Archives Research Room Offers Improved Services

When the Kentucky State Archives opened in its present location in 1982, it was among the most modern and state-of-the-art facilities in the nation. Genealogists, historians, students, and the general public flocked to the Archives Research Room to use the original state and local government records stored in the Archives Center, or available on microfilm, all open for public use in one central location. The number of onsite visitors to the State Archives and the resources available to them has changed considerably since 1982, and especially since the mid-1990s.

In 1995, there were no public-use computer stations in the Research Room. The microfilm collection numbered just under 48,000 rolls, and approximately 80,000 cubic feet of original records were stored in the Archives Center. All of the indexes and finding aids were either in paper or microfilm. Most of our visitors were performing genealogical research, so the microfilm of the federal census and the Kentucky birth and death records was very heavily in demand.

Currently, the microfilm collection has reached nearly 70,000 rolls, and the Archives Center has over 115,000 cubic feet of original records. There are nine public-use computer terminals in the Research Room, allowing our customers access to internet resources as well as to various databases created by our staff. KDLA staff has compiled searchable indexes to Circuit Court case files for 40 counties and the old General Court, making those collections much more easily accessible. The microfilm catalog finding aids for our holdings for all 120 counties have been scanned and are also searchable in the Research Room. None of these electronic resources was available in 1995.

The annual statistics for 1995 show that 8,362 researchers visited the Archives Research Room during that fiscal year, ending in June. We have experienced a slow, but steady decline in the number of onsite visitors in succeeding years. With two months remaining in the current fiscal year, we estimate that we will have assisted approximately 2,200 onsite customers in FY2015.

By far, the most significant factor in the decline in the number of onsite visitors is the accessibility of genealogical information on the internet. The federal census and the Kentucky birth and death records, as well as a wide range of marriage records, wills, and many other resources necessary for genealogical research, are available online. Researchers can use these resources in their own homes or at their local libraries. While genealogical researchers still represent a significant percentage of our onsite customers, the Research Room has far fewer visitors who just stop by to start a family research project. The genealogists who visit now are more likely to stay longer and do more intensive research, using sources that may only be available here at the State Archives.

The number of historians, students, attorneys, and other non-genealogical researchers who visit the Archives Research Room has not declined at all in the last twenty years. In fact, those numbers may actually have risen to some extent, since there are even more unique, original state and local government records and a larger collection of microfilm. The State Archives serves as the central repository and only source for many of these records, including Circuit Court and Court of Appeals case files, and the official papers of most of Kentucky’s governors.

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"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
KDLA Career Employees
Glen McAninch & Tim McIntosh Retire

Two long-time members of the Archives and Records Management Division (ARM) have retired effective May 1.

Glen McAninch had been with ARM for 28 years and had served as the Manager of the Electronic Records Management Branch since 2001. He coordinated a number of electronic records initiatives and was instrumental in making KDLA one of the leading state archives in electronic records and digital preservation. Throughout his career, Glen served on a number of electronic records committees, served as an active member of many professional organizations, and provided a wide range of presentations.

Tim McIntosh had 30 years of experience in the ARM Division, beginning in the Archives Center and then working in various capacities in the State Records Branch, the Micrographics and Imaging Branch, and the Local Records Branch as an Archives and Records Regional Administrator. Tim’s extensive experience and his invaluable contributions to the services offered by the Division will be greatly missed.

Glen and Tim’s friends and colleagues at KDLA are grateful for their many years of excellent work, and wish both of them all the best for a Happy Retirement!
In many ways, the Archives Research Room in 2015 is similar in appearance to the Research Room in 1995, or even 1982. There are still cabinets full of microfilm, microfilm readers, and tables for researchers to use while examining original records. As always, a professional and helpful staff is available to assist customers. In ways that might not be so physically apparent, however, the Research Room continues to adapt very successfully to a changing archival environment and to meet the information needs of customers. — Tim Tingle, Archival Services Branch Manager

Shields Promoted to Branch Manager

Beth Shields will be succeeding Glen McAninch as the Electronic Records Management Branch Manager on June 1. Beth brings extensive technical knowledge of electronic records management and digital preservation; management skills from several years of coordinating various aspects of the Council of State Archivists' State Electronic Records Initiative; and a commitment to public service from her years as a research archivist for the Kentucky Historical Society and as a UK Library School intern in the Archives Research Room.

KDLA Reorganized

KDLA was recently reorganized. While most of the changes happened in the Library Services Division and the Commissioner's Office, there were a few changes for the State Archives. The name "Public Records Division" was replaced by the new "Archives and Records Management Division," and a few branch names were changed as well. The ARM Division's five branches are: State Records, Local Records, Micrographics and Imaging, Archival Services, and Electronic Records Management.
Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.
The Thirty-First Annual Kentucky Archives Institute
Sponsored by: Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., and Public Records Division, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives
June 19, 2015
Activity Room, Second Floor, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

8:30 – 9:00  Registration/Pastries
9:00 – 9:15  Welcome
-Kari May, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives
10:15 – 10:30 Break
10:30 – 11:30 A Southern Paper in a Border State: The Kentucky Gazette
-Lance Hale, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives
11:30 – 12:30 Lunch
12:30 – 1:30 Researching Your World War I Ancestor at KDLA
-Walter Bowman, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives
1:30 – 1:45 Break
1:45 – 2:45 Using Land Patents to Plot History
-Kandie Adkinson, Secretary of State’s Land Office
2:45 – 3:00 Conclusion
3:00 – 3:30 Tour of the KY State Archives (Optional)

Please clip and mail the form below, along with registration fee(s), by June 12.
Space is limited to 50 attendees.
If you have any questions, please contact Tim Tingle at 502.564.8348 or tim.tingle@ky.gov

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

Registration fees: $50 fee covers Institute materials and lunch.

Check here to reserve a vegetarian lunch. _____
Check here if you plan to tour the archives. _____

Make checks payable to: Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. (Fees are non-refundable.)
Name(s): ________________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________________
Phone: ____________________________ Email: ____________________________

I would like more information about the Friends. __________
31st Annual Kentucky Archives Institute

The 31st annual Kentucky Archives Institute is scheduled for June 19, 2015 at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, 300 Coffee Tree Road, Frankfort. The Institute, sponsored by the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., provides information for scholars, researchers, and genealogists interested in archival research.

Featured speakers at this year’s event are Kandie Adkinson, Secretary of State’s Land Office; and Walter Bowman, Lance Hale, and Kari May of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. Participants will also have the opportunity to tour the Kentucky State Archives.

A registration fee of $50 includes attendance at the Institute from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., lunch, and all materials. Deadline for registration is June 12, and seating is limited to 50. Registrations should be sent to: Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., Kentucky Archives Institute, P.O. Box 4224, Frankfort, KY 40604.

For more information, please contact Tim Tingle at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives at 502.564.8348 or tim.ingle@ky.gov.

Archives Month Report

The Archives Month Coordinating Committee, under the direction of the Kentucky State Historical Records Advisory Board met in April to begin preparations for this year’s Archives Month Celebration, which will be held in October. The theme for this year is Voting and Civil Rights. The Kentucky Archives Month web address is http://archivesmonth.ky.gov/. Please check the website for events that will be held throughout the state in celebration of Kentucky Archives, or use the site to submit your own event. This site also has a Planning Guide to assist you in planning your Archives Month activities. We encourage all Kentucky archival and manuscript repositories to commemorate Archives Month in some way, with an open house, a workshop, a featured speaker, an exhibit, a tour or any other type of event.

Steve Shackelford Receives Inaugural Charlene E. Davis Public Service Award

Steve Shackelford, State Records Center Supervisor, is the 2015 recipient of the first Charlene E. Davis Public Service Award. This award honors an employee of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) who exemplifies the qualities that Charlene Davis brought to her work during her 37-year tenure at the department.

Steve served as the team leader of the move into a new State Records Center. The move required the transfer of over 190,000 boxes of records and had been projected to take up to a year, but due to Steve’s leadership, the work was completed in only eighty working days, or less than four months. Steve not only coordinated the move and effectively responded to new and unforeseen problems on a daily basis, but also continued to complete his normal job tasks and ensured that the needs of the customers of the Records Center were met in a timely manner. Under Steve’s direction, the project was completed in a systematic and efficient manner, and he is a most deserving recipient of the Charlene E. Davis Public Service Award.

(See back cover for photo)
Steve Shackelford, the recipient of the Charlene E. Davis Public Service Award poses with Education and Workforce Development Cabinet Secretary, Thomas O. Zawacki; KDLA Commissioner, Wayne Onkst; and State Records Center Staff: Eric May, Nate Tice, Jay Van, Dave Prichard, Shane Sanderson, and Matt Sandifer.