

for the Record

Devoted to Kentucky's State Archives and the Historical Record

Fall 1999

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Libraries and Archives' hillside location offers ample room for expansion, evolution as KDLA strives to keep pace with new demands for information and records services made possible by electronic technology.

State Archives Holdings Continue to Grow

KDLA Anticipates 21st Century Archival, Records Management Challenges; Seeks Planning Funds

As surely as day follows night and governors are elected every four years, records with enduring value will continue to be created by Kentucky public agencies. Kentucky's State Archives holdings continue their steady growth, but with a difference. In today's world, rapid change is the order of the day, and Kentucky's archives and records management programs are facing unusual challenges. Public records are created and maintained in a quickly changing technology environment, with state and local government transactions increasingly made electronically. To preserve important records and make them available to its citizens, Kentucky's public archives and

records management programs must be equipped to keep pace with these new demands.

KDLA's 1999 Capital Request

In its 1999 capital construction request, the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) planned to meet a state government-wide requirement for ongoing archival management of electronic records, through creation of a digital archives within the Commonwealth's existing program to manage archival records. KDLA requested funds for the construction of a Commonwealth Digital Archives. It

would be a key part of a \$14.9 million, 73,000 square foot archival addition, designed to meet archival needs of records in all media, to its Coffee Tree Road facility in Frankfort.

A companion capital equipment request asked for \$1.18 million to create a Document Management Digitization System (DMDS), to expand KDLA's capacity to convert documents from paper to digital format. The DMDS would also permit KDLA to respond to growing enterprise, or state-government wide, demand for document image management services and to digitize incoming paper records in sufficient volume to manage the growth of paper collections.

The Digital Archives and the DMDS would make KDLA a key shared services center for all of state government, permitting the Commonwealth to secure electronic records of archival value, maximize use of archival storage facilities, and improve access to records. They

would be designed to help agencies increase efficiency, economy, and productivity, and maximize information values inherent in records, which are multiplied in an electronic environment.

Planning Initiatives a High Priority in Tight Budget Environment

With the forecast for a tight budget in 2000, prospects for securing approval for the projected archival addition appear uncertain. If full funding for the addition cannot be authorized during this budget cycle, KDLA hopes to secure a \$200,000 additional appropriation for planning. With these limited funds, KDLA could lay the groundwork for needed organizational coordination across state government and define special construction requirements, in anticipation of a capital construction submission during the next biennium.

News Notes:

GSU volunteers make exceptional contribution. Four volunteers from the Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU) completed their one year mission with KDLA's Public Records Division in April. The volunteers flattened, foldered, labeled, and indexed over 68,000 Circuit Court case files from Madison, Lincoln, Mason, and Bourbon Counties, in preparation for the microfilming of those records. Two new GSU volunteers, Archie and Marjorie Meecham, began in April and have continued working with the Bourbon Circuit case files. To date, they have prepared an additional 7,500 records for filming. These efforts will greatly expand the possibilities for future researchers at the State Archives.

Microfilm readers crucial to State Archives. KDLA's Archives Research Room provides access to over 100,000 cubic feet of original city, county, and state records. Patrons also have access to an equally vast collection of public records through the 50,000 rolls of microfilm available in the Research Room. These valuable sources are used by thousands of patrons annually, including many out-of-state visitors seeking to rediscover their Kentucky roots. Indeed, over 19,000 rolls of microfilm have been used by patrons since the beginning of the 1999 calendar year.

The availability of first rate microform equipment is crucial to patrons daily access activities. Fortunately, through generous grants provided to the Friends of Kentucky Archives, Inc. by the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, the Research Room recently acquired four new Indus Super Carrel Advanced Microfilm Readers. These units have screens at lower than eye level which should

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not only reduce neck strain but facilitate ease of reading for patrons. The Indus model is also easily accessible to persons with disabilities, in compliance with ADA guidelines.

The Colonels' support of the Friends is crucial in the State Archives' ongoing efforts to provide better and more timely access to Kentucky's historic public records.

Historical Records Advisory Board Sets Future Plans. The State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) has been meeting quarterly this year to develop a strategic plan for the administration and care of historical records in the state. The SHRAB, a state level body which coordinates review of applications to a grant funding arm of the National Archives, also has a major responsibility for planning to meet the needs of historical records in the state, whether in public or private repositories. Kentucky institutions have received more than \$1,000,000 in grants through the board over the last 23 years. In the coming months, the board will be sharing further information and requesting comment from those in the historical records community.

Interns begin academic year at KDLA. The Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. are currently supporting two graduate interns at KDLA in the Thomas D. Clark Internship Program in Archival Administration. Jim Cundy, a master's degree candidate in Library Science (MLS) at the University of Kentucky (UK), works in the State Publications Program. Charles Pratt, also an MLS candidate at UK, works in KDLA's Archives Research Room and in the Arrangement and Description section. Another UK MLS candidate, Melissa Rabey, is working as an intern with the Kentucky Guide Program. Melissa is cataloging materials in the Kentucky Archival and Manuscript Collections Automated Catalog (KAMCat), available at <http://cuadra.kdla.state.ky.us/Marcat.html>.

Mosby is theme of '99 Public Archives Symposium.



Symposium speaker Dr. James A. Ramage, author of *Grey Ghost*, is Regents Professor of History at Northern Kentucky University.

The annual Public Archives Symposium, sponsored by the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., will focus on *Grey Ghost: The Life of Colonel John Singleton Mosby*, Dr. James Ramage's new book on this famous Confederate raider. Ramage, Regents Professor of History at Northern Kentucky University, will discuss his research on Colonel Mosby. Dr. J. H. DeBerry of Somerset Community College will offer comment. The annual symposium, held in conjunction with the Friends' annual meeting, highlights recent scholarly work using original source materials in Kentucky and other repositories. This year, the symposium will be held November 19th at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill.

Newly Available at the Kentucky State Archives

- Records of Governors Stanley and Fields
- 19th Century Auditor of Public Accounts records
- Plans for the present State Capitol

Public Records Division (PRD) staff recently completed the arrangement and description of the official papers of Governors A.O. Stanley (1915-1919) and William J. Fields (1923-1927). Stanley's term was notable for the debate over prohibition, which ended

with Kentucky's ratification of the Eighteenth Amendment. Fields' administration was marked by factional differences within his own Democratic Party, and by charges of corruption. The records of both administrations include correspondence relating to appointments and commissions, petitions for pardons, and proclamations issued by the governor. Also present are the executive journals, which record all official actions taken by the governor on a daily basis.

In the nineteenth century, the Auditor of Public Accounts maintained most of the records concerning the collection and disbursement of public revenue for the state. Within the past year, several significant collections from the Auditor's Office have been processed and made available for public access. These include correspondence and financial records from the Board of Internal Improvements (1821-1863) concerning river navigation and roads; Bank Reports (1839-1872) describing the conditions of various financial institutions in the state; and Turnpike Road Reports (1835-1879) listing amounts paid for labor and supplies to maintain those highways.

One of the 1998-99 Thomas D. Clark Interns, Glen Taul, processed and accessioned a collection of particular current interest. Several years ago, a private architectural firm donated a set of plans of the present Capitol building to PRD. These plans, on linen paper, were dated 1906-1907 and listed Frank Andrews as architect. Staff were unable to determine if these were the final plans for the building. Glen arranged the drawings, filed them in acid-free folders, and created a finding aid. Recently, a representative of the state Division of Historic Properties and several architects involved in the renovation of the Capitol visited PRD to look at the collection, and were able to determine that the drawings are indeed original plans for the Capitol. They asked for copies of several of the drawings, and expressed interest in using the collection again as needed. These architectural plans will therefore play an important part in the preservation and restoration of the Capitol building.

You Can Find It On The Web!

Check Out Kentucky Archival Catalogs Online!

"Does the Archives have marriage records for Allen County, Kentucky before 1890?"...

"Where can I locate records of Governor Morrow?"...

"Do you have anything on tobacco farming?"...

The Catalog of Kentucky State Archives Holdings, now accessible to the public on the World Wide Web, can answer these questions and many more. Created and maintained by KDLA's Public Records Division, this new tool will significantly enhance access to Kentucky's public records. Genealogists, historians, students, and anyone with an interest in the

Commonwealth's rich historical, political, and cultural heritage will now be able to locate these unique government resources.

The State Archives is the official repository for Kentucky state and local government records, with holdings dating from statehood in 1792 and even earlier. The Catalog contains descriptions of more than 10,000 of these government record collections. Much like standard online library catalogs, it is easily searchable by subject, agency name, record type, and title. The catalog is available from the Kentucky

Department for Libraries and Archives web site:

(<http://www.kdla.state.ky.us>) or can be accessed directly at: <http://cuadra.kdla.state.ky.us/Marcat.html>.

The Catalog of Kentucky Archival and Manuscript Collections is also available on the KDLA website. This catalog has descriptions of collections held by over 200 other Kentucky repositories including public and special libraries, historical and genealogical societies, college and university archives, religious institutions, museums, and historic sites. Descriptions of historical manuscript and archival collections at these institutions have been collected through the Kentucky Guide Program. This catalog contains nearly 5,000 collection descriptions, and the Guide Program will continue to accept new submissions from in-

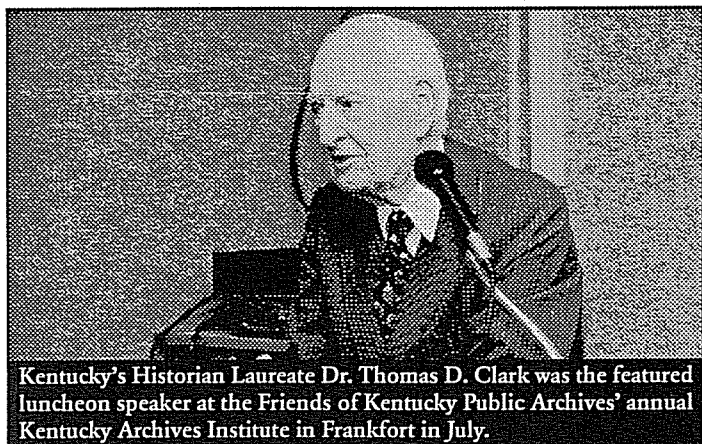
terested repositories. The catalog can be found at:

<http://cuadra.kdla.state.ky.us/Marcatky.html>.

Both catalogs were made possible through a generous grant from the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels to the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. Grant funds from the Colonels were used to purchase the computer software that forms the framework of the catalogs.

John Allen Duncan

On the occasion of the 1999 annual meeting, the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. remember with affection John Allen Duncan, long time board member of the Friends, who passed away on September 14, 1999.



Kentucky's Historian Laureate Dr. Thomas D. Clark was the featured luncheon speaker at the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives' annual Kentucky Archives Institute in Frankfort in July.

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.

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 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: _____

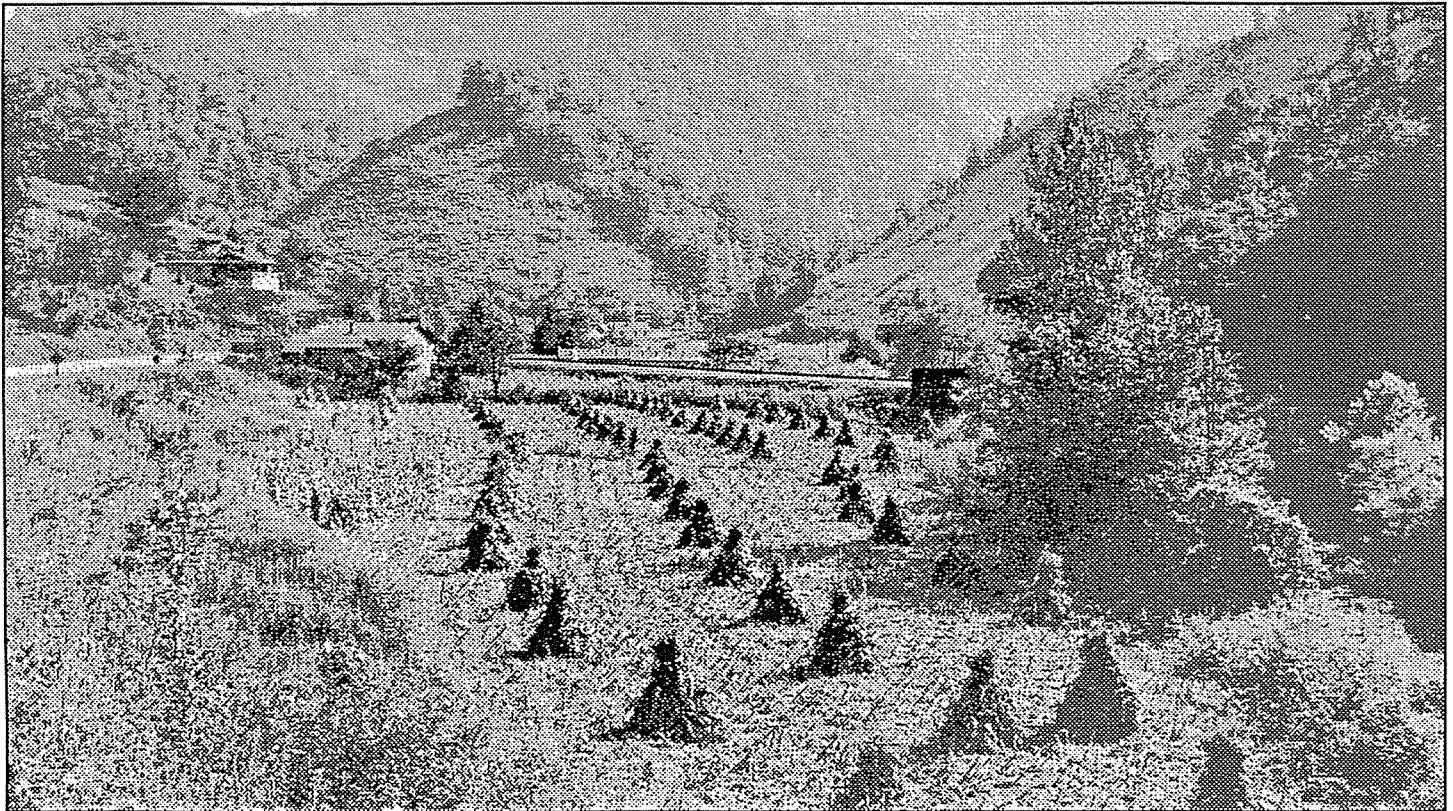
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Membership levels: _____ \$15 Individual or Family _____ \$250 Life

Please clip and mail to: Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., P. O. Box 4224, Frankfort, Kentucky 40604



Corn Shucks, 1940

When the first settlers moved into Kentucky, they planted corn as their crop of choice. Hardy and tolerant, corn could be grown successfully in small cleared patches, even in the mountainous east. Kentucky ranked among the top five states in corn production prior to the Civil War. While tobacco later supplanted corn as the state's major cash crop, corn is still grown in Kentucky on a large scale. This photograph is from the Works Projects Administration Collection, in the State Archives holdings of the Public Records Division, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.

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