Clinton, Estill, Graves, Grayson, Green and Harrison.

Awards also were given to the clerk's offices in these counties:

Hickman, Hopkins, Jackson, Knott, Lewis, Logan, Lyon, McLean, Mason, Oldham, Pendleton, Pulaski, Russell, Taylor, Washington and Whitley.

Six cities received grants, including

Covington, Edgewood, Hickman, Independence, Radcliff and Shelbyville. One school district, Trimble County Schools, and a county health care facility, Carroll County Memorial Hospital, also received grants.



Cabinet Secretaries Kevin Hable, left, and Sherry Jelsma present grant to Campbell County Clerk Jack Snodgrass.

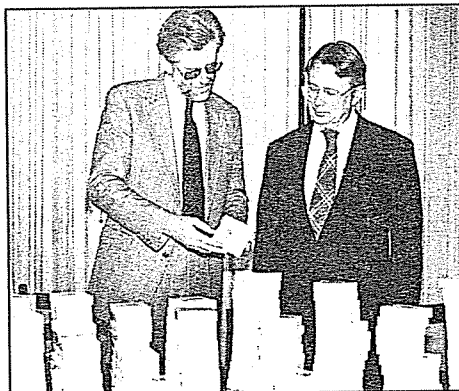
## KGS Donates 1920 Census Index to Research Room

Documentation about persons living in the Commonwealth in 1920 is now more readily accessible to the public thanks to a gift from the Kentucky Genealogical Society to the state Department for Libraries and Archives.

The Society recently donated copies of a microfilmed Soundex index to the department's Archives Research Room where it will be used by genealogists and other researchers to locate individuals who are listed in the 1920 U.S. Census for Kentucky. The index, contained on 180 rolls of microfilm, serves as the key for unlocking information listed in the 70-year-old enumeration, which was released to the public last spring.

"This donation benefits patrons of both the Archives Research Room and the Genealogical Society," said State Archivist and Records Administrator Richard Belding. William LaBach of

Lexington, president of the statewide genealogical organization and a descendant of Henry Clay, made the presentation of the microfilm to the department. He said the gift represents the latest of several public/private cooperative ventures involving the State Archives and the Society.



William LaBach, left, and Richard Belding inspect roll of index film.

## Book Fair To Showcase Works on Kentucky

Fans of works on Kentucky and its history are in store for a treat on Saturday, November 21, when the 11th annual Kentucky Book Fair is conducted from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Department for Libraries and Archives in Frankfort.

This year's event will showcase the rich array of works produced during the Commonwealth's Bicentennial, along with the customary assortment of books by prominent national and regional writers.

Among the new titles on Kentucky which will be offered are *Kentucky Bluegrass Country* by noted folklorist Gerald Alvey, *Kentucky's Road to Statehood* by historian Lowell Harrison and *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*, edited by historian John Kleber.

Making one of its early public appearances will an important biography by Mt. Holyoke College history professor, John Faragher. His work, *Daniel Boone: The Life and Legend of an American Pioneer*, has been called the first definitive biography of Boone published in over 50 years. A new edition of Thomas D. Clark's *The Kentucky* (part of the "Rivers of America" series) and *Rock Fences of the Bluegrass* will offer readers the opportunity to explore the landscape of the state.

For those who like cookbooks and local color, *A Tasteful Tour of Washington County* provides both. *A History of Danville and Boyle County* and *Harlan County Goes To War* will give readers a look at events in other locations.

These works and books by other outstanding Kentucky authors will join a lineup which includes journalists Harrison Salisbury (*The New Emperors—China in the Era of Mao and Deng*), and Nan Robertson (*The Girls in the Balcony*) and best-selling writer H. Jackson Brown (*Life's Little Instruction Book*).

For more information about the 1992 Kentucky Book Fair, contact the Department for Libraries and Archives at 502-875-7000.

## 1920 U.S. Census Now Available to the Public

"When we finally unlock the cabinets housing the 1920 census, we will be unlocking valuable information about an entire generation of family life in the United States," said U.S. Archivist Don W. Wilson in March when the census was opened to the public. "We trust that the 1920 census will serve as a precious source of data for researchers in this country and around the world," he continued.

The Kentucky portion of this "precious source" of information will soon be available to researchers in KDLA's Archives Research Room. And, thanks to a generous gift from the Kentucky Genealogical Society (KSG), Soundex indexes essential to the use of the census have been added to the Research Room's finding aids this fall. The 1920 census of Kentucky consists of 46 rolls of microfilm, with 108 rolls of Soundex index, according to State Archivist and Records Administrator Richard N. Belding.

The entire 1920 census, which exists only on microfilm, consists of 2,076 rolls of population schedules (35 mm) and 8,585 rolls of Soundex indexes (16 mm). In order to simplify access for researchers, every state in the census was indexed. The body of work released to the public by the National Archives is the culmination of four years of work by more than 40 staff members, at a cost of more than \$1 million.

Elements of the census include address; name; relationship to family head; sex; race; age; marital status; if foreign born, year of immigration to the U.S.; whether naturalized and year of naturalization; school attendance; literacy; birthplace of person and parents; mother tongue of foreign born; ability to speak English; occupation, industry and class of worker; home owned or rented; if owned, whether mortgaged; and, for nonfarm mortgaged, market value, original amount of mortgage, balance due and interest rate.

"The 1920 census set several new precedents," Wilson said. "There was the change in enumeration date to

January 2; previous censuses had begun no earlier than April 15. Schedules were included in the census for Guam, American Samoa and the Panama Canal Zone, as well as a 1917 census of the Virgin Islands, which spoke to our expanding territorial interests.

"The census also included seven modified population schedules — a record number," Wilson continued. "It was the first to inquire about the year of a person's final naturalization and to specify the province or city which was the birthplace of the respondent, if born in Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia or Turkey." (Because the boundaries of these nations changed after World War I, more specific information about location was needed to identify the birthplace of these respondents.)

"This census reported the smallest increase in population experienced by the nation since 1790 — numbers probably resulting from the restrictions placed on immigration in the 10 preceding years, the ravages of World War I and the 1918 influenza epidemic. In 1920, we were a nation of 106 million people."

"But more important than the census queries themselves was the commentary brought to light about life in America in 1920," he elaborated. "This census reported the smallest increase in population experienced by the nation since 1790 — numbers probably resulting from the restrictions placed on immigration in the 10 preceding years, the ravages of World War I and the 1918 influenza epidemic. In 1920, we were a nation of 106 million people."

Wilson added that the 1920 census also shows a dramatic shift in the population. "In 1920, the majority of Americans were now living in urban areas

numbering more than 2,000 persons, rather than in agricultural settings," he said. "More than half of America's foreign-born residents lived in these urban areas."

A catalog of the National Archives microfilm of the 1920 federal population census also is being made available to the public. The catalog provides roll-by-roll lists of contents of the schedules and the Soundex for each state and territory enumerated. An introduction explains how to use the records, lists the counties and cities for which enumeration district maps are available and tells how to order microfilm copies of schedules and indexes.

The catalog may be obtained by individuals by sending a check (payable to the National Archives Trust Fund) for \$2, plus \$3 for shipping/handling, to: National Archives Trust Fund, NEPS Department M1920, P.O. Box 100793, Atlanta, GA 30384. Libraries and institutions may receive a copy at no charge by writing to: National Archives Trust Fund, NEPS 1W1, Department M1920, Washington, DC 20408.

KDLA's Micrographics Branch offers copies of Kentucky census schedules for 1810-1880 and 1900-1920 and Soundex for 1880, 1900 and 1910. They may be purchased for \$5 per schedule roll and \$10 per Soundex roll, plus 6% sales tax for Kentucky residents.

### Assure Kentucky's Tercentenary!

Your gift of a Friends' membership to family or friends who love Kentucky's history will help ensure that our historical records are preserved and available to tell the story in 2092!



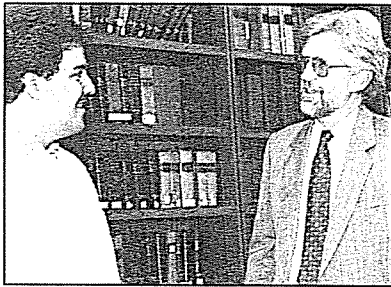
**Make this Bicentennial  
Holiday Season an  
historic one!**



## Clark Interns Gain Archival Experience

The Friends' Thomas D. Clark Endowment continues to provide on-the-job training in archival administration by funding internships in the Public Records Division.

During the summer months this year, Michael Patrick Soutl of Radcliffe made an important contribution through his work in gathering information and statistics for a comprehensive annual report. Soutl, a 1992 graduate of Eastern Kentucky University



Michael Soutl, left, talks with Richard Belding about his summer as a Clark Intern.

with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History, also worked in public service, assisting patrons in the Archives Research Room.

Sara Dawson is serving as the Clark Intern for the 1992-93 academic year, while completing her Masters Thesis in history at the University of Kentucky.



Intern Sara Dawson assists Bill Richardson with preparation of the *Kentucky Checklist*.

As a graduate student, she is gaining valuable experience in understanding the steps involved in preparing archival materials for public access. Working with the division's state publications program, Dawson is organizing agency publications for the *Kentucky Checklist* and completing the re-processing of Spindletop Research Corporation records.

## Short Takes:

### Governor Returns Records

On December 24, 1991, former Governor Wallace G. Wilkinson released to the Public Records Division a massive number of public records which he had taken with him when he left office in early December. Public Records staff filled two trucks with boxes of the records, which included Wilkinson's official correspondence from his 1987-91 term. The former governor and his staff cooperated in the transfer.

Since that time, preliminary processing of the more than 300 cubic feet of records has been largely completed, and the Wilkinson records join those of 53 other governors housed at the State Archives.

### Lost Records Recovered

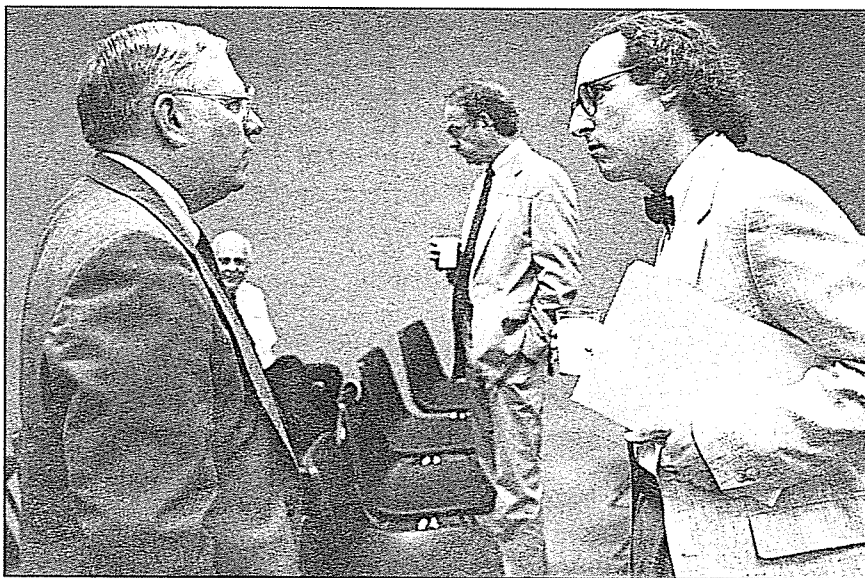
The basement of a private home recently yielded a variety of early Kentucky public records which have been returned to public custody. Included in the find were an executive journal and enrolled bill book for acting Governor J.T. Morehead (1834), Fayette County Commissioner's certificates (1799, 1783-84), and early district court records (1796-1800), as well as records of Kentucky's Electoral College (1792-1844).

### A word to our Friends...

It has been my pleasure to serve as your president for the 1991-92 year. I join you in looking forward to another year of growth and exciting activities for the Friends, led by our next president and the other dedicated officers and members of the board.

Let us all plan to continue, as an independent group of private citizens, to be advocates for the proper management, preservation, and use of the Commonwealth's historic public records. You can help today by asking your friends to become our Friends. Please urge your associates to join in this important work now.

George M. Cunha



Professor John David Smith, North Carolina State University, spoke on methodological problems with local black history research at a KDLA Seminar on Archives and Public History, a special professional development opportunity the department hosted in June for public history staff in agencies in the state's Education and Humanities Cabinet.

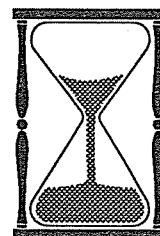
## 1991-92 Another Banner Year

## Use of Archival Records Reaches All-Time High

Use of archival records at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives' (KDLA) Public Records Division reached an all-time high during the just completed 1991-92 state fiscal year.

Total patronage, including on-site visita-

tion, written and telephonic requests, topped 17,000, an increase of more than 11 percent from the previous year. The increase for June 1992 alone was more than 27 percent over June 1991, promising a continued upward trend.



- More than 7,400 walk-in researchers were served.
- Over 4,500 research requests by mail were answered.
- Nearly 4,700 telephone requests were answered.
- Almost 14,000 record request forms were processed for patrons.
- More than 32,400 rolls of microfilm were used
- Total patron research requests for the year grew to over 17,000 compared to 15,300 the previous year.
- Patron research requests from 1985 through 1992 topped 102,000.

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

Box 4224, Frankfort, Kentucky 40604



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"/>

Gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_

New Member	<input type="checkbox"/>
Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive a membership pin. \_\_\_\_\_

Please clip and mail to a friend along with a note about our work.



*WPA Collection, State Archives*

## "Primitive Baptist Church Baptism, Morehead, 1940."

This photograph, from the State Archives' WPA Photo Collection, documents religious activity in the Morehead area in 1940. The collection contains more than 850 images produced between 1926 and 1941 as part of the federal project to capture aspects of

Kentucky life. A complete photocopy set of these pictures is available for the public to view. The archives will arrange for copies to be made of any print in the collection for a nominal fee.

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