Archives Facility Expansion Effort Falls Short

KDLA Request Fails to Make Final 2006 Budget

Kentucky’s State Archives came up short again in its effort to get funding for needed expansion for records storage. The Archives, part of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA), is by law the state’s official repository for permanently valuable records from state and local government. The Archives 96,600 cubic feet of holdings date from 1780 to the present. It has been at maximum storage capacity for the past year. In June 2005, KDLA had to issue a moratorium to public agencies, advising them that it would have to defer further records transfers to the Archives for the foreseeable future.

In its latest attempt, KDLA submitted an $8.055 million capital request to fund construction of additional space needed for the storage of archival records. While the building request did not make it into the Governor’s original budget submission in January, it was included in the House version of the Executive Branch budget, and staff was optimistic that it would receive favorable consideration in the end. However, when the Senate’s version of the budget emerged, KDLA’s request was not included. There was still hope that it would be reinserted in the conference committee version of the budget, but that did not happen.

KDLA’s proposal had been closely evaluated by the Capital Planning Advisory Board (CPAB), the state body which reviews capital construction requests, and had emerged from that review process in the fall of 2005 as one of only 48 projects specifically recommended for funding, of the hundreds reviewed by the CPAB during 2005. The planned addition would have permitted storage of an additional 67,000 cubic feet of records and while located in Franklin County, it would have served the information management and records storage needs of government agencies in all 120 Kentucky counties.

Continued on page 4
Research Opportunities at the State Archives

Although Kentucky never seceded from the Union, thousands of its citizens enlisted to fight on the side of the Confederacy. When the Civil War ended, many of these men returned to Kentucky to resume their lives as farmers and merchants, lawyers and clerks. Eventually the passing years began to take a toll, and some of the aging Confederate veterans found themselves no longer able to work, or in poor health. If a veteran had no family or other means of support, he would be forced to rely on charity or make whatever arrangements he could for himself.

In 1902, responding to the needs of numerous Confederate veterans within the state, the Kentucky General Assembly enacted legislation to establish a "Kentucky Confederate Home." The Home was located in Oldham County, at the old Villa Ridge summer resort facility. Hundreds of Confederate veterans resided at the Home in its heyday, but the numbers had fallen considerably by the time a fire destroyed a large section of the building in 1920. The Home remained open in reduced circumstances until 1934, when the property was sold and the last five residents were moved to a local sanitarium.

A collection of twenty volumes of records from the Kentucky Confederate Home is available for research at the State Archives. These are somewhat miscellaneous in nature, but provide a good overview of the facility. For example, Reference Book B (1903-1909) contains individual entries for veterans who applied for residency at the Home. Each entry lists the name of the veteran and gives a brief history of his service record, including his unit and sometimes the battles in which he fought. The "Ledger Book" (1902-1919) also has entries for a limited number of residents, giving date and place of birth, occupation, names of parents, and name and address of current next of kin. Other records document the administrative functions of the Home. The "Purchase and Payroll Ledger" (1902-1911) lists every expenditure on a daily basis, including payments for food, drugs and clothing, as well as wages and salaries to employees.

Although only a small fraction of the total number of Confederate veterans in Kentucky lived in the Confederate Home, the records of the institution can provide some important information to researchers interested in Civil War soldiers and in residential care facilities of the early 20th century.

KHS Receives $33,549 Grant

At its May 2006 meeting, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) recommended a grant of up to $33,549 to the Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) for the second year of its project, Registers & Rosters: Processing Business and Military Records in the Bluegrass. The grant begins August 1st for a one-year period, and is designed to make a significant portion of the KHS manuscript collections more readily available for research. As part of the approval process, the KHS project had previously secured state-level endorsement from the State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB), the state-level body which reviews grants from Kentucky organizations to the NHPRC. Congratulations KHS!
Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.

The Twenty-Second Annual Kentucky Archives Institute

Sponsored by: Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., and Public Records Division, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

July 7, 2006

Activity Room, Second Floor, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

8:30-9:00 Registration
9:00-9:15 Welcome
9:15-10:15 Reflections of Faith: Congregations, Clergymen and Other Spiritual Subjects in Archival Sources
Jim Prichard, KDLA

10:15-10:30 Break
10:30-11:30 The Path to Citizenship: Immigration and Naturalization Records
Lisa Thompson, KDLA

11:30-12:30 LUNCH

12:30-1:30 Women's Roles and Rights in Early Kentucky
Aloma Dew, Kentucky Historian

1:30-2:15 Researching Kentucky's Spanish-American War Era: Active Service
Walter Bowman, KDLA

2:15-2:30 Break

2:30-3:30 Church Records and Family Bibles
Beth Shields, Kentucky Historical Society

3:30-3:45 Conclusion

Please clip and mail the form below, along with registration fee(s), by June 30. Space is limited to 50 attendees.

Mail registration form with payment to: Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.
Kentucky Archives Institute
P.O. Box 4224
Frankfort, KY 40604

Registration fees: $45 fee covers the cost of all Institute materials and lunch.

Check here to reserve a vegetarian lunch. _____

Make checks payable to: Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. (Fees are non-refundable.)

Name(s): __________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________

Phone: ______________________ I would like more information about the Friends. ______
The State Archives is now in a crisis situation – there simply is no more space. The space crisis is particularly acute for the judiciary and for legal researchers because the Archives houses large quantities of judicial records of permanent value, including those from circuit courts across the state and from the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court. Because of this important collection, 78% of the original records retrieved by Archives staff to meet on-site researchers’ needs are judicial records, and 87.5% of the records retrieved by Archives staff to answer customer written or telephone requests and inquiries are judicial records.

Over the last twelve years, the General Assembly has approved construction of 53 new county judicial centers, at a cost of $699,000,000. The 2006-2008 budget authorized more than $250,000,000 for construction of an additional 16 new county judicial centers and an added scope request for an existing project. In its design of new county judicial centers, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) has limited the amount of square footage dedicated to records storage. This helps ensure that the focus of the new structures and of local court staff is on providing current judicial services, not dealing with archival records. KDLA concurs that transferring records older than 25 years to the State Archives is the optimal way to handle these irreplaceable materials. The strategy for focusing the new judicial centers on current records has been successful for the AOC. For the strategy to be successful for the Commonwealth, however, KDLA’s space needs to be proportionately increased. This will enable it to meet not only the records storage needs of the judiciary but also of Executive Branch agencies. Currently, there is a backlog of state agency records that could be transferred, but for lack of space, this action must be postponed for the present. This situation places records at risk and potentially puts agencies’ operations in jeopardy.

KDLA will continue working hard to secure this facility, and welcomes your help. In the meantime, the agency is assembling information for state and local agencies which will advise them of their responsibilities for managing and preserving records within their agencies which would otherwise be housed in the secure environment of the State Archives.

The Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., is a not for profit membership organization of private citizens concerned with helping the Public Records 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.

---

Honoring Dr. Thomas D. Clark: How you can participate

Dr. Clark was strongly committed to the preparation of future generations of archival professionals. The Friends’ Thomas D. Clark Endowment Fund for Internships in Archival Administration honors Dr. Clark’s work and helps prepare the next generation of archivists and manuscript curators. Contributions to the Clark Endowment Fund, which is administered by the Friends, help sustain the internship program and honor his memory. All Friends’ life memberships go to the fund.

Won’t you join us in supporting this effort to “ensure a future for our past?” Please make your checks payable to: Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., and note Clark Endowment on the “For” line of your check. Please use the form at the bottom of this page to make your contribution and mail it to the address on the form.

Donations of any size are most welcome, and all donations to the Friends are tax deductible. Thank you for your support!

---

Start planning now for your celebration of Kentucky Archives Week 2006 October 8-14!

This year’s theme is Family Heritage.

Need ideas and suggestions? Please visit http://archivesweek.ky.gov/ in late June for release of the Kentucky Archives Week Planning Guide.

---

Yes, I would like to renew my membership in/become a member of the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.

My check for $________ made payable to the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., is enclosed. Membership benefits include a quarterly newsletter, a membership pin, and invitations to workshops, special events, the Kentucky Archives Institute, the Public Archives Symposium, and the annual meeting. Gifts to the Friends beyond the basic membership are tax deductible.

Name:

Address: __________________________  City: __________________________

State: __________ Zip: __________ Telephone: __________ E-Mail Address: __________________________

Membership levels: 

$15 Individual/Family 

$25 Libraries, Genealogical and Historical Societies 

$250 Life 

$50 Sustaining 

$1,000 Corporate 

Gift to the Clark Endowment

Please clip and mail to: Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., P.O. Box 4224, Frankfort, Kentucky 40604 * We appreciate your support.
This photo of a military unit probably dates from before 1900. Neither the unit nor any of the individual soldiers are identified. The Gatling Gun has an Acces magazine that was first used in 1880 and remained in service until 1899 when it was replaced because of a tendency to jam with heavy use. The rifles have characteristics of the Krag-Jorgensen model used from around 1894 until 1903, when the Springfield 30.06 caliber was adopted. Can any of our readers help with a more complete identification of this picture? (This photograph is from records of the Office of Creative Services, Finance and Administration Cabinet, in the State Archives holdings, Public Records Division, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.)