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# Friends of Kentucky Public Archives

Volume IX Number 1

Winter-Spring 1993

## Governor Names Eight to State Historical Records Advisory Board

Eight new members are serving on Kentucky's State Historical Records Advisory Board, following new appointments by Governor Brereton C. Jones. The state board, mandated by Federal law, is the central advisory body in Kentucky for historical records planning and for projects funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). It also serves as a coordinating body to facilitate cooperation and communication among historical records repositories and information agencies within the state and as a state-level review body for proposals as defined in the NHPRC's grant program guidelines.

Named by the Governor as new Board members were Dr. Ronald D Eller, University of Kentucky; Mr. Riley Handy, Western Kentucky University; Dr. John Kleber, Morehead State University; Mr. John Klee, Maysville Community College; Ms. Ann Patton, East Bernstadt; Dr. Theda Perdue, Univer-

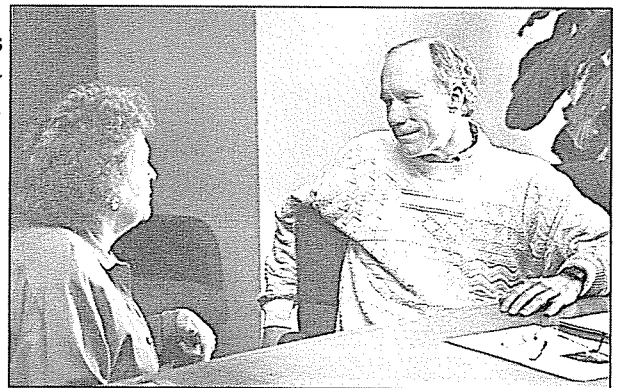


sity of Kentucky; Dr. James Ramage, Northern Kentucky University; and Ms. Sharon Receveur, Louisville.

The new members join current or reappointed members, who include Dr. Thomas D. Clark, Lexington; Dr. William Morison, Louisville; Ms. Betty Jo Denton Heick, Paris; Ms. Mary Margaret Bell, of the Kentucky Historical Society, and Richard N. Belding,

of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, who serves as the board's Coordinator.

Since its creation in 1976, Kentucky applicants have received in excess of \$1 million in grants for historical records projects from the NHPRC. The NHPRC has also funded the Henry Clay Papers Project at the University of Kentucky, which published the original papers of Clay in a multi-volume edition.



New Board members include Dr. John Kleber, right, top photo, and Dr. James Ramage. Betty Jo Denton Heick, lower left, talks with fellow Board member, Dr. William Morison.

## Council Backs New Records Services Center

Kentucky needs to construct a new, state-owned State Records Services Center now, according to a resolution adopted unanimously by the State Advisory Council on Libraries at a recent meeting. The new building would offer expanded high-density records storage facilities for government agency use and would also feature centralized image management and micrographics services, available to public agencies across the state.

The facility would be built with the specific functions of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) in mind, on state-owned land adjacent to the current KDLA building. It would replace KDLA's use of existing facilities, which the department's Public Records Division has leased for more than 30 years.

*Please see page 7.*

**Plan Now to Attend  
The Ninth Annual  
Kentucky Archives  
Institute**  
**Friday, July 9**  
Department for Libraries & Archives  
Frankfort

## Records Profiles

### *Kentucky Governors' Papers Are Significant Resources*

By Tim Tingle

The official papers of Kentucky's governors are among the most significant resources available at the State Archives. Arrangement and description of the non-contemporary records has been completed for the period 1792-1899. Although many types of records can be found in the governors' papers, the Petitions for Pardons series can be of particular interest to researchers.

Each of Kentucky's four constitutions has vested the governor with the authority to issue pardons. The governor could grant a pardon for virtually any criminal offense, from disturbing the peace and chicken stealing, to kidnapping and murder. From early statehood and throughout the 19th century, the governor's office received numerous requests for relief from prisoners and their family members, and other interested parties. Although the power to pardon could prove to be burdensome to the governor, as he was often inundated with petitions throughout his administration, these petitions now provide us with valuable insight into Kentucky history.

The petitions for pardons, which are usually in the form of letters to the governor, reflect the attitudes of Kentuckians (including the governor) to-

ward many of the social and political issues of the day. In the pre-Civil War records, researchers can find pleas for clemency on behalf of those involved in the illegal importation of slaves, and of those who assisted run-aways. During and after the War, many petitions are based on or include strong pro-Union or pro-Southern sentiments. Attitudes toward African Americans and women are of particular interest in the post-War and Victorian eras. The climate of violence that was so prevalent throughout Kentucky during much of the 19th century is illustrated in the numerous requests for pardons for offenses relating to carrying weapons, assault and homicide, and, especially, in the feud-related petitions. In some cases, copies of court documents and newspaper articles are attached to the petitions and provide additional information.

The petitions for pardons are arranged chronologically within each governor's administration, by date of executive action. If the researcher is interested in the records of a particular petitioner, the governor's executive journal can be consulted to obtain this date. For further information on the the availability and use of these records, consult the Research Room staff.

### 1993 Summer Clark Intern Begins Work

Sara Dawson, a graduate student in history at the University of Kentucky, was recently chosen as this summer's Thomas D. Clark Intern in Archival Administration. She will begin work at the Public Records Division (PRD) in June. This is the ninth year of the Clark Internship summer program, and throughout that time, the program has attracted a fine group of well-qualified, motivated applicants.

sense of what is required to manage a large public archival program, with exposure to strategic planning, budgeting, development of legislation, personnel issues, and public communications. Under the supervision of PRD staff, Clark interns also gain a valuable understanding of the steps involved in preparing archival materials for public access. Interns have

*Please see page 6.*

The Clark Internship program is designed to give interns a real world



### Governor Reorganizes Cabinet in Move Toward Greater Efficiency

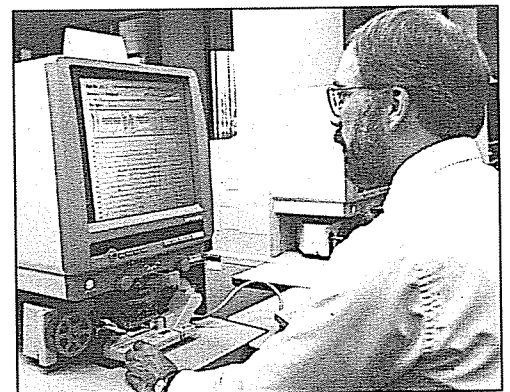
Micrographics, Preservation Services Expand at KDLA

In a recent Executive Order, Governor Brereton C. Jones reorganized the Education and Humanities Cabinet in an effort to achieve more streamlined organization and greater operating efficiency. As part of that decision, the Cabinet is now known as the Education, Arts, and Humanities Cabinet. The Kentucky Oral History Commission was transferred and attached to the Kentucky Historical Society (KHS), as a branch of the new Oral History and Educational Outreach Division, and the Governor's Scholars Program, providing enrichment programs for academically gifted students, now is headed by an administrator within the office of the Secretary of the newly renamed cabinet.

The Order also provided for the transfer of KHS personnel, equipment, and other resources related to micro-

*Please see page 7.*

### Colonels' Grant Buys Microfilm Reader-Printer



Jim Prichard tries out a new Minolta dry paper microfilm reader-printer in the Archives Research Room. The unit, one of two recently acquired, was made possible by a generous grant of \$9,250 from the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels to the Friends. With on-site patron visitation nearing 8,000 annually, this unit is a most welcome addition to the Research Room's inventory.

## Volunteers: We Appreciate Your Work! Ten Recognized at Annual Luncheon

With growing public demand to use original and microfilmed resources at the State Archives, the contribution of time of Friends' public service volunteers has become more and more important with each year. At the annual Friends' Volunteers Recognition Luncheon, Friends' President Dr. William E. Ellis, State Librarian James A. Nelson, and State Archivist Richard N. Belding all echoed this theme, in expressing their appreciation for the important, continuing role which Friends' volunteers play.

In the past state fiscal year, research demand grew by more than 11 percent, to more than 17,000, and all indications are that this figure will continue to rise. Archives' staff depend on the experience and knowledge which Friends' volunteers bring to Research Room service, and they hope other Friends will choose to participate in this fascinating, very useful activity.

Recognized for service in 1992 were Patsy Benton, Iris Byington, Ellie Caroland, Marjorie Diamond, Sue Fint, Mary Doyle Johnson, Jo Ann Shingleton, Donna Thompson, Ilene Wills, and Landon Wills. Many thanks again to all of you and continued good work in 1993!



State Librarian Jim Nelson, left, and Friends' President Bill Ellis recognize volunteer Marjorie Diamond as Public Records Division Director Richard Belding looks on.



H. Charles Grawemeyer, left, and Bill Ellis examine resolution of appreciation presented to Grawemeyer for his many contributions to the Friends' organization and his hard work on behalf of the Clark Endowment.



Friends Board member George Street Boone, left, talks to Thomas D. Clark as Clark signs books. Jim Nelson, standing, and Charles Grawemeyer, right, talk before the luncheon gets underway.

## Recent Accessions

By Bill Richardson

Several sets of vital statistics records have been added to the Archives Research Room collection. Statewide indexes to marriages (1973-1989) and divorces (1974-1989) are now available on microfiche. Death registers (1866-1910) and birth registers (1898-1910) for Jefferson County are on microfilm, as are death registers (1884-1928) and birth registers (1905-1911) for the City of Newport.

As a result of reorganization, the Kentucky Department of Education recently closed its research library. Some of the library's resources were dispersed throughout the agency, and the remainder were transferred to KDLA. Sixteen cubic feet of these records, covering the years 1841-1990, have been accessioned as part of the PRD State Publications collection. Included are various editions of Kentucky Common School Laws, Biennial Reports of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Teacher Education Circulars, as well as a number of other educational publications.

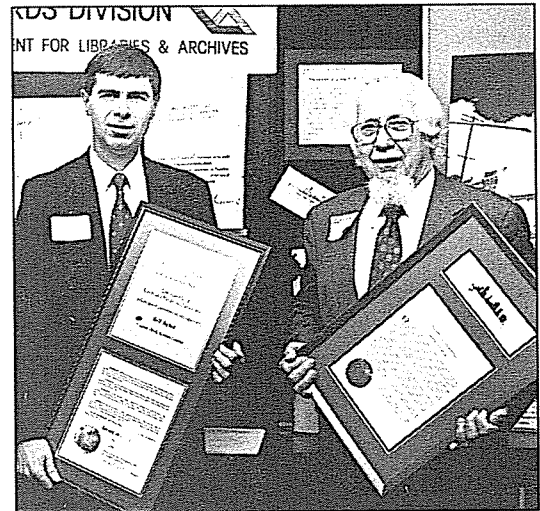
Recent challenges to the ways in which the nation's public schools are funded has prompted legislative activity in a number of states. With passage of the Kentucky Education Reform Act in 1991, the information contained in these publications takes on even greater significance as an aid to scholars researching both the problems and progress of Kentucky's system of public education over the years.

Kentucky Archives Institute  
Friday, July 9

## Friends Annual Meeting:

# Years of Achievements, Challenges Noted by Friends' Leadership Members, Public Officials Recognized

In the annual president's address to the membership, outgoing Friends president George M. Cunha underscored the progress the organization has made in a variety of areas since its founding, and urged members to help meet continuing challenges on the horizon. Cunha noted particularly the growth in the Thomas D. Clark Endowment, which funds internships in archival administration at the State Archives; the popularity of the annual Kentucky Archives Institute each July; the interest in the annual Public Archives Symposium; the Friends' success in securing grants to further the work of the organization and the State Archives; and special exhibits, lectures, and cooperative ventures which have brought knowledge of Kentucky's historical resources to a wider public.



Annual meeting participants, left photo, pick up materials while registering for the event at Lexington Public Library. Kenton County Clerk Bill Aylor, above left, and outgoing Friends president, George M. Cunha, show awards of merit and appreciation. Below, Cunha talks with member Anne Rodick before the meeting gets underway.



Cunha stressed that the work of the Friends was more important than ever, with continuing budget challenges at the state level, and urged members to contribute generously, invite their friends to become Friends' members, and take an active part in Friends' programs.

At the annual meeting luncheon, President Cunha and former Friends' leaders and board members Howard Goodpaster and H. Charles Grawemeyer were honored by the membership with resolutions of appreciation for their contributions to the work of the organization over several years. At the same event, Friends' Awards of Merit for outstanding contributions to the management and preservation of public records, were presented to Kenton County Clerk Bill Aylor and Ballard County Clerk Lynn W. Lane.

## Ellis Elected to Lead Friends

Dr. William Ellis, Professor of History at Eastern Kentucky University, was chosen president at the Friends' annual meeting and heads a slate of officers and board members elected to lead in 1993. Joining Ellis are Jean Calvert, Paul Coates, and Patricia Hodges, regional vice presidents for eastern, central, and western Kentucky; Mary Doyle Johnson, secretary; and Porter Harned, treasurer.

Elected to three-year terms on the board of directors were Philip P. Ardery, Louisville; George M. Cunha, Lexington; Cecil E. Goode, Glasgow; Betty Jane Gorin, Campbellsville; Porter Harned, Louisville; Mary Doyle Johnson, Lexington; and Patricia Patton, Paintsville. Mr. Ardery subsequently advised Dr. Ellis that he would be obliged to resign from the board, and Dr. William Morison, of Louisville, was named to replace him. The board expressed its deep appreciation to Mr. Ardery for his previous service.

Available now!

Guide to Kentucky  
Archival and Manuscript Collections, Volume Two  
Call 502/875-7000 for information.



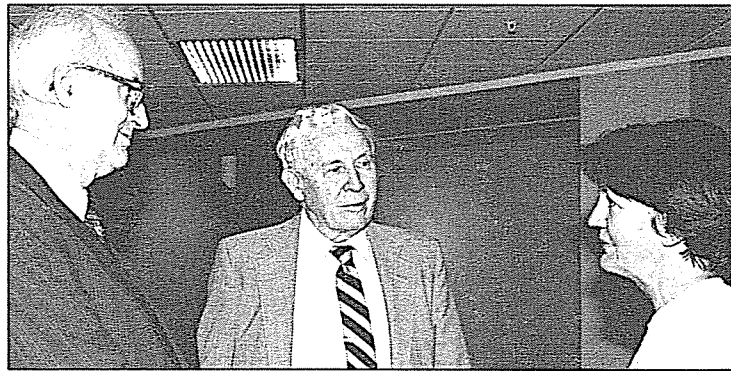
## Harrison Unravels Mystery of Road to Statehood at Symposium; Local Records a Rich Source: Everman

Speakers at the Friends' 1992 Public Archives Symposium provided attendees with a fascinating inside assessment of the way scholars find, evaluate, and use original documentary resources in their research. Drawing from his own personal experience, Dr. Lowell Harrison, professor emeritus of history at Western Kentucky University and the author of numerous books and articles on the state's past, told of his investigations leading to the writing and publication of his recent book, *Kentucky's Road to Statehood*. Harrison recounted his search for archival sources and the discovery of critical information in often unexpected places. In drawing from years of research experience, he cited a variety of instances where federal, state and local government archival resources - and archivists - had provided him with valuable material for his studies.

Harrison's own work provided a point of departure for the Symposium's commentator, Dr. H. E. "Hank" Everman, of Eastern Kentucky University. Everman praised Harrison's scholarship and analysis and urged listeners to read his book. He noted he had carried out his own detailed re-

view of sources Harrison cited in his book and lauded his exhaustive coverage. Everman told of his own research on the history of Madison and Bourbon Counties and how his use of the records of local government and of other local institutions had been important in those investigations. He emphasized the particular utility of county court order books or minute books for those researching local social and economic history, and also mentioned the ways church record books and academy or private school minute books could fill in vital pieces of the story.

In quoting Dr. Thomas D. Clark, Everman noted that "only local history performs the sacred mission of giving us an intimate sense of time and place," and he commended the Department for Libraries and Archives' local records grants program, for preserving on microfilm Kentucky's unique local records legacy. He said all researchers benefit from the bringing together of this material in one location, available through the department's Archives Research Room in Frankfort, and he encouraged the audience to take advantage of this rich collection for their own research.



Dr. H.E. "Hank" Everman of Eastern Kentucky University, left, and Dr. Lowell Harrison of Western Kentucky University discuss their research with an attendee at the 1992 Public Archives Symposium sponsored by the Friends.

## Friends of the Archives Express Appreciation to Governor and Mrs. Jones



In appreciation of their continuing support of historical records programs, the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives presented a reproduction of the 1792 act of the Kentucky General Assembly creating the city of Versailles to Governor and Mrs. Brereton C. Jones. Dr. Thomas D. Clark, Public Records Director Richard Belding and Friends President William Ellis (left) took part in making the presentation at the final meeting of the Kentucky Bicentennial Commission.

## Cemetery Showcases Unusual Burial Party

An eerie procession keeps weird watch over a single grave in Mayfield, Kentucky. (See WPA photograph on page 8 of this newsletter.) There, in Maplewood Cemetery, are the Wooldridge Monuments, one of the world's strangest memorials to the dead. For more than 75 years, visitors to Mayfield have paused at the cemetery to gaze at the odd assortment of 16 statues, all facing the same direction, seemingly frozen in the midst of a ghostly walk.

Every small town has had its eccentric personality, and Mayfield's was a bachelor gentleman, "Colonel" Henry Wooldridge. An energetic man of aristocratic background, Wooldridge was an avid hunter and sportsman and made a good living trading horses. In spite of such lively interests, he was preoccupied with death. In his later years, he made up his mind to be remembered after passing on.

In 1892, he bought a plot in the local cemetery and erected a tombstone — a handsome shaft of marble carved with his name, a Masonic emblem and the figure of a horse. It was the first of a series of memorials that would include figures of himself and the persons and animals he loved.

When the Colonel died at the age of 77, he had purchased his casket and burial robe, erected more monuments and spent several thousands of dollars to assure his lasting memory.

The group of statues includes a standing likeness of Wooldridge and another of him astride his favorite horse, "Fop." Behind these are placed the figures of his three sisters. Three of his brothers stand before him. His father and mother, and two small girls are nearby. Caught in action forever are his foxhound, "Bob," chasing a stone fox, and "Tow Head," his deerhound at the heels of a running deer. In the midst of this unusual aggregation is the Colonel's grave — a vault above the ground, topped with a marble slab that bears a carving of his trusty gun.

The people of Mayfield watched the growth of the immortal parade with great interest and much speculation. This seems natural, for Wooldridge made a number of curious decisions in the execution of his memorial. Even though he was determined to have lasting monuments of his loved ones, he was very offhand in his instruction to the stone cutter. When ordering the statue of himself and "Fop," he provided no more details than that his horse, long dead, was to be 15 hands high and well-proportioned. He did not even go to the cutter's place of business to confer with the man. Instead, he sent a faded, old tintype of himself as a guide for his life-size likeness.

The stone faces of his sisters and brothers are all very much alike, thus giving rise to the tale that one of the women was modeled after the love of his youth, a fiancée who was accidentally killed in a fall from a horse.

Other tales about the unusual man and his monuments, whether true or not, are further proof that the Colonel succeeded in his aim — he has not been forgotten by the people of Mayfield or visitors to Maplewood Cemetery.

## Clark Intern Begins Work

*Continued from page 2.*

brought energy and fresh approaches to their summer assignments, and both the interns and the State Archives have benefited from the experience.



Sara Dawson

## Short Takes:

### Research Room Hours Curtailed

Due to staffing shortages, the Archives Research Room at the Department for Libraries and Archives will be open on Saturdays for microfilm research only, beginning June 5, 1993. Both original records and microfilm will continue to be available for patron use Tuesday through Friday.

Archives Research Room public service hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For further information, please call 606-875-7000, ext. 108.

### Clark To Be Honored at Birthday Reception

Dr. Thomas D. Clark, distinguished Kentucky historian and founding member of the Friends, will be honored at a July 14 reception at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. The reception, sponsored by the Friends, will mark Dr. Clark's 90th birthday and will feature his own recollections of six decades of work on behalf of the preservation of Kentucky's documentary legacy. Mark your calendars now; additional information will be released shortly.

### A word to our Friends...

It is my pleasure to serve as your president for the 1993-94 year. I join you in looking forward to another year of growth and exciting activities for the Friends.

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.

William E. Ellis  
President

## Council Supports New Records Services Center

*Continued from page 1.*

In endorsing the building plan, the 21-member Advisory Council, representing all sectors of the Kentucky's library community, noted that construction of this new building would allow the department to meet the service needs of many agencies for emerging optical disc and other image technology by consolidating extensive centralized micrographics operations and expertise with new initiatives in other areas of image management, including digital optical imaging.

The Council also observed that in providing central services required by all agencies, the project would annually save millions of dollars in cost avoidance by numerous public agencies. Steadily increasing demand from agencies for records services, reflected in KDLA statistics and a 1987 LRC study, underscore the need, and a centralized storage facility adjacent to the department's main building could take full advantage of co-location with other departmental services.



Architect's rendering of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives building at 300 Coffee Tree Road, Frankfort. The facility was dedicated in October 1982.

## Governor Reorganizes, Streamlines Services

*Continued from page 2.*

graphics and document preservation services to KDLA's Public Records Division, which has programs in both of these areas. KHS's original film holdings will be stored in KDLA's physically secure, climate controlled facilities. KDLA's micrographics and document preservation programs are extending their services to private organizations and individuals which previously used those of KHS and working in cooperation with KHS to ensure that all potential users of this service are aware of these changes. As in its current operation, these services are provided to all clients on a fee for service basis, to ensure sufficient cost recovery to cover the cost of providing the service.

KDLA now provides a wide range of micrographics and document preservation services to a large number of government agencies and private organizations and individuals, and looks forward to making these services available to others. For more information, contact KDLA at 606-875-7000, ext. 173.

## 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, the Public Archives Symposium and the annual meeting. Gifts to the Friends are tax deductible.

Individual	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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*

## "The Wooldridge Monuments"

An eerie procession keeps weird watch over a single grave in Mayfield, shown in this photograph from the State Archives' WPA Photo Collection. The collection contains more than 850 images produced between 1926 and 1941 as part of the federal project to document aspects of

Kentucky life. A complete photocopy set of these pictures is available for the public to review. The archives will arrange for copies to be made of any print in the collection for a nominal processing fee. For more information about the Wooldridge Monuments, see story on page 6 .

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