

# for the Record

Devoted to Kentucky's State Archives and the Historical Record

Fall 2001

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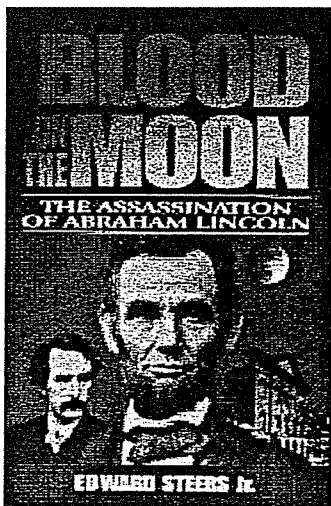
## Friends' Annual Meeting, Archives Symposium set for Shaker Village *New Lincoln research to be focus of Symposium*



*Dr. Edward Steers, Jr., author of Blood on the Moon*

This year's Annual Meeting of the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., together with the thirteenth annual Public Archives Symposium, is scheduled for Friday, November 16, 2001, at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, outside Harrodsburg. The Symposium, sponsored by the Friends in cooperation with the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, will feature Dr. Edward Steers, Jr., with commentary by Dr. Thomas D. Clark, and will commence at 1:00 p.m. in the West Family Wash House. For additional details on the day's schedule, please see the Web link, below.

Dr. Steers will discuss his recently published study, *Blood on the Moon: The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln*, in which he presents a compelling reexamination of the entire scope of the Lincoln assassination. His book has been called "absolutely essential reading for a proper understanding of the events surrounding Abraham Lincoln's death" and "a book to which all Lincoln and Civil War aficionados – indeed, all Americans interested in their history – should turn for a lucid and up-to-date explanation of the assassination."



Dr. Steers will reexamine a story familiar to most Americans, but he suggests that familiar explanations are not only too simple, but completely wrong. Dr. Thomas D. Clark will offer commentary on Dr. Steer's book and his Symposium address.

After an acclaimed career as a research scientist at the National Institutes of Health, Dr. Steers turned his research to the Lincoln assassination. He is the author of numerous articles and several books on the subject, including *Lincoln: A Pictorial History* and *His name is Still Mudd: The Case Against Doctor Samuel Alexander Mudd*. He is the Internet Editor of the *Lincoln Herald* and Associate Editor for *North & South Magazine*.



*Dr. Thomas D. Clark*

Dr. Thomas D. Clark, Historian Laureate of Kentucky and Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Kentucky, is Kentucky's foremost historian. A strong advocate for research

in government records, Dr. Clark led a concerted effort over several decades to create the Kentucky State Archives. The author of numerous books and articles on the history of Kentucky and the Southeast, Dr. Clark has played a prominent role in the development of libraries, archives and special collections across the Commonwealth.

Please join Dr. Edward Steers Jr., Dr. Thomas D. Clark, and the Friends for an exciting discussion about this newly published book.

For more details about the Public Archives Symposium, visit:  
<http://www.kdla.net/arch/symposium2001.htm> or  
phone 502-564-8300, ext. 252.

# Research Room Hours and Closings

KDLA's Archives Research Room is located at 300 Coffee Tree Road, off State Highway 676 in Frankfort. The Archives Research Room is open to the public from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. It is closed on Saturday and Sunday and on official state holidays.

Ample free parking is provided outside the KDLA building.

Special closings, November 2001 through January 2002 - Please mark your calendars!

- November 16th (Friday at Noon)  
for Annual Archives Symposium
- November 22nd and 23rd (Thursday and Friday)  
for Thanksgiving
- December 3rd and 4th (Monday and Tuesday)  
for Collection Maintenance Days
- December 24th and 25th (Monday and Tuesday) for Christmas
- December 31st and January 1st (Monday and Tuesday)  
for New Year's Holiday
- January 21st (Monday) Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday

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## New Winter Schedule Hours

The Archives Research Room is changing its schedule for the winter. New hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., beginning November 1. Saturday hours are being eliminated for the winter, because of seasonal customer levels and financial restrictions that impede weekend scheduling. A decision on spring and summer hours is pending.

## Standardizing Document Formats: A Critical Need

The General Assembly of the State of Missouri recently passed a bill formalizing the standards for recording instruments in the County Recorder's office. The bill was signed into law by the governor and will take effect January 1, 2002. Basic requirements of the legislation include the use of 8 1/2" X 11" size paper with certain margins and record legibility standards. Some states have standards for recording instruments but the vast majority does not.

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) has a long history of trying to standardize recordings in the County Clerk's office throughout the state. As recently as 1999 KDLA tried to establish standards for print clarity, paper quality, and document size uniformity of instruments that were to be recorded in the County Clerk's office by presenting a Kentucky Administrative Regulation (KAR)(725 KAR 1:070E) for passage. Ultimately this KAR did not pass because of a lack of consensus among interested constituencies.

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The issue of standardization of documents presented for recording is one that KDLA will continue to pursue with the assistance of County Clerks. Standardization will ensure that documents presented for recording are legible, printed on 8 1/2" X 11" quality paper and are identified adequately.

# Newly Available at the State Archives

Most Kentuckians probably think that they have a pretty good idea of where they are in relation to the rest of the world. Whether it's "two blocks from the school" or "ten miles east of Frankfort" or "just across the river, next to the big red barn," we all use landmarks and reference points to give us a mental image of where we are or where we're going. These mental images are almost always based on our linear perceptions of the world from ground level.

The State Archives recently accessioned a collection of aerial photographs that can give us a much different perspective of the physical features of our state. These photos, dated 1993-1999, show the surface area of most of Kentucky, and are the result of a partnership project between the Kentucky Office of Geographic Information and the United States Geological Survey. The photos were originally stored with the USGS in Rolla, Missouri, and then shipped to the Office of Geographic Information in Kentucky before their transfer to the State Archives.

The USGS used a grid system of "quadrangles" to divide the state into sections, and then made aerial photographs of each quadrangle. There are usually eight to ten photos per quadrangle, with the photos overlapping to some extent to insure complete coverage. Each photograph covers an area of several square miles. Except for the larger urban areas, whole towns can be viewed from above in a single photograph. It's possible, with the aid of a magnifying glass, to detect buildings as small as houses, although the individual characteristics of each house are not discernible. Streets and highways are clearly visible, as are rivers and streams, cemeteries, golf courses, ballparks, and strip mines. The photos give a sense of proportion to both the natural and man-made aspects of Kentucky. Some photos of the more remote parts of the state may only show huge tracts of mountains, with just an occasional road winding its way through the valleys. Conversely, several photos each are required to cover the cities of Louisville and Lexington, allowing us to see how the urban landscape has expanded as more and more land has been developed. Some man-made structures are clearly impressive in scale. Anyone who has driven past the Toyota plant near Georgetown knows that it seems to be quite large, but an aerial view shows just how truly extensive the whole complex really is.

These aerial photographs are available digitally from the Office of Geographic Information, but the original photos now at the State Archives serve as a permanent and unalterable record. These photos provide a literal "snapshot" of the physical landscape of Kentucky. The images can be helpful to surveyors, archaeologists, engineers and planners, as well as to those just interested in finding out what their hometown looks like from above. The photos allow us a unique perspective on our state.

# Enhancing Research at the State Archives – Opportunities for All!

The Archives Research Room at the State Archives always has equipment or supplemental resource needs for which state funds are not available, and private donations have long played an important role in permitting the State Archives to fill these important gaps. Many donors like to know exactly how their contribution will help, won't you be a Friend and contribute funds toward the purchase of one or more of the items on this page? Gifts to the Friends are tax deductible. Please direct your support to the address on the Friends' membership form, below. Thanks for your help!

The Archives Research Room is in need of a new microfilm reader-printer. The chosen microfilm reader-printer is a Minolta MS 7000 Digital Reader Printer, available for \$19,167. The reader-printers in the Archives Research Room are very heavily used pieces of equipment, enabling customers to make paper copies of microfilmed records. Two of our current reader-printers are close to the end of their life, as replacement parts for them are no longer available. When these machines stop working, the Research Room will have only six reader-printers remaining. To continue to provide copying services for microfilmed records, the new reader-printer needs to be purchased soon. Please make a tax-deductible donation today, large or small, toward its purchase. Your help is much appreciated!!



Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.

## A Holiday Reminder:

Gifts to the Friends are tax deductible, and a Friends membership makes a wonderful holiday gift. Services at the State Archives are feeling the impact of the state's acute revenue shortfall, and your support of Friends programs can help bridge that gap in funding. Whether you choose to support the Thomas D. Clark internship through a Friends' life membership, honor a friend or family member with a gift to the Friends in their name, or give an unrestricted gift to the Friends, your help can really make a difference. Please consider a directed gift to the Friends today. Thank you very much.

### 1930 Kentucky Census

The National Archives will release the 1930 census on April 1, 2002. As many family researchers will testify, Federal Census records are invaluable genealogical sources. Furthermore, many Research Room patrons, particularly senior citizens without a legally recorded birth record, can use census entries to meet the necessary requirements for benefits and other legal purposes.

In addition to vital information about Kentucky families, the 1930 census will contain information about a persons' year of immigration, veteran status and, for Native Americans, the tribal affiliation and whether the individual was of full or mixed blood.

Help us help our patrons by contributing funds toward the purchase of this valuable collection. The Kentucky element of the 1930 census consists of the following:

T1224 Census District Descriptions	One Roll
M2053 Soundex	24 Rolls
T626 Kentucky Census	51 Rolls
<b>Total Cost for Purchase: \$1516</b>	<b>Cost per roll – \$19.95</b>

*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, 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

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



**Hemp Harvest, Jessamine County.**

Hemp was used to make rope and cloth, and was an important crop in Kentucky from the frontier days until the end of the Civil War. Hemp cultivation was briefly revived in the World War II era, when other sources for rope production became unavailable. *(This photograph is from the Department of Public Information collection of the State Archives holdings, in the Public Records Division.)*

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