

for the Record

Devoted to Kentucky's State Archives and the Historical Record

Fall 2002

I N S I D E

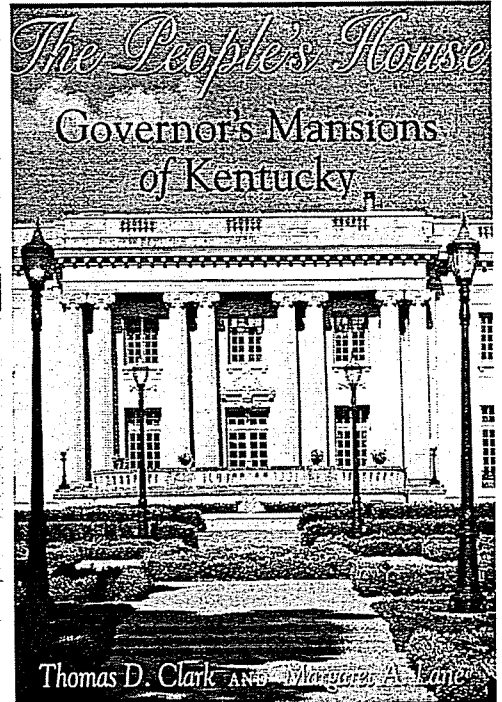
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History of Governor's Mansions Focus of 2002 Public Archives Symposium

Clark, Lane are featured speakers

On a cold and blustery November afternoon, there was a full house at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill for this year's Public Archives Symposium. The topic was the behind the scenes history of the mansions which have housed Kentucky's governors for more than 200 years. Authors Dr. Thomas D. Clark and Margaret A. Lane discussed their new book, **The People's House: Governor's Mansions of Kentucky** (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2002). Lane, a former Executive Director of both mansions, explained the background which led to the initiation of the book project, which was seven years in development. Clark, Kentucky's Historian Laureate and Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Kentucky, provided a fascinating look into the buildings themselves and those who lived and worked in them. Following the hour-long Symposium, both authors signed copies of the book for the long line of enthusiasts in attendance.



Wolfe County Clerk S. Kenneth Lindon receives the congratulations of Dr. Thomas D. Clark, Kentucky Historian Laureate and member of the State Archives and Records Commission, on his receipt of a Friends' 2002 Award of Merit.

*See Page 2 for
Research Room
Hours*

**Archives Research Room
Hours and Closings for 2003**

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, Sunday, and on official state holidays.

Ample free parking is provided outside the KDLA building.

Special closings, January through March 2003 –
Please mark your calendars!

- January 1 (Wednesday) New Year's Day
- January 20 (Monday) Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday

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For The Record
Vol. 4, No. 1
A publication of the
Friends of Kentucky
Public Archives, Inc.
P.O. Box 4224
Frankfort, KY 40604

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Newly Available at the State Archives

Several volumes concerning the Kentucky state militia have recently been accessioned. These volumes date from the early 1800's through the Civil War.

The first entry in the **Quartermaster General Journal** (1816-1838) records the appointment of Elijah Berry by Governor Isaac Shelby. Upon making an inventory of the arms in the state arsenal, Berry found that a number of muskets and other weaponry had been distributed to various militia units during the War of 1812, but had not been returned following the cessation of hostilities. Interestingly, militia commanders had been required to take out bonds insuring that they would be responsible for the arms issued to their units, and they could be held liable for loss or damage to those arms. This volume also contains instructions from the governors of this period to the Quartermaster Generals, mainly to issue "arms and accoutrements" to various militia companies or regiments.

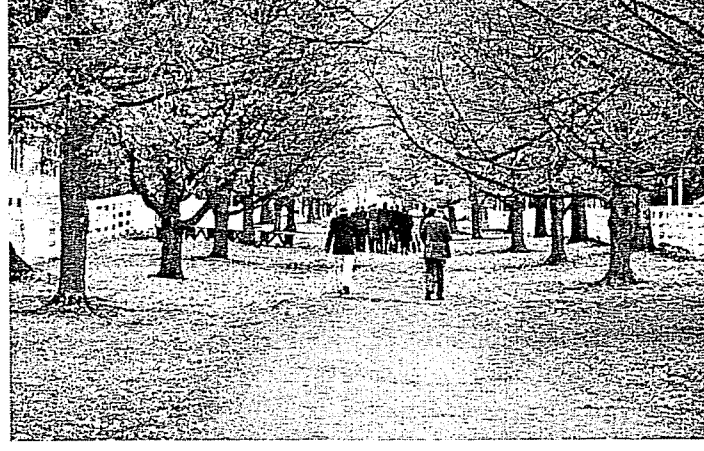
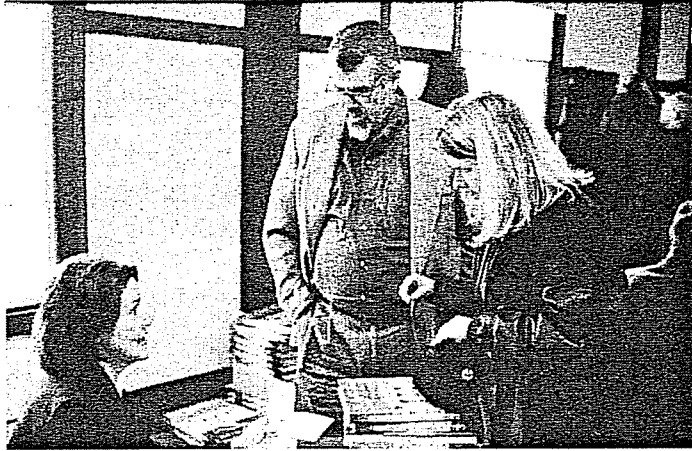
As the official in charge of the Kentucky state arsenal, the Quartermaster General obtained many of his supplies from the United States Military Storekeeper, based in Pittsburgh. The **Quartermaster General Invoice Book** (1828-1838) documents the transfer of arms from the U.S. stores to the Kentucky arsenal. The cost for a new musket in 1832 was \$13, while a pair of pistols was priced at \$16 and a saber at \$6. This volume also contains several inventories of the arsenal. In December 1832, the "total arms on hand" included two iron 6-pounders (cannon), one brass 3-pounder, 4,329 muskets and bayonets, 425 pistols, and 187 sabers.

The state militia was reorganized by statute in March 1860, and divided into three classes: active or volunteer, enrolled, and reserved. The active or volunteer class was to be styled as the "Kentucky State Guard." The **Roster of Officers of the Kentucky State Guard** lists the commissioned officers for the various units of that body. The first entry is dated May 5, 1860 and records the appointment of Simon B. Buckner as Inspector General of the Guard. A notation at the end of the entry reads "Resigned July 23, 1861." (Buckner resigned to accept a commission as a Brigadier General in the Confederate Army.) The local State Guard companies named themselves, so there are entries for the "Lexington Chasseurs," the "Woodford Blues," and the "Warren Voltiguers," among others. Like Buckner, some of the officers went on to serve in either the Union or Confederate causes. John Hunt Morgan, for example, was listed as Captain of the "Lexington Rifles" in May 1860. Morgan later had a notable career in the Confederate service until his death in September 1864.

Also available are an **Adjutant General Letter Book** (1824-1851) and the **Roster of Officers of Union Volunteer Regiments** (1861-1864). All of these volumes are important resources for researchers interested in 19th century Kentucky military history.

Special thanks and appreciation to Dr. Ken Colebank, former Friends board member, for use of his photographs of the birthday reception for Dr. Thomas D. Clark at Maxwell Place, which appeared in our previous issue.

Friends Gather for Annual Meeting, Symposium



County Court Petitions Offer Unique Insights, Research Potential

The Race and Slavery Petitions Project at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro continues to gather important information about slavery and life in the antebellum South. Dr. Loren Schweningen, Director and Editor of the project, and his staff visited fifteen southern states and the District of Columbia to do research in petitions filed by or for slaves in state legislatures or county courts. Dr. Schweningen visited KDLA during a research trip in 1994 and found a rich source of information in Kentucky's circuit court petitions.

*The Race and Slavery Project, underwritten by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, has or will soon issue several publications based on the petitions. The project issued a 23 roll microfilm edition in 1999 by University Publications of America, followed in 2001 by a book, *The Southern Debate over Slavery: Petitions to Southern Legislatures and County Courts, 1778-1864*, published by the University of Illinois Press. University Publications of America recently completed microfilming county court petitions for Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and Mississippi, and an index and guide for these four states will soon follow. Petitions from the remaining states, including Kentucky, are planned in the near future. For more information, or for a sample of some of the petitions, see the project web site at: history.uncg.edu/slaverypetitions/*

*The following information appeared in an article, *County Court Records and the South's Peculiar Institution*, by Loren Schweningen, in Volume 30, Issue 3, September 2002, of *Annotation*, the newsletter of the NHPRC, and is reprinted here with its permission.*

County court petitions offer a remarkably rich and diverse documentary record concerning race and slavery. They reveal, as do few other primary sources, a local perspective of the South's "Peculiar Institution." They also tell us about the conflicts inherent in a system of human bondage, and especially about the struggles of women and children – both slave and free – who found themselves facing seemingly insurmountable difficulties.

Scholars and informed citizens have rarely used these records. In fact, some of the documents are in the same ribbon-tied packets in which they were placed a century and a half ago! The quantity and quality of this documentation is remarkable. These documents provide data that expand our knowledge in several research areas, including rare biographical and genealogical information about people of color; how slaves, as chattel, could and often did find themselves sold, conveyed or distributed as part of their masters' estates; the impact of market forces on the slave family; and how slaves in some states could and did bring suits for their freedom. The guardianship and emancipation petitions present a vivid picture of the association between whites and free blacks, and the divorce petitions provide a new picture of slave-holding white women.

These documents give a unique view of the workings of local court systems: who approached the courts and why; how they fared; how their pleas varied in different states and locales during different time periods; and how judges and juries responded to their pleas. They illuminate, in unexpected ways, intellectual history and religious experience, and contain references to debates over theology, ethics, law, social theory, and epistemology that occurred outside traditional academic, religious, and cultural institutions.

The value of these documents to scholars, students, and general readers of the humanities cannot be overemphasized. They reveal not only what southerners were saying, but also what they were doing; not only what happened to slaves, but how slaves responded to their condition. They show how complex political, economic, legal, social, and cultural conditions affected the lives of all southerners, black and white, female and male, slave and free. In seeking to understand the impact of slavery on the people of the South, perhaps no available primary source offers more topical, geographical, and chronological breadth, or penetrating depth of subject matter.

Loren Schweningen is director and editor of the Race and Slavery Petitions Project and professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.



Local Officials Recognized at Event

Wolfe County Clerk S. Kenneth Lindon, above center, was recognized at the recent Friends' Annual Meeting, held at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill in November. Mr. Lindon received the 2002 Award of Merit for his implementation of a broad range of measures to improve the management of permanent records in his custody. He has consistently maintained an accurate electronic index of his records, even with budgetary constraints, and has continually sought and used the direct services provided by the Public Records Division.

Woodford County Clerk Corine Cox Woolums was also recognized at the meeting. She was unable to be present and will receive her award at a later date. Ms. Woolums has served Woodford County for over forty-five years, first as deputy clerk and then county clerk. She received the 2002 Award of Merit for implementing a broad range of measures that have improved the management, security, and accessibility of all permanent records in her custody. She has established programs for security microfilming and preservation of permanent records dating back to pre-statehood and installed space saving mobile shelving.

The Friends' Awards of Merit recognize outstanding efforts by public officials in managing public records in their care.

Enhancing Research at the State Archives: How you can help

The Archives Research Room at the State Archives always has equipment or supplemental resource needs for which state funds are not available. This is more true today than ever before, with the state's current fiscal crisis. Private donations have long played a key role in permitting the State Archives to fill these important gaps. As we approach the end of the year, won't you consider making a holiday gift to meet one of these needs? Gifts to the Friends are tax deductible. Please make your check payable to: Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., and mail it to the address on the Friends' membership form, below. We thank all of you who have provided assistance in this way throughout the past year. It is much appreciated!

New Life Members Announced

The Boyd County Public Library and the Eastern Kentucky Genealogical Society recently became Life Members of the Friends. Welcome and many thanks to these two organizations for this expression of support to the Friends! This is the time of year when we renew our Friends' memberships. If you are not yet a Life Member of the Friends, please consider upgrading your membership this year by using the form below. You can make a big difference by becoming a life member. All fees from Life Memberships become part of the Friends' Thomas D. Clark Endowment Fund, and the interest from those monies provides the means to fund the Clark Internships in Archival Administration at the State Archives. The Clark program plays an important role in training the archival professionals of tomorrow. Join our Life Members today. We need you!

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.

Friends Elect Officers, Board Members at Annual Business Meeting

At the Annual Business Meeting of the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., held at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill on November 22, 2002, members elected officers and board members for calendar year 2003. Officers elected were Paul F. Coates, President; James C. Powers, Vice President; Jane-Rives Williams, Secretary; and William E. Ellis, Treasurer. Elected to the Board were: Paul F. Coates; Lesley Conniff; Bramblett Elam; Peggy Galloway; Patricia Hodges; and Jane-Rives Williams. James Powers substituted for President Paul Coates and provided a review of the year's activities. He thanked the Board for its efforts, on Coates' behalf, and expressed appreciation to members and other individuals and organizations that had supported the work of the Friends in the past year. He also recognized the work of the Clark Interns who received support from the Friends during the past year. State Archivist Richard Belding provided an update on major issues facing the Public Records Division, with particular attention to the grim fiscal situation and the continuing challenges of securing adequate space for the storage of archival records. He also discussed the continuing demands and opportunities which electronic records present to the records program. On behalf of the Friends, Belding presented the organization's Award of Merit to S. Kenneth Lindon, Wolfe County Clerk, for his outstanding contributions to the management and preservation of public records in the state. Following the Business Meeting, members and their guests enjoyed a delicious lunch at the Village's Trustees' Office inn.



Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.

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.



A 40 foot red cedar served as the Capitol Christmas Tree in 1962. (This photograph is from the Department of Public Information collection, in the State Archives holdings of the Public Records Division, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.)

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Frankfort, Kentucky 40604