Friends Sponsor the 33rd annual Kentucky Archives Institute

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The Institute’s theme for this year was the 225th anniversary of Kentucky’s statehood.

Dr. Richard Taylor, the Kenan Visiting Writer at Transylvania University and former Kentucky Poet Laureate was the keynote speaker. Dr. Taylor spoke on Harry Innes: Citizen of Elkhorn Creek. Innes was active in the move for statehood and became Kentucky’s first Federal Judge.

The ever-popular Kandie Adkinson from the Kentucky Secretary of State’s Land Office spoke on land patents and how to use those patents to trace family history.

Walter Bowman and David Kirkpatrick of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives staff spoke on records in KDLA’s collection. Walter’s presentation covered the early years of statehood and the transition from Virginia recordkeeping to that of Kentucky. David’s presentation followed three signers of Kentucky’s constitution through time using a variety records from KDLA’s holdings.

As always, the staff received positive feedback and good suggestions for next year’s event.

Thanks to our speakers, the Friends, and Archives and Records Management Division staff for helping to make the 2017 Archives Institute a successful and informative event.

"The keeping of the public record of a civilized people is a continuing responsibility where properly the task is never completed. The vigilance necessary to preserve the record is synonymous with that of preserving the freedom of an open and democratic society." Dr. Thomas D. Clark, former Historian Laureate of Kentucky
Exciting Changes to KDLA’s Public Service Areas

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) is excited to announce major changes to our public service areas. In mid-July, the Archives Research Room expanded part of its services into the former Library Reference Room. Archival staff now share that space with library reference staff to serve all customers using original records.

The Archives and Records Management Division Welcomes New Managers

David Kirkpatrick is the new manager of KDLA’s Local Records Branch. David began his duties on July 1, 2017.

David has been with KDLA since 2007. He started his career in the Archives Research Room. In April 2017, David was promoted to Supervisor of the Archives Center before moving to his current position later in the year.

David will oversee the Local Records Branch, which provides records management advice to local governments including county and city clerks, libraries, health departments, and law enforcement offices. David will also manage the Local Records Grants Program, which provides biannual grants to local government agencies to assist with document conservation, microfilming, digitization, purchasing equipment, automated indexing, digital imaging systems, and codification of ordinances.

David has a B.A. in history from the University of Louisville and an M.A. in history from Western Kentucky University.

Kari May is the new manager for KDLA’s Electronic Records Management Branch (ERM). She was promoted on June 1, 2017.

Kari has worked for KDLA since April 2007 when she joined the staff as a Librarian in the Archives Research Room. Kari’s interest in providing public access to information led her to the Electronic Records Management Branch in September 2015 as the Electronic Records Archivist. As ERM Branch Manager, Kari will work to assist state employees with the management of digital records they create and will guide her staff in the completion of a State Government Electronic Records Grant awarded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) in 2015. This grant project will help move KDLA’s digital archives from a digital repository to a trustworthy digital preservation system with an online public access portal. The Kentucky State Digital Archives was made available to the public on October 10, 2017.

Kari has a B.A. in English from Marshall University and an M.S.L.S. from the University of Kentucky.
Kentucky State Digital Archives Goes Live on Electronic Records Day 2017

On October 10, 2017, the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) launched the Kentucky State Digital Archives (KSDA) public portal making archived Kentucky State Government born-digital public records accessible online: https://kdla.access.preservica.com/. Previously, KDLA had been providing access to electronic state records through specially designed web pages and the e-Archives. As technology changed and archival standards for digital content became more demanding, KDLA realized the need to pursue new storage and access options. In 2012, staff evaluated a new program called Preservica. In 2015, KDLA began transferring their digital archives collections to this system. Now, Preservica provides checks, workflows, and data loss prevention and includes an online access portal with robust keyword search options, filters, and sorting capabilities.

The KSDA provides a single access point for all Kentucky State Government archival digital content. The new interface allows researchers to access photographs, videos, speeches, and other records of permanent value created by all state agencies. As public records, items in the system can be viewed, downloaded, and printed for free. The KSDA offers new and improved searching and viewing capabilities that will simplify exploration and discovery of a wealth of digital resources previously unavailable.

KDLA Celebrates Electronic Records Day

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) celebrated Electronic Records Day on October 10, 2017. Now in its sixth year, Electronic Records Day was created by the State Electronic Records Initiative (SERI), a program of the Council of State Archivists (CoSA), as an opportunity to share information about managing digital resources and to enlist support in preserving electronic records.

This day is designed to raise awareness among state government agencies, the general public, professional organizations, and other stakeholders about the crucial role electronic records play in their world.


Thank you!

The staff of the Kentucky State Archives would like to express our gratitude to the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. for their generous support for the purchase of two display cases that will be permanently located in the Kentucky State Capitol. The display cases will contain records from KDLA’s collection on a rotating basis. Thank you Friends for your continuing and significant support to KDLA.

The Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. is a not for profit membership organization of private citizens concerned with helping the Archives and Records Management Division of Kentucky’s Department for Libraries and Archives fulfill its role as a vital information link between people and government. The Friends’ organization supports the management, preservation, and use of Kentucky’s historic public records and serves as an advocate for the Kentucky State Archives, which the division manages. For further information, contact the Friends at P.O. Box 4224, Frankfort, KY 40604.
Kentucky Archives Month Observed
October 2017

Kentucky archival and manuscript repositories throughout the state observed October 2017 as Kentucky Archives Month, in conjunction with American Archives Month. This year, our theme was Kentucky 1792-2017: Bridging 225 Years of Kentucky History.

Nearly 300 archival and manuscript repositories in Kentucky preserve archival and manuscript records that provide a rich and varied picture of the history of Kentucky. Their collections include personal papers, photographs, bibles, diaries, and government records, such as marriage certificates and wills. Many institutions host special programs, open houses, exhibits, and speakers during the month, to highlight historical materials available for research. A list of these events is on the Kentucky Archives Month website http://archivesmonth.ky.gov.

Kentucky Archives Month is sponsored by the Kentucky State Historical Records Advisory Board, the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. and the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. We would like to thank the Friends for their generous support of Kentucky Archives Month. For further information, call 502.564.1720.
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The original Archives Research Room now serves as the entry point for researchers, maintains our microfilm collection, and provides computer access to websites such as Ancestry and FamilySearch.

Here are a few “before” and “after” photos of the two public service areas.
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