



for the Record

Devoted to Kentucky's State Archives and the Historical Record

Spring/Summer 2022

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Disaster Recovery in Western Kentucky

After the severe storms and tornadoes hit Kentucky on December 10 and 11, 2021, Becca Halbmaier, the West Region Regional Administrator at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA), began reaching out to local government agencies about the damage to public records and the disaster recovery assistance available to them from KDLA. The destruction was so extensive that by the following Tuesday some local officials were just getting internet service back and many still did not have access to power or phones.

While many local agencies reported minimal records loss and damage, others were not so fortunate. The Graves County Courthouse was destroyed, forcing state and county offices including the sheriff, county clerk, county attorney, judge executive and property valuation administrator to relocate. These important community records were removed as soon as possible to protect them. Professional restoration companies Prism Specialties and SERVPRO were on location to remove nearly all the records from the courthouse to immediately freeze and transfer for recovery efforts, while the sheriff's and jailer's offices boxed and relocated their records to maintain chain of custody.

With Halbmaier at the front lines, KDLA's Archives and Records Management Division staff in Frankfort, about 260 miles away, hurried to gather a list of all the local public records from agencies in the affected counties and cities that had been maintained at KDLA in Frankfort.

State Archivist Terry Manuel and Local Records Branch Manager Nicole Bryan worked quickly to create a local records emergency disaster recovery assistance grant, which the State Libraries, Archives, and Records Commission approved at an emergency meeting on December 17. Staff contacted local agency organizations and associations to share contact information about grants and KDLA services. Storage boxes and dehumidifiers were ordered and delivered to Halbmaier for distribution to the local agencies hit by the disaster.

Unfortunately, some local records were relocated before they could be frozen and transferred. These boxes were damp, stacked, and showing signs of mold and contamination. After further discussion with the appropriate local agencies, Prism Specialties picked up the records for freezing and transfer. While some of these records may have been eligible for proper records destruction by KDLA, they could not be identified as such in a safe and certain manner.

The Council of State Archivists and the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., were quick to reach out to KDLA and offer assistance with the records damage in Western Kentucky. Both organizations have allocated funds totaling \$6,000 to the recovery efforts. Thanks to their generosity, these funds will go toward additional equipment such as dehumidifiers, archival supplies, and other costs associated with recovery.

Without the quick action of all involved in KDLA, the Council of State Archivists, and the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., valuable local records such as marriage licenses, deeds, wills, and other important legal documents would have been lost.



Graves County Courthouse

"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

Archives Research Room Hours and Holidays

The Archives Research Room is open to the public from 9:00-11:30 a.m. to 1:00-3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Free parking is provided outside the KDLA building.

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming closures.

July 4	Monday	Independence Day
July 15	Friday	Archives Institute
September 5	Monday	Labor Day

Appointments are highly encouraged due to limited capacity. Walk-ins will be accommodated as space allows.

The 1950 Federal Census Now Available

On April 1, 2022, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) released records of the 1950 Federal Census for U.S. states and territories, enumeration district maps, and enumeration district descriptions online. Anyone, anywhere, will be able to search freely, through a dedicated website, as well as contribute updates to the name index, which will become part of the archival record of these documents. This population census is the 17th decennial census of the United States.

Census records, originally created by the Census Bureau, are transferred into NARA's custody. For 72 years, personal census responses are confidential; only the person named on a census record, or their legal heir can obtain the record. However, 72 years after the census, NARA releases census population records for the public to use.

The Census Bureau made special efforts to ensure that the 1950 Federal Census was as complete and accurate as possible. Enumerators set aside specific nights to conduct enumerations of persons in hotels, campgrounds, YMCAs, and other places frequented by travelers and transients. Extra efforts were made to ensure all infants born from January to March 1950 were counted. College students were enumerated where they lived while attending school, rather than where their parental homes were located. Members of the Armed Forces who slept off post were counted where they slept rather than where they were stationed. The Census Bureau entered into cooperative agreements with the U.S. Departments of Defense and State, and the U.S. Maritime Administration, to provide information on personnel and dependents under their authority. However, information on most overseas personnel was collected for informational purposes only and was not retained.

Lodging houses, hotels, and similar places usually contained multiple dwelling units and multiple households. The enumerator was instructed that "Each group occupying separate living quarters should be assigned a separate serial number" while "roomers who rent sleeping quarters only should be listed with the members of the household's family."

Many Native Americans who lived on reservations were enumerated both on the regular population schedule, as well as the *Indian Reservation Schedule*. Employees of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) served as census enumerators on Indian Reservations. Native Americans who did not live on reservations were enumerated only on the regular population schedule.

These records are an exceptionally valuable resource, and provide genealogists, historians, researchers, and the public an opportunity to research family and community histories alongside our nation's history.

Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. Board of Directors

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For the Record*
Vol. 23, No. 1
A publication of the
Friends of Kentucky
Public Archives, Inc.
P.O. Box 4224
Frankfort, KY 40604
*For The Record is
printed twice
annually.

The Thirty-Sixth Annual Kentucky Archives Institute

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

July 15, 2022

Atrium, First Floor, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

- 8:30 – 9:00 Registration
- 9:00 – 9:15 Welcome
Dave Schroeder, President, Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.
- 9:15 – 10:15 *“The Births and Deaths Records of Kentucky: Vital Record Keeping, 1852-1910”*
Rusty Heckaman, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives
- 10:15 – 10:30 Break
- 10:30 – 11:45 *“Getting Into The 1950 US Census”*
J. Mark Lowe, FUGA
- 11:45 – 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 – 2:45 *“Kentucky Land Records”*
Kandie Adkinson, Kentucky Secretary of State’s Land Office
- 2:45 – 3:00 Closing Remarks/Questions/Program Evaluations
- 3:00 – 3:45 Tour of the State Archives (*Optional*)
Tour of the State Records Center (*Optional*)

Please clip and mail the form below, along with registration fee(s), by July 8.
Space is limited to 50 attendees.
If you have any questions, please contact Renita Van at 502.564.1722 or Renita.Van@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 fee: \$50 fee covers Institute materials and lunch.
Check here to reserve a vegetarian lunch. _____
Other Dietary Restrictions: _____
Check here if you plan to tour the State Archives. _____
Check here if you plan to tour the State Records Center. _____

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

Name(s): _____
Address: _____ City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____ Telephone: _____
Email Address: _____

SAA Membership Blog

Career Journeys – Rusty Heckaman Research Room Supervisor

What do you like most about your work? What's most challenging? Since graduating with my MLS from Indiana University in 2009, I've been employed as an archivist in a variety of positions and among many types of institutions. These have included private corporate archives, a non-profit advocacy organization, a local municipality, and now state government. While my professional title and responsibilities have evolved, reference has remained the one constant. There has always been an element and expectation of public service regardless of my position. This has sometimes taken the shape of service to coworkers in the corporation whose records we worked to preserve, to colleagues using archival records to demonstrate the value of their advocacy and work across time, and to the public assisting with accessing the records of their communities' past. Not only has this been a continuous element of my work, but it has also proven to be both the most rewarding and challenging aspect. We've all experienced the challenge of communicating the value and methods of our work to family members, friends, and the public. That challenge is never more apparent than when attempting to initiate a new patron to research and access in an archive. Overcoming this challenge and successfully helping someone navigate our resources to make a new discovery and walk away with a new appreciation of our work is the most satisfying experience of my work.

What education, skills, and training have been essential to your success in this field? My route to the position I currently hold and the success I experience managing reference and access has not been a traditional one. My education was focused on Library Science rather than archival practice. While I've since supplemented my education with work experience, professional development, and certification I find that I rely upon my library foundation more than anything in my position and work in public service. I've found that this foundation has helped me better communicate with patrons who so often come to our archival institutions with no point of reference outside of that of the library. The ability to find common ground to begin to illustrate commonalities and differences allows me to manage their expectations and appreciate the context for why we must navigate access the way we do in an archive. The focus that a Library education places on public service, training in the reference interview, and information literacy has been essential in my career and something I would like to see stressed more in archival education.

What advice would you give someone who is considering this type of job (or field)? Reference services provided by myself and archival colleagues are a pivotal component that underpins the appraisal, processing, and preservation being done to guarantee continued access to our institutions' records in the future. The reference career path and the customer service that it entails is an oft-overlooked aspect of archival work. While so many may embark upon this path as an entry point into our profession it offers few avenues for continued growth and progression professionally. Rather than viewing them as an initiation, I would strongly encourage anyone in these positions, or those considering their career in our profession, to appreciate the value that is a reference service position. Even if only occupying a reference position in passing as you progress on your intended path in the archival profession, or perhaps as a smaller aspect of your other archival duties, I hope that you'll take the time to appreciate the value of the role you are providing. Perhaps in doing, you might find that the reward found by participating in someone's discovery is worth pursuing continued employment in the public service role available to archivists.

If you could start all over again, would you change your career path in any way? Why? Embarking upon a career in archives with a library background can prove to be a barrier and challenge when pursuing employment. Despite this, I would not change my career path, and the education I attained has supplemented the archival experience and education I've since developed. I hope that sharing my experience and career trajectory will help illuminate the role reference plays in archives, will increase awareness of its value, and challenge the perception that archival work is solely based on preservation and processing.

Start planning now for your celebration of

Kentucky Archives Month

October 2022

Need ideas and suggestions?

Please visit:

<https://kdla.ky.gov/archivists/shrab/Pages/kyarchivesmonth.aspx>

New faces at KDLA!

The Archival Services Branch welcomes an Archivist I to the Archives Research Room, the Local Records Branch welcomes two Regional Administrators, and the State Records Branch welcomes a Stores Worker III!

Brynne Stevens began work at KDLA as an Archivist I on January 17, 2022. She will primarily assist patrons with their research and process archival collections.

Brynne previously worked at the University of Kentucky, Special Collections Research Center in various roles, the last of which was a part time Assistant Archivist. In this role, she was responsible for processing the papers of Senator Wendell Henry Ford. Brynne has experience with archival arrangement and description, preservation, and historical research.

Brynne has a B.A. in History from the University of Kentucky and an MLIS from the University of Southern Mississippi. Brynne currently lives in Frankfort, where she has lived all her life.

David Atha joined the Local Records Branch as the East Region Regional Administrator on January 18, 2022. He comes to KDLA from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, where he served the previous six years as a supervisor and records custodian. David enjoys spending time out of doors, playing golf, hiking, and grilling. Some of his favorite reading topics are military history, political theory, and theology. A huge fan of Tolkien, David has read through *The Lord of the Rings* at least seven times. David is originally from Shelby County, and now resides in Frankfort with his wife Leah and their children, Oliver and Callie.

Andrew (Drew) Preston is a graduate of Kentucky State University with a B.A. in Pure Mathematics and a B.S. in Computer Science. He came to KDLA from the Department of Revenue where he most recently worked in the Tax Fraud and Evasion Prevention Branch performing analytics to combat ID theft and tax fraud.

He currently lives in Lawrenceburg with his wife, Meagan, and their six cats. In his free time, he enjoys playing video and tabletop games and reading sci-fi and fantasy novels. Drew joined the Local Records Branch as the South-Central Region Regional Administrator on January 18, 2022.

Shane Sanderson has worked at the KDLA's State Records Center for eight years and as a full-time state employee since December 1, 2021. Shane currently lives in Frankfort with his wife and three children. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family, cooking, reading, and watching movies and anime.

Five Local Government Agencies Receive Grants to Preserve Records

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives' (KDLA) Local Records Program has awarded five grants statewide totaling \$137,085 in the first round of fiscal year 2023. These grant funds are made available through fees enacted by the Kentucky General Assembly to preserve and provide access to local public records. Any local government agency may apply for this grant.

This Program has provided many local agencies the means to support preservation so records of historical value may be available for years to come.

The first round of 2023 Local Records Program grant funds have been awarded to the following recipients:

- ❖ Bowling Green Independent School District
- ❖ Henry County Clerk
- ❖ City of Maysville
- ❖ Trigg County Clerk
- ❖ City of Woodlawn Park

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 biannual 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: _____ Email: _____

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.

Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.
P.O. Box 4224
Frankfort, Kentucky 40604
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



"Bend of the River" Pageant (Kentucky River) and the Frankfort Brothers of the Brush and Ladies. 1961. Source: Public Information Photo Collection, Archives and Records Management Division – Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.